

**Launch of the Ten-Year National Development Plan for the Turks and  
Caicos Islands**

**Providenciales, Turk and Caicos Islands, October 27, 2005**

**Planning Methodology Statement By**

**Mr. Delton Jones – Chief Economist**

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Protocol having been established I would like to proceed with this statement.

Like the other persons who have spoken, I want to extend a warm welcome to all who found it possible to be here this morning. As the Director of Planning has indicated, about one year ago the Department of Planning and the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS) renewed our efforts of collaboration in the preparation of a National Development Plan. We were mindful of the fact that the previous National Development Plan had expired from 1997 and that in the absence of a national strategy, several departments had prepared sector plans which often though very worthy, were not coordinated with each other and raised issues of prioritisation of resources and the proper phasing and scheduling of programmes and projects. There was also the matter of a settled development vision and goals for the each Island and the country as a whole.

By their very nature broad vision and goals, projects and programs should not be decided by a small group of people however well qualified. Though we recently recruited a very experienced team of development planners – Kairi Consultants of Trinidad and Tobago - given the great extent to which development planning impacts the lives of all citizens – often determining which community gets their roads repaired or when and where a school or clinic is built – developing

planning should include the highest degree of popular participation that is practical and feasible.

Thus as modern democratic principles require and as the Chief Minister in his Budget address in September 2003 mandated and hinted at today, DEPS and the Department of Planning have therefore sought to set up certain structures and processes for the planning exercise that are highly participatory and consultative to ensure that the ideas and views of citizens are taken into account. We anticipate that the exercise will take about nine months and will utilize the following structures and procedures.

### **Steering Committee**

First a Steering Committee, comprised of twenty very accomplished and experienced citizens was recently approved by Executive Council and many of these persons are here this morning. This Steering Committee will function like the Board of Directors of a company outlining broad visions and goals for the development of the Islands to guide the consultants during the planning exercise.

### **Sectoral and Island sub-committees**

In addition to the Steering Committee there will be some twenty-seven Island and Sectoral sub-committees who will be responsible for reviewing the conditions within their sector or Island and proposing specific policies, projects and programs to move the sector forward in the short, medium and long-term. These sectoral sub-committees have being specifically selected to reflect main sectors or areas of the economy and society; or significant challenges or issues that the society needs to address.

To illustrate the sectors and breadth of issues these sub-committees will address – there will be sub-committees considering and developing policies in areas such as ‘taxation, revenue and budgeting; investment and incentives; tourism; agriculture and fisheries; education and human resource development; labour relations; entertainment, gaming and craft; local governance; transport and communications; culture, HIV/AIDS and Drugs, values and attitudes and national identity. Where there is already in place a recent or credible sector study or plan these will form the basis of discussion as to how they can be improved. We do not want or have any desire to re-invent the wheel.

### **Island Sub-committees**

As noted there will also be Island sub-committees of 10 to 12 persons. As far as possible these will be drawn from the existing District Boards with one or two other persons from sectors that are significant to that Island. For instance, in North Caicos if the District Board does not include a representative from Tourism and agriculture, we would try to include two such representatives on the Island sub-committee. Similarly, if a sector is significant in an Island we will try to include a representative from that Island on the Sector sub-committee, so that the views of the people of that Island are represented when policies are being developed for that sector.

### **Facilitators**

Each Island and sector sub-committee will be facilitated and supported by a member of staff of DEPS or the Department of Planning or an appropriate person in the public service or as selected by the sub-committees themselves. These facilitators would help in scheduling the meetings of the sub-committees and since they are persons who work within the sector and are quite familiar

with the facts, they could provide statistics, reports and other data. A very important responsibility for the facilitators will be to record and keep the discussions on track in relation to the main issues to be determined – namely, what are the conditions in the sector; where would we like the sector to go; and the policies and programmes needed to get there. To this end they will be provided with a loose format they can follow and they will be required to record and summarize the main points of their discussions for transmission to a Technical Committee for forward passage to the Consultants who will be doing the bulk of the writing and elaboration of the Plans.

### **Technical Committee**

The Technical Committee will be jointly chaired by the Director of Planning and myself, plus one or two DEPS and DOP staffers and with members of the Consultancy team sitting in as needs be. The main job of the Technical Committee will be to monitor and oversee the entire planning exercise on behalf of the TCIG. We have already begun our work with the selection of the consultants, and the identification of the sub-committees and the recommendation of suitable persons to sit on them. After today's launch, our principal tasks will be monitoring the work-plan of the consultants to ensure that scheduled reports are delivered on time; scheduling meetings of the sectoral and Island sub-committees; and passing on the outputs from these sub-committees to the Consultants.

### **The Consultants**

The Kairi Consultancy team is well recognised throughout the region for their work. Included on their team is a senior development economist and other economists, urban planners, a professor in civil engineering, an environmental

specialist, two very seasoned urban planners and a senior sociologist. The team is well-balanced and capable of addressing the many issues and challenges facing the Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition, provisions have being made for further specialist help such as an aquaculture expert and a tourism planner to develop policies and programs in areas of special significance to our country. The Consultants as noted, will be doing the bulk of the writing of the Plan and they will provide guidance and be guided by the Steering Committee and the sectoral and Island sub-committees. Their principal tasks will be coordinating the inputs from the various committees into holistic, consistent plans.

### **Workshops**

Three major workshops are planned during this exercise.

- The first will be a visioning workshop in which the Consultants, members of the Steering Committee, sectoral and Island sub-Committees will meet to outline and discuss their visions for the country as a whole and the various Island in particular. This first workshop is set for the end of November 2005.
- A second workshop is planned for the end of March in which the policies, projects and programs appropriate for each sector will be discussed and debated. After this workshop, and over the next three months, the consultants will prepare the first draft of the National Development Plan and the various Island Plans and outlines of the needed sectoral Plans.
- The third workshop to be held in late July will review and debate these draft documents before the final version is elaborated.

## **Meetings**

We are all very busy and we do not want to unduly burden anyone. But we are suggesting that all the committees meet at least twice before the first visioning workshop to get acquainted and to discuss their vision for their sectors or Island, and in the case of the Steering Committee, for the country as a whole. In the new year, and before the second workshop in March 2006 we are proposing that the committees meet at least another two times to discuss specific policies and projects for their sectors and Islands. After the draft Plans are prepared and circulated we are suggesting that they meet at least once more to review the Draft in order to have their comments included in the final documents. In all, each committee would meet 5 or 6 times over nine months, which I believe is not too onerous a sacrifice for our country. All the facilitators will soon be notified and provided with a list of their committee members so they can begin to work.

## **Communication's strategy**

To further ensure that the views and ideas of all citizens for part of the planning process we plan to implement a very informative communications strategy. As part of this strategy we plan take out a supplement in the newspapers and participate in radio and TV call-in programs. Pamphlets and brochures would be distributed. We would also issues regular press releases to inform the public of progress were are making and may develop a website for this initiative.

## **Outputs of the Planning Exercise**

The main outputs of the planning exercise will be the following:

- A Summary National Development Plan with a ten-year vision to be implemented in rolling three-year stages;
- A first stage Medium-term Economic and Social Policy Framework containing specific projects and programmes to be implemented within the following three years;
- Specific Island Plans named after the particular Islands to be implemented in rolling three year stages;
- Various Sector Plans; and a,
- A National Physical Plan, which will locate the various projects spatially taking into account land use and zoning regulation.

### **Development/Investor Conference**

At the end of the planning process we envisage that the Government would convene a major Development/Investor Conference in the Islands to share the our new development vision for these Islands with overseas investors and our traditional development partners at agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank, The Department for International Development, the European Commission and the United Nation's Development Program.

### **Conclusion**

I know what I have said was quite a mouthful. Please be assured that this information would widely disseminate at a later date. As you can tell we are making every effort to ensure that the views of every is capture. I therefore implore of us to take the opportunity the ensure that are views are heard.

Thank you

