



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Community, Culture and Sports

COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE ON GROUP ONE

Ministerial Statement
To The Senate

By

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Madam President and officers of the Senate, I would like to provide you with an update on the progress of the Community Driven Development (or CDD) programme, a Throne speech initiative that the Department of Human Affairs in conjunction with and under the auspices of the Bermuda Woman's Council began in early 2013.

Madam President, as a reminder, the primary focus of the programme is the development and/or retooling of persons who are unemployed or underemployed to become self-sufficient. The programme has a four pronged approach which involves the provision of workshops, formal education, site visits and work shadowing volunteering. Part of this retooling process also involves teaching participants the elements of business planning with the ultimate goal that they would be instrumental in starting a business.

Madam President, as members may recall, the first group of CDD participants commenced in spring 2013 and graduated from the educational/retooling part of the programme in June of this year. The second group commenced in January of this year and are in the midst of The workshop phase of the programme.

The key component/main thrust of the CDD programme is "job creation" and I wish to emphasize that point, **Madam President,** that the participants in the programme must create their own businesses and their own opportunities to ensure capacity.

Madam President, group one's proposal is for the establishment of a day care facility and they have developed a solid business plan to open a facility that will cater for children from the ages of 3 months to 4 years old.

Madam President, I am very pleased to announce that the programme has secured a location for the day care Facility within the city of Hamilton and the intention is For "scribbles" - which is the name of the day care - to be open for business by December 2014.

Madam President, the vision is for a multipurpose facility that can also be used for other revenue generating uses such as weekend birthday parties and afterschool care for children. What will set this day care apart from all The rest is the innovative curriculum planned for "scribbles". It will encourage a lifelong love of 'learning through play' where age appropriate creative, Interactive and unique lesson plans will be brought to life in a fun imaginative way.

Madam President, the building will require some renovations and the team is working with an architect to prepare plans. The intention is to hire skilled persons such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers, through the department of workforce development, who are unemployed to carry out the renovations. This is truly a community driven development project.

Madam President, this is a major achievement, as some of the participants who may have entered the programme without a G.E.D, will now seek to obtain a child day care Certification and/or an associate's degree from the Bermuda college.

Madam President, of the thirteen participants who Graduated from the programme in June of this year; two are employed full time, two are employed part-time and two are continuing with their work shadows. Eight participants including two from group 2 have been earmarked to work at scribbles as teacher's assistants and cleaners. Even those persons who will be cleaning The facility have either had training for that job or will shortly be taking courses to enable them to fulfill that role.

Madam President, I want to make it clear that this day care will not be government owned or funded. It will be a self-sustaining operation utilizing monies raised through fundraising and donations from the private sector. Any extra monies will be put back into the CDD programme. As always, we wish to thank our current private industry partners who have contributed to the success of this initiative; the ace women's forum Bermuda; Bermuda cablevision for its financial contribution; and others. We hope that more private partners will support this much needed initiative in the future.

Madam President, there will be other businesses developed under the CDD banner, including more "pop-up" businesses such as the Christmas gift wrapping business, which will be organised again this year during the 2014 Christmas season. These are all aimed at creating Employment opportunities for underemployed and unemployed men and women. The objective is for participants who have completed the community driven development programme and are not employed by that time, to "feed into" and be employed in these businesses and projects.

Madam President, this 'is not business as usual'- this is a different way of doing business. In these economic times we must be creative and think 'outside the box' in order to address the many facets of the problem.

Madam President, I look forward to providing the senate with the next update as regards the success of the day care and to announce the business that group 2 has established.

Thank you, Madam President.