



**CAYMAN ISLANDS
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
ELECTRONIC VERSION**

2012/13 SESSION

28 June 2012

Second Sitting of the First Meeting

(pages 69–96)

**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 W McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, MLA	<i>Premier</i> , Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development
Hon Juliana Y O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Premier</i> , Minister of District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture
Hon Rolston M Anglin, JP, MLA	Minister of Education, Training and Employment
Hon Michael T Adam, MBE, JP, MLA	Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing
Hon J Mark P Scotland, JP, MLA	Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon Franz Manderson, Cert. Hon.	<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

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Hon Cline A Glidden, Jr, MLA	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Third Elected Member for West Bay
Capt A Eugene Ebanks, JP, MLA	Fourth Elected Member for West Bay
Mr Ellio A Solomon, MLA	Fourth Elected Member for George Town
Mr Dwayne S Seymour, MLA	Third Elected Member for Bodden Town

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon Alden M McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Third Elected Member for George Town
Mr D Kurt Tibbetts, OBE, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for George Town
Mr Moses I Kirkconnell, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman
Mr Anthony S Eden, OBE, JP, MLA	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
OPENING AND BUDGET MEETING
2012/13 SESSION
THURSDAY
28 JUNE 2012
10.45 AM
Second Sitting**

The Speaker: I will ask the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town to say Prayers.

PRAYERS

Mr. Anthony S. Eden, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town: Let us pray.

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

The Speaker: I have no messages or announcements at this time.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

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

GOVERNMENT MOTION

No. 1/2012-13—Authorisation of Executive Financial Transactions for 2012/13 Financial Year for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 August 2012

[Continuation of debate thereon]

The Speaker: When we concluded the sitting yesterday, the Honourable Premier had just begun his reply. I call on the Honourable Premier now to continue his debate.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in closing the introduction to the Motion yesterday I said that the Opposition would criticise me, criticise the Government. That, they did. The Leader of the Opposition spoke for two hours, the East End Member spoke for nearly one and a half, or over, and the North Side Member, for at least one hour. Madam Speaker, between the three of them they had probably four hours in and they did exactly what a government would have wanted—they did nothing.

When I made the closing remarks, Madam Speaker, I said what is needed are solutions. They are all-powerful, they all know it all, do nothing but twist the truth, between the three of them they did not bring one single solitary solution to the problems the country is facing. All they did was to sit back and be gleeful—glad at the situation and they talked about the next election when they say the people will throw us out. No solutions; just talk. A pack of untruths and to sit back, wait to see how *CNS [Cayman News Service]* would twist everything to make them look good.

I've been through this before, Madam Speaker. I can tell them that. I can tell them that except in those years that I have been through that sort of crisis. We did not have a dirty *CNS* to twist everything

and not tell the truth about what is going on in this House.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, watch the adjectives.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I suspect before I sit you will have to do that quite a bit.

The Speaker: Then I will.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Well, maybe you will. Madam Speaker, we are not going to hold any argument about it. I will say what I have to say in due course.

In those times, Madam Speaker, the press was more impartial. In those times we did not have an Audit Office that behaved as such, and was reporting fairly, and did reports on everybody and on everything. Today, they pick and choose. Sixty-nine million dollars gone and they say, It's gone! They say that was the last Government in one ministry alone and they cannot find it in the former Ministry of Tourism and Commerce. So, there is no audit. In those times that I am talking about that I have been through these fights and these battles, the agenda of the Governor was less combative, more open. And we know what the agenda was. Not so today!

And so, today I recognise, Madam Speaker, I know I am more targeted. And I know I am more in jeopardy. These are not good times for these Islands and those across the way know it but they do not have the guts. Every one of them knows what the agenda is, they know the geo-politics that are being played but they sit down and grin. They brown-nose the FCO and the Auditor General, and the Governor sometimes, when they choose. They do it because it is all a hope for them to win. I have been down this road before, Madam Speaker. I haven't been here two terms; this is my seventh term.

And so, before I go on it is appropriate [to read] from Psalms 27:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked came upon me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.

Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret place of his tabernacle he shall hide me.

He shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above mine enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in his tabernacle.”

And Psalms 109, most appropriate for what I heard here yesterday and what this country has been going through since 2009: **“For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me, they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.”** Thus sayeth the Bible.

The Opposition's big criticism and defence yesterday was the \$81 million deficit. Now they did not try to leave that to the Leader of the Opposition. No, he had too many other important red herrings to draw across everything. They left that to the Member for East End who seems to have some sort of autistic problem between 18 and 81.

They are still denying that they created a mess and left the country with no money. They are still denying that they broke the law so that the UK controls the budget. No, they do not accept that. Instead they brown-nose with the FCO now. They can get the Auditor General in the Gallery making eyes with *CNS* and smiling with glee at the good things that the Leader of the Opposition was saying in their favour.

Oh, Madam Speaker, I pay attention. You have to because you need to know where the alliances lay in a battle! And that is what this has been. And they wonder why we can't get the economy kick-started?

I hope the Member for North Side is going to come back because I need to refer to a few things that he said.

Madam Speaker, I want to turn now to their denials of the \$81 million deficit, because that is where it started. Yesterday . . . and, as is their usual thing, that the Government is lying; the Government is not telling the truth . . . that's their big thing. And, Madam Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that a Cabinet document was laid here yesterday, which, Madam Speaker, I do not know where he got permission from to do so but, as far as I know, it is against the rules for him to lay a Cabinet document without permission. But that will not save him. That is what that will do.

If the *CNS* reporter who I saw having it in her hand . . . do the research and, Madam Speaker, take this document that I am going to lay on the Table, which is a report, which is the *Hansard* of this House, the legal and lawful report of proceedings here, they will understand. And if they will tell the truth, they will tell the country exactly what happened. Because, the Honourable Financial Secretary on Wednesday, 1st July, made a very long—10 pages of the *Hansard*—but a very detailed and very comprehensive statement in this honourable House, in case the press has forgotten, for certainly, the Opposition has forgotten.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I want to read from the *Hansard* of Wednesday, 1st July 2009 on what the Honourable Financial Secretary had to say about the financial position of the PPM Government. And I want to go directly to the portion of the *Hansard* that deals more with the deficit of \$81 million. Because the Member for East End still does not seem to understand why they got into trouble. Or, if he knows, then he has deliberately misled this House and has been misleading the country. For, dare they say, as the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday on the television, that the Government should understand that the Government cannot spend more than what it takes in. That is exactly what they were doing. And lying about it! That's what they did—hid it from the public before the General Elections of 2009.

I am going to ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to put this copy on so that the *CNS* reporter won't have any trouble reading it. It should make good reading instead of writing about me and blaspheming my name.

Madam Speaker, I trust you have the *Hansard*. I want to turn to page 53, Wednesday, 1st July 2009. This is the Financial Secretary. And I would like the Serjeant to make a few copies and give to all five of those Members over there.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Yeah, he is included into the five. Just in case you can't count to four, he makes five.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Give one to them so that they can follow.

Madam Speaker, the ¹[Hansard](#) says: "On 27 January 2009, a Cabinet Note prepared by the Portfolio of Finance & Economics was presented to Cabinet outlining the actual financial results of the Government for the period from 1 July to 30 November 2008. The actual financial results for the five months to 30 November 2008 showed an actual operating deficit of CI\$63.6 million."

Madam Speaker, this is important because it was around that time that I brought a motion asking them to cut back on their expenditure and naming it. And I was told by the then Leader of the Government, the First Elected Member for George Town, Mr. Tibbetts said, "Not [even] on the kindest of mornings . . ." would I listen to you. Quoting from the *Hansard*. [2008/9 *Official Hansard Report*, page 37]

It was about that time too (somewhere around about there, maybe) that Lehman Brothers went down. And when he was asked . . . Madam Speaker, you talk about incompetence? They accused me of being incompetent? Well, I would have known better

than to say that with the failure of Lehman Brothers all this country was going to lose, the whole thing would be about \$200,000 in revenue. Yeah? I reckon we did. We didn't just lose the revenue; we lost staff, we lost people who picked up and went everywhere else, and amalgamations around the world caused a reduction in the economy of this country. But they could not see it. "Not [even] on the kindest of mornings." Not on the kindest of mornings, they said.

Let me continue to quote: "**The first six months of each financial year**" (listen to what he is saying) "**are the slowest revenue-earning months for the Government.**" Madam Speaker, first six months, starting in July; the same reason we are saying that is the problem. And the same reason we have asked for an increased overdraft. So, they know it! So, don't get up there and poke fun, because you know it. "**The first six months of each financial year are the slowest revenue-earning months for the Government.**"

"**It was agreed that, given the slowdown in the economy and the uncertainty of the revenue flow, the finances would be closely monitored over the early months of the new calendar year (that is, the early months of 2009)**" (now that was in January they were talking about, in 2009) "**when revenues were at their highest. Hence, it was possible for the higher revenue-earning months of January to March 2009 to reduce the deficit of CI\$63.6 million experienced in the first five months to 30 November 2008.**"

The Financial Secretary went on to say: "I now wish to turn to the 9 February 2009 forecast—the 2nd Forecast Financial Results and Position to 30 June 2009—and to speak briefly to the reason why the Government was forced to take a Supplementary Budget to the Legislative Assembly

"On 9 February 2009, the Portfolio of Finance & Economics prepared a 2nd Forecast Financial Results and Forecast Position in respect of the year to 30 June 2009. The Forecast Financial Results and Position showed that operating revenue was projected to decline by CI\$40 million, from an original budget of CI\$528 million to a revised figure of CI\$488 million for revenues. In that Forecast, operating expenses were expected to increase by CI\$41 million, from an original budget of CI\$515 million to a new figure of CI\$556 million.

"The forecast done on 9 February 2009 predicted an operating deficit for the year to 30 June 2009 of CI\$68 million. This CI\$68 million forecast deficit for the year—done as of 9 February 2009—was made known to Ministers and Official Members of the Cabinet.

"Similar to what was provided in the 21 October 2008 Financial Forecast, the 9 February 2009 Financial Forecast pointed out that there was a contraction in the economic activities negatively impacting the financial and tourism sectors, pub-

¹ 2008/9 *Official Hansard Report*, page 53

lic authorities would need additional budgetary support and Government could be forced to borrow in order to fund operational expenses.

"In analysing the figures of the Financial Forecast, it was evident that the 27 October 2008 policy directive to cut operating expenses by 6 per cent did not materialise to the extent that it had any significant impact on the results for the year to 30 June 2009.

"The Forecast Financial position recommended that, given the worsening position with the further reduction in revenue earnings and operating expenses despite the prior policy directive to reduce operational expenses, the Government needed to further reduce operating costs by a minimum of the projected deficit of CI\$68 million in order to achieve a break-even position; also that public authorities should be directed to operate within their approved legislative financial limits; and that we should assess and quantify the country's level of exposure to the global crisis and establish a preparedness plan.

"Madam Speaker, the elected Ministers of Cabinet decided that the Government was not prepared to go to the Legislative Assembly with a CI\$68 million deficit and decided that drastic budget cuts had to be taken to improve the deficit and cash position."

Madam Speaker, let me go on to page 54: "On 18 February 2009, the Portfolio of Finance & Economics, the then Leader of Government Business, and other Ministers of Cabinet met with Chief Officers to inform them of the projected forecast deficit of CI\$68 million for the year to 30 June 2009, and to discuss measures that needed to be taken in order to improve the forecast financial results and position. Madam Speaker, a long series of meetings commenced after that initial meeting on 18 February 2009. Dates of these meetings included: 20 February 2009, 27 February 2009, 2 March 2009, 11 March 2009, and 12 March 2009.

"The meetings included the then Leader of Government Business, other Ministers and Members of Cabinet, staff from the Portfolio of Finance & Economics, Chief Officers, Chief Financial Officers and other accounting staff.

"Consultation also occurred with Statutory Authorities and Government-owned Companies. The objective of these meetings was to bring the forecast operating deficit of CI\$68 million down to a respectable amount, and to bring the cash reserves up to a respectable amount that could be presented to the Legislative Assembly."

Madam Speaker, that is no different than what I had to contend with since January. No different. Same things I have said; sent out memos, letters, telephone [calls], everybody meeting; the same thing.

The Financial Secretary said, "There is absolutely no doubt that Cabinet was informed by the Portfolio of Finance & Economics that a forecast for the year to 30 June 2009, done as of 9 February 2009," (remember, I just spoke about that) "indicated a deficit position of CI\$68 million. That forecast deficit position of CI\$68 million is now respectable in relation to the latest forecast for the year to 30 June 2009 of CI\$74 million in deficit.

"Elected Ministers and Members of Cabinet decided that a Supplementary Budget showing a forecast deficit of CI\$68 million—as produced by the Portfolio of Finance & Economics on 9 February 2009—could not be taken to the Legislative Assembly at that magnitude of an imbalance."

They didn't want to say, Madam Speaker, that what I told them in November was true, when the Leader of Government Business then told me that not on the kindest of mornings would he listen.

The Financial Secretary went on to say: "The series of meetings mentioned previously resulted in changes in the level of expenditures and revenues in the Portfolio of Finance's forecast done as of 9 February 2009, and the effect of such changes was to reduce the forecast CI\$68 million deficit done by the Portfolio of Finance, to the CI\$29 million deficit shown in the 1st Supplementary Budget that was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 20 March 2009."

He went on to say, "Madam Speaker, on 20 March 2009 the 1st Supplementary Budget for the 2008/9 year was laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly and it provided a forecast deficit for the year to 30 June 2009 of \$29 million. That budget contained operating revenues at a level of CI\$507 million, and operating expenses (including extraordinary items and the forecast net loss of Statutory Authorities and Government-owned Companies) totalled CI\$536 million. The 1st Supplementary Budget for the 2008/9 year therefore showed a forecast deficit of CI\$29 million."

"Madam Speaker, on 5 May 2009, a Cabinet Note prepared by the Portfolio of Finance & Economics was presented to Cabinet outlining the actual operating deficit for the nine-month period to 31 March 2009 of CI\$19 million. When comparing the 31 March 2009 cumulative actual deficit of CI\$19 million with the forecasted CI\$29 million deficit for the entire year to 30 June 2009, one will note immediately that the \$29 million deficit for the entire year appears to be unrealistically low.

"The ten-month period to 30 April 2009 showed that the cumulative actual deficit was CI\$38 million. This was presented to Cabinet on 2 June 2009. Again, Madam Speaker, this indicates that the CI\$29 million forecast—which was approved by the Cabinet and presented to the Legislative Assembly—was understated."

[Pounding on desk]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Was understated?

Understated by who? You're here hearing. Your Cabinet and you!

An Hon. Member: Oh no. Not me.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Look at the paper! The Financial Secretary could not bring that down here, Madam Speaker, unless they approved it! I can't bring anything down here unless Ministers approve it. You can't blame the Financial Secretary and get up here yesterday and talk about we are talking about civil servants.

Boy, sit down! Rest me! Rest Me!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: You don't know what you are talking about. The facts are there, Madam Speaker. The facts are in this paper. He still wants to deny it.

Why is the Member next to you not denying it? He was there too. But he knows.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Twenty-nine, you didn't stop there. That's why the Member does not understand how he got to \$81 million. It was understated.

You said you didn't want to bring that down, that you didn't want us to know the serious imbalance just before an election. Of course, you didn't! That was the problem.

Madam Speaker, some levity is deserved. Any time I favour, I think I favour as pretty as him.

Madam Speaker, the Financial Secretary went on to say, at page 56: **"The Financial Secretary told the then Leader of Government Business that there was a great danger that if the Government did not lock-in expenditure reductions offered up by Ministries and Portfolios, such savings would be spent as time went by."** He went on to talk about other things but anybody interested would pick up this document and read it and understand all is tied in. **"The Financial Secretary recommended that the Government take a 1st Supplementary Budget to the Legislative Assembly that would contain only reductions (rather than increases) to expenditures so as to minimize the forecast deficit.**

"The then Leader of Government Business told the Financial Secretary that he did not wish to pursue this course of action because the Government needed to incur additional expenditures and, therefore, he wished to hold-out longer, seeking further reductions to expenditure to compensate

for additional expenditures desired in other areas. It proved very difficult to achieve any significant further reduction in expenditures.

May I ask them why? After all that was said yesterday, why? Or you don't remember what was said yesterday? Probably you don't remember what was said yesterday.

Madam Speaker, I wish to continue [reading] from the *Hansard*. The Honourable Financial Secretary said: **"I wish to now specifically answer the questions"** (because he was making a statement, answering a question by the Leader of the Opposition) **"posed by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in his 24 June 2009 statement.**

The Financial Secretary stated, **"In my statement I have analysed and provided details on the difference between the CI\$74 million deficit forecast on 28 May 2009 and the CI\$29 million presented in the 1st Supplementary Budget for the 2008/9 year, which was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 20 March 2009.**

"Madam Speaker, I have not received any instructions from the present Government regarding the management" (now, he is talking about the Government after 2009 because that is what was being accused of) **"of the Government's finances, and, given that the new Government came into office approximately one month prior to the end of the 30 June 2009 financial year, the current Government could not have had any real significant impact on public finances in the year to 30 June 2009.**

"Madam Speaker, I was not told to revise earlier projections regarding the state of the Government's finances by the new Government. There have been no policy decisions taken by the current Government regarding additional expenditure during the financial year to 30 June 2009, and, therefore, the current Government has not had any real and significant impact on the 2008/9 financial year.

"Madam Speaker, the entire CI\$154 million of temporary" (TEMPORARY!) **"loan facility funds have been drawn down by 30 June 2009, . . ."** Remember, Madam Speaker, the country ought to remember that they had gotten money temporarily. Or have we forgotten \$154 million? It was temporary. We had to transact that later on.

"The entire \$154 million of temporary loan facility funds have been drawn down by 30 June 2009, and the impact of that draw down has already been incorporated in the figures provided earlier in this statement. The vast majority of the loan funds drawn down (approximately CI\$142 million) have been used to finance capital transactions. But a portion of loan funds (CI\$12 million) have been used to fund operating expenses."

And they were telling the country the truth? No, they didn't tell the country the truth! And then they

talk about liars and point their fingers at us on this side. Four fingers are pointing back at them because that is the facts, Madam Speaker. They did not tell the country what had gone on and what was going on behind the scenes. I, as Leader of the Opposition, did not know, Madam Speaker. And when I did ask, my good friend, the First Elected Member for George Town now (the then Leader of Government Business) stood right here and said to me right there, "Not [even] on the kindest of mornings . . ." would I listen to you.

Madam Speaker, they love it when they are on their feet. Some people like a new shoe to sport that new shoe but they can't take the pinch.

Madam Speaker, the Financial Secretary went on to say: **"I wish to now summarise and conclude this rather long statement.**

"The state of public finances is severely challenged at 30 June 2009, and will continue to be challenged going forward in the new financial year that starts today. Government has stated publicly that it intends to take an aggressive stance on cost reduction and the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office is demanding no less."

This is what the Financial Secretary said at that time, the 1st of July. Not a month into the office yet and he is saying that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was demanding no less. And they want to find out why the FFR [Framework for Fiscal Responsibility] was put in place? I am going to come to it. And they want to find out why the Foreign and Commonwealth Office controls? History, Madam Speaker, is replete with persons who do not understand what they did and go back and commit it again. Well, I was not there, but I now have to deal with it.

He went on to say, **"Madam Speaker, in summary, I have provided detailed information in respect of the year ended 30 June 2009 on the following points:**

- **The level of Public Sector Debt—the Entire Public Sector Debt at the end of 30 June 2009 stands at CI\$590 million.**
- **The Debt Service Ratio of central Government and the fact that it is nearing its 10 per cent limit. We heard previously that the debt service ratio of central Government as at 30 June 2009 was approximately expected to be 8.1 per cent of the 10 per cent limit.**
- **I provided details of the fact that future borrowings by the Government of the Cayman Islands will require explicit approval by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office until the Principles of Responsible Financial Management are met."**

Simple, Madam Speaker! That is why the UK now controls. They broke it and we have not been able to meet it! That is why I said, the sooner we are able to do something about it, the less the UK will have control.

The Financial went on to say:

- **"I provided details of actual surpluses and deficits earned by the public sector in the past years, as well a forecast deficit for the Entire Public Sector of CI\$74 million—which is split out into a forecast CI\$55 million deficit for central Government and a CI\$19 million net deficit for the results of Statutory Authorities and Government-owned Companies.**
- **I provided details of cash balances for central Government in past years, as well as a forecast \$16.8 million cash balance in Government's Current or chequing account at 30 June 2009 (which is used to pay Government's day-to-day expenditures).**
- **Restricted Funds balances are expected to be CI\$74.4 million at 30 June 2009, but the use of those funds requires special approval by the Legislative Assembly and/or Finance Committee."**

He went on to say:

- **I also made it clear that the Portfolio of Finance & Economics stands by its forecast that, for the year ended 30 June 2009, the Entire Public Sector will suffer a deficit of approximately CI\$74 million.**
- **The Portfolio of Finance & Economics forecasted on 9 February 2009 that the Entire Public Sector would suffer a deficit of CI\$68 million, and this is very consistent with our latest forecast for a deficit of CI\$74 million.**
- **Madam Speaker, I have also said that the former Cabinet was informed of this deficit forecast of CI\$68 million in February 2009."**

Madam Speaker, if they don't understand . . . and I have ended reading from the *Hansard*. But if they don't understand what they did, that they did suffer (between them and the public sector companies) \$81 million deficit, then, I don't know that they will ever understand anything. They understand, I believe, what they are trying to do, Madam Speaker, to lie to the public of this country. I haven't told this country any lie. What I found is what we found. So, the deficit was

\$69 million central government, and \$12 million government companies—\$81 million.

Madam Speaker, when we look at the situation they faced and what we face, it is not dissimilar. They tried to do some things; calls for getting something done. The difference is, Madam Speaker, that what we are paying for now is about what they did! We haven't built anything substantial that costs that kind of expenditure.

Now you can chew like a cow all you want but I can say this: you will find out before the day is out how much we did and you will never recognise it because that is your mode of understanding. That's how the Leader of the Opposition works! He will stand for two hours, say nothing, blame me for what he did and then say I did nothing. That is what he wants to tell the country.

But *CNS* is not the only news media in this country. And it is why we have to put in place a government channel, so that information gets out to the people of this country. The fact is that I don't have the time to go out and just have public meetings every week or every couple of months.

What we are paying for now are the mistakes they made. We couldn't start any large projects. He said we didn't get anything done. How could we go to build anything? And, Madam Speaker, I'm not one of them that because they built something I must build something too. While we said we need a high school in West Bay do you think that I could go and start a school there knowing, Madam Speaker, the monstrosity we have to finish in North Side and the one in George Town, and still have those things to pay for?

So, he can sit there and say that I did not do anything. Well, I could have gone and started the Beulah Smith High School, but I do not operate that way. Although he said I'm incompetent, Madam Speaker . . . oh, you will hear about the Port before long. I'm going to tell you too why you didn't finish that or the airport.

Madam Speaker, no! I am a better manager than that. And as much as he says that I am incompetent, I know full well that this country cannot take that kind of expenditure. And, in fact, I know only too well because I am the one who has to get on the plane, has to talk to London, get on the plane, go to London, trot through those cold offices in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and sit down and beg for them to give me a budget. Why? Because the Leader of the Opposition, chief amongst them, broke the law! And now they have control.

Madam Speaker, oh, we had surplus. But we had the same expenditure that I am complaining about. And I have the same situation to deal with that they had, which I read just now—cutting and cutting and cutting. Fabrication? No fabrication, Madam Speaker. You see that is what gets me with the Leader of the Opposition. He has no compunction about trying to deal with the truth in the way that he

wants to deal with it, even though I read out that what he said was not the truth.

But the country knows different. The country knows him by now. You see, Madam Speaker, the country knows him by now. And while he says they are going to throw me out, they might, but I rue the day that they throw him back in. And they will rue the day that they throw him back in here as Leader of the Government. Dog will eat their supper!

Madam Speaker, I trust that in particular my friend, the Member for East End, now understands why he is in a mess, and [why] the country is in the mess that it is. If they do not now, they never will understand.

So, Madam Speaker, in all their diatribe yesterday, one big word was "incompetent." I am incompetent as Minister of Finance, and it falls at [my] feet. Well, I will tell them how many finance officers the government has before the day is out. And let me be clear about this: I don't lay blame where blame does not deserve to be laid. I can take my licks and have taken them in my 57 years. But the truth must be told. The truth must be told.

Incompetent?

I had the Leader of the Opposition in the mode that he is currently in. But, Madam Speaker, I know how he is. He can strike down Members if he likes. That's his style. Our people, I believe know him too. They saw his kind of action; his performance where he put a so-called doctor into the Community College who was only a shyster—the great Syed who absconded these Islands and can't be found, but went with over \$300,000 belonging to the University College. So we know the kind of competence of the Leader of the Opposition. The Cayman people know it too. And about globetrotting, well, he also did a lot of globetrotting with Syed.

Globetrotting? Madam Speaker, let me deal with some of his accusations yesterday. The globetrotting, partying he calls it . . . Madam Speaker, the truth is that I wish that he had done more globetrotting than he did. I wish he had done it. Maybe we would not have done so much damage at home if he was off. And if he had travelled when he should have and corrected the impression he was making to the world and getting us on the OECD black list. He needed to do some globetrotting alright. He didn't. They make much of me travelling, Madam Speaker. That is work. That is not fun!

Panama? Well, what about when they went there themselves? Or they forgot that they went there? How many people did they take with them on what? Three trips? Four trips? And what did we get out of it? I had to launch it. Me!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Honduras?

Madam Speaker, he has the audacity—him, and the Member for East End have the audacity—to talk about Honduras. Well, who opened the route to Honduras? Who sent Cayman Airways there? It wasn't me! What I am doing now is trying to set it properly. The Bay Island people are more our people than the mainland. And what I have done is to make sure that it is easier for the Bay Island people to travel up and down to Cayman. That's historical with us. Those are historical and familial ties. That is what I have done.

And yes, we have tried to get trade better between Honduras. They do not see the value in that. Madam Speaker, let me just tell them that the value in that is that mostly everything that is grown, agricultural products, go from Honduras to Miami, three or four days waiting on the dock in Honduras, three or four days to get to Miami, sit on the dock three or four days, go from the dock to a wholesaler, another week, come back to the dock or the airport, another week. How many weeks before we get it? And how about the price? Or they do not understand that?

I am Minister of trade. I am responsible for trade. And I am trying to improve that. The agricultural Minister is hard at work trying to do that. They probably only know about one kind of product that comes from Honduras.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I'm not talking about the Bay Islands either.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No!

Madam Speaker, me travelling? Ask them their four years of New York State Balls. Ask them how many people—their supporters—went with them.

They are huddling. I hope they can answer some of this.

How many people, Madam Speaker? In four years I sent one person twice—one person. I didn't even go myself. Of course, the Member for East End who was talking about that, but I kind of understand the Member for East End. If the Leader of the Opposition says something, he has to say so too. He is so desperately trying to copy him. He is never ever going to make him the deputy, unless he just made that recently. The Constitution says there must be a deputy and I can't put a deputy to the Leader of the Opposition. But certainly we have gone on without one since 2009.

The Constitution says that we must have one but I can't appoint one. The only person who can appoint a Deputy Leader of the Opposition is the Leader of the Opposition and his party. Why they haven't appointed the Member for East End instead of using him here to yap and yap and clack aah . . . rest me!

And the Member for East End, Madam Speaker . . . of all the people to get up and talk about people travelling. How many times has he been all over the world and digging up in garbage dumps . . .

[Laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Member for East End: That's why I know so much about it now.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: What did he succeed in that, Madam Speaker?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: What did he succeed in it? Whether he puts it in Bodden Town or whether he corrects it in George Town, the sad fact is he didn't do anything! That is the sad fact. It is not about whether he put it in Bodden Town.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: What I did? I corrected the problems you left behind in the finance industry. The finance industry is growing in case you don't know.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yeah, you do it.

Madam Speaker, the Member should just rest. He should just rest. He has a bad record that is so bad it can't even play. It is scored up.

So, Madam Speaker, he can shout all he wants over there. He had his turn yesterday. And they are talking about cushions. Well, some pins must be sticking them.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: The problem with them, Madam Speaker, is that Second *[sic]* Elected Member for George Town who is now the Leader of the Opposition, does not have the credibility, and he is doing everything to tear mine down so that he can be lifted high. That is what he is trying to do, but the people of this country know him and they don't like him.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, he is the Third [Elected Member]. He'll probably be out the next time.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, let me deal with some of the other issues that he has raised, because he said I blamed the FCO and, as I said, he is brown-nosing with them now.

I saw him do that between 2001 and 2005. I saw him do it. I saw them get people in the United Kingdom to write articles about me and my government. And they had a newspaper at the time that would publish it. I know what they did because the people came back and said, *They asked us to do this you know.* The person writing wanted a job to be head of our office in London when Mrs. Dilbert was there. And I said, *We have a Caymanian, we don't need you sir.*

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: History? Yeah you are doing the same thing again. And you are right, in case you don't know. They say history repeats itself. They think I don't know. I know what they are doing, Madam Speaker. But I read my Bible and you shall not hurt me.

He says that I am blaming the FCO, and thank God for the FCO. They just pray that they don't get there, Madam Speaker, and have that to contend with. They [better] hope that I can deal with and straighten out this budget and get us out of that in the eight or nine months that we have left or whatever it is. I am sorry for them. I am sorry for the next government if we don't! They ride the back of the tiger, they will reap the whirlwind.

I just want to say something, Madam Speaker. I did not say it was the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that put us in problems. I did not say that. I did not say it was the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I said it was the Leader of the Opposition and the PPM Government. It was him! But you see what he is trying to do? But he can't fool people by saying that I am blaming everyone. I am not! I blame him and his foolishness in building three buildings for \$100 million each, and other sundry expenditure for roads—tons and tons of marl—for boats and helicopters, all on borrowed money, and all of those other things that they spent on that we did not have.

You heard what the Financial Secretary said. They had a temporary loan.

I have to take the licks from this Governor and from the Foreign Office for what the last Governor allowed them to do! And now the present Conservative Government is saying: *Our Governor is not going to have this ability anymore to sit and keep quiet.*

And you ask about the FFR? I'm coming to it but this is just a part of it.

When they allowed him to get this \$154 million temporary and to build these buildings and put the country in this kind of debt that is what tripped it! Tons! Go to West Bay and you will see. If you stand down there by the West Bay Primary School, Madam

Speaker, you can see from one end of West Bay to the other end of East End. They made a mountain. All marl—marl, marl, marl!—just before the elections. Tons of it! Millions! Probably \$15 million in marl all over these Islands. Not on roads! That is besides the roads they did. I am talking about jobs that they were going to start—schools in West Bay and schools in George Town.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: They didn't build any roads for West Bay, Madam Speaker. They built that road for the Governor's Sound project. The only how we got that was because that started.

Listen, let's not tempt me here today.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: And if they built such an elemental [SOUNDS LIKE] quality road, why is the traffic still so backed up? Now I am pleased that we got some relief, and I thank the Member for that. But he never built it. He can hold his hand up high like the little boy in school when he deserved a good flogging and didn't know why he put up his hand for.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: He, Madam Speaker—*he*—did not build the West Bay Road for West Bayers. Governor's Square was to be built and Planning told them they had to get another road or it could not be built.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Untruth!

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well you can say [it is] untruth. You wouldn't know it if it hit you in the face every morning.

The Speaker: Excuse me, Honourable Premier.

Now, I have tolerated the noise from that little corner over there; the little chorus, but it is time to tune it down a bit. I need to hear the Premier's speech. Thank you.

Honourable Premier, please continue.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, let's make it clear for one and all; they did not build any road for West Bay. The reason why West Bay road got built was because Governor's Square project was coming on line and Planning had said that they needed that road and needed this thing fixed and could not allow another building down there unless they had the road fixed that extends to Safe-Haven, up there

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Lime Tree Bay, and the one coming down to them. That's why it got fixed. It didn't get fixed for me. And I had no ownership in it.

Madam Speaker, what was said here yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition was that we don't know if there was \$81 million because there was no audit. And so he went on to talk about that and I want to come to that in a minute.

[Inaudible interjection]

Point of Elucidation

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor Connolly: Madam Speaker, on a point of elucidation, Ma'am.

The Speaker: Yes, Honourable Deputy Premier.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor Connolly: For further clarity, I wonder whether the Premier would enlighten this honourable House as to whether Governor's Square or Harbour was a private project or a government project.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No, Madam Speaker, Governor's Sound, sorry Governor's Square (well, it's built in Governor's Sound) was not a government-owned property. It was government-owned property which they leased to a private individual for something like \$1 million over 10 years; nine or ten acres that was filled for 30 years. And it is a private project. Good project! Nothing's wrong with the project. It is a food facility there.

It is not government, it is all private individuals. It belongs to, I think, Mr. Bobby Bodden, a good friend of mine. I think he is the owner. I like when Caymanians get something.

Point of Elucidation

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, if the Premier would give way, I would like to on a point of elucidation as well.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I sat down. Go ahead, as long as you are not going to be all morning.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, I agree with the Premier and the Deputy Premier that Governor's Square was a private project.

The Esterley Tibbetts Highway extension was not part of that project when it was built. It was decided after-the-fact to go through with the Esterley Tibbetts Highway extension. They had to reapply for left-on, left-off on the rear of their property.

Planning approval was granted based on the Lime Tree Bay Road being upgraded. I totally agree with the Premier on that. However, we needed it also after improving the roundabout there, which was Lime Tree Bay Roundabout. So, what the Government that I was a part of did was to upgrade that road beyond what it was and Mr. Bodden paid for the material and the Government paid for the labour to get it done.

The Speaker: Thank you Member for East End.

Mr. Premier, would you please continue.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, Madam Speaker, I still say it wasn't done for West Bay.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: So it was public/private partnership, right?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: That's right.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yes. It was nothing wrong with that; because of what? Because it was family?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: No! No, no, no.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, let me just continue. I thank the Member for his explanation, but he did not say anything that made any big statement.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, he didn't pave it; but he . . . So what did you do?

What did he do? Governor's way? What was it?

Anyway, Madam Speaker, let's not get side-tracked here. That was not built for West Bay. I am glad that we have it, and I am trying to improve on it. That is what the Dart deal is all about. It's a public/private partnership! The same way!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, let's wait to hear what we are getting.

Madam Speaker, like I said, they can interrupt, I am in good form. And I don't think I have to worry about a time limit.

But, Madam Speaker, to get back to this point of the audit, there was no audit he says and that it

was convenient. Well, that is not true. I will deal with it. But, can you imagine the Leader of the Opposition—if he had any sense of fairness—that he would come here to say that no audit has been done? He is so right. For four years, Madam Speaker, there was not one single audit of their expenditure. For four years!

So, he is right! We will never know perhaps. The Auditor General said there was \$69 million in the former Ministry of Tourism and Commerce that is unaccounted for. But maybe we will never know. So, the Leader of the Opposition is perhaps right. He is very palsy-walsy with the Audit Office. He lives there, I hear.

So, maybe he is right! It is just some of the things that are going on in this country that we now have to deal with that the general public will not see. But I know what is going on behind the scenes. The aim and objective is not to get Alden McLaughlin; the aim and objective is to embarrass McKeeva Bush and his Government. That is the aim and objective.

Madam Speaker, let's look at this vexing topic of the deficit for the 2008/09 year. Take a look at the deficit and ask why the FCO has a say in government's budget.

Madam Speaker, persons of middle to mature ages will wonder why the FCO now has an ability to influence the Government's budget, when they did not have such ability in previous years. The younger generation may conversely wonder why discussing the FCO's current ability to influence our budget is so important to me, because the younger folks may mistakenly believe that the UK always had the ability to impact Government's budget.

The younger generation, in particular the younger voting ones, does not know about the hospital in the swamp, two hospitals. They don't know about that. So, they can go ahead and say about the young people. It was the same generation that they were going to wipe out. You know who said that, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker, let me therefore explain the origin of the FCO's newfound power to influence our budget, so that again it goes in the record that I dealt with the deficit. But our Public Management and Finance Law states at section 34 that in the event of government exceeding the ratio of responsible financial management (which is stated in section 14 of the Law) and it wishes to borrow, when these two events coincide the Government needs the explicit authority of the United Kingdom Government to approve that borrowing.

At the end of the 2008/09 Fiscal Year—the last year the PPM was in power—the ratios of responsible financial management were exceeded. The UDP Government then inherited that situation and the two were started but are incomplete new high schools, and the Government Administration building that was also incomplete. The UDP Government was contrac-

tually bound by the previous Administration to complete the schools.

The Government therefore faced a fork in the road in late May 2009. It could either honour the contracts to build the schools, or break those contracts and face legal action, which would undoubtedly have resulted in Government having to pay millions and millions of dollars to contractors, but yet, not have the schools completed to show for it. We took the correct decision to continue the schools.

Now, sometimes I look at it and say I wish I had pulled a bulldozer in and knocked it down and cleared it and built one for \$25 million as Prep School or the International School down the way. Then perhaps we would have had three high schools. But no, the decision was to carry on. We now know that the previous Administration saddled the country with two high schools that will cost \$100 million each to complete. Therefore, in the first year of the current Government's Administration we had no choice but to borrow to continue the construction of the new high schools. As I said also, it's a temporary loan, eh?

A new administration building to continue; it was not finished. It was just started. We had to build it. The Member is out there saying, *You didn't build anything*. The sad fact is, we did not start it, but we had to finish what they had started. So, when he gets out there and say that we never built anything, not even that he is telling the truth about!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Look at the primary schools if you think we didn't do anything. That is what was needed; the first stages of a child's education where the children needs to be taken of properly so that they are well grounded when they have gone on to high school. The primary schools were in a mess!

So, since the ratios of responsible financial management were exceeded by the previous government, my Government had no choice but to trot off to London several times seeking the permission of the FCO to incur borrowings. This led to the FCO using the opportunity of our dire need to borrow to impose certain conditions upon the Government. One of those conditions was the establishment of a three-year fiscal plan, and most recently the signing of a framework for fiscal responsibility. Now, they ask about this fiscal responsibility.

He said that . . . this is the Leader of the Opposition who is trying to be a lawyer in this House and twist things, defending the wrongdoers—himself.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: No, I want to be a lawyer but if I had turned out to be one like him I would not even try to get a degree.

Madam Speaker, the FFR [Framework for Fiscal Responsibility] according to his accusations, was not signed because of Cohen and Cohen, as he said. No! There was not even anywhere near the situation at the time. It was signed because of the amount of money they had borrowed and what they had committed to, and the liabilities created for the United Kingdom Government.

Madam Speaker, if the FFR had anything to do with Cohen, why did I have to go up to the FCO just after the 2009 Elections? Cohen did not come into being until 2011. Madam Speaker, why then would I have to go to London after 2009? Why did I have to go there in 2010?

I had to go because the PPM Government had broken the law. They broke the law because they had spent too much. They broke the law because they borrowed hundreds of millions of dollars. They broke the law, and the United Kingdom focused on us! As I said, it was because the PPM started those buildings. And they started the buildings by getting their people on their boards, such as the Central Tenders Committee, to agree to go ahead with the large projects and small ones, such as the schools, without the permission for financing.

The United Kingdom saw all of that! That is why the FFR is in place, and why I have difficulty is because some of their people were still on the Central Tenders Committee and I could not get anything done! That is why I was complaining, Madam Speaker, about the bureaucracy.

They don't know who they put on there? I know who they put on there.

And so, Madam Speaker, the United Kingdom used that opportunity to say, *No more of this, you have to sign this FFR!*

Madam Speaker, the truth is I can take noise and clack, but they are really trying to throw me off guard. And I would like you to split them up and ask them to get back to their seats, sit down and listen rather than huddling over there. Be like the man for Cayman Brac and the man for Bodden Town. Sit in their seats instead of our there muttering and carrying on and being disrespectful as they are.

So, Madam Speaker, when the chickens came home to roost and the Conservatives took over, they said that that kind of situation could not continue. That is what they said about the FFR, and about the situation. Their Governor, who was appointed under the Labour Government, had allowed all of these things to happen, and they said, *No more of it!* And now they want us to apply to what the United Nations got. They want us to apply to what the World Bank got. They want us to apply to what IMF [International Monetary Fund] got. They want us to apply to what Jamaica got. Everybody! They want to trample this country down with that kind of regulation.

I fight that because this country is a country of 55,000 people and not 55 million. And what can work

in the United Kingdom or for the World Bank cannot always work for us! And if we followed all of that we would not get anything done. And, thus far, they have had the ability to slow me down and to slow down the development of this country. And the PPM is using that, Madam Speaker, to be gleeful and happy all day long eating carrots and drinking milk.

They are happy waiting on us, for the people to throw us out. Everything that they could do to stop us, Madam Speaker, they have done. I am talking about the current Opposition.

I will get to that because the truth is, I've come to the place where I don't believe that this is being productive, what is going on and what has gone on in this country. I can take Opposition, Madam Speaker. I've been on that side. I know what it is and I will deal with it. And I will tell this country what I think ought to happen. Because the country cannot long withstand what has gone on this past three years when the Leader of the Opposition said we would not see a campaign as he was going to put down in the next three years. And they did it. We have suffered for it.

Don't you think when you get on the radio and cuss investors, when you get up there and say you are going to burn down people's property, when you get on the radio and use the porn language that the Member for Bodden Town used the other day—

And Hon. Member: North Side

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: North Side.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, maybe the East End [Member] was with him. I don't know.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Don't involve me in it.

The Speaker: Ah—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: When they get there and do that sort of thing, Madam Speaker, you think that investors are going to take it lightly?

Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: I just want you all to stop interrupting please.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, thank you. I appreciate your intervention, but the Premier needs to get this straight—I was not on any radio using offensive language. He needs to get this straight.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Who was it then?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: That is your business, you find out. I wasn't there!

The Speaker: Member for East End, thank you.

Honourable Premier, please continue with your speech.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, all I know is that there was porn language used.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: And it was somebody from that side. And all I am saying is that the Member for North Side is usually accompanied by the Member for East End.

I am glad that the Member for East End has clarified that he knows better than to do that kind of porn language. I'm glad.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Good. You think I'm like you?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: No you're not.

So, Madam Speaker, the FFR—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Oh, Madam Speaker, that is how I know I have to charge the fees.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, in such a dire situation as this country is in, for the Leader of the Opposition to sit there and say that the FFR is caused because we did something wrong . . . Madam Speaker, he is being dishonest to the country. He is being dishonest to the country. All those things were decided upon when they broke the law. That is why I had to go to London to the Labour Government and that is why I had to go to the Conservative Government.

And just let me say that if it had anything to do with Cohen, it did not. It did not. Don't come back like he came back yesterday.

Madam Speaker, all the Overseas Territories have to sign the FFR—all of them—except Bermuda because Bermuda has a different Constitution, they say.

Now, he wants to blame Cohen. It had nothing to do with Cohen! If we had followed Cohen's plan, according to the American rates, we would have been saving money. That's the truth!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Well, the Auditor General did not know what he was talking about. That's why he is facing a lawsuit. And if the Leader of

the Opposition had any sense of love for this country he would not follow them. No, what he has love for is what he talked about yesterday—the next election and powerbase for him.

The FFR had nothing to do with Cohen. And, as I said, if we had gone with Cohen we would have gotten a better deal. But politics took hold of that and was just another means to degrade McKeeva Bush and make the public believe that I was doing something wrong. That is not all the Auditor General did.

The Audit Office is nothing but a hit man. No-where in the world . . . let me tell you something about administrative justice and administration. I was one in this House as a young man who took the Governor out of that seat. Because he was Governor and he was Chairman of the Executive Council, and he was the Presiding Officer in this House. That was a conflict and I said, *No, no, no*, and I tried it twice, it failed. The third time, if you had struck him with stripe you wouldn't have gotten a drop of blood out of him. He did not think it was going to happen.

Now, Madam Speaker, all sorts of injustices, as far as I am concerned, one of the things that I quarrel about with the Constitution is the fact that the Governor somehow seems to control the Auditor General. He is supposed to be accountable to the Governor? No, Madam Speaker, he is supposed to be accountable to the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands. He is supposed to be independent and neutral, and I am not talking about the present Governor, because another one will come and another one will come. I am talking about the situation that this country is in!

What is going on and people are not realising it, because the people listen perhaps too much (I hope not too much) to what the Opposition is carrying on with; and listen to all the other rot that is printed and put onto the Internet, trying to sidetrack the people of this country from what is really facing us—the geopolitics that is being played.

McKeeva Bush might be out next time, Madam Speaker. It could be. It could be that I decide I have had enough, because I am human and I can only take so much. May be! But I tell you this: If this country do not wake up and if the Opposition does not stop playing pasly-walsy with the wrong people . . . these are not investors . . . and they can accuse me of anything. I have been accused. I know my heart of hearts. But if they do not stop playing pasly-walsy with the wrong people to get into power—as they did yesterday and have been doing for the last three years—this country is going to suffer.

Who is helping us pay the bills here? Who?

Who is saying who is going to be employed?

All I hear is that they don't want people employed. We got to take people out. I am not hearing *I'm going to help you get 100 people employed*. I am not hearing that, Madam Speaker.

What I am hearing is that you have to cut and cut and cut and take people out! Who is paying the bills? Who has paid the bills for the last 181 years in this country?

And they talk about I am mad with the FCO? I consider I have a good relationship with the Minister. I agree with them on some things, but I seriously disagree with some of the things that are pushed on us. They know that. They know they have my cooperation for good governance. They know that!

What I want to see is peace, order and good governance. Peace and order, meaning that today I might not get up and hear about another robbery. Peace and order, that I do not have people calling me every day who can't pay their light bills. Peace and order means people at work can pay their way. And I have been trying to do that and this Administration has been trying to do that, Madam Speaker. Don't tell me we haven't

They call me globetrotting. We had to go out and get business here. Take the bull by the horns!

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No, no, that was not their modus operandi. They were cussing every Jamaican, cussing every Englishman, cussing every American; every investor. That is what the PPM did! And, ran away business from this country.

It was not me on the courthouse steps who said that Caymanians do not like foreigners; it was the Leader of the Opposition. They were going to take Cayman back. They took it back all right; turned it upside down. They took us back more than 30 years—they took us back 181 years. The greatest ability that we had was to be independent in finance, and now we are not!

Partly, [it was] because they overspent. Not me! And they want to fool civil servants and they have some of them grinning up with them too and laughing up with them. But they can do that. They can throw me out. I don't know, if I decide again, whether the West Bay people are going to take me over the horseman or the other one. If they get the horseman they might get the apocalypse with it. I don't know, Madam Speaker.

I am not interested in that at this time. I've won seven elections. And if they do one man one vote I will still win again. I'll still win them again.

What I am concerned about is the position of this country, the geopolitics that is being played with it. Sandwiching the Chinese between Americans and the English! You don't see? Are you fool-fool? Are you blind? Well, I think Bartimeus could do better than this. You think I don't know what is going on? In this day and age you think that I don't listen? You think I don't read, I don't listen to when Ministers come here and say, *We want our people to have jobs here in Cayman?* ARE YOU CRAZY?

I have no problem with that. We have always had over employment. I have no problem; I told the Minister that. I want to see people come here and work because I believe in it. I believe in a good mix. But I do believe that we must be left alone to choose what we want when it is good for us.

We have made mistakes over the years, but, by God, we have managed well to get the standard of living that we have had here. And, no, I don't like it. So, if they want to try to lock me up and call another investigation, go ahead! I don't care. At the end of the day they have to do something about it. What I am concerned is not about elections; I am concerned that we can pay our way. I am concerned that we don't have any more robberies by gunpoint in this country. I have to spend \$120 million on the security forces plus \$4 million or three point something million [dollars] for a helicopter too—that's what I am concerned about!

And the Leader of the Opposition has gone out. He should have stayed here and understand a little bit more, if he doesn't. Now they come and talk their rot, telling me, trying to put something nefarious to it about Cohen.

Christ Almighty, Madam Speaker, if I had stolen or done all the wrong that they claim I would have been a multi-billionaire by now, rather than being broke.

That is not my game plan. My game plan, Madam Speaker, is to do all the good I can for all the people that I can while I am here. So, Madam Speaker, I hope what I have explained about the FFR, it certainly explains the origin of the Foreign and Commonwealth's new-found ability to influence our budget. I hope they understand. But it must be laid firmly at the feet of the previous Government for two reasons, and I reiterate: they exceeded the borrowing ratios in their last year of Government; and, two, they set up the country with the need to borrow large sums of money, particularly to complete the two new high schools.

Madam Speaker, I want to say something to the absent seat of the Leader of the Opposition. I am 57 years old. As long as I am in politics I will continue to preach the explanation that I have given for two reasons: The explanation is true—I have not ever told this country a lie, and I never will; and two, the country and its people have suffered as a result of this situation; and three, if we don't fix it we are going to continue to suffer.

I ask the Opposition to stop playing the politics that they are playing. That's what is needed in this country. Work! Not running out of this House every chance they get to walk out and not vote with the Government. Work! Not running out there under the tree holding a parliament with Duckworth.

Madam Speaker, it is a shame and a disgrace. And I tell you this: People ask, *You can't dock their pay?* Well no! I, as Finance Minister—who, they claim has all the power—am told that when they don't

come to work I can't dock their pay. That just tells you how much power I have.

Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has to stop telling lies, telling untruths in this House, and outside. He said in his contribution to the Government Motion that the requirement to have the 2008/09 financial statements audited had been removed by an amendment to the Public Management and Finance Law. Madam Speaker, that is incorrect. We have said so many times, but I repeat, on the 29th of August last year the Public Management and Finance (Amendment) Law was gazetted. Section 7 of that law makes it very clear that the requirement to audit the 2008/09 financial statements of the Government still exists. The Leader of the Opposition is therefore incorrect on that particular matter.

The other untruth he got up here and told was when he said that I, the Premier and Minister of Finance, had indicated that Government at one point in time was demonstrating a deficit of \$130 million. Madam Speaker, again, this is incorrect! I have never said that. What I said was that for operating expenses the submissions received by Ministers for the 2012/13 year exceeded the \$498 million budget circular limit that was specified in mid-January this year by \$130 million. That is what I said, Madam Speaker. This is also completely different from what some are saying that the deficit would be \$130 million for 2012.

It is important, Madam Speaker, that we get these points corrected because the Leader of the Opposition is wrong and he knows it!

Now, let's look at this Past Service Pensions contribution. Mention was also made about the extent to which the Government was addressing contingent liabilities. Madam Speaker, they don't have to preach to me. I was part of a Government that saw the need for this in 1994. I believe it was the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, Mr. Truman Bodden, Mr. John McLean, Mr. Thomas Jefferson, and I. We saw the need to fix that contingent liability problem and we started it. But years and years before [other] Governments had done nothing about it. There was no Government doing anything about it.

Madam Speaker, in September last year, I answered a ²[parliamentary question](#) asked by the same Leader of the Opposition about what steps Government was taking to address the concerns identified in the Miller/Shaw Report regarding Government's contingent liability. You know, it's real ironic that the same Opposition now lauding the Miller/Shaw Report was the same one cussing me because I had put that in place. They forget. They forget how much they ridiculed me on the radio for bringing in that group to look at different situations. Now they are asking why we're not doing all the good things they said. That's how they are operating.

The only people following them are the people who don't seem to understand what they have done. My answer to that parliamentary question was: **"The Government recognises that there is an ongoing need to address its contingent liabilities—in particular the unfunded pension liability, the unfunded healthcare benefits and loan guarantees.**

"In respect of the unfunded pension liability, once the Government's financial position permits, the Government will commit to reverting to its annual CI\$14.5 million contribution to the past-service pension liability.

"In the 2011/12 Budget, the Government will pay CI\$1.9 million in respect of pension liabilities that were established even before the Public Service Pensions Fund came into existence. These are referred to as a past-service liabilities.

"It is also important to point out that current-service pension contributions are being paid by Government" (they are not being paid by anybody else; it's being paid by Government. All of ours!) **"—in addition to the CI\$1.9 million past-service liability payment for the 2011/12 year—and the current service pension contributions in the 2011/12 year are approximately CI\$20.7 million. Therefore, in the course of the 2011/12 year, the Government expects to pay total pension contributions of approximately CI\$22.6 million."**

The way that they keep saying it over there, Madam Speaker, it is that Government is doing nothing. And they have said that on the radio. They are making people believe that nothing is being paid in. Some people have asked me this, Madam Speaker. Some people don't even recognise that Government is still paying all the pension. More astute people do. But there are people that do not, because of what is said on Rooster Radio by some of them from the other side. *Government is not paying anything into the pension*; that's what they say, broadly. And that's not true. We can't! Where is all the money going to come from then?

Madam Speaker, in 2009/10, \$1.9 million was paid; in 2010/11, \$1.8 [million] was paid; in 2011/12, \$1.9 [million], for a total of \$5.6 [million]. We are showing our commitment; we just don't have the funds otherwise. And, as I said, these payments are in addition to the current service pension contributions which were also paid during each of the fiscal years I mentioned. And these latter amounts are approximately \$20 million each year. So we do pay—lots of money.

Now, as I said, they question the extent to which recommendations in the Miller/Shaw Report have been implemented. Madam Speaker, I answered that ³[parliamentary question](#) already.

"Recommendation 1: Do not impose direct taxation." We followed that recommendation.

² See Question No. 13, *Official Hansard Report*, 28 September 2011, page 463.

³ See Question No. 14, *Ibid*, page 467

“Recommendation 2: Orchestrate substantial privatisation and other asset sales.” We are trying to do that. But they don't seem to like that. Not the Opposition. Yet, they ask me why we are not putting it in place.

“[Recommendation 3:] Make significant reductions in operating expenses.” Ah! That's the one. But I can tell you that we have done some of that even though it increases up and down in the years.

“In the year ending 30 June 2010, personnel costs—which consists of salaries, wages, pension contributions and health insurance costs—were approximately C\$228 million. In the year ended 30th June 2011, personnel costs were reduced to C\$215 million approximately.” It keeps going up and down, depending on the needs. Some of what I read about them. But we recognise that there will have to be reduced expenditures in those areas.

They told us to **“[Recommendation 4:] Complete audits of all Government agencies, Statutory Authorities and State Owned Enterprises.”** And yet, the Opposition out there belittles me and says we are not following the Miller/Shaw Report on things that they themselves didn't do for four years! No audits for four years! We've got it done. We have followed the Miller/Shaw recommendation. But they didn't have to come and tell us that. We knew it. We were working on it. But it was part of their recommendations.

I have to thank Mrs. McLaughlin, Chief Officer in the Ministry of Finance, for moving that along and getting it done.

“[Recommendation 5:] Improve the accuracy, reliability, and usefulness of data produced by the Economics and Statistics Office.” I think that this census proved that we are trying to do that and we are providing necessary training through regional organisations such as CARTAC and CARICOM.

“[Recommendation 6:] Attract private capital to solve various infrastructure challenges and to develop new enterprises.” We are doing that—Dr. Shetty medical facility; ForCayman Alliance; Cayman Enterprise City; other areas, Madam Speaker. But every one of them was criticised. The port, every one of them is being criticised by the Opposition. Every one, in some form or another they criticised it. Their job in the Opposition was to try and slow us down, create all this doubt in the press, follow this talk about having good governance and make that be the mantra for them too. And then, Madam Speaker, frighten the civil service, frighten people on boards; what do you think you're going to get as a Government? You get nothing done! You're slowed down. That's what happened here.

Now he asks what we are doing about the Miller/Shaw Report. And the report says that we must do those things, yet they have criticised every effort and even criticised the investors that we got to do so. And we are continuing to improve on that report's recommendations.

Just recently we have followed them in cutting back. We set up a group of civil servants to review each department and each ministry and portfolio. And there were some members, some 200-odd people, by attrition, no less, but it was done. And in March the Deputy Governor, in consultation with my office, tasked a group of five senior civil servants to review the Miller/Shaw Report and Keith Luck Report, as well as a number of other internal reports generated over the previous six years. This is one of the things that the Governor, I must say, is keen on and getting done. And he has my support on this.

The group has identified that a number of the recommendations made have already been carried out or are currently being progressed. So, it is clear that a number of other recommendations are of a policy nature and need careful examination before being progressed. Some of the recommendations involve legislative change which will be presented to Cabinet in due course. Others relate to more operational matters and, therefore, have already been implemented in some areas.

They say we must do something about expanding the economy in connection with the recommendation in the Miller/Shaw Report that Government develop new industries. That was [recommendation] number 6 from that Report. And from the recommendations in the report, to study ways of raising the same revenue but minimising the adverse effect on economic activity. We are now exploring the possibility of having ship to ship transfers of cargo off Cayman Brac. Government continues to consider the transshipment which is to be carried out in a controlled and monitored way to protect our environment.

But, Madam Speaker, those are things that we are doing. It will help. One thing about Cayman Brac, we don't need 1,000 people to make a difference in doing business. We need a few people doing some things and it helps the revenue base in Cayman Brac tremendously. And that sort of lightering which is familiar to Cayman Brackers is a good one for the Sister Islands.

Madam Speaker, the Member for North Side stated that no information had been presented about the revenues and expenditures during the two-month period. Although the financial statements of Government are prepared on an accrual basis, cash or bank balances are still king. So I shall present the cash impact figures for revenue and expenditures during the two-month period.

The cash impact of revenues to be received will be \$75 million. The cash impact of operating expenditures, such as personnel costs, supplies and consumables, outputs produced by public entities for the government, outputs produced by non-government suppliers for the government on transfer payments, such as poor relief vouchers and assistance to seamen and veterans, will be approximately \$73 million. Interest payments to be made on gov-

ernment borrowing are expected to be approximately \$2 million.

On the capital expenditure side, the Government expects to pay \$7 million on property plant and equipment. In the two-month period it is expected to pay over \$4 million to public entities, such as the Turtle Farm, Cayman Airways, the Health Services Authority, the National Housing and Development Trust to assist them with debt repayment and their operational activity.

Repayment of debt principal during the two-month period is expected to be \$3 million. This means that during the two-month period cash outflows from the government will exceed the cash inflows by approximately \$14 million. Since we expect the new fiscal year on 1 July 2012 to open with an overdraft of \$11 million approximately, and we have a net cash flow of \$14 million during the two-month period, the Government expects to have an overdraft balance of approximately \$25 million on 31 August.

Madam Speaker, I hope if he was listening, since he's not in his seat as usual, he would have heard.

Madam Speaker, yesterday they went on and on about Government not helping people. We have said here many times the various things. And I am not going to take all the time this morning to go through those things because I will be presenting the budget for the country in the next couple of weeks, I hope. And there I will enumerate the number of things that have been done in each ministry. And again, Members will have a chance to debate all over again. But it is not fair to say that we are not doing things for people. We have given 675 first time Cayman-owner properties waivers with a value of the stamp duty; 56 import duty waivers; 57 waivers in respect of landholding companies; 46 stamp duty waivers under the discretion of the Minister of Finance; 213 stamp duty waivers in respect of no change in beneficial ownership.

Madam Speaker, loads and loads of waivers to help our people. This is not foreigners getting this, as they might want to say. These are Caymanians. All for Caymanians. So, don't get up there and talk about we're not doing things.

The Ministry of Education, the Minister spoke at length to say the things that his Ministry has accomplished. Just the schools alone that we have to build because they didn't build them. They started them and committed them to us. But the new primary schools that the Minister has worked on, the new programmes that are meaningful to education, our children, the number of scholarships, Madam Speaker, and they talk about . . . the Member for East End yesterday went on and talked about the nation building fund and giving to churches.

Madam Speaker, the Member for George Town, the Leader of the Opposition now, constantly talks about how he included building space in the

schools for hurricane shelters and such in times of some sort of disaster. Shelters for that. Madam Speaker, do they know the amount of trouble that is going to cause? Do they know the amount of trouble that the schools couldn't even go back in after the hurricanes, after they had time to fix them up, because people were sheltered there? Do you think that's a good policy? I don't think so.

I do not think so, because you can't hold school while all those people—hundreds of people—are in the classrooms and other parts of the building. Do you think that's good? Go back and look at 2004! Go back and look at 2004! And he wants to brag about that? Costing millions of dollars with loads of glass.

They don't understand. They couldn't have researched . . . but the teachers told them, you know. We have evidence that the teachers told them it couldn't work. But they didn't follow anybody's advice. We heard what the Minister of Education said then. Only divine providence—and God didn't chose to do so at the minute—he only removed him. Yeah, only God could stop him!

Madam Speaker, look at the number of things that we have had to do with the finance industry: The Insurance Law. And tourism, it's the best it has been in 10 years! I heard somebody say that the Member for Cayman Brac was talking about it wasn't so good. I hope that wasn't true. Well, Madam Speaker, then we had better look a little bit more at what he is talking about because overall the Cayman Islands received 10,000 people—the best position we've been in 10 years.

We are now starting another flight into Dallas. Got criticised for that too! I didn't go on that one, but I got criticised for it. But, Madam Speaker, what is happening there? The flights, if not full, are nearly full for the whole month of July. We are working hard to improve our tourism product. The number of things that have been done for the implementation of the national tourism management policy; management and enhancement of the image of the Cayman Islands tourism brand.

Look at *Cayman Kind* we have just produced. In the Department of Tourism there are 90 or 90-something-plus Caymanians now. Loads have been replaced there. New gateways. And they say we have done nothing. I will report fully on this when we bring the entire budget, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the PPM have no room to criticise this Government. They were poor managers. They put us in this bad position that we are in. They say that I must not repeat it. I will continue to repeat it because it is a fact. It is a fact that they did not do a good job. Every new Government hopes to be handed a fish when they take over. What the PPM handed us was a snake!

As a new Government we asked for bread, and they gave us a stone. And not an ordinary stone,

Madam Speaker, they gave us a mill-stone around our necks—massive debt and massive deficits—when we took office along with a huge ongoing cost burden of the unfinished schools and over-ambitious projects.

We have made somewhat of a turnaround. That should have been enough when I could force some sort of a surplus. That should have been enough, even with a temporary overdraft facility to tide us over until the higher revenue period at the end of the year. But can we do it? No! That option was blocked because we had been put for the first time in the history of these Islands outside of the agreed ratios.

Bad enough, Madam Speaker, that they left the country in such a sorry state when our very way of life is threatened and the future of our children is mortgaged, where we are under constant pressure to abandon the very principles that helped us become an international success. And I mean pressured to start taxing our people and thus drive away the finance industry which is the backbone of our economy. And for this alone they should hang their heads in shame. And instead of walking out of this Assembly, as if they occupied some moral high ground, they should be tarred and feathered for gross mismanagement while in high office.

On top of all this, over the last three years—years critical to our future and very survival—they have, instead of pitching in to help bail the boat and offer what help and suggestions they could, they have chosen to take every opportunity. They have created a mess themselves and taken these opportunities and created new opportunities to obstruct and oppose every positive measure this Government has brought forward. These people who write say they want to see a revolution in Cayman. That's what is being said. And it seems like that is what they would want, when the Member for North Side says burn it down.

Yes. This is what we have to put up with. A call to arms; burn it down; criticise the investors; holding parliaments and spouting false and inflammatory ideas. It's a mess. Yes! One that they are creating.

Madam Speaker, this is the point that I have come to. If I had that opportunity to lead another Government perhaps it would be going to where every Member of the House would sit around the table in the Government Administration Building and have a hand in the policies and the things that are said to be done. That, perhaps, would be an attempt, while there will remain a Cabinet, to stop the dirt, to stop the underhandedness and to stop the outright sabotage going on against the Government that I really can't deal with. As I said earlier, this country will not long withstand the kind of opposition politics carried out under the People's Progressive Movement. Not that I believe that they have much to offer as these past three years have shown us, they did not. But I put them around the table because it is better to have them where we

can watch them more closely. But I certainly would make a change to that extent.

I always believed that in a small place the committee system works well. I always believed that. But I am not now and will not be put off by their childish crab-in-a-barrel antics. These are serious times and we ought to be looking forward to how we can, not survive these times, but find a way through to put Cayman back on course for prosperity now, and for generations to come. That means prosperity not on the old model of growth, but growth that supports sustainable development. This requires clear thinking, discipline, hard work and the embrace of reality both its challenges and its opportunities. It requires us to bring people together to collectively create a future we can all be proud of.

That said, Madam Speaker, we therefore remain of the view that even though we are forced to present a temporary interim budget, we have an opportunity for permanent change. We believe that this unprecedented event will be the turning point that allows people to see the seriousness of what needs to be done to accept, as we have, that we cannot carry on down the PPM's path, a path where you just spend and spend, and borrow and borrow, and hope that someone from somewhere will show up and pay off your debts; a path where you give up control of your country, whether to London, the World Bank, the IMF or whoever. Neither can we fail to address the challenge of determining a sustainable development agenda. That is how we sail our ship. We know our destination and we set course for it.

This could be a turning point at which people hopefully will embrace with us the goal of taking back control of our finances and our fate. The hard news is that as part of getting our house in order we will in the short term have to make more cuts in our expenditure. We have already announced a freeze on hiring, Madam Speaker. It is not something that we wanted to do. But, like every householder knows, when your revenue shrinks so must your expenses. Even more so when you have a huge debt to pay off.

There will be more cuts, but we are working to do them in a careful and thoughtful manner. This is one of the opportunities the temporary budget provides us, to work through things in the right way, always with an eye on the long term impact on our people. But it is not just about cuts. And it's not like we have just now come to grips with the issue. We have been working non-stop since we took office to repair the mess we inherited and we have made great strides.

Madam Speaker, I hear the Opposition say that it is time to stop blaming. But I say I have to disappoint them. I can't, and I won't. I am not blaming the FCO; I blame them. The reality must be faced. They spent that money and Government must borrow to pay for it. In four years, from 2005-2009, new staff [numbered] 1,070; the emoluments were increased by

somewhere around \$90 million in that time. And revenue began to decline.

As I said, Madam Speaker, I can't stop blaming them because if you create debt, or costs of \$400 million or \$500 million and you pay down \$200 million, you are still left with a substantial amount to pay! So, the Opposition and their cohorts on the radio will say stop talking about 2005-2009, their term in office. But their record is not just going to go away. It is what has caused the current problems and why we are in the position we are in.

Madam Speaker, one of the things that they cry about, including the Member for East End and the Leader of the Opposition, [is] the \$10 million being paid yearly for Cayman Turtle Farm. I saw the editorial today in the *Compass* which said why we are paying that. Well, the Opposition has a right to cry. They should cry. They shouldn't be crocodile tears, [they] should be real downhearted cries, real sobs—because we built the Farm on the basis that the Farm would have a pier and a cruise ship per day. Ten million dollars wouldn't come into the question if that were done. But it was the PPM Government that stopped the pier in 2005, and so it was him and his cohorts who caused us to be spending the \$10 million today.

You mean to tell me that he didn't know that when they were stopping the Turtle Farm jetty that there would be an impact? Do you mean to tell me that they didn't realise that that impact is still around today costing us \$10 million—and will grow? And the only one that has put forward a plan is China Harbour; a plan for a jetty there that will cure the \$10 million problem.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* You wouldn't know that. You're trying to stop it—you and many more! But you won't! And they won't. I can promise you that. I can promise you that.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* Well, we will wait to see, because you said earlier that I took them to court and perhaps that's what needs to be done again. But let's see.

Madam Speaker, despite the constant noise as we are hearing now—again, from the Member for East End—and the attempts at delay from those who oppose everything we have, in the midst of the worst global financial crisis since the 1930s, brought investment and opportunity to these Islands. And these provide significant planks for our survival and recovery. This is the type of investment that impacts our people the way they need it most, with jobs for those

out of work and business for companies that are struggling.

Along with being the first administration to progress the new port and protect our cruise tourism sector, it is intended that value for money on business case studies will be conducted with the new port. And I can tell this honourable House that while China Harbour is still conducting their business, their plans for the actual piers, I can also announce that we have also ensured that local companies and contractors here at home will be joining CHEC (China Harbour)—DECCO, McAlpine and Hurlstone will be joining CHEC to develop the upland works and complete construction, that is, all the new buildings.

This brings new investment, jobs, government revenue and also keeps as much us as possible here at home. It keeps the revenue here at home. Those three companies will be joining CHEC to do the construction.

I am happy to announce that we continue to progress on the project to develop these purpose-built world-class cruise berthing facilities. As I've previously indicated, there are two major parts to this project—the docking and passenger landing facilities, and the uplands commercial operations. We are working through in detail the design, finance, engineering, construction, maintenance, and operation elements. The primary benchmarks guiding these discussions include feasibility, local participation, and ultimately, the achievement of value for money in the project delivery.

We are determined to get the best deal for Cayman, and to secure best value for money. That is what is important! Value for money; not whether we try to follow some United Nation ideal that they do not follow themselves anywhere else.

We will not shirk from full examination of what we are doing. We will send that plan to the Central Tenders Committee (CTC), the Auditor General, and any other duly empowered regulatory authority in this country. To ensure effective management and timely delivery in this project, we have employed a highly experienced local Project Manager. We have employed Mr. Alistair Patterson, who is now the project manager.

They say they are going to stop us. Well, Madam Speaker, if they want to stop McAlpine, CHEC and Hurlstone and a number of other small local contractors that will be subcontracted by them, because they are joining with CHEC, go ahead. But the Chinese money is the cheapest money and we can prove it. And I am not going to back down because of it. That is the best deal for this country!

And they try to belittle and besmirch the Fourth Elected Member for George Town. It was more than he who had a hand in this, going back to the early days, from the concept days with all of us, including the Third Elected Member for West Bay. Our concept was to give people the best; make sure that the mon-

ey is staying here by renting houses. Not going out 5, 6, and 10 of them staying in one room. Houses! And apartments or building some trailer park. No. We said houses they must rent. That is what is in the first agreement.

We said that Caymanians must be able to participate. That's what is in the first agreement. We said that there is going to be no soup kitchen. They must go and get a restaurant in Cayman to cater to whoever is employed. And I suspect there will be 1,000 people employed down on that dock when it's in full swing. And you can believe that the vast, vast majority of them are going to be Caymanians because they will bring in the technicians they need, but they will have to employ every available Caymanian first. And that the materials, as much as possible, have to be purchased locally.

So they can criticise me about China Harbour. The whole world is dealing with the Chinese, including Europe, including London, including England, including Canada, and the United States. You didn't see the huge newspaper article with the President of China at the White House? You didn't see the agreement with Prime Minister Harper of Canada in with the UK announcing their business agreement with the Chinese? You didn't see that Cameron went there himself and got all this business? You didn't see recently that China gave the UK some millions (I don't know if it was \$70 million or \$700 million) for help with the Olympics?

And we, small Cayman, can get something to help us, and we mustn't do it? We mustn't do it? Why? Can anybody tell me? Are you going to believe what these donkey-faced people tell you about corruption? They can't do any corruption here, our laws are stiff. So the donkey-faced people can write all they want. They are the ugliest people I've ever come across.

Madam Speaker, they are not only ugly, they are ugly in heart and in mind! [They are] trying to cause a revolution in this country. Dirty ways is what I am talking about—trying to put bad meaning to everything.

You see, Madam Speaker, I believe in the Bible. And do you know what the Bible says? As a man thinketh so is he. That's what the Bible says. And all those out there who are pointing fingers about corruption, it is because they know how to do it! And why some of them got away with it, and where the conflicts of interest lay, Madam Speaker, in their own businesses over the years. And if they had stopped everybody who had a conflict of interest and investigated everybody who had a conflict of interest in this country you would not have had some of the biggest business in this country today!

No! *Let's get McKeeva Bush.* Because, you know what? I am the only one standing up saying now what the situation is. That's why. And I have always done it. Didn't I tell you that I ran the Governor out of here? Got the vote and took him out. Yes.

The Speaker: That's not called "running him out" that's voting him out.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Good enough. Got him out!

Wasn't it me who had to take on the Commissioner of Police? Some other people were in that march too, Madam Speaker. And don't forget, wasn't it me that had to take on Ballantyne? Wasn't it the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. McLaughlin, the Second Elected Member for George Town, who stood in here and said he had taken a brief for him? Wasn't it proven, Madam Speaker, that the Chief Justice's phone was bugged? Wasn't it proven? And they say that I should be scared? I have nothing to be scared of because all they can do is take me to court. They will never win any case because the truth is that I have done nothing wrong!

And I know history. Read history. What did they do to Kenyatta? Read what's happening in India. I don't have to go that far. One of my heroes, Bustamante, was put in jail for two years. I don't have to go all that way. I know, Madam Speaker. Thank God that there is a relationship between myself and the Minister. I can talk with him. I always have fights with the Governors. The Governor himself says that all Governors always have fights with elected officials.

I am doing what is right for Cayman! This Government is trying to get people back to work and we have been trying it from day one. Madam Speaker, if we had been allowed to even take out the water company, but to do the sewerage. Sewerage that is not working! I heard and it must have been the Member for North Side saying something about the Water Authority paying Government revenue. When? Where did he get that information from? When did the Water Authority pay Government revenue? I ask him—he's in the Chamber now—when?

He can't say because they never did pay any.

Madam Speaker, let's look at the situation. I am not here to criticise people. But look at the conflict. Here is the conflict. We have to give a licence renewal to the Water Authority for the Water Authority to review. But the Water Authority is also the regulator. And the two leaders in the Water Authority are a husband and wife team. Madam Speaker, this kind of stuff cannot be right! It is not right!

The Water Authority does not pay Government any revenue. Well, if they pay, Madam Speaker, it ain't much; nothing that can do anything with the budget. But we could get at least between \$3 million and \$5 million a year for a 25-year lease. And we could get \$50 million up front. And you still own the Water Authority, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the sewerage does not work. It could have hired 1,000 to 1,200 people in this country, businesses, truckers, plumbers, the sales for piping. And, Madam Speaker, we wouldn't have to

worry about when the next flood hits us that we would be mired in sludge, as happened after Hurricane Ivan. Don't tell me that that wasn't the right policy. Don't tell me that wasn't the right thing to do. Why?

Everything that we have done to move this economy and to get people hired, they have put some dirty meaning to it, made some accusation and the Governor steps in with everybody else and says it has to stop. In the meantime, people can't pay telephone bill, people can't pay water bill, people can't pay rental, they can't feed themselves, and in the meantime robbery is commonplace now by gunpoint. And people are losing their homes, their houses! And they say, *You are to blame*.

Madam Speaker, you know, one of the things that used to hurt me most was when mama used to flog me because my brother did something. That used to hurt me, Madam Speaker, getting punished for something that somebody else did. And you can believe that is what I have undergone in these four years. Oh yes. They can say that, *We put a flogging on him*. Yes they did. But they certainly put a flogging on the people of this country who are suffering today because of the mismanagement of the previous Government and because of their campaign with their promise and the Leader of the Opposition, what they would be doing against people in this country! And now he has the audacity to come here and blame me. Why?

Oh, he can get people to help him say so. The news media will help him say so. They don't know anything about truth, never did, never will.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the entire region and beyond is crying out for investment for development, and showering potential investors with offers of concessions and support, we have been able to reach an agreement with the Dart group here at home—a fair and profitable agreement for the people of the Cayman Islands, that will see the Esterley Tibbetts Highway extended and part of it moved to create the opportunity for new development and hotels to begin. And they say that is bad.

This agreement, with the ForCayman Alliance, has already brought in millions to the Government's coffers and will bring tens of millions more. The agreement will also provide for an additional 20 acres to come to Government, part of which will be for a new cemetery in West Bay and part of the beach at the former Victoria House site—prime beach front—will become public. We are getting three public beaches. I think it is three. Three will be out on the Seven Mile Beach.

That is for those people who went out and told people that we were stopping people and we were going to sell the public beach. We are getting three. Victoria House is prime beachfront and so is the piece up above Holman's Corner

In addition to enlarging public beach and moving our children who play there farther from a busy

road (that we are going to get), we are expanding the public's access to more public beach space. The Government has also agreed for Dart to build a new Sunrise Centre school—a new school! Sunrise Centre, something we wanted forever and can't get it. That's what the Minister of Education is negotiating in the vicinity of Camana Bay near the roundabout or on the side of the new National Gallery nearest to West Bay.

And they say this is bad! These are the kinds of things that this Government has been working on to get done. These are the kinds of things that that group over there has done their endeavor best to stop.

Some foolish people decry working with the largest and most generous resident group in the Cayman Islands, a group who has shown their commitment to support and invest in these Islands and its people. The group who opposes us has neither used common sense or any other kind of rationale, because they are led by people, who, in the back of all their clack and noise, are [making] an effort to unseat me, and get a seat for themselves. Those in West Bay, Madam Speaker, that's all that's happening.

As I said, those people who talk about they ride a horse, watch out for the Apocalypse, and those people who are running around telling people, *Sign this petition now or you can't vote*. You know you got people doing that, Madam Speaker? People who are enjoined with the Opposition on the other side and people who told old people in West Bay that we were going to sell the public beach and got them to sign the agreement, or sign the petition.

They have told every lie possible about the projects, saying that we were selling the public beach, and the public wouldn't be able to use it; doing their best to try to tear me down.

Madam Speaker, where do these people, including the Opposition—because we didn't hear anything from them they have no plan—think the investment and jobs are going to come from for the 300 to 400 children coming out of school each year? Where? Who else is willing and able, in these times, to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to create new offices, new hotels, new shops and activities and maintain a long-term commitment to the Cayman Islands? Who?

Whether you like people or not . . . I hear them cussing people and saying, *I didn't know him. I don't know who he is*. What are you cussing the man for? You didn't even know . . . you don't even see him. What are you cussing him for? Listening to people who are telling people in the streets, *She wants to start a revolution*.

You know, Madam Speaker, they write all sorts of things about me. But the only betrayal that I have made is that of my ancestors who would have run those kind of people out of this country a long time ago. I haven't betrayed the trust of the Caymanian people.

Madam Speaker, where are we going to employ 300, 400 children? You think that the PPM is just going to come up and . . . what are they going to offer? What are they offering now? If they decry the tourism increasing, if they talk bad about the finance industry and the people who work in it, if they talk bad and cuss and blame and accuse investors, where is the money going to come from?

Are they willing, are they going to agree with the Foreign Office to put in income tax or property tax? Which one? If you are not, say you're not; tell the people you are not going to do so. I want to hear you. Madam Speaker, they can't because they know they have their plans.

Would you stop the Dart agreement when he is going to build a new Sunrise Centre, something that we have been trying to get since we had the one down at the school hall down in West Bay? Decades now we have been trying to get one. Are you?

We need a cemetery bad. We don't have the money. We don't have the money to build these things. The West Bay cemetery is crammed full. Just a few more people. Maybe I'll be one of those next. You never know who God will call next. But we need money to do so. Bodden Town is in the same shape.

The Leader of the Opposition says we have to watch people like them. Sure we do. Sure we do! We are not going to give up our right. Madam Speaker, if they had followed me and fought for the kind of Constitution that we had, that I wanted, when I was trying to put prominence of our finance in that, where they couldn't tell us certain things. And I used the Hong Kong Constitution that China gave them, sections of it, protection of various aspects of our industries. It would have been in there instead of foolishness about one man, one vote in the Constitution. We should have been protecting things like that. You think we are going to give up our sovereignty, what little we have? No! Not going to do so!

Sure we have to watch. You have to watch everybody that comes in here. I suspect we are being watched by . . . like I said, we watch our own too.

We need to do the right thing and, with prudence and care—both of which we have shown amply—we have to make the right deals so that both the Cayman Islands and our investors can succeed and prosper together. And they can't say that I don't work, Madam Speaker. The may put blame on me about travelling. Madam Speaker, I work. I work, Madam Speaker. And my colleagues work. They are there all hours of the night, when they take work home they're not sleeping. I hear them talking about I'm bar hopping (I hear the Member for East End saying). I need to get out more often so I can see what some of them are doing! They are hopping bars all right.

Business has been created and enhanced because I went out and pushed for it. But you can't, in this country, think any more that you can start from scratch—because that is what I had to do. There were

no prizes left by the PPM. People want to invest, but with the kind of bureaucracy in this country, new blocks don't go into the ground overnight. And, with the Governor hollering about 'good governance' with his hit men in the Audit Office carrying out their partiality and some rascality too, the PPM constantly in the press putting down investors and the North Side Member talking about burning down property investors spent their money for the country on, and his porn descriptions, what else would we get but a slowed economy? Nobody wants to put money quickly in a country that has that kind of rot to deal with. Nobody!

Madam Speaker, there are new types of investment that create jobs now, bring business activity now, bring new revenue now. And this is what our people need.

I ask the Member for North Side to stop his antics on the radio, and I ask the PPM to stop it, and help us! And they should do exactly with . . . remember this rot that the Member for North Side talks. The PPM should do what their Member did just now, their other Member, Mr. McLean from East End, when he got up and said he's not part of that porn.

We are looking at progressive ways to raise the standard of living and continue our good standard of living and raise revenue and improve our competitiveness. Madam Speaker, no! Now they talked about the budget, about what I am doing, I'm travelling and I'm going to the Queen's this and I'm going here, there and everywhere—they claim. Let me tell you something, Madam Speaker. They well know . . . they say my first job is to get the budget. I don't sit down and do the budget, Madam Speaker. We have people to do that. I set down the benchmark and say this is what must be done. And I follow it up.

I don't know if the Member for North Side knows that or not. Things are completely different today from 1992 in Cabinet. Madam Speaker, let me just tell you. There are 153 persons with a finance, accountant, chief financial officer, deputy chief financial officer, et cetera, in their job title—153. Some of them . . . I have a whole department of budget management officers. They do the work. We set the bar, the parameter. I don't sit down and do this. I shouldn't have to sit down and go through line, by line, by line. But, you know, that's what it takes sometimes.

We have a Budget Management Unit. The Financial Secretary's job, the Constitution didn't . . . they allowed him so much, that they put Financial Secretary in that Constitution and didn't say one other iota about the man and what he should be doing, because they had no intention of keeping him there. They wanted to get rid of him!

Madam Speaker, we have people to do that; to do it.

Madam Speaker, they say that we mustn't put on fees. And the truth is, Madam Speaker, we are loath to do so. There are fees that cause business to go up. I talked about liquor licenses. And I want to do

that basically for the Hospitality Training School that we are starting in the next couple of months. But all that they did forced us to increase fees, like those on liquor licenses which I announced. But I said that there would be fees.

But, Madam Speaker, let's look: The annual fee for beer and wine is \$1,000. The annual fee for distributor is \$4,800 (and we have 18 distributors). The annual fee for a hotel has five licenses, category A, Madam Speaker, which is hotels under 20 rooms, \$2,000. Hotels with more than 20 rooms, we have 13 of those licenses, \$4,800. But each one of them can have six or seven bars in one hotel and only pay \$4,800. Package licence, we have 76; \$1,500. Annual fees for the 41 restaurants are 41 that carry liquor licenses; \$1,500. Annual fee for retail licenses, bars and so on around the place, 211 licenses, \$1,000. Annual fee for music and dancing licenses, \$500, or roughly \$60 per month.

You are going to tell me that we can't pay a little bit more on some of these? Huh? But I am not going to do that. I am not proposing to do that now, Madam Speaker. We have to bring a law. What I am going to do is I will add on 5 cents on all beer bottles, and there is something like 16 million beers imported into this country annually. I will add 5 cents on all beer bottles, all wine bottles and other bottles of liquor being imported and that will get me the kind of revenue to assist with the tourism school, probably between \$800[000] to \$1 million.

Madam Speaker, that money will be earmarked for the Hospitality Training School so that our people can have the right professional training to take up their jobs our other policies are creating, which we are talking about. People are paying good money for they and their families to enjoy a vacation. Of course, they want professional service—service that is professional and pleasant, that is hospitable. And that is what the new school would be achieving—professional hospitality training. We are good at hospitality. Caymanians are generally warm, smiling inviting people—except the PPM! And hospitality is good for us. That is why we are investing in it.

To grow our tourism sector and improve our competitiveness we are going to be the administration that finally gets the airport expanded. In the meantime, a new initiative that I want to announce today, Madam Speaker, is the imminent elimination (as I said earlier about going immigration) to both improve the experience for our tourism guests and [that of] our own people travelling, and also to hopefully save some of costs. Madam Speaker, don't say we are not doing things.

One last thing I want to reply to that they said and then I will be closing. The same one who says it's about time is the one I'm going to reply to.

He was there yesterday making some very derogative remarks about people who can't defend themselves in this House. And he talked about us, as

a Government, building private roads down in Governor's [Harbour]. In 2004, following Hurricane Ivan and before the Esterley Tibbetts Highway was constructed, the Governor's Harbour private project was used when West Bay Road became impassable. The Governor's Harbour Road became the bridge from West Bay to George Town.

As a result of this use by the general public the private road deteriorated. At the time, the Cayman Islands Government promised that we would try to assist in seeking repairs to the road. I did that at that time. I wasn't able to see this to fruition as the next Government took over and nothing was done with it.

In 2006, under the previous administration then, the Esterley Tibbetts Highway in the vicinity of Governor's Harbour was gazetted and constructed. The Member for East End was roads Minister at the time and was the who instructed that the new highway be located closer to Governor's Harbour than previously planned when there was plenty of vacant land to the west that could have been used.

He provided no buffer between the highway and this residential neighbourhood, and he did absolutely nothing to improve the condition of the private subdivision road which he ordered to be used as an alternate route while the public road was under construction. This was an unacceptable abuse of his power, to order the use of private land for public use, cause it to deteriorate further and then ignore the private landowners' reasonable request for improvement.

As a Representative in that area, I had been discussing this matter for the last couple of years with longstanding Governor's Harbour residents and owners who had been extremely patient over the years. Several months ago I spoke with residents and undertook to help improve the subdivision road. This is a private subdivision road, but, Madam Speaker, it is not the first time that Government has fixed that road.

Back in the early '80s we did something to that road. Government fixed that road. But when Government causes any private land to be damaged by public use, or government works, as the previous Government did, something needs to be done to help reinstate the property. Accordingly, approval was given for road improvements to take place very soon. For the avoidance of doubt, neither me.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* I don't know what you talked about yesterday. I don't. I don't know anything about it.

Madam Speaker, I've asked that Member . . . don't say that, because I don't know what he's talking about.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* Well, I might be the Premier, but I don't know everything that goes on in the country.

The Speaker: Member for East End, let the Premier finish his speech please. Thank you.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I am telling them what I know. I have just outlined what I know. I am the West Bay Representative. I am not giving away any more, Madam Speaker.

I am the West Bay Representative. That is part of the West Bay constituency. That road was upgraded before by Government in years past, and the road has been deteriorated and it needs to be fixed. And that's what we are attempting to do.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: It was stolen!

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: But I don't know about it being stolen. I don't know anything about that. Not that piece of long road.

The Speaker: Ah, Member for East End, you cannot make those accusations.

Please continue, Mr. Premier, and finish your speech.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I don't know anything about . . . what I know about [is that] we were fixing from the Cayman Water Company down to the roundabout and further down straight down to where we are continuing now with the new highway. That's what we are fixing—the Governor's Harbour area there. From the Water Company Road, come straight down across the first roundabout down there. So I don't know anything about what the Member is talking about. I don't know. But I am going to get it . . . I am going to ensure that the road is completed.

Now, Madam Speaker, that Member has a bad habit of fixing roads and building them up and leaving them, like how he did up here in this last flood when peoples' homes got flooded out. He does not understand that when they do something it impacts somebody else. And they built up that road up there, the new road going into Newlands, and all those houses down in that area, a lot of them, got flooded out. Now we have to find the money to fix the problem.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: You need to.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: He does.

Madam Speaker, using this temporary budget as the fulcrum, we are leading these Cayman Islands, away from its profligate and divisive immediate past, and back towards the principles that made it great in the first place—hard work, thriftiness, progressive legislation and an inclusiveness that welcomes the best from all over the world to come and bring their talents and their investment dollars, to a place where they are welcomed and encouraged to succeed, and to contribute.

We are on the path to restore our balance sheet so that we can reclaim our historical right to decide on our own budgets and our own direction. Both in the measures already mentioned, and also through working to improve our balance sheet, we are intelligently making arrangements to divest where appropriate and also to receive more where and when it makes sense; always looking towards getting our finances back where they should be, and where they were when we last left office. I left office in 2005, when they said they threw me out. Madam Speaker, we had money in the bank. We only had a hundred and fifty something million dollar loan.

So, Madam Speaker I want to get back to where we have a low loan position and money in the bank. They could only progress because they received millions of dollars after Hurricane Ivan. What else did they do? Tell me. They swung in on the back of Hurricane Ivan and they used up every dollar that was made at that time, instead of putting some away. And then used more besides [that]. That's where we are where we are today.

It will not be easy for us to get back to that position, but life is not easy for most now anyway. Yet we can, and will, get there; we will lead the Cayman Islands back to solid financial ground. We will get back to a place where every able Caymanian who wants and needs a job can have one, where we can invest in our future and the future of our children, secure that it will be a future [decided] by Caymanians, and not by officials elsewhere. This will be a future where we provide the services, protection and opportunities to our people that they need, and do so through growth, sustainable growth, across all sectors of our economy.

Those truly interested will understand, that this must mean progressively overhauling our existing growth model. The Cayman Islands has the right stuff to become a world leader in sustainable development. Our local industry partners have to be brought to the table on that agenda. Our discourse with the UK must become a development agenda. That is the right way around; that is the basis on which we should budget, not just cutting budgets to meet formulas. But our discourse with the UK must become a development agenda.

We have done and will continue to do what is necessary to secure that sustainable future for all of

us, we have the energy, ideas and courage to do so, and we will not be discouraged, we will not give up, we will not be halted. We must do what is all important, and we will do what is important. All this must be done. What must be done is important for far too many people.

Madam Speaker, opportunity under this Government still also presents itself in the form of initiatives by those who believe in what the Cayman Islands has to offer. For instance, I am aware of a soon to be revealed signature destination golf resort and residential community that spans both North Side and East End. This development will have a complete town centre that features retail shops including grocery and hardware stores, a movie theater, restaurants and entertainment.

This development will provide the convenience and catalyst that the eastern half of our Islands has long needed. There are residents along the 28 miles of coastline from Bodden Town to Cayman Kai that go west to shop, play and work. This \$300 million direct investment will provide an alternative location for work and business opportunities, entertainment and convenience shopping. Unlike many other large projects, this developer is seeking no credits, import duty waivers, or delayed government fees. I think I can agree, this direct investment will not only provide intrinsic value to land owners in our eastern districts, but will also provide a significant projected boost of more than \$40 million to government coffers over the next 6 years.

So, Madam Speaker, while difficulties exist for far too many people, the projects we supported—went out, travelled and pushed for—the hospital, the dock, the airport, the economic city and others, are coming on line. And these Islands are poised for better times.

Madam Speaker, it looks rough now, but it's poised for better times ahead. Better times, Madam Speaker, if the PPM and the North Side Member don't take control. The Opposition and their cohorts have a lot to say now because they think the FCO will jump with them, the Governor and the Audit Office will jump with them. They think that I am weakened. But I am not. For, as the Bible says, in the 27th Psalm: **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”**

“When the wicked, even my enemies [and my foes] came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.”

I believe that.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* No, you're not. No. You're not Paul, Madam Speaker. I think I have one that I can read in closing since he is still chattering away.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Replying to inaudible interjection]* All the time!

Madam Speaker, **“For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are open against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.”**

I have said why this is so. I have said what today is. What is today? It is a temporary opportunity for permanent change. Honourable Members, let us make it that. Put aside your party differences and do what is right.

I have said why this is so on the basis that if we call this a budget crisis, it does present the characteristics of a crisis—both dangers, and opportunities. I would argue that the greatest danger is that we do not recognise, and seize those opportunities—that is, to do a real overhaul, not just of our budget, but the basis on which we budget—to foster sustainable development.

So, again I say, what is today? Madam Speaker, it is the temporary opportunity for permanent change.

Madam Speaker, I thank you. I thank honourable Members for their indulgence. I thank the Opposition, those that stayed in here all the time and listened.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Premier.

The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 August 2012 the Governor in Cabinet be authorised to incur executive financial transactions totaling no more than CI\$127,050,853 in aggregate and not exceeding the limits specified for each of the following Appropriation categories, further details of which are provided in the attached Schedule to this Motion:

Appropriation Category	CI\$ Amount
Output Groups	75,489,416
Transfer Payments	6,091,494
Equity Investments	9,718,974
Executive Assets	1,875,000
Financing Expenses	5,473,563
Other Executive Expenses	3,314,073
Loans Made	88,333
Borrowings (Overdraft)	25,000,000
TOTAL	\$127,050,853

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

Ayes and one audible abstention.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, can I have a division?

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk:**Division No. 1–2012/13****Ayes: 8**

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush
 Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly
 Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
 Hon. Michael T. Adam
 Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland
 Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
 Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
 Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour

Noes: 0**Abstentions: 6**

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.
 Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts
 Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
 Mr. Anthony S. Eden
 Mr. V. Arden McLean
 Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

Absent: 1

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks

The Speaker: The result of the division, 8 Ayes, 0 Noes, 6 abstentions and 1 absentee. Government Motion No. 1/2012-13 is duly passed.

Agreed by majority on division: Government Motion No. 1/2012-13 passed.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, may I raise a point of parliamentary procedure?

The Speaker: Yes.

Point of Parliamentary Procedure

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, my understanding is that the television station sent someone to cover the proceedings here yesterday, as usual when we deal with appropriations, and the radio station as well (as these things are normally broadcast live) and that they were sent away. Today, we see that there is a videoing of the Premier's response, a video recording being made of the Premier's response to the debate on the appropriation matter.

The resources of this Parliament and of the Government when it comes to the parliamentary process ought to be available and equally allocated to all Members of this House. Therefore, I would ask for some explanation as to why the Premier's response is being recorded—at cost, no doubt—while the debate of other Members of the House, and in particular (as has been the case customarily in the past) the re-

sponse of the Leader of the Opposition to what the Premier said, is not being accorded the same favour.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: Yes, Mr. Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, when we had Business Committee, because we said that this was not going to be a normal State Opening with all the things that go with it (there was not going to be any budget debate, there was not going to be any budget presentation) that we were not going to have the press come and do a recording.

It is true, partly true, what the Member said, because in the budget presentation at a State Opening the only thing that is recorded is the Governor's Throne Speech for television. I am not sure that the Governor's Throne Speech is recorded. Certainly, the presentation by the Minister of Finance or the Financial Secretary is always recorded, televised.

We said that we were not going to have any live broadcast of the proceedings yesterday. It has never been anything usual, never was. Nobody else got televised. The only one that got televised was the person presenting the budget. So that is not so that the Leader of the Opposition had any right. It has never been. He has never been televised. And he has never replied that day. The only time the Leader of the Opposition or other Members got carried was when Radio Cayman would carry them in their normal broadcast. And that will happen in any event.

So, there was no need for Radio Cayman to come down here. That would cost extra. No we didn't and we didn't have the television.

What is being done now, Madam Speaker, is that Government channel will soon come on line. And some of what will be a new programme will be taped from my speech. That's all that is. But when we come on line, when Government television comes on line, one of the things is that all Members of this House are going to be televised. That is what we are proposing to do. But that . . .

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, this is not CITN. This is GIS [Government Information Services] taping it, as I said, for when the new Government channel comes on. There is going to be a portion of that for a new programme.

However, he has given me an idea. I shall ask them, I shall ask CITN to carry my speech in full. I don't know if I can get it done, but I will try.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, just to record my deep concern at what is clearly a political move—GIS being

used for the purposes of furthering the campaign and the programme of the sitting Government with absolutely no contribution from the Opposition. And I do hope that the CITN coverage, if this is going to be recorded and sent to them, is going to be paid for by the UDP and not by the Cayman Islands Government.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, the Member is quite upset, I know. He sat there for awhile, but he is quite upset at what was said in my speech. It is the Government's prerogative to do what we need to do, as much as it was his when he was there. They used GIS for everything in the world: a press conference was done every week by them. And you couldn't be any more political than that. I toll all kinds of beatings then as the Leader of the Opposition.

So, if I need to get this speech—which is all about Government business—broadcasted, Government must pay for it, not me. And there is nothing political about it than when they were there before.

The Speaker: For the record, there were no applications made to me as Speaker for broadcasting or televising of the proceedings of this House. The only application made to me was by Mrs. Bina Mani of GIS, who asked if she could take a photograph in the Chamber of the Governor delivering his speech.

It is my prerogative to grant these things. And perhaps it is time that everybody realised that applications are to be made to me, as Speaker of this House. An application was made to me for the procedure taking place here today and I granted it. That's my prerogative.

Now, can we have a motion for the adjournment?

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: That's no problem, Madam Speaker, all kinds of things were done when they were there, and they don't think we should do anything.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move the adjournment of this honourable House for a date to be fixed.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House do now adjourn to a date to be fixed. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 1.55 pm the House stood adjourned to a date to be fixed.

