

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT  
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY  
WEDNESDAY  
27 MAY 2009  
10.12 AM**

*[Ms. Wendy Lauer, Clerk, presiding]*

**ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE GOVERNOR**

**The Clerk:** His Excellency the Governor.  
All stand.

*[National Anthem and National Song by Mr. Rudy Myles]*

**The Clerk:** Prayers to be delivered by the Reverend Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield.

**PRAYERS**

**Reverend Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield:** 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 our Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Cabinet and Members of the Legislative Assembly, we pray that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their 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 to 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 Clerk:** Please be seated.

**ADMINISTRATION OF  
OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS**

*By His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Stuart D. M. Jack, CVO*

**OFFICIAL MEMBERS**

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
CHIEF SECRETARY**

**Hon. George A. McCarthy, OBE, JP**  
First Official Member

**The Clerk:** Chief Secretary, Honourable George A. McCarthy, First Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** I, George Anthony McCarthy, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Hon. Cheryll M. Richards**  
Temporary Second Official Member

**The Clerk:** The acting Attorney General, the Honourable Cheryll Richards, Temporary Second Official Member.

**Hon. Cheryll Melanie Richards:** I, Cheryll Melanie Richards, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**AFFIRMATION  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**Hon. G. Kenneth Jefferson, JP**  
Third Official Member

**The Clerk:** The Financial Secretary, the Honourable G. Kenneth Jefferson, JP, Third Official Member.

**Hon. G. Kenneth Jefferson:** I, George Kenneth Jefferson, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law.

**ELECTED MEMBERS  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
GOVERNMENT BENCH**

**The Clerk:** Elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Government Bench.

**AFFIRMATION**

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP**  
First Elected Member for West Bay

**The Clerk:** Mr. William McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, First Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** I, William McKeeva Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin**  
Second Elected Member for West Bay.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Rolston M. Anglin, the Second Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** I, Rolston M. Anglin, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**AFFIRMATION**

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.**  
Third Elected Member for West Bay

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** I, Cline Astor Glidden, Jr., do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, JP**  
Fourth Elected Member for West Bay

**The Clerk:** Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, JP, the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** I, Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her

heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Mr. Michael T. Adam, MBE**  
Second Elected Member for George Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Michael T. Adam, MBE, the Second Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Michael T. Adam:** I, Michael Thomas Adam, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon**  
Fourth Elected Member for George Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, the Fourth Elected Member for the district of George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I, Ellio Anthony Solomon, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**AFFIRMATION**

**Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly**  
Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

**The Clerk:** Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** I, Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland**  
First Elected Member for Bodden Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Mark Scotland, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland:** I, Mark Scotland, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour**  
Third Elected Member for Bodden Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** I, Dwayne S. Seymour, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

## INDEPENDENT MEMBER

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, JP**  
 Elected Member for North Side

**The Clerk:** Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, JP, Independent Member for North Side.

**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller:** I, Dennison Ezzard Miller, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** The Opposition Bench.

## OPPOSITION BENCH

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP**  
 First Elected Member for George Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP, the First Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I, D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., JP**  
 Third Elected Member for George Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., JP, the Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** I, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP**  
 First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

**The Clerk:** Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell:** I, Moses Ian Kirkconnell, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance

to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP**  
 Second Elected Member for Bodden Town

**The Clerk:** Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** I, Anthony Samuel Eden, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP**  
 Elected Member for East End

**The Clerk:** Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP, Elected Member for East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I, Vincent Arden McLean, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

## STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. STUART D. M. JACK, CVO GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

**His Excellency, Mr. Stuart Jack:** Members of the Legislative Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning. I am honoured to take part in this historic ceremony.

Let me be the first to congratulate very warmly all the Members of the Legislative Assembly as they take their seats, particularly the new elected Members who are today taking their seats for the very first time.

I thank all of the elected Members for taking on the important responsibility of serving our people as their elected representatives, and I take this opportunity also to thank the unsuccessful candidates for their part in the democratic process that unfolded just a week ago.

At the same time, I wish to publicly thank the Supervisor of Elections, his deputies, the other members of the Elections Office, the returning officers and the many, many other people who worked so diligently in a variety of roles to ensure that the whole electoral process ran so smoothly.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have such an experienced and dedicated team so well supported by scores, indeed hundreds, of willing volunteers drawn from all sections of our community; not forgetting also the important role of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service.

I thank too the electorate for their essential part in the Elections. These were, I believe, our biggest elections ever. Four years ago over 80 per cent of the electorate participated, but the total electorate has grown substantially in those four years. These were also among the most complicated elections in that this year saw the introduction of mobile voting in addition to postal voting; and the first ever national referendum on the new Constitution was held on the same day with some 73 per cent of voters taking part. The strong turnout in both processes shows the strong commitment and involvement on the part of our electorate and it sends a strong message to this new Legislative Assembly.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, I hope that four years on, in 2013 (assuming that is when the next election takes place), you will be able to look back with pride on what you have achieved. There are big challenges ahead, including implementation of the new Constitution which will require much work on the part of the Legislative Assembly and, once in force, will place additional responsibilities and different ways of working for many of those involved in the government of these Islands. I am sure there will also be some big and possibly very sudden challenges that none of us here this morning could possibly predict.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, in playing your important part in dealing with these challenges, I am sure that you will have at the forefront of your mind the long-term future of the Cayman Islands and the interests of all our people.

I am sorry that I personally shall not be here in Cayman throughout the parliament, but I look forward very much to working with you closely during the rest of my time as Governor.

I wish you every success, and I pray that Almighty God will continue in His wisdom and mercy to guide and bless you all for the welfare and prosperity of the people of these beautiful Islands and the wider benefit of the global community.

Thank you.

**The Clerk:** Please rise whilst the platform guests proceed into the building in the order set out in the programme.

The House will resume shortly.

[Applause]

[Pause]

### PROCLAMATION NO. 3/2009

**The Clerk:** Cayman Islands Proclamation No. 3 of 2009 by his Excellency Stuart Duncan Macdonald Jack, CVO, Governor of the Cayman Islands.

**WHEREAS section 46 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands provides that the sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman**

**Islands shall be held at such places and begin at such times as the Governor may from time to time by Proclamation appoint;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stuart Duncan Macdonald Jack, CVO, Governor of the Cayman Islands, by virtue of the power conferred upon me by the said section 46 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands, hereby proclaim that a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands shall be held at the Legislative Assembly Building in George Town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, beginning at 10 am on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.**

**Given under my hand and the public seal of the Cayman islands at George town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine, in the fifty-eighth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

### **NOMINATION OF MEMBER WHO HAS THE LONGEST UNBROKEN SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE, TO PRESIDE OVER THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

**The Clerk:** I now call for the Father of the House to preside over the election of the Speaker.

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** I beg to nominate Mr. William McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, First Elected Member for West Bay, being the Member who has the longest unbroken service in the Legislative Assembly, and the Father of the House, to preside over the election of the Speaker.

**The Clerk:** The Motion has been duly moved by the Second Elected Member for West Bay.

Is there a seconder?

**Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Chair, I beg to second the said nomination.

**The Clerk:** The motion has been duly seconded by the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

I now put the question that Mr. W. McKeeva Bush do preside over the proceedings for the election of Speaker. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

**Ayes.**

**The Clerk:** The Ayes have it.

Mr. Bush will preside over the proceedings for the election of Speaker.

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*[Mr. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, Father of the House, Chairman, presiding]*

### Nomination of Mrs. Mary Lawrence, JP

**The Chairman:** Honourable Members, I am privileged, as the longest serving Member of this House, to preside over the election of the Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly. It is a longstanding position of mine, and it is a longstanding position of the United Democratic Party, that the Speaker can either come from the Members of the Legislative Assembly or from outside.

Accordingly, I now call for nominations for a Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland:** I beg to nominate Mrs. Mary Lawrence for Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** I beg to second the nomination.

**The Chairman:** We have a nomination and a seconder for the election of Mrs. Mary Lawrence to be the Honourable Speaker of this Assembly.

If there are any more nominations, I will take them at this time.

*[pause]*

**The Chairman:** If there are no more nominations, I now declare that Mrs. Mary Lawrence is the Speaker of this honourable House.

Before I do that, out of an abundance of caution, I will still take the vote.

All in favour?

**AYES.**

**The Chairman:** The question should be very, very clear. That is, that Mrs. Lawrence be the Speaker . . . I thought that was the question.

I think we have had the vote. If you want to vote, then you can vote again.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Chairman:** Any against?

*[No audible response]*

**The Chairman:** Thank you kindly.

Mrs. Mary Lawrence is the Honourable Speaker.

*[Applause]*

## MOTION TO INVITE HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MR. STUART D. M. JACK, CVO TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER MRS. MARY LAWRENCE JP

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** I so move.

**The Clerk:** The question is that this honourable House invite His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Stuart D. M. Jack, CVO, to administer the oath of allegiance to the Honourable Speaker.

Before I put the question, may I have a seconder?

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** I beg to second the nomination.

**The Clerk:** The motion has been duly moved by the First Elected Member for West Bay and seconded by the Third Elected Member for West Bay. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against?

**AYES.**

**The Clerk:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: That this honourable House invite His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Stuart D. M. Jack, CVO, to administer the oath of allegiance to the Honourable Speaker.**

**The Clerk:** We shall await the arrival of His Excellency the Governor and the Speaker designate.

## PROCESSION

**The Serjeant-at-Arms:** His Excellency the Governor.

*The Serjeant-at-Arms*

*His Excellency the Governor*

*Aide de Camp*

*Mrs. Mary Lawrence, JP, Speaker Designate*

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

**Mrs. Mary J. Lawrence, JP**

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

*Administered by His Excellency the Governor*

**Mrs. Mary J. Lawrence:** I, Mary Lawrence, JP, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** We will take a short suspension to allow the Speaker to prepare herself for the Speaker's pro-

cession. We ask that you remain in your seats, please.

Thank you.

### Proceedings resumed 11.19 am

*[Hon. Mary Lawrence, JP, Speaker, presiding]*

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

The Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly is now in session.

## STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER

**The Speaker:** Before I proceed to the order of business, I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to say a few words.

I am extremely honoured to take the Chair as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on this historic occasion. I am humbled by the great trust that has been placed in me and the wealth of kindness shown to me since my nomination was announced. I pray that I shall be able to fulfil in the days and years to come, the tremendous authority and responsibility this position holds with all the dignity and fairness necessary for the promotion of parliamentary democracy and good governance in our beloved Cayman Islands.

I stand today where five persons have stood before me—three of whom have been women—a precedent I hope will carry over into other areas of our society. Today I want to pay tribute to them. In a departure from procedure, and for the sake of those present or listening, I have chosen to name them: The Honourable Sybil McLaughlin, our National Hero and the first holder of this position; the late Capt. Mabry Kirkconnell, MLA from the Brac; Mr. Linford Pierson, former MLA and Executive Council Member from George Town; Mrs. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, also from the Brac, who has been returned yet again to represent her people; and Mrs. Edna M. Moyle, former Clerk of this Assembly and former long-serving Member for the district of North Side.

To them we owe a debt of gratitude for their significant contribution to the development of parliamentary democracy in the Cayman Islands. They have steered this Assembly through the good times and the not-so-good times in our history and, with the exception of the late Capt. Mabry Kirkconnell, continue to set an example of service to the community and country for us all.

I pay special tribute today to the Honourable Sybil McLaughlin, National Hero, who established the framework for the position of Speaker within our Assembly, researching and assuring that best practice and procedure were in place and recording them so that those who followed after her had a solid foundation on which to stand. To her we owe a debt of gratitude, not just for her role and contribution as the first

Speaker, but for her years of service as the first Clerk of the Assembly and, indeed, the first woman in the entire Commonwealth to hold that office.

I pay tribute today too to the staff she set in place during her tenure which serve this Assembly today: Clerk of the Assembly, Ms. Wendy Lauer, with 28 years of service; Deputy Clerk, Mrs. Sharon Smith, with 36 years of service; and Assistant Clerk, Nana Bothwell, with 27 years of service. Their continuity in these unique positions has greatly contributed to the smooth-running of this Assembly. I look forward to the honour of working with them.

The history of the Speaker in parliament is one steeped in tradition and precedence and owes its origin to the reign of Mary I, with the first Speaker being appointed in 1377. The office of Speaker was first mooted in the Cayman Islands Constitution Order (1972) in subsection (2) of section 32 of Schedule 2. It was not introduced into the framework of the Assembly until 15 February 1991.

At that time, the Honourable Sybil McLaughlin was appointed by proclamation to the position by His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Allan Scott, CVO, CBE, with the full approval of the House.

In 1993, amendments were made to the 1972 Constitution Order to allow for the election of the Speaker by the elected Members of the Assembly from among themselves or from persons qualified to be elected Members from outside the Assembly. The four successive holders of the position, however, came from within the elected membership of the House. This is the first time the elected Members of this Assembly have exercised their powers under the Cayman Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order, 1993, to nominate and elect a Speaker from outside its membership.

I am extremely honoured to have been elected today with the full support of all Members of this honourable House, not just on behalf of myself, but my district of Bodden Town, where recorded history shows many *firsts* in the establishment of appointed and elected government, the courts, education and religion—all pillars of the solid foundation on which the stability and success of our beloved country is founded.

I shall endeavour at all times to be worthy of the great trust you have placed in me today. There will be times when we shall not see eye to eye. But I am sure that in the interest of good governance we will work together with mutual respect and due regard for the very essence of parliamentary democracy.

I am not here to create division, but to ensure that dignity and fairness are maintained even as the controversial issues are debated. The voice of the minority in a democracy must be protected; but so too must the authority of the majority remain unimpeded in its conduct of the country's business. For only in mutual respect for each other will we pay due honour to the people of the Cayman Islands who have placed

their collective trust in this Assembly to execute its several offices.

The Speaker is called upon to apply the rules of procedure and establish precedents to the best of his or her ability with perfect impartiality. There are strong guidelines for the operation of this Assembly laid down over centuries by our predecessors and tested and tried by generations of parliamentarians wherever parliamentary democracy is practised.

In our meetings which follow over the next several days, we will sit together and review them both to refresh the memory of experienced Members and to draw them to the attention of the new Members who are urged to familiarise themselves with the packets provided to you by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I do not need to remind you that our country is experiencing difficult times as we face the forces from outside our borders who would seek to put us down. But I would be remiss in my duties if I failed to also remind you that Rome fell from within. It is time to put aside our differences and unite as a people to build a better Cayman. While this Chair will ever be mindful of the rights of Members to exercise the cut and thrust of debate in all of their deliberations, I can assure you there will be little tolerance for the personal attacks within these Chambers or the abuse of parliamentary privileges against the members of the hapless public.

Members will be encouraged to serve their constituents with the class and statesmanship expected of them in their elected office by the people who put them there in accordance with the dignity of this House.

This Assembly is the face of the Caymanian people to the world. With the coming into effect of a newly accepted Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, and the additional empowerment granted to the Members of this Legislative Assembly under that order, it behoves us all to be aware that powers granted to the elected Membership are granted by the people with the view that this Assembly will serve them.

It behoves us all at this time too, particularly in view of our professed Christian heritage, to remember that all power comes from God and He has equated service to your fellow man as in the example set by his Son.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you the words of the late Captain Rayal Bodden spoken on September 29, 1971, as he laid the cornerstone for this building in which we stand today. Let them serve as a reminder of the great heritage passed on to us by our forefathers, a heritage they expect us to keep in trust for generations to come. I quote:

**"From Parliament springs the preservation of democratic principles and fundamental human rights. Parliament is governed by traditionally accepted procedures, which no government dare attempt to disregard.**

**"I hope that many of our young people who are here today will spend more time thinking about the Parliamentarian's true role in effectively preserving fundamental human rights and peace and true government of this territory.**

**"I hope that this building will see and be the centre of many illustrious Caymanian Parliamentarians, from among these present members, and those of our youths who will step forward to take their rightful place.**

**"May it be our Parliamentarians' earnest desire to maintain and cherish these important principles—**

**"That people have the right and the opportunity to express their wishes peacefully through regular general elections, that there should be freedom of speech, freedom of publication, freedom of opposition, and the independence of the judiciary."**

May God bless us all as we work together to build our country on these tried and true precepts. May He grant wisdom and understanding to the honourable Members of this Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly, and may He continue to bless the Cayman Islands and its people in the days and years to come.

I thank you.

*[Applause]*

## NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

**The Speaker:** [The Floor is open for nominations.

I recognise the Second Elected Member for the district of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.]

### NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. Cline Glidden

**Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr. for the position of Deputy Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. Michael T. Adam:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nomination.

**The Speaker:** The nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker has been duly moved and seconded.

Does the honourable Member accept the nomination?

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations? [pause] Are there any further nominations?

### DECLARATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly

**The Speaker:** If not, I now declare the [Third Elected Member for the district of West Bay], Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., to be the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

[Applause]

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF FIVE MINISTERS TO CABINET

**The Speaker:** The next item is the nomination and election of five Ministers to Cabinet.

The procedure for this item is laid down under section 5 of the Constitution and under Standing Order 5 which governs the proceedings. The Chair proposes, subject to no objection from Members, to appoint the First Official Member and the Third Official Member as scrutineers for the Ballot.

Honourable Members, before I call for nominations to the Cabinet, I crave the indulgence of members of the public gallery. I am aware that the General Election, the outcome of which we witnessed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month, is eagerly celebrated. The results of this election are also eagerly awaited. However, I must ask that everyone refrain from any comments, sounds, or other expressions of jubilation or disappointment. I caution you that this is a very serious matter, and the process can be more fluid if members of the general public desist from any manner of audible expression. I can assure you that at the appropriate time an opportunity will be given to you to manifest your agreement.

I shall now call for nominations to the [Cabinet] by voice. Each nomination will require a mover and a seconder. I should say at this time that the names of honourable Members will be used rather than the districts. Members are aware that normally in this honourable House you are referred to by districts, that is, as "the First Elected Member for West Bay," or "the Second" or "the Third". However, on this occasion, for clarity we will refer to Members by name. This will avoid any misunderstanding by the general public.

We are now open for nominations for Members to the Cabinet.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Nomination

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush**

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. W. McKeeva Bush.

**The Speaker:** May I have a seconder please?

**Ms. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nomination.

**The Speaker:**

[Mr. Bush], do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, I am privileged to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Nomination

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin**

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Rolston Anglin.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Rolston Anglin, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Nomination

**Mr. Michael T. Adam**

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Michael Adam for Minister of Cabinet.

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Adam, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Michael T. Adam:** Madam Speaker, I am privileged to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?

### 4<sup>th</sup> Nomination

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland**

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Mark Scotland.

**The Speaker:** Is there a seconder?

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Scotland, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. J. Mark P. Scotland:** It is my honour to accept the nomination, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?



**5<sup>th</sup> Nomination**  
**Mrs. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly**

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Ms. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly.

**The Speaker:** Is there a seconder?

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Ms. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, do you accept the nomination?

**Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?  
*[pause]* Are there any further nominations?  
*[pause]* Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I must inform this honourable House that all five Members duly nominated and seconded have accepted. As it is not necessary to prepare a ballot sheet, I declare the following Members to be the elected Ministers of Cabinet:

Mr. W. McKeever Bush  
Mr. Rolston M. Anglin  
Mr. Mark Scotland  
Mr. Michael T. Adam  
Ms. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** I now invite the honourable Ministers to take their seats on the Government Bench.

I invite the Leader of the Opposition and the Government backbench Members, the Opposition Members and the Independent Member, to take their places in the Chamber.

*[pause]*

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

This House will now suspend to allow the swearing in of the Ministers outside the precincts of this Legislative Assembly.

I would ask that [persons in] the gallery please move out first so that the Ministers and other Members of the Cabinet and the elected officers can follow.

*[Proceedings moved outside the precincts of the Legislative Assembly.]*

**Proceedings suspended at 11.40 am**

**PRESENTATION OF  
INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,  
MR. STUART D. M. JACK CVO**

**LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**His Excellency the Governor:** In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by subsection (1) of section 5A of the Cayman Islands Constitution Orders 1972 to 2003, and of all other powers in that regard enabling, I, Stuart Duncan Jack, CVO, Governor of the Cayman Islands, do hereby, by this instrument given under my hand and the public seal, appoint you, the Honourable W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, MLA, to be the Leader of Government Business with effect from the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009.

*[Applause]*

**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**His Excellency the Governor:** In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by subsection (1) of section 24A of the Cayman Islands Constitution Orders 1972 to 2003, and of all other powers in that regard enabling, I, Stuart Jack, CVO, Governor of the Cayman Islands, do hereby, by this instrument given under my hand and the public seal, appoint you, the Honourable D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP, MLA, to be the Leader of Opposition with effect from the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009.

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

The Opposition will take their seats.

I would like to congratulate the Honourable Leader of Government Business and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on their appointments. As Speaker I look forward to working with both of you.

At this time I propose to take a suspension of fifteen minutes. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

**The Speaker:** We will now suspend proceedings until two o'clock.

**Proceedings suspended at 12.31 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 2.29 pm**

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

Proceedings are resumed.

The next order of business is the nomination of Members to the Standing Public Accounts Committee. This is a Standing Committee that exists under Standing Order 77, therefore, there is no need for a motion to establish the committee.

First of all, I would ask the Honourable First Official Member to read the terms of reference for the Standing Public Accounts Committee.

Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I read the terms of reference I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Speaker of this Honourable House. The entire Cayman Islands community is fully aware that you are eminently qualified for this position, and I would like to pledge the support of the Civil Service in working with the Legislative Assembly to make sure that your terms of office will go as smoothly as possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate honourable Ministers of Cabinet. Everyone recognises that we are now in turbulent times, not only within the Cayman Islands but outside as well. These forces are impacting our community. But overall I think they are very much up to the task.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all other honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly and assure them of the support of the Civil Service in assisting them in carrying out the tasks ahead.

Madam Speaker, the terms of reference can be found in Standing Order 77, and it reads:

**77. (1) There shall be a standing select committee, to be styled the Public Accounts Committee, to consider reports of the Auditor General—**

- (a) on the accounts of the Government;**
- (b) on such other accounts required to be laid before the House as the committee may think fit; and**
- (c) on any matter incidental to the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers as the committee may think fit; and**

**(2) The Public Accounts Committee shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a general election and consist of five elected Members. The quorum shall be three Members, including the chairman.**

**(3) Upon its receipt by the Speaker, a report mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been referred by the House to the Public Accounts Committee for consideration and shall forthwith be distributed to all Members and shall become a public document.**

These are the terms of reference, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, honourable Member.

I will now take nominations for the Standing Public Accounts Committee. The Committee is comprised of five Members.

I recognise the Honourable Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before moving a number of nominees for the Public Accounts Committee perhaps it would be helpful if I were to give two brief comments.

Firstly, as we all know, the House has been moving toward a system where the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, or his designate, would chair the Public Accounts Committee. For quite some time, I think all of us agreed to that principle. However, after this general election the House finds itself in a fortuitous position in that an able independent candidate has been elected to the House. So, the Government is of the view that that Member, the honourable Member for North Side, should be the Chairman of the Committee as an independent Member, and the Government's Backbench would have its normal three Members on [the Committee] leaving one Member for the Opposition to appoint.

Madam Speaker, obviously as we move through the term and dispense with the business of the Auditor General's Reports that relate to the previous administration, in working collaboratively along with the independent, perhaps the Opposition and the Government would be minded to take another look at the situation at that time. But at the present time the Government feels that the best way forward would be to nominate the honourable Member for North Side, Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, as Chairman; Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Mr. Ellio Solomon and Mr. Dwayne Seymour, leaving one other nominee to come from the Opposition.

So, those four are Members that the Government is nominating for the Standing Public Accounts Committee.

**The Speaker:** Elected Member for East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, in the interest of transparency, if the Government Bench has decided that they want four persons on Public Accounts Committee and only one from the Opposition, we the Opposition cannot accept that.

I would respectfully nominate two Members from the Opposition Bench, namely, the Third Elected Member for George Town, as the Chairman, and the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac to serve on the Public Accounts Committee.

**The Speaker:** Do I have a seconder?

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second that [nomination].

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, the microphone seems to be crackling a bit. I don't know what is wrong with the system, but perhaps I was not as clear as I thought I was.

The Government is not minded to nominate four Members. We do not have four Members in the nominees that I mentioned. As I look across the way I see Mr. Ezzard Miller, Elected Member for the district of North Side, sitting where an independent Member sits. He is not sitting along with the Government's Backbench and he is not sitting on the Government Bench. So, he is a declared independent. Therefore, I may not have been as clear as I should have been to the Member for East End.

The Government is not minded to have four Members on. We would never ever proffer such a position; that would, indeed, be a backward step in our view. Nor are we putting forward one of our Backbench Members to chair it. We thought this to be the best way forward because the current Members of the formal Opposition—four of them in particular—were all Ministers of the previous administration.

I think that they would remember the view that they took four years ago. Perhaps I will remind them in the House that they took the view that [since] the UDP was voted out of office, that as the Opposition Bench we should not be a chairman, and [they] appointed one of their own Backbench Members.

The House and the country are in a much more fortunate position. We now have an independent Member and so the Government's view is that the independent Member would be seen as, and I believe in fact will be, a true independent Member who is going to be really objective. They are going to have to scrutinize a lot of reports which would [cover] work during their term in office. I do not believe their request, certainly from my perspective and from everything that I have heard from this side, would find favour with the Government.

Again, I would not want this to have to go to a ballot. I would like if the Opposition would reconsider their position. And I did say that as this term runs, once the PAC deals with issues and reports that involve the present administration, that the independent Member, Mr. Ezzard Miller, the Opposition, and the Government should all maturely sit down and re-evaluate the situation at that point and see if we want to revert to what we all accept to be the principle, which is, the Leader of the Opposition, or his designate, being the Chairman. But we certainly believe that this is a fair way to move forward at this present time.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Honourable Elected Member for the district of East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I don't know . . . I may have gotten that wrong, but what I said was that the Government is nominating four persons, whether it is from their Backbench or it also includes an independent, but they are nominating four.

What we will do . . .

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Sorry about that, Madam Speaker.

So, Madam Speaker, in the interest of compromise with the Government, we would gladly accept the independent Member as Chairman, two Government Members and two of our Members.

And on a different note, procedurally, I believe each Member should be nominated individually.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of Government Business.

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, we could be all day at this.

The Honourable Minister, the Second Elected Member for West Bay, laid out quite clearly the Government's position. We have not nominated four Members of Government. In fact, we have nominated five. We did not name one. We left that for the Opposition. But the practice and convention in parliamentary democracy is that Government in our present makeup has three Members on that Committee.

Madam Speaker, as has been said, we are fortunate to have an independent Member. That Member has agreed to be the Chairman. I think that is a good position for the House and for the country. I don't think the Government should give away our membership on the Committee. There's much work to be done and the Opposition will have a Member on the Committee. That is a good position for the Opposition. Again, to repeat, we have an independent person as Chairman.

I think, Madam Speaker, we should not hold back unless they want to debate it all night. But I would ask us please to move on. Take the vote on the matter.

**The Speaker:** We now have six Members nominated for the Public Accounts Committee:

- Elected Member for North Side
- Third Elected Member for West Bay
- Fourth Elected Member for George Town
- Third Elected Member for Bodden Town
- Third Elected Member for George Town

- First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

We will now have to go to a ballot.

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, if I can help. We have a motion for five Members. That is the first motion on the Floor and that is the motion that should take precedence.

*[inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, please do not talk across the Floor to each other. We have a motion on the Floor and we have . . .

Honourable Elected member for East were you bringing a motion or were you just making a statement?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, the Government nominated four persons to sit on a five-member committee and I nominated two, which would go to ballot.

**The Speaker:** First of all, may I ask if the nominees who have been named accept the nominations?

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination to the Public Accounts Committee.

**The Speaker:** First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for North Side.

**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured and privileged to accept the nomination to the Public Accounts Committee and as Chairman of that Committee.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination to the Public Accounts Committee.

**The Speaker:** Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I am honoured to accept the nomination to the Public Accounts Committee.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I am honoured to accept the position.

**The Speaker:** Would the Clerk please prepare the ballots?

It will take a few minutes for the Clerk to prepare the ballots. We will suspend for five minutes but please remain in your places. Thank you.

**Proceedings suspended at 3.52 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 4.05 pm**

**The Speaker:** Proceedings are resumed.

I ask Members of the gallery to sit back in their seats in order to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

I will now ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to pass around the ballot box to each Member in order that each Member may see that it is totally empty.

There have been six Members nominated for the Public Accounts committee. I will ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to distribute the ballot paper to each Member.

The ballot papers contain the names of those Members who have been nominated.

I will now say a few words about the procedure. Under the present Constitution, five Members are to be elected. Each Member may only vote for five Members. You should not sign your paper. There should be no mark other than the X on your papers. Your papers should not—and I emphasise not—be identifiable. I am suggesting that perhaps you may fold the ballots so that it remains a secret ballot.

Please do not sit forward to see how the ballots are being marked from the gallery. Thank you.

I will now ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to collect the ballot papers in the ballot box.

*[inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Order please.

*[pause]*

**The Speaker:** I am going to ask the Honourable First and Third Official Members to act as scrutineers please.

Would you please take your places at the Clerk's table?

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** On a point of procedure.

**The Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** I believe that the proper scrutineers ought to be the Clerks, because the honourable Members have voted in this particular election.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of Government Business do you agree?

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Madam Speaker, I completely trust these two Members. I have no problem with them scrutinising. Certainly they are going to be in full view of all of us and, indeed, the gallery is packed. I don't see what harm it is, but if the Members are going to complain . . . let's not get into a fight. I'm sure the two Official Members do not want that either. They are happy to go back to their seats.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Honourable First and Third Official Members.

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** So now the Opposition should be happy!

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Leader of Government Business.

Please be quiet. Please do not talk across the aisle. Thank you. Direct your attention to the Chair.

I would ask the Clerks to act now as scrutineers to be sure that everything is above board.

**The Clerk:** *[reading out each ballot paper]*

1. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
2. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
3. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
4. Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
5. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
6. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
7. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
8. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
9. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
10. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.

11. Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
12. Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
13. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
14. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
15. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
16. Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
17. Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Alden McLaughlin. I retract Mr. Alden McLaughlin because there is not an X on this ballot paper for him. Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.
18. Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell.

**The Speaker:** Madam Clerk, would the Members of the Opposition like to see the ballot, please?  
Thank you.

*[pause]*

#### RESULT OF THE BALLOTS

**The Speaker:** The results of the ballots are:

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller	13
Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.	13
Mr. Ellio A. Solomon	13
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour	13
Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.	5
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell	18

*[inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** The members of the Public Accounts Committee are:

1. Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Chairman
2. Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
3. Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
4. Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour
5. Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell

In accordance with Standing Order 70 (2), I nominate Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, the Elected Member for North Side, to be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING REGISTER OF INTERESTS COMMITTEE

**The Speaker:** The next order of business is the Nomination of Members to the Standing Register of Interests Committee. This is a Standing Committee that

exists under Standing Order 76, therefore there is no need for a motion to establish the Committee.

I will ask the Honourable First Official Member to read the terms of reference of the Standing Register of Interests Committee.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Madam Speaker, the terms of reference are as follows:

**76. (1) There shall be a standing select committee to be styled the Register of Interests Committee for the consideration of matters relating to the Register of Interests referred to it by the Registrar of Interests.**

**(2) The Committee shall consist of nine Members including the chairman all of whom shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a General Election.**

**(3) The quorum of the committee shall be five Members including the chairman.**

**(4) There shall be a Registrar of Interests who shall keep a Register of Interests in accordance with the Register of Interests Law, 1996.**

Those, Madam Speaker, are the terms of reference for the Register of Interests Committee.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Honourable First Official Member. I will now take nominations for the Standing Register of Interests Committee. The Committee is comprised of nine Members. I need a mover and a seconder.

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the following five Members to serve on the Register of Interests Committee: Mr. Ellio Solomon, Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, and Captain. A. Eugene Ebanks. And we would invite the Opposition to nominate four in the interest of unity and reconciliation.

*[inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would beg to nominate Mr. Anthony S. Eden, Mr. Vincent Arden McLean, Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, and Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr. as the four Members from the Opposition to be part of that Committee.

**The Speaker:** I need a seconder.

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nominations.

**Hon. Michael T. Adam:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nominations.

**The Speaker:** It looks as though I am going to have to remain standing in this House.

May I ask if the persons nominated accept the nominations?

The Fourth Elected Member for George Town, Mr. Ellio Solomon.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** The Elected Member for North side, Mr. D. Ezzard Miller.

**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** The Third Elected Member for West Bay, Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** I am happy to accept the nomination, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell.

**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell:** I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, Mr. Anthony S. Eden.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Second Elected Member for George Town [sic], Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Third Elected, Ma'am. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Elected Member for the district of East End, Mr. V. Arden McLean.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Fourth Elected Member for West Bay, Captain, A. Eugene Ebanks.

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The Standing Register of Interests Committee consists of nine persons and there have been nine nominations.

Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I hereby declare the following Members to be the Members of the Standing Register of Interests Committee:

1. Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, Chairman
2. Mr. D. Ezzard Miller
3. Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
4. Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour
5. Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
6. Captain A. Eugene Ebanks
7. Mr. Anthony S. Eden
8. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.
9. Mr. V. Arden McLean

**The Speaker:** Those are the names of the nine persons who will serve on the Register of Interests Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 70(2), I nominate the Fourth Elected Member for George Town to be the Chairman of the Committee.

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### MOTIONS

#### GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 1—APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**The Speaker:** I recognise the Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 1—Appointment of the Standing Business Committee.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House and, in particular-**

- a) to consider the Business Papers of the House;
- b) to decide and inform the Clerk the order in which Private Members' Motions are to be debated on;
- c) to decide and to inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day the questions to be put down for reply on the Order Paper for that Question Day;
- d) to provide a ready means of consultation between Members who are not Members of the Cabinet, and the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of the Opposition, the Presiding Officer and the Clerk;

e) to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of a Meeting of the House other than the State Opening Meeting.

f) to inform the Clerk the order in which Bills shall be set down on the Order Paper.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing Business Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman and that the Committee shall meet at such times as called by the Chairman.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee review its terms of reference and report any recommendations to this Honourable House.**

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The Motion has been duly moved and is open for debate.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the following Members—

*[pause]*

**The Speaker:** Is there any debate on this Motion?

If there is no debate I will put the question.

The question is: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House and, in particular-

- a) to consider the Business Papers of the House;
- b) to decide and inform the Clerk the order in which Private Members' Motions are to be debated on;
- c) to decide and to inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day the questions to be put down for reply on the Order Paper for that Question Day;
- d) to provide a ready means of consultation between Members who are not Members of the Cabinet, and the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of the Opposition, the Presiding Officer and the Clerk;
- e) to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of a Meeting of the House other than the State Opening Meeting.
- f) to inform the Clerk the order in which Bills shall be set down on the Order Paper.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing Business Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman and that the**

Committee shall meet at such times as called by the Chairman.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee review its terms of reference and report any recommendations to this Honourable House.

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

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

Government Motion No. 1 has been duly passed.

**Agreed: Government Motion No. 1 passed.**

#### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** I will now call for nominations to the Standing Business Committee. Five Members comprise the membership of this Committee.

May I have a mover for nominees of the Committee please?

I recognise the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the following Members to serve on the Standing Business Committee: Honourable W. McKeeva Bush, as Chairman; Honourable Rolston M. Anglin, Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly; and we invite the Opposition to nominate two Members to serve on that Committee.

**The Speaker:** May I have a seconder for that [nomination] please?

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the [nomination].

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I would like to nominate the Elected Member for East End, Mr. V. Arden McLean, and the Third Elected Member for George Town, Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., as the two representatives from the Opposition to serve on the Standing Business Committee.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

We have five persons nominated for this Committee. Are there any other nominations?

I will now ask the persons named if they will accept the nomination.

Honourable W. McKeeva Bush, Leader of Government Business?

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination to the Standing Business Committee.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for Education, Training, and Employment, and Second Elected Member for West Bay, Mr. Rolston Anglin?

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination to the Standing Business Committee.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for District Administration, Works and Gender Affairs and Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, Mrs. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly?

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Madam Speaker, I'm happy to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** The Elected Member for East End, Mr. V. Arden McLean?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Third Elected Member for George Town, Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Jr.?

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to accept the nomination for the Standing Business Committee.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

If there are no further nominations I declare the following Members to be the Members of the Standing Business Committee:

1. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Chairman
2. Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
3. Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly
4. Mr. V. Arden McLean
5. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.

In accordance with Standing Order 70(2), I nominate the Leader of Government Business to be the Chairman of the Standing Business Committee.

#### **GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 2—APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business is Government Motion No. 2—Appointment of the Standing House Committee.

I recognise the Honourable First Official Member.



**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 2—Appointment of the Standing House Committee, which reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing House Committee charged with the duty to make recommendations to the House in respect of:**

- a) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for Members during Meetings of the House;
- b) matters affecting the working condition, comfort and facilities for the Officers of the House;
- c) the operation and maintenance of the library of the House, and the provision of research facilities;
- d) the maintenance, upkeep, furnishing and equipment of the Legislative Assembly Building and its precincts;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing House Committee shall comprise five elected Members, one of whom will be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman and one as Deputy Chairman.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee review its terms of reference and report any recommendations to this Honourable House.**

Thank you Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Motion is duly moved and open for debate. Does any Member wish to speak?

If no Member wishes to speak, the question is: Be IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing House Committee charged with the duty to make recommendations to the House in respect of –

- a) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for Members during Meetings of the House;
- b) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for the Officers of the House;
- c) the operation and maintenance of the library of the House and the provision of research facilities;
- d) the maintenance, upkeep, furnishing and equipment of the Legislative Assembly building and its precincts;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing House Committee shall comprise five Elected Members, one of whom shall be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman and one as Deputy Chairman;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Committee review its terms of reference and report any recommendations to this Honourable House.

I shall now put the question on Government Motion No. 2. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: Government Motion No. 2 passed.**

#### **NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** Nomination of Members to the Standing House Committee.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the following Members to serve on the Standing House Committee: Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town; Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay; Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, Fourth Elected Member for George Town; and we are asking the Opposition to nominate two Members from their side.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Thank you.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I wish to nominate the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town for the membership of the House Committee.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?  
Did I hear a seconder for that?

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?

Five names have been nominated for the Standing House Committee.

Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** I accept.

**The Speaker:** The Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** [*inaudible response*]

**The Speaker:** Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell:** Yes, Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The Standing House Committee comprises of five Members. Five Members have accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. I hereby declare that the following Members have been elected as Members of the Standing House Committee:

1. Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Chairman
2. Captain A. Eugene Ebanks
3. Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
4. Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
5. Mr. Anthony S. Eden

In accordance with Standing Order 70(2), I nominate the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town to be the Chairman of the Standing House Committee.

#### **GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 3—APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business is Government Motion No. 3—Appointment of the Standing Select Committee on Privileges.

I recognise the Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 3—Appointment of the Standing Select Committee on Privileges.

**WHEREAS Standing Order 79 provides that this honourable House may appoint other standing select committees as required from among its Members;**

**AND WHEREAS on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1998 this honourable House established the Standing Select Committee on Privileges by way of Private Member's Motion No. 3/98;**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee on Privileges to consider and report to the House**

**on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee comprise all honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly, the Chairman being elected from among the Committee Members;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall elect a Deputy Chairman from among the Committee Members who shall act as Chairman of the Committee during the absence of the Chairman.**

Madam Speaker, I have set out the content of the Motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Member. The Motion has been duly moved and is open for debate. Does any Member wish to speak?

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the question.

The question is: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee on Privileges to consider and report to the house on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee comprise all honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly, the Chairman being elected from among the Committee Members;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall elect a Deputy Chairman from among the Committee Members who shall act as Chairman of the Committee during the absence of the Chairman.**

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

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: Government Motion No. 3 passed.**

#### **GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 4—APPOINTMENT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business is Government Motion No. 4. I call on the Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 4 dealing with the Appointment of the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner. And the Motion reads as follows:

**WHEREAS section 28 of the Public Management and Finance (Amendment) Law, 2004 states that the Complaints Commissioner shall be**

accountable to the Legislative Assembly for the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS section 28 of the said Law provides that a Committee of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for overseeing the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner, or if no such Committee exists, the Speaker shall be responsible for same;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly appointed a Select Committee to be responsible for overseeing the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005 by way of Government Motion No. 3/2005;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

That, Madam Speaker, sets out the contents of the Motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The Motion has been duly moved and is now open for debate. Does any Member wish to speak?

If no Member wishes to speak I will put the question: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

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

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: Government Motion No. 4 passed.**

**The Speaker:** I will now call for nominations to the Standing Business Committee. Five Members comprise the membership of this Committee.

Sorry. I'm reading the wrong thing. It is not here.

*[long pause]*

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, if there is an issue with the Government's nomination, perhaps you may want to take a two-minute suspension so that we can clarify it.

**The Speaker:** I think that will be necessary. I have no information on that.

We will take a five minute suspension please.

*[Pause]*

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

Proceedings are resumed.

[inaudible] on the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner.

Honourable Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER**

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Mr. Ezzard Miller, and Mr. Dwayne Seymour. Madam Speaker, the recommended Chairman would be Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr. And, as we understand, this Committee requires a Deputy Chairman. So, we would propose that from one of the two nominations from the Opposition that they would select one of those two Members to serve as Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would propose on behalf of the Opposition that the Elected Member for East End and the Third Elected Member for George Town be nominated for this Committee. And before the Committee meets we will make a proposal with regard to the Deputy Chairman, as we have not had a chance to discuss it.

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

This Committee comprises five Members—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Sorry, we do need a seconder for that because it is coming from the other side.

**Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell:** Madam Speaker, I beg to second the [nomination].

**The Speaker:** Thank you, First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

This Committee comprises five Members. I will call each name and you may say whether you accept the nomination or not.

Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** I am happy to accept the nomination, Ma'am.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Ezzard Miller, Elected Member for North Side.

**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller:** Madam Speaker, I am happy to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, I accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Jr., Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, I am happy to accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** This Committee requires five Members. We have five Members named. If there are no further nominations I declare the following Members to be the Members to the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner:

1. Mr. Cline A. Glidden Jr., Chairman
2. Mr. D. Ezzard Miller
3. Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour
4. Mr. V. Arden McLean
5. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Deputy Chairman

I hereby name the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Cline Glidden Jr. And I take cognisance of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has stated that they will name the Deputy Chairman at a later date.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Yes, Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Just craving your indulgence to tidy the matter up.

We would propose Mr. Alden McLaughlin as the Deputy Chairman for that Committee and if he accepts that then that will sort the matter out.

**The Speaker:** I shall certainly accept that.

Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Jr., Third Elected Member for George Town, has been named by the

Leader of the Opposition as the Deputy Chairman for that Committee.

[pause]

**The Speaker:** That brings us to the end of business for the day.

I call upon the Honourable Leader of Government Business to move the adjournment of this honourable House.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, as you may well know, it is customary for Members to say thank you and perhaps other things at this point in the proceedings. With your indulgence and that of the House, we propose to do that at this time.

So, Madam Speaker, I will move the adjournment of this honourable House sine die, and ask Members to bear in mind that there is a possibility that we will be coming back sometime in the coming month, but not for a full budget session, of course.

So, the House is adjourned sine die.

**The Speaker:** In the interest of time, since the official adjournment of the House takes place at 4.30, I would call on Members to limit their speeches so that everyone can get a chance to speak this evening if they wish.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are going to have to crave your indulgence, as I see it is already ten minutes past the hour and at that point we may have to move the suspension of that particular Standing Order. I doubt that Members will be finished in that time. And I am sorry that I have to go a bit longer, but there are some important things that I would want to say.

Madam Speaker, today, is the people's day. Today, importantly too, is a milestone for you. I am indeed honoured, as the entire Government is, to be able to have you as the Honourable Speaker of this honourable House.

As you said yourself this morning, you are the third lady to have been in the Chair since the ushering in of Speakers, elected or appointed outside of the Governor as the Presiding Officer. You certainly come here with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the history and political life of this country. When we looked around, there was no one better suited—and, if I may say so, more deserving—to help guide us and keep order in this honourable House. I say that in this is the dawn of a new day for these Islands and our people.

I personally welcome you and look forward to working with you. Maybe I will tax your patience now and then, but you have known me long enough and I know you will forgive me and keep me straight.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled to stand before God, my colleagues here in this honourable House, my family, and the people of the Cayman Islands to accept the duties that have been entrusted to me by the voters of this country.

I speak personally at this point, Madam Speaker. I would not be here today but for the grace of God. And I can say on a wider front that the Cayman Islands would not be here today but for the grace of God. None of us would be here today without His many blessings. May God continue to show us the way forward during these historic but challenging times.

Madam Speaker, I am under no illusion as I stand before you. I know that we face a number of dire situations on a number of fronts. Every sector in these Islands is in trouble. We must contend with a challenging fiscal outlook and with Government accounts that are in the red, red, red. We must contend with problems facing our financial industry as well as problems with business development that have crippled our economy. Yet, even though we face this unprecedented situation, I am confident that we will overcome these obstacles.

The first reason for my confidence is the honourable and esteemed group of people with whom I am standing today—the Members of the United Democratic Party (UDP), who make up this Government. All of us, though, must work together for our people—not only in these challenging times, but when the good times come as well. We welcome both their input and their constructive criticism over the next four years.

These Islands continue to be one of the most promising places on this earth. This is so because of the traditions and the innovative approach of those that came before us. And we all owe it to them to continue to build on that promise and success for future generations. We must do so by working together to weather any storm—be they natural storms or of an economic or social nature. We cannot do so unless we are united as a community.

I beg one and all let us stop the grandstanding and the blaming of Caymanians and foreigners alike. Now is not the time for divisiveness in our society. We are all one in these beloved Cayman Islands. That is how we will govern and that is what we hope for in our local communities.

This Cabinet is in charge of these Islands—nobody else. We are here to serve, to take advice, and we will do that. And we are going to seek in the broadest sense to broaden the governance of these Islands. I wanted a Senate for this country. I believe we would have gotten that broadened governance. That was not to be. But I will announce here that I am going to create an Island Council that will embody members of the public from every district and they will embody Caymanians and expatriate Caymanians as well. This country cannot live unless we garner and unless, Madam Speaker, we take all of the expertise

in these Islands and put it together to work for the betterment of these Islands. That Council will sit in this Legislative Assembly and look and examine, probe and delve into matters of environment, education and all the sectors that the country must run with and must have because we cannot do it alone, we must all work together.

Madam Speaker, by now most of us will be aware that we are facing serious times in these Islands. We are experiencing the worst local economic conditions in our history. On top of that, we face an unprecedented global economic crisis. The public sector also faces financial challenges with an operational deficit and debt. Unemployment is at the highest ever, and there are a host of other issues which we must work together to address over the coming years.

Today, as Members of the honourable Legislative Assembly have sworn, I commit to the people of these Islands that these challenges will be met like other challenges before us in our history. We will use the determination that our forefathers had, the spirit and innovation—that was the catalyst which made this country become so successful since the late 1960s—to address the issues before us. It is my view that today I am standing before you because this country chose unity over divisiveness and this country has chosen economic leadership at a time when we need it most. With the guidance of the good Lord, together we will reward the trust the people placed in us on 20 May.

Madam Speaker, allow me to make a few remarks regarding some of the things that we intend to implement in the short term to address some of the many issues facing our country today.

#### Economic Recovery

One of the immediate tasks at hand is to deal with the current economic crisis. Our local economy is projected to experience a downturn again this year and we must take measures to minimise its impact on our people. As I mentioned during the campaign, the Government will establish a mechanism to provide assistance to businesses and those who are at risk of losing their homes as a result of the crisis. We will be in a position to announce exactly how that assistance will take place in two weeks' time. But time is of the essence here, for bills do not wait on anyone to be paid. It is important that we move quickly and decisively on this initiative. And I say, Madam Speaker, that bureaucracy shall not stop or hinder us because we are here to serve our people. Anyone who becomes a stumbling block will be hurdled.

Madam Speaker, in addition to this initiative to provide assistance in those areas, we will be meeting urgently with various stakeholders to formulate a short-term economic recovery plan. We will review any current initiative in place to deal with the economic recovery and work to devise the most effective plan

for stakeholders. That short-term economic recovery plan will be in place by 30 June [2009].

#### Immigration and Human Resources

We will change the approach to how we handle the country's human resource needs. We must put in place a strong long-term plan for development of the country's human capital, and this must be tied to the needs of our economy. This long-term approach will also be the basis for our approach to scholarships and training of Caymanians. Our first task in this regard is the commission of study in the creation of a Human Resource Authority which will be the body that brings together all of the key areas that impact the development of human resources, such as education, immigration and training. This is what we promised during our campaign, and we will ensure that this study is commissioned by 30 June [2009]. It is my hope that we can have a fully functioning Human Resource Authority in place by the end of this year.

#### Facilitating Inward Investment and Responsible Development

It is our determination to help this economy to not only recover but to experience sustained growth over the medium and long term by encouraging development and inward investment. We will do this while balancing against the needs of our environment to ensure that the development is sustainable. However, without such sustainable development and inward investment, we will not be in a position to help our people. We will not be in a position to generate the much needed government revenues, and we will not be in a position to afford the necessary public services and help those in need.

Madam Speaker, it is not that there is not money in the world; money is in the world. Money is afraid, of course, and these Islands must create the right approach and the right atmosphere to bring that money here to these Islands as it came before. It took us away from the *cook rum* and away from the heat and gave us air-conditioned bedrooms and good homes. That did not come so; it came here because we created the atmosphere and the environment and we have to do that again.

Where Planning, for instance, is a stumbling block, Madam Speaker, we are going to cut it. We are going to cut that kind of bureaucracy because our people expect to be fed. They expect to have a place to live; they expect to send their children to school with money, and they expect to live in peace without rising crime. We cannot do those things without money, Madam Speaker. I am not one who believes—although I myself am heavily in debt—I do not believe in the country going more and more in debt. Money can be brought in and we must find the areas that can draw the investment here.

One of the areas or ideas that I promoted during the United Democratic Party's (UDP) campaign is to apportion a fee to certain developments that [will] enable us to put aside funds into a special vehicle that can be utilised to help build affordable homes. That way we can make a direct link between success and development and make the development work for Caymanians who need assistance to get a home.

We must make a concerted effort to develop the right framework to encourage development that benefits Caymanians and helps Caymanian businesses. But in order to better understand the needs of developers and other investors and to devise an effective framework that directly benefits Caymanians, I will be organising a developers' forum which will be a conference with stakeholders in that industry. We plan to have that forum organised in July of this year.

#### Financial Services

Madam Speaker, the Governor has given me the responsibility for financial services. As many of us will no doubt be aware, our financial services industry is facing unprecedented challenges. We plan to deal with these very shortly by improving promotional and lobbying efforts in places such as Washington and Europe, as well as by addressing the legislative needs of the industry to ensure its success.

In addition, we will implement a financial services training programme to ensure that Caymanians can improve their participation in this important economic sector. Indeed, we have already organised the first meeting with stakeholders in the financial services industry and this meeting will be held this Thursday (that is tomorrow morning) at nine o'clock. The purpose of that meeting is to better understand the needs of the industry, to find out immediately the most important need, and to develop a system for regular communication with them on all matters relating to the industry.

There are also pressing issues relating to our tourism sector. We need to review the current tourism plan and we need to examine regional and international development, Madam Speaker. So, we will put the industry together immediately to come up with a plan that can move quickly as we did after the disaster in the United States by the terrorist attack. From the work of that group I expect to have recommendations on the way forward for tourism. We will meet them also tomorrow afternoon to address the immediate needs of that industry.

#### Good Governance

Madam Speaker, we will ensure that this country is governed well. We must adhere to the principles of good governance because that is what the people expect from us, and because it is the only way to govern. We will govern by utilising advice from

stakeholders and ensure that we harness the many bright minds—both local and expatriate—available in this country. While the Government will do its best to help this country move forward, we cannot do so without the important involvement of all of our local communities. So, we hope to work with all people who are willing to work with us as we walk down the path of moving this country forward so that it can continue to be a promising place for all of our people here, and our children.

Madam Speaker, I know that there are some who may believe that it will be too difficult for this good country to move forward. They may say we don't have enough resources or they may say we don't have the finances. But I say this: We can and we will! We can and we will do what is necessary to meet these challenges. It is not going to be easy, but with strong determination, decisive leadership and the support of everyone we can and we will do it. Starting today we must pick ourselves up and make the decision that we will work together in a united fashion to address the country's challenges. Together we can and will make a difference!

Madam Speaker, if I should say so myself, this Cabinet includes some of the most experienced and intelligent Ministers in our country's history. And our backbenchers will work diligently on special projects that put their individual expertise to good use to the benefit of these Islands.

Madam Speaker, for years no matter how hard our backbenchers may have worked—I said "our backbenchers" but I should say "backbenchers" because I was that too. But due to the fact that we were not in Executive Council or Cabinet, the complaint was that they got paid and did nothing. Even in the election just recently we heard the call for the backbenchers to be more involved.

I am happy to announce that the UDP, being a conscientious party and one that is open to change for the better, has talked to His Excellency the Governor about what I am going to say, and he has agreed. We have taken the bold step to include all of the backbench Members of the UDP who will work on specific projects within the various ministries. Let me outline where we are with this initiative.

The Fourth Member for George Town . . .

Madam Speaker, I am so engrossed in my thoughts here that I was moving beyond the hour of interruption. So, if you do not mind, Madam Speaker, I will move to suspend Standing Order 10 (2) to give us time to complete, and we would hope to do that by five o'clock.

### **Suspension of Standing Order 10 (2)**

**The Speaker:** [The question is that Standing Order 10 (2) be suspended in order for Members to speak beyond the hour of 4.30 pm.] 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:** Honourable Leader of Government Business, you may continue.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town will head up the National Housing Trust to ensure that this important social need will move forward quickly and efficiently. He will also assist with E-Government and E-Business.

The Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, who has extensive knowledge and experience as an entrepreneur and works with the youth, will work with culture, sports and youth matters including the Youth Parliament and small business.

The Honourable Deputy Speaker, Third Elected Member for West Bay, will utilise his technical and business expertise in the Information and Communications Technology Authority and the Electricity Regulatory Authority to ensure that these important bodies carry out their policies in the best interest of all the people of the country. In particular, a recent contract with Caribbean Utilities Company was completed, in our opinion [that] will not benefit the Cayman Islands consumer and is one that gives them the right to raise rates soon. This is not a good position for this Island to be in. It is one for which our mandate from the people of these Islands is to change, therefore we will do that.

He will also be in charge of conducting a critical review of the solicitation process for additional electricity generation capacity, which is not scheduled to come into force for at least another three years according to the most recent agreement with CUC. If we are going to lower the cost of living in the country this situation must change. Work will start immediately to bring about the necessary changes to allow for true competition in the generation of electricity.

He will also assist with the Hazard Management Unit, the Port development and the landfill—which situation is wholly unacceptable—and also the Land and Sea Co-op.

We intend to have discussions with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) next week in Miami on port development, and the Land and Sea Co-op, which embodies a great number of small Caymanian business owners, to solidify our partnership which we created between 2001 and 2005.

Madam Speaker, the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay will utilise his experience and work with matters related to the environment, the landfill and elderly issues.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the people of these Islands will be more pleased and better served

by this new development in the governance of these Islands. I am also confident in the wisdom of the Caymanian people. We have just been through an election in which our party system has delivered the change and the solutions that voters desired. The referendum process has given us a new Constitution that has the support of the majority of the people. Madam Speaker, our system works and now we must put it to work for the betterment of the Islands.

I am grateful to the people of the Cayman Islands for placing their trust in the UDP to take our country in a new direction. And I am grateful to the many supporters who made our victory possible. I believe the time for politics has passed; now is the time for unity and for hard work.

So, whether you voted for the United Democratic Party or the People's Progressive Movement, whether you are from Bodden Town, Cayman Brac or West Bay, we must all roll up our sleeves and get to work now. Whether your family has been here for five generations or for five years as an expatriate worker, we must all roll up our sleeves and get to work. Divided we shall fall, but united we shall stand.

God has given us the Cayman Islands and every man and woman who lives here is a steward of these Islands in the eyes of God. So, whatever our status, whatever our position, or whatever our party, we must dedicate ourselves to doing this work—God's work.

This is my pledge to the Caymanian people on this special day. As the Leader of Government I will do the work you have asked of me to the best of my ability. The road is long, but we will run it to the benefit of these Islands and to the glory of God.

I certainly could not sit down, Madam Speaker, without thanking my constituents who have voted for me since 1984. I thank those people who have continuously nominated me, Mr. Harvey Ebanks and Mrs. Alice Fay Christian. I thank them.

Madam Speaker, one last note: The staff here had to work under gruelling circumstances these past several years, but I thank them for keeping this Legislative Assembly going. Not that they are perfect, but when you give 36 years, 28 years, and 27 years here, that means something and we cannot push people aside like that. I found that that was what was beginning to happen.

Now this Assembly cannot work without the required staff. The Clerk and the present staff have the support of the Government but they need extra staff and we will be urging the Civil Service to put them in place because we cannot run parliamentary business as we did back in 1972. Times have changed.

Madam Speaker, I'd better stop there. As the old people say, *That is a mouthful*. So, thank you for your indulgence. Again, Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with you and we will make this work for the good of our people. I trust your judgment, the

Government trusts your judgment, and we will work to make the necessary improvements, even those that you would recommend.

I stop there, Madam Speaker, and may the good Lord bless the Cayman Islands.

**The Speaker:** I acknowledge the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I will be brief. As the second longest-serving Member in this parliament, next to my colleague who just spoke, the Leader of Government Business, I just want to say above all a special thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to represent the people of Bodden Town and these Cayman Islands in the fifth election. I also want to thank all of those who supported me in the district and throughout the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, I welcome you, one of our Bodden Towners with whom I have worked in recent times. I have watched you and I am amazed at the knowledge that you have about the history of these Islands. I hope that the time will permit that you will be able to put this in black and white for future of our children and the people who will come after you. I have seen you demonstrate and work in the community on so many projects for our young people and elderly. Madam Speaker, I take my hat off to you.

I heard the Leader of Government Business ask that we work together, and that is of greatest importance as we go forward in these trying and difficult times. It is the only way that we can succeed. These are our Islands and we have to do what is necessary. Around all of us we see how others are having great difficulties. But I have seen the way that we Caymanians work together, and a prime example is of recent times with Hurricane Ivan and the devastation that these Islands went through. By working together and having faith in God we were able to turn things around. I look forward to working with this Legislative Assembly, with my colleagues from both sides, and making Cayman a better place for all of us to live.

There are many issues out there and no one has the answer to everything but by working together we can make a difference.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

I recognise the Honourable Minister of Community Affairs and Housing.

**Hon. Michael T. Adam:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Let me begin by taking this opportunity to offer you my sincerest congratulations on your appointment as the Honourable Speaker of this House. I would also like to offer you my support and respect for as long as we are Members of this honourable House.



Madam Speaker, honourable Members, staff of the Legislative Assembly, family, guests, supporters and friends, a late good afternoon. It is an overwhelming honour to be sworn in to assume this position on behalf of our country. I am deeply conscious of the great honour of this appointment and of the responsibilities which I now undertake to represent you, the people of these Islands.

I give you my solemn assurance that I will work with a commitment and dedication to carry out the constitutional, ceremonial and civic duties that attach to the role of this office, believing sincerely that these duties contribute in an important way to ensuring the stability of our political system and to securing the prosperity of the economy and the wellbeing of our people. I pledge that I will do all I can to serve the people of these beloved Cayman Islands and to promote and enhance the welfare and standing of the country.

As I seek to fulfill the responsibilities of this high office which has been entrusted to me I look forward to continuing to earn the trust, goodwill and support of all Caymanians.

I am excited by seeing so many familiar faces now and earlier today. There are friends in the audience who have known me my entire life. And then there is the next generation whom I am inspired by. I get up every morning thinking what I must do to make these Islands of ours safer and more prosperous and to make our country all that it can be. As difficult as the times are, I am an optimist. I believe that we can do what we set our minds to do. And so it is the power of our ideals and the intelligence and dedication of our people that will make this country great once again.

For me, this has been an amazing personal journey. Today, I am joined in this incredible mission by my colleagues on behalf of our leader and our country. It is not only those of us holding positions, whether elected or appointed, who must perform to the very best of our abilities. I am asking everyone in our country to think about how each of you can make a contribution so that we ensure Cayman's future is even brighter than our story past.

I thank you, the people of George Town, for investing the trust and confidence in me during a particularly challenging time in our country's history. The ceremony today takes place at a crucial time. There is so much that lies ahead in terms of challenges and opportunities and we must all remember that we are all on the same team—Team Cayman Islands.

We have, in the leadership of the Honourable McKeeva Bush, someone who expects us to reach out to the world to do so without illusions, understanding that the difficulties we face will not be wished away, but to meet them head-on forthrightly and smartly and that we must seize the opportunities that will exist. However, in order for us to accomplish this we must put our differences aside and work together as one people.

Let us make a new beginning to renew the Caymanian spirit and sense of purpose to restore unity and dignity to this land. Let us, with optimism, affirm our future and strengthen, foster and encourage trust among the various communities that make up these beloved Cayman Islands. Our ambition must be to go forward on the basis of our communities trusting each other with good judgment and liberal amounts of information inside understanding and goodwill.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to acknowledge the blessings that our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon each one of us today, and ask for His continued presence within this honourable House throughout these next four years. I want to state that I could not be standing here before you today without Him.

To my George Town constituents, one week ago today you went to the polls and made this election one of the most highly anticipated and humbling ones for my family and me. As the final numbers came in, in the wee hours, I was completely overwhelmed by the support you gave me. Today I thank all of you publicly. And I would like to make mention that I have received your e-mails, phone calls and texts and want you to know that I intend to respond to each one, but I am asking for your patience.

To my family, particularly my mother, Olga, I am especially delighted that she was here today with me to share this moment; my wife, Lissa, who understands the awesome responsibility resting on my shoulders and whose unyielding support and encouragement over the past 25-plus years has given me an extraordinary richness that I am absolutely grateful for. My children and granddaughter, other family members and friends, thank you for your love and encouragement during this journey. I love you all.

Last but not least, I want to give huge sincere thanks to all of our committee members, volunteers and supporters, without whom this campaign and election would not have been possible. God bless you all and may God continue to bless these Cayman Islands.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other speakers?  
Elected Member for North Side.

**Mr. D. Ezzard Miller:** Madam Speaker, first of all let me thank Almighty God, my parents and family, my election committee and, most of all, the voters of North Side, for giving me the privilege to once again stand in these hallowed chambers to represent the wonderful district of North Side.

Let me, Madam Speaker, congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. There are not many Members in this Parliament who are happier than I am today to see you elected as Speaker of this honourable House. I was a student at your feet many, many years ago in politics in the Cayman Islands. I have

advocated you for this position from the first time it was created in this Parliament. I am truly glad to see that you are here. It is well deserved, and I am sure that you will raise the position of Speaker from that lowly place it had descended to over the last several years. I congratulate you on your appointment. I look forward to working with you and I pledge to be a good boy in this House and to obey the rules. I will stretch them at times, if necessary, for the benefit of the people of North Side.

I also would like to congratulate the new Government led by the Honourable McKeeva Bush and the United Democratic Party. I pledge to work with them in whatever capacity I can to face the myriad of problems and pressing issues faced by these beautiful Islands. I am here to work for the people of this country, particularly the people of North Side.

Madam Speaker, thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I too would like to thank God Almighty and the people of West Bay for affording me this privilege to serve them again for a third term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Honourable Speaker of this House. I am certainly looking forward to working with you the next four years.

Madam Speaker, I am honoured to be a Member of this new Government which will bring needed change and solutions to our country.

I would like to thank the good people of West Bay for putting their trust in me and for the opportunity to serve them over these next four years. I will work diligently with determination to accomplish what they have elected me to do. I have been on many journeys to many different places but have never been on a journey quite like the one in these past eight years. It was a privilege to meet with the residents across West Bay to hear their concerns, hopes, and dreams for their families and community, and now it will be an honour to represent them in this new Government. I believe, like all of my colleagues in Government, that we can and will help the people of these Islands realise those hopes and dreams. We will work tirelessly to have every person determine their direction and reach their destination.

Now that the campaign is over, it is time for the people of these Islands to embark on a new journey together; a journey to new prosperity, new opportunity and new security. It is my sincere hope that each and every Caymanian will participate in this national journey. Only by working together can we reach our mutual destination. And I pledge that I will work every day over the next four years, as I have during my entire career, to steer us in the right direction.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. God bless you and God bless the people of the Cayman Islands.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Let me begin by saying I am happy to see you in the Speaker's seat, especially being from the district of Bodden Town. I congratulate you. I advocated for you in a very bullish manner. I ask you to have patience with me, as I will with you.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to address the people of the Cayman Islands today, but more so the people of Bodden Town who gave me the opportunity to stand here as an elected representative. You have definitely spoken Bodden Towners, and I plan to serve you to the best of my ability and always [put] country before self.

Madam Speaker, my friends from Frenchman's Drive to Spotts Newlands, the breadth and width of Bodden Town, you the people, have created a bit of history as I am the first Gun Squarian to be elected to office. I thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, there are many who were not my supporters, but I am for all now. And there are many more that could not wait for a shining light to beam in on their life to give them hope. Although we are full of dreams we are told that we shouldn't or we couldn't, but I hope I am able to be that realisation that all things are possible even with very little.

Caymanians, we need to start believing in each other and supporting each other; [otherwise] we will be a dying breed. One of the sentiments which shows that we need more faith in our own people is the very fact that we search overseas for a consultant before we look locally, and, after the consultant leaves with their big pay check, the locals are expected to sort it out for pennies.

We need to find a way to protect our indigenous Caymanians, much the way American Indians are given certain privileges. Trust me; our visitors to these shores will not mind us being protected. We, as Caymanian people, need to stand for each other. We need to stop trying to tear one another down, as we all have strengths that the Lord gave us. He left no one short.

We need to have common dialogue with business owners to ensure that there are equal opportunities for Caymanians, upward mobility and an option—even if it means assisting us with the advancement of our education and overseas work experience, which they claim we need to have. They need to stop moving the goalpost for our Caymanians. But for this helping our Caymanians advance there should be incentives for these companies.

Madam Speaker, Bodden Town Primary School is my alma mater, and my son attended Savannah Primary. I want to see both of these schools achieve their goals. I would like to see the standards of the schools raised by motivating our teachers and students, and by also ensuring that we have the correct leadership and training in place to move these schools to the top.

Some of my responsibilities will [include] culture. I will seek to bolster our traditional ways of life whilst protecting music and arts so that our locals can work fulltime in their said fields.

Madam Speaker, our youth, to which we can give early career guidance and effective after-school programmes, need guidance in the right direction and monitoring while ensuring that their brilliance is viewed by local businesses, and that the students are paired to these companies before leaving high school for college so that a job is secured for them upon return whilst ensuring that a technical and vocational school is a reality and not just lip service.

Sports: We need to ensure that all are given opportunities not prejudiced by gender, ethnicity, district or social status. We need to also encourage and promote sports tourism. We need to create an inter-island Junior and Senior High sports day and encourage College Scouts to come in and view them with hopes of many getting scholarships.

Bodden Town is the fastest growing district and the time has come where we need a multipurpose centre. This could include a 25 metre or 50 metre swimming pool and an indoor track, to name a few, attracting international swim and track meets.

Madam Speaker, our elderly must be cared for. They are our heroes who travelled overseas as seamen to stimulate this local economy. Our women were the best money-managers, and made very good decisions. They made our country what it is today. We must create an environment, possibly at the old people's home in Gun Square, where the elderly can come on a daily basis, when their children have gone to work, to have dialogue and reminisce about the old days and participate in arts and crafts. This could very well be a tourist stop where tourists get to interact with them, buy their goods, and learn more about our culture and history.

Madam Speaker, our small businesses are suffering and need urgent attention. There are many Caymanians who want a small business opportunity but lack one basic ingredient—capital—the capital to start and continue. We need to make funding more accessible to small business owners. This group is our biggest employer and the strength of this group ensures a strong middleclass which each country prides to protect.

I would like to thank my family: My mother Petals (or Carol), my grandmother Carolee, my stepfather, Michael, my wife of nine years, Melanie, my chil-

dren, Zachary, Tahiti and Dior; my brothers, sisters and cousins.

I would like to thank God, my church, the Bodden Town United Church. As we know little is much when God is in it.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the whole UDP group for their support, our Bodden Town people who have been so encouraging and supportive during our campaign. I also want to thank my Bodden Town colleague, Mr. Mark Scotland, and his family. I want to thank my friends who spread the positive messages about me.

God bless you and these Cayman Islands. Madam Speaker, thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

I would remind the Members of the House that the time is getting late, and I think everyone probably wants a chance to speak. So please limit your speeches a bit. Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Ellio A. Solomon:** Thank you.

Madam Speaker, let me start by congratulating you on your appointment. Unlike some of my colleagues, I did not have the opportunity to know you very well. But the bit that I do know about you I know that you are deserving of this position. I have definitely observed you in terms of your running in the various elections. I think if there is nothing else that we can walk away from in your various attempts is that you have a tremendous degree of determination. And if anyone is to succeed, determination is the key ingredient in that.

I have also had the opportunity to talk with you on many occasions and I know that you are a very intelligent lady. I think the combination of intelligence and determination alone puts you in the perfect stead to hold that particular position, and I am very confident that you are going to do an excellent job.

Madam Speaker, let me just congratulate as well all of my colleagues here in the United Democratic Party in terms of the run during this 2009 election, as well as my colleagues across the hall. I want to say that I have the greatest admiration for all those persons who have participated in this election, all elections in the past, and those to come. I think it takes a person of a special character to put himself forward and to endure some of the things that one has to endure during elections. I think they all deserve a big round of applause.

I want to also take time out to tremendously thank the volunteers who aided us in getting here. I remember getting up at five o'clock in the morning knowing that those volunteers were there. These were persons who wanted so much to see a change in this country that they were willing to commit themselves in

that sort of way—no funds, just pure commitment for good of country. They deserve our commendation.

I would like to take this special opportunity to thank those persons who nominated me, in particular my father, Mr. Timothy Solomon, Mrs. Sherri Bodden-Cowan, and, of course, Miss Faith Turner, affectionately known to all of us as Miss Queenie.

I would also like to give credit to my brothers and my sisters, Timothy, Jacqueline, Geoff, Kimbert, Loxley and Sharon, and, again, my mom and dad. I want to stress that I am honoured today to be here in parliament and actually know that I have the privilege that my parents are still alive to see me reach this long awaited goal.

I want to give special thanks as well to my daughters, Samantha, Sydney and Shawn; and to my helper as well, Ms. Vinnette Miriam Crossdale, and to my wife whom I love very much, Betsy Carolyn Lazari-Solomon.

If I could for just one second say that my daughter Shawn (many persons will perhaps know that she suffers from a disability) has been a tremendous inspiration in my life. When one can actually see someone that has been through what she has been through and every morning when the sun rises she can wake up with a smile on her face . . . if she can do it, Madam Speaker, I know that I can and it continues to push me to move forward.

I want to say that during this campaign I had the opportunity to meet so many persons out there throughout the Cayman Islands, but, in particular, in the district of George Town, and I have seen their suffering. I have seen individuals right now without a roof over their heads; individuals with children who are simply trying to find a job so that they can feed them. These are the sort of challenges I have seen.

I have grown up like many of my colleagues and many people in this country in very, very humble beginnings. I understand their suffering. I have had persons come to me during that campaign and say, *Ellio, if you make it in don't let me down*. I want to say to them today that Ellio Solomon, by the grace of God and by the 1,845 persons who had the confidence to vote for me in those various booths, made it here. And Ellio Solomon and the United Democratic Party will not let them down. The sun will not rise and set one day that I will not do everything I can to ensure that we can put the Caymanian people and the people of these Islands first. That is our objective.

The Leader of Government Business, the Honourable McKeeva Bush, mentioned earlier on in terms of being backbench but not necessarily sitting back and doing nothing. I'm involved and I want to thank the United Democratic Party for that opportunity—particularly to have the opportunity to do something about housing to make sure that the 700 applicants, as an example, can finally see some progress being made with respect to housing so that they can house their families.

Also with respect to the 905 persons unemployed, the United Democratic Party has plans formulated to ensure that we can do something about it.

I mentioned during the campaign about the issue of pensions. One of the fundamental things that made this country great was our mothers who sat here and guarded the fort while the men went to sea and sent the money back home so that we could build a strong infrastructure. I firmly believe what the Bible says. What is, has been; and what has been, shall be again. If the Cayman Islands is going to be great we as a government must create the various vehicles and mechanisms to ensure that our pensions can be invested here so that we can build a strong country.

With that, Madam Speaker, I want to close by simply saying that all of this would not be possible without the grace of God as well. He has smiled continuously on me; he has given me health and strength; he has brought me through many, many trials and I thank him for that. And I want to give final commitment to the people of this country [that] Ellio Solomon of the United Democratic Party . . . the sun will not rise or set without my doing. By every word and every action I am going to ensure that I can do what I can to ensure that Caymanians can be first in this country, they can be king of their own castle. Together we can build a greater Cayman Islands, and truly put a pathway to a better way forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

**Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland:** Madam Speaker, indeed, today is one of the most humbling and proud days of my life. It is humbling because the little boy who grew up in Northward, who went to Savannah Primary School and worked so hard in the community for so many years and had aspirations to be of higher office to his country (but failed in the 2005 elections) has succeeded this time—but not only succeeded, he is the First Elected Member for Bodden Town. I am proud because the people of Bodden Town have entrusted me with this enormous responsibility of representing them in the Legislative Assembly.

Before I move on, Madam Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to offer you my sincere congratulations, indeed on behalf on the entire district of Bodden Town. We are so proud of you today. You yourself have had a distinguished political career, albeit not in this distinguished House. But you have made significant contributions to the political process and the history of politics in our country. It was a distinct honour to nominate you for the Speaker's position, and indeed it is also an honour for my first time in this House to coincide with the start of your tenure.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all elected Members on their success in the recent elections. It was certainly an intensely contested election. It was an election which confirmed the superior intelligence of the Caymanian electorate, for any persons who doubted that. The electorate chose to change the Government but accepted the proposed Constitution document.

I also extend my congratulations to those candidates who were unsuccessful, either in seeking re-election or seeking a seat for the first time. From my first-hand experience in 2005, I know that the participation of all candidates, whether successful or not, is an important part of the democratic process.

Madam Speaker, the journey to become an elected representative is one that cannot be taken alone. There are many, many persons who supported me or assisted me in some way and I want to take an opportunity now to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for this.

First of all, Madam Speaker, thanks be to God. I know that without Him nothing is possible, and with Him all things are possible. I was just reminded this past week of the saying that if God brings you to a certain point in your life He will also bring you through it.

I would like to thank my mother, Mary. She has always recognised the importance of helping others who may be less fortunate. She encouraged me give of my time and efforts in the community and I thank her for her continued support and encouragement.

My wife, Cindy, knew long before we were married that I had political aspirations, and she still decided to marry me. She has a career of her own. She is able to balance that career, our family, our community work, and now throw in my political career as well. I thank her for that continued support and encouragement.

I would also like to thank the rest of our families for their unwavering support and encouragement. To all my friends, our faithful and hardworking committee members and other supporters, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your encouragement, support and assistance and for believing in me, not just for this campaign, but in everything I have done. All of you continue to inspire me by your strong belief and the confidence you have placed in me.

To the voters of Bodden Town—all 3,481 of you—most of you came out last Wednesday and exercised your democratic right by voting for the candidates of your choice. We are fortunate to live in a free country where we can participate freely in the democratic process without fear of persecution. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the voters of Bodden Town—every one of you.

I am fully aware that the result of the elections last week means that I am now one of your elected representatives and this is a responsibility

which I will not by any means take lightly. I will strive to ensure that I live up to the enormous responsibility with which I have been entrusted, which is to represent the people of Bodden Town. I pledge to the constituents of Bodden Town, and, indeed, the Cayman Islands, that I will discharge my duties for which I have been elected to the best of my ability with integrity. I will never forget that it is through the will of the people that I am privileged to have been elected to this position.

Madam Speaker, as we move ahead in the weeks and months to come, as we transition from the outgoing Government to the new leadership of the UDP under the Honourable McKeever Bush, I say to everyone in this honourable House, let us work together for a better way forward for our Islands. The people have spoken, and now we should be prepared to work together—Government and Opposition.

Madam Speaker, as a Cabinet Minister I have been entrusted with the responsibility for Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture. This is a significant Ministry under which we will have the responsibility to promote the health and wellbeing of everyone in our Islands. A healthy population will result in a more productive country.

We will focus on preventive programmes and promote healthy, active lifestyles among our population as this will reduce healthcare costs in the long term. We will do this in part by expanding and enhancing sports and youth programmes. We need to ensure that all young people in the Cayman Islands will have access to healthy well-organised activities and programmes that will assist in their education, life skills and will empower them. We will take these programmes to the districts and areas where they are most needed in order to reach those young people considered most at risk. Recognising that our young people are our Islands' most precious resource, we will also use programmes that are already established within the districts, and will also utilise the churches more to reach out and administer our programmes to young people.

Madam Speaker, we are all aware of the current difficulties within the Health Services Authority (HSA) and we will immediately review the operations and take actions to ensure its continued financial viability. We are deeply concerned about the situation which we have inherited. The financial position of the HSA is very poor and we are in danger of having to contract the services currently provided.

We will need to immediately implement some major improvements within the HSA, as we know that any reduction in services would have widespread negative effects throughout the Islands. Under the current business and financial model, the HSA (as I said) will be in danger of having to reduce some of its services, thus increasing the number of overseas referrals. This will ultimately cost the country more.

Madam Speaker, I will begin tomorrow to review the administrative, financial and human resources aspects of my Ministry's subjects, and from there we will move ahead to develop and implement pragmatic policy initiatives. In the case of the HSA the object will be to ensure continued financial viability.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I reiterate that today is one of the proudest days of my life. I am proud and thankful to the people of Bodden Town who elected me to be their representative in the Legislative Assembly. I am also proud to have been selected to be a Member of the Cabinet charged with the responsibility of running our country. I will discharge these responsibilities to the best of my ability always.

I am cognisant of the intense scrutiny that we will be under from the Opposition, media, and the people who matter most—the electorate. I promise to work for the next four years with enthusiasm, with vigour, and to ensure that together we can uplift the lives of all Caymanians. In the words of Winston Churchill, a politician thinks about the next election; a statesman thinks about the next generation.

My time in this Legislative Assembly will fall in the latter category. I will always think about the future generations.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Elected Member for East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, today, marks the third time that I stand here to start a legislative session. And whilst I can only claim two of those having experience, it is certainly interesting to see the young ones come in and see the fear and the fright that these hallowed halls bring to people when they come here. But that is what is interesting about these hallowed halls.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by thanking the people of East End for the third time reposing their trust in me—a trust that I do not take lightly. This is an awesome responsibility that I have been given now for the third time and I will, this time as the two previous times, try to represent the people of East End to the best of my ability.

I would like to also thank my family. They have put up with me for the last eight and a half years. I would like to thank them for their patience and understanding, especially over the last four years, Madam Speaker.

The last four years took me away from my family for very much of my time and they stood by me through it all. There were many nights that I did not get home until very late after leaving my office. I have had some real trials over the last four years. It appears as though the older we get the more trouble comes our way, particularly when it comes to illness.

Thirteen years ago I had to deal with one of my family members, and it is back upon me again, which I learnt the day before the Election. So, here we go; the challenges of this life. Having said that, Madam Speaker, I am thankful to God Almighty for giving me good health and the opportunity to represent the people of East End over the last eight and a half years and I look forward to the next four.

I spent four years on this side already and I understand this side. It is the best training ground to go into Cabinet. I am proud of my time here and my time as a Minister in this country. The people of this country spoke on 20 May [2009] and, Madam Speaker, I have nothing to be ashamed of coming back here to represent the people of East End in the Opposition. The last four years have been a lot of work, but I have achieved much on behalf of the people of my country, in particular, the people of East End.

I would also like at this stage to thank the staff of my Ministry and all the entities therein. They have worked very hard to achieve much. There is much work to do for the people of this country, so I encourage them to give their commitment to the Government Minister, whoever [is assigned to] that Ministry. If any government fails that means the country fails. I do not wish for any government to fail, least of all the one that is here now. These are trying times and we need to ensure that the Government succeeds in continuing the works for the people of this country.

However, Madam Speaker, I do have my own concerns about what the future will hold for the people of this country. The previous UDP Government whilst in power did what they had to do and the people of the day removed them. I trust that we will not see a recurrence of those actions of that day.

Madam Speaker, one of my grave concerns about this period in our history is the cloud of suspicion, of uncertainty that hangs over us when it comes to our Constitution. I am concerned because it sets an unhealthy precedent. I have the utmost respect for all persons who are elected, but it is not about those persons who are elected Members of this honourable House; it is about the tenets of democracy that are etched in stone in the Constitution that will guide this country. They have guided this country since 1972 and will guide this country hereafter. If we allow our Constitution to be challenged, if we allow breaches in our Constitution to go unchallenged we will forever be a banana republic.

Madam Speaker, the Governor has come out and said that he has no responsibility. He has no responsibility for anything, it appears. And it appears that the responsibility lies squarely on the shoulder of the Attorney General. There seems to be a lot of finger pointing and blaming. I believe it is necessary that future generations know exactly where they are going. The people of this country have just approved a new Constitution. My question is: For what? if we cannot uphold the one that we have.

As I said earlier, Madam Speaker, this has nothing to do with the people who were elected. It has to do with democracy, it has to do with that which is enshrined in our Constitution; and our Constitution must be the supreme law of the land. I believe that at the very least there needs to be a legal opinion made public to reassure the people of this country that the good ship Cayman is not going to become a Banana Republic.

Madam Speaker, Some may say that I am stirring something, but I believe it is necessary for us to speak on these issues regardless of who is affected by them. Generations to come will applaud us for so doing. But, Madam Speaker, I am going to leave that to those who have the authority and then we will see exactly what direction our country goes into.

Madam Speaker, the Election was hotly contested. I am always happy to be a part of that process. I enjoy that process. But some of the things that I witnessed during this general election are certainly rather foreign to this country. That, too, gives me some concern for the future and where the politics are going.

Madam Speaker, I understand the thrust of politics. I understand that there will be debate and counter-debate with a little bit of acrimony in it. I understand all of that. But when there are certain behaviours that are being brought into our country we have to be extremely careful with them. I say no more on that.

[Laughter]

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Madam Speaker, in closing let me welcome you to the Chair of Speaker. I look forward to your presiding in this honourable House. As you mentioned this morning, many have come before you and many will come after you.

Now is your time. I do know that sometimes these are trying times, particularly when we are new in here to get procedures right and the like. But I like what you said this morning, something to the effect that *it is steeped in tradition and procedures*. That is so true. And “conventions”, I believe was the word you used. Madam Speaker, that is so true.

I know that you enjoy that type of thing. I know how well you enjoy that. I heard the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town saying that he will be patient with you if you will be patient with him; but we will all have to be patient at some stage. And, Madam Speaker, I believe that you will do this position proud.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** And I look forward to serving out the next four years with you at the helm of this Legislature.

I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Inaudible interjections]

**The Speaker:** I would ask that Members not exchange comments across the Floor. Please direct your comments through the Chair. Thank you.

Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I want to start my short contribution by welcoming you to this honourable House and to say to you that you enjoy the full support and confidence of the Members of the Opposition as you do the Members on the Government Bench.

Madam Speaker, some may know (but many will not know) that your blood runs in my veins.

**An Hon. Member:** Oh my God!

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** And that while our families have always walked different sides of the political divide that has never—as far as my family, my personal relationship with you and my other cousins—affected our relationship and affection for each other. I shall always be grateful to you for your support during the illness and recent death of my mother, your cousin. And so it has taken you a long time to get here.

I remember as a boy . . . they talk about political parties now and say how divisive they are and how they create these issues. We have had political parties by one name or another ever since we have had politics in Cayman—whether it was the Unity Team, the Dignity Team, the National Team or Team Cayman, there have always been national groupings who ran on a common platform. That created maybe not divisions but certainly situations where one side or one group of people—including families—supported one team as opposed to the other.

So, I am delighted that you are here and I know that these four years will not be easy. Your patience will be tested more than once. I always do my best to obey the rules of this honourable House, and I shall endeavour to do that as I start my third term.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, I want to say how honoured and privileged I am again to have received the support of my people here in George Town. I never get up a day since I was elected in 2000 without reflecting on the tremendous trust and responsibility that has been reposed in me as one of the elected Members of this Legislature, and, in particular, as a representative of George Town. I want to say thanks again to those who have supported me as well as my party over the course of these past years.

Madam Speaker, as I listened to those who are new to this House speak, and I listened to the sense of enthusiasm and idealism that is always a

part of your feeling and your emotion when you start something new, I reflected on when I came here eight and a half years ago for the first time and how I felt then. And that is a good thing. That sense of newness and drive and determination and ambition to make things better is what I think keeps politics fresh, what keeps this House and what keeps Government policies relevant and forward looking.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate all Members who have been elected to this honourable House. Anybody who runs this gauntlet and persuades the people of this country, particularly the people of their respective district, to vote for them deserves a great deal of commendation. It is not an easy road. For those of you who have just been elected I promise you it does not get easier because the standards are raised, the expectations are raised. It is no longer about how good you talk about what you are going to do, but you get to be judged on what you have done—and sometimes judged on what others have done, for which you are blamed.

Madam Speaker, this has been for me the most curious election I can ever recall. The Government has been changed, and we have been victims of that change. We respect the outcome of the democratic process. Madam Speaker, I say “curious” because I cannot ever recall here or anywhere else that I have looked at (and I am something of a student of at least regional politics) where a government has changed and four-fifths of the ministers are returned.

Usually, when a government changes it is because there is a rejection of the government’s policies; a condemnation of the actions or conduct of those who have been in charge, the ministers, and they are the ones who bear the brunt of the anger and dissatisfaction of the electorate. That is not what has occurred here. And so, for us this must be a study about what went wrong as far as our administration and politics were concerned. And that is something that we have undertaken to do within my party.

I want to say to the new Government, well not so new Government, the Government which has just been elected (because they were here before), that now that the campaign rhetoric can be put behind us everyone acknowledges the seriousness of the world situation and its impact on the Cayman Islands; everyone acknowledges the many issues that we have to contend with locally as well as internationally.

Much good has been done by the administration of which I am proud to be a part. I say to you, no one expects you to simply follow the dictum and dictates of the administration which went before, but please, seek to build on what we have done—whether it is education, infrastructure, healthcare, tourism. There is good to be found in all that we have done.

I raise the point about the Ministers being returned to say that I do not believe that the results of these elections can be a mandate for a wholesale rejection of everything that the PPM Administration has

started, whether it is policies, programmes or projects.

We all know that these are extraordinarily challenging times fiscally, that decisions will have to be made and priorities, obviously of the UDP Government, may be different. So, no one expects, I believe, for there to simply be an adoption of everything that the PPM did or was doing, and simply move forward. But it would be a travesty of immense proportions for what occurred in the past to simply occur because it was something that was begun by a previous administration. Let us not fall into the folly of that. The country can ill-afford it.

Madam Speaker, I just want to say that two things have marred these elections. I do hope that we can learn from them and that democracy will not only prevail but be seen to prevail. I say that advisedly, Madam Speaker, because this Opposition (I’m going to have to get [accustomed] to saying that again) party has taken the considered view that we should not challenge the constitutionality of the swearing-in of the two Bodden Town Members. As the losers of those two seats in the democratic process in that district, where there is a clear indication by the electorate that they wanted those two individuals elected, we do not feel that it is the right thing for us to challenge those two seats.

We remain concerned, and in particular, Madam Speaker, myself as a lawyer and one who has a certain (if I may say so myself) expertise in constitutional law, do not feel that it can be right or appropriate for those who are the guardians of the Constitution and the rule of law, to simply avoid their duty to uphold the rule of law and the Constitution. They have no higher duty, and that is all I am going to say about that, Madam Speaker.

The other matter, Madam Speaker, which causes me great concern (although because I have been around this process for some time I do not believe it materially affected the result of the elections in George Town, otherwise I would be championing an effort to challenge that) . . . But I bore witness myself to activities in and around the George Town Primary polling station which were untoward, if I use a careful word. I sat in my car and asked a supporter of ours to attend the UDP tent where she was handed a card which indicated the four UDP candidates and their numbers. I have it in my pocket. And she was encouraged to vote for these four people.

Madam Speaker, we all . . . And this is not just some off-the-cuff thing. This is a pre-printed card, a clear indication of an organised effort to influence voters as they attended the polls. Now, Madam Speaker, we have a duty as candidates, we have a duty, particularly those of us who have been elected for some time, to ensure that this kind of behaviour does not creep in and undermine what is one of the best election processes, I believe, anywhere in the world.

*[Inaudible interjection]*



**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** These matters, Madam Speaker, are in the hands of the Elections Office and the police and we as the PPM are taking them no further. But I have to say that it is not the kind of behaviour that any of us in this House ought to be seen to be involved with or to encourage.

Madam Speaker, I want to move on. I'm going to leave that there.

I want to say how absolutely delighted and satisfied we all are at the results of the Referendum. Madam Speaker, for me personally that is a cause I championed almost from the day I came into this House in 2000, and for me it has been part of a personal mission to see that this country obtained a modern constitutional document.

I don't have to tell anyone within the sound of my voice how difficult and sometimes discouraging a task that has been, particularly over the course of these past four years. But at the end of the day we have what I believe is an excellent document, an excellent constitutional framework for us all to be able to contend with the challenges that this country faces both locally and internationally. And for that, Madam Speaker, all of us are immensely pleased and we congratulate all who took part in the process. We congratulate the voters for going out and ensuring that the Referendum actually passed.

Madam Speaker, the years to come will be fraught with the great challenge but great opportunities as well. And, as I said, we certainly accept the result of the democratic process. For me personally, and I'm sure for my colleagues, we have a great sense of disappointment. That is just natural. Those who supported our party, particularly those who worked closely with the party, are very saddened that we are not anymore at the helm of this country.

But, Madam Speaker, I started here as a Backbench supporter, became a Member of the Opposition, became a Minister, and I am back here as a Member of the Opposition again. This is part of the cycle of the democratic process. Four years ago I was standing on the other side of this House looking over here at the now Leader of Government Business and his team who were then in defeat as Members of the Opposition. That is how this works. And those of us who do not believe that that can happen just need to look around at all of the examples because it can and it will. Everything and everyone is but for a time.

Madam Speaker, my greatest satisfaction (aside from the Constitution in which I do have a great deal of passion) in being here is to help the development of my people, the people of this country, particularly the young people. I continue to have a great devotion and passion for education and sports. And I say to those on the other side (they have split the Ministry now so that sports and education are separate and apart) I pledge my support, assistance, guidance and direction.

The experience I have developed over the course of the past four years is available to you at a call, because at the end of the day the reason we are all here is because we want to move this country forward and we want to move our people forward. That is why I am here. That is why I came in the first place. That is why I am still here, and that is why I will be here until I am not able any more, or the people of George Town send me home, whichever comes first. And so, Madam Speaker, I just wanted to make that pledge.

I want to finally end, Madam Speaker, by saying particularly to the Leader of Government Business that when he is prone to criticize—when the recriminations start to come, as they will . . . This is a good day today but after this, I know how it works. I want to say to him that when he is particularly upset and really wants to, as the Elected Member for East End would say, “beat man” in this House, or “pound up on us,” to remember that this Opposition is the Opposition which provided the nice highway from West Bay to George Town so he has a nice easy drive in.

*[Laughter and inaudible interjections]*

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** This is the former administration which is providing you a nice administration building so that you can have good offices to work from. And this is the Opposition who has given you a Constitution so that you can become Cayman's first Premier.

So, spare us a thought when you are “beating” us.

*[Laughter]*

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** Madam Speaker, thank you very much for this privilege and I look forward to working with you and all Members of this honourable House over the course of the next four years.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

*[Inaudible interjections]*

**The Speaker:** Order please.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today humbled by the opportunity a third time to represent the good people of the Cayman Islands, specifically the people of West Bay.

Madam Speaker, first I would like to congratulate you on your election to this most honoured and high office. And I say that I look forward to working with you, assisting in any way possible. I can remember my first time sitting in the Speaker's Chair and the

feeling of being overwhelmed. And, like you said, in short order you will get quite comfortable. I have every belief and knowledge that the good staff of the Legislative Assembly, who have guided me and the other Speakers through this difficult process, will continue to do no less for you.

Madam Speaker, I, too, would like to start by thanking God for this opportunity, and my beloved parents who were able to be with us today; also my wife, my sons, and the rest of my family who have stood by me during these difficult times, the good times and the bad times, especially during a very hard fought and time-consuming election.

I also want to thank all the good people of West Bay who placed their confidence in me and in my colleagues to represent them again. I specifically want to thank our hardworking committee who have given us tireless support—many of them for our entire campaign since 2000 and have been there with us during that time. We want to acknowledge that without their hard work none of our successes would have been possible.

Madam Speaker, I was really enjoying today. I saw it as a time of conciliation and unity-building. As we know when we go through an election process there will be winners and losers, but ultimately the idea is that as a people the Cayman Islands would win. I think that as was mentioned earlier, the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) was the Government. They won with a mandate, they won with the majority. They did not do what they needed to do—which was to look after the Caymanian people—and so they were removed. I hope, Madam Speaker, that we will never get back to the type of irresponsible, reckless and indecisive leadership that we had under the PPM, which has put us in the state we are currently in.

Madam Speaker, I know there is much talk and concern [over] the lack of respect internationally for the Cayman Islands. I would like to say to all Members of the House that when we consider the challenges that will cause, it will go a long way if the elected representatives in this Legislative Assembly and past Ministers of the Legislative Assembly would refrain from using such irresponsible statements, referring to the Cayman Islands as a "Banana Republic." It is hard for us to demand respect from the international community—

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** —when elected Members of the Legislative Assembly refer to the Cayman Islands as a "Banana Republic."

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.:** [It is] distasteful in the least, Madam Speaker, and I hope that this is simply

no more than sour grapes and bad feelings because of the loss that was placed upon the People's Progressive Movement by the people of the Cayman Islands last week in the elections. I hope that after this bit of frustration-venting that we will be able to get on with the important and serious business of running the country and moving in a better way forward.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, the country is facing serious challenges. We have both domestic and international financial challenges. We have the rising crime, increased cost of living, increased unemployment, significant national debt, tourism decline, reduction in the revenue. So, these are challenging times and it is important for us all, as having been given the honoured responsibility of representing our people that we get past the election and start working together for the good ship Cayman.

Madam Speaker, one of my constituents said to me earlier, *When we think of the name UDP, what it refers to is, You Depend on People. And when we turn it backwards it says, People Depend on You.* And here we are, Madam Speaker, the people have placed their confidence in the United Democratic Party, and I pledge as a Member of the UDP [inaudible] in a better way forward.

Madam Speaker, I hear the cries of the Constitution and the pleading for something to be done. Madam Speaker, this is a democratic process and the people have spoken democratically. As we said before, "He without sin cast the first stone". We have Members sitting in the Legislative Assembly who were negligent in declaring their interests; Ministers at the time who acknowledged that their reason for not declaring their interests was simply because they got too busy to do so. So, when I hear them get up and talk about being protectors of the law and having to watch and protect the law and abide by the law, Madam Speaker, we recognise that for being what it is—a lack of recognition of a democratic process. And so, we need to move past that. We need as a country to bring our people together. We need to stop playing those games. We need to stop trying to make us appear to be a Banana Republic and move forward in a mature fashion as mature representatives.

Madam Speaker, I plead with the Opposition that they attempt to get past this disappointment that I know they are facing. But, Madam Speaker, I have been in that position as well. I got elected in 2000 and was part of the Government and in 2005 I sat as a Member of the Opposition. But I am sure if we look back at the Hansards we did not hear the whining and the complaining that we have heard, and the excuses and talk about the concerns with the election process. This apparent concern. . .

We have heard complaints as well. We've had complaints! But the process is one that we respect. We respect that as a growing democracy, we respect the choice of the people. The people have spoken, and now is the time to move forward.

Madam Speaker, there is much work to be done, because, as the Third Elected Member for George Town just said, there were roads that were built and buildings that were built. Now, while we are enjoying the benefits of those, the United Democratic Party has to find money to pay for them. So, Madam Speaker, there is a lot of work to be done and we are up to the task.

We are looking forward to working with our people. We are looking forward to working with the Opposition in moving our country forward and doing it in a way that the Caymanian people will benefit; doing it in such a way that we don't leave our people behind. And, Madam Speaker, we look forward to continuing with the support of God Almighty, with the support of the Caymanian people, working together, and we pledge to work every hour of every day to continue for the betterment of the Cayman Islands. With that, Madam Speaker, I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Leader of the Opposition. (I have to get that right too.)

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Madam Speaker, let me say to you that I have every confidence. Today is your first day. You told me this morning you were nervous. I just need you to know that the first day I came here it was worse for me. So, you will be fine.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** You will be absolutely fine, Madam Speaker.

Let me first of all congratulate you. I was thinking as I was listening to everyone speaking . . . and I don't think (as far as I could attempt) that I could find your blood running in my veins. I don't think so no matter how hard I try. But what a lot of people really don't know is that 35 years ago for a while you and I worked together, and you remember that.

**The Speaker:** Yes I do.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** That is how long I have known you. I have also had the privilege of being in close contact with you, through my wife and the family, and I have no doubt, Madam Speaker, that you will be fine. I wish to congratulate you and as my colleague has said, you will have noted from this morning when you were elected that you also have the support of the Opposition with regard to your tenure here. And certainly I look forward to all of us being able to work together.

As I looked across at the Government Bench and their Backbench supporters, I was thinking that there are at least three of the newly Elected Members who I have watched grow from boyhood and have

known for many years in different ways. One of the new Ministers has been a personal friend of mine for more than 30 years. We are on the opposite sides of the fence politically, but that does not mean that we can't agree to disagree and we can't coexist. So, when you have been like I have been, where I have come here five times in succession to participate in this little chore today at all different levels, you readily understand that not every time you come here for an occasion like this that you are going to be the winner. But the truth is, Madam Speaker, we are all winners because it is one country. And we find ourselves in the Opposition now and the Opposition is going to do its job.

I hear the pleas for cooperation and unity and, Madam Speaker that is laudable. As far as is physically possible, we pledge that. But we have to understand the system that, as you said early this morning, the rights of the minority must be protected while the administrative authority must be allowed to perform its functions.

What I envisage happening as we move through this next term is that we on the Opposition being the critical check and balance of the Government with its policies, all of us who are here on the Opposition now (except, perhaps, for the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac who was elected last term) have been where we are again so we know how it works. And if we are to be truthful, regardless of how we sometimes posture we know where to draw the line. We know where to draw the line, Madam Speaker. And we will do our jobs to the best of our ability.

Madam Speaker, most who have spoken have spoken of the challenging times. I can say if I am to be apolitical about it, that I believe all of us in this honourable House understand and appreciate the challenging times we are facing as a country. So, it is incumbent on us not to get lost in the politics of it, but always to have at the fore of our minds the importance of the role of each and every one of us, individually and collectively, to do everything possible to do just what has been said—to continue to meet those challenges head on.

We, being the Government for the last four years, know much about those challenges and we understand that there is a new Government. Perhaps they will be with their own innovations and outlook, and, Madam Speaker, that is fine. We certainly will be observing the policies that emanate and making our contributions based on the experiences and knowledge that we have. And, like the Third Elected Member for George Town stated, we are certainly not going to spend all of our energies being opposition for the sake of opposing. It is not in the interest of the country, and it is not in our interest for that matter, to be with that mind-set.

Madam Speaker, let me divert to say a very special thank you to all of those individuals who supported the team. And I want to speak specifically to

the voters in the district of George Town who—for the fifth time straight—returned me as one of their elected representatives. One might say, *You are used to it by now Kurt*. But the fact of the matter is, Madam Speaker, it has always been a humbling experience because it is a responsibility which if one has any smarts at all one does not take it lightly.

I had to actually smile the day after the elections. I saw a young lady who I have known for many years, from the time she was a tot. She had been trying to get me for about a week, and she finally did and I had to apologise to her [because] the last few days before that were really hectic. I apologised to her when I called her back and she said she was not far away so I told her to come and look for me so that I could hear what the situation was.

When she saw me she said to me: *I can't tell you that I am happy that your Government did not win the election, but what I can tell you is that I am happy now because I would rather you as my representative than as the Government because I will be able to see you more often*. So, for that light moment I really had to smile, and I did not think that perhaps she fully appreciated what she was saying, because there is a difference. I know that those who are now in Cabinet, those who have been there before, always appreciate that, and it won't take long for those who are there for the first time to understand and appreciate the difficulty that that creates.

But, Madam Speaker, I want to say a very special thank you to all of the individuals who helped us, not only during this campaign, but who have supported us and believed in what we believe in from the time of the inception of the PPM. I want to say to the country that while there are still those who might believe that this system of politics is not the one that they would prefer, Madam Speaker, there perhaps is no perfect system. I can only speak from my own experiences to say that out of all that I have read about and experienced, while this one can always be found to have its difficulties, it is the best one I know. And, Madam Speaker, if we are to move forward as a country it must be incumbent on those of us who participate in the process to understand the heavy responsibility that we have as participants, and to ensure that our actions by educating the public will allow for the system to be accepted widespread.

Madam Speaker, I want to also say a very special thank you to the electorate for the positive result of the Referendum with regard to a new Constitution. For those who may have had difficulties and would have liked to have seen something different in it I can only say to them what I said before, we will never have a document that is perfect in the sight of every individual. That simply does not happen. Utopia is what you read about; it does not exist on this earth. And it was the best that we could get given all the circumstances and given all the players in the game, and all the positions that were taken. It was the one

document which provided the most of the people with what they wanted.

I am extremely proud to have played an integral role in that process. I think the country should be proud that for the first time, even with expectations of difficulties during that process (and I speak about the Referendum process), that for the first time we have had a referendum it went smoothly. It was done when most people thought that it was the worst thing to do on the day of election and actually got a positive result which I believe speaks well for the voters in the country.

I think the Government—not excluding the Opposition—needs to look very seriously, almost immediately at how best implementation will take place. There are staggering dates of various sections coming into effect and there are going to be some challenges to make sure that everything is done. I am sure that the Opposition will do everything it can in the role it plays to help that process along, Madam Speaker. I, for one, am convinced that our country will be much better off with that new Constitution as the new framework for a governance model for us to move forward with.

To all of my elected colleagues, both on the Government Bench and to those who will be with me in the Opposition, I offer personal congratulations. I am sure that while we will have our times where you may have to stand every now and then, Madam Speaker, I am sure that deep down we all have the same objectives, and we will get there with the system that we have to work with.

I want to say special thanks to all of my family who put up with me over the years. I guess they are wondering how much longer they will have to put up with me, but we will talk about that at another time.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you that the reward I have had for the years I have spent in these hallowed Chambers is the personal satisfaction of knowing that I make a contribution to my country and to the people of my country. I want for them to know that wherever I find myself I will continue to serve them as best I know how because I have always believed that as a person having had opportunity in my own country to make my own mark, the least I should do is to make my own contribution so that others can do the same. And that is my sole intent.

Madam Speaker, once again I want to congratulate you and say thanks. I will have an opportunity to do so again, but thanks to the staff of the Legislative Assembly over the years that really put up with us in the most trying times and actually are able to do so on most occasions with a smile. That is special of them.

And so, Madam Speaker, we look forward to doing everything that we have to do over the next four years and to be the watchdogs that we are supposed to be, but responsible watchdogs, and only bark when

we should bark to raise any alarms that should be raised.

Once again, I want to congratulate everyone, not only those who are here but those who participated in the process and even if they were unsuccessful at this point in time it does not mean that it is the end of the world.

As for the Party, Madam Speaker, certainly, even though we were not successful to form the Government, we have had new infusion and the Party is very alive and we will be taking stock of where we are and where we are going from here making sure that we remain a viable alternative as we move forward to the next general elections and others to come. None of us can predict what will occur then. It will simply depend on how hard we work.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Minister of District Administration, Works and Gender Affairs.

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, also let me extend to your good self my heartiest and most sincere congratulations on this very high and lofty position. Indeed, I was somewhat apprehensive after having heard the outcome of the elections. And quickly realising that I was the only female face in here, I cannot express how happy I was to hear that another gender of my kind was going to come to these hallowed halls, particularly since we are this year celebrating 50 years since the women earned—and I say “earned”—the right to vote here in the Cayman jurisdiction.

Needless to say, you have my full support, Madam Speaker, in every asset and facet of parliamentary life here and in any respect that I can so render assistance, I would indeed feel honoured to so do.

I wish to also go on record, Madam Speaker, to thank Almighty God for all of His guidance, wisdom, and patience, certainly with me as an individual, and for His direction. In fact, a bit of normalcy happened during the election in that I earned the title of the UDP's Ambassador for Christ. I was somewhat bemused that after searching for many adjectives that that was the only one I could get. But I stand here today to say that I am still not ashamed of the gospel of God because it is still the power of God unto salvation.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, I am most privileged to reside in a country that still acknowledges that He has established us. And it is in Him we put our trust. Madam Speaker, a nation without a vision will surely perish, and a nation without a divine vision will perish even more so. So, I am happy to be a part of a coun-

try amongst colleagues who are not ashamed to acknowledge God as their God.

Madam Speaker, I wish also to thank my family who sacrificially allowed me to serve and do a job that I love, perhaps more than anything else, and that is to serve the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I have always endeavoured to do it to the best of my ability. I stand here today to once again give the commitment that I will continue to be their voice in this parliament. I thank them for the support that they have given me throughout, for their prayers and kind words.

Madam Speaker, I have been through several elections (in fact, since 1992), and I have been through the Bible several times. There have been times when I have wondered how the children of Israel felt while in bondage in Egypt when they finally got a leader to take them through and the Promised Land was in sight. I was privileged to feel that during this election, because Cayman Brac and Little Cayman was experiencing such joy and a sense of release to finally realise that we had a chance at a minister yet again.

On behalf of the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman we would wish to thank the Honourable Leader of Government Business for having the confidence in one of the two representatives from Cayman Brac to share the executive power so that we could have a direct say at the Cabinet table. We will be eternally indebted for that extension of confidence and trust in the choice that the people of Cayman Brac made.

Madam Speaker, I look forward with great anticipation and eagerness to hitting the ground running as we take up the new ministerial responsibilities. I am also extremely grateful and wish to convey my deepest gratitude to my colleagues, the United Democratic Party, for allowing me the ministerial choices which could have gone to any other Minister and they would have done it equally well. But I am grateful for the consideration that they gave because there are areas that need to be enhanced to improve the livelihood and wellbeing of the constituents on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

I was also very pleased and humbled throughout the campaign that this time, for the first time in my entire career as a politician, I was able to come into Grand Cayman and meet so many, many hundreds of people and listen to their concerns and share in their joys and campaign. Madam Speaker, that was a privilege for me because coming from the Sister Islands we have always felt that the big Sister was over there and we were separated by some 90 miles of Caribbean Sea. But for the first time in a long time, I feel a oneness and togetherness, a sense of unity where my colleagues were able to come over to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman and our school children could see who their future leaders were.

Indeed, I was so thrilled today that some 100 plus supporters and school children and others, such as teachers, were able to come and join in this celebration, this historical day of the parliament and witness one of their representatives being sworn in and the entire Government.

I thank all those who assisted me and the UDP to ensure that Cayman Airways put the necessary extra flight on at a very affordable rate to allow them to come and share in the democratic process we witnessed here today.

Madam Speaker, I also look forward to the first stop in official tour of duty to be Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I would also take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to invite you as newly appointed Honourable Speaker, as you plan your parliamentary calendar, to consider once again holding Parliament at least once a year on Cayman Brac. And if we can perhaps become as innovative as I know you can be to also consider Little Cayman. Madam Speaker, it would do us all good because Little Cayman is almost the best kept secret in the Caribbean where you can kick off your shoes and let down your hair as it were and really concentrate on the issues at hand without all of the stress and traffic. But you can actually enjoy the tranquillity and peace of times past that we once enjoyed on the bigger Island. So, I would ask you to give that due consideration as you prepare your annual parliamentary calendar.

Madam Speaker, I would also encourage my own Government as we go forward—and we do believe that we have and will continue to provide a better way forward—to remember from whence we came. It was through the help of Almighty God, and that in every aspect, whether it is committees or boards, that we would commence them as we customarily do, even the committees of the House, with prayer. As I sat here I could not help but contemplate. And I saw the Bible there I could not help but ask how many Members had taken the time as they passed it many, many times to just look for a word of encouragement, look for a word of instruction; to make it more than just a symbol in these hallowed Chambers.

Madam Speaker, I believe that I am now a part of perhaps one of the best Cabinets that this country will ever see. The people told us that they wanted young professionals in it. We did that, and received the mandate from the Caymanian populace. I would ask for those who know the value of prayer to pray for every single Member in this parliament because we are facing some very difficult economic and social challenges that we will need to overcome.

I wish also to thank the most invaluable staff at this parliament. I have had the privilege of being Speaker before and having them serve me as Speaker in that capacity; as an Opposition Member; as a Backbench supporter and a Minister three times now. And as a word of encouragement for those who are here for the first time today, do not be afraid to seek

their assistance because they together have a wealth of knowledge that they will share.

I would also encourage that we would have some type of parliamentary training as soon as we possibly can for the new ones and those of us who have been here some time so that our memories can be refreshed and learn from each other, as the older population says, “Iron sharpens iron”, and as alluded to by my good friend and colleague, Mr. Eden from Bodden Town.

You yourself, Madam Speaker, represent such a wealth of history, political and otherwise, that I certainly look forward with great anticipation to discussions, whether it is sidebar discussions or formal set discussions, so that we can transition and pass on the things that have made us who we are and what we are today.

I look forward to being an integral part of our Cabinet and this House. But most of all I look forward to being that voice, that moral conscience in the House so the community can know that I am accessible at all material times. And certainly as Minister, although I have my responsibility to my constituents and will continue to let them have pre-eminence, I am here to represent the entire Cayman Islands. And by that I mean out of many we are one people and we ought to remove the divisiveness among us. Let us unite together so that we can build this nation to be the envy of the entire world.

Madam Speaker, I know that this is long and taxing for your first day. You’ve done admirably well, but home beckons you. I will have many more opportunities to thank many more people on many more occasions. I thank you for your indulgence and I am enthused to be in this parliament here today.

God bless you and these Cayman Islands.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Second Elected Member for West Bay.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Madam Speaker, it is the dawn of a new day and, having said that, I do realise that it is the best of an old one and we are late. So, I will not keep you and everyone. Some of our families and I know some in the community are still here. I will not keep you for very long, although I must say that I do have a few words that I need to share through the Chair with the others of the House.

Madam Speaker, I first want to extend my greatest appreciation and thanks to the voters across this country for once again demonstrating resoundingly that democracy is alive and well in the Cayman Islands. I believe our record in terms of voter turnout is one that we can be justly proud of. I think it shows a level of engagement and maturity that perhaps sometimes we don’t realise ourselves.

I also want to thank our district committees across these Islands. Not just in West Bay, but across these Islands for they worked diligently. Without their hard work, without their wise counsel and guidance, the UDP would not have been able to win the past election.

I also would like to thank their counterparts, whether those were people who supported the PPM or independent candidates, because it is all of us as Caymanians who work diligently come election time that causes us to be the best that we can be. If it is not for stiff competition human beings get lazy. And so, I think this election is a testimony to the rich political history that this country enjoys.

I want to personally thank my family; without them I would not be here and be able to do the things that I am able to do as a representative.

I want to especially thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly; the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs; Public Works and the Ministry of Education for the role that they played in making today's Swearing-in Ceremony one that I believe will be etched in the history of the Cayman Islands, for we allowed a record number of people from all walks of life to be able to witness the swearing-in live. We had in excess of 775 chairs which were all filled. And we know we had several hundred that were standing.

I want to thank the George Hicks High School Swing Band, for I think it really added to the day. I want to thank all of the principals who responded to the last minute call to bring school children to today's swearing-in. We keep talking about how it is that we impart knowledge to young people; knowledge about how this country works. Today was indeed a classic example.

In fact, Madam Speaker, as we went through the proceedings here in the Chamber as it related to some of our committees, the public got to witness some of the not so usual occurrences, that is, having to take a vote on a standing committee, for example. But again, good learning experience for us to really understand how our version of democracy works.

Turning, Madam Speaker, to the results of the general elections: As I reflected on the three elections that I have been a part of, the contrasts were stark. In 2000 there was no national agenda. The country was void of any political organisation and, indeed, the chaos that resulted at the heels of the 2000 elections was one that we all swore would not be repeated again in November of 2000. Indeed, thus far that has been the case.

I then reflected on the disappointment of 2005 being part of a party that lost a general election, and having to learn to think in reverse during the last four years. What I mean by that is that the first four years in this House I was a backbench supporter of a government, then an opposition member. And now, Madam Speaker, I open a new chapter in the contribution that I make to our country—a new chapter that is ex-

citing, a new chapter that I know will have great challenges; a new chapter that is of crucial and vital importance because of the state of affairs that currently exist in the country. But I know that with the help and strength provided by Almighty God and the many hardworking Caymanians and our legislative group that it will be made that much easier.

This legislative class is indeed a unique one. I think on average it is probably one of the younger classes that the country has seen, and it therefore tells me that this is the dawn of a new day for the Cayman Islands. This country, for the last decade has been asking, where are the young Caymanians? Where are the young Caymanians who have taken up educational opportunities that were not available to the vast majority three and four decades ago? Where were they and where were they as it related to leadership at this level in the country?

I also know that as we press forward whilst nine of the eleven of us were elected, we do have two colleagues who were not elected but who will play an integral part in the way forward for us. Their minds are too bright, their skill sets too great for us as a government not to use. We will be using many other bright minds. In fact, Madam Speaker, if we achieve nothing else I want to ensure that we put in train the type of governmental infrastructure that is new, fresh and creative, which takes this country to the next level.

We have had too much stagnation at too many levels within Government. We must be candid and frank about that, for to continue to do the same thing over and over and over using the same vessels and the same tools and expecting a different result would be something that would cause us to not do what I believe is in the best interest of this country at this critical juncture.

Now, Madam Speaker, there has been much talk over the last eight years as we went through the Constitutional Modernization about many ideas that people thought should feature in a new constitution; things like recalls of elected members. And you know, we in the UDP have never supported those sorts of notions and ideas. We have always argued that the ultimate test is every four years at the polls.

So, as I reflected on this election it clearly showed me—and it would show Blind Bartimaeus—that if you do not do your work as an elected member you will lose your seat. There are no second chances. Indeed, Madam Speaker, it is the dawn of a new day. I believe that we have had more one-term elected members rejected at the polls [than] at any point in the history of this country.

I challenge and point that out to our new elected United Democratic Party Members who are on the Backbench. They ought to reflect on that and recognise—and that is for all of us—recognise that the people of this country spoke in this election in such a mature fashion that we as Caymanians and elected Members ought to recognise that unless we deliver on

a mandate and unless do the people's work, and unless we make the country better than we found it, we will be rejected at the next polls. Gone are the days when you could get up and make every excuse at the next polling and the people would feel sympathetic and say, *Let's give them one more chance and see what they will do.*

We have had for the first time in many decades a government that was elected as a government to only serve a single term. That, Madam Speaker, is indeed the essence of democracy. This is the dawn of a new day in the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, as the incoming Minister . . . we have clearly outlined to this country the decision for the crucial areas for which I will have constitutional responsibility. That is, Education, Labour and Training. We have taken a deliberate step to look carefully at that Ministry and ensure that there are as little distractions as possible as it relates to other subjects. Not that the subjects that were there and gone are not important, because they are crucially important. However, we recognise that at the core of the dawn of this new day and where this country needs to get to is education, training and labour. If we are going to enjoy any successes—long-term successes—in all of the other crucial areas for which my fellow Ministers are responsible and build a country that is sustainable and a people that can find their way in this global village, education, labour, and training underpins all of our efforts.

I can promise this country that if God spares my life over the next 48 months, the next four years, I will do, along with the support of my colleagues in Cabinet and on the Backbench, everything humanly possible to deliver on the mandate in our manifesto. Indeed, we will be listening to the experts, to the technocrats that are in the Ministry and within the entire gamut of education and labour because we do not believe that we have a monopoly on good ideas; we do not believe we have a monopoly on solutions. Solutions are about listening; solutions are about acting based on advice. That is going to underpin this Government and, indeed, my term as a Minister.

We will ensure that we bring to the forefront efforts in technical and vocational training that will be meaningful to this country; meaningful to young people, meaningful to middle-aged people, meaningful to older people. It is about lifelong learning and ensuring that people, all of our Caymanians, can maximise their God-given potential.

We will ensure, Madam Speaker, that we match our scholarship programme to the needs of the economy. We will ensure that we make the fundamental and corrective changes necessary in the education system to produce the types of people that the economy needs, and not the other way around. We are no longer going to try to tinker with labour policies because the system is simply not producing people who are good enough to survive and make it globally.

We want to ensure that when well-trained Caymanians go into the Caymanian labour force they are able to not just make it and excel in this country, but they can do so anywhere in this world. We have shown throughout the ages, from the time our men went to sea, that Caymanians can compete globally with anyone. A well-trained Caymanian can do as good or better a job than anyone anywhere on the face of God's earth. That is the mandate that the people sent us to this Legislative Assembly on; it is the mandate that I believe I was elected on and therefore it is the mandate that I am going to follow through on as Minister responsible for Education, Training and Labour.

We are, Madam Speaker, going to ensure that children are not going to pass through the system and at the end of the day not have basic literacy and numeracy skills to survive in the world. That is unfair to them and to this community. We are going to also ensure, Madam Speaker that those who do fall down have a mechanism by which to get back up, dust themselves off and be able to put their lives back together. We will reject the concept that one mistake means you are through, that you must be marginalised and set to continue in a cycle of crime in this country. If a person needs a second, third, fourth or fifth chance, we will ensure that it is there.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** We cannot continue to be so hypocritical in this country saying that we must get life right the first time. Which one of us has not made a mistake in life?

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on about these subjects for which I am now responsible on how passionate I feel about them. But I will stop here because I believe that I have covered a few that are reflective of the vision of this Cabinet.

Madam Speaker, I have carefully chosen to very rarely use the phrase "me" or "I." This is a Cabinet; this is a Government that is underpinned by Backbench supporters, but, more importantly, it is underpinned by a mandate from this wider community that we must deliver on. And it is by working together with all parts and sectors of this community that we can get this job done. For, Madam Speaker, gone are the days of pompous and arrogant leadership in this country. The Cabinet of the Cayman Islands does not have all the solutions. We do not have all of the ideas; they are out there in the wider world and wider Cayman Islands community and we are going to listen. We are going to utilise every tool that is available to us to be able to come up with the best possible solution to any of the challenges that we see the country facing.

Now, Madam Speaker, I must say that I would have stopped here had it not been for the necessity to respond to a few things that were said. I do take very



seriously the issue of the historical record of this House, and anyone who has followed me in my eight and a half years [knows that] I am fair and balanced. If someone deserves credit, I will give it. I don't care where they come from, what bench in this House they are on, or which district they come from. However, I do believe that there have been some utterances today that have been unfair and perhaps would leave history distorted if they were left unchecked.

Madam Speaker, the tenets of democracy in this past election were as strong, if not stronger, than at any other point in the history of this country. What the outgoing past administration needs to admit to this country is that their creation of mobile voting has been the one thing that has disrupted the tenet of democracy like nothing else I have seen.

When I moved around this community and went from district to district and heard about people whose votes were out on the street, that is, people knew who other people voted for as a matter of fact. . . . The ultimate tenet of democracy is the right to secrecy of one's vote. I may be speaking out of turn, but I can say that as far as I am concerned the experiment of mobile voting is over. I am not going to sit in a Cabinet that refuses to deal with a system that was one of the biggest mistakes and blunders to democracy in this country.

When the past Government moved the Bill, we did the research and showed them where there was nowhere . . . and I invite the wider public to Google the term "Mobile Voting." Look at the very shady and spotty reputation and results it enjoys across the world. Yet we continued down that road. Do we have a perfect system? No. But when we have a system that allows people to have firsthand account of who our citizens voted for, and I don't care if it is one citizen, but there were hundreds across the Islands . . . that is an intrusion and an invasion that cannot be allowed to continue in any country, especially a small tight-knit community.

In larger countries you may be able to get away with that because people are simply a number, but in a small community as this, where we only have 15,000 voters and everyone knows everyone, and everyone is interconnected, that cannot be right, Madam Speaker. It cannot be right!

I would also like to proffer the view that this was—from the PPM's perspective—one of the nastiest campaigns this country has ever seen. For the last three weeks of the campaign in particular, I never heard one solution uttered by the defeated administration. It is no surprise to me that they lost the election. The fact is that it was nothing but personality attack after personality attack.

What we were elected on . . . And people can say whatever they want. People may not like me. They may not like my colleagues who got elected. But the one thing that we stand proud on is the fact that we stuck to the issues and solutions. Many times our

supporters were agitated at us saying, *You need to answer this, you need to answer that.* We got the text messages and calls [saying], *You need to answer this, you need to answer that.* Where the charges were outlandish and grave, we did what we thought this maturing Caymanian community wanted, which was for us to ignore the ludicrous, to ignore the ignorant. Leave it at the wayside and let the voters take care of it—and take care of it, they did.

More one-term Members than at any point in the history of the country tells me that we have one of the most sophisticated electorates there is. People can talk what they want, and we as Caymanians do a very good job of talking about each other. But sometimes you really need to take a step back, reflect and be honest. We should pat ourselves on the back. The voting public in this country performed in a way that I think would cause jealousy in the vast majority of other countries.

Now, Madam Speaker, the reality is when we hear terms like "Banana Republic," the fact is that the spirit of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 1972 has never been broken. That is a fact. The spirit of the Elections Law has not been broken, because on their side they too had Members who got their register of interests in late. Have we gotten up and talked about how that is going to cause us to look like a Banana Republic? No! They got it in on time and the public had access to what the public has a right to know.

Our system says that the public has a right to know two things about every candidate: All of their interests, which includes business, directorships, ownership of land and all of their contracts with the Cayman Islands Government. Once the public has adequate time, if they so choose to have access to that information, it means this country can then have free and fair elections. That is what occurred during this 2009 election.

Madam Speaker, I must say that the result of the election obviously causes some to be on the majority and some to be on the minority. Some call it winners and some call it losers. Call it what you may, this is a completely different feeling than in 2005 and I once again thank the public. What I can say is that the hard work now begins for the Cabinet and the Backbench—the hard work to pay for the roads mentioned earlier; the hard work to pay for the Government Administration Building that was mentioned earlier; the hard work to right the good ship Cayman. But, Madam Speaker, we as Ministers and MLAs will have many, many days in the not-too-distant future to inform the public of the true state of affairs, so I will not go into that.

Once again I want to thank this entire community for a job well done. People came out in massive numbers and exercised their democratic right and voted. It is the dawn of a new day. I thank God for where he has placed me and where he has placed my colleagues, particularly those who will be part of the

Cabinet. I believe that we are the right people at this juncture. I believe we provide opportunity. Change creates opportunity and we provide opportunity for hope and a new way forward because in this dawn also exists the changing face of the Cayman Islands. How we will all move this country forward collectively as one Caymanian people, is also of crucial importance.

So, Madam Speaker, I thank you, my colleagues and all those who have stayed with us. This is probably one of the longest swearing-in days on record. But I thank you all for being with us. Thank you for your support. It shows that in this new dawn there are many, many people who care, many people who are excited, which means that we have many people who will work along with us to provide a better way forward.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Members, I will not prolong the sitting, except that I would like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly for their support. I do not think anyone realises how much work went in to getting this session ready in three working days. It was very difficult. They worked very long hours, and they deserve our thanks this evening.

I would also like to thank the people in the gallery who stayed with us for their support. And as Speaker of the House, this is your Parliament; please come back often and hear what goes on here so you can learn how your Government works and how politics is played out in this country.

I have two housekeeping announcements I need to make. One, the photos are going to be taken after this sitting; and two, there is going to be a National Thanksgiving service at the All Saints Pentecostal Church. It is on Sunday at 4.00 pm. I am not sure where the Church is, but I am sure most of you will know where it is.

I will now put the question for adjournment. Those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

**Ayes.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

The Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands is adjourned sine die.

**At 7.13 pm the House stood adjourned sine die.**