



Cayman Islands Government

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Full Project Future programme launched by Premier

GRAND CAYMAN, Cayman Islands - At a press conference on 2 November, 2015, the Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin and Deputy Governor the Hon. Franz Manderson unveiled the 51 projects selected by Cabinet to be taken forward as part of Project Future, the Government's ambitious and far-reaching programme of public sector reform. Also discussed was the implementation strategy and methodology that will be pursued by the Civil Service.

Mr. McLaughlin explained that Project Future has the potential to transform the public services for the benefit of the people of the Cayman Islands. Given its importance, the Premier emphasised his commitment and the determination of his Administration to see the programme implemented: "We are publishing this programme not to decorate the shelves in offices at the Government Administration Building but as a call to action.... The Progressives-led Government is a government that gets things done," he said.

The Premier explained that the projects will be tackled in five phases to be implemented over the next five years. Some projects will be completed before the 2017 election; others will be planned, ready for implementation following the election.

According to the Premier “a long-term view” of reform is necessary:

“It is right for this Progressives-led Government to take a long term view and to put in place the delivery of the reforms this country needs. If we remain bound to electoral cycles we remain bound to short term action that will not tackle some of the fundamental issues we face. Our country needs more than that. Our country deserves better than that. And that is why this Progressives-led Government is setting out a clear plan of future action. We are happy for the electorate to judge us on whether they agree with our plans and we will be proud to lay our record of achievement before them in 18 months’ time,” Mr. McLaughlin said.

The *Project Future* programme will implement, in full or modified form, the overwhelming majority of EY’s recommendations. However, some 16 recommendations will not be implemented:

“We have excluded some things because they clearly conflict with our policy – for example recommendations to raise fees would clearly run counter to the commitment this Progressives-led Government has given the country to seek to cut rather than raise duties and fees. Alternatively, we have excluded recommendations because the further analysis we have done indicates the benefits are insufficient to justify taking the ideas forward,” Mr. McLaughlin said.

Now that Cabinet has defined which projects will be included in Project Future, the civil service, under the leadership of the Deputy Governor Mr. Franz Manderson, and his Chief Officers, is responsible for implementation.

Mr. Manderson explained that, as part of the ongoing preparations for implementation, several measures have been taken that “create the conditions necessary for us to succeed”. These, he noted, included:

- The time taken by Cabinet, as the policy makers, to properly define the changes/projects to be pursued,
- Using best-practice approaches for implementation, including the use of business cases and a robust project management methodology,
- Investing in training and capacity-building within the civil service, and
- Establishing the Strategic Reforms Implementation Unit, to provide dedicated resources to support implementation.

Acknowledging that *Project Future* will require new skills sets and ways of working, Mr. Manderson explained that the newly launched strategic planning process for the civil service will support Project Future: “Changes in public services are being matched with the technical and cultural changes needed within the civil service,” Mr. Manderson said.

A Programme Brief was distributed at the press conference, which includes an overview the implementation strategy and methodology, summaries of the projects being taken forward and a list, with rationales, of the EY recommendations not being pursued. The Brief is available on the SRIU website www.sriu.gov.ky.

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