



SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

3 BRUMALIA ROAD, MANDEVILLE, MANCHESTER, JAMAICA WI

TEL.: (876) 625-0612-3, 962-9491 or 962-8232 | FAX: (876) 962-8233 | WWW.SRHA.GOV.JM



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PRESS RELEASE

October 13, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jamaican Innovation-SRHA Initiates Conversion of Buses into Ambulances Saving \$7.6 Million

Describing the move as a Jamaican innovation, Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) Board, Mr. Wayne Chen lauded the SRHA for spearheading an initiative to convert and customize two buses into ambulances which has resulted in savings of \$7.6 million.

Mr. Chen who was the keynote speaker at the handing over ceremony at the SRHA Regional Office in Manchester on Tuesday, October 11, noted the value and importance of being innovative in healthcare while leveraging scarce resources to offer better value and services to customers.

Regional Director of the SRHA, Mr. Michael Bent explained that two new ambulances values \$22 million with a turnaround time of six months, however the initiative to convert and customize the buses resulted in a combined cost of \$14.4 m, allowing savings of \$7.6 m and also a shortened delivery time from 6 months to 2 months.

He pointed out that the customization was done without breaching or compromising the Government of Jamaica Procurement Guidelines and the international specifications for ambulances.

Turning to the specifications, Mr. Chen noted that "the innovations and specifications that were put together were what we felt were best for us. We are not comparing apples and oranges, we are comparing a purpose built Toyota ambulance built on the same bus frame that would cost us \$11 million to import after a six months waiting period to the same Toyota bus frame that we have built to our own specifications taking into account our own conditions and needs."

Mr. Bent explained that the unique features of the ambulances include among other things: replaced flooring which is easily sanitized and in keeping with infection control protocols, an elevated stretcher base to reduce the impact of the road on patients and a large oxygen cylinder

(more)

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safely stored under seat to enhance occupational health and safety standards.

Other features include a more comfortable nurse's seat which allows for greater maneuvering of patients, a partition between the driver and patient compartments which minimizes cross contamination and also LED lamps which are very visible and distinct.

Picture 1



The newly converted ambulances.

(more)

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Picture 2



SRHA Board Chair, Mr. Wayne Chen hands over the key to the ambulance to Operations Manager at the Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH), Ms. Marcia Francis while SRHA Regional Director, Mr. Michael Bent (right); Chairman of the MRH Management Committee, Mr. Timothy Scarlett (2nd left); Mayor of Mandeville, Her Worship Councillor Brenda Ramsay (3rd left) and MRH Driver, Mr Gaston Cameron looks on.

(more)

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Picture 3



One of the new ambulances.

Picture 4



The interior of the ambulance.

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