

Media Release

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATUS OF PAST RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE

GEORGE TOWN, 24th July 2023

The Standing Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is scheduled to hold a public hearing in the Chamber of the House of Parliament on **Thursday, 27th July**, to investigate the status of past recommendations made to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) in the areas of budgeting, and, financial management and reporting.

The Financial Secretary and the Accountant General will attend as witnesses in order to provide the Committee with information and documentation it requires per Parliament Standing Order 72 (1).

The PAC chose to hold the public hearing after reviewing the Auditor General's report, "*Follow-up on past PAC recommendations 2023 – Report 1*", published in March 2023. The hearing serves to enable the PAC to assess the government's responses to the Committee's reports of 15th July 2021 and 8th December 2021, as well as the recommendations made by the Auditor General in December 2020 and May 2021.

The Auditor General's report, which is available on the Office of the Auditor General's website, lists 17 past recommendations to the government in the area of budgeting, and 16 past recommendations in the area of financial management and reporting. The PAC endorsed all of the Auditor General's past recommendations in its own reports from 2021, but did not make any additional recommendations at that time.

Following the hearing on Thursday, the PAC will hold an administrative meeting where they intend to discuss the evidence they received from the Financial Secretary and the Accountant General, and will start to prepare the Committee's report on the Auditor

General's report. The PAC may wish to make additional recommendations to the government in addition to those set forth by the Auditor General. Parliament Standing Order 77 (7) specifies that the government must respond to such recommendations within three months of the PAC's report being tabled in the House of Parliament.

The PAC is one of the few standing committees established by the Cayman Islands Constitution and is a non-partisan committee responsible for holding the government to account for its spending and financial management. The current membership of the PAC is: Hon. Roy McTaggart, Chairman; Hon. Isaac Rankine, Member; Ms. Barbara Conolly, Member; Ms. Heather Bodden, Member; Mr. Joseph Hew, Member; and, Hon. Dr. W. McKeeva Bush, Member.

The public are invited to tune in to CIGTV or the government's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/CaymanIslandsGovernment>) to watch the PAC hearings, or to sit in the public gallery at the House of Parliament to view the proceedings in person.

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