



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

First Meeting 2023-2024 Session
Fifth Sitting

Tuesday
26 September, 2023
(Pages 1-4)

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,	<i>Deputy Premier, Minister of Education and District Administration & Lands</i>
Hon. Bernie A. Bush, MP	<i>Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage</i>
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP	<i>Minister of Tourism & Ports</i>
Hon. Sabrina T. Turner, MP	<i>Minister of Health & Wellness and Home Affairs</i>
Hon. Johany S. "Jay" Ebanks, MP	<i>Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure</i>
Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	<i>Minister of Financial Services & Commerce and Investment, Innovation & Social Development</i>

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Gloria McField-Nixon	<i>Acting Deputy Governor, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service</i>
Hon. Reshma Sharma	<i>Acting 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	<i>Parliamentary Secretary to Tourism and Social Development, Elected Member for Savannah</i>
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	<i>Elected Member for West Bay West</i>

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	<i>Elected Member for Red Bay</i>
Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, JP, NP, MP	<i>Elected Member for George Town South</i>
Mr. David C. Wight, JP, MP	<i>Elected Member for George Town West</i>

INDEPENDENT OPPOSITION MEMBER

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MP	<i>Elected Member for Bodden Town East</i>
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APOLOGIES

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, MP	<i>Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman</i>
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ABSENT

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	<i>Elected Member for Bodden Town West</i>
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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST MEETING OF THE 2023/24 SESSION
FRIDAY
26 SEPTEMBER, 2023
10.38 A.M.
Fifth Sitting

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

The Speaker: Good morning, Honourable Members. I will call on the Acting Deputy Governor to grace us with prayers this morning.

PRAYERS

The Acting Deputy Governor, Hon. Gloria McField-Nixon: 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: You may be seated. Proceedings are now resumed.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND DUE EXECUTION OF OFFICE

The Speaker: Ms. Sharma.

The Acting Attorney General, Hon. Reshma Sharma: I, RESHMA SHARMA, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, His Heirs and Successors, according to law. So help me God.

The Acting Attorney General, Hon. Reshma Sharma: I, RESHMA SHARMA, do swear that I will well and truly serve His Majesty King Charles III, His Heirs and Successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the Office of Ex-officio Member of the Parliament. So help me God.

The Speaker: Acting Honourable Attorney General, we welcome you to your seat as temporary Ex-officio Member.

You may be seated.

READING BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker: I received apologies this morning from the elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

**REQUESTS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR
APPROPRIATION CHANGES SOUGHT UNDER
SECTION 12 OF THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE ACT (2020 REVISION) - FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Finance &

Economic Development, Elected Member for Newlands: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 67(1), to seek permission to lay on the Table of this honourable House, a paper that sets out requests to Finance Committee for Appropriations sought under section 12 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) for the Government's financial year ending 31 December 2023. If I may with your permission.

The Speaker: Yes, Honourable Premier. Do you wish to speak to the paper?

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

Yes, just [to say] that in accordance with Standing Order 67(1) which uses the term 'paper', the paper which has just been laid with respect to requests for Appropriation changes, stands referred to Finance Committee.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: None.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: None.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: None.

OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

The Speaker: None.

RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGES

The Speaker: None.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Speaker: None.

Can I call on a Member to move the adjournment?

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

I move that the House suspends and stands adjourned to Finance Committee.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House does suspend until the conclusion of Finance Committee.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

The House is now suspended until the conclusion of Finance Committee.

Proceedings suspended at 10.46 a.m.

Proceedings resumed at 4.29 p.m.

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. You may be seated.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

The Speaker: I now call for nominations for the election of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Nominations are open.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, I rise to nominate Isaac Douglas Rankine, Member for East End.

An Hon. Member: No.

The Speaker: As Mr. Rankine has resigned as Deputy Speaker, we are now seeking a new nomination for a new Deputy Speaker.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Sorry, Madam Speaker. [I'm] tired; too many thunderstorms last night.

I rise, Madam Speaker, following the resignation of the current Deputy Speaker, to nominate Ms. Heather D. Bodden, the representative for Savannah.

The Speaker: Thank you. There is a nomination. As the nomination has come from the government side, does the elected Member for Savannah accept the nomination?

Ms. Heather D. Bodden, Elected Member for Savannah: Madam Speaker, I rise and humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Are there any other nominations? [Pause] Are there any other nominations? [Pause] If

there are no more nominations, can I ask for a motion to close the nomination process?

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Elected Member for West Bay West: I beg to move the closure of nominations.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Deputy Premier, Minister of Education and District Administration & Lands, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Madam Chair, it is my distinct honour to second the Motion for the nomination to be closed.

The Speaker: The Motion is moved and is now seconded.

All those in agreement that the nominations be closed, please say, Aye. Those against say, No.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Nominations closed.

The Speaker: As there is only one nomination, I will declare the elected Member for Savannah as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament of the Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Would the elected Member wish to speak?

Hon. Heather D. Bodden, Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and express my humble gratitude to our Honourable Premier and my colleagues of this honourable House for the expression of their confidence to this esteemed position.

Madam Speaker, I pledge my full support to the Honourable Speaker and the staff of the Parliament and I will endeavour to do my best to carry out the duties of this high Office, if and when called upon to do so.

Madam Speaker, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for his blessings and guidance upon me. Thank you.

[Desk thumping]

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE APPROPRIATION CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12 OF THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE ACT

(2020 REVISION) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 2023 (TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 2023)

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Report of the Standing Finance Committee on the Request to Finance Committee for Supplementary Appropriation Changes to the 2023 Financial Year.

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

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

In accordance with Standing Order 67(4), I have the pleasure to be able to submit this report to this honourable House; a report of the committee on their request to Finance Committee for Supplementary Appropriation changes for the 2023 financial year.

Madam Speaker, the Committee had its first meeting earlier today, during which the requested Appropriation changes were considered. The Committee met further this afternoon to finalise and approve the report which has just been Tabled.

Madam Speaker, the Committee considered and approved the request for Appropriation changes and these totalled \$68,774,170.

Madam Speaker, as the proceedings in Finance Committee were publicly aired and can still be viewed online, there isn't a need for me to go into greater detail on the items considered by Finance Committee.

Madam Speaker, the Committee agreed that the report that was just Tabled, be the Report of the Standing Finance Committee on those requests to Finance Committee for Supplementary Appropriation changes for the 2023 financial year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, my pleasure to do so.

Before articulating the Motion to adjourn, I would just like to thank all Members both on the Government side as well as the Opposition bench for participating in Finance Committee today to address the needs of the people of the country and to ensure that we are able to continue to deliver the specific services that were approved, and to enhance those services as reflected in the additional funding that was provided.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and I thank all members of staff of Parliament as well.

With that, Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of this honourable House *sine die*.

The Speaker: Before I put the question to the vote, I would like to join you in thanking all Members for their hard work, especially the staff of Parliament, who work busy behind the scenes long before you all arrive in the morning, and long after you have left in the evening.

I would particularly like to give thanks to one of our Accounts Officers, Ms. Kimberley Powell, who left her desk to come and assist us here in Parliament for the entire week, because we were short a staff Member. I want to publicly thank her for all her hard work.

The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Minister of Tourism & Ports, Elected Member for George Town Central:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

If you would allow, I, too, would like to recognise the many improvements that I have seen in the Parliament proceedings over the last week and a half. Madam Speaker, it should not go unnoticed, the small details that you're starting to see within Parliament which I know are due to your good guidance of this Parliament. From something as simple as a new platform [lectern] to read from. I have been here six years asking for one, and [not] until you were in the seat it got done. That's just one example of many.

I also want to support your position about the staff; the staff go way and far beyond the call of duty to assist us in this very important job that we do. Under your leadership I think things are improving, and the good people of the Cayman Islands should be rather proud to have you as the Honourable Speaker of this House.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House do stand adjourned *sine die*.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

This honourable House now stands adjourned.

At 4.39 p.m. the House stood adjourned sine die.