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GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
The Cabinet Office

Department of Communication and Information

Good Evening all,

Today, the Minister of Home Affairs, Sen. Michael Fahy, offered the following in response to Opposition Sen. Marc Daniels' statement on the Hamilton Waterfront Lease.

Minister Fahy said, "Senator Daniels has made inaccurate statements regarding legal fees in respect of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"To ensure public clarity, the Ministry has requested supplementary sums for the fiscal year 2014/2015.

"This measure is designed to cover legal fees expended, and fees possibly to be expended in respect of the waterfront arbitration, for fiscal year 2014/15.

"In addition, it is anticipated that the measure would cover costs for the Constitutional challenge to the changes to the Municipalities Act 1923 currently before the Supreme Court of Bermuda, again, for fiscal year 2014/15.

"As an added note, a small portion of the requested allocation relates to funding a guarantee through the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation. The supplementary request is based on best estimates and the fee request and billings to date are vetted by the Attorney General's chambers."


Minister Fahy continued, "Contrary to the Opposition Senator's statement, the Ministry has **not** spent \$1.5million to obtain advice on voiding the waterfront leases. Such assertions are completely misleading and false.

"Fees have been spent on overseas Counsel, expert advice, preparation of pleadings, witness statements and other litigation expenses.

"To date less than half the requested amount has been spent. It's quite regrettable, as Senator Daniels should know better than to issue such inflammatory and speculative statements particularly when the matter is scheduled to be debated in the House and Senate during the budget debate."

- ENDS -

Regards,


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