



Government of Bermuda

Ministerial statement to the House of Assembly

THE SCHOOL'S SUMMER MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The Hon. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP

Minister of Public Works

Friday, 11th July, 2014

Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to rise this morning to announce that the annual schools summer maintenance project is fully underway. The Ministry of Public Works has responsibility for the maintenance of some thirty (30) schools including Pre-schools, Primary and Middle schools.

Mr. Speaker,

Many of the schools are dated and require extensive maintenance and repairs. Most works cannot be completed during the school year for health and safety reasons and to minimize the disruption to classes. The majority of the works are therefore planned for and completed when the children are out on vacation. The longest vacation is of course the summer holidays which began at the end of June and will run through to mid-September.

Mr. Speaker,

This year's summer maintenance project began in April with our Building section crews inspecting and identifying maintenance and repair issues for each school. The scope of works for each school was then drawn up and agreed with the Facilities Manager from the Ministry of Education. The works were then planned to start as soon as the holidays began.

Mr. Speaker the works are underway as I speak. They are extensive and involve **seven (7)** work units with over 120 staff including HV AC crews, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, masons and painters. All staff of the Buildings section of the Ministry are fully engaged in these works right through the summer.

Mr. Speaker,

The scope of works and tight time frame required additional resources to assist in this project. As such, contracts have been awarded to Companies to paint the interior and exterior of TN Tatem, Harrington Sound and Dellwood Middle school. The contracts were placed out to tender with a concerted effort for small companies to be awarded the contracts as far as possible. These works are in addition to general painting being carried out by our own painting crews.

Mr. Speaker,

The Ministry of Education has also awarded contracts to Companies for works including the asphaltting of parking lots, refinishing floors, restroom renovations and fencing projects. Between the two Ministries some 22 Companies have been contracted to do works to assist in getting the schools ready for the new school year. The Companies employ over 120 Bermudians with most working on the schools project.

Mr. Speaker,

The goal is to ensure that the works are completed before the start of the new school year. I am pleased to report that the works are well underway and will be completed on time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the building section for their work on this project. The irony is that if they are successful in this project their work will go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker,

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Building's section of the Ministry of Public Works and the assistance of a number of private Companies, the school buildings will be ready for the students and the start of the new school year.

Thank you **Mr. Speaker.**