



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

By

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BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE CADET PROGRAMME

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Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise Honourable Members and the public of a success story within the Bermuda Police Service (BPS).

The BPS has received a large number of applications from young people seeking to fill any future vacancies in the BPS Cadet Programme. The programme currently has five Cadets and represents an exceptional opportunity for young people to serve their community as salaried employees of the BPS while studying for an Associate Degree at the Bermuda College.

Cadets are provided with course fees and uniforms and they are also paid over \$42,000 per year for the duration of their Associate Degree programme.

Graduating Cadets can also apply to extend their education beyond the Associate Degree programme with a bursary worth up to \$20,000 per year to complete a Bachelor's Degree overseas.

Mr. Speaker, all Cadets are Bermudian, between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty one (21) at the time of acceptance and are in good physical health. They must meet the high standards of the BPS Code of Conduct, be pre-qualified for an Associate Degree Programme at the Bermuda College and must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) for each semester.

All Cadets must be willing to make a commitment to serve as a Police Constable for a minimum period of three years upon graduation. Police Cadets work in an environment that provides for personal and professional growth. A wide variety of operational attachments are provided during college recesses and Cadets also benefit from exposure to a broad spectrum of official duties throughout their service. Their exposure to policing with the community builds strong personal values, communication skills and leadership potential. Cadets are deployed in support of various operations and so work not only on their GPA but start early assisting with some of the core policing functions.

Mr. Speaker, so great is the interest shown by the number of applicants, the Commissioner of Police has been authorized to increase the number of Cadets to fifteen (15). This Government promised to provide educational and employment opportunities for Bermudians. This economy notwithstanding, we have demonstrated time and again that effective budgeting in support of clear policies will yield the scope to empower people to succeed in this community. This has been achieved in close collaboration with the Commissioner of Police and his senior command who have likewise responded positively to this increased interest in the BPS.

No further applications are being accepted at this time, and the successful candidates will be notified in a few weeks, in time for the start of the academic year at Bermuda College in August.

Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see our young people taking advantage of the opportunities presented for steady but challenging employment. Combining public service with educational growth is excellent for the individuals and important for the renewal of Bermuda's economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.