



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Environment and Planning
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Ministerial Statement
To The House of Assembly

By

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

Re-launch of the Department of Environmental Protection's Web Site

28th June, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker

I rise today to inform this Honourable House of the re-launching of the Department of Environmental Protection's new website at www.dep.gov.bm. The website is designed with the customer in mind, and anticipates the information and services in which the public might have an interest.

Mr. Speaker

The mission of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to protect Bermuda's environment through monitoring, regulation and enforcement, and to promote the sustainable use of the Island's natural resources. However, a survey of the public conducted by the Department of E-Government revealed that our

customers did not know us very well. The new site has been designed to address this problem.

Information outlining the functions of four major sections of the Department is now available online. Those four sections include Environmental Engineering, Animal Control and Veterinary Services, Marine Resources, and Plant Protection. The next update of the site will also include information on the Government Marketing Centre, a new addition to the Department.

Each section of the site offers visitors useful information and tools. Customers of the Department can now easily find information about each section, guidelines on applying for services offered, and application forms for the various permits and licenses issued by the Department. Rather than needing to visit the Department to obtain information or to collect application forms, one can now conveniently access this information wherever the internet can be accessed.

Mr. Speaker

A very useful tool found in each section is the “Frequently Asked Questions” or FAQs category. For example, the Plant Protection section contains the question, “I am travelling overseas and I see a plant that I'd like to bring home to Bermuda. What do I do?” The Animal Control section includes the question “Do I have to contact the Bermuda Department of Environmental Protection in advance of my animal's arrival, or can I simply arrive at the airport/sea port with the necessary documentation?” Simple, clear responses are provided to each FAQ.

The information on the website is presented in a well-organized format which is easy to navigate. The content is simplistically stated and thorough. Overall, the

website is informative, comprehensive and crafted to increase the public's awareness of Bermuda's environment and the services provided by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Speaker

We would like to thank the Department of E-Government for its professional support and technical expertise in the re-design of our site. In particular, we would like to highlight the patient and effective support of Zarinah Codrington of the Department of EGovernment.

Mr. Speaker

The work is ongoing and we will continue to improve it and update it in response to public feedback. Therefore we would like to encourage the public to visit the website at www.dep.gov.bm and provide us with feedback.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker