



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
Ministry of Public Works

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*Senate Statement*

By

**Senator Lynne Woolridge, JP**  
Junior Minister of Public Works

## **Property Asset Management Plan**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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**Madam President**, thank you for the opportunity to provide my Senate colleagues and the public with the Ministry of Public Works' plan for refurbishing Government properties which are currently vacant.

All Government owned vacant properties are currently being assessed and a priority action plan is being prepared as part of the overall Property Asset Management Plan for the whole of the Government's Estate of lands and buildings. Most of these vacant buildings are in a poor state of repair and require refurbishment and capital expenditure before they can be occupied.

The Property Asset Management Plan will ensure that the Government's real estate is providing value for money for the Bermuda tax payer. Currently, Government spends some \$11 million per annum to rent space from the private sector. The strategy is to identify those vacant properties that can be brought back in to habitable condition to provide quality accommodation for public service departments and reduce the rental expenditure. In addition, where they can, vacant properties can be used to create innovative opportunities to stimulate wider area economic growth for the Island.

Should the property not be suitable for providing public services, it shall be considered for letting by tender to the private sector on a short or long term letting. Alternatively if there is no long term need by Government for the property, it may be assessed for disposal by freehold sale if the market is favorable.

**Madam President**, this action plan on vacant properties will be ready by the end of July this year and will set priorities for larger vacant buildings, including Allenhurst - the Old Hamilton Police Station - as a prime City building in the legislative precinct around the Cabinet Office. Government Architects are now working on options for this building and the estates department are identifying potential occupiers. In addition, Teucer House and the Old Prisons Headquarter's building on Happy Valley Road will be prioritized as substantial properties that can be

rehabilitated to provide accommodation for Government services now renting from the private sector.

Invitations to tender on some Government properties are underway with the vacant Shelly Bay Beach House having gone out to tender Friday, June 6. Soon to follow will be similar tender invitations being issued for the old Traditions Restaurant on Middle Road in Southampton and others.

Furthermore quotes are being invited for the refurbishment of Valerie T Scott building on the corner of Reid and Parliament Streets and Dominica Cottage on Richmond Road to refurbish them as office space for Government services.

In total there are **33** vacant premises in the Government's estate and all are being assessed to set priorities and capital funding requirements.

Thank you, **Madam President**.