



**CAYMAN ISLANDS
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
ELECTRONIC VERSION**

2012/13 SESSION

10 January 2013
First Sitting of the Third Meeting
(pages 599–626)

Hon Mary J Lawrence, MBE, JP
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mary J Lawrence, MBE, JP.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon Juliana Y O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA	<i>The Premier</i> , Minister of Finance, District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture
Hon Rolston M Anglin, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Premier</i> , Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment
Hon Cline A Glidden, Jr, MLA	Minister of Tourism and Development
Hon J Mark P Scotland, JP, MLA	Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture
Hon Dwayne S Seymour, MLA	Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon Franz Manderson, JP	<i>Deputy Governor</i> , Member responsible for Internal and External Affairs and the Civil Service
Hon Samuel Bulgin, QC, JP	Attorney General, Member responsible for Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon Alden M McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Third Elected Member for George Town
Mr Moses I Kirkconnell, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman
Hon W McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for West Bay
Capt A Eugene Ebanks, JP, MLA	Fourth Elected Member for West Bay
Hon D Kurt Tibbetts, OBE, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for George Town
Mr Michael T Adam, MBE, JP, MLA	Second Elected Member for George Town
Mr Ellio A Solomon, MLA	Fourth Elected Member for George Town
Hon Anthony S Eden, OBE, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Second Elected Member for Bodden Town
Mr V Arden McLean, JP, MLA	Elected Member for East End

INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Mr D Ezzard Miller, JP, MLA	Elected Member for North Side
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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD MEETING OF THE 2012/13 SESSION
THURSDAY
10 JANUARY 2013
2.07 PM
First Sitting

The Speaker: Good afternoon everyone. I will call on the Honourable Minister of Finance, District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture to read Prayers today.

PRAYERS

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Charles, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Cabinet and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together: *Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always. Amen.

The Speaker: Please be seated. Proceedings are resumed.

**READING BY THE HONOURABLE
SPEAKER OF MESSAGES
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Apology

The Speaker: I have a message from the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay that he will be slightly detained this afternoon.

**New Appointments—Ministers of Cabinet and
Premier**

The Speaker: Before we begin proceedings today, the 10th day of January 2013, I consider it of great importance to read into the records of this honourable House the following information which my office received from His Excellency the Governor of the Cayman Islands, Mr. Duncan Taylor, CBE, in the form of notices and warrants issued since a special meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on December 18, 2012.

That meeting was called for the purpose of considering Private Member's Motion No. 10/2012-13, which resolution stated that there was a lack of confidence in the United Democratic Party Government, that is, the Government of the day.

Pursuant to the successful passage of that motion of no confidence in the United Democratic Party Government on December 18, 2012, by an affirmative vote cast by 11 of the 15 elected Members of this honourable House, His Excellency the Governor, in his discretion, took the decision not to dissolve the Legislative Assembly but instead to revoke the appointment of W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, as Premier of the Cayman Islands with immediate effect.

Subsequently, under powers conferred on him by section 49(1) and (2) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, and of all other powers in that regard enabling, His Excellency the Governor made the following appointment: The Honourable Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA, to be the Premier of the Cayman Islands with immediate effect.

Under section 48(6) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, His Excellency the Governor made these further appointments:

1. Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA, to be the Minister of Finance, District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture.
2. Hon. Rolston Malachi Anglin, JP, MLA, to be the Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment, and to be the Deputy Premier.
3. Hon. Jason Mark Philip Scotland, JP, MLA, to be the Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

4. Hon. Cline Astor Glidden, Jr., JP, MLA, to be the Minister of Tourism and Development.
5. Hon. Dwayne Stanley Seymour, MLA, to be the Minister of Community Affairs, Gender & Housing.

As Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the persons so appointed, with particular note of the fact that the Cayman Islands, for the first time in its history, has a woman in its top leadership position.

God bless you all, and God bless the Cayman Islands.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker: Consequent to the appointments of the Premier and the new Ministers, it is incumbent upon this honourable House to elect a new Deputy Speaker in accordance with section 65(1)(a) and (b) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009.

For the record, I will quote that order: **“65. (1) At the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly after a general election, and as soon as practicable after a vacancy occurs in the relevant office otherwise than on a dissolution of the Assembly, the elected members of the Assembly shall by a majority vote elect— (a) a Speaker from among the elected members of the Assembly, or persons who are qualified to be elected as members of the Assembly, other than Ministers; and (b) a Deputy Speaker from among the elected members of the Assembly other than Ministers; and the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker shall take precedence over any other business of the Assembly.”**

I now call for nominations for the office of Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the Second Elected Member for the district of Bodden Town for the position of Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

The Speaker: While it is not required generally, I would ask if there is a seconder for this nomination.

Honourable Minister of Community Affairs.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour, Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing: Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

The Speaker: The nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker has been duly moved and seconded. Does the honourable Member accept the nomination?

Honourable Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, you have been nominated.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Madam Speaker, out of caution, and I noted the Premier was making a comment, the possibility of seeing if there were any other nominations out there before . . .

The Speaker: You must accept the nomination first, and then I will see if—

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Yes, yes, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there any further nominations? [pause]. Are there any further nominations? [pause] If not, I will declare the Second Elected Member for the district of Bodden Town, Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP, to be the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

[pause]

The Speaker: On behalf of myself, as Speaker, I welcome the new Deputy Speaker to his office, and must congratulate him, not just for being the new Deputy Speaker, but on being the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

Cayman Islands Airports Authority Financial Statements year ended 30 June 2011

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Tourism and Development.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., Minister of Tourism and Development: I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Cayman Islands Airports Authority Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2011.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Yes, Madam Speaker, just a few brief remarks.

In accordance with section 52(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2010 Revision), I am pleased today to place before this honourable House the audited financial statements of the Cayman Islands Airports Authority for the fiscal year 2010/11.

Madam Speaker, the Cayman Islands Airports Authority is a statutory body established on June 14, 2004, under the Airports Authority Law of 2004, and began operations on 1 July 2004. The Authority is principally engaged in the general management and

operation of airports, air traffic, and navigation within the Cayman Islands as set out in the aforementioned law.

Madam Speaker, Members of this honourable House are aware that the Authority currently operates two airports, one in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. The operations of the Authority are regulated by the Government of the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, the 2010/11 audited financial statements show that the total income for the year ended 30 June 2011 was \$23,738,270, while total expenditure was \$17,823,823. This resulted in a net income of \$5,914,447. The Authority had current assets of \$29,777,752, and non-current assets of \$35,066,422. Total assets equaled \$64,844,174 as at 30 June 2011.

The current liabilities were \$5,603,779, and the non-current liabilities were \$5,247,589. Total liabilities equaled \$10,851,368. Total equity, that being contributed capital and retained earnings, equaled \$53,992,806.

Total liabilities and equity amounted to \$64,844,174.

Madam Speaker, the audited financial statements of the Authority include the Auditor General's opinion. This opinion was a qualified opinion due to the Authority not being able to quantify the past service pension liability as at 30 June 2011 because an actuarial valuation had not been completed for that date. As a result, the Auditor General was unable to determine if the amount of \$4,706,000 that the Authority established as a past service pension liability in these financial statements, was fairly stated.

However, Madam Speaker, the Auditor General found that the Authority's statements present fairly in all material aspects the financial position of the Cayman Islands Airports Authority as at 30 June 2011, and that the result of its financial performance for the year then ended are in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the board and management of the Cayman Islands Airports Authority for their hard work in producing these audited financial statements. I invite Members of this honourable House and the public to review this report in detail.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Cayman Turtle Farm (1983) Limited Financial Statements 30 June 2011

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Tourism and Development.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Financial Statements of Cayman Turtle Farm (1983) Limited for the period to 30 June 2011.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, again, in accordance with section 52(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2010 Revision), I am pleased today to place before this honourable House the audited financial statements of the Cayman Turtle Farm (1983) Limited for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2011.

Madam Speaker, KPMG was the firm that was subcontracted to conduct the audit in conjunction with the office of the Auditor General. This audit was signed jointly by KPMG and the Auditor General. This was the first year in recent times that the finalisation of the company's audited financial statements were completed and submitted on time (that is, before 31 October 2011), which is in accordance with the Public Management and Finance Law.

This period ending 30 June 2011 was the second year under the oversight of a new Board of Directors appointed in early August 2009. And the first full year with a new managing director appointed in late January 2010.

The Schedule of incoming expenses shows that there was an overall \$387,000 improvement in net loss compared with the previous year, and that total revenues increased 5 per cent against the prior year, of which the greatest share was tour revenues which increased 10 per cent despite the decline in cruise tourism.

Turtle meat sales increased 13 per cent. So, for the three revenue centers incurring cost of sales, which are tours, food and beverage, and retail merchandise sales, the total cost of sales to revenue ratio improved from 31 per cent to 27 per cent. Overall, the net loss for the fiscal year ending 2011 was \$8 million.

The audited financial statements provide information on the bond, the carrying value of which stood at \$26.3 million at year end, a reduction of \$2.2 million. Also, the long-term bank debt of \$8.7 million was reduced by \$1.7 million from the prior year. At year end, the sum of the bond and bank loan had decreased by CI\$3.9 million from the prior year.

Madam Speaker, the audited financial statements ending in June 2011 also provide details on the equity injection of \$9.8 million by the Cayman Islands Government. Of the \$9.8 million, approximately \$6.1 million was applied to loan payments, and \$.3 million was applied to capital expenditure projects, leaving approximately \$3.4 million to help fund the operating expenses.

Madam Speaker, the Auditor General's opinion is detailed in the audited financial statements. This opinion was a qualified audit opinion and there are three qualifications listed. The first qualification related to "Impairment of Assets." Impairment arises if the estimated recoverable value of the asset exceeds the

carrying value on the balance sheet. The auditors have noted that because of the nature, size and complexity of the company's property, equipment and exhibits, management was unable to determine whether there was any indication of impairment, or to produce an estimate of the recoverable amount.

The second qualification relates to actuarial evaluation of the provision for payable pensions by the Public Service Pension Board. This is a matter of timing between the Public Service Pension Board actuaries completing of figures and the timeframe of the audit such that KPMG has not independently verified the actuarial calculations. This is a qualification that is likely to be common with other government entities.

The third qualification relates to insurance premium payments that Government made on behalf of the company. Due to the company still being dependent on Government subsidy and the fact there is no agreed repayment schedule, the auditors have issued an opinion, that under international financial reporting standards those payments should be classified as capital contributions from the shareholder; in other words, equity injections.

The company has applied to the ministry to ratify this classification and awaits confirmation.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the board and management of the Cayman Turtle Farm for their hard work in producing these audited financial statements. I invite Members of this honourable House and the public to review this report in detail. Thank you.

**Tourism Attraction Board of Cayman Islands
Financial Statements of for years ended
30 June 2005 and 30 June 2004
30 June 2006 and 30 June 2005
30 June 2007 and 30 June 2006
30 June 2008 and 30 June 2007
30 June 2009 and 30 June 2008**

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Tourism and Development.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Financial Statements of Tourism Attraction Board of the Cayman Islands for the years ended 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2004; 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2005; 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2006; 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2007; and 30 June 2009 and 30 June 2008.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Yes, please, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with section 52(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law

(2010 Revision), I am pleased today to place before this honourable House the audited financial statements of the Cayman Islands Tourism Attraction Board for the fiscal years, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Madam Speaker, the Cayman Islands Tourism Attraction Board is a statutory authority incorporated and established under the Tourism Attraction Board Law, 1996 (Law 17 of 1996), on 25 November 1996. The primary function of the Tourism Attraction Board is the general and financial management of tourist attractions and events in the Cayman Islands, as set out in the aforementioned Law. Those are Pedro St. James, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, Pirates Week Festival, Hell and the Cayman Craft Market. The operations of the company are regulated by the Government of the Cayman Islands.

The 2005 audited financial statements show that the total income for the year ended 30 June 2005 was \$2,182,752, while total expenditure was \$2,840,656. This resulted in a net loss of \$657,904. The Authority had current assets of \$614,560 and non-current assets of \$8,665,161. Total assets equal \$9,279,721 at 30 June 2005, and the current liabilities were \$635,987, and the non-current liabilities were \$3,021,992. Total liabilities equaled \$3,657,000, total equity (being contributed capital and retained earnings) equaled \$5,621,742, and total liabilities and equity amounted to \$9,279,721.

Madam Speaker, the 2006 audited financial statements show that the total income for the year ended 30 June 2006 was \$3,171,480, while total expenditure was \$2,959,572. This resulted in a net income of \$211,908. The Authority had current assets of \$317,766, and non-current assets of \$9,455,520. Total assets equaled \$9,773,286 at 30 June 2006, and the current liabilities were \$722,223, and the non-current liabilities were \$2,647,231. The total liabilities equaled \$3,369,454. The total equity (being contributed capital and retained earnings) equaled \$6,403,832 and total liabilities and equity amounted to \$9,773,286.

Madam Speaker, the 2009 audited financial statements show that the total income for the year ended 30 June 2009 was \$2,744,796, while total expenditure was \$2,730,686. This resulted in a net income of \$14,110. The Authority had current assets of \$1,002,745, and [non]-current assets of \$9,208,901. Total assets equaled \$10,211,646 at 30 June 2009, and the current liabilities were \$1,185,016, and the non-current liabilities were \$1,522,946. The total liabilities equaled \$2,707,962. The total equity (being contributed capital and retained earnings) equaled \$7,503,684, and total liabilities and equity amounted to \$10,211,646.

Madam Speaker, the audited financial statements of the Tourism Attraction Board includes the Auditor General's opinion. The entity received a qualified opinion for the years 2005 and 2006. However,

the Auditor General found that the company's statements present fairly in all material aspects the financial position of the Tourism Attraction Board and its subsidiaries as at 30 June 2005 and 2006. And the results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

Madam Speaker, the entity received a disclaimer of opinion for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. The Auditor General concluded that management was unable to provide appropriate supporting records in several instances. The Caribbean Development Bank loan, which is in the name of the Cayman Islands Government, and was used for the restoration of Pedro St. James, was incorrectly recorded in the Tourism Attraction Board financials. Management was unable to provide an agreement to substantiate the said liability. This contributed significantly to the disclaimer of opinion.

Madam Speaker, the Financial Secretary has subsequently written to the Auditor General to effect a change in accounting policy for the entity.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the board and management of the Cayman Island Tourism Attraction Board for their hard work in producing these audited financial statements. I invite Members of this honourable House and the public to review this report in detail. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Cayman Islands National Museum Financial Statements 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2007

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Financial Statements of Cayman Islands National Museum for 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2007.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Briefly, Madam Speaker.

In accordance with section 52(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2010 Revision), I am pleased today to place before this honourable House the audited financial statements of the Cayman Islands National Museum for the years 2004 to 2006, and 2006 to 2007.

The National Museum was established in 1979 by an enactment of the Museum Law, 1979. Its main purpose is to establish for posterity a collection of material evidence concerning man and his environment, with primary but not exclusive reference to

the Cayman Islands, and to arouse public interest in Caymanian heritage and, through proper use of the collection, to increase knowledge and appreciation of, and respect for Caymanian heritage.

The Museum holds a collection now in excess of 8,000 artifacts that have been donated, transferred, purchased or found, with the majority being donations.

The Museum also operates a gift shop and leases space to a third party which operates a cafeteria.

On September 12, 2004, the day we all remember, Grand Cayman was directly impacted by Hurricane Ivan which caused widespread and significant damage to the Museum's building and support facilities which resulted in the closure of the Museum to the public from September 2004. The gift shop was reopened in November 2004, but the exhibition area did not reopen again until September 2009.

The audited reports are of 2004 to 2006 and 2006 to 2007. The financial statements for these periods were presented to the Auditor General; however, he was not able to offer an opinion on them because he could not obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. He acknowledged that he had relied on work carried out by a public accounting firm who performed their work in accordance with international standards in auditing, but cited a number of reasons for his disclaimer of opinion.

One was due to a lack of supporting documentation. He was unable to form an opinion on the accuracy and the completeness of the restricted funds recorded as at the end of the financial period. He was not able to verify the accuracy and completeness of the related operating expenses and their possible impact on the equity of the Museum. A complete and accurate fixed asset register was not maintained by the Museum at that time so he was unable to form an opinion on the completeness and the existence of the fixed assets and related depreciation expense over the period.

He had not attended inventory counts during the period, nor had he obtain sufficient evidence regarding the quantities of the inventory held. As with similar organisations, the Museum derives a substantial proportion of its income from sources that cannot be controlled until they are entered into the accounting records and are therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification. He was therefore not able to form an opinion on the completeness of fundraising income and donations recorded.

Madam Speaker, the Auditor General noted that the Museum did not comply with the Public Management and Finance Law provisions for the following reasons: Section 4 requires the financial statements be prepared in accordance with IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards), they were instead prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS); and section 52,

requires that financial statements be submitted to the Auditor General for auditing, and included in an annual report that must be presented to the Legislative Assembly four months and two weeks after the end of the financial year.

This present report to the Legislative Assembly is obviously clearly outside that timeframe required by the Law.

Madam Speaker, a review of the statement of financial performance for the period ending 30 June 2006, shows that revenue totaled \$2.4 million, which was an increase of just over \$800,000 over the year-end figure for two years earlier. This increase was largely made up of an increase in the Government grant of \$200,000 during the period and an amount of \$686,000 which constituted a part of the first hurricane insurance claim which was received.

Another notable change in revenue was a fall in the admission from \$54,000 to \$7,000 due to the closure of the Museum itself because of the damages after the hurricane. Overall expenses increased by \$55,000 from \$1.35 million to \$1.4 million. Facility expenses, rent, and administration and other expenses increased while staff costs decreased.

A review of the statement of financial performance for the period ending 2007 shows that revenue totaled \$1.1 million, which was a decrease of \$1.3 million over the year-end figure one year earlier. This decrease was largely made up of a decrease in the Government grant during that year of \$676,000 during the period, as well as a fall in product sales of over \$131,000. Admissions fell to zero because of the closure of the Museum during construction.

During the period the Museum received an amount of \$200,000 from Government in insurance settlement funds from Hurricane Ivan. Overall expenses also decreased significantly from \$1.4 million to \$750,000. Staff costs, facility expenses, rent, administration and other expenses all decreased during that period.

Madam Speaker, the periods of July 2004 to June 2007: During that period 373 objects were added to the collection bringing the total to 8,037 items. Flood waters from Hurricane Ivan affected about one half of the national collection objects, documents and documentary images. Documents were blotted and sent to the National Archive for freeze drying which resulted in a minimal loss of information. Staff and volunteers spent many hours rescuing and stabilizing the affected items. Most items were salvaged and moved safely to the new support facility. A Canadian conservator was brought in to assess the state of the Museum's collections and to offer recommendations for the rehabilitation.

The Museum's inventory of archeological sites throughout the three Islands grew to over 170 terrestrial sites and 130 ship wreck sites, many of which can now be identified by name. The Museum worked in conjunction with the Department of Environment, the

National Archive and National Trust to interpret the Islands' marine heritage sites. This initiative began in 2003 and comprised a trail of 36 sites that promote the Islands' maritime legacy through colourful posters and signs throughout the three Islands.

The McCoy Prize Art competition featuring the artwork of Caymanian artists was held annually during the three-year period up to June 2007. The National Museum consulted with, researched and assisted the Ritz Carlton Hotel with integration of Caymanian basketry as utilitarian items throughout the hotel's reception rooms and offices.

The districts of West Bay, Bodden Town and North Side all celebrated their traditional skills through the 'Looky Ya' series. Here each district showcased their arts, crafts and local foods. Art and thatch-work artifacts from the collection of the National Museum were featured in a special Cayman Evening in London, England. These objects were well received.

The gift shop continued to support local craft by expanding its stock of high quality thatch products such as thatch baskets, hats and jewelry boxes made by a variety of local artisans. The ongoing general care and preservation of the Museum continued during that period. The art collection was further stabilised and a hundred art items and objects were assessed for stability and conserved. Dehumidifiers were installed at the support facility to control the climate in the area where the collections were stored.

Mr. Ira Walton's photographic catalogs were electronically scanned. A preservation architect was retained to assist with refurbishment of the Cayman Islands Museum. Restoration work on the Dorry (type of vessel), [namely the] *G/ee*, of the Museum's boat collection, was completed. Major repair to its hull and planks was undertaken by traditional artisan, Mr. Bernard (better known as "Tony") Powell of West Bay.

Madam Speaker, the Museum worked with traditional crafters to form the Traditional Arts Council and Association, to promote and nurture the traditional arts and crafts of the Cayman Islands. It also researched, designed and installed an exhibit called "Our Islands' Daughters" with a focus on the women of Bodden Town, for a dedication of the Trust Mission House.

The Museum's selection of a suitable contractor to perform the refurbishing works at the Museum building was supported by the Central Tenders Committee and, subsequently, the contract was awarded to Unit Construction. The gift shop was moved to the old Pantan House behind the Hard Rock Café to facilitate the construction work.

Madam Speaker, these are but some of the activities of the Cayman Islands National Museum during those period. In closing I would like to publicly thank the board and the management of the Cayman Islands National Museum for their hard work and perseverance in producing these annual reports. I invite Members of this honourable House and the public to

peruse these reports in detail. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Minister.

National Trust for the Cayman Islands— Annual Report 2011-12

National Trust for the Cayman Islands—Financial Statements June 30 2012

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the National Trust for the Cayman Islands Annual Report 2011-12 and the Financial Statements of National Trust for the Cayman Islands June 30, 2012.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Briefly, Madam Speaker.

In accordance with section 11(2) of the National Trust Law (1997 Revision), I am very pleased today to place before this honourable House the 2011/12 Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, the reports being tabled today include the audited Financial Statements of the National Trust and the Annual Report for the year ended 20 June 2012. KPMG is the independent auditor which was responsible for auditing this report and noted that the system of internal controls of the Trust, in common with many other organisations of similar size and purpose, is dependent upon the close involvement of the Trust's management. The Trust derives a substantial portion of its revenue from sources which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered into the accounting records and are therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification. Accordingly, the auditors reported that it was not practicable to extend the auditing procedures of such revenue beyond the amounts recorded. This revenue is stated at \$140,869 as restricted on the statement of activities.

Apart from the affects of such adjustments, KPMG further noted that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the National Trust as at 20 June 2012.

For the year ended 30 June 2012, total revenue, including the government grant of \$237,877 was \$2.1 million, while total expenditure was \$717,856. This resulted in a fund balance of \$11,612,049 at the end of that year.

Despite facing the challenge of losing two valuable members of staff, and ongoing issues with funding, the Trust still did well and was able to continue their work to fulfill their mission to preserve natural

environments and places of historic significance for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands. Some accomplishments for 2011/12 included the painting and repair of the Mission House, a celebration of its fifth anniversary, and the completion of significant renovation of Guard House Park in Bodden Town.

The Trust also managed to acquire two significant parcels of land in Grand Cayman, a parcel of 118 acres located in the middle of the Mastic Reserve was purchased, as were 23 acres in the Salina Reserve. As usual, the Trust's Blue Iguana recovery programme has continued with restoring of Blue Iguanas to the wild along with other aspects of the programme including the planning of a trail system in the new Colliers Wilderness Reserve which, thanks to the newly completed road, which was completed with the assistance of Government and the National Roads Authority, is now easier to access.

Lastly, a Sister Islands Rock Iguana species recovery plan was formed to ensure the population of these special creatures continues to prosper.

Madam Speaker, I invite Members of this honourable House and the public to peruse these reports in detail.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: I have no notice of statements by Honourable Members and Ministers of Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Suspension of Standing Order 24(5)

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move the suspension of Standing Order 24(5) to enable a Government Motion to be dealt with during this Meeting.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 24(5) be suspended to enable a Government Motion to be dealt with during this Meeting.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 24(5) suspended.

BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for second reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 46(1) and (2)

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I move the Suspension of Standing Order 46(1) and (2) to enable three Bills on the Order Paper to be read a first time.

The Speaker: The question is Standing Order 46(1) and (2) be suspended to enable three Bills on the Order Paper to be read a first time.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 46(1) and (2) suspended.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for second reading.

Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for second reading.

Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for second reading.

SECOND READINGS

Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012

The Clerk: Second Reading: The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of [Community Affairs].

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour, Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill shortly entitled the Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to validate all acts done in good faith by judges, magistrates and other authorised persons in the purported exercise of the civil jurisdiction of the Juveniles Law, 1990, between 12 March 1996 and 30 June 2012; to indemnify the judges, magistrates, and other authorised persons in respect of those acts carried out during that time.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, on 13 September 1995, the Legislative Assembly passed the Youth Justice Law (Law 8 of 1995) and the Children Law (Law 9 of 1995) on 12 March 1996. The Youth Justice Law, 1995 entered into force on 12 March 1996, which, in effect, repealed the provisions relating to the Juveniles Court and the civil jurisdictions for matters relating to children in the Juveniles Law 1990. The Children Law, 1995, which contained the provisions necessary for establishing the civil jurisdiction for matters relating to children never entered into force.

Judges, magistrates, and other authorised persons continued to act pursuant to the repealed sections of the Juveniles Law 1990. The actions carried out in good faith in the purported exercise of the jurisdiction of the Juveniles Court are in need of validation.

Madam Speaker, the acts needing validation include decisions by a court convened and purporting to exercise the jurisdiction of a Juveniles Court and the actions or omissions by any judge, magistrate, clerk of court, justices of the peace, constable, social worker, probation officer or any other authorised person who carried on the purported exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by the Juveniles Law, 1990.

These acts [or omissions] in need of validation commenced on 12 March 1996 with the entering into force of the Youth Justice Law and likely continued until 30 June 2012. The Children Law, 2003, came into force on 1 July 2012.

In light of the foregoing, Madam Speaker, the Bill also seeks to indemnify judges, magistrates, and other authorised persons who acted in good faith in the purported exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by the Juveniles Law, 1990, against claims, damages or legal proceedings.

Madam Speaker and Members of this honourable House, I hope that you will give your full support to this Bill which would preserve the validity of all acts done in the purported exercise of powers under the Juveniles Law, 1990, during the period 12 March 1996 and 30 June 2012, and provide the required protection in the form of an indemnity to judges, magistrates, and other authorised persons who exercised those powers in good faith during the period in question.

I would like to thank you, the Premier, the Deputy Premier, Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Governor, the Attorney General and the Legislative Drafting Department, Chief Officer and the Ministry's policy staff, the former Minister, Mike Adam, who actually piloted it through Cabinet, the Director and staff of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Thank you and God bless.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

If not, I will call on the Honourable Minister to conclude the debate.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I thank all Members for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012, be given a second reading.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012, given a second reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 46(4)

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I move the Suspension of Standing Order 46(4) to enable three Bills on the Order Paper to be read a second time.

The Speaker: The question is Suspension of Standing Order 46(4) to enable three Bills on the Order Paper to be read a second time.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 46(4) suspended.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Finance.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to move a Bill shortly entitled, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the Minister wish to speak thereto?

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of Government, to present a Bill for a Law to amend the Companies Law (2012 Revision). This Bill seeks to amend the Companies Law (2012 Revision) to vary penalty provisions and to provide for incidental and connected purposes.

Madam Speaker and honourable Members, you will recall that the Companies (Amendment) Law, 2012, was passed by this honourable House in August last year. The amendments made by the Companies (Amendment) Law, 2012, addressed recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes relating to the level of sanctions against the companies that fail to comply with requirements to maintain ownership and identity information. Madam Speaker, the Companies (Amendment) Law, 2012, also contained amendments which do not specifically relate to the recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report.

It should be noted that the vast majority of the Bill contains clauses which will repeal the amendments made by the Companies (Amendment) Law, 2012, as these do not relate to the recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report. A decision was taken that these recommendations be examined at a later time once further analysis has been done in consultation with the financial services industry has taken place.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (currently before this House),

in keeping with the recommendations in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report, will further strengthen and enhance sanctions against companies that fail to comply with requirements to maintain ownership and identity information.

The Bill also provides provisions to secure the availability of this information in the Cayman Islands when required for the purposes of honouring an international request for tax information.

The clauses in the Bill, which will further enhance and secure the availability of this information in the Cayman Islands when required for the purposes of honouring an international request for tax information are as follows:

Clause 9 of the Bill repeals section 44 of the principal Law, and substitutes a section to ensure that information in the Register required to meet a request from a treaty partner for the purposes is available in the Cayman Islands and to provide penalties to enforce this compliance.

Clause 13 of the Bill amends section 59 of the principal Law to ensure that accounting information required to meet the request from a treaty partner for tax purposes is available in the Cayman Islands and to provide penalties to enforce this compliance.

Madam Speaker, I can assure honourable Members that there has been consultation on the Bill with the financial services industry via the Financial Services Legislative Committee. Before closing, I would like to note that there will be a short committee stage amendment to clause 5. The amendment will allow the addition of a restriction for the use of certain words in the name of a company which was added by the Companies (Amendment) Law, 2012, to remain.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to this honourable House and respectfully ask all honourable Members to support this Bill. It should be noteworthy that on January 21st.

[Pause]

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, it should be noted that the passage of this Bill will be in good time so that we will be able to have the most favourable consideration of our response to the recommendations.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

If not, Honourable Minister, would you make your reply?

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank all Members for their tacit support and also to thank the team in the Ministry for the work that has gone into this. This work has been ongoing now for several weeks, so I would like to thank all concerned for getting us to this stage so that we can have this Bill before us for consideration today.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled, The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a second reading.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a second reading.

Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Very briefly, Madam Speaker.

I rise to present the Bill on behalf of Government, a short Bill for a Law to amend the Partnership Law (2011 Revision).

This Bill seeks to amend the Partnership Law (2011 Revision) to make provisions for the maintenance of registered offices by partnerships, to vary penalty provisions, and to provide for incidental and connected purposes.

Madam Speaker and all honourable Members, you will recall that the Partnership (Amendment) Law, 2012, was passed by this honourable House in August of last year. The amendments made by the Partnership (Amendment) Law, 2012, addressed recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes relating to the level of sanctions against partnerships that fail to comply with the requirements to maintain ownership and identity information.

Madam Speaker, the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which is currently before this House, in keeping with the recommendations of the Phase 1 Peer Review Report, will further strengthen and enhance sanctions against partnerships which fail to

comply with requirements to maintain ownership and identity information.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also provides provisions to secure the availability of this information in the Cayman Islands when required for the purposes of honouring an international request for tax information.

The clauses in the Bill are as follows:

Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title.

Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2 to provide for a definition of the words “registered office provider.”

Clause 3 repeals section 5(a).

Clause 4 amends section 28 of the principal Law to ensure accounting information required to meet a request from a treaty partner for tax purposes is available in the Cayman Islands and to provide penalties to enforce this compliance.

Clause 5 amends section 49 of the principal Law to provide a requirement for limited partnerships to have a registered office situated in the Cayman Islands. Madam Speaker, there is also a short committee stage amendment that has been circulated to Members to address a minor typographical error in this clause.

Clause 6 amends section 51 of the principal Law by varying the penalty for non-compliance with notification of changes to the Registrar of Companies.

Madam Speaker, I can assure honourable Members of this House that there has been consultation with the industry and this, again, has been done via the Financial Services Legislative Committee.

In closing, I would like to note that there is a clerical error in clause 6 of the Bill that will be addressed in a short committee stage amendment which has been circulated.

I commend the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to all Members of this honourable House.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[pause]

If not, I will call on the Honourable Minister to make his reply.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, just to thank all honourable Members for their tacit support of this Bill.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled, The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a second reading.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a second reading.

Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Finance and Education.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the Minister wish to speak thereto?

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, this is the final Bill within this very short series of amendment Bills. It seeks to amend the Exempted Limited Partnership Law (2012 Revision) to update the penalty provisions and to provide for other incidental and connected purposes.

Madam Speaker, as Members will recall, this Bill, too, was passed in this honourable House in August of last year. The amendments made by the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Law, 2012, addressed recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Peer Review Report by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes relating to the level of sanctions against partnerships that fail to comply with requirements to maintain ownership and identity information.

The Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which is currently before the House is in keeping with the recommendations with the Phase 1 Peer Review Report and will further strengthen and enhance the sanctions against partnerships that fail to comply with requirements to maintain ownership and identity information.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also includes provisions that secure the availability of this information in the Cayman Islands when required for the purposes of honouring an international request for tax information.

I will go through this very, very short Bill. Clause 1 contains the short title.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Law to provide for the definition of a “registered office provider.”

Clause 3 amends section 11 of the principal Law to ensure that the information in the register required to meet the request from a treaty partner for tax purposes is available in the Cayman Islands and to provide penalties to enforce this compliance.

Clause 4 amends section 12 of the principal Law to ensure that accounting information which is required to meet a request from a treaty partner for tax purposes is available in the Cayman Islands, and to provide penalties to enforce this compliance.

Again, Madam Speaker, this Bill has also met with consultation from the industry via the Financial Services Legislative Committee. I recommend the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to all Members of this honourable House, and I am sure all Members will support the Bill.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Does any other Member wish to speak? Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is the third in what the Deputy Premier has just described as a series of Bills which are being brought to the House to effect amendment to the Companies Law, the Partnership Law, the Exempted Limited Partnership Law. They are a series of Bills which were passed, or I should say these are the successors to a series of Bills which were passed by this honourable House in August of last year when they were steered through the legislative process by the then Premier and Minister with responsibility for Finance, who is the First Elected Member for West Bay.

Madam Speaker, we have the curious situation whereby these three Bills were passed by the House but never assented to by His Excellency the Governor. As far as we have been made aware, that was as a result of clamour from the financial services sector who objected to the lack of consultation on these Bills and objected to the significant increase in penalties which all of these Bills have effected, or purported to effect.

Now, Madam Speaker, the problem was and the problem which these Bills seek to address today is that the OECD Global Forum and the Peer Review process, which is part of that exercise these days, made certain recommendations that needed to be addressed by the Government to ensure that Cayman continued to meet the global standards in relation to compliance. Because those Bills (the predecessors to these three) never did come into effect, those recommendations have not been addressed legislatively and Cayman now faces a situation where the report of the Peer Review Group, which is, as far as I understand, due for completion on the 21st of this month . . . if these pieces of legislation that are before us now are not passed, that report will not reflect very favourably on Cayman and Cayman's willingness to ensure that its financial services sector and its regime continue to keep pace with the global standards.

That is why these Bills are now being brought at this very late stage in what is essentially an emergency situation.

I would have expected that the former Minister, and former Premier—who had responsibility for these Bills, who steered them through successful passage in this House—would have at least taken the opportunity today to offer some form of explanation as to why the country has been placed in this situation, why this House is placed in this situation whereby we have had to suspend Standing Orders, we have had to seek an exemption under the constitutional provision which requires 21 days' notice for Bills to be brought to this House, for us to rush through these amendments now.

The Exempted Limited Partnership Bill, which I am speaking to specifically, contains a provision which says that it will come into effect (that is this amendment will come into effect) immediately following the coming into effect of the previous laws which were passed by this House—which have not yet, or had not yet (I'm not sure whether they have now come into effect) come into effect. It's a complicated, convoluted (is probably the best word) set of circumstances with which the House is faced.

But, Madam Speaker, we have agreed with the Government to go along with this because it is so critical, so important to Cayman as a jurisdiction, to Cayman's financial services sector, and to Cayman's overall reputation. But we ought not to be at this point at all if the process had been properly followed from the outset.

We have cried on this side, Madam Speaker, since this term of office for all of us began (the term of the former Government began in May 2009) about the lack of adequate consultation on key pieces of legislation in this House. We have received assurance time and time again from the former Premier and Minister that the consultation was taking place. I have heard privately, and I heard the current Minister, the Deputy Premier, say that consultation has occurred in relation to these three pieces of legislation that are currently being debated. I hope that I can rely more on his assurance than I have been able to rely on the assurance of his predecessor in office in that regard.

But, Madam Speaker, there is a lesson in all of this for all of us and, indeed, for the country, that when proper process is not followed, when adequate consultation does not occur, and we pass major pieces of legislation (because that's what they are) which have a huge effect . . . they may seem to be small Bills addressing just technical issues to many people, but for those who work in the industry, those who are affected and whose business is affected by these Bills, these are major, major matters. And it is critically important that we revert to what was Cayman's practice for as long ago as I have even known, which is that on matters such as these—indeed, on all matters which affect the various sectors of Cayman's community, not just industry—there needs to be adequate consultation so that the Government and those of us who are in the Legislative Assembly, in particular,

know what the feedback is from those who would be most affected by the legislation which we are debating and which we ultimately pass in this House; and that when we don't follow proper process really bad things can happen.

I do hope that this averts what would really have been something of a disastrous consequence of the Cayman Islands getting a less than salutary report simply because we haven't gone through the process properly.

These issues which these three pieces of legislation will address were made known to Cayman in August of last year. This House passed the necessary legislation, but the legislation contained otherwise objectionable provisions which have nothing to do with the requirements of the OECD Global Forum and the Peer Review, but have been added to the legislation by the previous Government on the basis, obviously, of advice that they received from someone about the appropriateness of so doing. But obviously that advice was either given without having consulted the private sector, or, having consulted the private sector, it was decided to disregard the view that they took.

So, Madam Speaker, I just want to make plain that we support what is being proposed there. We regard it as an emergency; we regard it as a critically important area that has to be addressed by the current administration. And it is on that basis that we have agreed to go along with it.

We have taken the position generally that given the lack of mandate that the current administration has with only five Members, called the "minority Government," that essentially they are a caretaker administration, and we will work with them, we will cooperate with them to get the critical business of the country through. And that is what we are doing today, Madam Speaker, by not just agreeing with them to bring this legislation, but agreeing to support these measures.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I couldn't help but stand back and listen to the contribution made by . . . well I don't know why they call him the Leader of the Opposition, now, Madam Speaker. As he has pointed out the way we are operating, I don't know whether he is the Leader of the Opposition with four Members, or whether I am with four. I certainly [do] not. But I would question whether he is.

Madam Speaker, the Member chose to use this opportunity to try to take me to task for something he claims that I didn't do. I did not hear the contribution by the Minister who I would have thought would have laid it out absolutely clearly, and I didn't hear as to the process for such legislation.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the various pieces of legislation that were needed in this country up until August I took and followed my advisors. This country has a Secretariat, and a body that deals with such legislation. The Member knows that this is not something that any Minister sits down and draws up himself. The Member knows that. And, Madam Speaker, on taking office we put together a proper Secretariat, one that I am proud has existed during the past four years and still exists, and has done a tremendous amount of work in the financial international business arena.

Madam Speaker, the Member drew attention, I guess to tell the world and to point out to the Government that the reason why they exist is because of him, that we had to suspend Standing Orders. That's not new! Practically every piece of legislation that we had to bring was done on an emergency basis because of the times that we exist in.

I hadn't planned to speak on this matter because, as I said, I thought, knowing what I know, that the Minister would have explained it. And I don't know that he did not; I wasn't in the Chamber at the time. I only caught the debate, or contribution, made by the last speaker, the Third Elected Member for George Town.

Madam Speaker, the [Third Elected] Member for George Town, who is purporting to lead the Opposition now, should be the last one to get up to try to chastise anybody in connection with OECD matters or international business matters. Any position I find myself in, Madam Speaker, while I have said I want to be conciliatory and leave the Government alone to do what they need to get done, I am not going to be berated in this House by anyone. And, Madam Speaker, I ain't going to allow anybody to tell any lie on me. Enough of that has gone on that I have to defend myself. Madam Speaker, he should be the last one!

This country lost tremendous business by being on the OECD grey list. And who was the Minister? It didn't happen when the Financial Secretary was responsible for the OECD matters or financial services. It happened during the ministerial responsibility of the Member just trying to chastise me! And, Madam Speaker, why I was getting some of the problem, is because I had to run pell-mell all over the world to bring this country back to a position where every one of our peer reports . . . in fact, we could get on and be peers for other countries, but where our reports have all been unblemished.

Madam Speaker, that didn't happen just so; it happened because we had a group and we as a Government put together a group to work, and they worked, and we worked together and I travelled with them and I got cussed and blamed and accused for travelling to get us off the grey list.

The last time I was in London was in December, signing number 30 agreement with the Italian Government. And he has the audacity to come here

this afternoon to talk about and try to chastise me for not doing what? Not working? And not trying to get it done? I wish, Madam Speaker, that somebody would get up and say exactly what happened with the legislation.

Madam Speaker, from what I understand consultation was going on. That's what I was told. We do have the Council. And we have the Secretariat. And I have capable people on both. And they are still there. With everything else that has gone on, I can't say that I know everything. I only know what I was told—that we would have the legislation in time, that there were questions from the private sector.

There are always questions from the private sector, Madam Speaker. That's nothing new. They say he didn't listen to them when he was the Minister, that's why we got on the grey list. That's why we lost business, that's why we lost billions of dollars of business, Madam Speaker. So, it's no big surprise that we had to bring this Bill as one of the emergency pieces.

I don't know that it was because the private sector went to the Governor. I know a lot of them were going to him and that he was listening about everything under the sun, from who pulled up the cat boat to who went fishing, everything! I'm not too sure about that.

I think that the consultation amongst the two took place between the Secretariat and the Council. And, Madam Speaker, as they complain, as normal, people tried to make amendments but could never satisfy everything, and they kept trying to satisfy. That's my understanding. And it's now at this point. But I don't know, Madam Speaker, that that's why there wasn't . . . there was any big thing from the private sector, except that the Secretariat and the Council were trying to make ends meet to be satisfied and the Secretariat and others were trying to satisfy what was being asked of them, something not too easy, Madam Speaker, to do.

Madam Speaker, the Secretariat [was] dealing with a number of issues over the various months that we've been in office. Various laws: the Insurance Law, the Mutual Funds Law, the Companies Law, the Auditors Oversight, Special Economic Zone, and you go on and on between the Department of Commerce, the Secretariat, the tax group.

When we got elected, Madam Speaker, I don't know if we had the Financial Services Legislative Council. I thought that was something we had to create. They want to talk about not following the advice or consulting, process not being followed. Who was doing it when he was there? Who? Him and someone else?

From what I understand, the Secretariat, the authority, has been and continues to be at the forefront of interaction between Government and the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes. And their work has restored and enhanced the reputation of the Cayman

Islands as much as they talk about things not being right in the country. And none of this would have been possible had we remained on the OECD grey list or black list, or whatever list it was. But our swift action in the months and years following the 2009 elections not only got us off the grey list but it also created the immediate benefit of restoring the confidence of global business in our commitment to international standards.

The benefit, Madam Speaker, of Cayman's leadership and participation in this area includes the credibility building for our jurisdiction, keeping abreast of current emerging issues, reputational benefits and relationship-building amongst jurisdictions.

Another key benefit of our participation is that we did get to talk to people, rub elbows with some of our harshest critics from the technical arena who understand more about what is at stake than probably some politicians do. And to know then and understand today that those critics have seen Cayman's openness, willingness to engage, and the strength of our framework, and their opinions of our jurisdiction has softened.

Since 2009 the Financial Services Secretariat and the Tax Information Authority [TIA] have gotten Cayman off the OECD's grey list and onto its white list, guided Cayman through the OECD's former requirements of having a few TIEAs [Tax Information Exchange Agreements] to its current more substantive requirement of ensuring that the TIEAs fulfill their intended purpose, overseeing the signing of agreements to bring us to 30 (as I said, having signed the last one). And these are not with any Faroe Islands, these little old fly-by-night places, Madam Speaker. These are with the G-20—China, Canada, UK, all of them—the big ones, Italy.

Since September 2009 we have sat as a member of the OECD Global Forum Peer Review Group, and the steering group, with both memberships recently renewed for at least one more year. We have been selected to serve on the Global Forum's Advisory Panel to the G-20, and we have provided assessors for six peer reviews of Global Forum members—*six!*—and assisted several times with assessor training. We participated in the peer review group's mid-2010 phase one review with the Global Forum announcing in September 2011 that Cayman met all of its legal and regulatory standards for the exchange of information for tax purposes and participating in Cayman's Phase 2 Peer Review Report, which will be released in the first half of 2013.

And we are not doing our work? Or we didn't do our work?

Who did it? Him?

Yeah, him all right! It was him who left us on the OECD grey list, with people losing tons of business in this country. It was him who caused us to be in the financial mess that we are today. It was him, Madam Speaker—a thousand times him! And no ac-

tion that he brings here—censure motion or otherwise, Madam Speaker—is going to put any salve on the conscience of people that know what went down in this country.

So, they can laugh, they can plan, they can support one another all they want. The facts are the facts.

I say again, I have said, if I know what's going to happen, we too, the four of us, Madam Speaker, can be reasonable. But if we don't know, and if the Government on the other side is only consulting them, then we don't know.

Today we were pulled into a meeting. [INAUDIBLE] support, as we have said, what we can't. I am not going to be bamboozled. I am not going to be lied upon. And I am sick and tired of the insinuations that I have been hearing. The truth will come out sometime, Madam Speaker. And I have depended on that all the days of my life. For the ploughers have ploughed upon my back; but they have never succeeded.

So, Madam Speaker, I do not have anything to be ashamed of in our management, neither the Secretariat, neither the Tax Information, neither the UDP party at the time. We worked hard to pull this country through some of the worst stages. And to hear somebody that doesn't know—who purports to be the Leader of the Opposition, and doesn't know whether he is the Leader of the Opposition—get up there, who was responsible for the damage that the country received . . . Madam Speaker, I don't know that they are going to [be] ready. I think they are going to be ready.

I would like to hear from them, if they are not going to be ready. I think they are going to be ready from what I understood. But, they cannot blame the full load on some of them because the fact is that as they try the public wants more. They don't like this, shift this. They want some other things. That takes up time. It takes time to get here, it takes time to draw the legislation, and it takes time to get here. So, this piece of legislation that needs to be changed, I understand that's the purpose of bringing it.

Madam Speaker, I don't need to belabor the point. My record of what I have done in this country for the good of this country they cannot erase. What I have done for the good of the financial industry, as much they say the business people wanted me to be removed, ask them who put a better record there for them. Ask them. Who kept us out of taxation? Ask them who kept them, this country, from losing its rating when all around were losing theirs.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, First Elected Member for West Bay.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

If not, I call on the Minister of Finance and Education to make his reply.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today is one of those very awkward circumstances that happens in very small Houses, where the Government sits by and, as the old people say, licks are flying and they are not really flying at the Government. I say that in jest, Madam Speaker, to hopefully add a little—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, the three Bills that are before us, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, are all companion pieces of legislation.

Certainly, Madam Speaker, let me ensure, because I listened carefully to both Members who did contribute, that, firstly, all three of the 2012 Bills have now been assented to by His Excellency the Governor. As is contained in each of the three Bills, the three Bills do make it clear that once the House has passed these pieces of legislation and [the Governor has] assented to them, these Bills, I will quote "**This Law comes into force immediately after the Partnership (Amendment) Law, 2012 comes into force.**" Obviously, the pieces of legislation passed in August.

I hope I made it abundantly clear that that means that as the assent has happened, and on one of them quite recently, that this now subsumes them. I think I made it clear in terms of the timeline that certainly these pieces of legislation were drafted to address a number of concerns that were flagged, in particular in the Companies (Amendment) Bill, and then these two others that each spoke to issues of identity, et cetera, and accounting records being available here to ensure that we can exchange with other treaty countries efficiently.

The Bills, I am happy the two have already received positive affirmation from all Members. I am confident this one will as well. Certainly we, as was alluded to, will ensure that legislation coming down will be shared with Members of the House and collaborate to ensure that we are in the position to have safe passage by Members agreeing to the Bills that will be coming.

So, Madam Speaker, I can say that we have pointed out quite clearly from whence we have come and why it is important for us to have this completed. This is going to allow us on Monday, God willing, as a country to be in a position to say that these have been passed and we will move swiftly to have them assented to and be in a position to ensure that Cayman, as a jurisdiction, can have the most favourable response

and continue the very good position that we have been placed in to deal with these matters, not only affectively, but be at the table, as they would say.

So, I thank all Members, those who contributed, and those who have not, I thank them for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is that the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a second reading.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a second reading.

The Speaker: The House will now go into Committee to consider the Bills.

House in Committee at 3.58 pm

COMMITTEE ON BILLS

[Hon. Mary J. Lawrence, Chairman]

The Chairman: Please be seated.

The House is now in Committee.

With the leave of the House, may I assume that, as usual, we should authorise the Honourable Attorney General to correct minor errors and such the like in these Bills?

Would the Clerk please state the Bill and read the Clauses.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: [The Companies \(Amendment\) Bill, 2013.](#)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Clause 1 | Short title and commencement. |
| Clause 2 | Amendment of section 17 of the Companies Law (2012 Revision) - registration of order and minute of reduction. |
| Clause 3 | Amendment of section 26 - registration. |
| Clause 4 | Amendment of section 29 - copies of memorandum and articles to be given to members. |

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 4 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 4 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 5 Amendment of section 30—restrictions on registration of certain names.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 5

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you.

In accordance with the provision of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment, give notice to move the following amendment to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013: that the Bill be amended by deleting clause 5 and substituting the following clause, "The principal Law is amended in section 30(2)(c) as follows- (a) by deleting the words 'trust or' and substituting the word 'or'; and (b) by deleting the words 'of such words' and substituting the words 'of such four words.'"

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

If no Member wishes to speak, the question is that the amendment stands part of the clause.

All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 5 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 5, as amended, passed.

The Clerk:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Clause 6 | Amendment of section 31 - change of name. |
| Clause 7 | Amendment of section 40 - register of members. |
| Clause 8 | Amendment of section 40A - branch registers of members. |
| Clause 9 | Amendment of section 44 - inspection of register. |

- Clause 10 Amendment of section 53 - penalties on non-publication of name.
- Clause 11 Amendment of section 54 - register of mortgages.
- Clause 12 Repeal and substitution of section 56 - penalty on company not keeping a register of directors.
- Clause 13 Amendment of section 59 - accounts and audits.
- Clause 14 Repeal and substitution of section 62 - recording of special resolutions.
- Clause 15 Amendment of section 63 - copies of special resolutions.
- Clause 16 Amendment of section 65 - powers of inspectors.
- Clause 17 Amendment of section 77 - general penalty; application of fines.
- Clause 18 Amendment of section 80 - circumstances in which the Governor may licence a company to be registered without "limited" in its name.

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 6 through 18 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 6 through 18 passed.

The Clerk:

- Clause 19 Amendment of section 86 - power to compromise with creditors and members.
- Clause 20 Amendment of section 87 - provisions for facilitating reconstruction and amalgamation of companies.
- Clause 21 Amendment of section 134 - fraud, etc. in anticipation of winding up.
- Clause 22 Amendment of section 135 - transactions in fraud of creditors.
- Clause 23 Amendment of section 176 - penalty for carrying on business contrary to this Part.
- Clause 24 Amendment of section 184 - documents etc., to be filed with Registrar by foreign companies.
- Clause 25 Amendment of section 185 - power of certain foreign companies to hold land
- Clause 26 Amendment of section 187 - return to be filed with Registrar where documents etc., altered.
- Clause 27 Amendment of section 189 - service on foreign company to which this Part applies.

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 19 through 27 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 19 through 27 passed.

The Clerk:

- Clause 28 Amendment of section 192 - removing company's name from register.
- Clause 29 Amendment of section 193 - penalties for failing to comply with this Part.
- Clause 30 Amendment of section 195 - power of Registrar to prohibit sale.
- Clause 31 Amendment of section 199 - fees in lieu of other provisions.
- Clause 32 Amendment of section 200A - certificate of good standing.
- Clause 33 Amendment of section 201 - application for continuation.
- Clause 34 Amendment of section 206 - deregistration of exempted companies including companies registered under this Part.
- Clause 35 Amendment of section 210 - ordinary non-resident company may be reregistered as exempted company.
- Clause 36 Amendment of section 211 - effect of re-registration of ordinary non-resident company as an exempted company
- Clause 37 Amendment of section 233 - merger and consolidation.
- Clause 38 Amendment of section 237 - merger or consolidation with overseas company.
- Clause 39 Amendment of Schedule 5 – fees.

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 28 through 39 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 28 through 39 passed.

The Clerk: A Law to amend the Companies Law (2012 Revision) to vary penalty provisions; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: [The Partnership \(Amendment\) Bill, 2013.](#)

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Partnership Law (2011 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Repeal of section 5A - registered office
Clause 4	Amendment of section 28 - accounts
Clause 5	Amendment of section 49 - details required for registration

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 5 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 5 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 6 Amendment of section 51 - changes in limited partnership.

Amendment to clause 6

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you.

In accordance with the provision of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment, give notice to move the following amendment to the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013: that the Bill be [amended in clause 6](#) by deleting the words "five hundred dollars and a further fine of fifty dollars" where they first occur, and substituting the words "three thousand dollars and a further fine of three hundred dollars."

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

If no Member wishes to speak, the question is that the amendment stands part of the clause.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 6 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 6, as amended, passed.

The Clerk: A Law to amend the Partnership Law (2011 Revision) to make further provision in respect of the maintenance of registered offices by partnerships; to vary penalty provisions; and to provide for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: [The Exempted Limited Partnership \(Amendment\) Bill, 2013.](#)

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Exempted Limited Partnership Law (2012 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 11 - register of limited partnership interests
Clause 4	Amendment of section 12 - accounts

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 4 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 4 passed.

The Clerk: A Law to amend the Exempted Limited Partnership Law (2012 Revision) to make further provision in respect of the production of records by general partners; and to provide for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.**Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012**

The Clerk: [The Juveniles Law \(Validation\) Bill, 2012.](#)

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Validation
Clause 3	Indemnity

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 3 do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 3 passed.

The Clerk: A law to validate all acts done in good faith by judges, magistrates and other authorised persons in the purported exercise of the civil jurisdiction of the Juveniles Law, 1990 between 12th March, 1996 and 30th June, 2012; to indemnify the judges, magistrates, and other authorized persons in respect of those acts; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the Bills be reported to the House.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Bills to be reported.**House resumed**

The Speaker: Please be seated. Proceedings are resumed.

REPORT ON BILLS**Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of and Education and Financial Services.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, we had a minor technical glitch in the House. I know that these things are being carried live on TV these days, but it shows that we have full co-operation of Members.

I am happy to report that the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed as amended.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for third reading.

Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I am happy to report that the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed as amended.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for third reading.

Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, the Exempted Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for third reading.

Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Community Services.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I have to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill 2012, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and approved without amendment.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for third reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 47

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I move the Suspension of Standing Order 47 to enable the Bills on the Order Paper to be read a third time.

The Speaker: The question is Suspension of Standing Order 47 enable the Bills on the Order Paper to be read a third time.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 47 suspended.

THIRD READINGS**Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education and Financial Services.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I move that a Bill entitled the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education and Financial Services.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I move that a Bill entitled the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that the Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education and Financial Services.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I move that a Bill entitled the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that the Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Exempted Limited Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Community Affairs.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I move that a Bill shortly entitled The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Juveniles Law (Validation) Bill, 2012 given a third reading and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Speaker: Before we move that Motion we need a motion to continue the business of the House after 4.20.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I move that in accordance with Standing Order 10(2) that the business of the House continue and conclude after the hour of 4.30 pm.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to enable the House to continue proceedings beyond the hour of 4.30 pm.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Government Motion No. 8/2012-13—Extension of Voters' Registration Date

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, the Honourable Minister of Finance, District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, I wish to move Government Motion No. 8/2012-13—Extension of Voters' Registration Date.

The Speaker: Honourable Member will you move the Motion please?

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, I wish to move Government Motion No. 8/2012-13—Extension of Voters' Registration Date, be duly moved.

The Speaker: You need to read the Motion.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT His Excellency the Governor duly considers extending the voters' registration date from 2nd January 2013 to 31st January 2013.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT His Excellency the Governor duly considers extending the voters' registration date from 2nd January 2013 to 31st January 2013.

The Motion is open for debate. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker, just to briefly say that after due consideration the Elected Members of Cabinet gave me the mandate to write to His Excellency the Governor on 2nd January requesting his kind consideration for the deadline of the registration for the upcoming general election 2013 to be extended to 31 January 2013.

His Excellency took the opinion that he would consider it, but wanted evidence that there was consensus by the House. I thought perhaps this was the best methodology to show that there is consensus, in moving the Motion which is now before the House.

Various Members, I am sure, if they so desire, can express what their experiences have been. We wish to certainly congratulate the Election Office for the sterling work that they did including private individuals, party members, and other groups that really went out this particular time to ensure that there were several thousand new voters there as anticipated.

Based on information that I received from the Election Office it is perhaps going to be around 8,000 registered voters come 1 April.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Eighteen! Sorry. Eighteen thousand!

But, based on information that we received there are probably still another 3,000-plus voters who have opted not to vote yet for various reasons. Of course, we know from tradition that some people chose not to vote because once they are on the electoral list they obviously can be chosen for jury duty and for whatever reason, religious and other reasons, do not want to register. But we don't believe that all of those 3,000 possible voters would fall into that category.

We also saw that there was just under 1,000 [persons] (from our information), who waited until the very end to go and register. We believe also that there is some element of logic in the fact that persons feel that the cutoff date was a bit early and it came after the Christmas holidays. Therefore, we are just asking for consideration, not of anything disparaging the Election Office, because I think all Members would agree that they continue to run perhaps one of the

best electoral processes, not only in the Caribbean, but in the entire world.

But we feel that it is very important in the progression of a growing and developing democracy that as many persons as possible be given the opportunity to be enfranchised to vote and to be empowered to fully participate in a democracy in Cayman.

We are excited to see that there are so many that are registering to vote and we would ask all Members to give their favourable consideration for this and encourage His Excellency the Governor to acquiesce to the consideration that we are duly asking him to give.

I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

You have just called me the “Honourable Leader of the Opposition.” I hear the rumblings on the end of this bench again from the First Elected Member for West Bay, and former Premier.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, First Elected Member for West Bay: Madam Speaker, please. I never said a word to the Member. I think it came from one of his former members.

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Member for East End: No, no. Don't call my name. Don't call my name.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: It's not me! I've questioned it already!

Constitutional matter (section 68) (as raised by First Elected Member for West Bay)

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, the Premier is denying . . . the former Premier is denying, the First Elected Member, sorry . . . The First Elected Member for West Bay is denying that it was him. I don't mind that, Madam Speaker, but he raised the matter substantively in the course of his debate earlier.

This is a matter of real importance, Madam Speaker. It is a constitutional issue that the First Elected Member for West Bay has raised. And we cannot proceed, I respectfully submit, in this House with the perception that there . . . with the question as to who is the Leader of the Opposition.

I just wish, Madam Speaker, to read the constitutional provisions and to invite the First Elected Member for West Bay, or anybody else who believes that I continue in this post unconstitutionally, to take

the necessary measures to deal with what the First Elected Member for West Bay suggested is an irregularity.

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I have no information from the Governor in the information he sent to me regarding the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Until I receive such information from him, I will have to move with what we have at present. If there is going to be a change, it will have to come from the Governor's office, not from here.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: I thank you for that, Madam Speaker. But the issue has been raised on the Floor of this House and there is everyone in the country listening and watching it. I believe all of us would be assisted if I simply read the constitutional provisions to put this issue to bed once and for all.

Section 68 of the Constitution provides: “68. (1) There shall be a Leader of the Opposition who shall be appointed by the Governor.”

Section 68(2) goes on to say, “The Governor shall appoint as the Leader of the Opposition— (a) the elected member of the Legislative Assembly recommended by a majority of the elected members of the Assembly who are members of any opposition political party whose numerical strength in the Assembly is greater than that of any other opposition political party.”

Madam Speaker, in February 2011 the entire elected membership of the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) signed a letter, the five of us at the time, and attended on His Excellency the Governor who proceeded then to revoke the appointment of the First Elected Member for George Town—

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, on a point of order. Where is the relevance of this matter to the matter before the House? I am trying to find out the relevancy because there is a Motion—

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, he can't interrupt me in this way.

The Speaker: Let me—

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I can. I am asking for a point of order, which I think—

The Speaker: Would you both sit down and I will read the Constitution.

[Laughter]

The Speaker: We have the provision for such a matter in the Constitution, if you would read it a little bit

further. In [section] 68 [(2)] (b) “if it appears to the Governor that there is no such party but that there is an elected member of the Assembly who would be acceptable as Leader of the Opposition to a majority of the members of the Assembly in opposition to the Government, that member; or (c) if it appears to the Governor that there is no such person, then the Governor shall appoint as Leader of the Opposition that person who in his or her opinion would be acceptable to the greatest number of members of the Assembly in opposition to the Government.”

The matter is in the hands of the Governor. And I can draw, as Speaker of the House, those two sections of the Constitution to his attention. But it is not necessary to debate it at this point, I don't think. It is quite clear. If there is no one here whose opposition party has a majority then he can appoint from among the Members sitting on the Opposition side of the House the person as Leader of the Opposition who in his or her opinion would be acceptable to the greatest number of members of the Assembly in opposition to the Government. It's very clear.

Can we continue with the debate on the matter before the House?

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, before we do so, I just want to call to your attention the clause 3 which deals specifically with this situation.

The Speaker: Yes, which I drew to your attention.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Was it [section] 3 that you read?

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: I don't think so, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Clause . . . sorry.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: You may wish to read that as well, Ma'am.

The Speaker: [Section] 68(3), “If at any time between the polling in a general election and the next following dissolution of the Legislative Assembly the Governor is satisfied that, if the office of the Leader of the Opposition were then vacant, he or she would appoint to that office a person other than the person then holding it, the Governor shall revoke the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition.”

As I said, it is in the Governor's court to read this section of the Constitution and either appoint someone or confirm the person who is there.

Now, can we continue with the debate, and I will leave this matter to the Governor to sort out.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I only raised it because you allowed the First Elected Member for West Bay to go on at some length about this issue and the consequence of that will be, if it wasn't properly addressed, that all and sundry out there will be wondering whether or not I am holding this position legitimately. And that is why I raised the matter, Madam Speaker—for no other reason.

The Speaker: Can we now continue with the debate on the Motion before the House, which is a very important motion. All of you in this House need this to get back in here. So please get busy with it!

[Laughter]

The Speaker: Three thousand votes can make the difference.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: One can make a difference. You know 'bout that.

The Speaker: Yes, I sure do.

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

The Speaker: That's why I am advising you now.

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, please continue your contribution to this very important debate.

[Debate on Government Motion continued]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Now that we have resolved the issue about who the Leader of the Opposition is, I am happy to do so.

Madam Speaker, I just rise on behalf of the Opposition, as Leader of the Opposition to—

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Yes, Madam Speaker, every . . . I am glad, Madam Speaker, that at this later hour I have been able to provide some level of levity in the House.

But, as Leader of the Opposition, I just wish to express our support for the Motion that has been brought by the Premier to request the Governor to extend the deadline or to reopen, essentially, the registration process and to allow as many more eligible

voters to become registered as possible. We have had some representation by some. There will always be some who miss the deadline. That's just the way it is. But we are conscious, Madam Speaker, and I know I have had some representation from some of those involved in the process that the Elections Office is under considerable pressure to meet the deadlines that are there now, and that a decision to extend the deadline may well affect other timelines as far as the whole election process is concerned. One of the consequences may well be that we may have to make some amendments to the Elections Law, or at least to some of the regulations to be able to ensure that the Office complies with what the law and regulations say.

Assuming that those issues can be resolved, assuming that the Elections Office can get the manpower to make this process continue to happen in a timely fashion so that we don't get in problems with Nomination Day and, ultimately, with elections, assuming all of those things, we want the Governor to know that this has our full support. We hope that he can take all of those things into consideration when he makes the decision.

I would not expect that the time extended would be for too much longer because, again, we are running up against a Nomination Day of the 27th of March. So, assuming that this happens, I urge all of those who have missed the boat to take advantage of it so that we get as many eligible voters on the register as possible for what I have no doubt will be a historic election in this country.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of the real minority in this honourable House—

[Laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: We can't get much lower than we are at, lowly independents.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Motion before us to extend the registration period. I recently debated the need for us to review the Elections Law for this precise purpose. I said then that we no longer have to write down the registration on brown paper with charcoal. You know, technology nowadays has gotten us to the point that within a few hours we can have all these things on the register through the data input.

I support us giving additional time. However, we must recognise that the responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of the citizens of this country who become eligible to vote once they turn 18 years of age. There are many provisions to assist them. This is

just a gesture, I would like to think, for all those who consider themselves too busy over the last four years, over the last year, to get in there and do it.

I would encourage Caymanians, those who have become eligible [and those] in the coming years, to just go and get registered. It is a democratic right. We need to stop talking about this jury duty. That is a right because the juries are pulled from the electors' list. That is a duty we should be proud to do for our country and go to the courts and judge our peers on whether or not they have encroached on the law. That is a duty that we need to do, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would also encourage the Elections Office, because that is an established office, that as soon as this election is over to pull back with all those amendments that we were contemplating over the last 10 years to put into law and let's get them in place nice and early so people can deal with it.

The other thing, Madam Speaker, that I think needs to be addressed is the fact that it is so onerous to get registered. We want daddy's birth certificate, we want our own birth certificate, we want passport. It is unnecessary. The new Constitution calls for, once you have Cayman status, you are entitled to be registered and be an elector. Now, Madam Speaker, I hear that there are a few people in this country who may have been born here and now have passport without Cayman status. I can count them on one hand and have plenty fingers left. But if they are here for more than 18 years they should be entitled to vote. They have a passport. Let's just take the passport.

Now, I understand that the registering officer . . . if someone produces a passport which says they are born in a different country and that's all they are bringing, then that is a different matter. They will require additional information such as your status or your registration or when you got here, whatever that is to prove that you are Caymanian. But birth certificates are \$25 nowadays, Madam Speaker. That's \$50 to get registered when you have a passport in your hand.

I don't know, [maybe] we need to try somehow . . . when we try to give people the right to exercise their rights and enfranchise them to get out and vote, we need to make it as easy as possible. We need to get away from going over to the Registry, getting your birth certificate and if you changed your name, you need to get the deed poll, and . . . you have a passport. And not too many countries issue a Cayman passport; I think it's only one!

Once somebody is holding that, it has the picture ID in it. Now, I appreciate if someone is going to register you and you are not there in person, then that's a different matter. But if you are standing up in front of the person, you must be a Caymanian to hold this in your hand. And, you know, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Governor is shaking his head that that is not necessarily true. And that may be so, Madam

Speaker. But for every one of those who has a passport there is a notation in there saying where they are born.

I understand passports are issued when you have residency and all that kind of stuff. That is true. But it says that you were born someplace else. That is when you have to produce your certificate of Caymanian status. But if you were born in the Cayman Islands and you are over 18 years of age, if we left you here for over 18 years having been born here and we haven't regularised your status as a Caymanian, then the Immigration is at fault.

I say that that person who was born here 18 years ago and has come of age, he/she needs to be registered to vote because they know no place else but here. They have no other passport. They live here. And if that's it, they need to be registered. And if we have a handful of those so be it. Let the democratic process take its place. If you have a Cayman passport and you were born in a different place, then you better pull up your Cayman status and take it to the registering officer. That's all I am saying.

But, of course, we get this argument that you have to bring your grandmother's, grandfather's birth certificate. It's not necessary. Absolutely unnecessary! But we are exactly where we were 30 years ago. We have not brought forward our thought process, particularly now that life and the world have changed. If we are not willing allies of change we are going to be stuck in the dark ages and we are going to disenfranchise people because as soon as we put out all of these requirements they are going to say they couldn't care less. And then they don't participate in the democratic process. We need to make it as easy as possible so we can encourage them to register.

So, Madam Speaker, I support the Government's Motion, and I hope that the Governor understands that I lend my support to it, and I think the other minority Member for North Side is nodding that I am speaking on his behalf. So that's two and that's all we can offer, Madam Speaker—just the two of us.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I guess I am the real minority in here, but the representation of the . . . I think they better behave themselves, before we appoint the Member for East End the Leader of the Opposition. That would really kill the purported Leader of the Opposition! He better behave himself.

The representation of the Elections Law is very important. Every person who is on it is eligible to vote. To get on that register is very important, no matter where they come from, no matter what they do, no matter what their career is.

Madam Speaker, the matter now before us by way of Motion by the Honourable Premier was raised by the Deputy Governor to me this morning. He did ask whether anyone had made representation about not being registered and whether we would object to an extension. I told him at that time there were not many people who made representation to me, but I know other Members said that people made representation, so, whatever needs to be done we would support. I thought that his inquiry was more about a shorter period; a week or so.

The Honourable Premier spoke to me and others about it as well. As I said, not many people have spoken to me about not being registered, but there are other Members who have representation. And this would amount to hundreds of people. So, Madam Speaker, we don't want to disenfranchise anyone. Therefore, we have offered our support to the extension. But it is not a week, for the Motion clearly says that it is from 2 January 2013 to 31 January 2013.

Madam Speaker, this is not new. The Member for East End said it is years we have been talking about making various amendments to the Law. And we certainly, as a Government, did not get to it. As everyone knows, we barely got the boundaries recognised. We have just been that busy. But over the years, and that is ever since I know myself about the election process, we have had complaints after the registration period was closed. But we have come a long way to where we are. And years ago, we know what the process was. It was a much longer, drawn out process. So, where we are today is much better than what it was in 1984 and in 1980, much less going back beyond that. So the Elections Office has been hard at work. They did a fair job over the years.

Certainly, we are not going to have any problem with this. This is not even new. I think most of us will remember in 2009 (I think it was), yes in—

Mr. V. Arden McLean: They extended it [Inaudible].

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: It was extended for just about a month by the then Government. So, as the Member for East End is reminding me, it is not new.

But ever since I know myself, and know about the election process, over the years as the registration process closes, we get complaints that people did not register. Remember, Madam Speaker, one year they had a hiatus in George Town. They said there were more outside people on the registry than local people. So the day for elections came, and they stopped the election and started the process all over.

We don't want that to happen. But, Madam Speaker, as far as we are concerned a month would ensure that a couple of hundred more people would be able to register to vote if they wanted to.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak?

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, Fourth Elected Member for George Town: Madam Speaker, I rise to make a short contribution on the Motion insofar as the extension of voter registration.

Not long ago we chatted about this same issue. But I think, again, the Member for East End would have raised quite a few of the same concerns that I raised the last time. And I think we join chorus with that again today. I believe that we can constantly keep looking and finding ways that we can actually work on improving the system. I think one of those things discussed for a long time is about automatic registration of persons. But, again, it isn't necessarily an issue that we are going to solve today.

That said, Madam Speaker, it was very encouraging to see that approximately 3,000 persons signed up as new voters for the 2013 election. Amongst other things, I believe that it is clear evidence that there are 3,000-plus additional persons in this country that understand and believe that their vote can and will make a difference, not just in 2013, but in this election and in elections to come. I think that is very encouraging.

While there are other countries where apathy exists and persons are registered to vote do not go to vote, we have the Cayman Islands which continues to get very high voter turnout. Not only do we not see the apathy there, but in addition to that, we are seeing an increase in voters of almost 16 per cent to 20 per cent in just one term. Not only is that new persons coming of age and new persons becoming Caymanian, et cetera, but I believe a clear testament as to the level of confidence that everyone in this country feels that their vote can and will, in fact, make a difference.

Madam Speaker, I have had persons come with one representation or another wherein they have stated that they wanted to register to vote, again, they didn't recognise a specific deadline that had been given. They now realise that they have missed the date, and I believe the extension will provide those persons with an opportunity.

I will say that perhaps it's never ending because in one way shape or another you will extend it now and someone will miss the deadline again. So you do have to draw the line at some point, close the gate until the next time comes around. But whatever we can do to encourage the elderly, the middle-aged, the younger persons, irrespective of what that age category is, those persons who want to join with those additional 3,000 persons, and actually be able to cast their vote in 2013 knowing that they can and they will make a difference, Madam Speaker, I believe everyone in this honourable House has an obligation to do something to give them that guarantee.

With that, Madam Speaker, for those who have made their representation to me, and I am pretty sure to other Members in this House, I want to encourage them to be sure and take full advantage of this opportunity that's being presented, and to encourage their friends who are out there as well that can register to vote, can vote and make a difference in this upcoming election, to do so.

Madam Speaker, it is extremely important that everyone understands that as one Member has said, it is not about having a fear of not joining up on a registration vote simply because somebody may have some concerns about doing jury duty, but understanding that when you go to the polls and vote in 2013, you are going to be casting a vote to determine the 18 persons that will be elected to the highest political office in the country that is going to make a difference in their lives.

It is these Members that they are going to vote for in 2013 that will determine the quality of the streets that they drive on, the quality of the standard of education we have, housing opportunities, opportunities in terms of retirement—every single thing is impacted in one way, shape, or another by perhaps that same word that so many disparage against, "politics" and "politicians."

So it is extremely important that everyone exercises that democratic right and understand it. There are countries today where people cannot cast a vote. They cannot cast a vote to determine their own destiny, their own future, what is going to happen, streets, schools; regardless of what it is, they do not cast a vote.

And there are countries where individuals supposedly have a right to cast a vote and many of them turn out to only find that their vote has already been cast. That is a reality. They go to the polls to vote and somebody says, "You can go home; your vote has already been cast." Madam Speaker, we have a very good country here in the Cayman Islands when it comes to the democracy we have, specifically in the way that our Elections Office is run and the way our elections are conducted. Good, fair, righteous elections, Madam Speaker.

So, when persons can get up on May 22nd (I believe the date is), 2013, looking forward and knowing that they are going to go to the polls and if they are in George Town, whether it is casting six votes here, four in Bodden Town, four in West Bay, knowing that those votes are going to be key in making the final determination as to who runs this country. The people must understand that they are the ones with the power. They are the ones who hire and ultimately, after the four years, they are the ones who fire. They hire and they fire. That's the power that they have in their hands.

So, I encourage every voter to not just dismiss it because of what friends or a family member might say, or because of concerns or fear of jury duty, but

understand the God-given right that we have, but also that same God-given responsibility that we have to uphold the democracy that we have had for so long, which is built fundamentally on the foundation that we can all go in a free and fair elections and cast a vote for any candidate we choose.

Madam Speaker, with that, that is my short contribution insofar as this specific Motion. Naturally, it has my full support. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Community Affairs.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I just want to rise to give my shortest of contributions.

I would just like to say that I have been saying from last year when I saw, having just now as a new Member being elected to this House, and when I saw the deadline for the registration, I was a bit concerned. As we all know, Madam Speaker, at this time of the year, at the end of the year, December, first week of January, not many people are paying attention, or [that] their primary interest is to register to vote.

I was a bit concerned from a year ago when I saw the date. This is the second time now as I understand it. In 2009 we made an amendment to change the registration date and extended it a month. Same timeframe ending registration formally supposed to end at 1st or 2nd January and then had to be extended. It seems that this is a bad time.

We, as politicians and as persons registering, feel sympathetic to all at this time of the year because the primary interest is not to get registered as a young person, it's to have fun and enjoy the festive season, in my mind. But, I don't know why, if this can work, that we change it and we have changed it two consecutive elections now, 2009, and now 2013, why we don't just permanently move it to the end of January anyhow. That's what I would like to see, Madam Speaker.

In terms of persons registering and why 3,000 people have not registered, I think for many years now as politicians went about the place, their primary interest . . . and I am not saying some of the laws and motions that were passed and brought to the House were not geared towards young people. However, I think we somehow forgot that it was the young people of this country that we were actually building this country for, and for them to take over our positions here. We, as politicians, need to continue to interest and engage the youth and encourage them, by involving them in politics, and including them in policy that elevates their lives and piques their interests.

So, Madam Speaker, with that short and shortest of contributions, I thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak?

If not, I am going to call on the mover of the Motion to conclude the debate.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just to thank all Members of the House for bringing forth their presentations based on the feedback they got from their various constituencies. I believe that the Motion is a good one because it will have a positive effect of giving those who were perhaps not able to because of documentation or they were off the Island or at schools, whatever the reasons were, to have this last chance to ensure that they have a say in this country which I believe is still one of the best countries this side of heaven.

I thank you.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT His Excellency the Governor duly considers extending the voters' registration date from 2nd January 2013 to 31st January 2013.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 8/2012-13—Extension of Voters' Registration Date, passed.

The Speaker: There is no further business on the Order Paper for today. May I have a motion for adjournment please?

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, I wish to adjourn this honourable House to a date to be fixed.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 5.10 pm the House stood adjourned to a date to be fixed.

