

Statement in relation to the 2023 2nd Supplementary

**Second Meeting of the 2023/2024 Session
of the Cayman Islands Parliament**

By the Honourable Premier Juliana O'Connor Connolly, JP, MP

Minister of Education

***Statement in relation to the Exceptional Circumstance Appropriation
changes resulting in the 2nd 2023 Supplementary Appropriations of the
Ministry of Education***

8 December 2023



**MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION**

CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Mister Speaker, as required by Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision), I make this Statement to the Members of this Honourable House with respect to the “exceptional circumstance” transactions that Cabinet approved for the Ministry of Education for the period 16 September 2023 – 7 December 2023. Such transactions were approved pursuant to Section 11(5) of the PMFA. This Statement provides details of the aforementioned transactions.

EGA 7 - EGA 4 - Public Library Services

Mister Speaker, the Cayman Islands Government recently announced a one-time honorarium to be paid to each Civil Servant in December 2023 in the amount of \$1,500. After considering this honorarium, the Cayman Islands Public Library Services revealed a forecasted shortfall in personnel funding of approximately \$25,000.

Additionally, various health and safety repairs were identified over the last three months at various branches of the service. In order to carry out these repairs, there was a need for additional funding of \$65,000.00.

Therefore, approval is required under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase EGA 4 - Public Library Services by Ninety Thousand Dollars (CI\$90,000.00);
- decrease EGA 1- Policy Advice, Governance and Ministerial Support Services by Ninety Thousand Dollars (CI\$90,000.00)

EGA 10 - Education, Early Childhood and Support Services

Mister Speaker, when registration was completed for the new academic year of 2023/2024, the new students registration far exceeded previous years. Our new entrants increased by 15% when compared to the average of the last three academic years.

Additional educational material, increased costs associated with the 1:1 initiative and an extension of support services were put in place to

accommodate this increased school population. The cost associated with these was \$1,056,000.

Approval is being sought under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase EGA 10 - Education, Early Childhood and Support Services by \$1,056,000
- decrease TP 93 - Public School Grants and COVID-19 Recovery Programme \$500,000
- decrease OE 12 – University of the West Indies Membership Levy by CI\$556,000

CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational Programmes

Mister Speaker, the UCCI is forecasting a deficit for 2023, due to a sharp increase in its operating expenses for 2023. The following factors have contributed to this forecasted deficit;

- Approved Cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2022 that is carried over into 2023
- Increased utility costs, property and liability insurance premiums and cost of janitorial services
- Increased depreciation charges
- Costs associated with the implementation of critical recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service
- Increased staffing needs to deliver educational programmes
- Audit recommendation to reclassify costs incurred for the implementation of a new student information system from capital expense to operational expense.

Approval is being sought under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational Programmes by \$3,400,000

- decrease EI 46 – University College of the Cayman Islands by CI\$3,400,000.00

EI 12 Ministry of Education

Mister Speaker, within two weeks of the new school year, the chiller system at Clifton Hunter High School malfunctioned and the entire school was without air conditioning. The chiller system is about 12 years old and has been declining in efficiency. Due to the instability of the air, a few issues have developed;

- Excess moisture in the air has made the flooring slippery where there are tiles or wooden floors
- Carpeting has developed a musty order
- The paper used to print lessons is moist, which adversely affects the performance of the printers and photocopy machines.

Although there is routine maintenance of the chiller system with a systemwide malfunction, its replacement is now critical. The replacement cost is estimated at \$800,000, however, due to a 10-month delivery timeline for a new chiller, at this time, funding is only required to make a 50% down payment of \$400,000.

The carpet will also need to be replaced due to health and safety issues, at a cost of \$750,000.

Approval is being sought under Section 11(5) of the PMFA (2020 Revision), to;

- increase EI 12 Ministry of Education by \$1,150,000
- decrease EI 161 Submarine Cable by \$1,150,000

Conclusion

Mister Speaker, thank you for allowing me to explain the exceptional circumstances that have resulted in the Supplementary Appropriations being requested by the Ministry of Education for the period 16 September – 7 December 2023.