



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

By

Deputy Premier and Minister of National Security,

The Honourable Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE CADET RECRUITMENT

February 14th, 2014

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of National Security and the Bermuda Police Service remain committed to recruiting and training qualified Bermudians for a rewarding, exciting and challenging career as Officers of the BPS. To that end, the BPS recently held a recruitment drive that saw more than fifty young people apply to become Cadets of the Bermuda Police Service. After a comprehensive selection process that included a review of academic grades, formal interviews and fitness testing, eight applicants have been selected for recruitment with effect from Monday 24th of February 2014. The eight comprise of five female cadets: Lema Kayjuna, Aisha Hendrickson, Akelah Hendrickson, Maya Tucker and Rajah Steede; and three male cadets: D'vario Thompson, Hans-Peter Roser Jr. and Jordan Basden. This recruitment swells the ranks to a total of thirteen cadets currently serving in the Bermuda Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, the Cadet programme is an exceptional opportunity for young Bermudians to serve their community as salaried employees of the BPS. The

programme ensures that Cadets continue their educational pursuits as they must be enrolled or pre-qualified for an Associate's Degree programme at the Bermuda College. In addition to salaries of up to \$42,000 per year, Bermuda College course fees and cadet uniforms are also included in the compensation package. In return, cadets must meet the high standards of the BPS Code of Conduct, maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA for each semester and be willing to make a commitment to serve as a Police Constable for a period of at least three years upon graduation. Graduating Cadets wishing to extend their education beyond an Associate's Degree have the option of applying for a bursary of up to \$20,000 per year towards the completion of a Bachelor's Degree.

Admittedly **Mr. Speaker**, this programme is a significant financial undertaking for the BPS and the Ministry of National Security.

However, even with the current budget constraints, the value in this programme for young Bermudians cannot be understated. The Cadet programme is more than just a job. It is a catalyst for the future success of those selected and their positive contributions to our community through their continued Service with the BPS or any other field they choose.

Mr. Speaker, the eight most recently recruited Cadets are all Bermudians between the ages of 16 and 21 and in good physical and mental health. During their time as Cadets, they will be afforded the opportunity to work in an environment that provides for personal and professional growth. A wide variety of operational attachments will be provided during college recesses. These Cadets will benefit from exposure to a broad spectrum of official duties throughout their time in service.

Mr. Speaker, the current ranks of the BPS are sprinkled with officers who have passed through this Cadet programme and have remained on with the BPS beyond the obligatory 3 years post graduation. I am sure that each of them can attest that their early exposure to policing with the community helped to build strong personal values, communication skills and leadership potential and prepared them to be outstanding members of the BPS.

Mr. Speaker, this Government is steadfast in its promise to provide training, education and employment opportunities. The Cadet programme is another example of ongoing initiatives throughout Government to provide real opportunities for professional development to those who are willing to apply themselves. I am confident that this year's recruits will take full advantage of the opportunity they have been afforded. Their desire to use their young talents in service to Bermuda is a testament to their character and the BPS will be enriched for it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.