



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

By

Premier & Minister of National Security

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley JP MP

UPDATE ON BERMUDA'S CCTV EXPANSION PROJECT

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Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will be aware that specific areas of the Island have had CCTV coverage since the 1990s and that coverage has expanded based on the usefulness of the technology in deterring and solving crime.

Since 2009, the Bermuda Police Service has contracted with security agencies to provide CCTV coverage as part of the intelligence-driven response to the escalation of gun violence in the community.

Following an open, competitive tender process, Cabinet approved the award of a contract to BAS-SER CO in July 2013 for the expansion of the CCTV network. **Mr. Speaker,** the scope of work required 150 cameras to be installed at 84 locations throughout the Island. Additionally, there are 19 license plate recognition cameras.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise this Honourable House that this project has now been substantially completed with 147 cameras at 81 locations. Installation work at the remaining 3 locations is ongoing. **Mr.**

Speaker, this expansion project has not been without its delays. However, the Bermuda Police Service and the Ministry of National Security have worked with BELCO, the Corporation of Hamilton, the Department of Planning and private landowners to establish a network which now forms a significant asset in the fight against crime.

Mr. Speaker, at \$111,165.07 per month, this is an expensive tool. However, I would invite Honourable Members to take note that at the end of this five year contract, the Government of Bermuda will be the outright owner of the system. The platform and technology is sufficiently robust that we expect this asset to remain viable. It is designed to permit "add-ons" as necessary and the contract includes maintenance of the system.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to visit the monitoring site at Prospect yesterday and I can advise Honourable Members that it is impressive in its layout and technical ability. In addition to the contracted monitoring service that is provided, the police 911 operators have remote access to the network which will significantly enhance the intelligence around an incident to which they are required to dispatch emergency services.

Mr. Speaker, this investment in the safety and security of Bermuda is one which should engender bipartisan support. This project has spanned changes in Administrations and is one of the ways in which we collectively support the Bermuda Police Service in fulfilling the challenging, daily task of Making Bermuda Safer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.