



**CAYMAN ISLANDS
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
ELECTRONIC VERSION**

2012/13 SESSION

18 December 2012

Special Meeting of 2012/13 Session

(pages 591–598)

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

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the *Official Hansard Report* is for informational purposes only. The printed version remains the official record.

PRESENT WERE:

THE SPEAKER

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

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

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

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

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

ELECTED MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

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

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon Alden M McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Third Elected Member for George Town
Hon D Kurt Tibbetts, OBE, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for George Town
Mr Anthony S Eden, OBE, JP, MLA	Second Elected Member for Bodden Town
Mr Moses I Kirkconnell, JP, MLA	First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman
Mr V Arden McLean, JP, MLA	Elected Member for East End

INDEPENDENT MEMBER

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

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
SPECIAL MEETING 2012/13 SESSION
TUESDAY
18 DECEMBER 2012
3.34 PM**

The Speaker: Good afternoon everyone.

I call on the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town to read prayers this afternoon.

PRAYERS

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town: Let us pray.

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

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

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

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

The Speaker: This honourable meeting is now called to order, please be seated.

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

Request for urgent meeting of the Assembly

The Speaker: I feel constrained at this time to elucidate for the records of this House and the listening public the following information.

On Friday, shortly before the close of business, the Deputy Clerk of the House was presented with a letter addressed to me, as Speaker, from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition

requesting that I call an urgent meeting of the Assembly. A draft motion was attached to the letter.

In my reply, which he received on Monday, December 17, 2012, I pointed out to the Honourable Leader [of the Opposition] the Speaker has no authority to unilaterally call such a meeting of the House, and outlined the procedures which must be followed. I copied the same to all Members of the House.

This morning I was presented with a request for such a meeting to be called. It was signed by 11 Members of this honourable House and attached was the motion proposed for debate. I acceded to that request, and, in view of its gravity, I set the time for today, December 18, 2012, at 3.00 pm. All Members of the House were accordingly informed.

This is a very serious matter, and I would remind all those present that this Chair expects full cooperation in ensuring that the dignity of this honourable House is maintained through all its proceedings here today.

I also caution Members at this time, Members of the House, to consider carefully their presentations on this motion. There are proceedings taking place elsewhere whose integrity must not be breached in this House. I would therefore remind all Members to confine their debate to the resolution on hand.

I thank you, and may God bless our beloved homeland.

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of Standing Order 24(5)

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to—

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I beg to suspend Standing Order 24(5) to allow a Private Member's Motion to be dealt with during this Meeting.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 24(5) be suspended to allow a Private Member's Motion to be dealt with during this Meeting.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 24(5) suspended.

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Private Member's Motion No. 10/2012-13—Lack of Confidence in the Government

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of responsibility that I move the following Motion this afternoon:

WHEREAS the Premier, the Honourable W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, has been arrested and released on bail and investigations are continuing involving alleged cases of serious misconduct;

AND WHEREAS the Honourable W. McKeever Bush has refused to step down as Premier and a Minister of the Cabinet and allow the investigation to continue without any real or perceived appearance of a conflict;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly does declare a lack of confidence in the Government.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder for this Motion?
[Elected] Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Elected Member for North Side: Madam Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

The Speaker: The question is: NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly does declare a lack of confidence in the Government.

The Motion is open for debate. Does the honourable mover wish to speak thereto?

Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, the gravity of this occasion is not lost on those of us who have initiated this serious Motion asking this House to resolve that it has a lack of confidence in the Government. It is not a

matter that is lost either, Madam Speaker, on the broader community, evidenced by the large number of people who are in attendance today in the gallery, and no doubt the thousands of people who are following the proceedings in this House this afternoon on television and by radio.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened that we have come to this point.

Madam Speaker, as you outlined when you addressed the House and those in the gallery a few moments ago, this is a process which was initiated by me on behalf of Members of the Opposition on Friday. We waited, Madam Speaker, until Friday because we wished to give the governing party and the Premier the opportunity to carefully consider their circumstances, to carefully consider the welfare of this country, and to decide how best to deal with the situation with which they and the country are faced. That is, of having the sitting Premier of this country being the subject of arrest on allegations of commission of serious offences, having been detained over the course of two days with a break at night, and having subsequently been released on bail to return to the police station on the 5th of February.

Madam Speaker, this is not a court of law. None of us in here are presuming the guilt or otherwise of Mr. Bush, the Premier. That is not our function. That is the function of the court of law. So, Madam Speaker, whether Mr. Bush is guilty of the offences which are alleged—he's not even been charged yet—is neither here nor there, and ought not, really, to be the subject of any detailed discussion on the Floor of this House for reasons which you have outlined.

The issue for this House today, and the gravamen of this Motion is whether or not it is appropriate for the Premier, the Honourable William McKeever Bush, to continue in office as Premier, or a Minister of Cabinet, while he is the subject of those investigations, while he is on bail, while he is faced with the possibility of being charged with grave criminal offences. That is what this House is here to consider today.

Madam Speaker, when the Opposition issued our initial statement following Mr. Bush's arrest on Tuesday of last week, we were careful not to call for his resignation. We were careful not to make any assumptions about his guilt, or otherwise, in connection with this matter. Some have criticised us—and me in particular—for having not been more strident in our approach and not calling immediately for Mr. Bush's resignation. As I outlined just a moment ago, the reason for that, Madam Speaker, is that in this system of government in which we operate (what is generally termed the Westminster style of government) there are conventions, there are protocols that are generally followed which underpin the written Constitution which we have.

The Constitution of these Islands is remarkably similar to constitutions of most Commonwealth countries. That is because we have a common genesis, and they are built on a common premise. There are many procedures, there are many protocols that underpin these constitutions and which are necessary and required for the proper operation of these constitutions. One of those that is so relevant to what is transpiring and has transpired over the course of the last week, in particular, is that when any member of the Government finds themselves in a situation where what they have done, or have alleged to have done, will adversely impact the reputation of their party, the reputation of the Government, the reputation of the House, or the reputation of the country which they represent, the convention is, the protocol is, that they stand aside. Whether the allegations being made are true or not true is not relevant. They stand aside to allow the investigations to proceed. They stand aside so that the Government can get on with the business of the country without being distracted by the personal turmoil that is part of whoever the unfortunate Member is . . . of their lives.

They stand aside in a case such as this, where the person accused is the Premier of the country holding the highest elected office in the country, they stand aside to avoid any perception that their continuing in office may have an intimidatory effect on those who are investigating the allegations that are being made. They stand aside because they want to ensure that the rule of law is followed and that there can be no question that there has been interference or the possibility of interference in the administration of justice.

And so, Madam Speaker, that is where we are. But, Madam Speaker, if all of those very powerful reasons are insufficient for the Premier to stand aside, there is an even more powerful one in our estimation. And that is, Madam Speaker, the damage that has been done and the damage that is continuing to be done to the image and reputation of the Government of the Cayman Islands, and the Cayman Islands and the people of the Cayman Islands as a result of being forced to continue with a premier who is the subject of these investigations, the subject of these allegations, and who continues to have these serious matters hanging over him going on (at least in this instance) until the 5th of February next year.

Madam Speaker, anyone in this community and many in the international community who pay attention to Cayman are shocked at what appears to be a serious deterioration in the standard of governance of these Islands, something for which we were once renowned; something that was once beyond any question. Madam Speaker, we have been struggling in this country with this issue about clouds of suspicion over the head of the Premier since at least April of last year.

Madam Speaker, do you know what it is like as a Caymanian, as a proud Caymanian, to walk through Immigration in Miami and be asked by the Immigration officer dealing with you, "What do you do in Cayman?" to say, "I'm the Leader of the Opposition" and to have the response, "So, what's happening with your Premier? I understand he's the subject of criminal investigations. What kind of country is that?"

That, Madam Speaker, is the reality that we have been living in for these past 18 months. Madam Speaker, I brought two previous Lack of Confidence Motions to this House with the full knowledge that they would not succeed unless members of the governing party (some of them) supported those motions. But I brought those motions because I felt, and my colleagues in the Opposition felt, that it was our duty not only to say what we thought about a premier continuing in office in these circumstances, but so that those who are part of the Government, in the Cabinet and on the backbench, would have the opportunity to say what they thought and to explain to this country why it is that they continue to support the Premier in the face of these serious allegations. The first motion failed; the second motion never saw the light of day and was debated outside in National Hero's Park.

Madam Speaker, we felt, I certainly have felt, that this approach was something of a pointless exercise and had determined that we would leave those sorts of issues to play out. There is an election coming of May of next year, and sooner or later the voters of this country will decide whether or not they would continue with the current administration or whether or not they wished to see a change. But, Madam Speaker, the events of last Tuesday have moved this issue right back to centre court where none of us can ignore the reality that is facing us.

Madam Speaker, some Members on the other side themselves have come to the view that they can no longer be part of an administration led by a premier who has been arrested and is on bail in relation to the commission, the alleged commission, of serious offences. Five of them have appended their signatures to the written requisition which was presented to you this morning calling for this special session to deal with this issue.

Madam Speaker, I wish to commend the patriots who in that committee room late last night made one of the most difficult decisions I know that they have ever had to make in their political careers. Eleven Members of a 15-Member House have concluded that they cannot in good conscience continue to support a Government led by a premier in the circumstances which I have just described.

Madam Speaker, I cannot say how absolutely disappointed I am that the Premier has brought us to this point. And I am not speaking about the reality of the investigations and all that that involves. I mean, Madam Speaker, the reality that, faced with all of this, the Premier will still cling—like death to a dead man's

jacket—to the Office of Premier, ignoring all of the voices of concern and alarm across these Islands and across the world, and brought home to him by the reality that five members of his own Government, including two Ministers, have said, *Mr. Premier, you need to resign*. Two Ministers and the Deputy Premier (correction, Madam Speaker). Including two Ministers and the Deputy Premier, his right-hand person, have said to him, *Mr. Premier, we are not saying you are guilty, we don't know. We are saying that your continuing in office is doing immense reputational damage to this country that we all love and which you, over your long career, have said, and we believe, you love*.

Madam Speaker, this is not about persecuting the Premier. As I said, this is not about whether he is guilty or not. This is about recognising that in continuing in office in the present circumstances has placed, and will continue to place, the Cayman Islands in a position that it will be impossible for any administration led by him in those circumstances to move forward to have any credibility to do any of the necessary things that must be done between now and when the House is dissolved on March 26th, and the elections are held on May 22nd.

There are some five months between now and then, Madam Speaker; five months when the Government has to operate, when the country has to run, when peoples' needs, peoples' concerns have to continue to be addressed. The country doesn't stop; peoples' lives don't stop because something has happened to one of us. We have to realise, Madam Speaker, that we are elected as servants—not rulers. None of us are entitled to the offices that we hold. We hold them at the leisure, at the pleasure, of those who have elected us on the presumption that we would represent their best interests and the best interests of the country. And when we reach a point, any of us, Madam Speaker, where we believe that our personal survival is more important than that of the party, of that of the Government, or of that of the country that we were elected to serve, then, Madam Speaker, it is time for deep soul searching.

Madam Speaker, we have to get back to a place where we can again be proud of the Cayman Islands, proud to say, "I'm from Cayman," whether we were born here, whether we have become Caymanian by virtue of getting Caymanian status, whether we are residents, whether we are people who invest in Cayman. We have to get this country back to that place.

In all my years, Madam Speaker (and I am not just speaking of the years I have been down here), I have never known there to be such a low ebb of confidence, of pride, in this beloved place. Madam Speaker, I want this country to be able to go back to the days when I was a youngster, when I was so proud to be Caymanian, so proud to say I was from this place, and would spend endless time talking the

ears off of anyone from somewhere else who would listen to me about what a great place I came from. I want my children to be able to say with the same confidence, when my son is at university in the UK, *Listen, I am proud to come from Cayman. That is the greatest place on earth!*

Madam Speaker, we need to appreciate on this solemn occasion that Cayman is about much more than the natural resources that we have, and the wonderful people which are always spoken about. The natural resources have been here since the beginning of time—the beautiful Seven-Mile Beach, our lovely waters, all of those things, Madam Speaker, the wonderful weather. But all of those things, and all of our beautiful people do not the country make alone. Cayman was special, and I still believe we can return to those days. Cayman was special, considered by people to be special because of the image we had, the reputation we had for honesty, for integrity, particularly in Government; for stability, for good governance, for predictability, where things got done. And year upon year, decade upon decade, those who went before us who sat in these seats and stood in my place built upon the foundation that previous generations had started.

Where have we gone wrong, Madam Speaker? Particularly over the course of the last three years when almost every month we could rely on there being some major article, some major headline about something disastrous that had happened in Cayman, some issue affecting the governance of this place. Madam Speaker, we have to get this country past that point. And how the Premier, and those who support him continuing in office, can possibly believe that we can run this country for the next five months under the present cloud . . . the headlines in the *[Caymanian] Compass*, yesterday I believe, or today (I don't know, the days roll into each other now), ["Government \[remains\] in limbo."](#) Today is one week since the arrest of the Premier. Ask the members of the Government how much work has gotten done since then.

Madam Speaker, we have to get past this point. The Premier ought to have resigned. He will not resign and, therefore, this House today must resolve that there is no confidence in a Government continuing to be led by the Premier, the Honourable McKeeva Bush.

Madam Speaker, you were presented this morning with a letter signed by myself, as the Leader of the Opposition; by Mr. Moses Kirkconnell, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; by the Hon. Kurt Tibbetts; by Mr. Anthony Eden; by Mr. Ezzard Miller; Mr. Arden McLean; and by the Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly; by Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Education; by Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health; by the Deputy Speaker of this House, Hon. Cline A. Glidden; and Mr. Dwayne Seymour, MLA, asking you, Madam Speaker, to

summon this Meeting of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of debating this Lack of Confidence Motion.

Madam Speaker, those 11 signatures represent also the resolve of all 11 Members to vote in favour of this Lack of Confidence Motion, which I have just moved, and which has been seconded by the Elected Member for North Side. I have endeavoured to keep the debate about the issue that is at hand, and that is, Madam Speaker, the appropriateness, or otherwise, of the Honourable Premier, Mr. McKeeva Bush, continuing in office in circumstances where he has been arrested by the Royal Cayman Islands Police on suspicion of theft in connection with financial irregularities relating to the misuse of a Government credit card, breach of trust, abuse of office and conflict of interest contrary to sections 13, 19 and 17 of the Anti-Corruption Law 2008, respectively, in connection with the alleged importation of explosive substances without valid permits on or before February 2012.

Madam Speaker, it is our view that Mr. Bush cannot, and ought not, be allowed to continue as Premier under the wake of those circumstances.

The Speaker: I would appreciate it if you would refer to him by his title.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: I apologise, Madam Speaker.

And so, Madam Speaker, that is the case for the Motion that is before the House. And I ask, Madam Speaker, finally, that Mr. Bush reconsider his position, that he offer to the Governor his resignation as Premier; that we do not, as a House, have to proceed to this vote and all that that entails.

Madam Speaker, if the Premier has resigned earlier there would have been no need for any drama, for any controversy, for any public spectacle such as this. They could have changed the leadership of the United Democratic Party and the premiership seamlessly, and the business of the country could have gone on. But even at this late stage, Madam Speaker, it is possible for the Honourable Premier to do the honourable thing and resign before forcing this House to proceed to what will be a historic, but very sad, vote.

So, Madam Speaker, I beg again for those who continue to support the Premier in his office to think long and hard about what I have said, to think about their duty to this country first, and everything and everyone else after. None of us were elected to further the career, to preserve the political career of those with whom we are associated. We bond together, we bind together with a common purpose of serving the country. But we also have a duty, each of us, to act appropriately to constrain misconduct of any other Member of the House and to take appropriate action when necessary.

This, Madam Speaker, is one of those occasions when all of us are required to vote our conscience. All of us are required to be able to look at all of the people in this country whom we represent and say, *I did what I believed was right. I did what I thought was in the best interest of the country; not what was in the best interests of myself, my party or my leader.* This is one of those defining moments, Madam Speaker, and all of us should be gravely conscious of the consequences of what we do this evening.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[pause]

If not . . . Minister of Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to make what will be a short contribution to Private Member's Motion No. 10–2012/13, Lack of Confidence in the Government.

Madam Speaker, while that is what is stated as the resolution in this Motion, and while the outcome of this Motion, if passed, could result in each of us as Cabinet Ministers vacating our seats, Madam Speaker, I would take the opportunity to say, to make clear, that, certainly, I don't have any lack of confidence in this Government. I don't have any lack of confidence in my colleagues that are here with me this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, this Motion certainly has been predicated by what has happened over the past week. And what has happened over the past week has certainly been a breakdown that could have been avoided. As a caucus, following the unfortunate turn of events which occurred a week ago, we met continuously. For the past week we met every day, all day, well into the evenings discussing the various scenarios of how to address this situation.

Madam Speaker, during those discussions we waited. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, there was a press release. But still as a party, as the public is well aware, there was only one very brief release on Tuesday acknowledging what had happened and that we were obviously aware of the gravity of the situation but we would make future statements in due course. Madam Speaker, to this point, obviously there have been no further statements, but the public is probably well aware that as a caucus we were meeting regularly.

We reached the point, Madam Speaker, where as a group we had come to a decision, given the situation, Madam Speaker, to request the Premier to resign as the Premier and a Minister of Cabinet.

And obviously, Madam Speaker, stressing that we couldn't request or in any way require him to step down as an MLA. The Constitution doesn't make any provision for that.

Madam Speaker, at one point this was agreed by all the remaining members of our caucus. So, as I stand here today, despite some of the sentiment being expressed, I am not going against any of my colleagues. Madam Speaker, this is the group I was elected with—proud to be elected with. And, Madam Speaker, I am simply sticking to an agreement which was made by all of us together. An agreement, Madam Speaker, which we thought, which I still think, is in the best interests of all of us, of all involved, Madam Speaker, the Premier, the Government and the country. Certainly, Madam Speaker, it is nothing about the party either.

Madam Speaker, we find ourselves in a situation which we would rather not be in, of course. And we ask questions, *Will the Government continue on? Will the country continue to function?* Madam Speaker, one thing I am very sure of: the Cayman Islands and Caymanians have always been one of the most resilient countries and peoples in this world. Just look at our seafaring history and the difficult times we had to go through. Look as recently as the natural disasters eight years ago, four years ago, that we suffered. But we rebuilt from those.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I sitting here together have already demonstrated our range of qualities. I know we continue to support our strong civil service. Government will continue to function in a seamless manner. The civil service will continue to run and provide essential services to our country. And I know I will continue to play my part to the best of my abilities as long as I am offered the opportunity by the constituents of Bodden Town and the residents of these Islands. And, Madam Speaker, the residents of the Cayman Islands, the constituents of my district are most important. The children, our future, deserve nothing less than this.

So, Madam Speaker as I said, while the passage of this Motion could and will probably result in myself as a Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet vacating our seats, and that is defined as lack of confidence based on the construct of the Constitution, Madam Speaker, quite the contrary, though. I think the country will see that the Government will continue. It will continue to instill great confidence in the electorate, in our constituents, in the residents across the Cayman Islands, the international business partners, the media and otherwise.

And, Madam Speaker, given the construct of the Constitution, without the voluntary resignation, this Motion which has been tabled and is being debated today, presents the best option available, Madam Speaker. So, it's not putting us into any dire situation, as some would have it. It presents the best option available to us now to remedy this situation, allow us

to continue on to govern the country, to lead our people and to continue to grow our economy.

Madam Speaker, I still think I am very confident that the Cayman Islands is still the greatest place on earth to live. I am confident that our people still have that hope, that faith, that that is the place where we live and will continue to do so. So, Madam Speaker, while we debate this Motion today we hope to do it in as timely a fashion as possible so that we can put this short, but less than desirable, situation behind us and move ahead.

Madam Speaker, with that very brief contribution, I only ask and pray that God continues to bless our beloved Cayman Islands. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Health.

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 am going to call on the mover of the Motion to conclude the debate.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: I beg your pardon. Would you please be quiet over there?

I have called three times for someone else to rise. I did not see anyone else indicating that they wished to rise, and I have called on the mover of the Motion to conclude the debate.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think Members are just a little stunned by the fact that no Member of the Premier's team has chosen to speak on a matter as grave as this.

Madam Speaker, there isn't much more that I can say and that I will say, except to elaborate a little on my great concern about what I regard as an abdication of responsibility on the part of the Premier on this occasion.

The Speaker: Please do not be repetitious.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Not at all, Madam Speaker; not at all.

Moment of interruption—4.30 pm

The Speaker: I need to interrupt you. It's the hour of 4.30. I need a motion to continue if we are going to continue.

Deputy Premier.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

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

I move the suspension of Standing Order [10] (2) to allow the House to continue past the hour of 4.30 until the conclusion of this Motion.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow the House to continue its business after the hour of 4.30

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: Leader of the Opposition, please conclude your debate.

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

I simply wish to conclude by recording my grave concern at what I regard as the abdication of responsibility on the part of the Premier and those who are supporting him continuing in office, for failing to provide this House and this country with at least an explanation as to why we have had to go through this very painful process, given the events of last Tuesday—which have been widely broadcast. Everyone knows the seriousness of the matters which are before this House. The Premier has served, or almost served, seven terms. He understands full well, I am sure, the weight of responsibility that comes with leadership even in difficult times. And this country is owed at a minimum an explanation by him, I respectfully submit, and those who are standing with him, in the position that he ought not step down as Premier and Minister of Cabinet.

The Speaker: That is their democratic right.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: It is their right, Madam Speaker. I have no doubt. And I am not challenging that right.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: But the people of this country are owed a duty by their Representatives—particularly by their Premier in these circumstances. That cannot, in my respectful view, Madam Speaker, be gainsaid. But clearly, Madam Speaker, they have chosen a particular course, they have walked across the Floor to this side, and no doubt in the fullness of time we will all come to appreciate the significance of that move.

But I do believe, Madam Speaker, that that ought to have been explained on this occasion.

Madam Speaker, this Motion has not elicited the debate that I believe all of us expected it would. Maybe that is not a bad thing. But we are now at that place when I sit down, when every Member of this House—all 15 of us who were elected and proudly sworn in three and a half years ago—will be called upon, who will be guided by their conscience to do what we swore to do when we were elected, represent the best interests of the people of this country.

I pray God's divine guidance, indeed, His intervention at this late stage, so that every Member of this House—honourable House, we like to call it—will do the right thing by this country and by the people we were all elected to represent.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

The question is: NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly does declare a lack of confidence in the Government.

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

Ayes and one audible No.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Divide please.

The Speaker: Madam Clerk, a division please.

Division No. 15

AYES: 11

Hon. J. Y. O'Connor-Connolly
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland
Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour
Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.
Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
Mr. Anthony S. Eden
Mr. V. Arden McLean
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

NOES: 3

Hon. Michael T. Adam
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks
Mr. Ellio A. Solomon

ABSTAIN: 1

Hon. W. McKeever Bush

The Speaker: Order Please!

The result of the division: 11 Ayes; 3 Noes; 1 Abstention. Private Member's Motion No. 10-2012/13 is accordingly passed.

Agreed by majority on division: Private Member's Motion No. 10-2012/13 passed.

The Speaker: There is no further business. I will call for a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

I so move that this honourable House be adjourned until a date to be fixed.

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

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 4.35 pm the House stood adjourned sine die.