



Premier of Bermuda

Ministerial Statement
To The House of Assembly

By

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

Premier of Bermuda
And Minister of National Security

Why It Matters Campaign

Friday, 30th May, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker

I rise today to encourage Honourable Members to support the Bermuda Hospitals Charitable Trusts' *Why It Matters Campaign* in support of the new acute care wing.

Mr. Speaker

We are less than four months away from opening the new acute care wing of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, and less than one month away from the keys being handed over to BHB.

The key handover is an important marker. It marks substantial completion of the facility and the end of major construction. It is the time when BHB can start ensuring everything is in place and working to the specifications set out at the start of the project, make sure any outstanding minor deficiencies are dealt with, start orientation and training of staff before a final clinical clean takes place and finally - in September - transferring the patients and opening services to the public.

Mr. Speaker

You would agree that this is an exciting moment for Bermuda and its healthcare service. In September, we are going to have access to a wonderful, high quality facility where we will receive our acute care services.

Acute care medical and surgical patients will be cared for in single, en-suite rooms that minimize the potential spread of infections and provide a private, comfortable place in which to heal; dialysis patients will no longer be cramped in a too-small facility; oncology patients will have more privacy and space; same day surgical patients will go through registration in a calming atrium before having surgery in modern, high-tech operating rooms; emergency patients will have a dedicated entrance and access to the diagnostic imaging services without having to be wheeled through public areas, and people going for CT, MRI or X-ray services will have private waiting areas, rather than having to sit in public corridors.

Mr. Speaker

The key handover on 12th June is the last major milestone ahead of the opening of the new wing to the public in September. It is time for us to get excited, but it is also a reality check. The key handover also marks the point at which payments commence to the private partner, Paget Healthcare Services.

As this honorable House would be aware, the Bermuda Hospitals Charitable Trust has been tirelessly fundraising over the last few years to raise \$40 million for the down payment. The *Why It Matters Campaign* run by the Trust for this purpose has raised over \$30 million. Donors include individuals and companies, local groups and international business. I would like to thank every single person and company who has made a donation. Every dollar counts. But we need to help the Trust, and the hospital, to that final target. The beneficiaries of us reaching that target, after all, is every one of us, our loved ones, our families and friends.

Mr. Speaker

This is the people's hospital. We will all benefit from the new wing. And our donations today will help ensure the target is met. I would urge every member of the House, and every member

of the community to donate. The support of every member of this House will show the leadership that we have been elected to demonstrate. It is the time for each of us to stand with our hospital and take ownership of the place we go to in times of illness or after accidents. It is the time for each of us to encourage this entire community to come together in support of our hospital.

Mr. Speaker

Donations can be made online at www.bhct.com. In addition, **Mr. Speaker**, you may wish to purchase a brick to commemorate yourself, your family or a loved one, or you can contact the Trust directly at 295-2428 to discuss a donation.

This is Why It Matters

Thank you, Mr. Speaker