

Statement by the Hon. Premier and Minister for Employment, Border Control, Community Affairs, International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs

"Exceptional Circumstance" transactions incurred during the 2020 Financial periods for the Ministry of Employment and Border Control

First Meeting of the 2020-2021 Session of the Legislative Assembly

Mister Speaker, I rise to make this Statement to Members of this Honourable House with respect to the "exceptional circumstance" transactions that were approved by Cabinet for the Ministry of Employment and Border Control during the 2020 Financial Period, as is required by Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2020 Revision).

## **Establishment of the Cayman Islands Regiment**

Mister Speaker, the establishment of the Cayman Islands Regiment is a part of the Government's commitment to improving the resilience of these Cayman Islands, by expanding our capabilities in the areas of disaster response, humanitarian relief, security, and defence. Mister Speaker, to that end, the following appropriations were approved by Cabinet in accordance with section 11 (5) of the Public Management and Finance Law to begin the work necessary to set up and operate the regiment.

Mister Speaker funding is critical in ensuring that the regiment is equipped and staffed by appropriately trained personnel. To that end, a supplementary appropriation was approved for the initial budget for the regiment totalling KYD \$1,455,227.25 of which KYD \$137,000 is an Equity Injection for capital expenditure and KYD \$1,318,227.25 for recurrent expenditure.

Mister speaker, I would also like to formally recognise the contributions of the United Kingdom Government. As agreed by UK Minister of Armed Forces, Mark Lancaster during his visit to the Cayman Islands, the UK has provided support for the formation and ongoing development of the new regiment. Thus far, the UK has supplied planning and logistical support, funded training courses for the officers at Sandhurst and sent a team of training officers to the Cayman Islands to train the first intake of recruits; The UK has also contributed uniforms; personal and operational equipment. For the avoidance of doubt, operating equipment does not include weapons.

## Conclusion

Mister Speaker these supplementary appropriations have already resulted in tangible improvements in the strength and resilience of these Cayman Islands.