



**CAYMAN ISLANDS
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
ELECTRONIC VERSION**

2012/13 SESSION

25 March 2013

Sixth Sitting of the Third Meeting

(pages 783–875)

**Hon Mary J Lawrence, MBE, JP
Speaker**

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PRESENT WERE:

THE SPEAKER

Hon Mary J Lawrence, MBE, JP.

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

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

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon Franz Manderson, JP	<i>Deputy Governor</i> , ex officio Member responsible for Internal and External Affairs and the Civil Service
Hon Jacqueline Wilson	Temporary Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible for Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

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

INDEPENDENT MEMBER

Mr D Ezzard Miller, JP, MLA	Elected Member for North Side
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ABSENT

Mr Moses I Kirkconnell, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman
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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD MEETING OF THE 2012/13 SESSION
MONDAY
25 MARCH 2013
10.34 AM
Sixth Sitting

The Speaker: I will ask the Honourable Minister for Health, Environment, Youth Sports and Culture to say Prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Madam Speaker, certainly it is an honour for me to say prayers this morning for the final sitting of this Legislative Assembly.

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.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS
AND OF REPORTS**

**Financial Statement of Cayman Turtle Farm (1983)
Limited June 30, 2012**

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Tourism and Development.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., Minister of Tourism and Development: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the financial statements for the Cayman Turtle Farm (1983) Limited June 30, 2012.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: No, thank you, Ma'am.

**STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE
MEMBERS AND MINISTERS
OF THE CABINET**

**Cayman Islands Government and Tom Jones
International Ltd. Settlement**

The Speaker: I have two statements from the Honourable Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment.

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

Madam Speaker, I am happy to report to this honourable House and indeed the wider country, that today a joint press release is going to be issued between the Cayman Islands Government and Tom Jones International Ltd., in relation to a settlement [agreement](#). The Press Release reads as follows:

"The Cayman Islands Government (CIG) and Tom Jones International Ltd. (TJI) announced today that they have settled all claims involving the construction of the John Gray High School and Clifton Hunter High School Projects and entered into a binding agreement on 22nd March 2013.

"As a result of contract termination in 2009, disputes arose between CIG and TJI and proceedings were issued in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. The Settlement Agreement is not to be construed in any way as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by either CIG or TJI. Instead, CIG and TJI are of the view that, given the anticipated cost associated with arbitration, legal proceedings, third party experts, and additional expenses, it is in both Parties' best economic interest to have reached settlement of all disputes in relation to the school projects.

"The main provisions of the agreement are that TJI receives four hundred thousand CI dollars (CI\$400,000) for expenses related to the use of equipment left on site, and the return of scaffolding and shoring materials owned by TJI. CIG retains Retention Monies in the sum of five million, five hundred and fifty-two CI dollars (CI\$5,552,000). (Retention Monies referred to monies earned by the contractor (TJI) during the construction project but held by the owner (CIG) for an agreed period following the completion of a project). This agreement settles all claims and all pending proceedings before the court and in arbitration, which relate to the new high schools projects."

Madam Speaker, CIG terminated TJI for cause and has vigorously defended its case through litigation and arbitration. However, on the advice of our legal team, CIG's counterclaim has to be set against a total financial risk to CIG of the TJI claims and estimated future and further arbitration cost of some three million, five hundred CI dollars (CI\$3,500,000), as well as indications that CIG was pursuing a company with no known substantial assets. When the contextual factors were considered, a strong case was made that a settlement agreement would be in CIG's best interest at this stage. Following extensive negotiations, both parties have arrived at an outcome that is acceptable to both parties and sanctioned by the Cabinet.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear, the payment to TJI was for use of equipment that was left on the construction site after they were terminated. No further cash payment is a part of the settlement.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, First Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I desire to ask a short question under Standing Order 30(2).

The Speaker: So ordered.

Short Questions

[Standing Order 30(2)]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, can the Minister say how they determined that Tom Jones International had no assets?

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, the Statement says that Tom Jones International Ltd. and Government's view has no substantial assets.

Madam Speaker, this was determined by way of us as Government having to, along with TJI, make certain representations to the courts as part of the arbitration proceedings. And also, Madam Speaker, during this entire process, our entire technical team has had a lot of interaction with all parties involved and came to that conclusion.

The Speaker: First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, can the Minister say that he is satisfied that all international inquiries were made in regards to Tom Jones International to find out (not just as a matter of local ownership or wealth of any kind, including local partners) if those inquiries were made as to assets?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

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

Madam Speaker, as we know, under normal company law, companies are entities which are limited in nature by liability, and so whilst underlying shareholders and other associated and affiliated parties themselves may have had assets, there would have been no way to have pierced the corporate veil, because there was no evidence that any of them as shareholders would have done anything by way of their own actions that would have allowed CIG to do that. And so what we were left with as Government, was dealing with the entity that was contracted to actually carry out these two projects, namely Tom Jones International Ltd., which is a Cayman-based entity.

The Speaker: [First] Elected Member for West Bay.

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

So, is the Minister saying that they are therefore satisfied they know who all of the local shareholders are, the entities are, and that they are not in any way culpable that they did not receive any incomes from Tom Jones International throughout the time that TJI was being paid, including the \$12 million from the Cayman Islands Government?

The Speaker: Minister of Education.

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

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, when it comes to contracts and contract law, when we look at the case and see any amounts paid over for works in place, we will see that, certainly, we are confident the Government had no recourse.

I think the statement also draws attention in the press release to the fact of certain retention monies that would not be paid over, and that was a part of the settlement which obviously was in lieu of the fact that we did not have a completed project by that entity.

So, CIG has exhausted all avenues. And, Madam Speaker, I think it is fair to say that, given the magnitude of what would have been claims laid against CIG—which was in the order of upwards of \$25 million—I think at this stage to be able to have a settlement agreement that basically involves CIG paying out CI\$400,000 for use of equipment (I am going to re-emphasizing that; *for use of equipment*) that was left on site . . . in other words, CIG would have had to have gotten access to that type of equipment in any event to have continued the projects. Really, Madam Speaker, it is a settlement that in our view comes to sum zero in terms of any payouts by CIG.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to ask questions on this matter?

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, Fourth Elected Member for George Town: Madam Speaker, two questions for the Minister: I note, and quote, that he stated “substantial assets.” Is the Minister able, perhaps for the benefit of all of us, to define “substantial assets” in this particular case? It would be appreciated.

The second thing would be the substantial asset, or lack of substantial asset position of the company as at March 22 when this agreement was reached. Is that the same substantial asset position as it would have been when they actually engaged in the contract? Or, was there any variance, negative or positive, insofar as that substantial asset is concerned?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

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

Madam Speaker, as it relates to substantial, we certainly are comfortable that to go any further . . . and when we speak to estimates of \$3.5 million just for our costs to continue, we do not believe that we have seen any evidence to suggest that we would be

able to recruit those monies or indeed any monies approaching the level of the claims that would be involved.

Madam Speaker, as it relates to the actual position versus when the contracts were entered into, unfortunately, I cannot comment on that. I don't know that information. I can get that for the Member.

The Speaker: First Elected Member for West Bay.

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

Madam Speaker, I would encourage the Member . . . in fact, I would ask the Member to make sure that the House gets a copy at the earliest on the findings of the state of the company when the company entered the contract. As I said, the earliest; it would be important.

One last question: I would think, but I want to ask the question on the amount of wasted materials; cement, those sorts of things that we knew were evident that they were on site, and the amount of work that had to be done to bring the building back to where they could start to build it. Was that taken into consideration in these matters?

The Speaker: Minister of Education.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Yes, Madam Speaker, that would have been taken into consideration. And those numbers would have formed a part of the dollar value of government's counterclaim against Tom Jones.

Again, for the benefit of Members, based on the information we had, whilst that number was a substantial number we certainly do not believe that it would have been wise to do, as the old people say, “throw good money after bad.” We did not feel as though there was any evidence whatsoever that we could have recovered any substantial amounts of monies.

Certainly, Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, there was nothing in this case that would have caused government to be in a position to have been able to pierce the corporate veil and go after anyone else and bring any other party into the proceedings, other than Tom Jones International Ltd., itself, which was the contracting entity.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

If there are no further questions, can we move on to the next statement?

Cayman's Readiness for Implementation of the Alternative Investment Fund Manager's Directive

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

In late 2010, the European Union (EU) proposed a Directive effective on Alternative Investment Fund Managers. Among the various features of this directive, were requirements that affect the ability of non-EU funds to be marketed within the European Union. Much debate and discussion has surrounded this Directive, and the Cayman Government sent a delegation under the leadership of the former Premier to make representation on behalf of our industry. The Monetary Authority has also been actively involved in the process leading up to the implementation of this Directive.

Madam Speaker, the European Union's Alternative Investment Fund Manager's Directive (AIFMD) is due to become fully effective in July of 2013.

Alternative Investment Funds, like Cayman Hedge Funds, from non-EU jurisdictions, will not be able to be marketed within EU countries unless certain conditions are met. Given an estimate that around 26 per cent of the relevant Cayman Islands funds would be affected if this eventuality were to arise, meeting the conditions of the AIFMD is imperative.

Madam Speaker, the conditions relevant to Cayman are, that:

1. There is in place a cooperation agreement with Third country fund domicile and home member state.
2. Third countries (domicile of manager or fund domicile) are not on the FATF list of non-cooperative jurisdictions.
3. Agreements for exchange of information for tax purposes are in place between the EU and non-EU jurisdictions.

Of these three conditions, the only point of concern is that CIMA (Cayman Islands Monetary Authority) does not currently have cooperation agreements with most EU securities regulators, except for the UK Financial Services Authority. However, the European Securities Market Authority ("ESMA") has developed a model MOU which will be used by all EU jurisdictions in entering into MOUs with third party jurisdictions.

Madam Speaker, CIMA has been in discussions with ESMA since early 2012 on the requirements of the ESMA model MOU for entering into cooperation agreements with its EU counterparts. These discussions, while confidential, have been cordial and constructive. CIMA's Board of Directors have approved that CIMA may enter into agreements with the relevant EU regulators based on the EU model MOU, subject to certain amendments to the Monetary Authority Law (MAL).

Madam Speaker, while much of the process that is being led by ESMA is confidential, the passage of the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2013, on March 15th 2013, in this honourable House, will allow CIMA to fully participate in the process.

I know that the industry will take confidence that the passage of this amendment has paved a way for the jurisdiction to be fully compliant with the conditions of the AIFMD before July 2013.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Are there any questions?

If not, we will go on to the next item of business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Mental Health Bill 2013

[Continuation of debate thereon]

The Speaker: When we concluded the proceedings on Friday, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town had indicated an interest in debating on this issue.

Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Hon. Anthony S. Eden, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First of all, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for acknowledging the work and effort put into this by myself. And I would also include the Member for North Side when he was Ex-Co Member (now known as Minister) on Mental Health, here in the Cayman Islands.

It is pleasing to know after a long time that we are coming to a final set of guidelines in which we will be able to advance into this field.

Madam Speaker, back in 2005 to 2009 when certain studies were done, it was estimated that over 1,700 of us Caymanians had some form of mental impairment, one way or the other, from mild to serious. And I am made to understand that some of us in here may have some of that mild impairment.

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: All fifteen!

Hon. Anthony S. Eden: Just jokingly!

Madam Speaker, we know that most of our patients have been housed in Jamaica in the homes there, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jamaican Government and its institutions for taking care of our mental patients. The day will come, I am sure, when the families here look forward [to when] we will be able to establish our own institutions. But it will not come at a small cost because these

have to be done to code and international standards to make sure that they are well protected.

One of the things I would like to especially touch on briefly is the situation with those children who have cerebral palsy. There are a number of them here, Madam Speaker, not necessarily from the mental health aspect. And there is also autism where families need some help. I know that on many occasions we have been approached about this. I know the Minister of Education has been looking at this and there have been seminars. A few weeks ago there was an article in the paper highlighting the problem of "autism." When you look at the great United States, they are saying what large increases have taken place of recent times of children there having autism.

The other situation that we have here which the Minister is well aware of, is what they call the dual diagnosis wherein the individual, not only has a problem with the mental capacity, but also with the drug abuse which we are trying to deal with when the facility [is] up by where the Hortor Memorial site was.

Madam Speaker, I would like to, once again, welcome this legislation and thank the Minister for bringing it to this stage.

The Speaker: Thank you, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

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

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon: Madam Speaker, I have at least one bright camper behind me. There are lots of comments, but I will ignore them.

Madam Speaker, I first would like to start by saying that I, of course, commend any action that is going to be taken as it relates specifically to health, because, as I've stated before, just in recent days, to me, there is perhaps no topic greater than health. It is a situation as we have stated, for sure the United Democratic Party takes the position that a healthy nation is indeed a wealthy nation. And so, firstly, let me start by commending the Minister in terms of the actions taken so far, and all of the team that has been involved in one way, shape or another, in respect to both the Health Commission Bill as well as the Mental Health Bill as well.

But, Madam Speaker, I do want to expound a bit insofar as just some position on health because I believe it is extremely an important and even perhaps contrary position to some. I think even if it is not just our last day but our last breath and we have an opportunity to speak on an issue, if it does nothing else other than to inform or greatly inspire someone, then I think that we should actually do that.

Madam Speaker, I had a chance once, because when we talked about an issue like mental

health, I think there are certain things that just naturally form in our minds and what we typically will get is that certain stigma that continues to exist. And I start with that because I believe that there needs to be a real major effort taken by whoever the Minister of Health is going to be in the future to do what we can to remove the stigma as it relates to issues in particular to mental health, because what you do get, Madam Speaker, would perhaps be some of those same comments that I heard as I rose to my feet.

Madam Speaker, oftentimes when we get into any circumstance where we lack knowledge or understanding about something, then we end up finding ourselves feeling a bit more emotional about things. So, whether it is a young child or whether it is a middle-age person or elderly person, when we encounter challenges, for example, with the human mind, it is natural for us as human beings with that limited knowledge and understanding of the issue to become very emotional about it. One way, shape or another, those emotions are evoked. But I wish to state with personal experience that it is a circumstance which we need to appreciate that health is health. And I say that because we oftentimes refer to mental somewhat separate from physical. But they are all interconnected, and I say that because we need to do everything we can in this country, to see what we can do to continue to make our people and country as healthy as it can be.

Madam Speaker, just again to make the point very real: At the end of the day when we would have been as man in our primitive state, as they would say, walking on the plains of the Serengeti, if one of us ended up breaking a leg, that was a very serious threat because breaking your leg probably meant that you were going to increase, if not pretty much guarantee, that you were going to die. In those circumstances there were very few persons who were going to be in a position to turn back, risk themselves and their families to help someone who had even done something as simple as breaking a leg.

Today, Madam Speaker, as we evolve, things are perhaps a bit more blurred, but not too much difference. It is still a circumstance where our health is crucial. And so when we say "a healthy nation is a wealthy nation" we mean that in the sense that if we are unhealthy, perhaps there is nothing that costs us more than being unhealthy—both the physical, mental ailments that we are going to have to deal with, the financial costs. And not just to the individual, but to the family, friends and to the entire community.

And so when we understand and talk about the stigma, if any one of us in here breaks a leg, hurts a back, gets a problem with our kidney, or even so much as to even have a heart attack, many of us do not stigmatise that, we do not look at it in a negative way and shun it and try to run away from it, because we have a greater degree of knowledge and under-

standing about those areas. So, we break a leg and talk about it just as casual as if we could not have lunch today because we understand it. So I push and press, that as we look at this whole issue of mental health, that we do what we can to continue to educate, enlighten and elevate our people so that there will not be this stigma attached to the issue of mental health.

Madam Speaker, as I have stated in this honourable House before, my youngest daughter of the three has some challenges. Those are physical and mental challenges. And just to give you an example: One of the things they had to do to try to invoke . . . because she was perfectly fine until she reached about four months of age. And so you have to ask yourself, how is it then that you are perfectly fine, you are smiling, you can see on your way to talking, moving, all of your dexterity, everything is there, but then you reach the stage of four months (approximately), when all of a sudden you start to have seizures and go into convulsions and before you know it the child is pretty much a vegetable, cannot walk and until today (is 12), cannot walk and cannot talk. How do we get to that position?

Madam Speaker, we have to appreciate that if all of us are given a nice clean slate, it actually means that we are born into this world perfectly healthy. And everything and every action that we take every day in one way, shape or another, works either to positively maintain or to improve on that health, or in one way, shape or another, to decline it, to reduce the healthiness that we have. One way, shape, or another, that is the situation.

In terms of doing the test they had to, for example, actually bring her into a room, and one of the things they had to do, to try to get her to have the seizure so that they could monitor and do all of the proper tracking, was to put the strobe lights on that continue to flash and the bright flashing lights was one way of invoking seizures.

I give you that, Madam Speaker, to say how many times do we as individuals, especially our children whose minds are so young, malleable and being formed, sit in front of the television with the same flashing that is probably getting 20 frames of flashes every few minutes. How many times do we do that? Something that is deliberately done to invoke seizures is one of the things we introduce our children to on a daily basis, many times for hours. And that is perhaps one of the reasons why they say that even as you watch television you will find that the attention span of children continues to drop and there are issues in terms of their learning capacity in the schools.

So, Madam Speaker, whether we are young children or whether we are adults, every action that we take, bar none—the songs we sing or don't sing, where we walk, talk or what we do, every single thing, one way shape or another—is either going to plateau,

maintain, enhance, improve, or it is going to cause some degeneration in our health. That is a fact.

So, Madam Speaker, when we talk about the Mental Health it is very easy, again, to just parameter that to someone where we say, *Looks as though something is wrong with them, let's go the other way.* But even in this country there is the issue of alcoholism. That is something that has become socially acceptable, but understand that, to me, I believe that yes, we have a choice in our community.

We are not robbing anyone of choice but I think we have an obligation to educate our young persons to understand that when you have that drink/drinks and you start to get that dizzy euphoric feeling, welcomed euphoric feeling, that we now term as drunkenness, the reason you are experiencing that is because at the end of the day you have filled your body with a toxin and poison and your liver has finally reached the point where it can no longer cope competently with the poison in your blood. As a result of that you are now experiencing an obvious acute sense of poisoning that we now refer to as drunkenness.

When we do that, I believe that we get along this conveyor belt, a positive one, that starts to inform our people of the challenges we have with respect to health. And in the same way, that same drinking in one way shape or another is also going to have, not just an effect on our liver . . . I heard a saying "if you want to live a lively life, love your liver." Madam Speaker, it is very important [to know] that it is not just affecting your liver, kidney and your heart, but it also affects the mental capacity.

There are a lot of persons in this country and many countries around the world that are going to experience challenges as we refer to, where it becomes obvious of mental challenges just on the issue of alcohol.

It is nothing different, Madam Speaker, and again we continue and we have to continue to stress that even with respect to every single thing that we eat to make sure that we have a balanced diet, it is necessary to continue to press it, Madam Speaker. It needs to be a situation where in our schools what is it that we are doing to particularly encourage our young children to get into a healthy diet. I will also take that back as well to again the experience with respect to my daughter.

Madam Speaker, there are lots of women who are having children and again what do we do in terms of encouraging them to breastfeed. There was a programme in the United Kingdom where the Government specifically went out to try to encourage those mothers to make sure to breastfeed because it has been statistically proven that chances are that if you are breastfeed, the immunity and health of that child has been tremendously and significantly improved simply because of breastfeeding. What do we do in Cayman? Are we doing the same thing? Are we encouraging mothers to make sure that they themselves

are keeping healthy and that they are breastfeeding the children. Madam Speaker, I believe that every one of those little things that we perhaps and oftentimes take for granted, are things and efforts that we can make to ensure that we can keep a healthy nation.

Madam Speaker, I had the chance when I was also on the talk programme to actually meet with one of the insurance companies. I think it was Generali and how they were actually dealing, not just in terms of insurance with respect to the standard moves that you say you pay your premium and if something happens they actually go ahead and take care of you. But actually taking some preventative steps in terms of trying to ensure that healthy diets were going to be put into our schools.

I take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, just on that programme (which I believe is still ongoing by Generali), to give them kudos as good corporate citizens, players in our community, adding in one way, shape or another, to the health of this country.

So, Madam Speaker, as we look at all of that I would also like to add that in looking at some of the statistics I think when the Minister rose to his feet to make the first presentation he would have stated, if not directly, indirectly, that there were limitations in terms of the statistics that we have because I think he was actually giving some statistics from the United States or the United Kingdom. But, Madam Speaker, having a very quick review, you will see, as I did a few days ago, that the majority of states in the United States were actually somewhere in the position of 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent of the population being affected in one way, shape or another, by a mental illness.

If we took those same numbers and put our population at 55,000 it would probably mean that anywhere between 1,700 to 2,200 persons in this country, are in one way, shape or another, being directly to the point where it is obviously being impacted by some form of mental illness. Those are serious and staggering numbers and I wish to assure you that, again, lots of times, just as we see as we would call our physical health, there could be issues that you and I have right now physically that have simply not come to the surface yet. And it is nothing different because the mind is in the same way. So, whether it gets to the point where someone is saying that it is the Alzheimer that person has and it is obvious, or whether we talk about anxiety or depression where it has reached a position where it is obvious, there are still issues that many of our people are facing and it is very serious.

When the Member for Bodden Town rose and spoke to the cerebral palsy and autism, these are real issues affecting the lives of the individuals who have them, who have that illness, that disease. And, Madam Speaker, I can assure you, it is affecting very much so, their family and friends and the entire community. And when we understand that we have today,

in our capacity as legislators, as parents, ad individuals in this community, the opportunity to be preventative, we have to avoid this impression that this is something where it just falls on someone—it was just bad luck, it was, it was absolutely completely unavoidable, it was purely genetic. Yes, Madam Speaker, they are all of those factors that come into play but in large part, through proper health, proper diet, exercise, a lot of these things can be avoided.

Again, I can show you insofar as my family. There would have been a situation with a third child from every impression the first child would have been what we would term as perfectly fine. By the time you get to the second one you are seeing now perhaps even as the mother's health is deteriorating that that is not obvious, you get to the second child who starts to show symptoms as asthmatic, et cetera. By the time you get to the third child, just as you would get that draining and lightning effect, you will see where the third child comes out with some problems, not obvious in the four months but after four months to a point where it is glaringly obvious.

So, Madam Speaker, health issues, very, very important to me; something I hold dear to my heart and I believe so do many other persons in this country. But I want to encourage all of us as legislators, and, again, those who will return and those who will not return, new Members or otherwise, that insofar as the health of this country, not just to make it an adage, something fancy that we throw around, but understand that a healthy nation is a wealthy one; that there is no greater cost in this world as we would pay physically than when someone has poor health. And that we can start from the very beginning and the very beginning is even when the female and the male gets together and decide that they are going to have a child to even do what they can do to get their health to an optimal position.

And once we do that, then again, every single step . . . and we need to have the programmes and lay it out to help mothers and fathers to avoid some of the issues and challenges, and, again, whether it is going to be breastfeeding, exercise, what should be done, what should not be done. All of things, Madam Speaker, we have an obligation to do to try to make sure that our children are actually healthy.

Madam Speaker, I will add that there are some things that play a role. And again, even with the challenges in respect to my particular child . . . and I continue to mention her because there is someone who is perhaps in a similar circumstance, God forbid hopefully no one just entering into it, Madam Speaker, but it is a reality and hopefully that story will perhaps be a benefit to someone. But it is also an issue of some of these shots and I will mention it because I think some of us are knowledgeable about it. Also, one of the issues up in air that continues to be is

some of these shots that people take. I think it is referred to as a Hep[atitis]-B shot.

Madam Speaker, we had some vaccinations that would take place and arguably you would get one today, one a few weeks or months later and they were staggered, and a lot of those now are being concocted and put into it where you are getting five or six of those shots at one time. And there is a very strong argument that that is a major contributor in terms of many of the illnesses that we are actually seeing right now, physically and mentally as well.

So, for example, when my daughter did become ill, it is a very likely situation where the Hep-B shot would have been a major contributor, if not perhaps the contributor, to that illness. And again I remember hearing a gentleman on Radio Cayman many years ago talking about it statistically, and statistically he said, *Well, yes you are going to have those persons who have challenges*. And when we throw numbers out you know well that if you get these shots, perhaps 1 per cent or 2 per cent of the population will experience problems. It is very easy to throw those percentages out.

But understand that whether it is the United States, United Kingdom, or you are talking about 2, 3, or 4 per cent of the population, it means that at least just on that position there would be 2,200 persons, 2,200 families, lives and the entire community impacted just because of those vaccinations. So, Madam Speaker, many different efforts.

And again, just for the Member for Bodden Town pointing out that is now reported that folic acid, for example, reduces the chance of autism by 40 per cent. And I think he has a 'but' there.

Madam Speaker, just to highlight, in summary, we have a chance and I believe the best medicine, as they say: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." And so I encourage the Minister of Health, those now and in the future, [do] what we can do in terms of programmes in our schools and in our homes to make sure that we are going to encourage our people. Give them the options because we cannot force anyone. But give them the options, lay out the programmes that we can actually as parents, individuals, families, to take proper steps in terms of ensuring that ourselves and our children are going to be healthy. Indeed, Madam Speaker, not just an adage but an utmost reality in sickness, life, and/or in death, a healthy nation is indeed a wealthy nation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I thank you and Members of this honourable House for the opportunity to make that contribution.

The Speaker: Thank you, Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

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

Minister of Community Affairs.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I too rise to give brief comments on the Mental Health Bill, 2013. When we talk about mental health legislation it is largely used in the management of psychiatric disorders, such as dementia or psychosis, and developmental disorders where a person does not possess the ability to act in a legal component manner and requires treatment.

Madam Speaker, I want to say how grateful or proud I am, and how appreciative I am for the Minister of Health sticking with this Bill and bringing it to the House. This has been talked about for many, many years in the Cayman Islands and many ministers of health have tried to solve this problem. Some have put it on the backburner [even though they] knew it was important but thought it was not more important than other stuff that they had to deal with [during their tenure].

So, I am proud to say that with the many things that are happening within the Ministry of Health, that the Minister of Health actually saw it important to bring this Bill forward. Madam Speaker, I can tell you that I was intimately involved in terms of family being in this state. I can only tell you that drug abuse or mentally challenged persons are the number one cause of persons being sent overseas from the Cayman Islands to other jurisdictions.

On a number of occasions I've travelled to Jamaica, which is one of the main places that they actually send these persons. I have visited the homes there where the Cayman Islands Government sent those patients, in Red Hills, Jamaica, and in the Central Kingston facility also, [that falls] under the very capable hands of Dr. Abel. And this is not a place that you will find the population in Cayman travelling to Jamaica to visit these homes. Some people have family members there and do not visit them. Some have friends and they do not visit them also. I know because when I go there they talk to me and I sit and individually talk to every one of them, because I understood and appreciated that challenge that they had at the time.

Madam Speaker, I had a family member up there. And as I would visit and sometimes carry gifts for most of them (this was even before I go elected), when I sat with each one of them, I can tell you without a doubt, Madam Speaker, that most of them, their number one concern, other than if I had seen their family and would I take a message back to their family, was, *When are you all going to bring us back home?* And that was the number one thing, Madam Speaker.

The first time I attended one of these homes, I can tell you it was my first experience with something like that because there was not only Caymanians there, there were persons from other Caribbean Islands and persons from Jamaica and everywhere

else. It was a bit challenging for me at first, but I quickly got used to it as my family and I kept going back to visit my family and other members there. And they wanted to know. They said, *Look, the Government promised us that they were going to build this place and it is not built yet.* I could only promise them that I would check on it when I got back to Cayman to see what was going on. And every time when I checked on it, I kept hearing, *we're working on it.*

Madam Speaker, at times, it seems that we as a Government, as a country, were happy just getting rid of the problem by sending it overseas in the care of a home. And it almost seems as though we were very happy with that position at times. I can say that my father died overseas at one of these cares, and there were many who thought that he should have been home to die in his homeland. And I can tell you that that was very disheartening for me, that I was not able to . . . well, that very week I was going to bring him home and he died two days before his birthday, and three days before I was going to bring him home. I still have his clothes that he had bought which he had taken out to wear home.

I say that to say, Madam Speaker, that I am very happy that the Minister of Health stuck with this. On Friday I thought I had lost my opportunity to get up and say a few words about this situation, which is very near and dear to me, and understand the magnitude and appreciate what is going on. And for anyone out there who has family up there, to visit them and find out what is going on there because, you know, sometimes there are things that happen in these homes that are not what you want happening to your family member.

I relate to the Fourth Elected Member for George Town with his personal situation. I too assisted him, my spouse and myself at the time, with a situation that helped. So, I understand and appreciate very much and know what people go through thinking about if they did not have that situation to deal with. It was very special to me when the Fourth Elected Member for George Town said to me about the 1 per cent and 2 per cent, but when that 1 and 2 per cent actually falls on your own doorstep it becomes very real, Madam Speaker.

So, I want to say, Madam Speaker, that whether it is our juveniles, or our mentally challenged, or physically challenged being sent overseas, I have the same position—they should be here with us in the Cayman Islands. We are purported to be one of the richest Caribbean nations, and we need to ensure that these facilities are built to ensure that our juveniles . . . if most people think that the Cayman Islands is the best place in the world, then I think the best place in the world for these people to recover must be in the Cayman Islands—whether it be the juvenile or the adult mentally challenged.

I definitely want to again thank the Minister of Health for sticking with this Bill and bringing this to the House and I hope that he gets all the support from the Members of the House.

Again, thank you. God Bless!

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

If not, I call on the Minister of Health to make his concluding remarks in this debate.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Madam Speaker, thank you and thank all Members who spoke, and those who did not for their silent support.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of brevity in recognition of the Order Paper today I will make my closing remarks brief.

Madam Speaker, I wanted to mention thanks to the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, Honourable Deputy Speaker, as well. And I also wanted to extend gratitude to the Member for North Side who also contributed to working on this mental health issue in his time as the Minister of Health. This just speaks to the length of time that work has been going on, on this matter, and so it makes me even more proud as the current Minister of Health to be tabling this legislation today and obviously find the support from the Members of the House.

Madam Speaker, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town spoke briefly to being able to bring our patients home. Obviously, passing legislation like this does a lot in terms of their care and their rights and those sorts of things that can make improvements in that realm. But, Madam Speaker, ultimately it will be when we do have a facility. And there have been discussions ongoing for some time now with a private group with a view to them building a facility here where they would partner with Government in terms of the patients that Government has overseas because Government does have a number of patients sometimes anywhere from 12 to 15, 16 patients overseas at any one point, first and foremost at significant cost but also of those patients being away from their family members.

We know that being close to family members, especially with mental illness, can be certainly beneficial in terms of the healing process and care and so on. So, we look forward to that discussion continuing with that group to be able to, in the very near future, I would hope, for them to say that they are going to be able to build this facility here and be able to take care of some of our patients.

Madam Speaker, the Second Elected Member [of Bodden Town] spoke about conditions like cerebral palsy and autism and so on. And yes, I want to com-

mend the Minister of Education for the work that has been going on, certainly in terms of the assessments and looking at some of our children in the education system that do fall within that autism spectrum disorder. And, Madam Speaker, obviously, following all of these assessments and so on, the next step from there is how we facilitate programmes and so on to be able to help these youngsters, these children.

Madam Speaker, I can say again that there have been discussions going on between the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and one of the advocacy groups for autism. Ultimately, it is going to come down to being able to fund these programmes, and there are obviously discussions again (as are going on in other countries as well) whether coverage for autism treatment and other such issues should be covered under health insurance. We are having that discussion here as well. But one of the main things we want to do, as well, is to quantify the problems here. Because another way to look at it in our small jurisdiction would be for additional resources to be placed within the Education system to address it. Obviously, in austere times that is going to be difficult, but that is a discussion that is ongoing, I believe, Madam Speaker.

The Second Elected Member [for Bodden Town] spoke about dual diagnosis in terms of mental illness, drug abuse. I just wanted to add one point to that, that sometimes the addiction to drugs is not a voluntary thing. Sometimes it happens when persons become addicted to prescription drugs and then that leads on to mental issues as well.

The Fourth Elected Member [for George Town] talked about no topic greater than health and the stigma of mental health, and so on, and health being crucial. And the point he made about nothing costs us more than being unhealthy. And, Madam Speaker, I think that while this discussion is about mental health, health in general, we have to shift our culture, the thinking in the country and elsewhere, from this notion about sickness care because we really do not focus on healthcare at this point, we focus on sickness care because we only take care of people when they show up at the hospital. That is what we need to shift that focus away from, to healthcare, which is being proactive, preventative, knowing your numbers, being much more healthy and ultimately that is what is going to be what saves the cost of healthcare because healthcare is rising everywhere in the world.

I just had the chance to watch last night and would encourage Members if they get a chance, to watch a video documentary called "Escape Fire." There is a website "escapefire.com" where I think they can download the video there. But if you have the chance, watch that video, Madam Speaker. It is about the American healthcare system and you can draw the similarities healthcare system and our as well. But it is certainly heading for a catastrophe in the US in

terms of cost. They are spending \$2.7 trillion per year now on healthcare and increasing it every year.

The Fourth Elected Member [for George Town] spoke about the stigma and how we can break that stigma in educating and enlightening. And, you know some of the stigmas associated with mental health are that those persons are violent that they can't live and work side by side in our society. Madam Speaker, we know that with the proper care and treatment persons can function properly, can make positive contributions to society and can reduce the stigma. And with that treatment and care we can live and work side by side with persons with mental illness in our society. And that is what we have to continue to focus on.

In saying that, Madam Speaker, we remember that one of the best measures of a moral and effective society is how we treat our most vulnerable members. And so I think this law goes a long way in ensuring that those persons in our community with mental illness are going to be treated much better. As I said before, the other solution is going to be a care facility here on the Islands. But the law goes a long way and it much needed after some 20 to 30 years of the existing law.

So, again, Madam Speaker, I thank all honourable Members for their support. And again, thank everyone who contributed to the Mental Law, the Mental Health Commission Bill being put together, and as I said, I'm very proud to be able to table this Bill today in this honourable House and look forward to support from everyone.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Health.

The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Mental Health Bill, 2013, be given a second reading. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Mental Health Bill, 2013, given a second reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 46(4)

Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 46(4) to enable the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, and the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to be read a second time.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 46(4) be suspended to enable the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, and the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, to be read a second time.

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

Ayes and one audible No [*Mr. D. Ezzard Miller*]

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 46(4) suspended.

SECOND READING

Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor:
Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled, The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor:
Yes, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, the Bill before this honourable House is a result of a ¹Private Member's Motion that was successfully brought to the House by the Fourth Elected Member for George Town in September last year. The Motion read as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Government consider establishing a Committee to recommend categories of positions of types of employment that should be designated as 'Caymanian only.'"

Madam Speaker, the Government has done much work to progress the Motion, and I would like to give particular recognition to the Minister of Education who worked along with us, the Immigration Department and the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs, in getting this Bill ready, and also the team from Legal Drafting who all worked very hard to get the Bill here today.

Madam Speaker, the Bill seeks to amend the Immigration Law to include restricted areas of employment and empowers Cabinet to designate certain professions, trades, businesses, occupations, vocations and types of employment as restricted areas of employment for Caymanians. That is in clause 2 of the Bill.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also empowers the Immigration Board and the Chief Immigration Officer, on a limited basis, to grant work permits in a restricted area. However, those granting of work permits shall be restricted by a quota which is fixed by Cabinet.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also carves out certain categories of workers who are exempt from working in the restricted area, and these workers are contained in clause 3(2) of the Bill and I will just briefly read those out.

Clause 3(2) says: **"No person shall carry on gainful occupation in the Islands, in respect of any restricted area of employment, unless—**

"(a) he is a Caymanian;

"(b) at the date of commencement of the Immigration (Amendment) Law, 2013, he is a key employee in the restricted area of employment."

That means that persons who are key employees can continue to work in those areas.

"(c) he has acquired permanent residence with a right to work under this or any earlier Law;

"(d) he has acquired the right to remain and to work in the Islands as a result of the issue of a Residency and Employment Rights Certificate;

"(e) he is the parent of a Caymanian under the age of eighteen;

"(f) he is the holder of a work permit issued under section 31(7) or issued in accordance with a quota fixed by the Governor under section 46A(2);

"(g) he is a person whose employment under a temporary work permit is, in the opinion of the Chief Immigration Officer, justified due to exceptional circumstances; or

"(h) he is a person whose employment (otherwise than under a temporary work permit) is, in the opinion of the Work Permit Board, the Business Staffing Plan Board or the Cayman Brac and Little Cayman Immigration Board, justified due to exceptional circumstances."

Finally, Madam Speaker, the Bill has provided important transitional provisions set out to allow certain work permit holders to continue to hold work permits, notwithstanding that they may be working in a restricted area of employment, and to allow applications for work permits that have been submitted to the Immigration Department prior to this Bill becoming law, to be dealt with using the law that was in effect immediately before that date. And that is set out in clause 3(1) of the Bill.

Madam Speaker, protecting jobs for Caymanians, in reality is not a new concept. For many years the governments through policy consideration have protected jobs for inexperienced lawyers, in that the Immigration Board will not grant work permits to non-nationals who do not possess three years' post qualification experience. That means that lawyers are coming out of the Cayman Islands Law School have some realistic good protection in that they are not competing with inexperienced lawyers from other jurisdictions. Also, our Constitution mandates that both the

¹ Private Member's Motion No. 2/2010-11 "Caymanian Only Positions", passed on 15 September 2010.

post of Deputy Governor and Cabinet Secretary must be held by a Caymanian.

Madam Speaker, this Bill simply seeks to enshrine similar protection for Caymanians in legislation. I know that some Members may say that the protection afforded by this Bill is not needed and we simply need to enforce the provisions of the Immigration Law which states that work permits should not be granted unless it has been proven that every effort has been made to employ a suitably qualified Caymanian.

Madam Speaker, in response, I wish to give three numbers that I would like Members to be aware of. Those numbers are 20,396; 4,352; and 672. I am sure Members will recognise the first number, 20,396 as the number of work permits that are in effect. Members might not be familiar with the next two numbers which are very instructive—4,352 represents the number of work permits that have been refused by the Immigration Boards and the Chief Immigration Officer in the last two years. Let me just say that again—4,352 represents the number of work permits that have been refused in the last two years.

And 672 represent the number of work permits that have been refused on the grounds of Caymanians being available. So 672 of those 4,352 work permits have been refused because the boards felt that Caymanians were available. So, Madam Speaker, I believe that those numbers indicate that the Immigration Law is being enforced. Yet we know that Caymanians remain unemployed and with large numbers.

Madam Speaker, in these austere times where jobs are hard to come by, this Bill provides real opportunities for Caymanians. And, Madam Speaker, I want to make it clear that all the Government can do, and is doing, is to provide opportunities and protection for its people. Caymanians must continue to equip themselves to obtain jobs and demonstrate an excellent work ethic and a positive attitude that invites their employment.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also provides a high degree of flexibility in that it protects employers as well. Madam Speaker, the Government accepts that there will be need for non-nationals to work in a restricted area, but as previously mentioned this will be regulated by a quota. So, employers are protected by this Bill as well and there is nothing for them to worry about, that all of a sudden they are not going to be able to employ persons who are capable of, or they need to have in their business. Madam Speaker, I believe this is critical to the success and intentions of the Bill because businesses must be allowed to grow and recruit the talent they require and this will generate jobs for even more Caymanians.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also allows the Chief Immigration Officer to grant temporary work permits in the restricted area which is an added protection for employers. So, once this Bill becomes law and Cabinet designates the jobs restricted for Caymanians,

Caymanians qualified for the restricted jobs can apply for these jobs, safe in the knowledge that they will be employed. And, Madam Speaker, if they are not employed the immigration boards will have added powers to ensure that non-Caymanians do not take away jobs from qualified Caymanians.

Madam Speaker, in listening to some of the concerns that have already been raised, the Government has agreed to a committee stage amendment which requires the involvement of this House in designating the restricted areas of employment which, again, will promote accountability and transparency.

Madam Speaker, given the spirit and intention of the Bill, the protection afforded to both Caymanians and employers and the potential to inspire and protect Caymanians for generations to come, I submit this Bill to honourable Members and respectfully seek their support.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon: Madam Speaker, as I was able to say last week, it is indeed a good day today again because here is another motion that I brought; this one just perhaps one (I call a qualification rather than correction), September 2010, Madam Speaker. I think that shows us that things in government take time but with some hard work and perseverance we can indeed persevere, and here we are 2013, the year of our Lord, and we have this Immigration (Amendment) Bill. And, Madam Speaker, I hope that it will reach the consent of this honourable House, even though I know, as the Deputy Governor has pointed out, that there are persons obviously who have issues and challenges with it.

Madam Speaker, I believe that those who are objecting, be it tacit or expressed . . . and we are going to infer that those concerns are legitimate concerns, and so we proceed on that basis. The Member talked about the different numbers in terms of permit and what immigration is doing and what they are not doing. But, Madam Speaker—and not that it should be required, but let me just state for the record that anyone who goes on the Internet and googles, as we so often do, will find that the First World countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States also have specific jobs that they have categorised for their nationals only, particularly when it comes to the Government.

But what never ceases to amaze me, Madam Speaker, is that in this country we can pay a lot of lip service about everything in this country belongs to Caymanians, but the moment you dare raise your ugly

head to actually give something to a Caymanian, then we are bobbing and weaving and coming with some legitimate reason (as we would term it), why it cannot happen. It almost seems like it is inversely proportionate that if you give something to a Caymanian you are robbing from somebody else and, therefore, the economy is going to collapse.

Just the other day in this honourable House we created the Notary Public Law, which is going to make it that if you are a Caymanian, and I am going to say inclusively so—PR status, born Caymanian—if you are a Caymanian you are going to be a notary public, Madam Speaker. Tell me if we are in a position now in this country that we cannot find 500 Caymanians to be a notary public. So, then tell me when anyone on this side or on the other side are going to stand to their honourable feet and relate now how we are going to destroy the country because we have now made it that notary publics have to be Caymanians only.

I want them to stand to their feet and tell me how the economy is going to be wrecked because we are now going to give a Caymanian now, who in Hong Kong today, with the sunset where it is dark in Hong Kong now, can rise tomorrow knowing that he has place to play in that firm. Because not only did he have a place to play before, but now he or she knows that they alone can be a notary public and, if for no other reason that firm is going to maintain their services as a notary public because they have to be a Caymanian.

That's what is happening right now for the gentleman or the lady who is sitting Hong Kong, Ireland, wherever it is that we have visited just over the last four years, that's happening today across the seas, across the pond and happening right here in this country because we were brave enough to not give promises that we have been hearing for four or five decades but because we are actually delivering, Madam Speaker.

Everything in the country belongs to Caymanians. Cayman Airways belongs to Caymanians. And yet nobody owns a share! But everybody pays the bill. Everything belongs to Caymanians, but the moment you say, *By the way, I would like to give this to a Caymanian*, there is objection under the false pretense of legitimate objections, Madam Speaker, because the world is not going to come to an end. If there should no doubt, Madam Speaker, the United Democratic Party has been one of a good open immigration policy understanding the need and the requirements to be able to have transient workers. Surely, no one should rob us of that.

But, Madam Speaker, if we are building this country and cannot give something to Caymanians, then what are we building the country for? Who are we building the country for? And that is Caymanian, Madam Speaker, by birth. That is Caymanian who we

have made Caymanians. They are Caymanians and they deserve to be able to say, that if you are going to be the Deputy Governor, you have to be a Caymanian.

Has the world come to an end? Has competition ceased to exist because we made Deputy Governor a position for Caymanians only? Some of the same hypocrites in here are some of the same ones who would have made Deputy Governor for Caymanians. And what are we doing now? Are you going to tell me that good gentleman sitting across the aisle from West Bay is not competent? Has he somehow or another diluted and disgraced this country due to a lack of expertise and knowledge? No, Madam Speaker, he is a good Deputy Governor. And not to let the sun set on those who have passed, Madam Speaker, but we have a good Deputy Governor.

You know what it proves, Madam Speaker? That when we made that position of Deputy Governor for Caymanians only, it did not rob us of competition and it did not rob us of the expertise, and it did not rob us of the quality of persons we can put to hold that office. So, you are telling me now that the only way we can have a proper Deputy Governor is to leave it open? That anyone can come and be the Deputy Governor?

No, Madam Speaker. No!

We believe therefore as a country, that we must have confidence in ourselves.

Madam Speaker, listen to me. You have people, not just in Cayman but we are going to expound. We speak about what we know best. People will go to a supermarket and the groceries cost \$90. They give \$100 and somehow or another, wittingly or unwittingly, the person does not give them back the proper change, takes the \$100. And do you know, Madam Speaker, you have people who are afraid to say, *Excuse me, I gave you \$100, the groceries cost \$90 and I need \$10 change*. You have that, Madam Speaker. Somehow, some shape, somehow, Madam Speaker, we have to be bold enough to ask for what is rightfully ours. We are not asking for someone to give us change that we do not deserve, we are asking for the \$10 change that we deserve. So, we as elected officials should know what it is to have a job as well for Caymanians only.

Can a person come off of a plane or a boat and just become an elected official in the Cayman Islands? No, Madam Speaker! For you to become an elected official in this country (and quite rightfully so), you have to be a Caymanian. And don't tell me now we rob the competition. Every day when I open the newspaper there is someone new who is running. They are full of expertise, knowledgeable persons, young persons, middle age, older persons, Madam Speaker; so no shortage of supply for the post. The 15 soon-to-be-18—no shortage in terms of numbers,

quantity, and quality of persons who are running for Office.

So, let those who wish to stand to their feet today, and lament, Madam Speaker, that the world will end on this legislation, bring some substance, because just the very fact that we are elected officials . . . and in order to be an elected official is a post for Caymanians only. What is it? A post for Caymanians only, has shown us there is no shortage in supply and no shortage in the quality. And I believe that that is not only in the Election for 2013, but in all of the many years to come as long as God gives us grace to survive in this country, that is going to be the position.

We have departments in government. The Fire Department, I dare say, Madam Speaker, has to be pretty much all Caymanians only. Customs is arguably all Caymanians only. And, Madam Speaker, has the world come to an end? Can we not out a fire? Are we in a position that we have been unable then to clear the goods that have to come into the country, the department that makes the largest revenue for the government? No, Madam Speaker, we have done it and we have done so competently.

I am looking right now at the Treasurer—Caymanian! Deputy Governor—Caymanian! So, what is going to happen, Madam Speaker, when we are now perhaps bold enough to say the Chief Immigration Officer should be a Caymanian only? Is that going to make the world come to an end? I don't think so, Madam Speaker.

So, this legislation, Madam Speaker, seeks, not as some would try to sell it, that all of a sudden the group, the individual, the party that has been known to be so liberal, has now put something in the works that is going to bring this country to a grinding halt. That is not the case. But we are saying, promises, promises, promises, Madam Speaker. Promises are a comfort to a fool.

In this country with a population (and not a working population) of 50,000 plus . . . the Member talked about 20,396 work permits and 4,352 were refused, and 672 were refused on the position that there were Caymanians only. Do the math on that. And what the Member does not mention also are the hundreds, the thousands . . . which some of the same Members who object are the ones who are going to talk about unemployment all through the campaign until 11.59 and 59 seconds on May 21st. They are going to talk about unemployment but the hundreds and the thousands who are unemployed . . . where is it, Madam Speaker? Promises, promises. What? Promise is comfort to a fool, Madam Speaker.

I see no problem, and then clearly, by extension, the Government sees no problem in making a notary public in this country a job for a Caymanian only—be it PR status or born Caymanian, Madam Speaker. And see? No issue, no challenges, nothing wrong with perhaps tomorrow naming within our public service, particularly within our public service. And

surely it should not be so sad that we have to go to the United Kingdom, to jolly old London, just to hear them say to us, *Oh yes, we have jobs for the British only*. It should not be that we have to go there and hear it from them to say, *Well if they can do it, we can do it too*.

We should not have to go to the United States to hear them say it there either. But if we do, Madam Speaker, we will find the same thing, particularly within our public service.

So, Madam Speaker, let there be no doubt that in terms of jobs for Caymanians only . . . and I will stress, you don't hear any objections now to certain jobs that cannot be for Caymanians only. You don't hear that. Governor cannot be a job for Caymanians. Cannot! I sat here for four years and I did not hear anyone complain about it. Commissioner of Police . . . go right down the list.

What about the Auditor General? Name it! Never hear a gripe. Not a whimper. They are all hidden somewhere. You don't hear any griping about that because, Madam Speaker, so it is. So it is with those who have been inculcated with that imperial curriculum. We accept that! We accept that! No problem! But how dare we stand here in this honourable House and to say that we believe that a Chief Immigration Officer in this country is a position, one that is of such importance to us, that somehow or another we are of some belief that that particular post would be best served by a Caymanian who is qualified and has the expertise? How dare we say it.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that it is time that we have the strength inside of us to actually say that. And, Madam Speaker, I will stress again: This is not, as the Deputy Governor has highlighted, a case (as some I am sure will conveniently try to propagate) that this means you can never get a work permit in this country. Madam Speaker, I can assure you, as long as perhaps this country exists, you are going to be having work permits. We are talking about, arguably, 75 per cent. And I look to the Deputy Governor, 75 per cent of the workforce is foreign nationals.

So, Madam Speaker, we are a welcoming country. Let that not be in any way at all misrepresented, misconstrued or otherwise. And so it should be, Madam Speaker. So it should be. There always needs to be an appreciation for the transient worker, and many of those transient workers who in turn go on to become Caymanians in this country. Many have come and made their contribution and left. Many have come and made their contribution and stayed, and [were] welcome to stay. But even they themselves now have the ability, the right, to call themselves a Caymanian.

And in the same way, Madam Speaker, as long as that, by pain or plane, if you can call yourself a Caymanian, that particular position we say belongs to a Caymanian only. And the necessary provisions taken, that if that post is now presently filled by another

national, Madam Speaker, no one is saying that you have to give them the boot. No! There are provisions to allow that to happen. If there is not a Caymanian available for the job, then they can maintain the job. And no one is saying that you are going to go out tomorrow and every single category of worker in the country is now going to be classified for Caymanians only, Madam Speaker.

If there is any such amendment in this House that is not that sensible or so insensible, then perhaps we can deal with them in 2013 on May 22nd. I don't think that is going to happen. But surely we recognise . . . how many times have we heard it in this honourable House? We hear them say, *What? They got somebody in that job, come on, they can't find a Caymanian for that job?* Madam Speaker, have we not heard that in this honourable House? How many times have we heard that? *You tell me you can't find a Caymanian for that job?* That's what they say.

But, Madam Speaker, there comes some point in time [where] there is no longer just lip service and say, *Surely we can find a Caymanian for the job*, and actually at the end of the day, put good rubber to the road and be able to say, *We now have a schedule. We now have a list.* And again, with even further amendments to make it that it has to be ratified by this honourable House so that even if we do not have confidence in one, two, five, six, seven Members of Cabinet and whoever it is sitting on their backbench, even if we don't have enough confidence in them to make the decision, that they have to come to the entire House, the 18 Members to have it ratified, Madam Speaker, surely, if we do not have confidence in anyone else, have confidence in ourselves.

So, Madam Speaker, again, going to great lengths to make sure that we can do what we can to mitigate, reduce, and eliminate all of those evils and risks that we feel that we may incur by this, we've done that. And so, Madam Speaker, we are going to hope that what we have here now, in March 2013, are good brave soldiers, good brave men and women that are no longer willing to just pay lip service to—*My goodness, they couldn't find a Caymanian for that?* The Promise, Madam Speaker, that this belongs to you, that belongs you, time now to fulfill on the promise; time now to stop paying lip service and time to actually vote.

I hear a Member behind me eager to vote, Madam Speaker.

So, Madam Speaker, when we look at all of the permit numbers, when we look at the positions that already exist today, Deputy Governor and no more further so than elected Members. We have to go no further than that. If we believe as 15 (soon to be 18) elected Members in this House that it is correct that in order for you to be an elected Member in this honourable House you should be a Caymanian, then I am going to encourage us, challenge us to see and

find no fault in the creation of the schedule for the Cabinet to be able to list, and for this honourable House to be able to ratify, give their stamp of approval for when we find a category of employment that we believe we have sufficient numbers.

We believe that at the end of the day we have sufficient expertise to be able to satisfy that and to label it as a job for Caymanian only without and with the provisions, Madam Speaker, knowing that if, for whatever reason there is a variance in that and we actually have to have anyone in that position, those provisions are there to take care of it.

So, with that, Madam Speaker, I keep it short. I am going to sit and hear. Hopefully, the amendment that has been made as well, particularly that (I make reference to the ratification of this honourable House) will meet the approval of everyone, both sides of the House, and that we today can actually put in place a piece of legislation that finally starts on that journey of 1,000 miles that begins with the first step. Start now, Madam Speaker, to hand out, finally, a little bit of delivery on the promise that I am pretty sure many Members in this House for 8, 12, 16, 20 years, that we have all made promises of. It is time now to deliver.

If we can do it with notary public if we can do it with the Deputy Governor, if we can do it with the Cabinet Secretary, and if we can do it for the 18 Members in this House, I believe we can do it when and if necessary, Madam Speaker, the categorisation of certain particular jobs and profession for Caymanians only.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to make this contribution, and applaud all of those who have in one way shape or another played an instrumental role in helping to bring this legislation to this honourable House despite the fact that the motion came from September 2010. Things take time but we are here today. And I hope, Madam Speaker, that I can also thank Members in this honourable House having it approved today.

The Speaker: Thank you, Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would like to make a short contribution to this Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which I regard as nothing more than unnecessary political window dressing.

Madam Speaker, this is a blank cheque to incoming politicians in any future Government. I am convinced that the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, after listening to his speech, did not read the Bill that he was discussing because there is nothing in this that specifies anything. All this does is create whatever future politicians want it to be. There are no criteria in the law that set benchmarks, that set stand-

ards of any sort that have to be met for these restrictions to be placed on any profession, trade, business, occupation, vocation or type of employment to be designated by the Governor.

Madam Speaker, why is this Bill unnecessary? Because the current Immigration Law contains all of the criteria that is needed to ensure that Caymanians get the jobs in this country that they are qualified for. What we do not have is the political will to appoint boards that are willing to enforce the existing legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am not overly impressed with the fact that the Immigration Board has refused 4,352 permits. They could all be based on the character of the applicant. Nothing to do with the job at all or whether a Caymanian got the job after the work permit was refused. Because it does not say that a work permit was not granted to that company for an employee in that capacity. What it says is that 4,352 permits had been denied by the Immigration Board. And that is less than 20 per cent refusal rate.

Madam Speaker, we know that we enjoy a terrible sin that no other country in the world enjoys, and that is greater than 60 per cent overemployment. Yet, because the political will does not exist to appoint a board to turn down permits and give Caymanians the job, we have thousands of Caymanians unemployed today as we speak in this honourable House. And it is not that those people are of any one particular category, they are completely across the spectrum—from CEOs right on down to gardeners and housekeepers and caregivers—because we do not have the political will to appoint boards that will enforce the existing law.

Madam Speaker, you know we can go into any university or library anywhere in the world and we can find whole rooms, if not shelves, of textbooks on economics that talk about the difficulties of unemployment, the social consequences thereof, the damage to the work ethic, or, the improvement in the work ethic, because you have to be very competitive to get a job, and if you get it, to keep it. But you will not find anything on overemployment because every economist believes that that is Utopia and every politician believes that that is Utopia.

Well, I believe a quick review of any kind of cursory study of the employment social situation in Cayman will indicate that overemployment is not Utopia at all. It carries with it some very serious social consequences and some very serious effects on your work ethic, particularly when people can simply hop from job, to job, to job, because of the overemployment situation. So, you do not have an opportunity to train, mentor or develop them properly.

Madam Speaker, we have a capitalist society, free market. The only product that I know that exists or has ever existed in a capitalist society and free market world that is in high demand, short supply and has no value, is qualified Caymanian labour. Why?

Because we politicians successfully devalue the value of Caymanian labour by issuing work permits. Therefore, there is no competition to hire the qualified Caymanian. Oh, there are a couple of them that will do what I call “hire the CUFs” (Caymanians up front) so that they can tell the receptive Immigration Board that they have a couple of Caymanians in high positions and therefore they need 5,000 permits—and they get them.

So, Madam Speaker, if this Bill was in any way definitive in what it was trying to achieve, I might have considered support. But there is no criterion in this. There is no benchmark as to what point, how many Caymanians need to be qualified as accountants, for instance, before the Government is going to make that a profession for which work permits cannot issued. And the sad part about that is even after they designate them there are ways to undermine the very designation that they are making, because they put it on a quota system. They can change the quota! They can take the profession back off if they get the right lobbying. Madam Speaker, Caymanians need not fear that politicians are not lobbied to get legislation that these people want in place to continue to deprive Caymanians from equal opportunities.

Madam Speaker, this may sound good you know. This is one of those feel-good pieces of legislation for the upcoming election. And no doubt people are going to say, *Well, Ezzard has always been for Caymanians but here is an opportunity to support legislation, and he is not doing it.* Madam Speaker, this legislation is going to have zero effect. If we put accountants on we can employ people by temporary permits if in the opinion of the Chief Immigration Officer it is justified to do so, or if there are exceptional circumstances.

Zilch! Zero! It is not worth the paper it is written on.

He is a person whose employment, otherwise than on a temporary work permit is, in the opinion of the Work Permit Board, the Business Staffing Plan Board or the Cayman Brac and Little Cayman Immigration Board, *justified* in exceptional circumstances. Trust me, Madam Speaker. Those employers who do not wish to employ Caymanians—and there are many of them—will easily find these exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional circumstances is not even defined in clause 2 of the Bill. It is the total whim and fancy of the people allowing the exceptional circumstances. Is it that no Caymanian can be found for the job? It is not here. That’s not what it says. It is simply political window dressing. And, Madam Speaker, once again, in my view, Caymanians are being hoodwinked.

The Immigration Law now says that all jobs in the Cayman Islands belong to Caymanians; it is only if you cannot find a Caymanian to do the job that you are entitled to apply for a work permit! The Law even still allows the board to refuse the permit, even in that

circumstance. But are we saying (in my view as we should be saying) that the boards must enforce the law? No, Madam Speaker. We are doing what we have done for the last four years; we are trying to find ways around doing what is right for Caymanians.

Madam Speaker, the principal law is amended by inserting after section 46 the following section: “[46A] **Restricted areas of employment: The Governor may, by Order, designate certain professions, trades, businesses, occupations, vocations and types of employment, as restricted areas of employment for the purposes of section 41(2) . . .**” Not a single category is listed!

Subsection (2) says: “**The Work Permit Board, the Business Staffing Plan Board or the Cayman Brac and Little Cayman Immigration Board, as the case may be, shall in respect of restricted areas of employment, grant or renew work permits in accordance with a quota to be fixed by the Governor, to which quota shall be gazetted.**”

Of course, Madam Speaker, they can change that monthly. They can even change it in between because they can issue extraordinary and special gazettes to change it. All they need is a lobby from somebody to increase it to allow them to get their special person to work. We know that is what happens now.

Madam Speaker, with all the years, with all the statistics that we have, with all the persons that we have away on educational scholarships being trained for various professions and jobs, you would think, if we were serious about this, that we would at least look and say (and I will still continue to use accountants as one example. I don't know what the full number is), for instance, if we have 2,000 accountants on a work permit and we know that 250 Caymanians are qualifying over the summer as accountants, the quota would say that next year we are only going to issue 2,000 minus the 250. And the next year is going to be further reduced by the number of Caymanians who are qualified. No, Madam Speaker, we dare not be so brave. But, from my position, that is the kind of substance that we need to put into the law if we are serious.

However, if we want to make people believe that we are doing something when we are not really doing anything to help them, we draft the law like this and say that somewhere in the future somebody is going to say well, the country only needs 100 accountants. Because there is nothing in this that says that that quota must be related to existing permits or otherwise, you know; or that actual jobs which are in the country, or jobs that are likely to be created, or that it is going to be reduced by the number of jobs that Caymanians are going to qualify for. None of that is in here.

Madam Speaker, I know that we have the technocrats in government to make those kinds of

projections. But I would bet my dollars against your doughnuts that the Deputy Governor could not bring that kind of legislation here today and get it passed. I would support it. I would vote for it, because, Madam Speaker, it is time—it is time—to stop fooling Caymanians. Stop making Caymanians believe that we are looking out for their best interests with this kind of legislation.

Madam Speaker, we could even go further because we could go up to the high school . . . and we heard the numbers given out by the Minister of Education recently on the great success story that we are having. But how many of those people are being head-hunted by people who have permits? The most criminal thing, the most insulting thing I should say, that a Caymanian could do, is to go around to some of these law firms and accounting firms and banks and produce a good CV and actually be asked an interview. They tell them to leave it with the clerk at the front desk. Right!

And, Madam Speaker, we know from the public discussion and the statements made at the opening of the Grand Court that the attorneys have taken it . . . well, not one step, s-e-v-e-r-a-l steps—almost as big as that one that Armstrong took on the Moon—beyond that, in that they are recruiting non-Caymanians and holding them out in the international environment under their employment to be qualified as Caymanians, while we have some 30-plus Caymanians who have finished all of their academic requirements but cannot get articulated locally because the law firms cannot afford to articulate them. And, Madam Speaker, these people are not going in there . . . or they should not be going in there to just do filing.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: They should be contributing to the productivity of the firm. And if they are not doing that they are not being articulated properly.

And, as my good friend, the Member for East End, said recently, in the final analysis they go down to the Court House, they put a black robe on them, put a grey wig on them, they get up there before the world and the court says, *This is a Caymanian whom we certify is qualified to practice law, is a fit and proper person of character to be an attorney in this country* and they go back to the office and tell them they do not have any job for them. And they go to the Immigration Board the next week and get a couple of permits again. And every one of them who does that to a Caymanian has hundreds of permits already.

But is this Bill related to attorney work permits as to how many Caymanians are qualifying and how many permits are going to be refused?

Madam Speaker, we did not have this problem in the 70s, 80s and 90s, because the economy grew enough each year that we could absorb all of the

qualified Caymanians and still import people. And we got used to that. But even now today, when the company has not grown that it can accommodate the qualified Caymanian, we do not turn down the permits to give the opportunity to the Caymanians. And putting them in these categories, as this [Bill] does, with no teeth, no standards, no criteria, is a total exercise in futility.

Madam Speaker, in the present form I will not be supporting the legislation. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for North Side.

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

Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, I have listened carefully to the presentation of the Bill by the Honourable Deputy Governor, and to the speech in support of the Bill by the Fourth Elected Member for George Town. I have also listened just now to what the Elected Member for North Side had to say. Madam Speaker, many of the concerns which the Elected Member for North Side has identified are concerns which I, too, have.

I know what season it is, and I have listened to the rhetoric and the passion with which the Fourth Elected Member for George Town supported the Bill. But I also listened very carefully to see if he would identify even one category of employment in this country which he thinks we are capable of restricting to Caymanians only. In a speech that lasted more than half an hour, he did not identify one single job, profession, vocation, or type of employment, which he believes we should be restricting to only Caymanian employment. He provided a number of examples of particular positions, posts which are by Constitution or otherwise restricted to Caymanians (the Deputy Governor post being one, the offices in this honourable House being another), but that is not what this Bill is about.

I share the concern of the Elected Member for North Side about what he called window dressing. I believe it is much worse than that. I believe going down this road is engaging this House in self-deception about what it is that this Bill is actually going to be able to do. And it is going to create (and perhaps that is the objective) in the minds of many people out there, particularly young people who are unemployed, that somehow this is going to help them secure jobs.

Unemployment among young people between the ages of 16 and 30 is at about 21 per cent in this country. It is a huge issue when the national average is only about 7 per cent. It is a huge issue.

I heard the Fourth Elected Member talking about four years late. He has been in Government for four years—not me. Not me! I want him, and the ad-

ministration that is bringing this Bill, to say what they have done over the course of the last four years to improve the lot of young people in this country. Why did he not acknowledge, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, this issue of unemployment of young Caymanians when he got up to speak? Madam Speaker, that is not the road down which I wish to take the debate, and I am going to try to avoid being provoked to do so. But this Bill gives me real concern.

I had a major concern about the categories being identified by, according to this, the Governor—not even Cabinet, the Governor. I know, Madam Speaker, I am digressing a little from my argument there, but the Government persists in using this legislation that speaks about the Governor making orders designating professions, trades, businesses, et cetera, that the Governor is issuing quotas. The Governor has no authority under our Constitution to do any such thing. Those are matters which are done by the Cabinet.

The Governor has no vote in Cabinet. So, I do not know why we persist with this kind of drafting of legislation which is related to a constitution which went out the door in November of 2009. But that is another matter. The Governor has no power to do any of those things, only Cabinet does.

For the Cabinet to make these orders behind closed doors without any opportunity for debate by the Members of this House or anybody else was a major concern of mine. To a certain extent I see that is proposed to be addressed by a committee stage amendment which will say that the order will have no effect unless it has been ratified by this House. So, that does give us some opportunity to debate the issue after the fact. But, Madam Speaker, on what basis (to reiterate some of the things that the Elected Member for North Side said), by what criteria is it going to be determined that certain categories of employment and vocations and professions are restricted to Caymanians? What is the measuring stick that the Government is going to use?

Are they going to say, as the Elected Member for North Side invited them to say, that the accounting profession is restricted only to Caymanians? That the legal profession is restricted only to Caymanians? That managerial positions in banks are only restricted to Caymanians?

The point I am coming to, Madam Speaker, is this: I will not support provisions which restrict Caymanians, or certain jobs only at the lower economic level, just to Caymanians—because that is what we are going to wind-up with. They are going to say, as they have to say, *Well there are not enough attorneys with the relevant experience*, accountants, bank managers, middle managers, all the way down the line, secretaries, all the way down the line. And what is going to happen is that we are going to get to where only jobs at the very bottom end of the economy are the exclusive province of Caymanians. That is the

stigma that we are going to create by going down this road.

If what I am saying were otherwise, I would have expected the Fourth Elected Member for George Town to have said, *Okay, this is the category that I am saying only Caymanians should be allowed to do because we have more than sufficient Caymanians with the wherewithal, in terms of ability, training and all of that to do these jobs.* But there aren't. And this, Madam Speaker, is just an exercise in 'feel good,' in trying to make the people in this country feel that real efforts are being made to improve their chances at getting jobs and proper employment.

Madam Speaker, unemployment is a major issue, especially among young people. There is no day of my life that some person (some young person, usually) does not ask me for assistance in trying to help them find a job. Part of the issue is the skills and education, and we have to focus really, really hard on that in the immediate future. We've got to make more provision; we've got to make greater effort at upskilling our young people. I believe that we have done quite well in the last few years. There is certainly significant improvement in the quality of passes and the number of passes coming out of the high schools. We all understand that there are major issues still with literacy and numeracy that we have to address and tackle on that. That has got to be a major focus of the next administration.

But, Madam Speaker, for those who are already through the system we have to find the means to provide more opportunities and to give them more motivation, more incentive to get the necessary training and skills. That's what we need to do. And we need to make sure there is a better system of monitoring who is employed and employable, and who is not; and a better system of enforcement, greater scrutiny given to who gets work permits. All of that is important. All of that is critical, Madam Speaker. But this does not help any of that. Nothing at all! It does not provide anything except (to quote the Elected Member for North Side) "window dressing" and attempt to make those who are listening and reading about this feel that some real effort is being made to improve the lot, to protect the lot of Caymanians. It doesn't do any of that. Doesn't do anything at all!

Madam Speaker, I regard this as a complete and utter waste of the precious time of this House, especially since today is the last day that we are down here. And it has taken four years for it to come, brought on by a motion of a backbench supporter of the Government. Why now? Except, Madam Speaker, that it provides a basis of platform for political rhetoric and claims of looking out for Caymanians. It doesn't do any of that!

Madam Speaker, the next administration will really have to focus on these issues. And, Madam Speaker, we are proposing that we do away with this

whole system of boards that we have which, year by year, by year, become more ineffective in dealing with many of the critical issues that plague employment and labour. We need to move to an administrative system in relation to dealing with work permit applications and reserve the boards for appeal processes. And, Madam Speaker, if I am around as part of the next dispensation, that is something that I and my team are going to push really hard for.

As long as I can remember, there has been complaint after complaint about the boards, either the processes take too long, that the board members take far too personal an approach to applications (because they know of this one or they know of that one or they heard of this or heard of that), the processes takes too long, they are inefficient. And, Madam Speaker, increasingly it is clear that not enough is done in terms of monitoring an enforcement of the Caymanian first policy, which has been a part of our immigration work permit regime from as long ago as 1969.

We have to make the system more efficient, more predictable, and where it is necessary to grant work permits, they ought to be granted quickly and efficiently. Where there are Caymanians who are willing and able to do the job, they need to be refused equally, quickly and efficiently, with proper reasons why the application has failed. And, Madam Speaker, I am of the view that we have tried this system of boards for 40-plus years. It is time to look to another system to see if we can improve the overall process.

Madam Speaker, that is the kind of thinking that we need to be engaging in and the kind of discussions and debate we need to be engaging in. As we go through this election campaign let's hear what it is that those of us who are contesting this election really think about those key issues. Let's not do what is easy and common, which is to provide false hope and pretend that measures, such as the one being put forward in this Bill, are actually going to do anything positive to improve the whole system, and particularly the chances of Caymanians as it relates to employment. It is not going to do that.

Madam Speaker, I felt that it was important that I give that perspective in relation to the Bill which is before the House. And I will listen intently to hear what others have to say.

Thank you.

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

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

Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, Minister for Community Services.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, thank you.

The Speaker: Before you begin, we are going to break at one o'clock for lunch.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Should be enough time.

Madam Speaker, this has become an important situation now. Many are concerned with immigration today. And there were those who were always concerned about immigration and work permits. But this was not always so.

Madam Speaker, in the 1980s not many people worried about immigration, as we as locals could change jobs like our clothing. At that time there were only 6,000 to 7,000 work permits which was approximately . . . don't know the exact figure. And now we have 20,000 some 25 years later. So we have an over-employment problem.

It's a problem now because we took our eye off of it. Madam Speaker, I believe that in any country most would think that volume is king, because you need people in your economy to ensure that you have a vibrant economy and to grow your economy. I believe we need to grow. I don't believe that we could just go and take 20,000 work permit workers and just yank them out of the economy and think that the moms and pops who have built their little beds and breakfasts and built their apartments (because they wanted them to get rented) who still have a loan . . . so we have to be careful of the things that we say and try to think about all the effects.

But the greatest effect, or the greatest reality, is that we still have these 2,000-some people unemployed. I wish we could, as the whole House, say that we have done everything that we could have done to assist in this area. Madam Speaker, I am here, I am a part of it. We are part of the 15. Rather than us bicker a lot of times and disagree, we need to come to some concerted effort to move forward, whoever the new Government is, to sit down with these companies.

I think a lot of them just live in a bubble and don't really read the newspaper or watch the TV and understand the magnitude of the problem that is here in the Cayman Islands. We need to ensure that Caymanians are given every opportunity necessary to be employed.

Madam Speaker, we are not even talking about the need to re-train and re-tool and employ the persons without a job. We have another problem (which is another discussion), and that is the glass ceiling. We are not even discussing that today because I think that persons would probably just be so happy at this time now to have a job.

Madam Speaker, I made a suggestion some-time ago and not many people take it seriously. But I believe, in my humble opinion, that if each of these companies employed at least one person we would have hundreds of people employed. Even if it were at entry level, at least these persons could relax the burden off Social Services and companies would be real-

ly doing a great service to the Cayman Islands in terms of them coming here and enjoying the benefits of this Island and not helping at a time when we are in need to reduce our employment until the economy rebounds until we can find more opportunities for our unemployed.

Madam Speaker, we, as elected Members need to have a different approach towards employment. We all need to get together and ensure that we can live in this Cayman Islands also because of the effects of what will happen if we don't pay the attention that is necessary.

I see all the fancy presentations that come to Cabinet and to caucus. Everybody has a great big plan to hire some thousand Caymanians. I always say, *Show me the plan that you have to hire Caymanians. What is your plan? Is it just something written on paper?* We have seen over the years that companies that come up with these plans saying that they would hire Caymanians have really not done so.

Madam Speaker, I believe that a journey begins with a single step. I think, even though this legislation is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction. I think it was the Fourth Elected Member for George Town and I who brought this Private Member's Motion two years ago. As I am reminded, there is no legislation that is perfect, none whatsoever. This is a sensitive situation, Madam Speaker, and we don't need to think that we can remedy a 35- 40-year old problem in one year. This is a very sensitive issue. People have built up their businesses based on this model. We need to educate the public, forewarn them and prepare for the future.

Madam Speaker, if companies believe that by constantly not hiring Caymanians and not training them they are going to continue living the posh life that they are living today, they can just look around at our communities of no opportunity, and I am talking about the young people of this country, Madam Speaker, who stumble into my office every day, who I pass on the roads, stand up . . . and, Madam Speaker, I get questions. And I am sure every Member gets questions about finding a job on a daily basis. All you can hear is that they send out hundreds of applications and nobody even takes the time to respond.

Madam Speaker, I say that we need to move aggressively in training and re-tooling our Caymanians. We need to find a way to work with the private sector. These companies say they are coming in here, and normally some of them come and build a building. It normally takes about a year for all of that to get together before they can actually come and situate themselves here in Cayman. Every time they come to do a presentation, I am the one who gets up and says to them, *Give us a training programme. Give it to the College. Give it to the UCCI. Give it to ICCI. So that we can start training our unemployed and have them prepared for the jobs that you say you are going to bring to Cayman, whatever principal it is.*

Madam Speaker, if we don't take a serious look at ensuring that companies entering this Island start showing their commitment to employing persons before they actually even get here, or start, then we are not going to solve the problem because they always bring these old excuses up of, *You're not trained so we need to bring someone in until we can get another Caymanian trained*. Sometimes you hear, *We're going to let another Caymanian work alongside this person that's in*. And the person that they brought in as a secretary they then promote to something else that the Caymanian is not qualified for, and then it just goes on until the person is here seven years and then . . . you know the story, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as I wrap up, there's only so much that we can do as legislators. But there is a lot that we can do. And we need to make a great effort to meet with companies. Definitely so. We need to act. Just by bringing this legislation or amendment is not going to cause the unemployment to just wipe clean and then tomorrow when this is passed everybody is going to be employed. Madam Speaker, that's not what is going to solve it. But, like everything else, you need more than one avenue. You need to hit things from different directions to achieve it. You can't just attack it from one way.

So, Madam Speaker, I humbly say that I support this one step in the right direction. Yes, I definitely understand what we are trying to achieve with this. It's not perfect, but it is one step in the right direction. I hope that other Members can see that it will have some value down the road and I hope that we don't use this as an opportunity to just say that these are the only types of jobs that Caymanians can be qualified for and that we use it as a stepping stone to ensure that our people of this Island have some kind of opportunity to be employed whilst waiting for other opportunities.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Community Services.

I did say on Friday that we would break for lunch for just one hour today. I would ask that Members be back in the Chamber at 2.00 please. We will suspend at this time.

Proceedings suspended at 1.01 pm

Proceedings resumed at 2.10 pm

The Speaker: Thank you everyone.

For the benefit of the television audience, we are having some technical difficulties with the recording system and that has been the reason for the delay.

If Members will all find their seats, proceedings are resumed and we will continue with the debate

on the Immigration Amendment Bill which was ongoing before lunch.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

Minister of Education.

BILL

SECOND READING

Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013

[Continuation of debate thereon]

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

The Bill before this honourable House is, I believe, a Bill that is certainly worthy of all Members of this honourable House, not only taking cognisance of, but supporting. Madam Speaker, this Bill will enable the Cabinet that sets policy in this country to make critical decisions around how it is that we are going to determine what trades, jobs, areas of employment ought to have, or not have, a quota put in place.

Madam Speaker, if a quota of zero is put in place, then one would look at the definitions in the Bill and see who would still be eligible to be employed in that area of employment. And, Madam Speaker, after having looked at the spirit of the Private Member's Motion that was moved, but also the realities of our society and the population that resides within this country, a decision was taken that the Bill ought to have a little more flexibility.

I believe it is crucially important that on something this significant we as legislators ought to accept that the old system, which some Members have trumpeted is supposed to work, has not worked in this regard. So, for the Members who have spoken, the Member for North Side and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, to get up on the Floor of this honourable House and say that because we have had certain principles within the legislative framework surrounding Immigration from 1969, that we ought to leave it alone, tells me that that is the first sign of insanity—if we are going to do the same thing we have done for decades and now we are going to expect a different result.

Madam Speaker, we will not get a different result. But if we take a step back we will see that if we are serious about how Government is going to interface with the labour market, that it is inappropriate for us to expect that because the Immigration Law currently says that on a one-by-one individual basis, that you are going to have someone in the Immigration Department, or a board, who are supposed to make the policy call around whether or not a specific area of employment ought to have some management from

Government, is completely inappropriate. Policy is supposed to be set by Cabinet.

This Bill proposes that the policy would be set by Cabinet, but a committee stage amendment is coming forward which further says that even after the Cabinet sets the policy, that they would bring it to the Legislative Assembly for debate and ultimate sign-off and sanction. So, Madam Speaker, I do not believe that anyone can truthfully say that we are going to have a scenario where Cabinet may make a decision, but there are going to be lobbies out there so powerful that Cabinet would then seek to undo the decision and have to come back down here in this Legislative Assembly where all Members of the House would be able to get up and debate it. Would it not be that the other Members of this House would look on and hold Cabinet accountable and say, *'No, we're not going to make the change that you are proposing to make'*?

Are we saying, then, that our Legislative Assembly in its entirety would not make the right call or decision? Madam Speaker, I really don't buy that argument.

Madam Speaker, a Member got up in the House and said that this legislation is going to have nil effect. How can legislation have nil effect if it is going to give Cabinet the authority through interfacing with its labour department, and interfacing with its workforce development agency, and other business sectors of the community coming up with a proposed way forward for a specific trade or area of employment, but then having to take that further step of coming down to this House to then have it sanctioned, how can it be, Madam Speaker, that if Cabinet looks at any specific area (and let's use the one that's been thrown out, accounting/accountants) . . . how can it be that if Cabinet looks on and says, *Right now in the country we have 1,000 accountants (let's use a round number), here's how many are Caymanians; here's how many are on Permanent Residence; here's how many are on work permits; here is where we think the growth is going to get to and, therefore, here is the quota that we are going to put in place . . .* I don't know how that act, and something so fundamental to the labour market can be seen as nil effect.

Every country in this world has certain quotas around certain jobs and occupations and types of work visas. When I went to the United States on my work visa, it was subject to a quota. In fact, my tour at the United States Office of Pricewaterhouse was delayed. I will never forget that, Madam Speaker, because 30 September used to be the year end for the quota on the visa on which I went in. And by July the quota had been filled and I had to wait until October 1 when they started processing the quota again.

Madam Speaker, work visa quotas; work permit quotas happen in all modern societies that I know about. And they serve a very useful purpose. To now then say that we are not going to support the Bill because we don't define "exceptional circumstances" .

. . . Madam Speaker, that's why we put this phraseology in the law in the first instance. We can't try and fool the public in this way, Madam Speaker. You put this type of provision in because as legislators you admit to the world that you are not God! None of us can predict every variation in every circumstance in every scenario. So you must ensure that you put enough flexibility in your law.

Now, Madam Speaker, I believe not only has the Member impugned this House and future Houses to say that the lobby is going to stop it, to now say that we have to try and define exceptional circumstances . . . well, if you can define exceptional circumstances we would have clause after clause after clause, get it done, get it perfect and we would have had it all drafted. But the fact of the matter is, in life you cannot dream up every scenario that can happen. You just cannot. So that is why that provision is there. I do not believe that that provision makes this Bill so awful that it ought to now be thrown out and Members not vote for it.

Madam Speaker, he says that not a single category is listed. That is the essence of the Bill that is here. The essence of the Bill is to give the enabling provision in legislation that causes the country to be able, for the first time, to set this important policy surrounding the labour market. It will be up to whomever is in Cabinet to make the decision as to what they will come down to this Legislative Assembly with and ensure that the Legislative Assembly will then be able to support, or not support, the particular policy position being put forward.

Madam Speaker, reference was made to, *Well, if you have people on scholarships*. That's exactly what will have to be put into whatever formula you come up with. So let's use the example of accountants, since that was used earlier. Let us assume that there are 1,000 in the Cayman Islands. Let us assume, for example, that of that 1,000, six hundred were on work permits. Let us assume that the scholarship secretariat could say to the country that 50 are on government scholarships. We poll the accounting profession and we find that there is another 50 on scholarships at different stages. We project that the growth and the need is going to be 500 additional bodies over the next X number of years (let's say five years). At that point, Madam Speaker, it is simply math as to what the quota becomes. You are then able to do what this Bill is designed to do.

To suggest that the technocrats . . . I have never heard a proposition so ludicrous in my life! That the technocrats somewhere in the Glass House have this magic crystal ball and are going to be able to so accurately predict the labour market, so accurately predict when people are going to pass their exams, for example (let's use the same accounting example that the Member for North Side used), that they would have this magic crystal ball and work it all out and there is no need for this.

Madam Speaker, I believe it is a dereliction of duty for any Member of this House not to support this policy position that is being put forward in this Bill. This Bill is simply saying that the Cabinet of the country is going to be able to gather the data about the labour market to be able to decide if a quota is needed, and, if the quota is needed, what the quota should be. If it is an area in which we feel Caymanians can fully occupy, then we set the quota at zero. Plain and simple! If Caymanians in the other categories that are able to work in these areas as defined by the Bill are able to adequately fill the labour market need, you set the quota at zero because you are telling the world that we have the human capital in this area to fill the jobs.

Madam Speaker, for too long we have used excuses [of] management in this area and said, *Yep. Imagine, the boards . . .* We blame these Immigration boards. And these Immigration boards are good, hardworking Caymanians that have been appointed by successive Governments over the last few decades. I find it ironic that the Elected Member for North Side, who was in Government at one point, in Ex-Co, and would have been part of putting together a Work Permit Board, and all of a sudden now, work permit boards cannot work, they're not doing their work. Right? I don't understand, Madam Speaker, how it is that we are able to do this.

How is it that from 1969, according to the Leader of the Opposition, we have had work permit boards, they failed, but we must continue doing it over, and over, and over; let's continue down the same road? Oh, the only new wrinkle that he wanted was that the Leader of the Opposition says we should have the work permits being dealt with administratively. I have no issue around administrative issuances of work permits. I believe we started down that route. As it stands, temporaries are handled administratively and I believe that naturally this is where this country needs to get to. We have to admit that this voluntary board system is outdated.

Imagine, our voluntary board system was built around a district based selection process. And it was based around that because when Cayman had such a small work permit population, it was felt that if you put people on by district who knew their districts, they would be able to come to board meetings and say, *No, we shouldn't grant this work permit because we know this one and that one who are all out of work in my district, therefore let's not grant it.* Can we still believe somehow that we can have that kind of system work today? No, Madam Speaker, the country has outgrown that old system.

But, Madam Speaker, I just cannot understand how it is that these Members can get up in this honourable House and not accept that this Bill is a step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition really, really floored me with this one. He said he is not going to support the legislation because the only jobs that are going to be restricted are at the very bottom of the economic spectrum. Madam Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is the leader of his party and he is going to be vying in eight weeks and two days to take on the leadership of this country. Is he saying that when he becomes Premier of this country that that is what he would do?

Madam Speaker, in eight short weeks, if everything goes according to his plan, his election plan is going to be to vote the Progressives in. If the Progressives get voted in, he is going to be the Premier. How is it, then, that he gets up and says that he won't support the legislation because all that's going to be put forward are the absolute low end jobs? Madam Speaker, I really, really don't agree that Members should come down to this Legislative Assembly and vote against legislation because for some reason it seems as though they are voting against it because it was the Fourth Elected Member for George Town who brought a motion and got up and said something positive about the Bill.

Madam Speaker, we cannot operate that way. My Ministry, as the Honourable Deputy Governor has said, was heavily involved in crafting this legislation and getting it to this point. A lot of thought has gone into putting forward what we believe is a solid piece of legislation that increases the legislative architecture around the granting of work permits and the labour market. I do not believe there is a single Caymanian out there who is going to be convinced that we shouldn't be doing something towards enhancing how the labour market in this country winds up having some interface with Government.

It cannot be that we are going to put out to pasture and continue to say that we have a system that isn't working, and because we have a system that isn't working, let us continue to have non-government persons, non-elected persons, who are going to set this very important policy. These same Members are the ones who said that for the Conservation Board they want to get rid of boards who make policy in this country. Yet, now they come around and say, *No, the technocrats is who can make the policy. It's the technocrats who can work things out. They can then go and inform the Immigration Department and make them do what they ought to be doing.* I do not believe, Madam Speaker, that that is the right policy position for this country. The right policy position is to have elected Members setting policy.

They argued that there ought to be one more layer of accountability. So we are bringing a committee stage amendment that after the Cabinet makes the policy, come down here, vote it in the Legislative Assembly. If the other Members of this House want to

amend what Cabinet is bringing, they move a committee stage amendment. Okay?

Madam Speaker, I don't understand. I really, really don't understand how it is that these Members are saying that we ought to not move forward with this legislation.

Now, Madam Speaker, I really couldn't understand why Members would get up and start talking about unemployment among youth. But then I remembered that it's eight weeks and two days from the election. Members need to go back and look at all the statistics that we have been getting for the last decade and a half in this country. Cayman is not unique. The disproportionate unemployment rate is among young people in Cayman and other places. Why is that, Madam Speaker? It's simple. When you have young, inexperienced people, and a lot of them without any formal qualifications (which is what happens typically in school systems) come knocking on an employer's door, who is the employer more apt to hire? They are more apt to hire the persons who have more experience, who have a resume and can produce some record of achievement.

In fact, Madam Speaker, one of the things that we have worked diligently on over these four years is trying to enhance the work readiness of our young people. He asked what has been done. Well, here is what has been done: Passport2Success has employed more young people than from 2005 to 2009. What I can say is that at the Further Education Centre we are offering a course which is mandatory to all young people who go through the centre that are built around work-readiness skills.

Madam Speaker, the same the Fourth Elected Member for George Town and the Minister for Community Affairs went to Chicago to see the programme that is going to be rolled out at the Workforce Development Agency. The programme that is going to be rolled out at the Workforce Development Agency is built around assessing persons who are registered. It is also built around trying to upskill them, to get them ready for employment.

In fact, the ACT programme that we are using is a programme that after we went to the Chamber "Be Informed" sessions, already some three private sector employers are using the same programme even within their companies.

Madam Speaker, everything cannot be achieved in a four year term. We know that. So, yes, Madam Speaker, some of this is starting to come to fruition at the dawn of this particular administration. We understand that. But, Madam Speaker, it is setting a platform for us to be able to finally tackle this vexing issue of how Government itself participates and tries to assist persons in getting a job in the first instance, and, in the second instance, trying to upskill and ensure that people are as work ready as possible.

We know, Madam Speaker, and there is no sense in us using this little run-up to the election now

to really put a little *Anancy* story around this whole scenario. We know from direct feedback through employers, that it is the soft skills that are really hurting a lot of Caymanians, especially a lot of young Caymanians. It is the skills around how you interact with adults.

How do you interact with conflict? How do you interact with supervisors? How do you follow instructions? How do you be a team player? All things that we are working diligently on are not only at the National Workforce Development Agency, but also in our school system in terms of trying to embed at secondary on a consistent basis exposure to this type of instruction.

It is crucially important that we start this journey and ensure we are able to produce the type of citizens, the type of young persons who are indeed work ready, able to take up their place in the economy, in society.

Madam Speaker, many firms are headhunting persons in this community, as we speak. For us to sit and say that there aren't firms doing what they should be doing, really, really paints everybody with a really bad brush. The accounting firms in this country have multiples of Caymanians on scholarships and at different varying stages of qualification along the journey to become a qualified accountant. And they have been headhunting. They have headhunted Caymanians for a long time.

Madam Speaker, one of the challenges we have that none of us wants to talk about, is how we continue to be creative to expand the economy. The fact of the matter is, Madam Speaker, what we are seeing is that as we become more successful educationally, we are producing more and more qualified Caymanians with five or more Level 2 passes who can now go on to tertiary education. And one of the things that we have to become more strategic about is how we correlate between what is happening on the scholarship programme and what is going to happen in the workplace.

For too long we have had a system, Madam Speaker, and this is something that we have been working diligently to try and get broken down; this barrier that exists between who we give scholarships to and the labour market. For too long a lot of young people saw the Government as the perfect scholarship. You are seen as this "free agent," *Oh, well, you are not tied to an employer.* In fact, Madam Speaker, that puts you in a worst possible situation. The best position to be in is to be on someone's programme so that you work with them during summers and you are able to have employment as soon as you come out of school.

Madam Speaker, those are areas that still have work to do. I will admit that. We are testing right now, as we speak, how employers are able to register job positions online, how people will then be able to upload and register for employment online which, Madam Speaker, will cut down a lot of work for our

officers, which is spent on clerical work. That is, having to deal with trying to register people at the Workforce Development Agency, versus actually being able to step back and focus on placement, focus on relationships with specific employers in specific industries. That is what we need to do.

Madam Speaker, I think to augment this piece of legislation, after the next election I believe that there are about three things that need to happen in the labour market that are going to be crucially important to the success of Caymanians. One, we need to probably come back to this Legislative Assembly and perhaps mandate all jobs to be registered on the new database that is going to soon be rolled out to the public, so that it is clear what jobs are available, all jobs that companies have available for which they might seek work permits. I think if we do that we are going to bring a lot of transparency because then the persons who are registered with the Workforce Development Agency are going to be more properly, accurately matched with the jobs that exist in the labour market today, but certainly those that are to come, because there will be work permit renewals that may go in for those jobs.

Madam Speaker, the other thing that is going to be crucially important to have happen after May is to continue the rollout of ACT where we can actually assess every single person. And we have started the assessment process, but we have to get that completed where every person can be assessed. Looking at a person on paper is one thing; what their actual skill sets are, is another thing. There is a proportion of persons registered that are what all of us in this House and any employer would look at and say, *This person is perfectly work ready*. But then there are hundreds, Madam Speaker, who report high school as their highest level of education and then you see what their work history is. Some have a bachelor's and then you see what the work history is.

But what is clear and evident for a number of them, because their work experience isn't broad or deep enough, that is, they haven't been in employment long enough to have that glowing reference from one single employer or a couple of employers. We need to know where those people are. We need to know if there are any gaps and how we assist people in filling those gaps in terms of finding the right training opportunities.

It could just be a weakness in using Microsoft Word. It could be a weakness because the person needs to have those soft skills to work as a team in a larger organisation because they may have worked at small organisations before. Identify those gaps, help people fill the gaps.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, obviously, we need to be able to bear down, buckle down, and make the policy that sits behind this legislation come to life and work. And, Madam Speaker, it can have a real posi-

tive impact on this country and in the lives of Caymanians going forward.

I am not saying, Madam Speaker, that this is going to be any magic wand that overnight solves any issues, but it is a key piece of our legal architecture that allows us to go that other step in how we are able to manage and assist in managing our labour force to benefit Caymanians, and, as Government, we are able to really fulfill the mandate that the people elected us to do. The people elect us to not just look at things and say, *Oh, it's a problem, it's a problem; it's never worked*. But to say, *How do we come up with new ideas, new solutions that can assist in breaking down and getting past the hurdles of the past*.

I believe that this one is an important one, Madam Speaker. I believe that all Members of the House should give this legislation their support because I know that it is going to go a long way to addressing some of the vexing issues that have surrounded the labour market in this country for decades now. And now, Madam Speaker, that we are at the stage where we can have something that can assist, we are going to balk at it, we are going to kick it out and say, *Oh well, we don't believe it's perfect in this way or that way*. I know this is a solid, solid piece of legislation and this Bill is one that the House ought to pass into law.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Minister of Education.

First Elected Member for George Town.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, First Elected Member for George Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Unlike some other people, I shan't promise not to be long—and be long!

[Laughter]

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: But there are a few things that I think need to be addressed.

Madam Speaker, the legislation itself . . . it seems there have been some misunderstandings about what people have said thus far about it because while some people have voiced concerns and not shown a willingness to support the legislation in its present form, I don't think that anyone is saying that the legislation should be thrown through the window. But, the most sensible part of the contribution by the Minister of Education, in my view, was the last two minutes of what he was saying.

[Laughter]

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: No, Madam Speaker, I don't say that to castigate. The point that I wish to make about that is because what he spoke about in the last

few minutes of his delivery is really what is going to make the difference.

This legislation on its own accord is not going to achieve anything near what all of us desire and aspire to. It doesn't matter which side of the fence we elected representatives are [on], and whoever is going to be elected come May 22, all of us would wish for our Caymanians to be employed. All of us would wish for our Caymanians to be trained up to be able to find their own niche in the working world, to have their self-esteem, to be able to be independent and productive citizens. No one questions that, Madam Speaker.

But, where the difference is going to be made is when we are able to bring everything together to take our people, should I say, out of the wilderness, to be able to train them up to know where those jobs are that when they are trained those jobs will be available. And the [Minister] is also correct when he speaks about the diversification and expansion of the economy, because every year these new and younger people are coming out of school, either going on to tertiary education or looking to go straight into the job market or to be trained with some technical or vocational training to be able to make their mark in life.

Madam Speaker, we all know that, and that is what we have to be able to put together whereby the public sector and the private sector are of one mind to be able to make this happen. We all know that, Madam Speaker. But, I don't know who the Minister of Education believes are crazy people, but I want to make him know that I am not one of them. Perhaps before he accuses anybody else, he better really check himself carefully.

Madam Speaker, the other thing that I believe needs to be made very clear is that no one who made any contribution tried to say . . . I won't even bother to go into all the details, because to me it was very obvious that the Minister was looking to find something that he could row about. So he had to pluck that out of the sky. I listened to what everyone said, from who delivered the Bill to the House, the First [Ex-]Officio Member, to all of those who spoke. But because I am used to that, I understand him; I just wish he had chosen a different day than today, then, maybe I wouldn't even have gotten up.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Speaker, you don't have to worry. You don't have to say anything to him; he doesn't distract me. It might have some little trouble with others but when I'm ready he doesn't exist.

Some Hon. Members: Ooh!

[Laughter]

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Speaker, I am not going to tarry. I just want to say this: If we are going to

make any real difference in this country, then it is certainly too late for any Government now to really do anything. But whoever the Government is after May 22, and whoever the elected Members of this legislature are come May 23, the first and most important job is to do exactly what we are talking about today. And it is going to take outside-the-box thinking, not conventional thinking, to make it happen. And it cannot be expected to be done by looking at one aspect of the whole affair.

It has to be looked at in its entirety and all stakeholders have to get involved in it, including those who are directly affected, those who are going to hire, including the Government who is supposed to continue to provide the opportunities for businesses and also the opportunities for our people to be trained properly. But it is going to take an entire effort of putting all of that together to make anything meaningful happen.

Madam Speaker, I will end by saying this: Somewhere along the line we need to find it in ourselves when matters such as this, that are so important, come up, even when we differ in our views, to respect each other's views and be able to take from that, because that is the operation of this Legislative Assembly, Madam Speaker. So, we need to be able to take from the cut and thrust of our debate and move forward and make the real difference that we should be making for our people. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, First Elected Member for George Town.

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

Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: Madam Speaker, I would have given way to the First Elected Member because he has seniority over me, but he has graciously given that up.

Madam Speaker, I believe a few weeks ago I brought a motion here, seconded by the Member for North Side. And all Members who spoke on it said they believed the intent was good. I will now echo those same thoughts on this Bill. Madam Speaker, I think the intent is good, but I see a lot of electioneering in it.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it is absolutely necessary to protect Caymanians. I strongly believe that. I have always advocated for that. In 2006, when the then Chief Immigration Officer (who now happens to be the Deputy Governor) came to Cabinet with a number of proposals, my first reaction was, we need to get rid of these boards. We need to revamp the entire system of labour and immigration in this country. I stand by that same position today, Madam Speaker.

Yes, Madam Speaker, we were there until 2009 and now the UDP Government has been here for four years and they didn't do anything. So that was three we had on that proposal and they had four and did nothing. Now, Madam Speaker, why I said revamp the entire thing is because for too long I hear Members saying that this is probably four decades that we have been dealing with this. Madam Speaker, that is true.

There was the Caymanian Protection Law for a very long time and then it migrated into the Immigration Law. We have been dealing with the vexing problem of Caymanian labour versus imported labour. And it has been the Immigration Department that has been dealing with it. The time has come to revamp our entire labour system and do away with the Labour Department as we know it.

The Minister of Labour has just said that there is a new database coming out. That is what I support, Madam Speaker. I believe that the Labour Department should have a database of all Caymanians who are unemployed. When an employer comes to get a work permit they must first go through those that are unemployed. And if there is no one there who suits their particular need, they should be issued with a clearance to bring someone in. They then go to the Immigration Department and deal with the immigration part of someone coming here to work for them. The Immigration Department should not be in control of labour based on immigrants and controlling a border.

Right now, our Immigration Department controls the labour force in this country and they have no business dealing with it! None whatsoever! We have gone long beyond that, Madam Speaker. They must be two distinct and different processes. Yes, they are supposed to interface, that is, the Labour Department and the Immigration Board, to know whether or not Caymanians are available. I would venture out on a limb to say that doesn't happen. And if it does, it is only minimally done.

Madam Speaker, the Immigration Law in its current form protects Caymanians from being overwhelmed by foreign work permits. It does right now. But nevertheless, we are here talking about exempting certain positions. Madam Speaker, every job in this country is first for Caymanians. And that was recognised many, many, many years ago when this Immigration Law was written. The provisions are in here. I have not heard one Member speak here today refer to this Immigration Law.

Madam Speaker, the [Immigration Law \(2011 Revision\)](#), section 44 reads, "**The Work Permit Board, the Business Staffing Plan Board or the Chief Immigration Officer, as the case may be, in considering an application under section 42**" (which is "Application for Work permit") "**(a) shall, in respect of an application for a grant; or (b) may, in respect of an application for a renewal, subject to**

any general directions which the Governor may, from time to time, give in respect of the consideration of such application, take into account the matters listed in subsections (2) to (4)."

"(2) In relation to the prospective employer, that- (a) he has demonstrated his genuine need to engage the services of the prospective worker; (b) he has, unless he has been exempted by the Governor or by the Board, sought, by advertising in at least two issues for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper, to ascertain the availability of any one or more of the following in the order in which they are listed- (i) a Caymanian; (ii) the spouse of a Caymanian; (iii) the holder of a Residency and Employment Rights Certificate; and (iv) a person legally and ordinarily resident in the Islands who is qualified and willing to fill the position; and (c) in the case of an application in respect of a professional, managerial or skilled occupation, the Board or the Chief Immigration Officer, as the case may be, is satisfied as to the extent to which he has established adequate training or scholarship programmes for Caymanians."

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: And that's worked? That was working?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Education says, "And that's worked?" as a question.

It has not worked! And it will not work at times, especially when we put people on there with political connections. No.

We talk about protecting Caymanians? Protect them with what we have. Stop making them feel good about we are going to carve this out for you and send a message that the other jobs Caymanians can't hold. They are entitled to every job in this here country! The provisions are here.

Madam Speaker, subsection (3) says: "**(3) In relation to the worker- (a) his character, reputation and health, and where relevant, the character, reputation and health of his dependants; (b) his professional and technical qualifications and his experience and competence to undertake the position applied for; (c) the economic and social benefits which he may bring to the Islands; (d) the sufficiency of the resources or the proposed salary of the worker and, where his spouse is employed within the Islands, those of his spouse, and his or their ability to adequately maintain his or their dependants; (e) his facility in the use of the English language; and (f) the location, type and suitability of the accommodation available for the worker and his dependants, if any, throughout the term of the work permit.**"

"(4) Generally- (a) the protection of local interests and in particular of Caymanians, includ-

ing without limitation and where applicable, the provisions set out in section 44(2)[(c)]” (which I read out earlier) “(b) the availability of the services of a suitable person already legally and ordinarily in the Islands; and (c) the requirements of the community as a whole, the demographics referred to in section 24(j) and such other matters that may arise from the application. (5) General directions given under this section shall be published in the Gazette.”

We want to come back here to get Parliament to approve it? It's here. It's here! But nobody wants to do it.

Madam Speaker, I want to read [section] 24(j). [Section] 24 is “**Matters for Board's consideration. In the course of processing an application for the right to be Caymanian, the Board shall satisfy itself that**” ((a) thru (i)) “**(i) the economic situation of the Islands and the protection of persons already engaged in similar gainful occupations have been duly considered; (j) adequate consideration has been given to the desirability of granting the right to be Caymanian to applicants with different backgrounds and from different geographical areas so that a suitable balance in the social and economic life of the Islands may be maintained; and (k) adequate consideration has been given to the desirability of retaining the economic resources of the Island in the control of Caymanians.**”

Madam Speaker, I refer to that because this which is before us is trying to protect Caymanians. What I am saying is that you can't even get Cayman status unless consideration has been given to protect Caymanians. It's here, Madam Speaker. It is not me. I am not reading something that you can't double-check. It's in the Law. Why are we now coming in the eleventh hour to try and make our people feel good? It's unnecessary! If the laws were enforced in this country, we wouldn't have the unemployment we have now! That's where it needs to start! Right here in this Law! And we come amending it with rubbish about protection of Caymanians. It is here!

Instruct the people who go on these boards to enforce this Law. Instruct the Department of Immigration to enforce this Law. See to it that training is done for Caymanians. But what happens, Madam Speaker, is that you see this advertisement in the papers and it doesn't say anything near what they are supposed to say about only Caymanians and those ordinarily residents need apply. They just put it in. And then they say that's what happens. Nobody is enforcing the Law.

All of a sudden, they bring legislation because we believe that will make our people feel good and we are addressing the problem they see. The cause of the problem is the Immigration Boards! That's where it is!

[It is] the lack of enforcement of the laws that were made in this honourable Chamber over many years by many Members of Parliament that had the interest of Caymanians at heart. It's here! But everybody gets up and talks about how good it is. How good it is? It's good for those who benefit from lack of enforcement, but it's not good for my Caymanian up in East End who's out of work, and I get the blame! That's what happens. All of us get the blame. Now we're trying to ease the blame off ourselves. Put the blame where it belongs. That's what we have to do!

I borrow a phrase from my good friend in Bodden Town, the Second Elected Member. We have to stop pussy-footing around with it!

Madam Speaker, it goes even further. This same Law goes further.

Unna ain't getting my vote with it. Understand that!

Madam Speaker, 46 . . . I tell you, you can vote it and you got all the rest of these that *unna* started with, the four of them. Use them and pass it. It is not going to pass with me!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, section 46 says: “**In considering an application for a work permit for a professional employee, the Work Permit Board, the Business Staffing Plan Board or the Chief Immigration Officer, as the case may be, shall-** (a) consult with the appropriate authority; (b) have regard to the expressed views of the appropriate authority in respect of the requirements in the Islands for professional employees in the particular profession; (c) notify the appropriate authority of the details of every work permit applied for, whether granted or not; (d) not, except in exceptional circumstances, grant a work permit for a person wishing to enter into self-employment as a professional employee; (e) not grant a work permit to a professional employee unless, (i) the appropriate authority has satisfied the Board that the applicant has applied for and been granted registration or such other approval, consent or permission as may be required under the relevant law, as a practitioner in his field; and (ii) he is legally and ordinarily resident in the Islands or intends to be so legally and ordinarily resident.”

Madam Speaker, it protects our professionals. But the problem is nobody pays attention to it and, therein lies our problem. Madam Speaker, I hear the Deputy Governor, in sponsoring this Bill, talk about how lawyers are protected. Any lawyer applying through the Attorney General, I believe, needs a minimum of three years PQE [Post Qualification Experience]. Do you really think it protects us? It doesn't.

Madam Speaker, the Member for North Side and I, for the last three years, have been fighting, at least beating up our gums, about the young lawyers in

this country trying to help, at least bring to the attention of the public about what is happening on the ground in this country. I am not to judge. It is not my place to judge whether these young lawyers are competent or not, or what level of competency they have. It is not my job. That's the school's [job], and eventually in the workplace.

The Minister of Tourism is now a qualified lawyer.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: He can't . . . where is he going to get in?

Madam Speaker, everybody has their own vested interest with the exception of Caymanians. Why? Because it is short term.

Madam Speaker, I see the carcasses of our young Caymanians on the sidewalk. They kick them out! No one protects them. I will vote for this amendment if the Government and all the Opposition and all the second Opposition No. 2, agrees to put into this law that lawyers are carved out too. That's how far I am prepared to go. Today's my last day now. I don't know if I am coming back. I don't know. But I know what, if today is my last day, today is the last day then that I will advocate on behalf of my people. That's why I was put here. And if this is the last time this country hears my voice in here, believe me, they are going to hear it!

Madam Speaker, it is wrong for us to come here to try and blindfold our people. For 40 years it's been in here, and nobody has done anything about it. Now we come and carve out for them. And then send a message to all others that whatever is not under that we can come in and take. And then the rest of this law is for naught, when it adequately protects Caymanians. It's wrong! And they need to withdraw it because I am going on radio tomorrow morning too.

Madam Speaker, it is wrong. And, God willing, I will get nominated on Wednesday. If the people don't put me back in, I have six weeks to make my noises. So, six or seven, whatever it is, but I believe it will be long enough.

No, Madam Speaker, this is wrong. God knows, sitting on His throne, this is wrong. We're just trying to make our people feel like we are doing something. It is here to be done! Do it! Fire them on the Board. Stop pussyfooting with our people. All *unna!* Every one *unna!*

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I never fired the Boards but we didn't come with this kind of foolishness, though, about carving out for Caymanians. Caymanians have been carved out; Jamaicans in Jamaica have been carved out; Americans in America have been carved

out a long time ago. They all are entitled to their jobs in their own countries; that's what I am talking about.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I don't want to hear anything about affirmative action and all that. I ain't supporting that either.

You know, Madam Speaker, we like to talk about the word "discrimination." These are times when discrimination is the proper word. You must discriminate to the citizens of a country. I ain't responsible for anyone else. I am not responsible for anyone else! You are telling me that I am going to sit down here and make legislation to the possibility of someone coming from overseas? I don't know where they are coming from. I don't know who they are. I make legislation for Caymanians, to protect Caymanians. And, Madam Speaker, the legislation is here.

The Governor in Cabinet already has the right to give directives. [He] already has the right in here. Now we are coming with another . . . I want to know how this is going to fit in with this—this amendment, I want to know. And I hope the Deputy Governor in his response can do it. How can another provision to protect Caymanians that is already in there, interface with what is here? It just doesn't make sense.

I know, Madam Speaker, they are going to come with this thing about, *Oh, you don't have any control, or this will give you better control, or something like that.* There is no better control needed than what is in this law.

Madam Speaker, I agree with you, it has never worked. But we must be willing allies of change and if we are not prepared to change it doesn't make sense to legislate another piece of legislation that says the same thing that mirrors what we have. It says the same thing that mirrors what we have. But what we have doesn't work, but we need to go and make another piece of legislation. Let this one work.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: The asides are very distracting. The Member is entitled to make his speech.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: No, Madam Speaker, the Minister of Education . . . I sat here and I didn't say one word to him. Obviously, he thinks now that I should sit down. What a surprise he has coming. Eh? He thinks he has enough time to disturb me?

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, we were elected here on equal grounds.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I don't care what you are trying to save; you don't need to save me!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, the biggest problem why this doesn't work is because of political interference. That's why it doesn't work. That's why this immigration doesn't work to protect Caymanians the way it should. Political interference and calling up the board and getting them to issue work permits when Caymanians out there are suffering. That's why it doesn't work!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Maybe you did.

All this amendment will do is . . . the only thing it's going to solve is that it's going to create a level of expectation on the part of the people because the people don't know that this legislation is here already. That's why it is out in the public arena, a level of expectation that we cannot deliver on, Madam Speaker.

We cannot deliver on it that everybody is going to flock and demand work. We are creating problems in our country. That's what we are going to do.

Minister of Education, you really need to stop with your little rubbish you know.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: No, he's the Minister of Labour. What has he done?

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Let's remain friends. Just relax!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: All we are doing here is changing and amending something that there is no need to amend just to appease our people so we can get re-elected. That's wrong! Do what is necessary, what is honest, what is upright, what is straight, what is brave, and address the problem other than another section of the law to put the controls in the hand of Cabinet. That's all it is, Madam Speaker.

And until we stop doing that, this country is not going to get any better. We need to fire people. Look them in the eye and fire them, whether they are board members or not!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: That ain't interfering. You appoint them. Give them what the policies are and they

must carry it out or find someplace else to go. Policies come from Cabinet, the governance of this country. But when . . . you know, you don't start.

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: You better leave it alone too, because I am telling you that Wednesday is nomination day. Today is the last day here. Got to get home—got to send you home.

Madam Speaker, I do apologise for that little distraction by . . . because he is always distracting. And they got to be from West Bay, you notice that. Okay? They have no behaviour.

[Inaudible interjections and laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker . . . CG, you back off because I was just talking good about you with the lawyers!

[Laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, seriously though . . . and there are times, maybe it gets a little loud. I am not trying to be disrespectful to anyone. Hear that West Bay loud mouth there again. I am not trying to be disrespectful to anyone.

Madam Speaker, I become incensed with these kinds of things that we come up with. What are the jobs that will be carved out for Caymanians? Somebody needs to tell me. Is it cleaning yard? Is it running backhoe? Is it this, is it that? I don't know.

What about the lawyers and the accountants and this and that? Equal opportunity, Caymanians on an equal platform with anyone else in this world—

The Speaker: Order please.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: —are entitled. This is a matter of entitlement, Madam Speaker. Any Caymanian equal to anyone else must have the job first. I don't care what job it is, Madam Speaker. It could be running a boat. What our problem is that we have failed in supporting our people and showing them the benefits of the jobs, of what is available in this country. You don't 'huh' because you just spoke as the Minister of Education and Labour and the Leader of the Opposition was the previous one!

[Laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: So the two of you are in the same wet paper bag! I hope *unna* got enough sense to cling on to the sides because *unna* going to drop out.

Madam Speaker, that's what makes me incensed. You understand? Therein lies our problem. Both of these gentlemen have done pretty good with

education. One did, the other one enhanced and what have you. That's what it is about. But it goes a little further than that. We need to make provisions to ensure that Caymanians understand the value of those things out there. That's what we need to do, or there is no hope for our people. No hope for the people of the Cayman Islands. They will forever be second best if we don't do something about it.

Every Caymanian who is successful means that's one less we have to support through Social Services. Why are we so envious of Caymanians becoming successful? Why? This is no way to make them successful. This is no way to treat Caymanians. It's almost like putting them on the reservation. You can do this amount of jobs, but the rest is left wide open. No, no, no, no. They ain't going to do it to my children. I am not supporting something that is going to truncate my child or other children in this country, not as long as I am alive, because that is precisely what it is doing. It truncates their future; that they can only go down that road. We need to stop it! It sends the wrong message.

Madam Speaker, they ain't getting my vote okay? They are not getting my vote on this. Mind you, I'm only one—and they have 14 others. But they can lobby them. We have four in front of me, four over there, two here. That's fine by me. I hold no animosity because the same right I have not to vote for it, everyone else has to vote for it. So that's their business. But I am going to register today my objection to it.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for East End.

First Elected Member for West Bay indicated that he wished to speak.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, First Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I've listened intently to the sometimes serious, most times humorous, debate in this matter. I have been here before, Madam Speaker. This is my eighth general election and I have heard these arguments and debates about work permits for years and, in particular at this juncture, in national life. Electioneering? We can call it that—both sides. I have seen officials giving credit for such matters to whatever minister it suits when needed—at election time too.

I will say here that there is no reason whatsoever why categorisation could not have been offered by the Employment and Training Offices before this 13th hour of the general elections, hours before the House is going to be prorogued.

The Speaker: Dissolved.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Sorry—dissolved.

Madam Speaker, however, this kind of slapped up amendment will jump out at us during this

kind of fever-pitch season of electioneering. I never ever have wanted to push this kind of immigration legislation at this late hour, but to assist the Government we are going to support it because it is better than nothing. So let me make it clear.

One thing, Madam Speaker, which does give me some concern, is that this is the last day, and I hope that this kind of horse and pony show will not exist after May 22nd whether I am here or not.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Yes.

Madam Speaker, this kind of playing I have seen since December. And I should ask, when they made their plot to get rid of me, there was supposed to have been a case where the Governor, or the Government, or the Cabinet, if they were going to bring legislation, that they would bring that to the House with the consent of the Opposition, were they then (that is, the Opposition) not part and parcel of this legislation? They ought to have been.

They helped mastermind the disruption of the legal government and, therefore, brought a minority government, the worst kind, where you have to have an opposition with four members and you have another group with four and our Constitution doesn't tell you what to do, left to the whims and fancies of those who conquer and divide. When are we ever going to learn? I wonder.

Madam Speaker, in regard to the law, we do know that unemployment has grown and continues to grow. We have heard that work permits are the problem. And so it is, but it is not the only [reason] why there is unemployment. How dare the speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the group he represents, talk about it.

Madam Speaker, I will say right off the bat there is clamour now on this election eve to talk about they want jobs and why Caymanians are not getting jobs. Well, Madam Speaker, what gives people jobs in this country, may I ask? And one and all had better realise that the global experiences have changed. And no matter how much we want to protect, there are challenges that local Government is going to face in that regard.

Ask them if they think that is not so. They say they want jobs, well just let me, because . . . you know, I had to sit here and think, when I saw them jostling as to how they are going to debate, because one is going to slap the so-called Government up, and then the next one is going to pitch at me. And, of course, the Leader of the Opposition, if that's what he is, can't get up unless he does that, and more.

Madam Speaker, none of them, being bankrupt of ideas as they are, can say that we didn't put the projects on the table to bring employment in this country. What brings jobs in this country? Do we have

a huge manufacturing base? When the financial businesses were fleeing people didn't even realise they were. They were going to our competing jurisdictions. When Goldman Sachs started leaving and when Lehman Brothers was falling down, what did they think was going to happen here? And when the Immigration Law was being amended over and over trying to satisfy every whim and fancy that went to the Government of the day, what did they think was going to happen?

Madam Speaker, when the headman is going in this country and the kind of economy we operate, when the top man is going and middle management is going, you can believe that there are two Caymanian secretaries—Caymanian secretaries!—that are going to lose jobs. And that is what happened in this country between 2005 and 2009. And, Madam Speaker, they should have realised, because they were told! They were told from within when they began to meddle around with the rollover that we all came to realise was not working. They didn't listen. They were told so. They were told so in their own Cabinet [by] the Member for Financial Services at that time. They were told so.

Madam Speaker . . . you know I have good information, though, right?

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Yeah, you know.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: All right then. Okay.

Madam Speaker, we can sit here all day long, and we have, talking about this Bill. But the facts are the facts. We do not have a manufacturing base. We are a service oriented economy, a service based economy; financial services and tourism being the strongest, and everything else comes out of that. Those projects, and I will name them, would have created over 4,000 jobs in this country. But some of the same ones saying they will create jobs today, the same ones shouting "where are the jobs for Caymanians" are the same ones who objected to everything I put on the table—the dock, the airport, the national sewage system, the Shetty Hospital for medical tourism, the special economic zone for various kinds of business hotels, Cayman Airways investment, the tourism expansion, the 4Cayman Alliance. Everything was opposed. And they painted it a colour to make it look bad. They said not good governance. So, how do they create jobs? How, Madam Speaker?

You know what happened. Those that weren't running around with a placards and those that were not doing some kind of other objection on the radio or television, they were going to lie down in front of the bulldozer.

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

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: You weren't the only one, so . . . I'm not talking to you right now.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Me too!

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: And so, Madam Speaker, how do we create jobs? And what do they have in mind to create jobs? Do they have in mind some local new business that can create these jobs?

Madam Speaker, the bare facts are that those who stopped everything in this country, not only stopped the jobs, but stopped the revenue of the Government and in creating the unemployment, are the pains that our people are feeling today.

Madam Speaker, I hear them singing. They are singing the same tune, although they are singing out of different hymnals. Madam Speaker, more thought should have been given in giving me the support I needed. They should have. Instead, they made the powers that be sit up there in that Glass House, in that ivory tower, and down on the beach, those who swim in every little water hole and eat out of everybody's pot, Madam Speaker, they allowed them to divide and conquer. So, they lapped it up. *Get McKeeva! We can get rid of him and we can solve the problems.* Oh yeah? They will see, Madam Speaker.

Up until now the record has bared itself. And it's going to be exposed even more. That I know.

Madam Speaker, they should have supported me to do something more about the rollover, after that was messed up between 2006 and 2007, and moved then . . . and they should have supported me back in 2003 when I wanted to do away with the board system. But they think we forgot. I have a good memory. Couldn't get any support, Madam Speaker. Now we need to give great thought to how work permits are treated. Yes, we do. I agree with them. Agree with many things said here today. We need to give great thought.

The world has moved on. Madam Speaker, why do they believe that Bermuda has now agreed to do away with the rollover system? We said Saturday night at our general assembly that that's what we would do, we would do away with the rollover system because it is not working in the best interest of these Islands. There has to be other means found.

Growth?

Madam Speaker, I don't just want to talk about the negatives I have heard, and the blame that has been laid. Let us look at the problems. We have to avoid becoming overly dependent on everything that is created from outside, but it seems like for years we will have to do that until we play the catch-up game.

Madam Speaker, our economy has become more diversified and globalised. We have an increasing vibrant international services sector and are one of

the leading business and financial hubs in the Americas. And we have moved up the value chain in financial services and rapidly moving into new areas of growth. That is evident, Madam Speaker.

We have made some progress in developing entrepreneurship. As much as we think the economy is down, when you go and check the record on licenses, that has to speak for itself. There were many more startup enterprises and larger numbers seeking to expand. And we have strengthened trade and investment links within the region and with our global partners. We are an emerging hub for global talent and we are going to have to mix it to get ours right, to get ours employed. Let no one feel that we can just throw away everybody. That's not going to happen. It is not going to happen, Madam Speaker, because Caymanians do not own the businesses.

Haven't we figured that out? Haven't we figured out that when we try to put on the pressure that these people pick up and send their computer services overseas? Haven't we figured that out?

We don't own the business. And so, we have to walk with our hands in the lion's mouth and placate when we need to do that. That's how we kept our people employed in the past. We can be a more aggressive country if we want to, and we will have to be a little more aggressive in the future, but no one is going to believe that we can just pick up and it is all just going to happen. We don't own the business, first of all.

As I said, when we try to kick up a fuss, they go. They go to Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia gives them all sorts of concessions—no licence fees, no work permit fees—to get their business, to employ their people. Cayman, Madam Speaker, is, I think, can be . . . and I like to be as positive as I can, particularly in these times, Madam Speaker, because I know that we are going into a general election and somebody in this country, whether I lose or I win, I don't know, that's going to be left to be seen, but somebody has to show the positive-ness in this country that exists. It cannot be all negative. But that is what is being pushed.

Cayman has done well and is well placed to succeed in this emerging post crisis world. The Global crisis, Madam Speaker, has reinforced the shift of markets to dynamic competing offshore markets and sophisticated financial centres. So, our companies do have an important window of opportunity to create a strong presence in the Americas over the next five to ten years with new skill sets.

While our skill sets (even the ones that we have now) are in high demand, over time, Madam Speaker, our other players will catch up and deploy the best human capital to compete, and we must establish leading positions in key markets. And it can't be said we are not doing it. I got cussed for doing it. I travelled, I listened; we thought up new policies, and some of it worked. The Minister just came back from

Brazil. You think that just happened since December? That was planned. The legislation brought here was all planned and on its way—because we did the work!

The United Democratic Party, Madam Speaker, understands that there is no lack of opportunity for Cayman. We must build deeper capabilities and expertise to make the most of this window of growth. But to sustain the growth we must make better and more efficient use of our resources, especially by growing skills and talents of our people. The size of our workforce will be constrained because a large part of our GDP Growth was achieved through the expansion of our workforce over the years. And if we increase the opportunities and do the work that some of these Members have been talking about, of how we find ways to protect Cayman while keeping the business, that is the challenge.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: You too! Yes, you said some good things; not everything, but some good things.

My Party, the Party I represent, is committed to increasing the opportunities of our resident labour force with direct inducements to train them and to make sure they get the jobs.

I hear them saying, Madam Speaker, that I fought the Foreign Office too hard. Well, you are going to have to do some of that. And you are going to have to do some of that, and be open enough to get the business in. You have to be smart enough. You can't just go giving up everything and roll over. No! You have to stand some time and say, *Uh-uh, not this way, not your way, not today*. Well, sometimes Bobo and sometimes fool-fool.

Madam Speaker, we have to avoid becoming overly dependent on foreign workers and continuing to increase their proportion of the total workforce over the long term. But foreign workers, we contend will remain valuable to Cayman. They will fill many jobs for which there is a shortage of Caymanian workers, including the construction and tourism industry, until we can get our grips in and find ways and means of managing those areas to ensure the businesses stay here and not flee when we have to put our foot down. That is going to be the trick—recognising that we need them, utilising them, treating them as human beings.

Madam Speaker, that challenge is what we are going to have to grapple and come to grips with, or else our children are not going to succeed. They are not! But we are not going to be able to continue . . . while I believe that the population has to grow, Madam Speaker, for us to continue the level of business that we have grown used to and what has caused the high standard of living and caused us to

carve the kind of homes we have, we are going to have to grow the economy.

You are not going to have 2,000 apartments empty, Madam Speaker, and believe that we are growing the economy. Who is going to rent them? Me? You? We have our own homes, and are paying our own mortgages. People went out and invested, though. So, where is it going to come from? There is a place for growth and the people who are going to rent are the foreign workers. But we can moderate the growth of the total foreign workforce. And it remains critical for Cayman to continue attracting highly capable entrepreneurial people from around the world to work here.

I say again, and will keep injecting, we do not have the ownership, we don't have the equity. We talk about the Port, Madam Speaker. But that is one of the things I said, if we get in there and it is going to be \$100 million, make Caymanians buy into it. If I got \$1,000 or \$10,000, fix a company so that we can buy into it. We don't have ownership in this country. Look around George Town. Who owns it? Look at all of the financial services business, who owns it? We have only been able to have equity, to have ownership in the periphery.

Madam Speaker, we can manage it. Continue to get the skills we need because they will complement our home-grown talents and add to the critical mass of talent in all of the areas that are important to Cayman and growing, and in the future engineering, science, finance and startups that Cayman needs to be a serious player in the knowledge based economy, for instance.

Madam Speaker, we can sit here and talk all we want. There are new competing environments around us that we had better take stock and stop the electioneering at this particular point. And they don't have to say that I am electioneering because you know what I am saying here.

You can go through the Hansards. I have been saying that for the last several years, probably from 2003 you will find it. But you know what they said: I was anti-Caymanian so they found a way to make me lose the Government. And now, Madam Speaker, they are trying to make me lose my seat.

They have talked about diversification. We can. Yes, we can. Madam Speaker, that is why we are moving, for the diversification of the financial services. And we can do some light manufacturing and the technology of Cayman programme. The Cayman Alliance, Madam Speaker, is diversification; even our agriculture base, Health City Cayman, the special economic zones, the clinical trials and research. Madam Speaker, do we realise how big that is and how many jobs that will create?

I do not want to talk about the negatives and how they beat up on me and how they are going around scandalising. I want to say here in this record on this last day, that yes we can. We can have the

level of work permits we need but we have to grow the economy so that our people will take part in it, or else we are not going to make it work.

I will stop there, Madam Speaker, in case they are wondering where I am talking from. Madam Speaker, I am talking from a very factual base, proven and tested.

Madam Speaker, I hear them talking something about Saturday night. But Saturday night is gone and passed. It's gone! Even the old country singer they had here, he sang his songs, made his talk and it's gone. The future—how do we have our people employed? How do we balance that we do not have the ownership and that the multinational companies that do, is not just going to stand by and believe that we are just going to walk into their office and tell them what to do. We can make laws that they have to abide by but if they do not like them they will do what they have done before—take their computer department and send it overseas.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No, you say so to the Government over there that helped you stay where you are. That's what you need to do. Leave Ezzard and Arden out of this. They were a part of it, though, you know. You tell them that they were the cause of it. Be man enough and stand up and tell them that they, the Peoples Progressive Movement made that kind of damage. That's why we have unemployment!

You never said so just now, Mr. Minister. I don't know why.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, as I said, I do not like this kind of . . . I count it electioneering too. It is! But it is not the end of the world.

I do feel that they could have done this a long time ago after the Fourth Member for George Town, my colleague, brought it in 2010. A long time ago it should have been done. Of course, the Minister says sure. He knows it.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: And so we on this side, Madam Speaker, while we are not satisfied that it has come late (it could have come before, we know that because we were part and parcel of the Government), I am glad it is here. And that the key thing in this piece of legislation is that it will come back to the House, as I understand. I hope I understand correctly for the House agreement. A new government will have to do that. So, we on this side in this corner are pleased to support it.

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

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

If not, I will call on the Honourable Deputy Governor to make his concluding remarks.

Before we continue the debate, could we have a motion for the continuation of the business of the House after 4.30 please?

Honourable Premier.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

The Premier, Hon Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, according to Standing Order 10(2) I move the suspension thereof for the continuation of the business on today's Order Paper.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow the continuation of the business on the Order Paper. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

The Speaker: I now call on the Deputy Governor to make his concluding remarks.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everyone for their contribution to the debate. I will respond on a number of points that have been made.

Firstly, I want to thank the Fourth Elected Member for George Town for bringing the Motion, and certainly apologise to him for the length of time that it has taken to get the matter dealt with. But we are here today and there is no time like the present.

There were some questions raised in relation to the Chief Immigration Officer's ability to grant temporary work permits. The thought process was that we had to give the Chief Immigration Officer that authority in that there will be times when persons are needed to come into the Island for a short period of time and that flexibility is necessary.

We deliberately did not define "exceptional circumstance" because we needed to give the boards that authority to be able to decide what an exceptional circumstance is. It is impossible for us to think of everyone. It could be a natural disaster, it could be a large company bringing in talent, it could be a number of

things and I think we need to give the boards that authority.

Yes, the quota can be increased, and I think that flexibility is a good thing in that again we could have something happen that necessitated the quota being extended. That is not a bad thing. It gives the law the flexibility that it will need in order to benefit Caymanians.

There were a lot of questions in relation to what occupations we are talking about and whether we should define them. Certainly, there are a few which comes to mind right now (and these are mine, not the Government's).

For example, why should we preserve a position, like a concierge at a hotel, for Caymanians? These are the people who are selling our Island, selling our services, why shouldn't those persons be Caymanians? The immigration boards for years have tried to implement that, because who better to sell our country? Who better to know what is going on in our Islands? Who knows which restaurants to send people to, [to see] the unique features of our Islands, than our own people, the people who have lived here all of their lives? I think that is a perfect post that we should reserve for Caymanians.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: HR [Human Resources] Manager. Again, those are key positions that we should have for our people. Who do we want looking after our people in the work place? Who do we want ensuring that the Caymanians who are qualified get the jobs? HR managers are a key position in any company. But again, we know that there will be times when a new company coming in will want to have their own HR manager for a while before we can train someone else to their corporate culture. So, it is important that we have those flexibilities. But there are easily a number of jobs that just comes to mind at the moment.

Trainee accountant. Why would we want to bring in someone on a work permit to train to be an accountant? Again, those jobs should be reserved for Caymanians. The same as articulated clerks, those exactly, would we want to grant a work permit to someone to be an articulated clerk when we know that there are Caymanians who cannot get articulated at the moment? So, those are a few examples, and, of course, those are at the top. We have some at the bottom.

Housekeepers. We have been reserving for Caymanians along Seven Mile Beach for years. Luckily, the business expanded and we had to change that policy. But again it is something that we can look at in these austere times.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: I think the Minister of Community Services talked about this being a first step. I want to agree with that, in that it is important we not give up on our people; that we give them every opportunity to succeed in their country. And yes, while we believe that the Immigration Law can be better enforced, the stats which I gave earlier indicate that it is being enforced. I was given some stats earlier in terms of a number of people who have been arrested for working without a work permit (about 70 persons). That shows that the laws are being enforced. Yet, we continue to have Caymanians out of work.

The Minister of Education went through talking about how this was a key piece of the puzzle, and I certainly agree with that.

I think where there is unanimous approval is that we do need to look at the immigration boards and the functions that they carry out. Everyone on both sides of the House talked about the need for us to do away with the boards. I think we all agree that that needs to be looked at very carefully and empower civil servants to do these jobs.

There were a lot of questions as to why we are coming with this Bill at this late hour. It was not designed that way. Certainly, that is what happened. But we felt that it was an important piece of legislation that we needed to bring to the House at this late stage.

There was a question regarding how this protection fits with the current pieces of legislation. I think it fits very well. It complements the current provisions of the Immigration Law, section 44 of the Immigration Law, which the Member for East End spoke to. It fits perfectly there. It gives the immigration boards ample opportunity and authority to now protect Caymanians.

Madam Speaker, I think I will close by saying that it is incumbent on any government to do its utmost best to provide opportunities for its people, and that is what we are doing here today. We are providing an opportunity for Caymanians, we are providing them with hope and hope is a good thing. If I remember one of the quotes in my favourite movie, it says: "Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things." And I think it is, because Caymanians have to know that if they go out and become qualified, they have an excellent opportunity to move up the ladder to get the best jobs. And the Government has to provide that opportunity.

Too often we hear of the Government not doing enough, or the asking of where the protection is. It is right here. In this Bill is the protection that we believe will be not only a piece of the puzzle but my hope is that it will be one of the final pieces of the puzzle that will give Caymanians the opportunities and the protection that they deserve.

I want to thank everyone for their contribution. I want to thank Ms. Myrtle Brandt and her team from Legal Drafting for doing all of their hard work, and for

the Members of the Portfolio and the Immigration Department for all of their work on putting together the Bill.

Thank you so very much, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Governor.

The question is that the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a second reading. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: I'm sorry. The Immigration—

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: We can vote on that one too.

The Speaker: The Immigration . . . I correct myself.

[The question is that] the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a second reading. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon: Madam Speaker, I kindly call for a division.

The Clerk:

Division No. 22

Ayes: 9

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

Noes: 5

Hon. A. M. McLaughlin, Jr.
Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts
Hon. Anthony S. Eden
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller
Mr. V. Arden McLean

Absent: 1

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell

The Speaker: Results of the Division: 9 Ayes, 5 Noes and 1 person absent.

The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, has been given a second reading.

Agreed by majority on division: The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, given a second reading.

The Speaker: I am going to take a ten minute suspension at this time. It will be the last suspension of the evening.

Proceedings suspended at 4.40 pm

Proceedings resumed at 4.55 pm

[MISSING AUDIO RECORDING – SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2013, AND PART OF COMMITTEE STAGE (CLAUSES 1 & 2) TO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL, 2012]

COMMITTEE ON BILLS

[Hon. Mary J. Lawrence, Chairman]

Adoption of Children Bill, 2012

[audio recording begins here]

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Two A.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: All right. Thank you.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: What confusion.

The Chairman: Clause 3.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Clause 3

Amendment to clause 3

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 3(1), by deleting the words “one year” and substituting the words “five years”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 3 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 3 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 4 Adoption Board.

Amendment to clause 4

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 4(2) by deleting the words “three years’ post qualification experience” and substituting the words “five years’ post qualification experience”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question: The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 4 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 4 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 5 Duties of Board.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 5 stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 5 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 6 Arrangements made by Board.

The Chairman: Minister of [Community Affairs]

Amendment to clause 6

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In sub-clause (1): by deleting “seven days” and substituting “seven working days”.

Sub-clause (4): by deleting “seven days” and substituting “seven working days”.

[Background chatter]

The Chairman: The amendments have been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: No, Madam Speaker.

The Chairman: If not, I will put the question that the amendments stand part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendments to clause 6 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 6 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 7 Prohibition of payment for child.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 7

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 7, by deleting “one year” and substituting “five years”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 7 passed.

The Chairman: If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 7 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 8	Orders to Caymanians and residents living in Cayman
Clause 9	Placing by Department

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 8 and 9 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 8 and 9 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 10 Appeals by persons desirous of adopting children.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 10

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In sub-clause (2) by deleting the word “him” and substituting “prospective adopter”.

In sub-clause (3) by deleting “twenty-eight days” and substituting “twenty working days”.

The Chairman: The amendments have been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question. The question is that the amendments stand part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendments to clause 10 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 10 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 11	Provision of adoption service
Clause 12	Power of court to make adoption orders
Clause 13	Child's views
Clause 14	Eligibility to adopt: couples, etc.

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 through 14 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 11 through 14 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 15 Eligibility to adopt: step-parents.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 15

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 15, by deleting the words "section 6(1) and 14(3)" and substituting "section 6".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question. The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 15 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 15 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 16 Eligibility to adopt: general.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 16

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In sub-clause (1)(a), by inserting after the words "an applicant who" the words "has attained the age of eighteen years but has not attained the age of twenty-five years or who".

By deleting sub-clause (2) and substituting the following sub-clause: "(2) An adoption order shall not be made – (a) in respect of a child who is a female in favour of a sole applicant who is a male; or (b) in respect of a child who is a male in favour of a sole applicant who is a female, unless the Grand Court is satisfied that there are special circumstances which justify making such an order but in no circumstances shall an adoption order be made where a sole applicant is known or reasonably suspected to have sexual attraction to children."

The Chairman: The amendments have been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question: The question is that the amendments stand part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendments to clause 16 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 16 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 17 Consent to adoption: general.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 17 stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 17 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 18 Consent to adoption: parents under 18 years.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 18

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 18, by inserting at the end of the sentence the words “or guardian, but where there is an objection by one or more grandparents to consent given under this section, a parent may apply to the Grand Court which may dispense with the need for such consent.”

The Chairman: I draw attention to the errors in the last two amendments that are just grammatical spelling errors.

The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question: The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 18 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 18 as amended passed.**The Clerk:**

Clause 19	Interim orders
Clause 20	Evidence of consent of parent or guardian
Clause 21	Adoption principles
Clause 22	Function of Grand Court as to adoption orders
Clause 23	Supervision in exceptional circumstances
Clause 24	Rules of court

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 19 through 24 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 19 through 24 passed.**The Clerk:**

Clause 25	Rights and duties of parents and capacity to marry
Clause 26	Affiliation Orders, etc.
Clause 27	Intestacies, wills and settlements
Clause 28	Provisions supplementary to section 27
Clause 29	Effect of further adoption orders
Clause 30	Restriction on advertisements

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 25 through 30 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 25 through 30 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 31 Restrictions on sending children abroad for adoption.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 31

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 31(1), line 1, by deleting the word “unlawful” and substituting the word “lawful”.

In clause 31 (2), line 1, by deleting the word “unlawful” and substituting the word “lawful”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 31 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 31 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 32	Licence to send child abroad for adoption
Clause 33	Adopted Children Register
Clause 34	Record of birth
Clause 35	Effect of overseas adoption

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 32 through 35 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 32 through 35 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 36 Approval to bring child into the Islands for adoption.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 36

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: In clause 36(3), by deleting the words “one year” and substituting the words “five years”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question: The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 36 passed.

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

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 36 as amended passed.

The Chairman: I would like the attention of Members to these amendments that are taking place, please.

The Clerk:

Clause 37	Confidentiality
Clause 38	Regulations
Clause 39	Repeal of the Adoption Law (2003 Revision) and transitional

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 37 through 39 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 37 through 39 passed.

New Clause 2A

The Chairman: We will go back now to the new clause 2A; the first page.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: “2A. For purposes of this Law, the word “spouse” means a spouse in the context of a marriage as defined in section 2 and related words such as husband and wife shall be construed accordingly and, for the avoidance of doubt, persons living together as if they were husband and wife shall not, unless formally married under the Marriage Law (2010 Revision), be considered to be spouses for purposes of this Law.”

The Chairman: We need a quorum.

The Clerk: Clause 2A Definition of spouse, etc.

[Pause]

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Members

The Chairman: Will Members return to the Chamber immediately please? We need to get through this business before the House. I need a quorum.

[Long pause]

The Chairman: We're going to do [new] clause 2[A] again please, so that everybody will understand what is being done. It is a new clause and is now being considered at the end of the committee stage of this Bill.

Honourable Minister, please read the clause again.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: [New clause 2A reads as follows:] “For the purpose of this Law the word “spouse” means a spouse in the context of a marriage as defined in section 2 and related words such as husband and wife shall be construed accordingly and, for the avoidance of doubt, persons living together as if they were husband and wife shall not, unless formally married under the Marriage Law (2010 Revision), be considered to be spouses for purposes of this Law.”

The Chairman: You need to finish reading it.

[Pause]

The Chairman: It is listed as 1 but the number is incorrect.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: “Renumbering the clauses accordingly”

The Clerk: New clause 2A Definition of “spouse” etc.

The Chairman: I will now put the question that the clause be read a second time. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 2A was read a second time.

The Chairman: Does any Member wish to speak on this clause?

If not, I will put the question that the New Clause 2A be added to the Bill and that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 2A added to the Bill and the subsequent clauses renumbered accordingly.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to repeal and replace the Adoption of Children Law (2003 Revision); revise the law relating to the Adoption of Children; to make provisions ensuring that, in any adoption, the interests of the child are paramount; and for incidental and connected matters.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012.

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Foundation continued
Clause 4	Legal capacity of Foundation
Clause 5	Functions of Foundation
Clause 6	Powers of Foundation
Clause 7	Foundation to act through Board
Clause 8	Constitution of Board
Clause 9	Liability of members
Clause 10	Expenses of members of Board

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 10 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 10 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 11	Managing Director
Clause 12	Power to employ staff, etc.
Clause 13	Meetings of Board
Clause 14	Records to be kept and made available
Clause 15	Power to delegate
Clause 16	Accounts
Clause 17	Compliance with Public Management and Finance Law (2010 Revision)
Clause 18	Exemption from certain duties, etc.
Clause 19	Power to make regulations
Clause 20	Minister can give policy directions
Clause 21	Repeal of Law 18 of 1984 and transitional
Clause 22	Repeal of Law 24 of 1992

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 through 22 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 11 through 22 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to repeal and replace the Cayman National Cultural Foundation Law, 1984 and

the Cayman National Cultural Foundation Law, 1992; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Marine Conservation Law (2007 Revision) – definitions

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 and 2 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 3 Amendment of section 3 of the principal Law – Marine Conservation Board.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, did we skip over the Cultural Foundation Bill?

The Clerk: We did that.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Sorry.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Oh-oh.

[Inaudible interjection]

Amendment to clause 3

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I the Honourable Mark Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture, give notice to move the following amendments to the Marine Conservation Bill, 2013: That the Bill be amended

as follows: At the end of clause 3(b), by deleting the quotation mark and the second full stop; and, by inserting the following paragraph – “(c) by repealing subsection (8) and substituting the following subsection – “(8) The Governor may issue such general directives to the Board as he considers necessary or expedient for the operation of this Law or regulation made thereunder”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does the Member wish to speak thereto?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: No, Madam Speaker.

The Chairman: Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question: The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 3 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended, do stand part of the Bill. If there are no .

..

Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: No, Madam Speaker, I think the Minister moved a second amendment to clause 4.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Okay.

He said the Bill as amended. We want to deal with the clause as amended.

The Chairman: Sorry, I got the language wrong.

The question is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 3 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 4 Amendment of section 6 – closed seasons and bans – lobsters, conch and Nassau groupers.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister of Environment.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Chairman: That's a new clause. We will consider it at the end.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Chairman: The question is that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Chairman.

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: You are not filing an amendment to clause 4?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: She said she is going to do the new amendment at the end.

The Chairman: After clause 4 the following clauses are inserted which are new amendments.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: The clause is inserted at the end.

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: My apologies.

The Chairman: It's all right.

The question is that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 4 passed.

The Chairman: New clause 5.

New clause 5

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chairman, after clause 4, by inserting the following clauses: "Amendment of section 6 – closed seasons and bans - lobsters, conch and Nassau groupers.

"The principal Law is amended in section 6 by repealing subsection (8) and substituting the following – (8) The Governor may, by regulation, suspend or change the operation of subsection (7) in such area or areas as it may specify in the regulation."

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved, does any Member wish to speak thereto?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Only a question for the Minister through you, Madam Chair.

I understood that we had an agreement by all Members to address the spear gun issue, and I noticed that that directive . . . or I would be satisfied with a commitment from the Minister that he will issue, while he remains in office (and I hope sometime next week), a new directive on the licensing of spear guns which allows people to purchase new spear guns and to purchase parts for existing spear guns.

I think there was consensus on Friday evening, when we were debating the Bill, that that was going to be done. But it is not in this amendment.

[Pause]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Speaker, I have the amendment drafted if the Minister would like to consider it now.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, yes we did have a discussion about the directives, and the main point here was taking that authority away from the Board and putting it with Cabinet where it should be.

As far as drafting of new directives, we haven't done that yet. Obviously, if you have a proposal for the drafting of it, you can give it to us for consideration. I think that the sort of pressure there from Members based on discussion we had last week, is to issue new directives.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Which would allow the purchase of new spear guns and for new licensees and also parts for a prior?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Well, I think one of the things discussed was that, for instance, there is the firearm licensing process, which if we were to mirror something like that which makes it, you know, not making it any less vigorous to have one, but at least if you have a licence you are able to get the parts and so on for it.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: And buy new [inaudible]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: So, we are doing that next week? We are doing that next week in Cabinet?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Yes, I'm satisfied with a commitment from the Minister responsible that he will issue a new directive from Cabinet while he is still Minister.

The Chairman: I need a quorum in the House.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Just one second, Madam Speaker.

[Pause]

The Chairman: If I don't have all Members in their seats in two seconds I am going to leave my seat.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Chairman: In your seat!
Thank you.

[Long pause and background chatter]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: We have a quorum.

The Chairman: We need to repeat on clause 5 so that we can have it in the records properly.

New Clause 5

The Clerk: New clause 5 Amendment of section 6 – closed seasons and bans – lobsters, conchs and Nassau groupers.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, I think we did that one.

The Chairman: Yes, we are going to do that so that we can have the vote in the House for it.

I call on the Honourable Minister of Environment to move the clause.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, I move that the Bill be amended as follows: After clause 4 by inserting the following: "Amendment of section 6 – closed seasons and bans - lobsters, conch and Nassau groupers.

New clause 5: "The principal Law is amended in section 6 by repealing subsection (8) and substituting the following – (8) The Governor may, by regulation, suspend or change the operation of subsection (7) in such area or areas as it may specify in the regulation."

The Chairman: The question is that this clause be read a second time. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 5 read a second time.

The Chairman: The question now is that this clause, as amended, be added to the Bill as clause 5, and

that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 5 added to the Bill and subsequent clauses renumbered accordingly.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister, we need you to move the next clause.

New Clause 6

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, I beg that the Bill be amended as follows: "Amendment of section 7 – restriction on taking and receiving conch".

New clause 6: "The principal Law is amended in section 7 by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following – (2) The Governor may, by regulation, suspend or change the operation of subsection (1) in such area or areas as it may specify in the regulation."

The Clerk: New Clause 6 Amendment of section 7 – restriction on taking and receiving conch.

The Chairman: I will now put the question that the New Clause 6 be read a second time.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 6 read a second time.

The Chairman: Does any Member wish to speak on this clause?

[No audible reply]

The Chairman: The question now is that this New Clause 6 be added to the Bill as Clause 6 and that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 6 added to the Bill and subsequent clauses renumbered accordingly.

Mental Health Bill, 2013

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

New Clause 7

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, I beg that the Bill be amended as follows: "Amendment of section 17 –restriction on use of fish pots".

New clause 7: "The principal Law is amended in section 17 by repealing subsection (3) and substituting the following – (3) The Governor may by regulation specify the types of fish pots which may be used in accordance with subsection (1) and such regulation may provide for any matter incidental to the licensing, issue and use of fish pots."

The Clerk: New Clause 7 Amendment of section 17 – restriction on use of fish pots.

The Chairman: The question now is that this clause be read a second time.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 7 read a second time.

The Chairman: The question now is that the New Clause 7 be added to the Bill.

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

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 7 added to the Bill and the subsequent clauses renumbered accordingly.

The Clerk: A Bill for a Law to amend the Marine Conservation Law (2007 Revision) to make certain changes in relation to Rays; to limit the tenure of office of members of the Marine Conservation Board to three years; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

The Clerk: The Mental Health Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short Title and commencement
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Application
Clause 4	Guardian's authority takes precedence
Clause 5	Request for review
Clause 6	Emergency detention order
Clause 7	Apprehension of a person suspected to be a danger
Clause 8	Observation order
Clause 9	Treatment order
Clause 10	Temporary holding power

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 10 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 10 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 11	Emergency medical treatment order
Clause 12	Assisted outpatient treatment order
Clause 13	Prisoners remanded but unfit to plead
Clause 14	Treatment outside the Islands
Clause 15	Enforcement of orders
Clause 16	Postal restrictions
Clause 17	Power of Youth Court (2005 Revision)
Clause 18	Jurisdiction of the Grand Court over the property of patients and persons under guardianship
Clause 19	Powers of the Grand Court exercising jurisdiction under section 18

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 through clause 19 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 11 through 19 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 20	Regulations
Clause 21	Penalties
Clause 22	Effects of certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (2011 Revision)
Clause 23	Repeal

The Chairman: The question that clauses 20 through 23 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 20 through 23 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to repeal and substitute the Mental Health Law (1997 Revision) to make better provision for persons with serious mental illness or mental impairment; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Mental Health Commission established
Clause 4	Constitution membership, etc. of Commission
Clause 5	Meetings of Commission
Clause 6	Secretary to the Commission

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 6 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 6 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 7 Functions of Commission: Quasi-judicial.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Amendment to clause 7

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, Honourable Mark Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture, give notice to move the following amendments to the Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013; that the Bill be amended as follows: In clause 7(c) by deleting the words "section 9(4)" and substituting the words "section 9(5)".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question. The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 7 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill.

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 7 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 8	Functions of Commission: Recommendations to Health Practice Commission and Councils, etc.
Clause 9	Functions of Commission: general
Clause 10	Incidental powers and cautions of Commission
Clause 11	Delegation of functions
Clause 12	Advice of Commission to Health Practice Commission and Councils
Clause 13	Minister may give policy directions to Commission
Clause 14	Regulations

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 8 through 14 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 8 through 14 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to establish the Mental Health Commission; provide for its functions and powers; and for incidental and connected purposes.

[Pause]

The Chairman: We have a little problem. There are three Schedules listed on the Bill that are not listed in the index of clauses. In the Arrangement of Clauses are three Schedules listed after section 14—Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3.

[Pause and background talk]

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson, Acting Attorney General, Temporary Ex-officio Member for Legal Affairs: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, we propose to add Schedules 1, 2 and 3.

The Chairman: Is your microphone on? I can hardly hear you.

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Chair, as part of the editorial correction, we propose to add Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the Arrangement of Clauses at the beginning of the Bill.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Just to insert Schedules 1, 2 and 3 in the Arrangement of Clauses at the beginning of the Bill. The Schedules are already set out in the Bill but not listed in the Arrangement of Clauses.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Yes, it will not affect the existing clauses. At the end of the existing clauses Schedules 1 to 3 will be added.

The Chairman: I think we should put that to a vote, that Schedule 1. . .

The Clerk: Schedule 1, Schedule 2, and Schedule 3.

The Chairman: The question is that Schedules 1, 2 and 3 be included after the Arrangement of Clauses to form part of the Arrangement of Clauses which forms part of the Bill. They are already in the Bill but we need to include them into the Arrangement of Clauses—Schedules 1, 2 and 3.

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

Ayes.

Agreed: Schedules 1, 2 and 3 included to form part of the Arrangement of Clauses.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to establish the Mental Health Commission; provide for its functions and powers; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Development and Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2013

[Withdrawn]

The Clerk: The Development and Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Development and Planning Law (2011 Revision) – definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 3 - establishment and constitution of Central Planning Authority
Clause 4	Amendment of section 4 - appointment of Staff
Clause 5	Amendment of section 5 – duties of Authority
Clause 6	Repeal and—

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., Minister of Tourism and Development: No, not the one for Tortuga Ma'am. It was some Planning amendments that we had withdrawn. We had asked for leave of the House to withdraw it because the Members said that they did not support it.

The Chairman: Okay, that Bill was withdrawn.

²Notaries Public Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Notaries Public Bill, 2012.

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Eligibility for appointment as notary public

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable [temporary] Attorney General

² Bill [recommitted](#) at page 837

give notice to move the following amendments to the Notaries Public Bill, 2012:

[Inaudible interjections]

The Chairman: Just a minute please.

[Pause]

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye—

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Chair, there's a proposed committee amendment to clause 3.

The Chairman: To?

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: To clause 3 of the Bill, which has been filed, Madam Chair.

The Chairman: We don't have it.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Chair, with your leave, I seek the Chair's permission to read the proposed amendment.

The Chairman: Can we go on to the next item on the Order Paper while that amendment is copied? We do not have copies of it here at the table.

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Chair, before you move on I just need to raise a matter on the Notaries Bill. There was a commitment given by the Government to keep the fee at \$500 and not [increase] it to \$800, and that is not included into an amendment here. So, if the Honourable Attorney General is looking at amendments we need to prepare that one as well.

[Inaudible interjections]

Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Insurance Law, 2010 – Interpretation
Clause 3	Amendment of section 4 – licences
Clause 4	Amendment of section 9 – returns required of insurer
Clause 5	Insertion of Part 4A – portfolio insurance companies

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 5 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 5 passed.

The Chairman: I hope everyone is paying attention to what is being passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to amend the Insurance Law, 2010, to create a new class of insurer; to permit the registration of portfolio insurance companies; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Immigration Law (2012 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 41 – who may be gainfully occupied
Clause 4	Amendment of section 43 - application of certain sections to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman Immigration Board

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 4 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 4 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 5 Insertion of section 46A – restricted areas of employment.

The Chairman: Honourable Deputy Governor.

Amendment to clause 5

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Deputy Governor give notice to move the following amendment to the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013; that the Bill be amended in clause 5 in the new section 46A(1) proposed for insertion in the principal Law, by inserting after the words “of section 41(2)” the words “but an Order made under this subsection has no effect unless it is subsequently ratified by the Legislative Assembly”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: No Ma'am.

The Chairman: If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No [Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: The Ayes have it.

The Chairman: It was only one Aye. I will call it again.
The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No [Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 5 passed.

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

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 5 as amended passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to amend the Immigration Law (2012 Revision) to restrict the employment of non-Caymanians, in certain jobs; and to make provision for incidental and connected matters.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No [Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Health Practice Law (2005 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Repeal and substitution of section 10 - health fees
Clause 4	Amendment of section 11 –refusal of certificate
Clause 5	Amendment of section 13 – revocation of a certificate and appeal against revocation
Clause 6	Amendment of section 15 – offences
Clause 7	Amendment of section 16 – inspection of health care facilities
Clause 8	Amendment of section 18 – prohibition notices
Clause 9	amendment to heading of principal Law – Councils and registration of practitioners
Clause 10	Amendment of section 21 – Councils

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 10 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 10 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 11	Amendment of section 23 - establishment and maintenance of registers
Clause 12	Amendment of section 24 – full registration

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 and 12 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 11 and 12 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 13 Amendment of section 24A - special registration

The Chairman: Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Speaker, I had filed a number of amendments to the Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, but it does not appear that I have any support for the amendments so I will withdraw all the amendments that I have filed at this time rather than waste the time of the House to go through them.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Chairman: The Member for North Side has withdrawn his amendments.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: You don't worry—

The Chairman: The question is that clause 13 stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 13 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 14	Amendment of section 25 - provisional registration
Clause 15	Repeal of section 26 – overseas list
Clause 16	Insertion of section 27A – practicing licence
Clause 17	Amendment to heading of principal Law – general provisions concerning registration
Clause 18	Amendment of section 28 – power to make regulations with respect to the registers
Clause 19	Amendment of section 29 – access to the registers, etc.
Clause 20	Amendment of section 30 – removal of names and frauds or errors in relation to registration

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 14 through 20 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 14 through 20 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 21	Amendment of section 31 – registration fees
Clause 22	Amendment of section 34 – post registration education
Clause 23	Amendment of section 35 – codes of standards of professional practice
Clause 24	Amendment of section 36 – censure, suspension, striking off, etc.
Clause 25	Insertion of section 38A - emergencies
Clause 26	Insertion of section 40A – immunity
Clause 27	Amendment of First Schedule – Health Practice Commission
Clause 28	Amendment of Second Schedule – Health Appeals Tribunal
Clause 29	Amendment of Third Schedule - constitution and general proceedings, etc. of the Councils
Clause 30	Amendment of Fourth Schedule - professions of Medicine and Dentistry
Clause 31	Repeal and substitution of Fifth Schedule – professions of Nursing and Midwifery

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 21 through 31 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 21 through 31 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 32 Repeal and substitution of Sixth Schedule – professions allied with Medicine.

Amendment to clause 32

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and culture give notice to move the following amendments to the Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013:

That the Bill be amended in clause 32 in its New Sixth Schedule proposed for insertion in the principal Law as follows: by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical sequence, the following words: "Massage Therapist"; "Polysomnographic Technologists"; and "Vascular Scientists/Technologists"; and by deleting the words "Therapeutic Massage Therapists".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question. The question is that the amendments stand part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendments to clause 32 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 32 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 33	Insertion of Seventh Schedule – pharmacy
Clause 34	Savings and transitional provisions

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 33 and 34 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 33 and 34 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to amend the Health Practice Law (2005 Revision) to make it mandatory for a registered practitioner to obtain a practising licence in order to practise his profession in the Islands; to effect miscellaneous amendments with a view to improving the provision of Health Services; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

[Pause]

Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013.

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Non-application of the Law
Clause 4	Human Tissue Transplant Council

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 4 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 4 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 5 Functions of the Council.

The Chairman: Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Chair, I guess I find myself in the same position with no support for the amendments so I will withdraw them.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 5 stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 5 passed.

The Chairman: May I note for the record that the Member for North Side has withdrawn his proposed amendments for this Bill.

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Chair, before you move on, we are dealing with the Human Tissue Transplant Bill, right?

Madam Speaker, I don't know where, and I don't know if the Minister did consider the regulation of importation of human transplant tissue. I did speak about it in the Bill during the debate.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: That is what I am asking, whether you have a committee stage amendment.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Clerk:

Clause 6	Consent by adult donor to removal of regenerative human tissue
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Clause 7	Consent by adult donor to removal of non-regenerative human tissue
Clause 8	Prohibition on removal of tissue from living adult who lacks capacity to consent
Clause 9	Certificate of consent
Clause 10	Effect of consent under section 6 or 7

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 6 through 10 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 6 through 10 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 11	Removal of non-regenerative tissue from a child
Clause 12	Removal of regenerative tissue from a child
Clause 13	Consent to removal of regenerative tissue from a child
Clause 14	Effect of consent under section 13(1)
Clause 15	Revocation of consent
Clause 16	Child or adult no longer in agreement
Clause 17	Effect of authority under section 25
Clause 18	Authority to remove tissue after death
Clause 19	Coroner's consent

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 through 19 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Chair, forgive me.

The Chairman: Yes.

Hon. D., Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Chair, am I allowed one question to the Member, for clarity?

The Chairman: Yes, Member for George Town.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Chair, I would just like to ask the Minister if, with this Bill, those industry stakeholders were consulted, and if the construct of this Bill meets with their agreement (that is, CIMDS and any other related groups or bodies)?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Chairman: Honourable Minister for Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Just repeat the last part of it please.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Chair, I was only asking of the Minister if the Cayman Islands Medical and Dental Society (CIMDS) and any other relevant bodies or groups have been consulted, if what is in the Bill is with their agreement, and just making sure that what is coming to us is something that that sector has given its blessings to.

[Pause]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, there was indeed extensive consultation, and I would also remind Members that this Bill has been in construct now for several years—even prior to my tenure as the Minister for Health.

We had extensive consultation with stakeholders, including Legal Department which represented private practitioners, the Health Practice Commission, Medical Director, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Registrar of Department of Health Regulatory Services as well. So, there was extensive consultation across the various stakeholders, and indeed what is in the Bill came from that input throughout that very extensive and long process that took place to construct this Bill.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Chair, I wish not to suggest for a minute that the Minister is not answering my question. But I will bluntly ask him: Does it have their blessings?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: It has the blessings of the various stakeholders that took part in the whole process, Madam Chair.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: And you forced my other question: Who was missing from it? You say it has the blessings of those who took part so I am asking who is missing. And I am not being funny!

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: No. I know that.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: I'm only going according to the answers I'm getting.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Well I would hope that no one that should have been involved in it was missing, Madam Chair.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: But you don't know for sure? You said you would hope but you don't know for sure.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Anyone that was able to give input in the contract of this Bill was not [excluded] in the stakeholder process, Madam Chair.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Chairman.

The Chairman: Yes, Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: I met with the full Executive of the Cayman Islands Medical and Dental Society except one doctor who had to run a late clinic, on Thursday last, and no member of the Executive had seen either the Health Practice Bill or the Human Transplant Bill. That was the information they gave me.

I noticed that the organisations which the Minister named, all of those are stakeholders as well. But I wonder if there is any particular reason why the Cayman Islands Medical and Dental Society was not consulted and had not seen the Bills until I showed those to them on Tuesday.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Tuesday or Thursday?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: I met with them, Madam Speaker, but I gave them copies of the Bill so that they could study it before the meeting. In fact, the Chairman of the Cayman Islands Medical and Dental Society came here to Parliament on Tuesday to pick up copies as well.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, the CIMDS as a body itself was not one of the stakeholder groups, but, Madam Chair, there are members across the various stakeholders who would be representative of the CIMDS that were involved in the process.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Chair, just for the information of Members, all of the Executive were very concerned and very much perturbed with many of the provisions in both pieces of legislation.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 11 through 19 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 11 through 19 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 20	Unauthorised selling of human tissue prohibited
Clause 21	Commercial dealings in human tissue prohibited
Clause 22	Recovery of costs of tissue banks

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 20 through 22 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: I will put the question again. The question is that clauses 20 through 22 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 20 through 22 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 23	Advertising restrictions
Clause 24	Exclusion of liability when acting in pursuance of consent or authority
Clause 25	Confidentiality
Clause 26	Offences

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 23 through 26 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 23 through 26 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 27 Power to make Regulations.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister of Health.

Amendment to clause 27

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and culture give notice to move the following amendments to the Human Transplant Bill, 2013:

That the Bill be amended in clause 27(1) by inserting after paragraph (c) the following paragraph- (and Madam Chair, I wish to make a correction there. I think there is a grammatical error in it) It should read: "[[ca]] respecting the importation and exportation of human tissue into and out of the Islands;".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question: The question is that the amendment stands

part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No. *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 27 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 27 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Schedule: The Human Tissue Transplant Council.

The Chairman: The question is that the Schedule stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: I will put the question again. The question is that the Schedule stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Schedule passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to establish a human tissue transplant council for the purpose of monitoring the donation of tissue by living persons and the removal of tissue from deceased persons; to regulate the collection and use of human tissue for medical purposes; to regulate commercial dealings in human tissue; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Notaries Public Bill, 2012 *[Recommitted]*

The Clerk: The Notaries Public Bill, 2012.

Clause 1 Short title

Clause 2 Interpretation

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No *[Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]*

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 3 Eligibility for appointment as notary public.

The Chairman: Honourable [Temporary] Attorney General.

Amendment to clause 3

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable [Temporary] Attorney General, give notice to move the following amendments to the Notaries Public Bill, 2012:

That the Bill be amended in clause 3(1)(b) by deleting the words "in any Commonwealth Country or Ireland or in any other British Overseas Territory" and substituting the words "or any other jurisdiction".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 3 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 3 as amended passed.

The Clerk: Clause 4 Authorisation and application for appointment.

Amendment to clause 4

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: In clause 4(2)(b) by inserting after the word “request” the word “for”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 4 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 4 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 5	Appointment of notaries public
Clause 6	Register of notaries public
Clause 7	Certificate

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 5 through 7 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 5 through 7 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 8 Payment of annual fees.

Amendment to clause 8

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: That the Bill be amended in clause 8(1) as follows; in paragraph (a) by deleting the words “four hundred” and substituting the words “two hundred and fifty”; and in paragraph (b) by deleting the words “eight hundred” and substituting the words “five hundred”.

The Chairman: I've given consent for this amendment without notice.

The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 8 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 8 as amended passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 9	Notarial acts
Clause 10	Fees

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 9 and 10 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 9 and 10 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 11 Proceedings for misconduct.

Amendment to clause 11

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: In clause 11(1)(b), by inserting after the semicolon the word “or”.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 11 passed.

The Chairman: The question is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 11 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 12 Offences
 Clause 13 Notarial Acts Book
 Clause 14 Duty to inform Clerk
 Clause 15 Regulations
 Clause 16 Repeal of Notaries Public Law (2006
 Revision)

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 12 through 16 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 12 through 16 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 17 Transitional provisions.

Amendment to clause 17

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: In clause 17(7) by deleting the words "A reference in any enactment, instrument or other document passed or" and substituting the following – "A reference to the Notaries Public Law (2006 Revision) in any enactment, instrument or other document".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to clause 17 passed.

The Chairman: The question is that the clause, as amended, stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 17 passed.

The Clerk: Schedule 1 Form of application for appointment as Notary Public.

The Chairman: The question is that Schedule 1 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: I'm sorry, there is an amendment.

Amendment to Schedule 1

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Yes please, Madam Chair.

In Schedule 1, in the instructions to applicant, insert after paragraph (d) the following as paragraph (e) and renumber accordingly – "(e) proof of Caymanian or permanent residency status; and".

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

If not, I will put the question that the amendment stands part of the Schedule. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to Schedule 1 passed.

The Clerk:

Schedule 2 Form of Oath
 Schedule 3 Example of Notarial Seal
 Schedule 4 Certificate of Notary Public
 Schedule 5 Notarial Acts and Fee Schedule
 Schedule 6 Notarial Acts Book

The Chairman: The question is that Schedules 2 through 6 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Schedules 2 through 6 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to provide for the appointment of notaries public and the regulation of their practice; to repeal and replace the Notaries Public Law (23006 Revision); and for incidental and connected matters.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Elections Law (2009 Revision) – definitions and interpretation
Clause 3	Amendment of section 11 - application to register as elector
Clause 4	Amendment of section 29 - nominations
Clause 5	Amendment of the Second Schedule – forms
Clause 6	Amendment of the Third Schedule – elections rules

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 1 through 6 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, no.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 6 passed.

The Chairman: Honourable Deputy Governor.

New Clauses

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I, the Honourable Deputy Governor give notice to move the following amendment to the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013:

That the Bill be amended by inserting after clause 2 the following clauses: "2A. The principal Law is amended in section 3 by inserting after the words "senior Public officer" the words "or a retired senior public officer".

In 2B, the principal Law is amended in section 4(1) by inserting after the words "public officers" the words "or retired public officer".

The Clerk: New Clause 2A Amendment of section 3 of the Elections Law (2009 Revision) - appointment, powers and duties of Supervisor.

The Chairman: The question is that the clause be read a second time. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 2A read a second time.

The Chairman: The question now is that the New Clause 2A be added to the Bill and that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

Agreed: New Clause 2A added to the Bill and the subsequent clauses renumbered accordingly.

The Clerk: New Clause 2B Amendment of section 4(1) of the Elections Law (2009 Revision) – appointment, powers and duties of Deputy Supervisors

The Chairman: The question is that the clause be read a second time. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: New Clause 2B read a second time.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, there is a question about the Elections Law that we would like to get clarified before we actually finish the committee stage amendments.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I have asked the AG to give me some information and I would ask for a short break so that she can just tell me in a minute.

The Chairman: We will break until 8 o'clock. Ten minutes.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I don't think it will be that long. So, when we break we would not have to come back into committee because that takes up more time just in coming back alone.

The Chairman: We have to go back to the House and raise the House if we are going to do this.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Chair, I am asking for just a short break so that the AG can give me a bit of information. Now I have seen the Committee break many times.

The Chairman: Okay, we will suspend the Committee stage for ten minutes.

Proceedings suspended at 7.50 pm

Proceedings resumed at 8.05 pm

COMMITTEE ON BILLS

[Hon. Mary J. Lawrence, Chairman]

Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013

[Continuation thereof]

The Chairman: Committee proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

When we had the interruption there was some question being raised, has that been sorted?

Honourable Deputy Governor

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Chair, the matter has now been resolved and we can proceed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to amend the Elections Law (2009 Revision) to make the law consistent with the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title stands part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the Bills be reported to the House. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Bills be reported to the House.

The Chairman: The House will now resume.

House Resumed at 8.15 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

REPORTS ON BILLS

Adoption of Children Bill, 2012

The Clerk: Report on Bills.

The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Community Services.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I beg to report that The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

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

Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

Mental Health Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Mental Health Bill, 2013

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Mental Health Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

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

Notaries Public Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Notaries Public Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: Honourable Temporary Attorney General

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Speaker, I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Notaries Public Bill, 2012, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

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

Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendment.

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

Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendment.

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

Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to report that a Bill shortly entitled The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

Adoption of Children Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Community Affairs.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Adoption of Children Bill, 2012, given a third reading and passed.

Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Cayman National Cultural Foundation Bill, 2012, given a third reading and passed.

Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Marine Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

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

Mental Health Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Mental Health Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Mental Health Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Mental Health Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Mental Health Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Notaries Public Bill, 2012

The Clerk: The Notaries Public Bill, 2012.

The Speaker: Honourable [Temporary] Attorney General.

Hon. Jacqueline Wilson: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Notaries Public Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Notaries Public Bill, 2012, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Notaries Public Bill, 2012, given a third reading and passed.

Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it. I don't hear any call for a division. The Ayes have it.

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

Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Health Practice (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No. [Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

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

Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Mental Health Commission Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013

The Clerk: The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013.

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

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No. [Mr. D. Ezzard Miller]

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Human Tissue Transplant Bill, 2013, given a third reading and passed.

Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education, Finance and Development.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

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

Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013

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

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2013, be given a third reading and passed. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker The Ayes have it.

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

MOTIONS

GOVERNMENT MOTION

Government Motion No. 7 2012/13—Amendment to the Development Plan 1997

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Tourism and Development.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 7 2012/13—Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 Proposed Rezoning, Colliers, East End, Block 73A, Parcel 102, 20 (front portion), 22, 23, 25 and 65.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, please present the Motion.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Madam Speaker, the Motion reads:

WHEREAS in 2011, the Central Planning Authority received an application for the rezoning of Registration Section, Colliers – East End, Block 73A Parcels 102, from Low Density Residential to Hotel/Tourism;

AND WHEREAS the CPA originally considered the application on September 28th, 2011 (CPA/20/11 Item 4.2) and resolved to adjourn consideration of the rezone application pending a review of the zoning needs of the area.

AND WHEREAS the Neighborhood plan was prepared and the application was reviewed by the Central Planning Authority on February 15th 2012 (CPA/04/12) and recommended the extension of the Hotel/Tourism Zone from the original rezone application to encompass the parcels listed in the above heading.

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments were advertised in the *Caymanian Compass* on March 19, 21, 27 and 30, 2012 in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Development and Planning Law (2011 Revision) and the application was placed on display in the Planning Department. During the comment period no letters of objections were received.

AND WHEREAS on July 4th 2012, the CPA again considered the application in light of the public review process (CPA/15/12 Item 4.1) and it was resolved to forward the proposed amendments to the Ministry with the recommendation that the proposed amendments be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly for approval.

AND WHEREAS on November 27th 2012, Cabinet approved the rezoning application and further that the matter be referred on to the Legislative Assembly;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Law (2011 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Legislative Assembly the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and map are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, Registration Section, Colliers – East End, Block 73A Parcel 102, 20 (front portion) 22, 23, 25 and 65, be rezoned from Low Density Residential and Agricultural Residential to Hotel/Tourism.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Law (2011 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Legislative Assembly the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and map are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, Registration Section, Colliers – East End, Block 73A Parcel 102, 20 (front portion) 22, 23, 25 and 65, be rezoned from Low Density Residential and Agricultural Residential to Hotel/Tourism.

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

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I will try to make the comments as brief as possible taking into account the late hour of the evening.

As was mentioned in all of the "Whereas" clauses, it is proposed to amend the Development Plan 1997 to show the proposed rezoning from low density residential and agricultural residential to hotel tourism. The parcels proposed for rezoning total respectively;

- Parcel 102 - 197,898.9 square feet
- Parcel 22 - 281,728 square feet
- Parcel 25 - 558,524 square feet
- Parcel 65 - 277,381 square feet

All of the parcels proposed for rezone would comply with section 8 of the Development and Planning Regulations (2011 Revision) which states the minimum lot size in a commercial zone shall be 20,000 square feet.

Madam Speaker, given the current relatively low amount of hotel tourism zone for East End, approximately 1 per cent, and the success of the Royal Reef Resort, Morritts, and the Grand Hotel Complex, there is capacity for increased tourism and tourism related zoning in the East End area. This would be in support of the Department of Tourism's Cayman Islands environmental project for the Tourism Sector and the Go East Initiative.

The rezone application has been reviewed by the Department of Planning and various stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Environment, the Department of Environmental Health, Department of Tourism, Water Authority and the National Roads Authority. There were no objections to the proposed rezone.

The rezone was forwarded to the Central Planning Authority which recommended an expanded rezone area as listed. This expanded rezone area was advertised as required for the public's review in consultation period held during March through May 2012. There were no letters of objection to the proposed rezone, and the Central Planning Authority has thus recommended forwarding the proposed rezone.

Madam Speaker, I think that is all of the information that I can give on this particular rezone. Hopefully, Members will support the rezoning.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

Member for East End.

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

Madam Speaker, one of the obvious questions that I had on this Motion was: Why are we rezoning to tourism one of the highest spots on that side of the Island? That area has traditionally been known to be just a bluff. Part of it is government-owned property as well. I can't remember which piece—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Part of it is for the government. Government owns a piece of property—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: And particularly, there is nothing that says who made this application for rezoning and if all of the owners are aware that it was being rezoned, because there are a number of owners of this property.

Did Government make the application for its own properties? Or who made the application? And if it was a private person (one of the landowners) is it the intent of Government to sell their property as rezoned property?

Madam Speaker, I believe if the Minister can answer those questions for me satisfactorily, I will . . . yes, parcel 22 is Crown property. Now I don't know if it was Government or what part did Government play in requesting this rezoning. And if not, what is Government intent with their property in that area?

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

If not, I will call on the Minister of Tourism to exercise his right of reply.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the information that I have, I think it is important to note that this was sent down and brought before [I assumed] responsibility as Minister for Planning. I can say from a Government standpoint that there is no plan to sell the property.

But after the preparation of neighbourhood plan, the CPA [Central Planning Authority] reviewed the application on 15th February, 2012, and recommended the extension of the Hotel Tourism Zone from the original rezone application. So, there was a rezone application for Block 73A, Parcel 102, and the CPA actually recommended that it also encompass additional parcels, and those were the front portions of parcels 20 and 22, which were Crown Properties.

So, the reason for that getting rezoned was as a recommendation from the CPA. So, it was not a request from the Government for no intention there. There was a rezone application by the owners of Block 73A, Parcel 102 and—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: So, basically this increased rezoning was a recommendation from the CPA based on the application for the rezone application for Block 73A, Parcel 102. And so the enhanced portion was basically a recommendation of the CPA.

I'm not sure if that answers the question, Madam Speaker.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Madam Speaker, if you could just give me two minutes to consult with the members who were there when the paper actually came through.

[Pause]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: So, Madam Speaker, just taking into account the map that is provided, parcel 22, which was a question from the Member, is a very small sliver of property which was next to the road. And as far as to why the CPA made a recommendation as to bypass as shown on the map—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Yep.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Madam Speaker, sorry that is all the information I can provide.

[Background chatter]

The Speaker: We've gone by the debate on the issue. The Minister has concluded his remarks.

The question now is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Law (2011 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Legislative Assembly the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and map are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, Registration Section, Colliers – East End, Block 73A Parcel 102, 20 (front portion) 22, 23, 25 and 65, be rezoned from Low Density Residential and Agricultural Residential to Hotel/Tourism.

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

Ayes and Noes.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Sounds to me like the Noes have it.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Madam Speaker, to ease your life, could we just have a division before you decide who you think it was.

The Speaker: I appreciate that help.

Division No. 23

Ayes: 5

Hon. J. Y. O'Connor-Connolly
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour
Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland

Noes: 4

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts*
Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.
Hon. Anthony S. Eden
Mr. V. Arden McLean

Abstentions: 4

Hon. W. McKeever Bush
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks
Mr. Michael T. Adam
Mr. Elvio A. Solomon

Absent: 2

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Plenty Noes.*

The Speaker: The results of the Division: 5 Ayes; 4 Noes; 4 Abstentions; and 2 absent.

Agreed by majority on division: Government Motion No. 7 2012/13 Amendment to the Development Plan 1997—Proposed Rezoning—Colliers, East End, Block 73A, Parcel 102, 20 (front portion), 22, 23, 25 and 65 passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: We've reached the end of the business on the Order Paper.

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of this honourable House sine die.

I should indicate that Members have intimated that they wish to speak on the adjournment.

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS UPON DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

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

Madam Speaker, so it is that we come to the death of another parliament. This is the fourth time

that I have had the opportunity to say to the country, to my constituents, to my fellow colleagues—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Third, is it?

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts: It wears you down so much it makes you believe it is four.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Yes, yes, the third time that I have had the opportunity to speak to my constituents, my country and to my colleagues on the eve of the dissolution of parliament.

Madam Speaker, this has been, without a doubt, I think, the most eventful term that I have been involved in. I can't speak for those who went before, but I think this had more than enough excitement for everyone concerned, and we are where we are now. I don't think there is any point, or need, to go through all of the travails of the last almost four years, but to say that we are not, I believe, leaving parliament on a very high note as far as the country is concerned.

There is continued grave concern and uncertainty about the state of affairs. In part, that is due to the state of the global economy and the challenges that worldwide countries face, and also because of our local situations and circumstances.

We now have in place a minority Government. We have a situation which I think is unprecedented on this side with a constitutional Opposition; another de facto Opposition and two independent Members. None of this, I believe, bodes well for the administration of the affairs of this country. We have a situation within the minds of many in the electorate about what is the best way forward. We have an imminent election in which there are going to be many, many candidates. I suspect we will know shortly precisely how many. But I believe the number is going to be 40 plus.

We have two identified parties running. We have another group who call themselves Coalition for Cayman (C4C) who say they are not a party, but in every respect they operate in that way. And as far as the Elections Law is concerned and the Constitution is concerned, they are certainly a party.

I don't believe, Madam Speaker, it is possible—if it waddles like a duck, if it quacks like a duck, if it has a beak and some feathers—that we can say that is a goose. I think that is a duck. But in addition to that, Madam Speaker, there are a number of independents as well. So, there is a great sense of uncertainty, if not confusion, in the minds of many in the electorate, about what they should do because of their apparent dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs.

Madam Speaker, I would only say to those who listen to what I have to say tonight, that, obviously, everyone wants to vote for the individuals they think are the best. And that is a good thing. But I would ask those who vote to not just use that as the criteria. There are many, many very good candidates. I would hesitate to say that there are any who will run that really don't honestly believe in their own minds that they would be able to make a contribution to Cayman and to do good for Cayman.

But, Madam Speaker, those who vote need to also bear in mind that a government has to be formed and a government has to be able to function, and given what has transpired over the course of the last three and half, almost four years, we do not need any more uncertainty. We do not need any more instability, to surround the operations of government.

Trying to put together a government made up of independents may not be an impossible task in the first place, but it will be very, very difficult. But more challenging will be that government, after having been elected, to be able to come up with the necessary plans, policies, positions, programmes to take this country forward, not having sat around the table in advance of the elections and hammered out positions in relation to them. With 18 seats it will take 10 persons, minimum, to form the next government. And getting 10 persons to a position where there is some degree of consensus on the major issues which confront this country is not an easy undertaking.

It is so easy for people to talk about the good old days when they claimed independents ran the country, and to say that that is the right way forward. I've said in more than one forum, on more than one occasion, that that is a complete myth. The only elections that I am aware of (other than the elections of 2000 when I was first elected) when the country was presented with something other than national slates of candidates, was the elections of 2000. In every other instance there were teams; certainly, since the advent of the 1972 Constitution.

We had the Unity Team, we had the Dignity Team, we had the National Team, we had Team Cayman, and we had variations on that theme. But there were teams so that the country knew . . . and they produced national manifestos. And so the country knew that if they voted for this group of people in West Bay and George Town and Bodden Town and so forth, that that was the government they would get and that would be the likely leader and the likely Cabinet (or Ex-Co [Executive Council] as it was called back in those times).

The one election where that did not occur was the election of 2000 because the National Team was in decline. Team Cayman (which had grown out of the former Dignity Team, a group of people) had not gotten their act efficiently together to be able to feel the full team. And so what we wound up with was a group

being elected in West Bay (the same four who are here now), myself, and the First Elected Member for George Town now, in George Town; in Bodden Town, Mr. Roy Bodden and Mr. Gilbert McLean; back to George Town, Mr. Linford Pierson and Frank McField; and the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town who is still here. And in East End, we had the Elected Member for East End, Mr. Arden McLean; Mrs. Edna Moyle in North Side; Mr. Lyndon Martin and the Honourable Premier who is still here, for Cayman Brac.

We were required to put together a government as a result of that. It was trouble from the moment we started, and I don't want to go through all of that sad state of affairs, much of which I deeply regret being involved with, and some of the decisions taken. But the Government we agreed on never did get sworn in because it fell apart before we even got there. Then the Government which was actually cobbled together lasted one year.

So, Madam Speaker, I say all of that to say that I have always said I am a reluctant convert to the party system. But experience has taught me that unless there is organisation, unless there is a grouping in advance of an election, unless you've sat and hammered out where it is you think you want to take the country as it relates to the broad policy issues, what you are actually creating is a recipe for disaster.

And so, there are all kinds of parties. There are those like ours that are grass-root based with mass membership. There are those that are more closely held and are controlled from law offices and accounting offices and the rich and famous. That is fine. At the end of the day it is for the people to decide who they want. But there has to be a grouping. There has to be something that people know what it is they are voting for, not just voting for independent people who are good, because at the end of the day the voters have to decide this, Madam Speaker. They can decide whether they want to choose the Government or they want to choose people who will then choose the Government. It is as simple as that.

But a government has to be formed. And the moment that you go into Cabinet and you have a supporting backbench, this concept of independence and independent views and independent thinkers becomes much less the case. Because our Constitution requires collective responsibility on the part of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet cannot function in the House, cannot get policies through in the House, unless it continues to retain the support of a minimum of three persons. You are talking about the new dispensation with seven Cabinet Ministers. We will need ten Members.

So, I would really hope that this election campaign, when it kicks off officially on the 28th, can be about the policies, the programmes, the positions, where it is that each grouping intends to take the country if they succeed. And this distinction that is

being made, particularly by the C4C on this premise they have that parties are bad, parties have ruined Cayman, *we are not a party therefore we are good*, that they can find some other basis for their campaign than that. Because there is no doubt that many of those involved in the C4C group are very able and very successful people, very intelligent, very educated, and very wealthy in many instances. Quite whether or not they even begin to understand the social issues which affect the country is another matter. But they will have something to contribute and they do have something to contribute to the overall running of Cayman and I would not suggest otherwise.

But they need to start telling us what they plan to do. And not just that because there are two parties that have essentially been in control of Government in Cayman for the last what, ten, eleven years, that the parties are bad; that they are not a party, therefore they are good so you should vote for them. They have to come with a bit more than that, really, if they want to be serious and taken seriously as an alternative to either the current administration or ourselves who are on this side and who are aspiring to be the next administration.

So, Madam Speaker, I wanted to talk a bit about that, but I want to finish fairly quickly. I believe some of my other colleagues will speak. But I want to say on behalf of those who are elected from the Opposition on this side—the First Elected Member for George Town, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town and the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—how honoured and how privileged and how proud we have been to have had the opportunity to serve our respective constituencies for yet another term.

In the case of the First Elected Member for George Town and the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, they have now completed five terms. That is something not too many persons ever get the opportunity to do. And, in the case of myself; this is the completion of my third term. And, in the case of the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, the completion of his second term. So, collectively there are a lot of years of service among the four of us, and all of us hope to be reelected again, all of us wish to serve our country again.

This time, Madam Speaker (and I think everyone will know this), the Peoples Progressive Movement is campaigning as "The Progressives." We have a team of 15 candidates who will be nominated tomorrow—4 in the district of West Bay, 6 in George Town—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Sorry, Wednesday, not Tuesday (getting ahead of myself).

Four in West Bay, 6 in George Town, 4 in Bodden Town and 1 in Cayman Brac. We have decided not to contest the seats in East End and North Side. The elected Members of those districts remain good friends of ours and we believe that, should the opportunity present itself, we will be able to work together as we have done throughout this term, and indeed in the years passed.

I hear the Fourth Elected Member for George Town asking if he can come on board too, but we've got a full slate.

[Laughter]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: We've got a full slate already, I'm afraid! (Just a bit of levity, Madam Speaker, on this solemn occasion).

Madam Speaker, it really has been a challenging, challenging term. But whoever returns to this House . . . and I can't say honestly, Madam Speaker, that I hope everybody returns because that would not be truthful or honest. If that was the case I would not be fielding 15 candidates. But, Madam Speaker, I want to say that every person who has been elected deserves the respect of all concerned because they represent the people of this country. And everyone in this House has made a contribution, some make more than others. But for those who have not served in this House, who have not been representatives, I do not think it is quite possible for them to understand how much Members do have to sacrifice as just part of being a representative.

Often people talk about how frequently we in the House meet and how long the lunch hours are and how many adjournments or suspensions we have and so forth. And all of that is true in many respects. The affairs of the House could be run more efficiently. And that has been the case for as long as I have been here, not just reflective of any one administration. And I think we must do a better job with that. But the role of a representative, particularly those who are not in Cabinet, extends far beyond the work that the public usually sees and hears as a result of what we say and do in this House and from public platforms.

Bing a representative means being there for your constituents, dealing with a whole range of issues, which the average person just does not appreciate. And I believe I speak for every Member in this House when I say there is no day off, there is no day that you do not have constituency issues to deal with. And I am not going to go into all of the details, but this role involves everything, from being an advocate to being a counselor, to being a financial provider.

Let me say it quite frankly: there is absolutely no role that a good representative is not required to play in their constituency. And those who do not carry out those constituency responsibilities effectively, those who do not appear to have the care and com-

passion that is a necessary part of shepherding your constituents, do not usually come back many times, do not get repeated endorsements, do not get a second contract (however you want to say it). And none of us really talk very much in our day-to-day operation and certainly from public platforms about all that we do and all that we are required to do as representatives at the constituency level, because we take it as part of the job that we do.

But I think because that is not as well-known as it ought to be that often—far too often, really—people underestimate how much work and how much sacrifice (to repeat myself) is required of a good representative.

This is by no means an easy job. In most instances it is a thankless job. And you really do have to care deeply about your country and about your people to keep on doing it. It is easy when you first start and you are excited about the prospects and you are idealistic about all the things you are going to get done. But a good term in here brings a certain level of sobriety (I didn't want to use that word, but that is what it is) and realism of what is actually involved in being part of the business of Government, whether you are a Member of the Legislative Assembly, a backbench supporter of the Government, a Member of the Opposition or a Member of Cabinet.

Madam Speaker, I say all of that to say that all Members in this House do deserve respect and thanks for having given of themselves to serve the people. And on the eve of our departure from this term with no certainty that any of us will be back, I just wanted to pause the conversation and say thanks to all Members of this House who have offered themselves over the course, in some cases, of many terms, but even over the course of one term. Regardless of where you end up after this process, our names (mine included) will go down in the history books as having made one of the most significant contributions you possibly could to have served your country.

I just want to finally say on a personal note, thanks to all of those who have supported me over the course of now three terms. I ask for your support and help over the course of the next couple of months, and I ask for your support at the polls, quite frankly, on the 22nd May. I do wish for the opportunity to serve you and my country yet again.

Madam Speaker, I do not know whether the First Elected Member for George Town will speak, but I want to also say how proud I am to have been associated with him ever since the start of my political career, and to say that there is a very good reason why he has continued to be the First Elected Member for George Town. There is no one that I have ever encountered who gives more in terms of himself, whether that be by way of guidance, advice, adequacy or otherwise, than the First Elected Member for George Town.

Madam Speaker, I have also had the opportunity to be associated with the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town for just as long, and I call him the evergreen Anthony Eden. To have the level of passion for this job after such a long and able tenure is quite amazing. And those two individuals, Madam Speaker, are really mentors to me. And whenever I feel my spirit flagging and wonder whether I can carry on, I look at the two of them and I say, *If they can do it after all of those years, there is absolutely no excuse for me not to feel able to carry on.*

For completeness, Madam Speaker, I am also pleased to be associated with the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman who has done a stellar job as a representative over there, and now having taken on the role of Deputy Leader of the Opposition, has assumed a level of national stature which I think is very, very good for the country and bodes well for its future.

So, Madam Speaker, with those remarks, I wish every Member in this House well in the upcoming elections, which I know will be robust and stressful for all of us. I do hope that we can keep the level of debate, the level of campaign rhetoric at a policy level and refrain as far as possible from the unfortunate personal attacks that become part of every campaign that I have ever observed or been a part of. But they do real hurt to the individuals concerned, and I do not believe they actually help the overall impression of politicians.

We all have to bear in mind that some will win and some will lose, and some of those whom you've campaigned against are more likely than not to be here and we will be required to work with one another on one side of the House or the other. So, I wish all Members to bear that in mind.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you for having held that Chair for these past almost four years. I know it has not been an easy task. This group has not been the easiest to work with and the circumstances have not been the usual. There have been a whole lot of upheavals and twist and turns in these past four years. And I believe you have done more than hold your own in what is a most difficult position in this honourable House. So, I wish to thank you on behalf of the Opposition, and I believe on behalf of the country, for the role you have played for these past four years.

With that, I wish God's richest blessings on each of us in this House and on everyone within the sound of my voice. And I leave, Madam Speaker, with a deep sense of satisfaction and a great sense of responsibility about the way forward. I say, Madam Speaker, God bless each and every one of you and God bless these beloved Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Thank you honourable Member of the Opposition.

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

Second Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Michael. T. Adam, Second Elected Member for George Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to give my vote of thanks to the people of the Cayman Islands, particularly George Town, for choosing me as their representative to serve in this honourable House. I am indeed honoured and privileged to have been elected and to have served as the Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing until December last year.

From the day I was elected in 2009 through today, I assure you I have taken this responsibility very, very seriously. Each and every day my number one priority has been to do what is best for the future of the people in our beloved Isle Cayman, while ensuring that future generations can embrace a proud, strong and prosperous Cayman Islands.

In the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing we dedicated ourselves to improving the quality of life for the heart and soul of our nation, our families, our elderly citizens and our youth. And it is only through the invaluable and life-changing experiences that I was privileged as a minister and MLA that I have gained a greater love for this country and its people, each and every Caymanian, rich, poor, man, woman, youth, elderly, all the people.

Madam Speaker, the United Democratic Party understands that our greatest and most precious asset is our hardworking people. And like the noble men and women of the past who built our foundations, we must continue in the tradition of harnessing our own abilities and resources in order to further develop and sustain our society. Having been on the inside of Government, I have come to realise that no Government can do it alone. We need one and all to work with us, especially the private sector and the non-governmental organisations.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the unwavering support we have received from our partners and humbly ask that they continue to support government.

I am proud, Madam Speaker, to stand before you this evening and state that from June 2009 to December 2012, the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing, moved forward in all objectives and initiatives envisioned by the Ministry. We introduced new legislation, made amendments to comply with the Constitution's Bill of Rights and the United Nations actions, all of which have now been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. We also commenced the long and much overdue overhaul of the Department of Children and Family Services, and the cleanup of operations of the National Housing Trust.

To name some of my Ministry's accomplishments, Madam Speaker: For gender affairs, the Gender Equality Bill has been passed into law. The National Committee on Gender and Family Violence, and the Gender Equality Tribunal has been established. Housing, as we know, has completed projects in East End, West Bay, George Town, and in Bodden Town 20 homes are being completed. The Golden Age Home in West Bay was completely remodeled and expanded to accommodate our senior citizens who require residential and daycare programmes in the community. We also addressed needs at the Sunrise Cottage in East End and other senior citizens' residential home.

The Cayman Islands Youth Centre: One of the Ministry's most important initiatives was the construction and development of the Cayman Islands Youth Centre, which I am pleased to announce. Phase 1 of the construction works has been completed since September. This Centre is required in order to meet the constitutional mandate to accommodate the much needed youth secure remand facility that would separate our youth offenders from adult prisoners. I am sure many of you are already aware that the conditions at Her Majesty's Northward Prison are deplorable as per the review by Her Majesty's prison inspectors recently reported.

Furthermore, the Cayman Islands Youth Centre will provide therapeutic treatment programmes developed from the Missouri Programme, the leading light in juvenile rehabilitation, which has been tried and tested for over 30 years achieving 90 per cent success rates in rehabilitating "At-Risk Youths." This intervention, Madam Speaker, is so desperately needed, now more than ever before, to rehabilitate our youths who have run afoul of the law, giving them a second chance to become productive citizens in our society.

I am furthermore delighted to report that we initiated a pilot programme based on these principles at Bonaventure Boys Home with a group of ten boys that has achieved significant results over the last 18 months.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, we established the Family Resource Centre. This Centre provides meaningful family skilled programmes for young parents and adults in need of this meaningful assistance.

Madam Speaker, the Adoption Law, for a very long time many operational difficulties with the existing law were identified. Some of these difficulties resulted in the adoption process taking many years to be completed, creating uncertainty and frustration with children and adoptive parents. The Ministry staff and I spent much time consulting with other key stakeholders over the past years. And I am proud to say that the revised Adoption Law was successfully passed in this honourable House just today. And I would like to

again thank the new Minister and my colleagues for supporting this Bill.

Madam Speaker, I have presented a brief overview of what we at the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing alone have accomplished. In this day of burdening financial woes increasing numbers of people in need, rising levels of crime and the growing challenges facing our youth, it is absolutely critical that we continue to place human development at the top of our country's agenda. If we fail to do this there will be nothing good or decent left in our country for future generations to inherit. They will not know the joy of living in the peaceful, nurturing and friendly Cayman Islands that we have all had the privilege of experiencing.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand before you tonight and say that, in my opinion, together with the accomplishments of my other colleagues and ministries, we have accomplished much. We are starting to climb out of the deep financial hole that we inherited and are starting to see some of the vision and seeds that were planted by the United Democratic Party Government bear fruit.

Just to touch on a few of those, Madam Speaker, the Cayman Islands' credit rating was recently reported by Moody's as standing at a Aa3 Rating which is the highest possible rating for our jurisdiction. Essentially, this means that the Cayman Islands have regained its rightful position of being on the OECD White List and our financial industry has reported to be in a stable position.

The tourism sector is thriving and stay-over visitor arrivals continue to grow year over year since 2009. In 2012, air arrivals were up by 4.1 per cent, the highest in eleven years. Cruise arrivals are up by 7.6 per cent over 2011. And this was achieved with a reduction in expenses of 34 per cent by the Department of Tourism.

Some of the development projects initiated by the United Democratic Party Government have become a reality, such as the Cayman Enterprise City which is on target continuing to attract business associates and further development. The Shetty Hospital project has begun construction. We completed the Government Administration Building, Clifton Hunter High School and also built new primary school facilities in the districts.

Madam Speaker, the world economy is showing signs of recovery and it is my belief that we have weathered the worst of this economic storm. Therefore, we cannot allow negative influences to divide us and keep us from our vision; a vision of a strong Cayman Islands; a vision of a United Cayman Islands; a vision of a Cayman Islands where everyone, man, woman and child prospers, not just the lucky few; a vision that is and has always been that of the United Democratic Party.

Madam Speaker, this is undoubtedly a landmark period for the Cayman Islands and will be a pe-

riod where decision making will dominate headlines and have a lasting positive impact on the direction of our beloved Cayman Islands. Many decisions, some long overdue must be made in the next twelve months to move our country forward and put our people in jobs.

Madam Speaker, without a doubt, this single most important decision will be made on Wednesday, 22 May of this year when we all go to the polls, in what has become one of the most highly anticipated general elections in the history of our country. Ultimately, the decision on who we send to the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd of May will chart the course for our country for the next four years. I am happy to know that there will be a record number of registered voters eligible to vote in this historic election. I encourage all eligible voters to go to the polls and exercise your democratic right. Seize the opportunity and accept the responsibility to vote.

In closing, Madam Speaker, it has truly been an honour to work with you and all of my elected colleagues and Official Members of this honourable House. Madam Speaker, I believe in service above self. I believe in respecting each other. I believe that we must love the work that we do and the people that we work for. I can assure you that I have given all that I am and will continue to serve all the people to the best of my ability, should my George Town constituents choose to elect me on the 22nd May, 2013.

I truly trust that my constituents in George Town will elect me and put me back on the job to serve all the people. I am praying for God's mercies that we may have a fair and peaceful general election as we have always enjoyed in the past.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and may God continue to bless you, your family, the Members of this honourable House and their families, and all the people of these beloved Cayman Islands. God bless you all.

The Speaker: Thank you, Second Elected Member for George Town.

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

Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, this has definitely been a journey, especially for me. I have had every angle that is possible in a person's life during this political term. Anything that could go wrong which helped to build my character into such a strong person has happened during this term.

Firstly, I want to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly for all the support that they have given me throughout this term, and yourself in the Chair. I am proud to have supported you for that post and I think you have done Bodden Town proud and you've

handled that post in a very prestigious manner, I might add, Madam Speaker.

Madam Clerk, thank you for your support, whether it was with the Youth Parliament or other Bills or Motions in the House. Thanks for your guidance and again, your support, and all the other [staff] members and deputies in the LA who are not here at this time.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the residents of Bodden Town for giving me this wonderful opportunity to represent this beautiful country, and most of all to be their representative for Bodden Town. Definitely, people marvel when I say this, but I am an overachiever. I guess people can Google what an overachiever is. And I definitely did not let my district down and brought more tangible stuff to the district than it had when I got elected.

Definitely, it has been a challenging four years, probably some never seen in politics in Cayman. And I believe that I can safely say that the Lord has only carved out this job for just a few people. It takes a special person to take on this job, Madam Speaker. It takes a person with patience, a person with care and love and the desire to ensure that this country remains free and safe for our children and our grandchildren for many years to come. I relish the experiences that I have had, and [they] will make me a more effective politician and representative of this country, and definitely as a citizen, whether I am elected or not. The experience that I have gained will help me be a better citizen.

Madam Speaker, I do hope and pray that the sacrifices and the courage that I have shown over the years have been acknowledged as a person who is there for Caymanians to carry out the wishes of our people and always with country at heart. I've quickly realised that you need some kind of experience to operate this post as an MLA, or to be aligned with persons who do have that experience to serve the citizens of this country as effective as possible.

I am thankful for my colleagues whom I got elected with, and now the colleagues whom I intend to run the election with. And definitely the Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Health [all] gave me some good guidance throughout my career here and I want to thank them very much. Politics is something that you never know all of. Even parliament as we know it, parliamentary procedures assistance is always needed from colleagues. And even across the aisle, the steadfastness that I have seen from some of the Members, the independent Members for East End and North Side and George Town, and all over, has carved me into a more courageous person who is still willing to represent this beautiful nation.

Even though at times people will say this is an unthankful job and it is hard at times, I have to have a vision as to what the outcomes are that [people] want

to see. But, Madam Speaker, as I try to be as concise as possible in bringing these closing remarks, there is always more that you want to say as it is the last time that . . . we do not know if we are going to get our seats back. We are hoping that we get them back and that we can represent our districts again. I see a lot of people lining up to run but many do not understand what it means to be a public servant.

Being a good representative, Madam Speaker, I believe that one needs to start public service before even getting elected. And if they look at my life and my career and the way that I have always been a person to unite and always wanting to groom persons for the future. It is something to be acknowledged as a person who would be a good public servant and continue to be a good representative.

Sometimes, Madam Speaker, persons get up and decide that they want to run. You know, they hide away for many years and work in their posh jobs and then decide, all of a sudden, that they are going to jump up and just [say] that they want to run for the district of Bodden Town or wherever else. Madam Speaker, those persons believe that they can blind people as to what their true intentions are. But I will leave that to the people to decide who they want to represent them best. Definitely, I have shown that being a representative of Bodden Town, with the achievements we have had in just four years as austere as it is, that we have achieved more than many politicians can ever acclaim. When we are on the campaign trail we will unveil what most may have forgotten.

Madam Speaker, this job can't be done alone. You need colleagues and support to definitely be effective as a representative, as a legislator, as an MLA. One gets elected or selected for Cabinet. As a minister, definitely, your workload changes and the dynamics of your availability are a little different. And one does not really understand that until one is actually a minister and then one really understands the dynamics of how hard it is to do the balance in terms staying connected with your people and being there and also representing at Cabinet level as a minister.

I am proud of our achievements in Bodden Town, Madam Speaker. We definitely did not go to sleep and did many things that were wanted in the community for over 30 years. And I am proud to say as a young person coming in as a new politician, that things such as the boat ramp which was wanted from the 70s (over 30 years), is just one of the achievements. There were many things done. I mean something just as simple as a cemetery wall that was there for over seven or almost ten years since hurricane Ivan, which needed to be repaired for people's loved ones to be protected, was not done and I am proud to say that these are the little things that we care about which at times people only look at the big picture.

You know, for many years there has been talk about needing a new cemetery in Bodden Town. And

now it has come to heads that we are out of space. There is no more space. And I am glad to say that we have found a piece [of property] to purchase and that is in progress right now. And I am very proud to say that Bodden Towners will be able to lay their heads in their own district as I also wish to.

Madam Speaker, we have to love people. We have got to put country first and we need to engage our young people so that they can continuously believe in the political system and get involved. That is why I am sure that the Youth Parliament continued historically every year under my chairmanship, with the good help of Madam Clerk. And to ensure that that was done every year we were recycling politicians for many years (if I may say), four years out and the next four years someone else in, same persons, no one new and no one was training anyone. So, I am glad to have been able to have done four years of that.

Madam Speaker, I will do the rest of my campaigning on the road. I would just like to say that there are 15 Members here and you know all of us are our own individuals. We all come with different experiences. Definitely, I can say that the country should be proud to have had the 15 of us; it is a good balance, good backbench. And even with this situation we have with the minority Government being in place, we are still able to achieve some sort of civility in here to move forward with certain Bills and certain Motions being brought. I'm very proud of us as Caymanians, in and of itself, as to how we can disagree and not become disagreeable. So, Madam Speaker, I will end there.

There is so much more that I can say but I just want to say to the people of Bodden Town that, you know, I enjoyed this journey. It has definitely been educational for me, and definitely because of the person that I am, the people whom I reach and see every day, the grass-root people, who normally do not get an opportunity to spend a lot of time with persons who represent them, you know I put myself forward as that person.

You know, I've sacrifice myself to represent this country, even with all the challenges that I have within my life. I continuously want to serve you and definitely I am not a quitter, and I'm here until you say that you don't want me to represent you anymore. But as you can see, as I campaign along the way you will realise that I am a good representative for Bodden Town and that I deserve another opportunity, and I beg that from you. God bless.

The Speaker: First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I do really want to say a few words, not to be long, Madam Speaker, because it is nigh on to ten o'clock.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to be elected by the good people of West Bay for 28.5 years (seven terms), six of which I was elected the First

Member for that district. Madam Speaker, as politics go, and from day one I was always paid dearly for having that kind of support, and in the country we live, for having the audacity to move forward. The West Bay people have always used their commonsense and they gave me their support as they knew I would work for their best interest.

Over those 28.5 years, Madam Speaker, there have been numerous policies, nationally, which have not only benefitted people throughout these Islands, but also the people in West Bay. There have been specific projects that I have piloted and government funded, which I am proud of, Madam Speaker. But when I entered politics in the district of West Bay, some people still did not have toilets, running water or electricity. That is only 28.5 years ago, Madam Speaker.

Some did not have roads to their homes and had to park their cars on a roadside to get to their house. In rainy weather they were walking in water to get out. Today we have progressed, and I am proud of the progress that this country has made, regardless of the Governments that have been in. When I look at West Bay, Madam Speaker, some of the things that I have been cussed for, some of the things that they said we did not need, they are too glad to use them today; the Golden Age Home in West Bay, a new primary school—and we didn't go overboard with our shelter, we used the hall and doubled that as a hurricane shelter and school hall.

Madam Speaker, I can say too that in this term the Ministry of Finance (my Ministry) found the money to do the Government's programmes while various Ministers have worked on various programmes, including in West Bay, the additions to the primary school. Today we can boast a good health clinic with ambulance service. We implemented a housing programme that afforded houses to many West Bay families that did not have one, and others, in fact, could migrate to West Bay.

The first time ever, Madam Speaker, support for afterschool programmes. We have two launching ramps in the district, a seaside park in Batabano, Scholars Park, a public beach, the revitalization of the Northwest Point and Boatswain (Bosun) Bay cemeteries. Madam Speaker, I can never forget what the Northwest Point and the Boatswain (Bosun) Bay cemeteries were like when I got elected. Some families kept up various family graves but today I think we can continue to be proud of how our people have cleaned up those two cemeteries.

We have a Cricket facility, Ed Bush Sports field, and we redeveloped the Town Hall field with lights. A new Post Office, the Clement Welds building, named in honour of a faithful long-serving former employee, now deceased. Madam Speaker, we could have spent \$1 million on that too but we only spent \$400,000. We started the E. Redley Powery Library

but had to stop that after Ivan. The next Government completed it just before the elections in 2009, and we still had work to do between 2009 and 2013. Today we have basketball facilities, not only public ones, but the churches as well have those that we have facilitated.

We dealt with the ravages of Hurricane Ivan in the district. We assisted many churches after the Hurricane Ivan, including sports facilities. We do have a jetty in central West Bay that has to be improved. We assisted the United Church through a large donation, \$300,000 from the Dart Foundation, for their renovated hall and youth facilities. I remember the licks I took for initiating that.

I will never forget the licks I took for the seawall that stopped the erosion on Boggy Sand Road, which saved central West Bay during Ivan. Not to mention the main roads now being paved and the many built access roads that people have today. These are just some, Madam Speaker. And when I look at the major ones throughout the country, right now too numerous to mention, but I think that I can give a good account of my stewardship in these 28.5 years.

Madam Speaker, when in 1980 I determined that I wanted to try to do more for my community by being elected, I knew the task would be difficult. I determined, though, that my forte was that I was a worker. I had been a Boy Scout and Boy Brigade leader and a Sunday-School teacher and an Elder in the church. I formed community groups and youth groups as I believed in helping people, and still do. And so, my life has been about getting difficult things done. I took that attitude, Madam Speaker, into Government, into this House first of all, and I had good guidance from several good people who cared like I did, but also cared to teach me, help me and lead me along the way.

That is what a representative must do; we must work. This is not church, Madam Speaker. It is not school either, although there is a tremendous learning curve here. But in Government it is about working for all the people no matter where they come from. And, Madam Speaker, I belong to an inclusive party. I am a nationalist. I like to say that I am a sensible nationalist, proposing nationalist ideas that bring people up rather than tear the country down. And the United Democratic Party is that inclusive.

This term has been the most difficult term and while the global economies of the world have continued to plague our own, we succeeded in many areas. Succeeded in a tough situation! I do feel . . . and won't close here without putting on record that had we had the support of those in Government who are in officialdom and not elected, had their full support, unstinting support that they are supposed to give elected officials, much more could have been accomplished in this country, Madam Speaker. But far too much sabotage existed, and still does! We know where we are

at. I don't have to traverse that ground. Everyone knows and time will record the difference.

Madam Speaker, there are no two ways about it, the difficulties we found as a Government. Far too difficult! Madam Speaker, as Minister of Finance I worked, and worked hard, day and night. My only thoughts were to keep the good ship Cayman afloat whatever we had to do. They say that we are not open, that we are not a transparent Government. And if you listen to the Leader of the Opposition at his hints and slurs, everything was bad. Firstly, they said that we were not good governance, not transparent. Well, Madam Speaker, with the FOI—today which was put in place during our Administration and which does bring some accountability—and today with Government's accounts up to date, people can see even when they don't agree, they can see where money is spent. And so there is accountability.

Madam Speaker, Government was under the most striking circumstances that I had ever observed and had to deal with. And so, Madam Speaker, while we had no funds to run the country with or do any big projects with, fees had to be raised. One of the most difficult problems for the Government was raising fees. But as I said recently, difficult problems take tough decisions. So, we had to raise the fees or else the good ship Cayman would have turned belly-up.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that we had to implement a system of income and property tax, of value added tax, and I said no. So, we had to raise the fees.

Madam Speaker, we worked. I travelled to the meetings. In the Tourism Department I encouraged my director, and that is why it is good today because we worked together as a team. Team work, Madam Speaker, is good. It is only when we stop working together as a team that we fail, just like the football team, Madam Speaker. When you work together on the field you can fail but most times you can be successful if you work hard at it.

There are many more improvements to be made, Madam Speaker, but we are ready, willing and able to listen and work with people who want to work and get things done for the future.

We have to continue to work with the private sector. But they have to understand too, Madam Speaker, that doing business in the private sector is a bit different, although they say we should run government like a business. Madam Speaker, how do we fire 500 to 600 people or let them go? What would that do in the global situation that we have? What would that do with the country?

Four hundred or 300 more at home with no work? That would be a destabilizing factor for the country. And so we did not do that. We cut back and we cut probably in areas that we would not have liked to do so. But we were forced, Madam Speaker, by circumstances.

Madam Speaker, the economy will get better. I said that in the Budget speech in August when I was forced to bring that budget here without some good will from the Foreign Office or from the Governor's Office. But I brought it, nevertheless. And it succeeded to an extent. We knew the difficulties that we had but we put ourselves on the right trajectory and now, Madam Speaker, I hope that we are still on that trajectory and are moving forward. Of course, we have to work with a four year budget from the Foreign Office. And anyone believing that the new administration is going to be cakewalk and they are just going to get in and just do all that they want to do, Madam Speaker, they would have to fire those 500 people that they have been talking about.

They would have to take the most drastic steps that would turn the country and the Government belly-up. We can't do business that way, although there must be changes in the way things are done.

Madam Speaker, no doubt the elections are going to be challenging. All you need to do is to look at the candidates who are coming out of the woodwork. The only one not running, Madam Speaker, is you. And even that we might not be sure of. Madam Speaker, it is the most candidates I think I have ever seen. But in this modern day with all of the responsibilities that a Government must take up, it must have an elected body that is cohesive, must work together so that good can be accomplished for all the people.

As I said earlier, just as a football team must be a team and must work together to win the game, so must Government be a team to move and have the wheels of its being, to succeed in the affairs of the country and accomplish what the country needs. No one or two persons are going to do this by themselves.

Thus, Madam Speaker, they are saying that party politics make things bad, and now we are being led to believe that all the successes in the past or in the old days, they keep saying was done because we did not have, most times, a steadied name for the various groups. Madam Speaker, it was not the absence of parties that made us accomplish. We had people who were ready to work together yes, so it all boils down to people. But the times were different too, the Constitution was different.

Today, Madam Speaker, under the Westminster system that we operate and must operate the Constitution with, I do not see how they are going to make this country successful without the proper organisation. And whether or not there is a name, there is going to have to be some kind of organisation or they will not succeed. But name or no name, if you are joined together, working by aims and objectives, there must be some discipline that caused you to work together and accomplish.

So, Madam Speaker, when I hear them saying that parties are the cause of our problems, I have to wonder. If you don't know of the bitterness and the

disunity, family against family, spouse against spouse, that took place back in the so-called days of the independents, then you did not grow up here in this country. And you didn't have anyone who took time or who wanted to admit of the political mayhem that existed in this country.

We became prosperous, Madam Speaker, not because of the absence of parties. We succeeded because more of us were prepared to leave family and business, or could manage the two better. Some of us could. That is why I praise my wife and I can do so genuinely. She chose not to go to any cocktail parties. She chose not to get on any political bandwagon with me. She chose not to have her face show up front. She stayed home and managed the house, and I took the public brunt of things and did the work I was elected to do. Get in there and move and make things happen for the good of all. That is how it happened, Madam Speaker! Not because of the absence of a political party. We succeeded, not because we were so-called independents, but we succeeded because we cared and we worked. That's a fact!

Madam Speaker, in the House a group has to work together. Decide together. So, Madam Speaker, when they talk about the parties and that the parties must not be supported, as they are saying, Madam Speaker, they do not know what they are talking about.

So, we have come to this closure of this Legislature. I'd like to think, Madam Speaker, that it has not been all bad news. There's been some good news and some good things accomplished and our country is not dead. And I believe that we do have a good future and that our people will succeed and that our youth and children can succeed if we continue to work hard. If we ensure that our children are studying the way they are supposed to study, Madam Speaker, I am proud when I know that parents are succeeding with their children.

I listened to the Member for East End telling me about his son getting into one of the Oxford Schools. That is the kind of stuff, Madam Speaker, which countries are made of. When we push them and work with them and raise them and pay attention to them. Yes, Madam Speaker, we have to worry about the company they keep, about who they are dating, what they are doing, who they are BBM-ing, who they are social media with, and, of course, with our girl children, the ever too early pregnancies. These are the things that we now and should be concerned about.

We will have them, Madam Speaker, but we must be able to deal with them. And I know that my party is putting policies in place for that kind of social development to take care of family life in this country.

My party is going to continue to support the churches. The church is our moral guidance. We can say what we like but it is and it is where our people

are at every week, and if we can give them a dollar, Madam Speaker, it helps. I am not saying we got to give over. But, Madam Speaker, just one point before I sit: The churches took a beating in Ivan and where did the people go? That is where they had to run to.

We would not have to give them that every year like we did in these four years. Some churches are still down because they took such a beating in Ivan. And don't think that they are not going to have proper facilities. Proper facilities have to exist. As much as we want to have the air condition at home and we strive to pay that bill, it does not seem that they are going to church unless they have it. And so facilities in this day and age will exist. And government money is well spent when we help the churches in this country.

Madam Speaker, I have no apologies to make about the Nation Building. In one programme alone out of the Nation Building you never heard that; but over 400 children, Madam Speaker, in every district has benefitted from that Nation Building Programme. Every primary school, Madam Speaker; Bodden Town, North Side, West Bay, George Town, all of them to East . . . everyone have benefitted from the Nation Building Programme through the cultural programme that exist with Mr. Chris. . . or Cayman [Traditional] Arts.

I was going to call his name but the programme is called ["Bringing Heritage to Life"]. He is a very decent young man. Let me call his name: Christopher Christian. No, you didn't hear that.

You didn't hear about the young child that has that talent who wanted to go abroad but did not qualify because he did not have the 3 average, or whatever it is that they are supposed to have. That is what the nation-building is all about. I do not have any apologies for that. I do not have any apologies for giving the churches and I don't have any apologies for spending that money because when we spend it on our people, Madam Speaker, it is well spent.

You see, Madam Speaker, in the country you can go sink a ship down in the West Bay Harbour and spend \$700,000 to \$800,000 on that. You can give all kinds of associations all kinds of money, all kinds of grants, and that is where government monies used to go before. Look at them. This one and the next one helping their business, and Government must do that. But now, Madam Speaker, when you go to put a few dollars on the people, ah, then, it is a bad thing.

If you give the church, that is a bad thing. But go ahead, go sink the ship, go sink the Russian ship and swim over that, Madam Speaker; that is a good thing. Yes, it is a good thing, it does help to bring money but that is why Government has to be balanced in what they do. I have no qualms. Madam Speaker, the only thing . . . yes, there can be a better mechanism of it. And with the new Government I

would hope. Certainly, if I am a part of it, that is what will happen.

There has to be some reworking, reform of it. But this is open and transparent; it is not guided by political will. If that was so, Madam Speaker, many of the Opposition's children who got, would not have gotten. But it is not guided by political will; it is guided by the need of the child and what they can accomplish in this country of ours.

Madam Speaker, I want to say something before I finish about the operations of this House. Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for your patience and your stewardship in the Chair and your ladylike behavior. You tried to bring dignity and order to this House. Now you and I did not agree on everything, but you certainly made the facilities more hospitable for Members in this House. The first time ever in my 28 years, seven terms, Madam Speaker, because the six terms before that . . . ha! You did not even have a place to eat in here. They had one little sofa up in that small room where everybody gathered and one little bathroom, Madam Speaker, that you had to wait on. Better not have the urge to use it too quickly. One!

And then there was a little room called Miss Annie's room. And that is the second conference room now. So, the ladies had a little bit better room but Miss Annie did not go there either when I used to visit her. She said it was too small for her. Madam Speaker, we have come some ways, but I can tell you that your improvements on the conditions here have made it much more hospitable. A thousand times more hospitable. I wish you well, Madam Speaker. It has not been easy for you, I know.

I want to say thanks to the staff for all of their hard work, the late nights, sometimes under difficult circumstances. We are still here tonight, aren't we, to the end? I want to thank people like the Deputy Clerk because the new Clerk is that—she is new. But the Deputy Clerk and her Assistant, that is Ms. Sharon and Ms. Nana, have spent some time here and have seen the good, the bad and the ugly of the system, and perhaps this was one of their most challenging times, and Bev and all the rest of the staff, Madam Speaker.

We have a new Serjeant who is learning the ropes. Madam Speaker, we have had a good staff here but there needs to be some improvements. They all have to understand that, particularly the newer ones. I would hope that the new House will do some improvements for staff, Madam Speaker. I was talking about Members a while ago, but the staff need their improvements too. Improvement for staff and for Members! They do not have anywhere to go either. If you go there, Madam Speaker, we do not have the proper staff here to assist the Speaker nor for the services which are needed here.

You see, Madam Speaker, for far too long this House has been treated like the illegitimate child in the Government's family. Unlike other legislatures, we

do not have a library, Madam Speaker. We do not have anything for the staff here. I believe there must be some kind of bathroom separate for them by now. I believe when we renovated it last time they must have put something there for them.

We do not have a library for Members. We do not have proper facilities. I went there today . . . I see the Clerk trying to have her lunch. Madam Speaker. I knew it must have been cold as an ice fridge by the time she got to it. Because we need services at all times when this House is in session. The Speaker needs her services. The Clerk needs some kind of assistant to help her; not the Deputy Clerk because the Deputy Clerk has so many other responsibilities.

The Speaker should have her separate staff to help her, whether it is one. Even one person, him or her, and so should the Clerk. We cannot continue treating this House like the illegitimate child in the Government family.

Madam Speaker, we do not have a library and being under the Civil Service vote, funding gets cut and elected Members don't even know.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Hear, hear!

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, it is not right! The Government officials whom this House sits under cannot continue to keep doing that, Madam Speaker. What in the world are they thinking about?

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: One promise I'm making. I agree! Now, we should know for good governance and stable legislative work there has to be independence of these legislative services from central government. Has to be!

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Hear, hear!

[Desk thumping]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Now I was one who did not support that idea for many years. But what I have witnessed in this last legislature, particularly so when we have divisions in Government and the (let's call it for what it is) civil servants can get in between, they know when there is weakness, they know that's our fault, not theirs, they are guided by a Governor. They know when there is weakness and when to pounce on you.

But for this legislature to work and Members who are going to be elected (because people are going to be elected, whoever they are), there has to be services. We are not going to be able to cope with the problems. The staff's not going to be able to . . . go in the room there, Madam Speaker. I have never seen anything out there like it. Never seen anything like it, Madam Speaker! And so we have to change! And I

can tell you if I am back here, I am going to see that changes are made.

Madam Speaker, we don't have money today to do things. We are in the hands of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. And when we should have had some sort of adjacent building to this one, we don't have that kind of money because we must make priorities. But what we cannot continue to do is to [not] prioritise this building and these facilities which are needed, out of everything we have pushed out, out of the priority list. We can't! We cannot function.

Madam Speaker, I think I will stop there because I have gone on much longer than I thought. But I will close.

It is not in this book, but there is an old hymn in the Presbyterian Hymnal. When we move on from here we go to our constituencies, I thank them, I thank the people of this country for putting their confidence in me as the first Premier of this country. And I know, Madam Speaker, that there are doubts created specifically for this occasion but there is a God and He does not take sides. He does not sleep nor does he slumber. And I believe as that old song says. And there are two that I particularly think of at this time. But the one that says: "Whatever God ordains is best", I leave it to that. "Whatever God ordains is best."

The other, Madam Speaker, is really one of my favourites and I will close with it. And it goes like this, Madam Speaker:

*"Courage, brother, do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble:
Trust in God and do the right.
Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely; strong or weary,*

*Trust in God, trust in God,
Trust in God and do the right.*

*Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God and do the right,
Trust no party, sect or faction;
Trust no leaders in the fight;
Put in every word or action,*

*Trust in God, trust in God
Trust in God and do the right*

*Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee:
Trust in God and do the right.
Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace and inward might,*

Star upon our path abiding,

*Trust in God, trust in God
Trust in God and do the right"*

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: My wife's grandfather used to love these songs. I learnt that from him, the late Captain Al Ebanks. He had another one: "I feel the winds of God today. Today I lift my sail."

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Member for East End.

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

Madam Speaker, I promise you I am not going to be as long as the First Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Good!

Mr. V. Arden McLean: But, Madam Speaker, as we bring to close this Session of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to thank those who have entrusted me with this position, and that is the people of East End who twelve and a half years ago decided to take a chance on me. I was considered the least likely to win. I was not supposed to win. There were forces then as there are forces now. I came to this honourable House and I believe I have proven myself.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: My tenure, I am proud of. It is left to the people of East End to decide whether they want me to remain. But were it not for the people of East End, I would never have been here, and I am eternally grateful to them for having given me that opportunity. Many will answer the call, few will be chosen.

I was sitting here and hearing the Minister of Community Affairs speak of his experience over the last four years. I thought about how I was feeling after four years, and it was likewise. It was extremely similar to what I heard him say. Madam Speaker, not everybody is made for this job. I said recently that there are people running in this general election who want the job much more than the job needs them.

Madam Speaker, this is a job of service to your people. I am humbled by having been given the opportunity. But, like the Minister said, if you had not started it before wanting to come here, do not come. This is not the place for you. You will have a very, very steep hill to climb. If you are not full of compassion, if you are not prepared to make the sacrifices that it requires, the sacrifice of missing your children growing up, the sacrifice of possibly losing your family

because you do not spend sufficient time with them, and the balancing act. These are all of the things that we have to go through. But, like the Minister said, it develops us. We are developed through that process and we become better citizens. I know I have become a better citizen.

Madam Speaker, the media has been asking about the kind of characteristic most suited for this job and, Madam Speaker, let me tell you that it takes one of honesty, one of integrity. And I can assure the people of this country that when they are deciding who they want to send back here, they must consider whether that person, whomever they vote for, can be viewed as a moral compass, to some extent, in this country.

Madam Speaker, this country has much to celebrate. This country has a long way to go and we are going to need good men and women at the helm.

Madam Speaker, I have worked with many in here over the last 12.5 years or thereabouts. The 15 of us are here now. I am pleased to have been associated with them. I know at times the public believes that we are prepared to use machetes to settle our differences. I think I should have said on a number of occasions that when the microphones are off we turn into Cinderella. We certainly recognise that we are all Caymanians at that time. And we recognise that politics is politics and being Caymanian makes all the difference.

I thank all of my colleagues for the manner in which they have treated and respected me. Except that over the last four years, not much has been done in my constituency. But I will correct that if I come back.

[Inaudible interjections]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Not as much as I expected, Madam Speaker. Maybe I expected too much, but we all do. Don't we?

Madam Speaker, I do believe that if I was to compare my tenure as a Minister responsible for Communications, Works and Infrastructure, I went straight across the whole country (that is, the three Islands), and it made no difference. But such is life. That is the past. And I would like to say that life unfolds as it should. I will unfold, Madam Speaker. Whatever will be, will be! Whatever must be, will be!

I thank all of my colleagues. Sometimes it has been tumultuous over the last four years. But I trust that whilst being here, they too have gained something from me because I have gained much from them. I have seen the diversity in this Parliament which taught me so much. Over the years I recall people like Roy Bodden, Gilbert McLean, Linford Pierson, Lyndon Martin, Kurt Tibbetts, the First Elected Member for George Town—in particular him—Linford Pierson, Roy Bodden, Gilbert McLean. They have taught me so much.

When I came here . . . I will never forget, Madam Speaker. The first day they lined us up on this back wall and I had gotten a nice low haircut and whilst sitting there, of course, you are extremely timid and all the people are here, and I leaned back and (my hair was very, very low) and hit that slate with the back of my head and [it was] cold. All I did was to lean my head against the slate and the first thing went through my mind was that I hoped it was not that cold in here all of the time.

There were times when it was much colder. But I can say that through these twelve years there has been some warmth in here which I will never forget. I will never forget. And if I never return to these hallowed Halls, I want those who come back to know that this is the best thing one could ever do. But be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices in service to your country. There is no greater honour; there is no higher office for you to attain in this country. Come and make your contribution. Sometimes you have to shout, sometimes you are going to be calm, your voice is going to be low, but this is the place to make the difference in the future of your people. Always come here.

Madam Speaker, since I have been here I have been through many personal journeys. I lost my father, lost my sister, got both of my children into university. Madam Speaker; that in itself has been one of the greatest journeys I have ever had. Thank God we have not lost any of the Members I started Parliament with.

I believe I should say that at this stage that the Honourable Edna Moyle is currently sick and she taught me more about parliamentary procedures, she and the First Elected Member for West Bay, than any other person in here. She taught me how to get around the Speakers. She taught me how to do research. I will never forget those people no matter where I go, no matter what happens to me in this life.

I came here in November 2000. The 15th of November 2000 I entered these hallowed Halls. And by May of 2001 the First Elected Member for West Bay sent me to represent this country in the CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] in St. Kitts, because he was on the Executive. Madam Speaker, these things are forever etched in my mind. These are the things that you gain from coming here. That is why I can say to the prospective members of this Parliament, it is good to come here, it is the best thing you can every do in this life.

Madam Speaker, let me now go on to say thanks to the staff. I have been treated with the utmost respect in the last twelve and a half years. But like the First Elected Member for West Bay, I have forever wanted the separation of this Parliament from the Executive. So much so, that in 2011 or 2010, I did a paper on that in Trinidad. There needs to be a separation. Parliament must become an autonomous arm of this country and we must upgrade this Parliament.

Whether I am here or not, Madam Speaker, we need to remove the staff from inside these Chambers. They are not as effective and as efficient as they can be. There needs to be a building built behind these Chambers so that they can have some peace and quiet when they are doing their work.

We cannot expect to have the Hansard typist sitting in there with big loud speakers around her, listening to the current debate. We can't! The Clerk, the Deputy Clerk.

There is no library. There is no opportunity for committee rooms. We have one committee room. There is insufficient staff. There are at least six Standing Committees of this House. Many of them have never been active. Why? Because we don't have the staff. Why? Because to get new staff (which we don't seem to get), the Executive has control over the monies. When the Parliament becomes its own autonomous body we can get staff, have offices, they can sit, do the work, do the Minutes and we will have a more effective parliament.

We must have a more effective parliament. People on the outside see this glamorous building and this beautiful ornate inside, and these nice leather chairs. But much of their work is not being done because of the inefficiencies because of the lack of human resources in here. It must be done. We have to make the staff comfortable.

We have Nana and Sharon and between them they must have nearly 80 years of being here. They are soon going to be gone. We need to find young people who they can train. They are in retirement age. We are going to work them to death. We are going to have to bring them back on contract because no one else knows the system in this entire country. Those are the things that the next Government needs to look at seriously.

And the people and country must understand that these are monies well spent. And if I don't come back, Madam Speaker, and any other one of my colleagues come back, please try and get the Pages here. We need Pages in here.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Oh yes, new Standing Orders.

I thank you for four years here. We have had some learning curves which are not unusual, but nevertheless I believe your tenure here was more like staying between the white line and never crossing the yellow line. And there is nothing wrong with that.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: He never heard that before, Madam Speaker; staying between the white line and never crossing the yellow line.

[Laughter and interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, I thank you, I thank my colleagues, all of them. Like the Leader of the Opposition said, I can't say that, you know, it would be nice to see all of us back, if I come back. But, you know, they are all running their 15 seats and in East End as well—18 seats.

Madam Speaker, I started this journey alone and I will now go back to being alone, but I will with no less zeal and ambition for defending the people of this country.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: My family has been my pillar, all of them. They have supported me unconditionally, like I know the families of other Members have done. But I think I need to thank them personally for all of these many years that they have supported me and for putting up with me. Our father told us that only one at a time should only get into public office and the rest must fend for themselves out there in this world. Don't get involved. I don't know who will come next, Madam Speaker—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: —but . . . I hope not.

[Laughter]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Darren you said? Darren—no! He likes engineering.

But, Madam Speaker, anyway, I thank my family. They have been . . . my 89-year-old mother has been my pillar. My sisters, my brothers and all of my nephews and nieces, and two sons and my good wife have given me this unconditional love that I do not know why I deserve it; and my extended family as well. And many friends—two in particular, Oswell Rankine and Darrel Rankine have stood by me through thick and thin.

There are many others, and I just say to the people of East End that I am still ready and believe I still have something to offer this country. And now that I have all of this experience it is now that I really can give this country something and make a contribution. This is the time that I can. And, Madam Speaker, yes, this country will overcome. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I need two minutes please. Stay in your seats.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Second Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I think we need to, at some point, put this question while we still have a quorum because I see that we seem to be dropping like flies around here.

Madam Speaker, all of us have had a unique interesting journey and perspective as Members of this House. Whether we are first time Members, whether we have been here five terms, six terms, seven terms, it is all unique. Madam Speaker, coming now to the end of my third term, this certainly has been an interesting journey to have gotten here at 28 years of age. Now I see people who they say are relatively young getting into politics and I feel relatively old in the game. Going on 12 years.

Madam Speaker, this has been a very trying and tough term personally, but, Madam Speaker, all of our trials in life it is about growing personally and growing stronger. Reflecting, taking that deep breath and learning life's lessons and continuing on, on our journey.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank a few people. And I will start by thanking my wife and children. Without them I could not do anything that I do. And certainly, Madam Speaker, when as busy as we are in this life, having someone who can take care of the home front as ably as she does, it is a real blessing from God.

I want to thank you and all the staff here at the Legislative Assembly. I can't start naming names because I know that I am going to forget someone but I want to thank every single member of the staff here.

Madam Speaker, having gone full circle now as a legislator—first term, backbench Member of the Government; second term, Opposition Member; third term as a Minister. I would like to now thank all of the staff in our Ministry—the Chief Officer, all of the staff at the departments which fall under the Ministry, for, I have enjoyed the benefit and camaraderie of working with a good hardworking group of civil servants. Civil servants often get a bad rap out there but I truly believe that in our Ministry we did more with less.

We reformed the department, we reformed and restructured the Ministry, and in doing so, Madam Speaker, we not only saved posts in the accounting and HR sections, but I believe we have delivered a more efficient service to the 900-plus staff that run across the Ministry.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I can stand here and just, off the top of my head without looking at our achievements document, be able to reflect on the fact that we instituted our behavior and education support team; our best teams which everyone is talking about. CIFEC [Cayman Islands Further Education Centre] was started and, Madam Speaker, we have introduced world class B-TEC [Business and Technology Education Council]. All important second chances were always talked about in our system, we have delivered it.

For our high flyers, our Dual-entry Programme is soaring from height to height. Just a few weeks ago, your and I had the benefit of going and seeing 16 and 17-year-old children, young people, being on the president and dean's list at UCCI, not even having finished high school as yet, because that is what they are doing for their Dual-entry programme.

We have instituted through all high schools something that our education system greatly needed. One of those points that many of the critics who believe they know everything about education will not have even picked up on, but I know will pay great dividends in the future: A new graduation criteria, including academic criteria for the first time in the country's history in our public schools; national professional standards for teachers.

Madam Speaker, we expanded our primary schools at Sir John A. Cumber, Bodden Town, Savannah, and George Town. We gave East End Primary School a hall that apparently they had waited on for 30 plus years, if I remember correctly what was said when I went to open that hall. The classroom block at the Layman Scott High School; national written policies for the first time in some critical areas; appropriate ICT use by staff and pupils; a national behavior and discipline policy; a national teaching and learning policy; a national misuse of drugs policy, just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, we reintroduced reception at our largest primary schools. We reformed our department of employment services to a new department of labour and pensions to deal with the regulatory arm of employment. And the agency that I hold a lot of hope for, and one that I believe is going to be key to long term success in the labour market, our National Workforce Development Agency (NWDA). It will be rolling out the ACT (Youth Anti-Crime Trust) Programme. It is going to be introducing the holistic use of ICT (Information & Communication Technology) as we tackle labour and employment issues in this country.

We have reformed our scholarship secretariat. Madam Speaker, the work that has happened there, has been impressive; gone from one person trying to manage a system of 800 plus students when I took office. Imagine now it is over 1,000. No one person can do that amount of work and do it adequately. And we now have a three-person team. Again, Madam Speaker, no net new cost to Government.

Madam Speaker, the expansion of our programmes at the Lighthouse School has been one that has been a real source of pride for me. When I go there and see our young people with special needs using their iPads and using technology to really enhance their teaching and learning experience, it really fills my heart with pride.

Madam Speaker, our music therapy programmes across Lighthouse and the Sunrise Adult Training Centre has also really changed lives. Our Autism Spectrum Diagnostic training has been one

key area for us which has caused us to be able to really deliver greater services to many of our children who were marginalised in the past. Madam Speaker, when I took office, approximately 35 per cent of our children achieved five or more Level II passes, and now we are up to 49.4 per cent. That has been impressive.

Our Superior Auto training programme is a model that shows us that if we use world class programming with facilities which are on the job site, that we can have real quality technical, vocational and education training which will prove greater opportunities for a new generation of Caymanians. And we must expand those programmes in the next term.

Passport2Success has changed lives, Madam Speaker. When I think of the young people who have gone through that programme, and when you actually go and listen to the participants talk about the life changing experience that it has been for them, and when I look at the statistics where more than half of those participants are now in full time employment where, Madam Speaker, approximately one quarter of them are now in some form of education or further learning, it tells me that when we invest in our young people we can make a positive difference.

Madam Speaker, our new approach for numeracy is going to deliver great dividends to this country, and I believe it is going to put us on a pathway where Cayman is going to have results in the next few years that will match some of the best performing countries in the world.

We completed the Clifton Hunter High School; no small feat given all of our budgetary constraints. No small feat, given the fact that within six months of taking office we had to terminate the then general contractor. Madam Speaker, having done that, as I said earlier in this House, we navigated what could have been a legal mind field and have successfully gotten the point where the country can say that we now have an agreement and that that litigation and that saga is behind us.

So, Madam Speaker, I can reflect and feel proud of the achievements that we have had in the Ministry since I have been there. This is just a snippet of what we have achieved. For me what is most important is that we have changed lives. We have created new opportunities. We have created new bridges to success. I am confident that when the historians come to write and document, that from 2009 to 2013 it will be said that the greatest foundations for lifelong learning, a quality education system, expanded services for all, our highest achievers, our learners who learn very differently, our special needs, it will be said that the greatest foundation has been provided in these four years.

I took the view, and still stand by the view, that one cannot take it for granted that having the honour to serve as a minister is going to come by in

your lifetime again. And so I made sure that I was true to myself and that in getting this opportunity I was going to push and run and be a very hard taskmaster to ensure that those who we serve, our national treasure, our young people, were served and given the strongest and surest foundation so that they can positively contribute.

Madam Speaker, this country has great hope. There are good times to come for this country. Every country has its trials, and if you listen to the naysayers today, you would swear as though the Cayman Islands is the worst place in the world. What is scary, Madam Speaker, is that some of the people I hear that [from], are learned people, people who have travelled, people who have seen abject poverty, people who have seen countries that are in much worse positions than us. We have a lot of work to do because we have much potential, but we must be honest with our citizens about where we are and we must be clear about our expectations and we must provide every single person that lives in these borders with all of the tools to be able to maximise their God given potential.

Madam Speaker, life as a legislator is difficult. The life as a representative is challenging. Christmas Day, New Years' Day, your birthday, your anniversary people are at your door. That is a part of being a representative in a small community in these small little Islands that we call home.

Madam Speaker, I can say that I rest well at night in feeling that in these last four years and in my twelve years I believe that I have added much to the national voice. I know that I have given my all. I know that I have sacrificed what many who are now chugging along on the political bandwagon and the political train would never have sacrificed. I walked away when I was young because I felt a difference needed to be made in this House and I believe that I have made a great contribution to making that all important difference.

We are a blessed country. We are a blessed community. We have our struggles, we have our challenges yes. If we spent more time on working with each other and really being leaders in all facets of life, not all trying to scramble to get in here for one of the soon-to-be 18 seats, but if we spent more time truly giving in our community, I think a lot of the issues of this country would either go away or greatly be diminished. But, Madam Speaker, it is a democracy. So we are at a stage where we see a new thrust and a new rush of people wanting to enter this House.

Madam Speaker, the last thing I will say is that, God willing, on May 22nd the people of this country will go to the polls and freely and fairly elect 18 persons. What I do know is that coming out of 18 persons must be an executive of seven ministers, must be a backbench support system that allows for a proper functioning government.

Madam Speaker, I believe that I and my colleagues have done the work, have been honest, have made tough decisions when we have had to and are worthy of the opportunity to continue to serve these Islands.

Madam Speaker, I promised to be brief, and I hope that other Members will do likewise. Madam Speaker, this is a great honour. I just want to end off by thanking the people of these Islands for supporting me and my family, and in particular, thanking the people of the great district of West Bay for having bestowed upon me the honour to have called myself the Second Elected Member for West Bay for the last 12 years. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Education.

I would remind you all that you need to allow everybody an opportunity to speak tonight. I'm prepared to stay as late as you need to to have your speeches heard.

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I was hearing earlier when the Member for East End spoke, that they actually went on until three o'clock in this honourable House. It is now 11.07 or so. And I heard the preemptive strike of the Second Elected Member for West Bay admonishing about keeping it brief. Madam Speaker, I hope in one way, shape or another, perhaps to end the term just as I believe I have had a chance to start and keep it somewhere in the middle. Madam Speaker, it is my first term in office and I believe in doing that, that it is extremely important that even if it is five minutes we put on record, at least a vantage point, a position, because I believe you only get to do something first one time.

Madam Speaker, it is without doubt truly an honour for me to actually be in this position. It has been a long and a very difficult road for me, for my family and so many other persons who in one way, shape or another, have loaned their support, contributed wittingly or unwittingly to myself being here. And, Madam Speaker, when you can think of the fact that in terms of this election I would have received, I believe it was 1,845 votes, and if anyone of us in this honourable House was perhaps to start writing out the list of names of persons that we actually know, we would probably find it is 100, maybe 200 or a little bit above, but I doubt it is 1,845, Madam Speaker.

I say that because that means that there were a tremendous number of people who went to the polls, voted for myself that I did not know, and they probably did not necessarily know me very well either, Madam Speaker. But somewhere, somehow they heard me say something, saw me do something, that if nothing else, it gave them a degree of hope which said to them that they believed I could make a contribution.

And for that, Madam Speaker, I am forever indebted to those persons who gave me an opportunity to serve. I would not have been here without them.

Madam Speaker, on the road here there were some challenges. Just to highlight a few of them, I have stated perhaps in this honourable House numerous times, even with respect to some of the personal issues that I and my family was facing at the time because, as I mentioned earlier today, the birth of my third and final daughter, and actually knowing that in 2000 when she would have reached that precious age of four months that she began to have seizures. I remember the difficult challenges and stress that that caused for me, but most importantly, for my wife and for the rest of my family, so much so, that my wife actually ended up having a heart attack in 2003. And despite all of that, Madam Speaker, continued on, pursued.

I started the Cay-Politics website in 2001. In fact, I think it was July and somewhere thereabout in November I believe we actually had the formation of the United Democratic Party. I state that, Madam Speaker, because again I know that perhaps the media will not necessarily give it too accurate. At least one media house will perhaps not give it as accurate as it deserves. But that was one effort, Madam Speaker, not just from a business perspective but it was a chance for me to do something for the country, to make sure that we could put greater transparency on the Government, real time news. The first website perhaps in the country that was offering persons to be able to give their feedback via the bulletin board system, and to be able to give their own input insofar as what the Government was doing.

I can assure you, Madam Speaker, that that caused some stress for some persons. I ended up at the time where I had politicians, at least one or two of them, to the point where they wanted to take you to court and sue you for something that somebody had said; persons who contacted your employers. And despite the fact that I had three daughters, one with seizures, a wife who just had a heart attack, did not matter to them. What mattered was, I don't know, their honesty and integrity or something to that effect, Madam Speaker, where they contact your employers and at the end of the day you end up having to depart from your well decent paying job that was absolutely a requirement to help to keep your family afloat. In all of those challenges, Madam Speaker, God was there with me, he kept me, guided me, comforted me, and my family was there who never let me down.

So, Madam Speaker, I hope in saying that and as I continue, if there is nothing else, Madam Speaker, let us hope that all of us can be an inspiration to someone who wants to be able to get into this honourable House. Because, Madam Speaker, I in no way at all view that in a negative way. I don't know who is going to get elected and frankly I pray at night that the best persons get elected.

That's my prayer. Because I do not think I would even hazard to say I can select them. God Almighty should decide. But I say that, Madam Speaker, because let there be an understanding that there are challenges both in terms of getting here and when you get here [there are] challenges once you get here as well.

Madam Speaker, I want to just put on record very quickly some of the things insofar as coming into this office. It has to be understood absolutely that in terms of coming to this office and being a Member of the United Democratic Party, that the situation which we found in this country we have to, today and governments of the future, ensure that this country is not going to get back in that position. I am not saying it just perhaps as some would try to suggest, to be political. I am saying it passionately because if we cannot say something passionately, if we have nothing to stand for, nothing that we are willing to die for, then send something in writing and go back home.

But the position is that I believe in the utility of truth. I believe we owe the people of this country the truth. And if that hurts one or two small persons, then unfortunately that is the way it is. But I believe that the people of this country amongst other things, in terms of asking and giving me the chance to represent them, wants me to tell them the truth. And the position that we ended up with as a United Democratic Party Government was inheriting a country that the financial independence of this country, to which I continue to say, there's only one true form of independence and that is financial independence had been removed from the country.

It was a situation where everything that we wanted, to borrow, how we spend, why we spend it, with whom, at the end of the day we had to get the permission of the United Kingdom. And we have to do whatever we can to make sure we can get ourselves out of that position and that we take the necessary action to ensure that we will not return there.

Madam Speaker, just today we would have seen again that, in my humble opinion, we see too many times when our politicians pay lip service to something, Madam Speaker. Pay lip service in terms of saying they are looking out for Caymanians but yet, Madam Speaker, here is what I heard. Here is a fact: The fact is that you still had so many of them that would go on the talk shows, go on the television and God is my witness, knowing that they know better but still go on the talk show and disseminate false information to the people of this country.

Do they think that that is just harming one person, one politician, one party, one group? Madam Speaker, they were hurting this country. That's what they were doing; hurting the entire country. And in turn the very profession to which they hold. And they can say anything today that they want to say. But to the very profession that they hold they have lowered it.

And they continue to make it a position that persons have no position in this country, other than to propagate that politicians do nothing, politicians are corrupt, politicians are lazy, politicians are liars; they themselves breathe it.

That's what they do, they breathe that. I had to listen to it every single day. And, Madam Speaker, there is nothing wrong with the back and forth in terms of the political [INAUDIBLE]. So, there's nothing wrong with that. But let us, in the process somewhere, hopefully, decide that we can actually tell the truth.

Madam Speaker, I was also jotting down a couple of things I wanted to mention in terms of my opportunity to be here, not as a minister but as a backbench member in my Government. I could not have done it without their support. But I remember, for example, standing in the Windsor Park area, in the Park itself in 2009 during the campaign, and wanting to make a difference. Understand it: I grew up in a very disadvantaged area. I have seen a lot of different things, as I am pretty sure other Members perhaps in this House too. Whether it was drugs, whether it was prostitution, other things, and at the end of the day always with a desire to see what I could do to make a difference.

I cannot express enough the honour that I have to actually be here to make that difference. And for four years, Madam Speaker, I did not take a vacation. You come to get this job nobody tells you that you have three or four weeks of vacation. Nobody tells you what time you should start and what time you should finish, none of that. But in four years, Madam Speaker, I can proudly say, never took a flight and never took a vacation. Proudly I can say it! Every single day, Madam Speaker, I was working for the people of this country, and never once was tired to do so. In fact, the only thing I regret is that I did not have some resource, some opportunity to do a little bit more. That, Madam Speaker, would be the only regret that I have.

So, Madam Speaker, I remember standing in the Windsor Park and making the promise of what I wanted to do in respect to affordable homes. And as I look across the aisle at my colleagues, many of us sat there in that first caucus meeting. Yes, I wanted a chance to do something with housing, and that was my final request. Can't be minister, can't do anything . . . fine! Give me some responsibly with respect to housing. And, Madam Speaker, I was given an opportunity at the end of the day to be the ministerial council for housing.

It is with great pride knowing that this United Democratic Party Government inherited a financial situation where there was no money to spend and robbed of our independence, we were still able to construct 87 affordable homes for the people of this country.

Is it where we want to be, Madam Speaker? Is it the end of the road? Absolutely not! But as you said earlier today, a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first steps. And 87 homes, Madam Speaker, by the grace of God has been constructed as a result of our efforts, and, Madam Speaker, that is just one of the things to which I am proud about.

Just today we chatted about jobs for Caymanians only. And again, I heard all sorts of rhetoric today about that; all sorts of reason and suggestions why persons could not support it. But, Madam Speaker, my position is, there are 20,000 plus work permits already granted in this country. Seventy-five per cent of our workforce is foreign nationals and there is nothing wrong with that, Madam Speaker. The United Democratic Party position and my position is the same. We need today and arguably for all the foreseeable future, we are going to need those foreign nationals, we are going to need transient workers.

But that said, Madam Speaker, we have an obligation to ensure that we are doing our best to maximise the opportunity for Caymanians. And so when we pass legislation such as the Notaries Public Bill and actually say that we have the confidence, that our people have the expertise and we have the numbers so that all notary publics in this country can be Caymanians, Madam Speaker, I believe it is a step in the right direction. And despite what the naysayers want to say and despite what they claim they are going to say on the talk show tomorrow, and despite what they may want to say between now and 22st May, 11.59 and 59 seconds, the fact remains, is that there was no reason to vote against jobs for Caymanians only; an opportunity, Madam Speaker, to make a difference.

Madam Speaker, the pension motion, again that I brought in September of 2010, I cannot tell you when I can have individuals call me on the phone, a husband and wife, arguably in tears, telling me that they have finally paid off their mortgage. The stress has gone from them because they paid off their mortgage. Knowing the situation that we would have inherited would have been one where you had \$200 million that had been lost from the pension, but we somehow or another through an innovative solution, creative ideas, was able to utilise those pension funds to be able to help Caymanians; buy a piece of land, build a house or to make the final payment on their mortgage. And to have a family, Madam Speaker, just one out of the 215 plus, I believe, that have now utilised their pension, who call and say, *I have finally paid off my mortgage*. Madam Speaker, we can't fathom what that means for that family who no longer has that stress lowering over them. Or for the family in their mid to late 50s, just in Palm Dale, as one example, who can now take my wife and I by the hand and carry us into their home and say, *Look at the home I now have*. Madam Speaker, I believe for myself and the entire

Party that we have something of which we can be tremendously proud.

As I talked about just recently again having passed the motion with the Complaint's Commissioner and the RCIPS, I believe again it is important that we do what we can insofar as defending those in the RCIPS and those in the other services that continue to do the same for us, Madam Speaker. I was proud to see again the tremendous amount of support that I would have received in this honourable House with that. And I continue, as I press the Deputy Governor to do, to ensure that, Madam Speaker, whether I make it back to this House or not, as I said to him, it is persons like himself who will offer the continuity from government to government. I kindly ask him that we can continue to pursue things like that because it makes a difference and it will make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many people.

Madam Speaker, under education fund that we again passed just a few days ago, 14 votes in favour of only one against. And I don't have to tell you who that was—one against, Madam Speaker. But again, 14 votes saying that we can do education differently and I am proud to know that with that education fund, as far as I am concerned, once it is implemented it is going to give us the opportunity to be able to acquire more funds, provide additional funds for the people of this country who we are sending off to get tertiary education, lifelong learning opportunities and other up-skill opportunities, as well as not just providing more funds but also perhaps more funds to other people.

Again, another prideful week in terms of seeing the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant legislation; the motion brought by myself in September 2010. And yes, Madam Speaker, some three years later knowing that this country now, in terms of its ranking position health-wise, is in a completely different position that we would have been otherwise. And yes, kudos, of course, to persons who would have done it in terms of the Minister himself bringing that piece of legislation. For all the persons who served on the boards and who assisted in one way, shape or another.

I believe it was perhaps the other Member for Bodden Town who seconded that motion. And I take the opportunity to thank him as well because just about every motion I brought, I believe the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town was supporting it.

I want to say that to all the persons who are talking about the independent candidates and independent thinkers. Again, Madam Speaker, I have no issue with anyone wanting to come into this House. That to me is a noble ambition and no one should be disparaging to anyone who wants to run for office. It is for the people of this country alone to decide who is worthy. But I can say one thing, Madam Speaker; there is no independent in the Legislative Assembly. Nothing can be accomplished on your own, except

perhaps rising to your feet and flapping your lips, which we have seen too much of for the last four years.

Very quickly, Madam Speaker, things like the Port project, again, I know it has been made a tremendous degree of rank or about. But why did we do it, Madam Speaker? We did it because just like with the homes, we wanted to maximise opportunities for Caymanians.

The PRIDE cleanup which I am going to take great pride in, Madam Speaker, and wish we could have continued to do it. Again, perhaps for this year, but I am pretty sure that I know what the accusations would have been had we done it December and into January. If we get accused of electioneering because of bringing the education fund or a particular motion, the Immigration (Amendment) Bill today, I can assure you they would have accused us of electioneering then. But the fact, Madam Speaker, 800 and something persons and by extension 800 families benefitting as a result of that cleanup, to know they are not begging for a handout, simply asking for a help out and the help out, Madam Speaker, was ten dollars an hour for persons who took the pride on themselves to aid, one way shape or another, in the fixing, cleaning of this country; again, a very proud opportunity for myself, Madam Speaker.

On the e-Government, we have made tremendous strides, Madam Speaker, e-Government in terms of trying to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service in the country. We have made some tremendous strides with respect to the prison, CCTV links, Madam Speaker, which would remove perhaps at least \$1.2 million in recurrent expenditure every year. Things such as unique identifier, which means if a government chooses in the future, if they want to implement national ID then they can do it. Things like vehicle licensing, modifying it so not everyone has to run around with a log book that is four, five, six or seven pages, but, in fact, paperless, and therefore it is saving millions of dollars. And why is that important? It is important, Madam Speaker, because every penny that we save means less money that we have to tax the people of this country.

So, Madam Speaker, I am going to just conclude there because I know it is just about 11.30. But I just want to end by saying that I am thankful for all of the persons that I have had a chance to work with in this honourable House, because one way shape or another, whether there were opposed, as we would say, friend or foe, whether they tried to strike you in the canteen or not, you had an opportunity to learn something from every one of them. We had the opportunity to learn something, Madam Speaker, from every one of them, something that we could do to better ourselves, and most importantly, Madam Speaker, to be able to benefit the people of this country.

Madam Speaker, I am going to be candid and always honest with the people of this country. It was not always a good ride up in here. But, Madam Speaker, being able to work with a team and it is unfortunate what has occurred, but we worked as a team and accomplished a tremendous amount on behalf of the people of this country. And I look forward to putting my hat in the ring (as we would say) on the 27th of March. If I am alive and have breath in my body, I intend to put my hat in there as a candidate. And I am kindly asking, Madam Speaker, of course, for all of the persons, particularly those in George Town who will determine whether I have a chance to get reelected, to attend the meetings, watch the television programmes, listen to the radio, listen to what I have accomplished, listen to the things I have done, the things I hope to do, and for them to make the determination, Madam Speaker, as to whether they believe that I am worthy to be returned to this office.

And if they find me worthy in terms of what I have done and the things that I offer to do, I will continue to represent them because one thing they can know, whether coming by pain or plane, if they have the right to call themselves a Caymanian in this country, they can depend on my support. I will fight for them passionately as I have done for the past four years.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity of the contribution, and, of course, I should perhaps very quickly say that I want to thank you and the rest of the staff for all the tremendous amount of work that you have done. And, of course, needless to say, it would be remiss of me [not] to say clearly I have learnt a lot from you as well. But, Madam Speaker, I hope for the opportunity to be able to return here and again, I ask the people of George Town perhaps in that particular position, to find me worthy.

Again, Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure and an honour to be in this honourable House. And with that, God bless all of those persons out there. God bless the Cayman Islands. Good night.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health.

I would remind Members you all need to stay because we need a quorum for the adjournment motion.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is not usually for me to be very longwinded but special occasions like this make me think about the last four years and so there could be a lot to talk about now, Madam Speaker. But in the interest of time and there are a few other speakers, I will keep my remarks very brief as well.

Madam Speaker, these four years have been an honour and a privilege to represent the good peo-

ple of Bodden Town, and, indeed, the good people of these Cayman Islands. I'm very proud to have been elected First Elected Member [of Bodden Town] in May 2009, and it has been a very humble experience over the past four years as well, Madam Speaker, but one that I say with all sincerity that I would change or trade for anything, Madam Speaker.

Some of us sacrificed careers, as my colleagues said. Some sacrificed businesses to have the opportunity to represent and work for the people of the Cayman Islands. Madam Speaker, I can think of the country song by Garth Brooks that says something like "you could have missed the pain but you would have missed the dance." And, Madam Speaker, I would not want to have missed this dance. It comes with some pain yes, but, Madam Speaker, I would not have wanted to miss it.

As I said earlier, it has certainly been an honour to have represented the district of Bodden Town and indeed the people of the Cayman Islands, but also to have been given the constitutional responsibility for Health Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture. And, Madam Speaker, we have seen some significant achievements and I am very proud of those, whether it is as small as constructing a walking track over at the old Middle School that is very, very busy all year round now with hundreds of people walking every day. By providing that small facility it will yet make such a big difference in the lives, health wise, of people who are using that facility.

Or whether it is the fact that I took the initiative to invite the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils here last week to review and assess the HSA so that in a short time we will be able for the first time to offer internship places at the hospital right here in Cayman. So, Caymanians can have the opportunity when they complete medical school to do their internship right here in Cayman. That is a proud achievement on our part, Madam Speaker.

Whether it is all the various legislation, health practice legislation, some of which we just passed today; Tort Reform, several years back; human organ transplant, legislation for health insurance amendments, Madam Speaker, think of the significant improvement that is going to make in the health of people in the country when we have amended that standard health insurance contract. Much controversy and much naysay about it, Madam Speaker. But it is certainly gratifying to me, whether it is the medical tourism initiative that we have done with various legislation, as well as supporting the project, to know that these achievements have already improved the lives of people here and will continue to improve the quality of the lives of people here in the Cayman Islands for years to come.

Madam Speaker, as others have said, it is a tough job being a politician, especially in a small jurisdiction, because our constituents have such easy access to us. And that is not a bad thing, it is a good

thing. That is probably why all of us get involved in it because we know what we are getting into when we offer ourselves for political office. And, as I said, Madam Speaker, any political arena is certainly a sacrifice; long days like today, trying times, but what drives us is the motivation to serve our people and to make a better future for our children; all the children of the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, after working in the community for years that is how many of us become politicians, that is how many of us get into political services as well. Work in the community and, as my colleague just said, certainly, some of those nowadays are not doing it that way anymore, they jump up and offer themselves for office and say they understand all of the problems. But most of us in here, Madam Speaker, as I look around, have worked in the community for years and years before we entered the political office. So we understand the issues, we understand what makes people work, and the problems that people are having nowadays.

I can say that serving the elected office like one of my colleagues said earlier as well, it is certainly the highest and the greatest form of community service that we can give now, is the service to our country.

The last four years have been tumultuous for the country, as we know. And sometimes the public does not fully appreciate the efforts that the elected members bring to our position. Sometimes we bring that on ourselves because of when we are in the LA, for instance, and we are not as efficient and as productive as we should be, but also, Madam Speaker, it is because of the expectations that have been inculcated in our electorate over the years. And certainly, Madam Speaker, we as politicians need to work to educate and enlighten the public so they can better understand what our roles as policy makers are, and also their roles as constituents to hold us accountable, yet work along with us in finding solutions to the problems and putting those solutions into place.

Madam Speaker, compared to the past four years the next two months are going to be like a 100 metre sprint where you will hear from all the new candidates, incumbent candidates, about their plans and their policies for their districts, for the country. And, Madam Speaker, one thing you will hear a lot of is that we are doing it because we love our country—"For love of country," and "Country first," all of those sorts of stuff that we keep hearing.

I think we can put that all aside, Madam Speaker, because I can certainly say that anyone who offers themselves for office, if they do not love the country they should not be doing it. So, we do not have to prove that to each other before we get up and run, so those buzz words, those nice slogans about "For love of country" and "Country first" and so on, save the ink on the banners and the T-shirts. If you do

not love the country you should not be running for office.

Following the events in December I can proudly say that I am standing in the upcoming election on May 22 with my four Cabinet colleagues here. And, Madam Speaker, I can briefly say that these four persons right here, I would go into any war with. I got that feeling after working the last four years, and, more importantly, over the last three months, of what we went through in December and what we have done for this country in the past three months.

We demonstrated leadership, we worked hard, we demonstrated commitment, courage, integrity, hard work, and no more was that demonstrated than in the sittings we have had at the Legislative Assembly since that time. It has been very tenuous times to come here knowing we had the support of our colleagues on the other side of the House to bring about a quorum and hoping we had the support of them all to pass legislation because the five of us could not pass legislation on our own. So, this group here has demonstrated leadership we needed to take this country forward.

Madam Speaker, that is just what this country needs at this time—leadership that has been tried and tested, experienced. And that is what my colleagues here represent. We understand the issues facing the country. We have plans in place like the National Health Policy drafted by my Ministry which I helped to draft, plans like the National Energy Policy that the Premier has just launched, plans like the National Education Policy that the Minister of Education . . . so we have plans like the Tourism Management Plan and other work that the Minister of Tourism is working on now. So, we have plans, Madam Speaker, for this country. We have understood what the problems have been for the past four years and we are crafting the plans and policies already. So, when people come along and say that they have the plans and this is what we need to do, listen to what they are saying carefully.

Madam Speaker, we need leaders now that can address the societal issues all across the spectrum of our society, leaders that can walk into the big boardrooms in the financial sector and leaders who can go on the construction site and talk with the construction workers as well. That is what is needed right now.

We know the economy is not the strongest right now; unemployment is high. And it is going to be easy to listen to candidates come along and get up on the platform and the television and otherwise to say all the nice sounding buzz words, what their goals are, lofty goals and lofty objectives, Madam Speaker. But what we really need to hear now is how they are going to accomplish that. How are they going to create the jobs they are telling you about? They all say that are going to create jobs. How are they going to reduce

government expenditure? How are they going to improve healthcare for vulnerable members in our society, Madam Speaker? Madam Speaker, things like our health policy are going to address that.

Managing healthcare and the growing cost of that healthcare is going to be one of the key issues that we have to deal with as a country in the next four years, not in the long term future, Madam Speaker, in the next four years. The cost of healthcare right now is the fastest growing element of our budget, the one that is the hardest to cut because of the element that deals with taking care of vulnerable members of our population who are not able to afford that healthcare. So, it is not a matter of saying we can change the government policy and not take care of those people.

That is one of the biggest challenges we are going to face as a country in the next four years. Everyone says they know the problems and they are going to take care of them, and they have the buzz words they are going to throw around which says that they will create jobs, fix the economy. Ask them how they are going to do it.

Madam Speaker, we have the others, the recycling ones who keep coming back saying they are going to fix roads, build big roads and do all sorts of stuff like that. But I want to ask them again, how are we going to afford those projects? We had a problem in the four years before we were elected where there were a lot of things done, cost a lot of money and that has helped to put us into the position we are in now. And so we do not want to bring some of those back who are going to talk about doing some big projects again and not know where they are going to get the money from to do it.

Madam Speaker, we have to continue what we have started. The Minister of Education talked about it again—educating our youngsters, educating our children. Education is the only way we are going to empower our young people to be able to take the jobs. When we build the economy and create those opportunities we need to educate our young people, our children, retool our adults because we are in a changing economy.

In the financial industry, instead of picking up jobs right now we see where people are losing jobs within that industry. So we need to retool. We are trying to build medical tourism and encourage that and encourage more aspects of healthcare, for instance, in the country, Madam Speaker. So, we need to retool or adults as well to take opportunities when they come around.

Madam Speaker, based on my track record I am certainly seeking the support from the Bodden Town electorate on May 22nd to reelect me. Based on national accomplishments, based on district accomplishments, I am asking them to support me along with my colleague, the Honourable Dwayne Seymour. And I have to say and have said it publicly many

times, that working along with Minister Seymour has certainly been a . . . I think we have done a significant amount for the district of Bodden Town; things that have not happened there he mentioned earlier. In 30 years a boat ramp . . . when we opened the boat ramp one of the gentlemen from Bodden Town told a story of how long he had been back from Sea and had heard promises from politicians about building this boat ramp. And, Madam Speaker, in austere times we manage to create a project there which is functional, useful, enjoyable by the public, and much needed in the district of Bodden Town, and indeed for the eastern districts of having that boat ramp there. So, projects like that, Madam Speaker, that we have proven we were able to achieve, useful projects in austere times.

Madam Speaker, we have developed parks in the district of Bodden Town. We have completed road works, major drainage projects in the area of Belford Estates. And my colleague spoke about the cemetery. The cemetery is at its capacity in Bodden Town and we have just gotten Cabinet approval to purchase a new site and we are hoping that the first phase of that site can start to be developed within a few months. I want to thank the Premier for her tremendous support of this as well as my other colleagues in Cabinet for making that happen because, again, our families and loved ones deserve to have a place where they can know that they can be laid to rest when that time comes.

Bodden Town is the fastest growing district, Madam Speaker, and for good reason. Where else in Cayman would you want to go and live but in a beautiful district such as Bodden Town, Madam Speaker? And as representatives what have we done? We have recognised that and worked with our colleagues. We expanded Bodden Town Primary School, Savannah Primary School, and in the next four years we want to look to increase sport facilities and recreation facilities throughout the district. We have plans for a boxing gym and a pool in the district of Bodden Town. Those are the realistic plans that we have.

The district needs a third primary school because of the cache scenarios that we have now and with the size of those two schools we do not want to see them expanded to become any larger. Savannah Primary School now I think (the Minister of Education can correct me) might be the third largest primary school on Island. What we need is a new primary school site. And when elected again in the new government, I am going to challenge the Minister of Education to help us locate a site and to start to plan and develop that site.

We won't be able to build it in the next few years, Madam Speaker, but if we can find the site and plan for the location, we will know in the future that we will have a new primary school for the district of Bodden Town as well.

Madam Speaker, I am going to start to close off now. I want to thank you. I was proud to have nominated you as Speaker of this House. Everyone knew that you always had a tremendous contribution to make to the political development of this country and I am certainly glad that you had the opportunity in this capacity to make that. I have learnt a lot from you as well, not just in this honourable House, Madam Speaker, but before. You have demonstrated great leadership in your role.

I want to also thank the new Clerk as well as all the other staff here, Madam Speaker: Ms. Nana, Ms. Sharon, the Serjeant-at-arms who is still here with us barely, but want to thank him as well. He is a new Serjeant as well and he is playing a tremendous role here.

Madam Speaker, all of the police officers who carry out the security here at the LA as well, I want to say a big thank you to them.

I've learnt from everyone here in the Legislative Assembly over the past four years, Madam Speaker.

I want to also say thanks to my Chief Officer for her leadership in the Ministry, all the legislation that we have brought over the years and all of the other work that the Ministry has done; the staff for the Ministry, the heads of department and staff of all the agencies in my Ministry, and indeed the wider Civil Service, often criticised, Madam Speaker.

Having been a part of the civil service myself, I know the tremendous role that the civil service plays in the country, all the services that government provides often goes without thanks and people, as I said, criticise the service for the most part, but, as I said, I am proud to be on this end of the civil service now as a policy maker having spent a great deal of my career in the service as well.

It would be remiss of me, Madam Speaker, if I did not thank my wife, my family. I have three young children, and it has also been a learning experience for them. They understand what I do, even my five-year-old son. And I will give a light moment, Madam Speaker. I was at a function at Pedro Castle recently. I can't remember what it was exactly. We drove up and I was trying to find a parking space and my five-year-old son said: *Daddy, you mean to tell me they do not have any VIP parking for the Minister?* So, just at five years old he understands the role that I have, Madam Speaker.

But they make a sacrifice; all of our families do. Sometimes I go for days without seeing him. When I get home tonight he is asleep and maybe tomorrow morning I may have to leave before he is awake. Sometimes I have had my six year old daughter call me from the house and ask me if I am on Island because she had not seen me for several days. And, Madam Speaker, that is not unique to me. All of our families go through that sacrifice. But they understand. I think they understand, Madam Speaker. I

know they understand. So, I want to thank them all for that sacrifice.

So, Madam Speaker, I look forward over the next two months to the campaign. I encourage all of the candidates to make it a clean campaign. Let us focus on the issues and let us make the . . . You know we have so many different forums now to get our message across, whether even here on CIGTV (Cayman Islands Government Television). The messages we have given tonight is going to be replayed repeatedly for the next few days. We have the Facebook, CNS [Cayman News Service] and all the various media, Madam Speaker, so we do not have any lack of ways to get our messages out to the people.

Let's make this campaign about keeping clean, keeping it to the issues, telling the people as I said earlier. This is not about getting up and saying I am going to create jobs and fix the economy. Let us get down to the details of the plans that we have to do these things because that is what the people deserve to hear. It is easy now to try to convince people you know, Madam Speaker.

Like I said, the economy is not the best. It is getting better and some people are unemployed and some people are not doing as well as they should or could. And so people are running around saying that they are going to create jobs, they are going to fix the economy. I could catch on you know, Madam Speaker, but I am going to encourage the electorate to drill down, get the details from your candidates on how they are going to fix these problems. That is what your decision should be based on as to who to elect or in our case, who to reelect.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I want to mention one other person, the new candidate that we have with us in Bodden Town, Richard Christian. He is a young Christian man, an elder in his church, Vice President of the Savannah School PTA where he has worked for many years, a young family man and at a very tender age he has given a lot to his community. And like I said, just like some of us in this honourable House who started our political career by working within the community first, getting to understand the ins and outs, and getting to understand the society and what the issues are facing everyone in that society.

Madam Speaker, he is well prepared to take that next step and offer himself for political office. And so we are proud to have him along with us. Not only are Minister Seymour and myself proud to have him in Bodden Town but indeed the five of us here are extremely proud to have Richard Christian join us on the campaign trail for the next two months. So, we are going to be encouraging our voters to vote for us, the six of us, elect us and put us back to help to govern this country going forward, because we already have the knowhow, the experience and the plans to keep

the country on the upward move in which it presently is.

So, Madam Speaker, together I know we will continue to make a brighter future for our children because when all is said and done, our children are the single most motivational factor and incentive for me, and I dare say for all of us, to offer ourselves in service and indeed for me to offer myself in service to the people of Bodden Town and the people of the Cayman Islands. With that, Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

The Speaker: Thank you First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, here we are at the end of another term in this honourable Legislative Assembly. And it is the end of my third consecutive term.

I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, and your dedicated hardworking staff here in this Legislative Assembly, for all that you do to keep this Parliament running the way it should be.

I would also like to thank my family for their support over the past twelve and a half years as a representative. And, Madam Speaker, I am forever indebted to the wonderful people of West Bay for affording me this privilege to serve them for the past twelve and a half years.

Madam Speaker, the First Elected Member for West Bay named some of the achievements that we have been able to do over this last twelve and a half years so I will not repeat them in the interest of time. I am a worker, Madam Speaker, and I trust that my loyal supporters will allow me to serve them for another term in this honourable Legislative Assembly.

No, Madam Speaker, we did not achieve all that we set out to do but we did get some achievements [accomplished]. However, a top priority for the next administration must be jobs, jobs, jobs. Our people out there are hurting, they need to go to work and we must do whatever it takes to put them back to work. Madam Speaker, they are losing houses, cars, just about everything they own because they cannot find work to make money to pay the bills. So, Madam Speaker, I implore all of the Members who are fortunate enough to be reelected or elected, to keep the best interest of the people at heart and try to put them back to work.

With that said, Madam Speaker, I want to wish all Members of this Legislative Assembly well and may God continue to bless us all and bless these beautiful Cayman Islands. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Third Elected Member for West Bay, Minister of Tourism.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, it is almost, I guess, the day for dissolution, so I know I do not have a lot of time left. But I want to take this opportunity to express my honour in being allowed to represent the great people of the Cayman Islands, specifically the people of West Bay, for the last twelve and a half years.

As was mentioned earlier, election in 2000 was a difficult time. We thought that baptism of fire would have been the most difficult time. But I can say, based on the worldwide economic challenges that the country has faced, the last four years have really been a difficult time. I've had the privilege during those four years to work as a councillor for Tourism and for the Ministry of Works with the now Premier, two large ministries.

I was also able during that time for quite a few terms to work as the Deputy Speaker. Had the privilege of working with yourself and with the former Speaker, Mrs. Moyle, and so it has been a real learning experience for me during my tenure here.

Madam Speaker, while Members have gone through the different motions and initiatives, as a part of our Government from 2009 and sitting in the position as a councillor, I have had quite a bit of good opportunities. Two that come to mind are my initiative with the Cayman Enterprise City, and also with the Dr. Shetty Hospital, traveling over to India meeting Dr. Shetty and inviting him back to Cayman and being involved with the hospital.

But, Madam Speaker, it was a mixed bag, I guess, because while we have had some good achievements there has been some significant disappointments. And some of those have been our inability as a government to deliver on some much needed projects that we came to office fully expecting to deliver such as the Port, the Airport and, Madam Speaker, it would be remiss not to mention the disappoint of the events that occurred in December which basically came through like a . . . I guess, a divorce that obviously caused some serious breaks in long-term relationships and friendships and loyalties.

Madam Speaker, prior to the activities of December, I publicly stated and made up my mind that I was not going to run for office. I felt that twelve years was enough. And along came the events of December. So, after spending the last three months working with my colleagues and getting back a feel of satisfaction in terms of actually being able to follow process and deliver and work towards significant achievements for our country, I am happy to say that with my fellow Members of the Peoples National Alliance, I am looking forward to contesting the upcoming election,

specifically in the district of West Bay with my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education. And in Cayman Brac with the Second Elected Member who is the Premier, and in the district of Bodden Town with my two ministerial colleagues along with Mr. Richard Christian.

Madam Speaker, I think that since December we have been able to come to the Cayman Islands and show that there is ability of us here in the Legislative Assembly, even with all of the rancour, fighting, and disagreements that are sometimes seen, that we are able to work together as an alliance in consultation with other Member and bring forward and be very productive in getting legislation passed. So, this opportunity has shown that with dedication and hard work we are able to move the country forward, even in light of real difficult times and what was referred to as a minority Government.

Madam Speaker, I too would like to take the opportunity to thank many people who have played different roles in this journey. I specifically want to thank my supporters in the district of West Bay. I want to thank my family, especially my wife and two sons. When I came to the Assembly in 2000, my father was the Seajeant-at-arms. I've had the privilege of working here with my father. Since that time he has obviously aged significantly but he is still with me. My mother, a key supporter who while not wanting me to continue in politics, acknowledged that there is a responsibility and a privilege. And the privilege to serve, as said earlier, is the highest privilege that one can ask for. And so, Madam Speaker, I thank them for their continued support.

I know times are difficult and, as was said earlier, one never gets a day off, always on the job and always expected to be available to the public. Your home has to be open to the public, people are at the door constantly but that is the life we live, that is the job that we signed up for. And so, Madam Speaker, if that is not what you are willing to do then it is best not to offer yourself for this job.

Madam Speaker, there has been many people: my colleagues here and my colleagues on the other side of the floor, we have all worked with each other and taught each other, gone through difficult times. Madam Speaker, yourself have had the difficult job of trying to keep us in line. All of the staff, the Clerk and all of the other staff as mentioned. The only one I do not think has been mentioned so far by name is Anita, but the Serjeant, Ms. Zena, the Clerk, Sharon, Nana, Debra, Marilyn, Bev, all of the hardworking staff of the Legislative Assembly. And Mr. Gould, again, even in light of today with the difficulties has kept us going and moving forward.

As mentioned, all of the police officers. And, Madam Speaker, the people of the Cayman Islands who in large part express their appreciation. They continue to challenge us to keep us accountable. And now that we are going into an election they will judge

us and hold us accountable for our achievements, our actions, for continuing to be good representatives that they can look up to and respect in being good role models.

Madam Speaker, that is what the country needs. It needs leaders who are able to stand and deliver in difficult times and who can represent us at the highest levels at an international scale, but also represent us at a "grass roots level" for the people whom we are proud of and privilege to represent.

Madam Speaker, when we look at specific accomplishments I am proud to say that the area of which I have taken responsibility for since December, the area which I was councillor for in the last three and a half years before that, the area of tourism, we have had great advances. We have seen tourism arrival numbers increase significantly, actually to the highest in twelve years. And we have been able to do that while rightsizing the Department of Tourism. So, basically reducing the spending from 2009 by some 30, 33, 35 per cent. And so we have been able to reduce the cost, do more with less and be much more efficient in the delivery of services and being able to attract our visitors to the Islands.

But, Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, there is a lot of work to do. The incoming Government will have to find ways of being more creative in terms of delivering with limited resources major capital expenditure works. As mentioned earlier, the airport, the cruise port, because we can no longer continue to have substandard facilities, Madam Speaker, without it being detrimental. So, while we have been able to achieve a lot and to increase the visitor arrival numbers, we will start to see the point of diminishing returns unless we can deliver on the infrastructure needs that the country will have.

Madam Speaker, based on the accomplishments of the last three terms, specifically more on the accomplishments of our Government in the last four years and in the three months since taking over as Minister of Tourism, I fully request and expect that the people of West Bay will find me to be one of their choices of the four candidates that they are allowed to elect as a representative on May 22nd. Madam Speaker, I ask for that privilege along with my colleague, the Minister of Education. Basically, if they look at the work which has been done, listen to what we have achieved and what we are proposing to achieve and the vision that we have for the people whom we are so blessed to represent, I ask for their continued support in providing us with another four year term to move the good ship Cayman forward on a positive path.

Madam Speaker, if the determination is not for that to happen, then I will accept with humility the opportunity of the past three terms which were given to me, and will take that as one of the best experiences that one could ever have.

Madam Speaker, again, I would like to wish all my colleagues sincere best wishes for the upcoming election. I wish all of their families well. I know it is a big sacrifice. And I would like to again wish you and your family all the best and thank all Members and staff for the support they gave to me during my time as a representative. I would also like to wish God's blessings on everyone and the beautiful Cayman Islands. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Does any other Member wish to speak?
Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Good morning, Madam Speaker.

[Laughter]

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: It is the morning, so I will be very brief.

Madam Speaker, I just want to thank all Members here for their kind co-operation over the last year. I have been Deputy Governor since February last year and I have gotten great co-operation from all Members. It has made my transition very easy and I just want to assure them that if they are back with us in the next few months that the civil service will continue to support them and work hard. We are putting together a good programme for the new Government coming in to make sure that we on the side of the civil service are ready and that they will be properly briefed and have a good programme in place to welcome any new Members that we have.

I just want to take a few minutes to remind civil servants that, yes, they have a right to be informed, they have a right to vote. And I want to encourage them to do that. But make sure that they behave in a way that they remain politically neutral, don't get involved in the meetings and get on the platforms and not show support for any particular candidate. That is very important if you are going to remain politically neutral and be able to serve the Government of the day with passion and conviction.

It has been especially pleasing for me to be a Member of this House. It is something that I aspired to when I was really young and it is always good to sometimes realise your dreams and expectations. It is really pleasing for me to be here. Everyone knows that the Third Elected Member for West Bay and I grew up together as two young boys in West Bay. I think none of us dreamed that we would be here one day serving our country. But it is a great pleasure and I just want to say while he is here that it was a pleasure to work with him and the Government.

It is great for me to have witnessed the swearing-in of our new Premier. That was a good thing for

me and the new Ministers under difficult circumstances, but they have worked very hard and it has been a pleasure to have served with them.

Madam Speaker, a big thank you for all of your help and service to our country and to our Parliament along with Madam Clerk. And I was especially proud of the work that Madam Clerk and her team did with the recent CPA Conference. Everyone talked about how well they were treated and the kind Caymanian hospitality that they were afforded. I think we can all be proud of the work that our team here at the Legislative Assembly did.

So, with those few words, Madam Speaker, I just want to thank everyone and wish everyone well in the upcoming election. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, the good thing about waiting to be last is that everybody else would have said what you would have anticipated, and even more. And, Madam Speaker, I thought that perhaps the best way to express my thanks and gratitude to your good-self, Madam Clerk and all of the staff that serve in whatever capacity here in this Legislative Assembly, is to make my remarks extremely short.

Seeing the hour of the morning I don't think they want to hear another thank you. I've shown it every day that I have been here. At least I have attempted to do so for the last 16 plus years. And I would only have to say that to the good people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, I am always very humble and grateful for the confidence that they gave me to be here in this House as a backbencher, Speaker once, Minister three times, Deputy Premier and now Premier. It has been a privilege and, of course, it would be remiss of me not to thank Almighty God because without him persons such as I would not have had the wonderful opportunity to serve my country in the various capacities.

With those words, Madam Speaker, it is one time I am really, really delighted to say that I wish out of an abundance of caution to move the adjournment of this House sine die.

The Speaker: Before I place the motion I would like to say a few words myself.

I want to thank you for the privilege and the honour of serving as Speaker in this Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly. It was a role that I did not anticipate, but one I believe I had spent my whole life preparing for.

For those who choose to run in this election, I would remind you that service to country does not begin with an election, and it does not end with one; it is a lifetime commitment.

I have been honoured to have been advised by Members when I needed advice, and sometimes when I did not. I have been honoured to have been included in events from the different portfolios in government from various districts. I have been honoured to have been included in the Bodden Town events where we are kind of boastful when we say we now have the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker from Bodden Town plus two Members. I've heard that said.

But what I have really been impressed with—and I think a lot of people in the public looking on might miss it—is the fact that the people who sit in these chairs in this House, whichever side you are on, whichever party you represent, whichever group you are a part of, whether you are independent or whether you are a Government member, is the camaraderie; the ability to leave this Chamber and leave the politics here and walk out into the other areas of this Legislative Assembly and still be friends no matter how stormy the waters have been and no matter how difficult the decisions you have had to make. It is something I think the public should look on with appreciation, for debate in parliament in any House, whether it is this one or one in another country, debate is always two sides.

You cannot have democracy without two sides. You have to have the Opposition and you have to have the Government, and all of the other parties in between make up the democracy. And in Cayman I am very proud of the fact that we do have democracy. I do not think we show enough appreciation for the people who serve in this House over the years and for the people who have served here for the last four years. I think we need to understand that they make great sacrifices to be here.

I also want to thank the staff that has served so well. I could not have survived four years without them. But in addition to all of their duties they have had to do, and when I came to this Parliament we were short-staffed and I will tell you that every position where someone has resigned or retired has remained unfilled since. So, we are even more short-staffed now than it was when I came here. I hope that some efforts will be made by the next House and the Government to fix this problem, this lack of recognition for the needs of the Parliament of this country.

It is one of the three Arms of Government and I am the only person I know who has filled a role as the Head of an arm of government and has not had a personal assistant. We are very short-staffed in this Parliament and it needs to be fixed. We need a library, we need a research assistant.

I was asked last year in London how many research assistants we had, and I had to say none. *Well how much money do you allow for Members to employ research assistants outside of parliament?* I said none. They could not believe that the small staff we have in this Parliament carry out all of those added responsibilities. Since I have been here in four years

we have had a Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast every year. We have kept up the traditions in this Parliament. We have had Youth Parliament every year and we have hosted two major conferences, a conference of Speakers and Clerks from the Region and now the most recent CPA Midyear Executive Conference. It is quite an achievement for such a small number of people.

I want to thank two of those who have gone before me, especially at this time I covet your prayers for the previous Speaker, Mrs. Moyle and her family. These are very difficult times for them. I've walked those roads before and I know how difficult it can be. I believe every one of us should bend our knees in prayer to God for them and for whatever course life may take them in the months and years ahead.

Thank you all again, thank you for the help, thank you for the advice, thank you for the support that you have given to me as your Speaker. May God bless you all, bless your communities, bless your families and bless you as you go out into the community again to seek support in this election. Thank you.

[Thumping on desk]

The Speaker: And now I will put the question that this honourable House do adjourn sine die.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 12.21 am [26 March 2013] the House was dissolved.