PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Answered on 27th February 2024
Third Meeting 2023-2024 Session - Second Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MR. JOSEPH X. HEW, MP - ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN NORTH

TO

THE HON. JOHANY S. EBANKS, MP - MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, AGRICULTURE, HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister update the House on:

a) whether the Deloitte Report "Assessment of a Public Transport Strategy" has been accepted by Cabinet and is being actioned; and
b) what is being planned in the current budget to advance improvements in public transportation?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, in response to the Parliamentary Question posed by Mr. Joseph Hew, MP and Elected Member for the Constituency of George Town North, I offer the following update:

Question A:
The Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Transport, and Development (PAHITD) launched the Cabinet-approved National Road Safety Strategy, a crucial step towards a safer transportation system.

We are actively engaging stakeholders to shape a transportation blueprint for the Cayman Islands, using data-driven decisions and inclusive practices, per the Ministry's press release in November 2023, and in my address to this honourable house in December, we seconded experts from the UK's Department for Transport. Their expertise is invaluable in this endeavour.

Question B:

Following the addition of Transportation to the Ministry's portfolio in April 2023, Cabinet tasked our Ministry (PAHITD) with creating a business case for the potential establishment of a Department of Transportation.

This review will assess the roles of the National Roads Authority, the Department of Vehicle and Driver's Licensing, and the Public Transport Unit in our transportation sector.

Let me be clear: This marks the first instance of prioritizing public transport. Previous administrations, particularly over the last several terms, have shown little to NO support for public transport. This lack of attention is exactly why we are grappling with the current issues in our transportation system.

Respectfully, I request the public's understanding as we continue to restructure the requirements of public transport to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

Conclusion:
We acknowledge the public's concerns, and I can assure you that our team is actively engaged in seeking solutions and advancing the evolution of our transportation system.