



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Environment and Planning

Ministerial Statement
To The House of Assembly

By

The Hon. Sylvan D. Richards, JP, MP
Minister of Environment and Planning

National Infrastructure Plan Update
Friday, 27th September, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker

I rise today to update this Honourable House and the people of Bermuda, on the National Infrastructure Plan and to provide clarity in light of recent misleading statements made by the former Minister of Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Strategy and current Opposition Leader, the Hon. Mark Bean.

Mr. Speaker

Firstly, I'd like to refer to the Monday, September 23rd 2013 edition of the Royal Gazette, where the Opposition Leader expresses his thoughts regarding the Premier, Government Ministers and Public Officers attending the recent KPMG Island Infrastructure Summit in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Speaker,

The following quote was attributed to the Opposition Leader in that Royal Gazette article. It says:

"As Minister, I attended the summit in 2012 and as a result issued a Request For Proposal for the development of a comprehensive infrastructure strategy for the use of future Bermuda Governments. Multiple bids were received and PWC was selected as the successful bid. **In the fourth quarter of 2012, PWC was paid approximately \$500,000 to produce the infrastructure strategy"**.

Mr. Speaker,

I did some checking and the Opposition leader, in his capacity as a former Minister under the previous government, actually attended the last KPMG summit which was held September 22nd to September 23rd of 2011. There was no summit held in 2012 due to a number of elections occurring in the various islands, including our own, that would have normally attended that year.

Mr. Speaker,

There is, however, a much more important clarification that must be pointed out and that is this. PWC, as a result of their successful RFP was given a two phase contract by the former Government consisting of a Phase I Report and a Phase II Report.

The Phase I Report gave a broad overview of the initial considerations for a 'Vision for Infrastructure in Bermuda' including strategic drivers which underpin the case for developing the National Infrastructure Plan. The Phase I Report had a contracted price tag of \$50,000 and was completed December 21, 2012. To date,

the full payment for this Phase I Report is a grand total of \$58,181, consisting of \$50,000 per the contract, and \$8,181 in incidentals.

The purpose of the Phase II Report was to deliver the actual National Infrastructure Plan. This OBA Government has made a decision to not proceed with the Phase II Report at this juncture, and is considering its options with regard to the management of Bermuda's long term infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker,

This Phase II Report had a contracted price tag of \$340,000. As the Phase II Report is not moving forward at this time, the total dollar amount spent on the National Infrastructure Plan to date is \$58,181 which is a far cry from the inaccurate \$500,000 figure that was quoted repeatedly by the Opposition leader.

Mr. Speaker,

The Bermudian public has to be made aware that currently there is no functional National Infrastructure Plan in place. Let us be very clear, this government, The One Bermuda Alliance is diligently in the process of working out the best way forward. We are hard at work at putting together REAL plans, which have REAL potential to help Bermuda get back on track. Not "Pie in the Sky", feel good words, BUT DETERMINED ACTION.

We contrast this with the misleading information and misquoting of figures that CONTINUES to come our way from a former Government that talked about helping Bermudians and getting Bermuda back to work, while in reality, overseeing the largest mass-exodus of jobs in Bermuda's history.

Mr. Speaker,

If we are to truly collaborate and work together, let us all be honest brokers on behalf of the Bermudian people whom we are honoured to serve.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.