Statement in relation to the 2021 2nd Supplementary

Second Meeting of the 2020/2021 Session of the Cayman Islands Parliament

By the Honourable Juliana O'Connor Connolly, JP, MP Minister of Education

Statement in relation to the Exceptional Circumstance Appropriation changes resulting in the 2nd 2021 Supplementary Appropriations of the Ministry of Education

26 November 2021



Mister Speaker, as required by Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision), I make this Statement to the Members of this Honourable House with respect to the "exceptional circumstance" transactions that were approved by Cabinet for the Ministry of Education for the period 1 July – 23 November 2021. Such transactions were approved pursuant to Section 11(5) of the PMFA. This Statement provides details of the aforementioned transactions.

EGA 5 Primary Education, EGA 6 Secondary Education and EGA 7 Education for Students with Special Needs

Mister Speaker, funding gaps were identified in order to cover costs for the last quarter of 2021. Due to unfunded COLA, high number of temporary staff required to cover vacant posts and the increase in CUC rates funds allocated for this appropriation is insufficient to cover all the costs for 2021.

Savings have been identified in EI 12 Ministry of Education from the New John Gray High School Project due to resource unavailability resulting from

global supply chain delays in the areas of glass, extruded aluminium and concrete.

Therefore approval is required under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- decrease EI 12 Ministry of Education by \$1,275,000
- increase EGA 5 Primary Education by \$325,000
- increase EGA 6 Secondary Education by \$900,000
- increase EGA 7 Education for Students with Special Needs by \$50,000

EGA 8 Facilities Management & Operational School Support Services

Mister Speaker, funding gaps were identified in order to cover costs for the last quarter of 2021. Due to repairs required on some of our ageing school buildings damaged by Tropical Storms and the increase in transportation costs of our students, funds allocated for this appropriation is insufficient to cover all the costs for 2021.

Savings have been identified in EI 12 Ministry of Education from the New John Gray High School Project due to resource unavailability resulting from global supply chain delays in the areas of glass, extruded aluminium and concrete.

Therefore approval is required under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase EGA 8 Facilities Management & Operational School Support Services by \$1,850,000
- decrease EI 12 Ministry of Education by \$1,850,000

EGA 10 Education, Early Childhood and Support Services

Mister Speaker, the Ministry having reviewed the function of the Department of Education Services and realized that there are some functions currently being undertaken at the Ministry level that would be best aligned to that of the Department. The Ministry in maintaining its focus on National

Education has decided to transfer the post of three subject specialists and a Child Protection/Safe Guarding Liaison Officer to the Department.

The budget associated with these posts is \$161,226 which represents five months of related staff costs.

Therefore approval is required under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase EGA 10 Education, Early Childhood and Support Services by \$161,226,
- decrease EGA 1 Policy Advice, Governance and Ministerial Support Services by \$161,226

NGS 34 Primary and Secondary Education by Private Schools

Mister Speaker, approval was granted to reinstate funding provided under TP 93 Private and Public School Grants under Section 12 of the PMFA

(2020 Revision). The disbursement of funds will be disbursed under a Purchase Agreement signed by each Private school through an NGS (NGS 34).

Approval is being sought to transfer Private School Grants funding of \$1,000,000 from TP 93 to NGS 34 via Sections 11(5) and 11 (6) of the PMFA (2020 Revision).

CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational

Programmes

Mister Speaker, the Board of Governors for the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) has various operational functions as a part of its remit under the law. In line with the fees provided to Board members of other Statutory Authorities, the need existed for a change of the Board fee structure at the UCCI.

In addition, Mister Speaker, the Internal Audit Unit will be conducting an HR audit at the UCCI as a basis for making improvements in the operations at the University College.

The contract of the President and CEO of the UCCI expires December 2021. The post holder is a non-Caymanian and in accordance with the recommendation of the Solicitor General's Office, the post will be advertised in line with the Public Authorities Act. The additional funds required to meet the costs of the several matters outlined above resulted in the increase in appropriations to the UCCI in the amount of \$251,809.

Approval is being sought under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational Programmes by \$251,809
- decrease TP 30 Local and Overseas Scholarships by \$251,809

Mister Speaker this has not affected the awards of any scholarships.

TP 61 Student Enrichment and Support Services

Mister Speaker, the 2020 Christmas Holiday period was extended by two weeks in order for Educators who travelled to satisfy certain COVID related activities. With school reopening on the 18th of January 2021, the Extended Afterschool Programme was needed to accommodate students during this time.

This additional use of the Extended Afterschool Programme has resulted in a shortfall of \$24,724, in the funds budgeted for 2021 under TP 61.

Savings have been identified in TP 97 Education, Agriculture and Land Services – COVID Response and Recovery resulting from surplus left over after all grants requested under this TP were paid out.

Approval is being sought under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase TP 61 Student Enrichment and Support Services by \$24,724

- decrease TP 97 Education, Agriculture and Land Services – COVID Response and Recovery by \$24,724

Conclusion

Mister Speaker, thank you for allowing me to explain the exceptional circumstances that have resulted in the Supplementary Appropriations being requested by the Ministry of Education for the period 1 July – 23 November 2021.