



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## West Bay MLA's Learn About New Mosquito Controls

West Bay MLA's were among the first to learn about new mosquito controls as part of a community engagement initiative which started this week.

Leader of the Opposition, Hon. McKeeva Bush; Minister for Education, Employment and Gender Affairs, Hon. Tara Rivers; Bernie Bush and Capt. Eugene Ebanks heard about the fight against *Aedes aegypti*, which is the vector mosquito for Zika, dengue and chikungunya.

The Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU) has signed an agreement with United Kingdom-based biotechnology company Oxitec to control the mosquito.

Oxitec's pioneering technology produces a genetically engineered non-biting male mosquito that breeds with the disease-transmitting *Aedes aegypti* females. This, in turn, means that offspring inherit a gene which causes them to die before reaching adulthood, ensuring that they do not reproduce.

The first stage of the initiative will take place in West Bay and then be rolled out across Grand Cayman.

Members of MRCU and Oxitec met with the West Bay MLA's on Wednesday (4 May) and are currently conducting a public information campaign in the district. This includes an information booth at West Bay dock until Saturday (7 May), as well as house-to-house visits. Further information will be given in the weeks ahead.

End



Back l-r: Dr. Bill Petrie, MRCU; Dr. Renaud Lacroix, Oxitec; Glen Slade, Oxitec.  
Front l-r: MLA's Hon. Tara Rivers, Capt. Eugene Ebanks, Bernie Bush, Hon. McKeeva Bush.