PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY HON. JOSEPH X. HEW, JP, MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF GEORGE TOWN NORTH

TO

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister advise whether the waste-management Steering Committee, which the Honourable Minister advised Parliament would be established by summer 2026, has now been established, and if so, provide the:

(a) date of establishment;

(b) membership;

(c) terms of reference; and

(d) number of meetings held to date?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his question.

Mister Speaker, the Steering Committee has not yet been established. For that reason I cannot provide the date of establishment, membership or number of meetings at this time.

On April 30th this year, I advised this Honourable House that the Long-Term Solid Waste Management Solution Steering Committee would be established by the summer and that its first task would be to produce a Strategic Outline Case to inform the development of a modern, integrated solid waste management solution for the Cayman Islands.

While that timeline was not achieved, this was largely due to the significant legislative workload undertaken by the Ministry and Department of Environmental Health over recent months, including the development and progression of four major pieces of legislation, among them the Environmental Health Bill, 2026, which are critical to strengthening the legal and regulatory framework supporting the country's environmental and waste management objectives.

Following the landfill fire in April 2026, the Government also prioritised resources toward landfill operations and fire prevention efforts. As a result, some longer-term waste management work, including setting up the Committee, has taken longer than planned.

The Government is also concluding its exit from the ReGen project. As this transition will help shape the future direction of waste management in the Cayman Islands, it is important that the Steering Committee's work is informed by its outcome.

The draft terms of reference have been prepared and are currently being finalised. These terms will set out the Committee's role in taking responsibility for the business issues of the national recycling programme and the long-term solid waste management solution. They also provide for members from key government ministries and agencies and the private sector – supported by working groups.

My Ministry expects the Committee to be established in Q1 2027, and I commit to providing an update to this Honourable House once the Committee has been convened.