



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

Third Sitting of the Third Meeting 2022-2023 Session

Friday
28 April, 2023
(Pages 1-34)

Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, MP
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, MP
Speaker

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP	<i>Premier, Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Finance & Economic Development</i>
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	<i>Deputy Premier, Minister of Education and District Administration & Lands</i>
Hon. Bernie A. Bush, MP	Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP	Minister of Tourism & Port
Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	Minister of Financial Services & Commerce and Investment, Innovation & Social Development
Hon. Sabrina T. Turner, MP	Minister of Health & Wellness and Home Affairs
Hon. Johany S. "Jay" Ebanks, MP	Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure
Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MP	Minister of Border Control & Labour

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, MBE, Cert Hon, JP	<i>Deputy Governor, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service</i>
Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, KC, JP	<i>Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs</i>

ELECTED MEMBERS
GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Ms. Heather D. Bodden, OCI, Cert. Hon., JP, MP	Parliamentary Secretary to Tourism and Social Development, Elected Member for Savannah
Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, JP, MP	<i>Deputy Speaker, Parliamentary Secretary to Home Affairs and Planning, Agriculture & Infrastructure, Elected Member for East End</i>
Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, JP, MP	Elected Member for West Bay West

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	<i>Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town East</i>
Mr. Joseph X. Hew, MP	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North</i>
Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, MP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman
Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, JP, NP, MP	Elected Member for George Town South
Mr. David C. Wight, JP, MP	Elected Member for George Town West

INDEPENDENT OPPOSITION MEMBER

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town West
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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD MEETING OF THE 2022/2023 SESSION
FRIDAY
28 APRIL, 2023
10:53AM
Third Sitting

[Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, Speaker, presiding]

The Speaker: Good morning again, Honourable Members. I call on the Minister of Tourism and Ports to grace us with prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Minister of Tourism and Ports, Elected Member for George Town Central: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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 Parliament 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, King Charles III; William, 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 Premier; the Speaker of the Parliament; the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of the Cabinet, ex officio Members, Members of the Parliament, the Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

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

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

Amen.

The Speaker: Please be seated. Proceedings are now resumed.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

The Speaker: None.

READING BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND AN- NOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker: Honourable Members, it has been an intense few days with Members sitting in the Chamber for over 12 hours each day. I am happy that we are all here to deliberate over the people's business and I want to go on record to say it is my intent for us to start meeting more regularly.

I have been conversing with the Premier about having a clear idea on when we anticipate that the House will be in session for the benefit of all Members, Parliamentary staff and Civil Servants. I look forward to working with the Premier on proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the year and also setting out dates that we will be breaking for the summer. Having this type of schedule will prevent long days like what we've experienced this week. Members will have a better opportunity to deliberate over Motions, Bills and Parliamentary Questions.

I also note that as the day progresses the demeanour of Members tends to change. Members start to speak louder amongst themselves, even whilst a Member is on the Floor. Some Members start to quote songs and before we know it Members may even start to stand and serenade us in this honourable House.

All jokes aside, I would like to see us meet more regularly. I would wish to start the sittings at 10.00 a.m. sharp each day so we don't have a repeat of this Meeting where we are leaving the precincts at 1.45 a.m. which then results in Members struggling to arrive here on time.

I look forward to all of your cooperation. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

**REPORT OF THE STANDING BUSINESS
COMMITTEE - SECOND MEETING OF
THE 2022-2023 SESSION OF THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS PARLIAMENT**

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Finance & Economic Development, Elected Member for Newlands: Good morning colleagues, and thank you Madam Speaker.

I rise and beg leave to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Report of the Standing Business Committee - Second Meeting of the 2022-2023 Session of the Cayman Islands Parliament, with your permission.

The Speaker: Yes. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: No thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it is self-explanatory.

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATION OF THE
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS ON
THE VESTING OF CROWN LAND BLOCK 43D
PARCEL 159 TO JOY EVADNEY GIDARISINGH**

The Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister of District Administration and Lands.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier, Minister of Education and District Administration and Lands, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Good morning Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Report and Recommendation from my Ministry under the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision) as it relates to transfer of ownership to Joy Evadney Gidarisingh.

The Speaker: Does the Deputy Premier wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier: No thank you, Madam Speaker.

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATION OF THE
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS ON
THE VESTING OF CROWN LAND BLOCK 11C
PARCELS 2, 52 AND 54 TO EDGEWATER
HOLDINGS LTD.**

The Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Report and Recommendation from my Ministry under the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision) as it relates to Edgewater Holdings Ltd.

The Speaker: Does the Deputy Premier wish to speak thereto?

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

Madam Speaker, the disposition involves a land swap with Edgewater Holdings Ltd. Both the Crown and Edgewater each owned some of the remaining 34 small landholdings that used to fully encircle the Peninsula Avenue, Governor's Way roundabout near Seven Mile Beach before the Esterly Tibbetts Highway was extended. Individually, these multiple parcels are far too small to develop under the planning setback requirements, although they can potentially be developed where ownership is consolidated.

In recent times, Madam Speaker, private ownership consolidation has begun to take place and this has, as a result, enabled the small-scale residential development to the north of the roundabout. Edgewater Holdings is an owner of some of the parcels on the southeast side of the roundabout including some that adjoin isolated Crown parcels.

Madam Speaker, the company approached the Cayman Islands Government and proposed a land swap. The intent of the swap is to reconfigure the respective land holdings of each party from isolated, undeveloped parcels, to strategic development holdings. Such a swap is beneficial to both the Crown and indeed Edgewater as it will increase the potential for development and therefore the value of both parties' land holdings.

Edgewater has proposed to the Crown to transfer to it Block 11C Parcels 2, 52 and 54 which have a total area of just 0.02062 acres. In return, the company will transfer to the Crown, Block 11C Parcels 58 and 70, which have a total of 0.0825 acres.

Significantly, Madam Speaker, the result of the swap will give Edgewater seven adjoining developmental parcels and it will give the Crown four adjoining developmental parcels, plus a single strategic holding located between the two parcels registered to a third party.

Madam Speaker, the three options of the amount of the premium that should be paid to the Crown by Edgewater Holdings in return for the swap are as follows:

- Lands and Survey Department valued at \$235,000;
- Bould [Consulting Limited] at \$156,000; and
- JEC [Property Consultants] at \$175,000

After careful analysis and consideration of the reports provided, it was Resolved by the Cabinet to advise at that time, His Excellency, the Governor, to approve the Vesting of Crown Land Block 11C Parcels 2, 52 and 54 to Edgewater Holdings Ltd., in return for transfer to the Crown of [Block] 11C [Parcels] 58 and 70, plus a premium payable to the Crown of \$215,000; and recovery of Government's cost stamp duty was waived.

Accompanying this Report are all of the relevant documents as required under section 10(2) of the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision) including the valuation reports.

Madam Speaker, as Members have listened attentively, I trust that it would find a positive landing place in their hearts this morning.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT CAYMAN ISLANDS - ANNUAL REPORTS 2019, 2020 AND 2021

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to seek your permission to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Reports for Hazard Management Cayman Islands beginning with 2019, 2020 and 2021. If I could have them laid together, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak to them?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, just in general.

Obviously in terms of some annual reports, there will be some justifiable COVID related delays. The objective is to try to ensure that all reports are kept up to date as far as possible. I think it happens far too often without any specific justification such as COVID. Well, let me say in my observation.

Madam Speaker, in relation to Hazard Management Cayman Islands [HMCI], this is a critically important organisation to the Government and the people of this country. It has the potential to support and save lives and property and to ensure that our disaster preparedness and hazard management is as good as it can be.

Madam Speaker, it is recognised regionally as an excellent organisation, very well structured, and one which I dare say, others will want to emulate in terms of the structure and its record and contribution.

Madam Speaker, the reports will reflect the performance of Hazard Management over the period of time. Relevant to the reports, we will all be familiar in reading those with the various events that have impacted us or that we have certainly learnt from that could impact us. I'm thinking that situation of a [Hurricane] Dorian type scenario which could be regarded as

significantly worse than what we experienced in Ivan. All entirely possible given the climate change related circumstances that we are projected to potentially be exposed to.

Madam Speaker, HMCI obviously played a very key role in the pandemic response and I think they were extremely proactive, they got organised very quickly, even before there was a global declaration of the pandemic. Thus, I think it really reflects on our country's ability to be able to respond proactively, in time and in some cases ahead of time, to ensure that we are best protected and prepared in order to serve the best interests of our people.

Madam Speaker, I just want to congratulate all of the staff at HMCI and those organisations that they work with. I have had the opportunity to see them in operation on a number of occasions; during the day, late at night, early, early in the morning and they do an excellent job in preparing this country for any eventuality that we may face.

I want to take the opportunity to recommend again, given the fact that we are now a month and a half away from the start of hurricane season—and the reality is, Madam Speaker, that given climate change impacts we are finding that storms are not behaving like they have in the past. It's starting sooner, going later at times—it would be very worthwhile for Members in this honourable House, and the members of the public to make sure that they have a visit to the Hazard Management Cayman Islands website located at caymanprepared.gov.ky. It has some extremely useful information there which we will all benefit from to be better prepared for any eventuality that may impact us.

I would like to thank those Members who have participated in preparing the Annual Reports as well and I commend them to Members and to the public for review.

Thank you.

NATIONAL TRUST CAYMAN ISLANDS - ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise again to seek permission to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report of 2021-2022 for the National Trust of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Briefly, Madam Speaker.

This particular report is regarded as their legacy report. It's a fantastic document which sets out an immense amount of information on the activities and

achievements of the National Trust of the Cayman Islands; from protection and promotion of the blue iguana our iconic fauna animal in the Cayman Islands that we are so proud of, that we have brought back from the brink of extinction.

The Trust also is clearly very important in the protection and promotion of other important aspects of the Cayman Islands, including Madam Speaker, importantly, the national built heritage of the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, they do a great deal of very positive work on all of our three lovely Islands. In my area, they maintain the old Savannah school house, for example, which has served and was the place of education for many people who are still alive today who can speak to their experience there.

Madam Speaker, the Trust continues its good work and I certainly want to congratulate them at this point for 35 years of excellent hard work and dedication to the Cayman Islands and to the people of the Cayman Islands. They have been very instrumental in contributing to the protection and conservation of our historic treasures as well as the critically endangered flora and fauna of the Cayman Islands; and they do so for present and future generations.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I want to thank the staff, the Council, and the volunteers of the Trust. As I said, it's almost a keepsake document that reflects so much of the history of the National Trust and what they have achieved so thank you to all members of the National Trust who were involved in this excellent work and involved in the preparation of this report.

This brings them up to date with their Annual Reports which I commend to this honourable House as well as to members of the public.

**OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
CAYMAN ISLANDS - GENERAL REPORT
31 DECEMBER 2021 - FINANCIAL REPORTING
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
(OCTOBER 2022)**

**REPORT OF THE STANDING PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
OF THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL:
FINANCIAL REPORTING OF THE CAYMAN
ISLANDS GOVERNMENT - GENERAL REPORT
31 DECEMBER 2021 (OCTOBER 2022)**

The Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town East: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House a Report of the Office of the Auditor General - General Report 31 December 2021- Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government;

together with the Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Office of the Auditor General: Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government - General Report 31 December 2021 (October 2022).

The Speaker: Does the Honourable Leader of the Opposition wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Briefly, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the opportunity.

Just to mention to Members that the report is really a general update on the Auditor General's audit of the 2021 Financial Statements for the Government. The report was released in October 2022. We held a hearing in November 2022 and from that outcome, in this report from the Committee are the recommendations that we have made including certain commitments that were made by Members and the witnesses who appeared before the Committee.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I do commend the report to this honourable House.

**NDC - NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL CAYMAN
ISLANDS - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT – PREVEN-
TION. EDUCATION. POLICY & RESEARCH**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Health and Wellness.

Hon. Sabrina T. Turner, Minister of Health and Wellness and Home Affairs, Elected Member for Prospect: Madam Speaker, I rise to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report titled Prevention, Education, Policy and Research ending 31 December 2021.

The Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak?

Hon. Sabrina T. Turner: Madam Speaker, very briefly. I would just like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Board, Management and the ladies and gentlemen at the National Drug Council for their hard work in producing this Annual Report.

I would like to also publicly, specially mention the former Chair of the Council, Miss Dorothy Manzanares née Scott, who served many, many years during this reporting period. I want to thank her for her dedication and I definitely lend my support to the current sitting of the Board.

I now invite Members of this honourable House and the public to view these reports for further details.

Thank you.

Suspension of Standing Orders 23(7) and (8)

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Thank you Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in light of the agenda and the fact that it is after the hour of 11.00 a.m., I rise under Standing Order 86 to move the suspension of Standing Orders 23(7) and (8) in order to allow questions to be put to Members after the hour of 11.00 a.m.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Orders 23(7) and (8) be suspended to allow questions to be asked after the hour of 11.00 a.m.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Orders 23(7) and (8) suspended.

QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

QUESTION NO. 21 PLANNED CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING IN CAYMAN'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Elected Member for George Town South: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to ask the Honourable Minister of Education Question No. 21 on the Order Paper standing in my name. Can the Honourable Minister advise what changes are planned, if any, to improve the quality of teaching in Cayman's public schools?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Education.

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

The answer: The report from the Office of Education Standards titled *The National Schools Progress Report of the Chief Inspector for School Inspections between 2018 and 2022*, indicates an improvement in the quality of teaching in government schools. It is noteworthy, Madam Speaker that in the last inspection cycle in 2022, there were no government school lessons observed that were categorised as a *weak* lesson.

The government education system has continued to place a strong focus on the impact of quality teaching, as it is identified by research the world over to have critical impact on student attainment and progress. The largest impact is seen in the collective

teacher efficacy where teachers believe that through their collective actions, student outcomes are positively influenced.

Madam Speaker, some of the measures already in place include:

A modified recruitment strategy: Recruitment of teachers has always placed focus on getting the best teachers available. However, more recently, there has been a drive to hire Assistant Teachers (ATs) who are also trained teachers. This allows for personnel that can lead a lesson if the teacher is absent for any reason; providing the classroom with multiple staff members that are trained to support and lead instruction to students.

Teacher professional development with focuses on:

- Developing and communicating high expectations to students.
- Developing a sense of "I can and I will" within students and helping them to transfer knowledge and skills across the various subjects.
- Implementation of responses to intervention with fidelity for students with the need for such programmes.
- Helping our students to talk about and express their learning that took place.
- The effective use of cross-curricular planning, particularly in technology, numeracy, literacy and science.

Facilitation of collaboration opportunities within our schools and across the learning hubs, to allow the teachers to learn with and from each other.

The introduction of subject experts where relevant to provide direct information to students and improve our teachers' content knowledge in areas that benefit from direct expert interactions. For example, carpenters, accountants, culture and heritage experts; engineers, doctors, and the list goes on.

From August 2023, Madam Speaker, Mathematics Specialist Teachers will be introduced at the primary level to deliver mathematics lessons to our students and also provide exemplars for primary teachers to observe and develop.

Additional assistant teachers will be supporting classes from Key Stage 1 to 3, providing additional opportunities in classes for teachers to organise specific and targeted support for students in the class and through pull-out sessions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thanks to the Member.

The Speaker: Are there any supplementary questions?

Supplementaries

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Yes, Madam Speaker.

I am sure the Minister will be heartened as I am, to see that the Office of Education Standards

[OES] has reported significant improvements in the quality of teaching in Cayman's secondary schools.

However, the inspectors also found that teaching quality has remained stagnant in the primary schools and that this presents a significant barrier to raising education standards. I think this is particularly focused on mathematics and I see where in your answer you indicated that you are recruiting Mathematics Specialist Teachers starting in August 2023.

What happens to the students who need assistance now? I know for a fact that my granddaughter has to get extra tutoring for math and so I need to know what's happening in primary schools now, for those kids who continue to struggle in math.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Education.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thanks to the Honourable Member for George Town South.

Madam Speaker, there's internal quality assurance that occurs at the Department of Education Services; also, the Principals carry out external quality assurance which they get from the OES. What that does, Madam Speaker, is to allow them to assess and implement as soon as practical, the interventions that are necessary.

We also currently have numeracy specialists that go in, albeit they are insufficient, but that's why we're excited about the additional—and I stand to be corrected—but I think it's some additional 14 specialists.

The idea behind that is that those of us who are teachers, normally get a general qualification from K through 12 and so you'll find that across the spectrum, some teachers may be stronger in Maths or English or Science, but they are still generalist teachers. As we look at the statistics and being student driven we try to tailor our curriculum and our teaching modules accordingly.

It became very evident to me that we needed—after having successfully improved the numeracy, literacy and science—to turn more attention to Math.

It is an innovative way where these 14 math teachers, God's willing, come August will, if I have my way—and I have to be cognisant of section 55 of the Constitution where that's under the ambit of the Honourable Deputy Governor. However, the Constitution does give me the authority to deal with the management of the Ministry and make general policy. It is of national interest and the wellbeing of all and sundry to ensure that we move to world class education, which hopefully will end up with a world class civil service where they will all get jobs; and so, before my eyes are closed I can hear the Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members say that 100 per cent of the civil service are Caymanians and they came out of the public and private schools. That's not a selfish aspiration and I am sure that is why the Member is interested in it.

Yes, there will be a less than satisfactory period between now and August. However, it doesn't mean that children will not get attention, but it will drastically improve, in my respectful submission, once we get those math teachers in, because I am not sending them in as monitors or observers; they will be the ones who will be actually teaching math to our students. Those of us who studied logic, math is no different. Madam Speaker, it's a building block and if you get the rudimentary foundation wrong, it's difficult to catch up in the later years because it's like a domino effect.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I would ask all Honourable Members, if they are friends with or have access to math specialists or accountants within the community who want to do some good community work as we nation build, to ask them to contact the Department of Education Services. Once they go through the child safety programmes, we would be happy to do what they are doing with Jubilate, where we introduced music after school to those children who would never have that opportunity. I can see that, that would be an appropriate bridging gap through August and beyond.

I thank the Member for the interest in that regard and to say that it is an ongoing process, it is not a utopia, but the Department and Ministry are making every endeavour, together with the support of the Government on both sides of the isle, to ensure that there is no child left behind in the system.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I just have one more question to the Honourable Minister. Is there any appetite for some summer school programmes for those students perhaps going from year six into year seven? I know some of those students really struggle when they actually leave primary and go into secondary [school].

Perhaps the Minister may consider some summer school classes to assist those students who continue to struggle. I just think that might be a good thing, in terms of assisting them. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thanks to the Honourable Member for asking the supplementary.

I thank you for the indulgence to allow me to consult with my acting Chief-Officer, Ms. Lyneth Monteith. I just wanted to confirm that the discussions had commenced in that regard before I gave my response.

I am happy to report that I am reliably informed that discussions to that end, where this summer we will be introducing those summer classes for the children who actually need it, have commenced.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is not a question, I just want to thank the Minister and I am heartened to hear that. Thank you.

QUESTION NO. 22
THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT TEACHERS
EMPLOYED SINCE THE END OF LAST SCHOOL
TERM AND WHERE THEY WERE ASSIGNED

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the Honourable Minister of Education Question No. 22 on the Order Paper standing in my name. The question: Can the Honourable Minister advise the House how many assistant teachers have been employed since the end of the last school term, and provide a breakdown of the schools in which they have been assigned?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Education.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thanks to the Honourable Member for George Town South.

Madam Speaker, the answer: The following table outlines the number of assistant teachers hired since December 2022—

School/Cost Centre	No. of Asst. Teachers Hired
PRIMARY SCHOOLS	
Creek Primary School	2
East End Primary School	1
Edna Moyle Primary School	2
George Town Primary School	6
Joanna Clarke Primary School	5
Prospect Primary School	7
Red Bay Primary School	11
Sir John A. Cumber Primary School	8
Spot Bay Primary School	0
Theoline McCoy Primary School	4
West End Primary School	2
Sub-total	48
SPECIAL SCHOOL	
Lighthouse School	0*
Sub-total	0
HIGH SCHOOLS	
Cayman Islands Further Education Centre	3
Clifton Hunter High School	8
John Gray High School	6
Layman Scott High School	3
Sub-total	20
Total	68

***Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier:** They were sufficient.

The Speaker: Are there any supplementary questions?

Supplementaries

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I have one supplementary question. I think the Minister had indicated in a previous statement that we would be recruiting 80 assistant teachers. I know your answer states 68. Are we planning on recruiting up to 80 assistant teachers; and if so, will they be fully recruited by the next school year?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Education.

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

Madam Speaker, that is correct. The funding is in place for the 80 assistant teachers. It's just the time that it takes to recruit them. I'm reliably informed that the remnant for the 80 will be in place for August of this year when we commence the next school year.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I just have one last supplementary question. Can the Minister indicate what roles are being carried out by those assistant teachers?

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

If I were batting for cricket I would be two for two because those were the two anticipated supplementaries. Here's the answer: Assistant Teachers include those professionals who would be utilised in a mainstream classroom for general mainstream support and those who would be providing targeted support with individual children and/or groups of children requiring specialised support within the class or within the interventions for specific subjects.

Obviously, they will fill in as well, Madam Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, whenever they are sick or we have to go to remote learning. It gives that extra pair of hands as we are now requiring them to also have teaching certification so that the children will not lose any valuable time out of the day because we already lost quite a bit during the COVID years.

The Speaker: Elected Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I have no further supplementary questions and I want to thank the Honourable Minister for her answers.

QUESTION NO. 23
CRUISE TOURISM STRATEGY COMMISSIONED
BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER, 2022

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town East.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask Question No. 23 standing in my name to the Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports. Can the Honourable Minister advise when he will make public the cruise tourism strategy that was commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism and announced by him in September, 2022?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Ports.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The answer: The original Request For Proposal for a cruise tourism strategy to be produced by a private sector firm will not be made public because the strategy is no longer being commissioned, as the strategy is now being produced within the Ministry.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there any supplementary questions?

Supplementaries

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town East.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for the response but then can he give us some indication as to when the Ministry-produced strategy will be made public and rolled out?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Madam Speaker, as this honourable House may recall the purpose and the reason for the private sector firm requests and strategy was on the basis of the numbers that were expected or we would have hoped to come back to as per the 2019 figures.

As a result, Madam Speaker, the country knows that with the decision of the people to decide to not move forward with a cruise pier, the industry through the cruise lines, has made some adjustments to their calls within our ports.

As a result, Madam Speaker, the numbers for the next three years at least, are in the region of 20 to

25 per cent less than the 2019 numbers. Therefore, the need and want for a holistic strategy created by an outside firm is not as pressing as it was before.

Also, following discussions with some of the cruise lines to use some of their own professionals in house to help guide my Ministry with respect to the movement of passengers at our ports, we believe that we could save the country money and not have to pay for an extensive report with a private sector firm. As you know, Madam Speaker, these reports usually cost within the region of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

I am happy to say that the Port's Board and Management have met with a particular cruise line who specialises in the movement of passengers in various ports and discussions have commenced, recommendations have been made and I'm awaiting, after the sitting of this Parliament, to be debriefed by the Board of the Port Authority as to the new plans moving forward with respect to the movement of passengers at the location of the Port.

Now, Madam Speaker, the strategy wasn't only about the port location but about across the Islands. The strategy, Madam Speaker, is going to be a combination of things that we are doing within the Ministry to try to address the problem which the report was requested for in the first place.

Madam Speaker, the Member who posed the question would also have heard where we are intending to try to diversify our cruise tourism offerings more to the eastern side of the Island. We think that will also be a help to the congestion caused by cruise passengers when we have high numbers of cruise ships in our ports.

The combination of many effects within our Ministry will be the strategy as opposed to a document formulated. Madam Speaker, [I am happy to provide the Minister, when we deliver with respect to the budget, all the levels of different strategies we think collectively will come as a way to reduce the stresses, burdens and the pressures of the cruise industry customers who we gratefully appreciate and know gives our people work.](#)

The Speaker: Elected Member for George Town East.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I heard all that he had to say so just for clarity: there is no strategy document as such being prepared by the Ministry. Is that correct?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Madam Speaker, through you: There is no particular document but more so a series of actions and policy directions on how to handle the tourism traffic from cruise passengers.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

That really was the information I was trying to elicit.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town North.

Mr. Joseph X. Hew, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member yesterday during one of his debates and he repeated again today that the people have spoken and there will be no cruise piers. Was there some sort of poll done or did I miss the referendum?

I just need some clarity on those statements.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Yes, Madam Speaker.

As a matter of fact there was a very notable poll; it was called the elections.

The Speaker: Are there any supplementary questions?

The Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, just for clarity: originally, there was an independent study that was going to be done overarching to look at cruise strategy. Now, in your statement, you are saying that a cruise line from the cruise industry is going to be guiding this study?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll see if I can try to clarify by giving a little bit more background.

Madam Speaker, if this honourable House may recall through public utterances of press conferences and so forth, there was going to be a combined strategy requests, one where transport was also going to be connected.

Now, Madam Speaker, we thought that because cruise tourism had the strategy we were trying to focus on which was the movement of the cruise passengers, after discussions, reports and feedback from the cruise lines that the numbers were going to reduce as well as the estimated cost to do a combination report we decided to hold back on the cruise part of it because based on our discussions, we saw ways that we could find solutions without the extra analysis. Thus, we move forward with the transport report which the Members of this honourable House are quite aware of and that has been passed over to the Honourable Minister for roads.

Madam Speaker, the initial strategy was on the basis of movement of persons, and because we separated the two due to the numbers that were being presented and the ability to get some of these solutions

without the heavy cost of the report, we decided to do it in house.

Hopefully, that may have explained a little bit more as to why we decided not to move forward with the independent firm to do it.

The Speaker: Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to thank the Minister for his reply and answer. I want to make sure the Minister understands that the Opposition supports the idea of bringing expertise from the people who are in the business and certainly understand the industry. I think that our obligation and thought today is that this is an overarching need. There are thousands and thousands of jobs at stake here in this element of 25 per cent of our economy. We want to make sure that the way that it is being looked at again, is overarching.

You have said your concern about diversification into the eastern districts. Also the concern about the port itself and how these two tie together. My thought—I think I shared with the Opposition—is that an independent group would have looked at all of these and put them together for the Ministry to review.

I just want to make sure that we're clear and all of the issues are being approached at the same time and in tandem taking advantage of some of the synergies that each one creates. For example, that the port itself which has to be enlarged, as you eloquently explained, will also give opportunity for smaller vessels to come to that dock when it's expanded.

The question is, will your Ministry be looking at all of the issues rather than just an independent look at the cruise; looking at all of the connectivity to the tourism aspect of it.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I thank the Member for the question.

I am in agreement with him with respect to having a view from all aspects of the industry.

Madam Speaker, as the Minister as well as a Cabinet Member, my job is to try to accomplish all goals with the least amount of spend possible. However, that doesn't mean that we can't do a report at another date.

Madam Speaker, we made the decision within the Ministry with those who advise me as to the need to do such a severe report.

Madam Speaker, I think the relationship with the association that has many of the stakeholders in it, the Cayman Islands Tourism Association [CITA], along with the direct cruise associations and the combination of willingness to work together, we can find the solutions without having to pay thousands of dollars for a report.

However, if the Ministry and the Government finds there are not enough answers to some of the issues for which a report would be requested, then we are happy to do that again. Normally what will happen is you go to either Deloitte, KPMG, and so forth and they will go out and ask these same specialists that we're already speaking to directly.

Madam Speaker, I know the Member's question is based on making sure there is a holistic view on trying to find the best ways to solve the issues that relate to cruise tourism. However, we believe within the Ministry, with the communication and the willingness to work together, we can find those without necessarily having to do a report.

We haven't closed the door on that and if we feel it necessary, I will present that to my colleagues to give me the financial support to call for such a report again in the future.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I want to thank the Member for that answer, and this is my final question.

I just want to, in a capsule, make sure that I understand what you said is, that you will put everybody in the same room: Tourism Association, water sports, road issues; and come out with a policy that benefits the cruise industry.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I think we're in agreement with what he said. I didn't say I would bring everybody in the same room, but I think we're in the room together at some point, maybe not all at the same time.

However, I am open to having more [dialogue] and even inviting the former Minister to come along because he knows I take guidance from him. I've called him off the record many times if I felt I needed some external advice, so I am happy to do that.

Interestingly enough, the associations of CITA and I are going to be meeting, I think next week, on another very important matter. By all means, we will be in constant communication while we develop a more documented strategy that maybe you can examine and hold account to the administration which is, I think, what fundamentally is being asked for today.

However, I want to ensure the Member and those opposite the Government and the listening audience that we are looking at this from a holistic viewpoint.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: I have given leave to the Honourable Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage to make a statement.

Hon. Bernie A. Bush, Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage, Elected Member for West Bay North: Morning, Madam Speaker and thank you.

After hearing the Leader of the Opposition seem to be lost on what has been happening even though it's all on the website, I decided to make a statement to let this country and this honourable House see an overview of achievements, activities and upcoming plans for the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage.

The Ministry includes two government Departments and three Statutory Authorities and Government Companies which include the Department of Sports, Youth Services Unit, the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, the Cayman National Cultural Foundation and the Cayman Islands National Museum.

As you know, Madam Speaker, these subjects are very dear to my heart and to a lot of people in this country. They are a very important part of who we are and who we will become as a nation.

Madam Speaker, over the past two years despite many challenges faced, this Ministry has worked to develop many of these subject areas from policies to programming all the while advocating for and supporting efforts toward achieving our key priorities which are:

1. Talent identification and development.
A lot of people usually assume that that's just in sports but it's also in the arts, singing and those doing artistry work.
2. Enhancing and empowering our youth; and
3. Awareness and preservation of culture and heritage.

This last one, I think, the country has neglected to do serious work on for too long.

It is important that I shared some accomplishments with you, not just those of our Ministry, but those of our young people, athletes and community. These accomplishments have been supported through efforts by my Ministry which has allowed for greater partnerships and new opportunities to support our young people across a wide range of activities and events.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Education Ministry and the Department for working closely with us:

- Providing over \$280,000 in youth and sports grants in 2022 and 2023 to aid in sports development;
- Providing \$300,000 in culture and heritage grants in 2022 and 2023;
- Provision of one-time sport academic grants for 18 athletes to attend schools overseas between 2022 and 2023;
- Reestablishment of the National Youth Commission;

- Establishment of the National Sports Commission;
- Commencement of upgrades by the Department of Sports through investments in facilities management with the purchase of new stadium lights and upgrades to Lion's pool;
- Cayman Islands participation in Young Chef Young Waiter, which gave way to opportunities for local winners to gain experience in London with Michelin star chefs.

Madam Speaker, members of the listening public, we just had young Brittney Bodden return after spending time in London with our help at three different restaurants; one Michelin star, another with two Michelin stars and another with three Michelin stars—restaurants like the Rochester.

Madam Speaker, those in the culinary world will tell you, this is nothing short of awesome. This is a great event.

The restoration of beach volleyball courts and the first hosting of a CAZOVA [Caribbean Zonal Volleyball Association] tournament in the Cayman Islands; hosting the first Youth Empowerment Symposium—this was a great success.

Madam Speaker, a lot of the panellists were local young people who have come from some places in Cayman where we would expect that these great role models should not have come from, but they have. In taking this thing apart, the only thing that I feel that I did not do good enough in was a target audience. However, my staff and I, we didn't go into this saying that it was great because everybody said so, we're looking on how to improve this for next year, God's willing, and we know the target audience will be better to meet what we want to meet.

We also took part, Madam Speaker, in the 2nd WADA [World Anti-Doping Agency] Forum for Caribbean Sports Ministers. Some people will wonder what is WADA but if we don't pay our dues to this as a country, and if we don't take it seriously, none of our international athletes can participate in anything anywhere.

A Cayman Christmas, an event that showcased talented singers from our schools and churches throughout the Island. Congratulations must be made to the small but strong voices of Red Bay Primary School Choir who won our inaugural choir competition.

Implementation of various activities to support the current national, cultural and heritage policy, including the review and alignment of the policy aims for the development of actions and future updates; securing historic sites and new facilities for the expansion and promotion of artefacts, events and Caymanian culture through the West Bay Museum, which is otherwise known as the Car Museum; the Pink House, which is in George Town; and West Bay Heritage site.

Also, the Fair Weather, which was one of the last built Caymanian boats. We're assisting in bringing that back home, and there's another that was made at home here in Cayman that the Premier and I will soon

go to investigate to see what the possibility is of bringing this home.

Madam Speaker, we must let our young people know what and where we are coming from because if you know this, we can have pride.

The establishment of the National Dress, Dish and Dance Committee to identify national icons and build more on our national pride.

Historic built-heritage task force to review current legislation on buildings and sites of historical relevance and determine future needs to preserve our heritage. This one, Madam Speaker, is very close to myself and the Premier.

An Emancipation Day Task Force has also been established to review and consider the historic relevance of Emancipation Day and Caymanian culture.

Madam Speaker, it's just recently that I learnt the true story of our emancipation, compared to the rest of the Caribbean. We are unique and we must let our young people know the uniqueness of our country and of our history.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: Madam Speaker, increasing spaces for local artisans to display and sell their work in private ventures through sponsorship and partnerships.

We have also worked to recognise, support and host special events for our athletes and celebrate in their accomplishments which have been significant for our small country. Some of these include Aaron Jarvis becoming the first Caymanian golfer to be invited to the Masters; Jordan Crooks, who gave Cayman its first ever world championship medal in any sport.

An Hon. Member: Say it again.

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: The first time in our history of a little country of 40,000 of us and we have a World Champion.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: CARIFTA athletes including Devonte Howell, who brought us our first gold medal in the 100 meter for men. This event has been dominated by Jamaica and all these other countries that have millions [of people]; we have 40,000.

We also had Andrew Stone who won the gold medal in the high [sic] [long] jump; and if he had not had a sore back, he would have won a gold medal in the high jump, but he's now rated number two in the world in the under 18 category and he's only 16.

Ladies and gentlemen, then we have Jillian Crooks who broke records at both local and regional levels. We also have Sierrah Broadbelt who led the

gold medal [wins] for swimmers in her age group, eight gold medals.

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for East End: From the district of East End.

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: And yes, she's from the district of East End.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: Madam Speaker, we also must congratulate our young national cyclist Nathaniel Forbes, who was the only 20-year-old to place in the top 10 at the Jamaican Classic; and all the others paving the way for competition for the Cayman Islands. Nathaniel will be receiving an official invitation to go to Europe, in spite of having it hard because of certain circumstances.

Honourable Members and Madam Speaker, our efforts have also greatly been improved through the establishment of new processes to determine how funding via the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage is dispersed. This ensures alignment with the Government's Broad Outcomes as well as our priorities as a Ministry.

As we look ahead to the upcoming budget cycle I am excited to share our plans. We are currently in the final stages for a consultancy to assist with the development of the national policies for youth and sports. These draft policies are expected for public consultation in 2023. They would allow for a comprehensive framework for the delivery of youth and sports initiatives in a strategic manner as we plan for the development and implementation of policies, programmes and activities with the necessary funding to guarantee success.

Madam Speaker, I must say I will continue to ask my colleagues in the PACT Government to ensure that the funding is there. There are a lot of great things coming down the pipe for our young people in this country.

The Youth and Sports Commission will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the national youth and sports policies and provide governance to improve standards and accountability of youth and sports activities and organisations. In order to reach more persons in the community, programming and activities will be considered at the community level to improve access. These include: culture and heritage displays and events; increased district sports and youth activities alongside intergenerational programming.

Another example of this, Madam Speaker, is working together with the Education Department and Ministry so that we now have access to a beautiful pool at the Clifton Hunter [High School] that the East End, North Side and Bodden Town districts can now get another swim club in that area to build on this upward

swing where we are seeing swimming put us on the world map.

Madam Speaker, we have Jordan Crooks who is a world champion. There are another three or four coming behind that have the potential to do the same thing. We cannot let this [opportunity] pass.

The very first speech that I made as a Minister, I told the country we needed a 50-metre pool. The other day at CARIFTA of the five countries with top five finishers, Cayman is the only one that did not have a 50-metre pool. Everyone is now saying, if Cayman gets a 50-metre pool we're going to blow up not only regionally but world class *[sic]*.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: Madam Speaker, I hope this country will realise when an athlete becomes a World Champion, what it does for us in the eyes of the world. They can't question it and it's free PR [Public Relations] at times for our country.

We have been blessed, Madam Speaker, with people like Aaron Jarvis, Jordan Crooks, [Andrew] Stone and Devonte [Howell]. God has blessed us that they are all humble young people who are Godly.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: Thanks to the man sitting to my left, we are working very hard on building public sector partnerships to help fund some of these things. We are also working with the private sector partners to return historical items, improve sporting facilities and competition as well as create new opportunities for our artisans through academic and exhibit experiences.

Madam Speaker, as this honourable House has heard, my team has continuously worked to achieve the Broad Outcomes of the Ministry. We have sought to develop the area of youth, sports, culture and heritage through policy and infrastructural development but also by ensuring we are able to preserve what our forefathers worked hard to build.

I would like to close by acknowledging and extending my heartfelt appreciation to my Chief Officer Ms. Echenique who has done an awesome job having to put up with me; the Ministerial Team; Ms. Joan West-Dacres and Ms. Melissa Whorms—her two Deputy Chief Officers—for their dedication and passion and also for their support and guidance.

Madam Speaker, the Premier can let this country know that if there is one section of the civil service that *don't watch clock* [it's my Ministry]. They are there 5.30/6.00 in the morning, and they are there 6/7 o'clock in the evening. They are not staying at home; they are working.

Madam Speaker, to the listening public and to this country, we will continue to work for the people of these Islands and do all we can to promote youth,

sports, culture and heritage in the Cayman Islands and beyond these shores.

Madam Speaker, thank you and I hope now that the Leader of the Opposition has seen what we are doing besides just a retreat.

Thank you all very much and God bless.

[Desk thumping]

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: I have given leave to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to make a personal explanation.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, on Wednesday evening in his contribution to the SPS debate, the Minister of Tourism, I believe, incorrectly accused me of having a direct pecuniary interest in ReGen by virtue of my wife's employment with the Dart organisation.

However, he did not explain to this honourable House how that ascribed to me a direct pecuniary interest in ReGen and I might add, he can't. I note that he made his comments after I had left the confines of the Chamber for the evening.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to understand what a 'pecuniary interest' is: it is a financial interest that relates to money or profits which the Member stands to either gain or lose from it. A pecuniary interest can either be direct or it can be indirect. Thus, what the Member is implying is that, somehow in some way I directly stand to benefit or lose financially from ReGen.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, he referred to section 83 of the Standing Orders which with your permission I read: "**A Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which that Member has a pecuniary interest or speak on any such matter, whether in the House or in any committee, without disclosing the nature of that interest, and shall in no circumstances vote on any such matter.**"

Madam Speaker, in fairness, there was no motion or amendment on the Floor of this House relating to ReGen and there was no vote or anything to be taken that evening with regard to ReGen. We were debating the SPS, and I was debating it in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition. Therefore, none of the ingredients that this section of the Standing Order requires disclosure were present that evening.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret that my wife works for the Dart organisation. She is the Manager of Education Programmes and she has worked there for over 12 years; long before ReGen. In her capacity, she

manages and mentors some 40 young people, Caymanians who have been awarded education scholarships for high school and for university. She also manages and organises the local Worlds Robotics Competition, the SeaPerch Robotics Competition, Inter-school Maths Challenge, the schools Chess Competition and a number of other STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] programmes that benefit our youth.

Madam Speaker, for the benefit of this honourable House and those listening, it is important to note the following:

- My wife's position at Dart does not place her in the chain of command at the organisation;
- She has no role, either directly or indirectly, to play in the ReGen project;
- There is no connection between her and ReGen; and I am aware that the organisation goes to great length, because of my role in public life, to isolate her from anything that they do with Government so that there can never ever be any sort of accusation of impropriety on her part;
- My wife's employment with Dart is not contingent on the success or failure of ReGen nor is her compensation tied to the success or failure of ReGen; and finally
- My wife's employment with Dart is a matter of public record for anyone to see and to know. It is fully disclosed in my Register of Interests filed with the Commission for Standards in Public Life.

Madam Speaker, in raising this matter late Wednesday evening, the Minister stated that he was not going to make a big deal of it. However, that's exactly what he did.

Madam Speaker, he made it one of the centre-pieces of his windup on the SPS debate; and again, he chose to do it after I was out of the Chamber, not able to challenge or to respond.

Madam Speaker, it is clear to me that the Minister clearly does not understand what a 'direct pecuniary interest' is. It really would behave him to familiarise himself with the definition of the term. He didn't disclose what he thought that direct pecuniary interest was until he was challenged by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; and in response, all he could say was, my wife worked there. It's pretty poor, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, to close this matter, let me once again summarise things for the Minister. My wife works for Dart, she has no direct or indirect link to or involvement with ReGen, her employment and compensation is not contingent on the success or failure of the ReGen project, and her employment is a matter of public record.

In short, Madam Speaker, I have no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in ReGen that would have

required me to disclose it to this honourable House on Wednesday, in accordance with Standing Order 83, when I was debating the SPS.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make the clarification and I'll just say to the Minister, don't do this again; we're friends.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Should've thought about that when you talked about my wife.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Different situation altogether and I hear what you say.

I thank you for the opportunity to make the clarification, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, like the Opposition Member, want this to be ended as well. However, Madam Speaker, in my six years in this Parliament, I know that the person who is a judge and the jury of this Parliament as the interpretation of the Standing Orders is the person who sits in the Chair which you occupy.

Madam Speaker, for the Leader of Opposition to say that I should get familiar with the Standing Orders, I am quite familiar with them. I recited them when I took my position last evening.

Madam Speaker, I think it's for you—

The Speaker: Honourable Member, are you rising on a Point of Order?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Madam Speaker, is the Premier giving you directions as to what to do because I saw an indication—

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, this is a personal explanation so there's no room for debate.

Elected Member for West Bay West.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Elected Member for West Bay West: Our Standing Orders state that there is no room for debate on a personal explanation. However, you go to Erskine May, and if a matter is raised by a Member complaining about another one, the Member that is being complained about can just say that he refutes what was said.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports is there a matter that you want to raise in relation to the explanation that the Leader of the Opposition just stated?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Yes, Madam Speaker.

I just think that it should be your say as to the interpretation of the Standing Orders to which I referred in my SPS contributions. Not for the Leader of Opposition to have his interpretation of whether I was correct or not; that's your ruling, not his.

The Standing Orders are as they are and it's for you to determine whether or not my statement and my actions are the allegations as to what he said.

You may recall, Madam Speaker, I clearly highlighted the fact that he had every right to talk about ReGen, but he was obligated to disclose to this honourable House when he was delivering.

Now, Madam Speaker, again, the Leader of the Opposition and I may differ on what the Standing Order say per Member. However, if there is a disagreement between me as the Minister and him as the Leader of Opposition, it's not for him to say that I'm wrong or he is right. In my humble opinion, Madam Speaker, it's for you to make that determination.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

What I have seen here today in the explanation provided by the Leader of the Opposition is that he was just providing clarity on the statements that were made in relation to the connection with the Dart organisation.

Can we please moved on from here?

OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

The Speaker: None.

RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGES

The Speaker: None.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

FIRST READINGS

MONETARY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

COMPANIES MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

DIRECTORS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

MONEY SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

SECURITIES INVESTMENT BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS AUTHORITY BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

SECOND READINGS

MONETARY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Investment and Social Development.

Hon. André M. Ebanks, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce and Investment, Innovation and Social Development, Elected Member for West Bay South: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am mindful that its noon and I don't want to stand in the way of Members and their lunch. Would you like to offer a lunch break, Madam Speaker?

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

I think that this would be a good time to take a lunch break. We will resume at 1.30 p.m.

Proceedings suspended at 12.25p.m.

Proceedings resumed at 2.03p.m.

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

I think right before the suspension we were about to open the debate on the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

I call on the Minister of Investment and Social Development.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It is a Bill that seeks to amend the Monetary Authority Act (2020 Revision)—which I will refer to as the principal Act—to expand the power of the Authority—also known as CIMA [Cayman Islands Monetary Authority]—to impose administrative fines; to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships and unincorporated associations for offences; to provide for the disclosure and sharing of information; and for incidental and connected purposes.

Madam Speaker, the principal Act and the Monetary Authority Administrative Fines Regulations were amended in 2019 to give CIMA the power to fine licensees and registrants for breaches of the regulatory Acts while the amendment to the Monetary Authority's Administrative Fines Regulations were implemented to extend that regime. Both actions ensured compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 35 which requires countries to have a range of proportionate and dissuasive sanctions available to deal with natural or legal persons that fail to comply with anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing [AML/CFT] requirements.

At present, the Monetary Authority Act (2020 Revision) only provides for body corporates, their officers and individuals acting on their behalf to be subject to a penalty where an offence is committed. However, there is no provision in the principal Act which gives CIMA the power to apply administrative fines to partnerships or unincorporated associations.

Madam Speaker, the Bill is therefore presented to harmonise the provisions of the principal Act with the Proceeds of Crime Act (2020 Revision) [PoCA] which will ensure that there's consistency across the legal and regulatory framework as the PoCA also extends the liability of offences to partnerships, unincorporated associations, partners and persons concerned in the management and control of an association.

As a consequence of this Bill, Madam Speaker, there are six other Bills on today's Order Paper that form part of a legislative package that have similar amendments in this regard namely the:

- Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and
- Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Madam Speaker, this Bill seeks to extend the provisions related to the liability for offences and the issuance of an administrative fine to partnerships and unincorporated entities.

However, in addition, Madam Speaker, we're also trying to prepare for the fifth round of assessment of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force [CFATF], and we have sought to improve our rating as it relates to Immediate Outcome 2 **“international co-operation delivers appropriate information, financial intelligence, and evidence, and facilitates action against criminals and their assets.”**

The following excerpt is included in the description of the characteristics of an effective system within the FATF's methodology: **“Competent authorities also seek international co-operation to pursue criminals and their assets. Over time, this makes the country an unattractive location for criminals (including terrorists) to operate in, maintain their illegal proceeds in, or use as a safe haven.”**

Madam Speaker, picking up from that point, there is no express provision in the principal Act that allows CIMA to disclose information proactively and voluntarily that is uncovered during its supervisory or other activities including enforcement actions and on-site inspections to overseas regulatory authorities. The Bill will permit CIMA to share non-public information of criminal conduct uncovered with an overseas regulatory authority and this will evidence and embody a high level of commitment to international cooperation.

One other matter arises from the Bill, Madam Speaker. Previous changes to the Companies Act permit CIMA to disclose any information relating to a company or a subsidiary of a company regulated by CIMA to the beneficial ownership competent authority. However, a similar provision is not currently included in the principal Act. Thus, for the avoidance of doubt, Madam Speaker, this provision is being mirrored in the Bill to make it clear that CIMA is legally permitted to share information regarding licensees and registrants to the beneficial ownership competent authority.

Importantly, Madam Speaker, this Bill at present, does not seek to satisfy the remaining action for the Cayman Islands to be removed from the current FATF “grey list”. To reiterate, Madam Speaker to yourself, the listening public and the Members of this honourable House, the remaining grey list action item relates to the Cayman Islands being able to successfully conduct money laundering prosecutions. The

Honourable Attorney General and I will be travelling with a team of officers to Mexico next week, to begin the next round of discussion in the plenary cycle of the FATF to discuss this remaining action item of the grey list in which we believe we have substantive updates to submit.

However, Madam Speaker, what this Bill and the related legislative package today provides is an opportunity to close a gap unrelated to the FATF grey list but seeks to get ahead so that we are not having to close this gap later in the future by force or extra pressure.

Thus, Madam Speaker, this Bill sparks a proactive approach to the Fifth Round of FATF assessment because we—and the world—are currently still within the Fourth Round. The Fifth Round of FATF assessments will start in 2025, and based on current information, the Cayman Islands will be placed in the Fifth Round for assessment around 2026.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, this provides us an opportunity to start as early as possible so that we can avoid a situation of having large swaths of legislation to try to push through for industry and regulatory agencies to get used to assessing in the quick run up to 2026. This provides us much more lead time and it's a trend that we will hopefully seek to continue in the coming months.

Madam Speaker, the Bill is arranged into 10 clauses.

Clause 1 provides the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act to change the section heading.

The clause further amends section 2 of the principal Act by inserting definitions of the words “exempted limited partnership”, “limited liability partnership” and “partnership”.

Clause 3 amends section 34 of the principal Act by repealing subsection (18) as a consequence of the proposed new clause 44A.

Clause 4 repeals section 42A of the principal Act and substitutes proposed new Section 42A. The proposed new Section 42A empowers CIMA to impose an administrative fine on an individual, a body corporate, a partnership, a limited liability partnership, an exempted limited partnership, an unincorporated association or any other person where that individual, body corporate, partnership, limited liability partnership, exempted limited partnership, unincorporated association or other person breaches the principal Act, a regulatory law or the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations (2023 Revision).

Clause 5 amends section 42B of the principal Act to provide for, among other things, the quantum of the administrative fines that CIMA may impose on a partnership, a limited liability partnership or an exempted limited partnership, and an unincorporated association other than a partnership, a limited liability partnership or an exempted limited partnership.

Clause 6 amends section 42F(5) of the principal Act in the definition of the words “disgorgement principle” by deleting the words “licensees under” and substituting the words “persons regulated under” to clarify that the disgorgement principle applies not just to licensees, but to all persons regulated under the regulatory laws and those connected with them as defined in section 34(16)(d) of the principal Act.

Clause 7 repeals section 42H of the principal Act and substitutes a proposed new section 42H which provides that Cabinet may make regulations, including regulations to provide for prescribed provisions, forms and procedures for imposing fines, appeals against certain decisions, how fines shall be paid and may be enforced, interest on outstanding fines and the evidentiary provisions for certain proceedings.

The new proposed clause 42H further provides that regulations made to provide for prescribed provisions shall provide for the category of the breach in respect of each prescribed provision as minor, serious or very serious.

Clause 8 inserts a new clause 44A in the principal Act to provide for the liability of—

- (a) a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of a body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, however designated, where an offence under the principal Act is committed by the body corporate and it is proved that the offence was committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, the director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or the person who was purporting to act in any such capacity;
- (b) a partner concerned in the management or control of a partnership or limited liability partnership, or partner who takes part in the conduct of the business of an exempted limited partnership where an offence of the principal Act was committed by the partnership, the limited liability partnership or the exempted limited partnership and has proved that the offence was committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of the partner;

A similar provision is set out in relation to an unincorporated association.

Clause 9 amends section 50 of the principal Act to empower CIMA to provide an overseas regulatory authority, information relating to criminal conduct which is discovered in the performance of the Monetary Authority’s regulatory functions under section 6(1)(b) or co-operative functions under section 6(1)(c) of the principal Act.

Clause 10 inserts a proposed new section 50A into the principal Act. The proposed new section 50A

empowers CIMA to, in its discretion or upon request by the BO [beneficial ownership] competent authority, share information relating to a person or an entity regulated under the principal Act or regulatory laws.

Madam Speaker that concludes my presentation of the Bill.

In closing, I wish to thank the Ministry staff and the Legislative Drafting Department for their efforts with respect to the design and preparation of the Bill. I also wish to thank as ever, the Managing Director and the staff of CIMA for their hard work and to thank industry professionals for their cooperation with the country’s regulatory framework while still promoting and conducting sound local and international business.

With that, Madam Speaker, I commend the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I do rise briefly on behalf of the official Opposition to declare our support for the Bill that the Minister just spoke to.

We understand the need for amending legislation and why it is required, in order to ensure that CIMA can properly discharge its regulatory functions in the levying of fines and also to be able to communicate and give evidence over to international jurisdictions amongst other things that the Minister described in presenting the Bill.

Thus, Madam Speaker, we have no issues with the Bill and do support it.

Thank you, Ma’am.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Attorney General.

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Madam Speaker, thank you very much.

I just rise briefly to say that I too would like to be on record in support of the Bill being piloted by the Honourable Minister and certainly share the need for these amendments being proposed in the Bill itself.

Madam Speaker, the whole issue of domestic cooperation and coordination essential to the Cayman Islands’ ability to demonstrate to the FATF that we have the necessary legislative and administrative framework in place to deal with issues especially the ability to share information among law enforcement agencies and to do so in this case abroad as well.

Madam Speaker, it certainly speaks volumes to the Cayman Islands’ commitment to be proactive

about these things, in terms of recognising that they are tweaks that need to be done to the legislation, certainly ahead of the Fifth Round which is due to start in 2026 for mutual evaluation.

As the Honourable Minister says, to deal with these issues and not seem to be reacting to any sort of edict from these international bodies but on our own initiative, recognising these gaps and dealing with them.

Madam Speaker, it is a very welcome set of amendments to the Monetary Authority Act and I certainly join him in commending the Bill to the Parliament.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Attorney General.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

I now call on the Honourable Minister to exercise his right of reply.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Very briefly, to thank the Opposition [following] the Leader of the Opposition's remarks to show cooperation on an issue that really should not be contentious. It shows Cayman in its best light of being proactive, getting ahead of issues and not having sort of a frantic approach nearer to the Fifth Round. This allows us to have a very good pace and it's a trend we would like to continue.

I also thank the Attorney General for his support and all Members of this House. Although these Bills may be of a straightforward nature because the gaps are clear, in the event that there are thornier issues in the future, with that is also an opportunity to reach across the aisle, have greater consultation with the Opposition because these should not be political or contentious matters.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was given a second reading.

COMPANIES MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Social Development.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It's a Bill that seeks to amend the Companies Management Act (2021 Revision)—which I will refer to as the principal Act—to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental purposes.

Madam Speaker, I'll just take a moment here to say that the pivotal Bill in this legislative package was the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which set out the reasons for the rest of the package. Given the late hours we have spent, I think I might move this presentation at a brisker pace.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you colleagues.

Madam Speaker, the change and the reason for this Bill that aligns the principal Act with the Proceeds of Crime Act (2020 Revision) with regards to the criminal liability of partnerships and unincorporated associations [is], section 142 of the Proceeds of Crime Act (2020 Revision) addresses the issue adequately and is used as the basis to amend section 2022 [sic] [22] in this Bill. The Bill is arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends [section 2 of] the principal Act to change the section heading.

The clause further amends section 2 of the principal Act by inserting the definitions of the words "exempted limited partnership", "limited liability partnership" and "partnership".

Clause 3 amends [section 22 of] the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading.

The clause also amends section 22 of the principal Act by inserting new clause [sic] [subsections] (3) and (4) to provide for the liability of those related to partnerships and unincorporated associations.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my presentation of the Bill. As ever, I wish to thank the Ministry staff and the Legislative Drafting Department for their efforts to prepare the Bill.

I therefore commend the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:
Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Once again, just to indicate our full support for the amendments to the Bill. We understand that this and the other remaining pieces of legislation all follow as a consequence of the amendment to the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Thus, we support it wholeheartedly and perhaps this will speed things along too.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

Does the mover of the Bill wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Just quickly to thank the Opposition for their continued support.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

DIRECTORS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It seeks to amend the Directors Registration and Licensing Act, 2014, to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons connected in the management or

control of unincorporated associations for offences; and incidental purposes.

The reason is similar to the Bill given a second reading prior to this one. I think we can take that as read in the House. It's similarly arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act by inserting the definition of the words "exempted limited partnership", "limited liability partnership" and "partnership".

Clause 3 amends section 28 of the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading and by inserting new subsections (3) and (4) to provide for the liability for the criminal acts and to be able to fine partners and unincorporated associations.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my presentation of the Bill and I commend the Bill entitled the Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:
Madam Speaker, no comments or observations from us. We support the Bill.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

Does the mover of the Bill wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: No thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a second reading. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was given a second reading.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It is a Bill that seeks to amend the Insurance Act, 2010, to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and other incidental and connected purposes.

The Bill's reasons are exactly the same as the prior Bills. However, just in case, the staff is wondering whether I'm paying attention, this one Bill has a difference from all the others. It's arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act by inserting the definition of the words "exempted limited partnership", "limited liability partnership" and "partnership".

Clause 3 amends section 39 of the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading. However, the difference in this Bill is that there is a historical era in which the reference to "director" was made; it really should have been "senior officer". Therefore, the clause further amends subsection 2 to correct the incorrect reference to a "director". The rest of clause 3 is for the exact purposes of the prior Bills.

That, Madam Speaker, concludes my presentation of the Bill and I commend the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thanks again, Madam Speaker.

No comments from the Opposition or observations with regard to the amendments and we do support the Bill.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

Does the mover of the Bill wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: No thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

MONEY SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the Member wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Again, Madam Speaker, I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It seeks to amend the Money Services Act (2020 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The reasons for the Bill are identical to those read prior. Similarly, this Bill is arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act to change the section heading, and to insert the definitions of "exempted limited partnerships", "limited [liability] partnership" and "partnership".

Clause 3 amends section 26 of the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading; and inserting new subsections (3) and (4) to provide for the liability of partnerships, those associated with partnerships and unincorporated associations.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my presentation of the Bill and I commend the Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you again, Madam Speaker.

Just to signal again that we support the Bill and the amendments.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

I call on the mover of the Bill to exercise his right of reply.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Not on this occasion either, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

SECURITIES INVESTMENT BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Minister of Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled the Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has duly been moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Briefly, Madam Speaker.

I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government.

The Bill seeks to amend the Securities Investment Business Act (2020 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of an unincorporated association for offences; and for incidental purposes.

The reasons for the Bill are precisely the same as those prior, Madam Speaker. The Bill is arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act to change the section heading.

Clause 3 amends section 37 of the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading.

It also includes two new subsections (3) and (4) to provide for the liability of partnerships and unincorporated associations and management control thereto.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my presentation of the Bill. I therefore commend the Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to this honourable House for its Second Reading.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Again, Madam Speaker, thank you. Just want to signal our support for the Bill and the amendments.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

I now call on the mover of the Bill to exercise his right of reply.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Just to say thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll probably dream about partnerships tonight.

[Laughter]

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Madam Speaker, I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It is a Bill that seeks to amend the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act (2022 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of an unincorporated association for offences; and for incidental purposes.

The reasons for the Bill are exactly the same as those prior, Madam Speaker. The Bill is arranged in three clauses.

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act by inserting definitions of the words “exempted limited partnership”, “limited liability partnership” and “partnership”.

Clause 3 amends section 36 of the principal Act by repealing and substituting the section heading; and similarly, inserts proposed new subsections (3) and (4) to provide for the liability of those associated with partnerships and partnerships, and also unincorporated associations.

Madam Speaker, that concludes my presentation of the Bill. Again, I would like to thank the Ministry staff and the Legislative Drafting Department for all of their efforts in preparing the overall legislative package.

The Speaker: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank goodness, Madam Speaker. I think I got my exercise in for the day; up, down, up, down. The only thing is it didn't add to my steps goal.

[Laughter]

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, thank you and again, I signal our support for the Bill and the amendments.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

Does the mover of the Bill wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Yeah, and I plan to call for a division. I am just joking.

[Laughter]

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Just to say, thank you very much for the swiftness with which we were able to approve this legislative package. Also, to thank the

Opposition for their cooperation and consideration, and to thank the Honourable Members of this House deeply.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS AUTHORITY BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lay before this honourable House the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023. This Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996; in order to establish the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority and its Board. The Bill also seeks to provide for the powers and functions of the Authority and the Board; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996 is 27 years old, Madam Speaker, and has not been amended since it came into effect. As a consequence, it is both inadequate and ineffective in dealing with the complexities of a modern tourism environment.

The existing Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996, is in fact considered to be so antiquated that the legal department advised against amending it and recommended creating a whole new Act. The Ministry of Tourism seized this opportunity and, in so doing, has changed the name to more closely reflect the functions that the Tourism Attraction Board actually performs.

Madam Speaker, the 1996 Act also predates current legislation which speaks to good governance such as the Public Management Finance Act and the Public Authorities Act. Therefore, sections of it are not in compliance, for example, with the Public Authorities Act in sections concerning the board membership.

With the passage of time, the Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996, also, no longer relates to the

many recent developments at the Tourism Attraction Board (TAB). The proposed new Authority Bill addresses these fundamental issues and also includes provisions for Cabinet to make regulations under the new Law.

It may be helpful for me to explain that the Tourism Attraction Board itself was created for the sole purpose of managing our wonderful Pedro St. James. However, over the years other sights were passed to it for their management for example, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and the Hell Tourist Attraction site.

Madam Speaker, there are other sites across the Islands that are tourism attractions, but they are not governed or overseen by any specific entity. In some instances, the Parks Department will clean the site and the Ministry of Tourism will undertake to build restrooms or make other small infrastructural improvements to enhance their safety or appeal; the Wreck of the Ten Sail in East End is a classic example.

The new Act would address these types of situations and will create opportunities for the structured governance, development and management of all the sites that could potentially be considered as tourism attractions such as the Blow Holes.

While I have spoken only about sites in Grand Cayman, I have no doubt that there will be opportunities in the future for attractions in the Sister Islands to come under the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority, and this law will allow for further growth in organisation.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the interpretation of certain terms used in the legislation such as the definition of “authority”, “board” and “director”.

Clause 3 establishes the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority as a corporate entity, having the power to, among other things, enter into contracts and to buy and sell land and other property. This provision is in keeping with the existing legislation governing our other authorities, and also empowers the Authority to sue and be sued in its corporate name; and requires the Authority to establish its head office.

Clause 4 provides for the use of the seal of the Authority and the authentication of documents by the Authority.

Clause 5 sets out the functions of the Authority which include the general and financial management of all property vested in it or placed under its management by the Cabinet.

The example I gave earlier of the Wreck of the Ten Sail could be one such property that may benefit under this clause by being overseen in a more holistic manner by the Authority.

Clause 6 enables the Minister responsible for tourism to issue written policy directions to the Authority after consultation with the board.

Clause 7 provides for the constitution of the board of the Authority and for the appointment of members of the board by the Cabinet.

The current Tourism Attraction Board membership comprises the Chairperson, Ms. Carla Reid, who I would like to recognise in the gallery today, and say, thank you so much, for her commitment over the years. She has been a chairman for quite some time and she's very proud to be a part of the transition into this new direction. There is also a deputy chairperson, members namely: the Director of the Department of Tourism; the Chief Officer for the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage or its nominee; the Chief Officer for Education, District Administration and Lands or its nominee; and ex officio member the Chief Officer for the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Stran Bodden. The board secretary is Mr. Patrick Thompson, who is currently the Director at the Tourism Attraction Board.

It is proposed under the Act that the board membership consists of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, a Chief Officer from the Ministry of Tourism or its nominee, a Chief Officer from the Ministry of Lands or its nominee, a chairperson [sic] [Chief Officer] from the Ministry of Culture or its nominee and three other members as the Cabinet may appoint.

Madam Speaker, this provision brings the Authority in compliance with the Public Authorities Act (2020 Revision) which states that, “**the membership of a board shall not be comprised of more than forty percent public or civil servants.**” Moreover, it should be noted that the public officers will not have any voting rights at the board meetings.

Clause 8 prescribes the responsibilities of the board which include, among other things, the governance, policy and performance of the Authority and ensuring the effective oversight of the operations of the Authority related to planning, construction, upgrading, rehabilitation or maintenance of all attractions vested in the Authority.

Clause 9 provides for the appointment and the responsibilities of the secretary of the board.

Clause 10 specifies the procedure in relation to meetings of the board.

Clauses 11 and 12 require members of the board to disclose their pecuniary interests in contracts, proposed contracts, licences and other matters being considered by the board.

Clause 13 provides for the appointment and functions of the Director of the Authority.

Clause 14 enables the board to employ staff and engage the services of professional and technical personnel.

Clause 15 specifies the revenue and the resources of the Authority.

Clause 16 empowers the Authority to borrow in connection with the performance of its functions.

Clause 17 enables the Authority to maintain a reserve fund and to determine the management and the administration of that fund.

Clause 18 specifies that the financial year of the Authority is the date set out in paragraph (a) of the

definition of “financial year” in section 2 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision).

Clause 19 stipulates that the Authority is a public authority for the purposes of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision). This provision also clarifies that the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) will prevail in any event of inconsistency between the Act and the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Act, 2023.

Clause 20 provides for the transfer and vesting of assets and liabilities of the Tourism Attraction Board to the Authority for the purpose of this legislation.

Clause 21 provides for the immunity of any member or employee of the Authority from liability in damages for anything done or omitted in the discharge or purported discharge of their respective functions under this legislation.

Clause 22 requires the authority to indemnify a member against all claims, damages, costs, charges or expenses incurred by that member in the discharge or purported discharge of the member’s function under this legislation, except claims, damages, costs, charges or expenses caused by the bad faith of that member.

Clause 23 empowers the Cabinet, after consultation with the board, to make regulations to give effect for the purposes of this legislation.

Clause 24 provides for the repeal of the Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996.

Clause 25 contains the transitional provisions.

Madam Speaker, I believe it is timely and necessary that I now bring this legislation to this Parliament so that the country and the tourism industry may benefit from its advancement.

Madam Speaker, I now commend this Bill to this honourable House and I hope that the Members find it possible to support it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, thank you again for the opportunity.

I don’t have very much to say with regard to the proposed Bill, except to commend the Minister for bringing it. We do believe that it is a very timely Bill in what it seeks to achieve in taking the Tourism Attractions Board to the next level and turning it now into an authority where proper governance arrangements can be put into place; and it will comply with the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) and the Public Authorities Act (2020 Revision) in particular.

I think all of these are laudable and a step in the right direction. I think it will help raise the profile of our national attractions, so there are many positive things that emanate from this Bill.

I do thank the Minister for bringing it forward and signal here that he will have our support with it.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Just very briefly, Madam Speaker, to say thank you to the Minister for Tourism for bringing this Bill. I think it reflects his hard work and the work of his staff in modernising this area of legislation. Well done.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

If no other Member wishes to speak, I will ask the mover of the Bill if he wishes to exercise his right of reply.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just briefly to say, thank you so much for the Legal Drafting Team who helped draft the legislation; also, to the Opposition and my colleagues for their tacit support. I particularly want to thank the Chairperson who is here in the gallery today for her hard work, and who I know has been pushing really hard over the years. I know that there was hope under the last administration to complete this but unfortunately COVID hit us; however, it’s better late than never.

We do believe that it will empower and improve our attractions that are such a key component to the tourism product.

Madam Speaker, I thank you again for allowing me to speak and I thank the Members for their support.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023 was given a second reading.

[Pause]

The Speaker: We are just going to take a two-minute suspension. I ask Members to remain in their seats.

Proceedings suspended at 3.01 p.m.

Proceedings resumed at 3.03 p.m.

The Speaker: The House will now go into Committee to consider the Bills.

House in Committee at 3.04 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON BILLS

The Chairman: The House is now in Committee.

With the leave of the House, may I assume that as usual, we should authorise the Honourable Attorney General to correct minor errors and such like in these Bills?

Would the Clerk please state the Bills and read the clauses?

MONETARY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Monetary Authority Act (2020 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 34 - relations with banks and other financial institutions
Clause 4	Repeal and substitution of section 42A - Authority's power to fine
Clause 5	Amendment of section 42B - fine amounts
Clause 6	Amendment of section 42F - criteria for making fine decision
Clause 7	Repeal and substitution of section 42H - other Regulation-making powers for Part
Clause 8	Insertion of section 44A - offences by corporations, partnerships, unincorporated associations, etc.
Clause 9	Amendment of section 50 - confidentiality
Clause 10	Insertion of section 50A - disclosure to the competent authority

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1 through 10? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1 through 10 do stand part of the Bill.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 10 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Monetary Authority Act (2020 Revision) to expand the power of the Authority to impose administrative fines; to provide for

the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships and unincorporated associations for offences; to provide for the disclosure and sharing of information; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

COMPANIES MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Companies Management Act (2021 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 22 of the Companies Management Act (2021 Revision) - offences by corporations

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1, 2 and 3? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Companies Management Act (2021 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

**DIRECTORS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

The Clerk:

- Clause 1 Short title
 Clause 2 Amendment of section 2 of the Directors Registration and Licensing Act, 2014 - interpretation
 Clause 3 Amendment of section 28 of the Directors Registration and Licensing Act, 2014 - offences by corporations

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1, 2 and 3? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Directors Registration and Licensing Act, 2014 to provide for the liability of partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

- Clause 1 Short title
 Clause 2 Amendment of section 2 of the Insurance Act, 2010 - interpretation
 Clause 3 Amendment of section 39 of the Insurance Act, 2010 - liability of directors, etc., where the offence is committed by a corporation

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1, 2 and 3. If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Insurance Act, 2010 to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

**MONEY SERVICES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

The Clerk:

- Clause 1 Short title
 Clause 2 Amendment of section 2 of the Money Services Act (2020 Revision) - definitions
 Clause 3 Amendment of section 26 of the Money Services Act (2020 Revision) - offences by officers of corporate bodies

The Chairman: Are there any questions on Clauses 1, 2 and 3. If not, I will put the question.

The question is that Clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Money Services Act (2020 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

SECURITIES INVESTMENT BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Securities Investment Business Act (2020 Revision) - definitions
Clause 3	Amendment of section 37 of the Securities Investment Business Act (2020 Revision) - offences by corporations

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1, 2 and 3? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Securities Investment Business Act (2020 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Short title
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Clause 2	Amendment of section 2 of the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act (2022 Revision) - interpretation
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Clause 3	Amendment of section 36 of the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act (2022 Revision) - offences by corporations
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The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1, 2 and 3? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1, 2 and 3 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act (2022 Revision) to provide for the liability of partnerships, limited liability partnerships, exempted limited partnerships, partners, unincorporated associations and persons concerned in the management or control of unincorporated associations for offences; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS AUTHORITY BILL, 2023

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Citation
Clause 2	Interpretation
Clause 3	Establishment of the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority
Clause 4	Use of seal and authentication of documents
Clause 5	Functions of the Authority
Clause 6	Minister may give general directions
Clause 7	Constitution of the board of the Authority
Clause 8	Responsibilities of the board
Clause 9	Secretary of the board
Clause 10	Meetings of the board
Clause 11	Disclosure of member's interest
Clause 12	Member's pecuniary interests

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1 through 12? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 1 through 12 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 through 12 passed.

The Clerk:

Clause 13	Director
Clause 14	Power to employ staff
Clause 15	Revenue and resources of Authority
Clause 16	Capital and borrowing powers of Authority
Clause 17	Reserve fund
Clause 18	Financial year
Clause 19	Applicability of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision)
Clause 20	Vesting
Clause 21	Immunity
Clause 22	Indemnity
Clause 23	Regulations
Clause 24	Repeal
Clause 25	Transitional

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 13 through 25? If not, I will put the question.

The question is that clauses 13 through 25 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 13 through 25 passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Tourism Attraction Board Act, 1996; to establish the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority and its board; to provide for the powers and functions of the Authority and the board; and for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Title passed.

The Chairman: The question is that the Bills be reported to the House. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Bills to be reported to the House.

House resumed at 3.22 p.m.

The Speaker: The House will now resume.

REPORT ON BILLS

MONETARY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

COMPANIES MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

DIRECTORS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

MONEY SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

SECURITIES INVESTMENT BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was considered by a Committee of the whole House and passed without amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS AUTHORITY BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Bill shortly entitled the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023, and it was passed without amendment.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

Honourable Premier, can we have a motion for the suspension of Standing Order 47 to allow Bills to be given more than two readings in any one sitting?

Suspension of Standing Order 47

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 86, I move the suspension of Standing Order 47 to allow Bills to receive the Third Reading in the same day as the First and Second [Readings].

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 47 be suspended to allow Bills to be given more than two readings at any one sitting.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 47 suspended.

THIRD READINGS

MONETARY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

**COMPANIES MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Companies Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

**DIRECTORS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Directors Registration and Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

MONEY SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Money Services (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was given a third reading and passed.

**SECURITIES INVESTMENT BUSINESS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Securities Investment Business (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Financial Services.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Finally, Madam Speaker, having gotten a little bit more cardio than the Leader of the Opposition, I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was given a third reading and passed.

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL ATTRACTIONS AUTHORITY BILL, 2023

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Ports.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With a whole lot fewer calories burnt than both the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister; Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill shortly entitled the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023 be read a third time and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023 be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority Bill, 2023 was given a third reading and passed.

MOTIONS

**GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 7 OF 2022-2023
AMENDMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
1997 — PROPOSED REZONING:
GEORGE TOWN EAST, BLOCK 20D
PARCELS 466 AND 467 (NOW 471)**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister for Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, Elected Member for North Side: Madam Speaker, Government Motion No. 7 2022-2023: Amendment to the Development Plan for the George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471)—

WHEREAS on the 5th September 2018 (CPA/20/15; Item 3.1) the Central Planning Authority originally considered the request to amend the Development Plan from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential over Block 20D Parcel 172, it was resolved to amend the request to rezone only the portion of the parcel to the south of Linford Pierson Highway.

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments were duly advertised in the *Cayman Compass* on the 27th and 28th of September, and the 1st and 2nd of October 2018, in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Development and Planning Act (2015 Revision), and persons were invited to view the application at the Department of Planning for comment. During the 60-day comment period, no objections were received on the proposed amendment;

AND WHEREAS on the 19th of December 2018 (CPA/28/18; Item 3.1) the Central Planning Authority again considered the proposal and resolved to forward the rezone application to the Ministry of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure (now the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure) for onward transmission to the Parliament for consideration;

AND WHEREAS on the 31st July 2019 planning permission was granted to subdivide the parcel into two lots to allow for the new road (BP600). The new proposal therefore became an application for the rezoning of

- a. George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential
- b. Subsequently Block 20D Parcel 467 was further subdivided into Block 20D Parcel 470 north of Linford Pierson Highway *excluded from this rezone*, and 471 south of the Linford Pierson Highway *eligible for rezone*.

AND WHEREAS on the 17th November 2020 and again on April 12th 2023 Cabinet considered the

rezoning proposal and approved that the matter be submitted to Parliament for consideration;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT in accordance with section 11(4) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

- c. George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471) from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential**

The Speaker: The Motion has been moved and is open for debate. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Yes, Madam Speaker.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, can you please proceed while the copies of the Motion are being distributed?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with section 11 of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), I wish to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the proposal to change the zoning for land from Registration Section: George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471).

Madam Speaker, the Members will find the information before them relating to the rezone submission of the following:

- (a) A written summary of the rezone application;
- (b) A map illustrating the location of the proposed rezone submission and existing zonings over the land; and
- (c) A final map illustrating the proposed zoning of the submission being discussed.

The land as mentioned in the Motion is currently zoned Low Density Residential and its located south of the Linford Pierson Highway, adjacent to the newly constructed Alamo roundabout near Halifax Road. The proposal is to alter the zoning of the land to High Density Residential to allow for the development of low-cost, affordable, multi-family housing.

Madam Speaker, the Motion read earlier contained many of the pertinent points of the application and in my brief presentation of this submission, I intend to summarise and clarify, rather than repeat the details already presented in the Motion.

Madam Speaker, under the Development and Planning Act, the Central Planning Authority [CPA] was

presented with this application on 5th September, 2018. At the first review, the CPA assessed the rezone [request] and [decided to] rezone the portion of the parcel to the south of the Linford Pierson Highway only, and then resolved to proceed and advertise this proposal publicly in the newspaper as a rezone from Low Density to High Density Residential on the 27th and 28th September, 2018, and 1st and 2nd October, 2018, in accordance with the law; no objections were received.

On 19th December, 2018 CPA resolved and forwarded the proposal to the Minister of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure for onward transmission to the then Legislative Assembly for consideration subject to Cabinet approval.

Madam Speaker, on November 17th, 2020, Cabinet considered the rezone proposal and approved that the matter be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

Madam Speaker, Block [sic] [Parcel] 467 was subsequently subdivided into 470 north of Linford Pierson and 471 south of Linford Pierson. It is the latter Parcel 471 along with [Parcel] 466 that are being considered for the rezoning.

Madam Speaker, even though Cabinet approved the application, it was not progressed to the House. Therefore, on April 12th, 2023 the Cabinet considered this matter a second time, as time had passed since the initial consideration.

As a result, Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the Ministry was able to forward this application to this honourable House for consideration.

Madam Speaker, I am asking for the support of this honourable House to approve the George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471) from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The elected Member for George Town North.

Mr. Joseph X. Hew, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a few comments on the Government Motion No. 7 of 2022-2023: Amendment to the Development Plan — 1997 Proposed Rezoning: George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471).

Madam Speaker, this went to Cabinet during my time as a Minister and I do remember some of the details—everything in that period now for me is pre-COVID and post-COVID and this was pre-COVID which is a bit of a blur.

However, Madam Speaker, the Honourable Minister did a very good job of explaining the rationale behind it and we are aware of it. The parcel is in a growing area. The property to the east is neighbourhood commercial and there're a few iterations of plans for

supermarkets, shopping centres, and things of that nature.

The technocrats at the time presented to us that accepting this application for rezoning to the High Density Residential would act as a bit of a buffer between the neighbourhood commercial area going back into the Low Density Residential. In fact, you may want to go from High Density, Medium Density then Low [Density] so that you have a gradual move into the Low Density Residential.

Madam Speaker, I know that the applicants have been waiting quite a while for this so we on this side don't have an issue with the application and we will be supporting it.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, notwithstanding what my colleague said, we do accept and support the Motion but I do have a question since this is in and affects my constituency and I'm familiar with the development that exists on it.

Madam Speaker, I wonder if in his wind up, the Minister might say why Block 20D [Parcel] 470 was not also zoned High Density Residential because I know that the developers placed about 14 apartments on that lot and it would seem to me that, that would put it in a High-Density Residential category. That was my only observation, and just for my edification and others who might ask.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[Pause]

I will then call on the mover of the Motion to exercise his right of reply if he should choose to do so.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Madam Speaker, I understand what the Leader of the Opposition is saying but I am not one of the people who submitted the rezoning application so I assume they submitted what they wanted to rezone.

If it is that there is something that they want to look into regarding again rezoning—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Yeah, they can actually re-apply and go back through the process to rezone that parcel.

Madam Speaker, this went through two different Cabinets including the Cabinet that the Honourable Member was a part of at that time.

Madam Speaker, that is all I will say today to this rezoning application. It has been a long time waiting and so I thank everyone and my team for the support.

The Speaker: The question is: **BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Section 11(4) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

c. George Town East, Block 20D Parcels 466 and 467 (now 471) from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 7 of 2022-2023 passed.

[Pause]

The Speaker: I call on the Honourable Premier to move a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, thank you very much.

Before I move the formal motion, I want to thank Members for the contributions and work that has been achieved over the last three days. We have gotten through a number of important Bills, two important Motions; one relating to the approval of the Strategic Policy Statement for 2024-2026 and the Motion we have just dealt with in relation to rezoning. We have also gotten through no less than eight Private Members' Motions.

Madam Speaker, the reason behind the need to try to accomplish all the business by this evening was that several Members of Government have to travel very early next week. The Honourable Minister for Financial Services indicated in one of his contributions that he has to travel on Monday with the Honourable Attorney General; and then I travel on Tuesday.

Madam Speaker, I know that it has been a tiring stretch for Members and I truly appreciate the effort made to attend and to be able to accomplish this business in this Meeting.

Madam Speaker, with that, I will move to adjourn this honourable House *sine die* and we will be through shortly, indicating when the next meeting might be.

Thank you very much to everyone.

The Speaker: The question is that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

This honourable House do now stand adjourned.

At 3.57 p.m., the House stood adjourned sine die.