



# MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

**Transport Control Department**

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

THE HON. DERRICK V. BURGESS, JP, MP  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport

*Subject: Dumpster Trailers*

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18<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

**Mr. Speaker:**

There has been an ongoing discussion, and sometimes very passionate debate with respect to the legality and use of Dumpster Trailers currently registered in Bermuda. Unfortunately, the Motor Car Act 1951, in its current state, has proven to be ambiguous in regards to the definition and scope of use of these vehicles. To put it frankly Mr Speaker, the Act is outdated. Such being the case, the Ministry intends to clarify the Act so that it is more definitive on this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:**

The general trucking community has voiced that the continued use of dumpster trailers has had a crippling effect on their business. On the other hand, the dumpster trailer owners maintain that they are operating within the confines of the law. To support their position, the latter group has supplied numerous legal opinions to verify their claims.

**Mr. Speaker:**

The Ministry has heard the piercing and persistent cries of the general truckers and acknowledges the legitimacy of a portion of their argument. However, it must be pointed out that, over time, the state of the trucking industry in Bermuda has been adversely impacted by a number of factors; one of which is the dumpster trailers; but there are also several other factors that have had an adverse impact on the general truckers. Firstly, the economic downturn has hit them very hard, as is the case with most businesses. Apart from dumpster trailers, one variable that has impacted the truckers' bottom line is technological changes. In any industry it is important to keep up with technological advances and apply them, when feasible, in order to remain relevant. The initial investment may be financially taxing but in due time, it pays off in the long run. Flowing with the tide of innovation, some general truckers have made their

businesses more viable by purchasing vehicles that include a crane. These cranes are used to hoist heavy items, such as cement block in one package without having to assign manpower to load or unload each block one by one. In fact Mr Speaker, at one time, general truckers also hired a helper to assist with the loading and unloading of their cargo. Streamlining the loading and unloading process is now not only easier, but less expensive.

**Mr. Speaker:**

Another recent trend in the trucking industry worldwide is the use of hook bins. These items are large bins that are attached to the chassis of a heavy truck which can be left at a site for the customer to load at his or her own pace and pleasure. Once full, the customer contacts the truck operator to collect the bin. Some truckers have multiple bins, therefore allowing them to capitalize on their time and resources because they have access to several sites at the same time.

**Mr. Speaker:**

It is time to level the playing field and by that I mean something must be done legislatively right now to make the trucking industry fair to all players. Therefore, the Ministry will work to produce a well crafted, clear and concise piece of Legislation that gives everyone an equal opportunity. To that end, we will continue to engage in the appropriate consultation with all stakeholders to ensure that due diligence is executed.

**Thank you, Mr. Speaker.**