



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

THE HON. MICHAEL H. DUNKLEY JP MP

DEPUTY PREMIER & MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

RECRUIT FOUNDATION COURSE #75 – ST. GEORGE’S POLICE STATION RE-OPENING

7TH JUNE 2013

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will be aware of this Government’s commitment to supporting the Bermuda Police Service in their efforts to increase their actual strength by twenty additional officers. I am pleased to advise this Honourable House and the public that a Recruit Foundation Course is presently running and that the young men and women on the Course are doing well.

Mr. Speaker, I visited the training last week with the Junior Minister who sits in another place. A total of fifteen men and women are on the sixteen (16) week course. They hail from

various backgrounds but share a common desire to excel in their training and make a contribution to the safety and security of Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, they range in age from the early 20s to the mid 40s and so the course is an interesting combination of youth and experience. I wish for the people of Bermuda to know that the Bermuda Police Service is attracting high-quality applicants and that the training they receive is devised to effectively deploy them in support of the fight against guns, gangs, drugs and violence.

Mr. Speaker, another course will be run later in the year and I am advised that the interest is high and the applicants of equally high standard.

Separately, **Mr. Speaker,** I am pleased to advise this Honourable House and the people of St. George's in particular, that the repairs to the St. George's Police Station have been completed and that officers are back in the station as of Wednesday June 5th 2013. Station Duty Officers (SDOs) and officers from the Community Action Team will operate the station from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am to Midnight on weekends. Additional opening hours will be established during holidays, weekends and other busy periods.

I wish to remind the public that Southside Police Station remains the primary police station for the island's east end. Anyone in need of police assistance who finds the St. George's Police

Station closed should use the telephone located outside the main door to connect directly to Southside Police Station.

Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank the people of St. George's for their patience during the period the station was under repair and let me also recognize the efforts of the Honourable Members Kenneth Bascome and Nandi Davis who have consistently advocated on behalf of their constituents. We are pleased to have our CAT team back in the Town, along with our St. George's Patrol Officer, PC. Litanya Smith.

Mr. Speaker, a focus of the 2012 election campaign was to make Bermuda safer. This Government promised to equip the Police with the tools to do the job we expect them to do. Providing funding for twenty (20) more officers and realizing the completion of repairs to the St. George's Police Station form part of delivering on those promises we made to people.

The Ministry of Public Safety is focused on the goal of making this community safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.