



Junior Ministerial Statement
by
Senator Leslie Robinson JP
Junior Minister of Public Works

Establishment of the Bermuda Land Management Corporation

Monday, September 30th, 2024

Madam President, I rise to announce the official establishment of the Bermuda Land Management Corporation.

Madam President, in July 2002 the then Cabinet decided that the Central Policy Unit should complete a review of 17 Quangos which focused on the following objectives:

1. Determine whether Bermuda's Quangos as currently constructed are meeting Government's aims and if not recommend methods of achieving alignment.
2. Determine whether there is accountability to the Government and if not, recommend an adequate structure to accomplish this; and
3. Develop mechanisms for ongoing review.

Madam President, the scope of the review covered a wide range of topics including the establishment and governance of each body; its existing relevance, feasibility, effectiveness, levels of accountability to Government, expenditure, income, whether the work could be more effectively (or more efficiently) carried out within Government proper; or by some other means; Determine governance and best practice in other jurisdictions and to develop a mechanism for ongoing review.

All laudable goals which resulted in a report entitled "UNTANGLING BERMUDA'S QUANGOS - A review of Quangos in the Bermuda Government" presented in October 2003. **Madam President** next month will mark twenty-one (21) years since the original recommendation to merge quangos that share similar objectives, mandates, skills, accounting procedures and staffing levels...and I am proud to say that this Government has accomplished that goal.

Madam President, earlier this year this Chamber through the West End Development Corporation Amendment Act 2024; approved the merging of two Government Quangos – the West End Development Corporation (WEDCO) and the Bermuda Land Development Company Ltd. (BLDC) – to create the Bermuda Land Management Corporation (BLMC).

The goal of this initiative was to reduce the overall cost to the Government, facilitate better coordination when addressing issues and bring a sharper focus to achieving National aims.

Madam President on September 1st, 2024, the BLMC began its operations, and I am happy to report that there were no redundancies resulting from this merger. While it is true that the BLMC is seeing minimal duplication of roles but note that reductions will occur overtime through natural attrition through retirement. The reasoning behind this direction is the benefit of ensuring that any important institutional knowledge is retained into future operations while avoiding severances.

I must again commend the management and staff of both former organisations – many of whom did not believe we would proceed and that their jobs would be in jeopardy if we did. I am particularly pleased to again thank both the Bermuda Industrial Union and the Bermuda Public Services Union for collaborating with us to revise the Collective Bargaining Agreements so that they were ready for the Bermuda Land Management Company.

Madam President, since commencement of the West End Development Corporation Amendment Act 2024, the BLDC has now officially ceased its operations with the company's windup process being completed fully by the end of the fiscal year in March 2025.

Madam President, the former BLDC Head office at Triton House has now been closed and a new BLMC sub office has been opened at Commercial Park, 5 Waller's Point Road, St. George's – a consolidation of offices and workshops of the former BLDC. This now provides the ability for the BLMC to lease the former BLDC Headquarters to private companies for additional rental income and to encourage economic development in the area – a topic I will soon speak on in another statement.

Regarding the Headquarters for the BLMC, the Head office is in Dockyard in the Clocktower building which houses the accounts department for both former entities. The CEO, Business Development department and HR share their time both in the East and West as demand requires.

Moving forward **Madam President**, over the next few weeks and months the general public will start to see the transitioning of physical things like signage, vehicle logos, email addresses and the website to reflect the new BLMC.

Madam President, there are many positive endeavours on the horizon for the BLMC and the Government looks forward to Chairman MP Tyrrell, the Board, Mr. Dias and his team continuing the its commitments to manage and develop this entity to progressively improve the social and economic success of the company.

Thank You **Madam President!**