



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

# **PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

## **OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**Third Meeting of the 2021/2022 Session**  
*Third Sitting*

**Friday**  
**10 June, 2022**  
*(Pages 1-15)*

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, JP, MP,**  
**Speaker**

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PRESENT WERE:

#### MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP	<i>Premier</i> , Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency —“MSCR”
Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	<i>Deputy Premier</i> , Minister for Finance and Economic Development <i>and</i> Border Control and Labour — FEDBCL”
Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	Minister for Education <i>and</i> District Administration and Lands — “EDAL”
Hon. Bernie A. Bush, MP	Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage — “YSCH”
Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	Minister for Financial Services and Commerce — “FSC” <i>and</i> Investment, Innovation and Social Development — “IISD”
Hon. Sabrina T. Turner, MP	Minister for Health and Wellness <i>and</i> Home Affairs — “MOHW” and “HA”
Hon. Johany S. “Jay” Ebanks, MP	Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing, and Infrastructure — “PAHI”

#### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

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

#### ELECTED MEMBERS GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, MP	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Parliamentary Secretary to FSC and EDAL
Ms. Heather D. Bodden, JP, MP	Parliamentary Secretary to T&T and IISD, Elected Member for Savannah
Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, MP	Parliamentary Secretary to HAYSCH and PAHI, Elected Member for East End
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MP	Parliamentary Secretary to Housing, Labour, and T&T, Elected Member for Bodden Town East

#### OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town East
Mr. Joseph X. Hew, MP	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town North
Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, MBE, 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, MP	Elected Member for George Town South
Mr. David C. Wight, JP, MP	Elected Member for George Town West

#### APOLOGIES

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP	Minister for Tourism and Transport — “T and T”
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT  
THIRD MEETING 2021/22 SESSION  
FRIDAY  
10 JUNE, 2022  
11:17 AM  
Third Sitting**

*[Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Speaker, presiding]*

**The Speaker:** I call on the Honourable Deputy Governor to bless us with prayers.

**PRAYERS**

**Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. Good morning. Let us pray:

*Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.*

*Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Charles, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of the Cabinet, ex-officio Members and 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 resumed.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS  
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

**The Speaker:** None.

**READINGS BY THE HONOURABLE  
SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Speaker:** None.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

**The Speaker:** None.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS  
AND OF REPORTS**

**TOURISM ATTRACTION BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

~and~

**TOURISM ATTRACTION BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Temporary Minister.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Parliamentary Secretary to T&T, Elected Member for Bodden Town East:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

I have the privilege of laying the Annual 2018 and 2019 TAB or Tourism Attraction Board's Annual Reports on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Tourism. I beg to lay these on the Table, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Minister speaking thereto?

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Mr. Speaker, just to say thanks to the House.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING BUSINESS  
COMMITTEE — SECOND MEETING OF THE  
2021-2022 SESSION OF THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS PARLIAMENT**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Minister of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency, Elected Member for Newlands:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to lay on the Table of this honourable House, with your permission, the Report of the Standing Business Committee, in respect of the Second Meeting of the 2021-22 Session of this honourable Parliament.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Premier not speaking?

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** I confirm sir that I do not intend to speak to it.

**OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek your permission to lay on the Table of this honourable Parliament the Annual Reports of the Office of the Commissioner of Police for both 2020 and 2021.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Premier speaking to the report?

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Mr. Speaker, no; I would just commend the reports to Members. I think it reflects good reading for the activities of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service in their service to our country in keeping us safe and protected.

**PUBLIC LANDS COMMISSION  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Education District administration and Lands.

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Minister for District Administration and Lands, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Public Lands Commission, Cayman Islands Government, 2020 Annual Report.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Honourable Minister speaking to the report?

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** No, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report is self-explanatory.

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS ON THE  
VESTING OF CROWN LAND  
BLOCK 11D PARCEL 92 TO  
GOVERNORS SQUARE LTD.  
and  
VESTING OF CROWN LAND  
BLOCK 11D PARCEL 94 TO THE  
LIME TREE BAY STRATA CORPORATION**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Minister of District Administration and Lands.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the report and recommendation for the Minister Responsible for Lands on the vesting of Crown Land Block 11D Parcel 92 to Governors Square Ltd and the vestment of Crown Land Block 11D Parcel 94 to the Lime Tree Bay Strata Corporation.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Minister speaking to the report?

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the report deals with the conversion to freehold title of existing but linked long leasehold interest in Crown Land Block 11D Parcel 92 and Block 11D Parcel 94. Block 11D Parcel 92 comprises 8.19 acres of undeveloped Crown Land zoned neighbourhood/commercial and located on Lime Tree Bay Avenue in the cadastral district of West Bay Beach North. The parcel is subject to a 99-year premium ground lease at a nominal annual rent to Governor Square Limited that will expire in the year 2104.

This leasehold interest originally derives from a premium ground lease at a nominal rent granted by the Crown to Benson Greenall for 606 acres of undeveloped land for a term of 99 years from the year 1950. The portion of the Lease of Block 11D 92, was extended back to 99 years on expired term in 2005. The parcel has been developed by the tenant as the two-story Governor's Square office and retail centre and a Cost-You-Less retail store.

Mr. Speaker, the second property is Block 11 D, Parcel 94 being the Crown land adjoining the said Governors Square. It comprises of 5.29 acres of developed land zoned low density residential and located on Lime Tree Bay Avenue in the cadastral district

of West Bay. The parcel is subject to a 99-year premium lease at a nominal annual rent to tenant Governor's Square Limited that will expire in 2049.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this leasehold interest originally derives from a premium ground lease at nominal rent which was granted back in 1950 to Benson Greenall by the Crown. The parcel is sublet to Proprietors Strata Plan No. 7, also known as the Lime Tree Bay Strata Corporation, for a term of 99 years that will expire in the year 2049. The rent to the Governor's Square Limited on this said sublease is US \$18,000 per annum. The parcel is developed as a 71-unit residential condominium complex built in 1976.

Mr. Speaker, both the tenants of Governors Square Limited and the subtenant of the Strata Corporation requested to the Government that the respective long leasehold interest in Block 11D Parcels 92 and 94 be converted to separate freehold interests. Three valuation reports were commissioned for each parcel in accordance of section 10(2) of the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision) to determine the premium payable for the Crown's freehold interest in the lands—one was derived from the Government's Chief Valuation Officer, and two from private sector property valuation companies.

Mr. Speaker, these opinions, which are complex valuations given the existing long leasehold interests, are as follows:

- Block 11D Parcel 92 Governors Square
  - Lands and Survey: US \$2.8 million
  - Quayside Surveyors: US \$2.245 million
  - Integra Realty (IRR) US \$1.570 million
 The average was taken for US \$2.20500 [million]
- Block 11D Parcel 94, which is Lime Tree Bay:
  - Lands and Survey: CI\$ 5.7700 [million]
  - Quayside Surveyors: CI\$ 3.97600 [million]
  - Blue Point: CI\$ 4.27400[million]
 The average being CI\$ 4.67300 [million]

Mr. Speaker, a report on this matter was considered by the Cabinet. After careful analysis and due consideration of the report and the recommendation of the Chief Valuation Officer, it was resolved that Cabinet advised His Excellency the Governor to approve the disposition of each Crown parcel based on the average of the three valuations in each case.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, the freehold interest in Block 11D Parcel 92 was to be transferred to Governors Square Limited in return for consideration of US\$ 2,205,000 plus stamp duty and registration fee.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the freehold interest in Block 11D Parcel 94 is to be transferred to Lime Tree Bay Strata Corporation in return for a consideration of CI\$ 4,673,333 plus stamp duty and registration fees.

Mr. Speaker, the dispositions are conditional upon the following three points:

1. That Governors Square Limited transfers the lease between the Governor of the Cayman Islands and Governors Square Limited of Block 11D 94 to Lime Tree Bay Strata Corporation for nil consideration;
2. The surrender of the sublease between Governors Square Limited and the Lime Tree Bay Strata Corporation for 11D Parcel 94; and finally
3. That completion of the dispositions take place within 24 months of Parliament's approval.

Mr. Speaker, the accompanying report which has been duly laid today, contains the documents as required under section 10(2) of the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision), including the three valuations that I referred to.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank especially the staff in the Ministry, but in particular, the staff at Lands and Survey because it was a complex matter that had been going on for a number of years. I can say that, as Minister, I am elated to finally put it to bed.

I thank you.

#### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Attorney General.

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Honourable Members and yourself.

Mr. Speaker, I seek leave of this Parliament to lay on the Table the 2021 Annual Report of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**The Speaker:** Is the Attorney General speaking to the report?

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Mr. Speaker, very, very, briefly. The report is self-explanatory, and I commend it to Honourable Members and the public in general for reading and information.

Mr. Speaker, just to highlight a couple of things on page 26 of the report itself, where it speaks to the department's role in the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing, as well as the recovery of the proceeds of crime by confiscation and forfeiture.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP) also leads on the jurisdiction's contribution in the efforts of what is called (ARIN-CARIB), which is an Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for the Caribbean that deals with the

tracing and recovery of assets which are proceeds of crime. It is a sort of a network and they work with Member countries in a bid to recover these proceeds. In other words, Mr. Speaker, take the profit out of crime.

Mr. Speaker, let me mention in particular the efforts of former Crown Counsel International Ms. Elisabeth Lees, who is no longer with the Department but who, since 2019, served in the role of National Coordinator to the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Group, and was instrumental in assisting the Cayman Islands in disposing of 60 out of the 63 recommended actions that were imposed on the Cayman Islands following the mutual evaluation report that was done. These recommended actions were by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and we were required to meet them in order to address some of the deficiencies identified in the mutual evaluation exercise.

Ms. Lees was extremely instrumental in leading the charge and assisting us to address some of those deficiencies. She is now in private sector and I wish her very well, Mr. Speaker, but wish to thank her for her service in this regard.

I would also like to mention Ms. Toyin Salako who is now an Assistant Director, and who is also a central player in the jurisdiction's effort as it relates to matters around the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) initiative. She continues to lead on what we call Immediate Outcome 7, which is the outcome that deals with money laundering prosecution, especially stand-alone money laundering prosecutions. She used to work with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) Financial Crimes Unit's and Mr. Richard Barrow and others are doing an excellent job in that regard.

I would also like to mention Mr. Garcia Kelly who, along with Ms. Toyin Salako and members of the RCIPS are also leading in the ARIN-CARIB initiative that I mentioned earlier on.

Permit me, sir, to also mention the role of the former Acting Director of Public Prosecutions Mrs. Candia James-Malcolm, and now the new DPP Mr. Simon Davis who recently took over on their continuing role as participants in the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Group as we continue to navigate issues surrounding the CFATF and FATF initiatives, Mr. Speaker. You would have known from experience that this is a sort of rolling initiative that the jurisdiction is involved with—several rounds of reviews. We are now trying to get out of the fourth-round mutual evaluation exercise with the FATF.

Mr. Speaker, the Office also provides secretarial support to the Honourable Chief Justice in his role as central authority under the US Mutual Legal Assistance Authority Treaty (MLAT); they provide crucial support in assisting with addressing requests under that framework as well.

Mr. Speaker, the office continues to play a crucial role along with the RCIPS and the courts in

maintaining law and order in these Islands. It is one of those offices that is very instrumental in these things, but do not really get much recognition, reference, or mention except when something goes wrong, of course—unfortunately; but they do play a pivotal role in the administration of justice in these Islands.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that they were part of the Office of the Attorney General until the new constitutional construct in 2011, when they were decoupled, and they are now totally independent of the Attorney General's Chambers, although I continue to represent their interests in Parliament and in Cabinet. I would like to thank the Director of Prosecutions and the staff, and congratulate them as well, for their continuing excellent work in the administration of justice. I certainly commend the report to Members of this honourable Parliament, as well as the public.

Thank you, sir.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021  
– CINICO – OPENING DOORS TO WELLNESS  
FOR OUR MEMBERS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, and Border Control and Labour, Elected Member for Bodden Town West:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report of the Cayman Islands National Insurance Company, which is commonly referred to as CINICO, for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2021.

**The Speaker:** So ordered. Is the Deputy Premier speaking to the report?

**Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Briefly though—it is Friday.

Mr. Speaker, the Annual Report contains a wealth of information on the activities, achievements, goals and objectives of CINICO for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. I will, however, only focus on the financial highlights for the period.

At the end of the 2021 financial year, Mr. Speaker, CINICO's average membership totalled 16,854 which, when compared to 2020, represents a 5 per cent increase in membership.

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021, CINICO earned \$113 million in total income, the majority of which was derived from premium incomes from civil servants, civil servants pensioners, seafarers and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, CINICO incurred \$111.5 million in total expenses of which \$105.4 million, or 94 per

cent, was for payment of incurred claims which are essentially the health benefits paid under the insurance plans that CINICO administers. The remaining \$6.1 million of total expenses comprise of \$200,000 for contributions to the Segregated Insurance Fund; \$1 million for claim administration fees or third-party administrators' fees and \$4.9 million for the administration expenses that CINICO incurred in order to operate the company's office, including personnel costs; rent, depreciation, audit and actuary fees.

With the exception of the USA claims, Mr. Speaker, all claims' payment functions were performed locally which improved the claim pay turnaround times, to the benefit of members and providers. In 2021, total claims process increased by 10 per cent from the prior year, due to increased accessibility of medical services following the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown. In 2021, CINICO processed 91 per cent of the claims received within 0 to 15 days compared to 92 per cent in 2020.

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021, CINICO recorded a second year consecutive net income amounting to \$1.4 million, following its net income of \$10.5 million in the prior year. As reported last year, Mr. Speaker, the 2020 net income was due to significant reduction in elective procedures during the COVID-19 lockdown. At the end of the 2021 Financial Year, CINICO's assets totalled \$45.3 million, while liabilities totalled \$19.6 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Government wishes to express its gratitude to the staff and management of CINICO, along with the Board of Directors for their assistance and support during the period under review.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

### QUESTION No. 9 WAS A BUSINESS CASE DONE REGARDING THE UK'S PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB ARRANGEMENT?

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Member for George Town East.

**Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town East:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone; colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 9 on the Order Paper standing in my name, and it is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Transport.

Can the Honourable Minister advise:-

- (a) Whether a business case was done regarding the arrangements with Portsmouth Football Club in the UK to assist in promoting Cayman tourism, and can he provide the House with a copy of this business case?
- (b) What is the cost of the sponsorship of the Portsmouth Football Club and what is the expected return on investment (ROI) for this sponsorship; and
- (c) What is the duration of the sponsorship arrangement with Portsmouth Football Club?

Thank you sir.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable temporary Minister for Tourism and Transport.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the Honourable Member: There was not a business case completed, Mr. Speaker, as the cost of the arrangement was less than the \$100,000 requirement for a business case to be completed according to the Procurement Act.

The cost of the arrangement with Portsmouth Football Club about £90,000 and the Cayman Islands' Return on Investment increase the Cayman Islands brand awareness with the United Kingdom. In terms of Portsmouth, not only to have a large exposure for their games on TV—usually six per season with an average viewership of two million per game, whilst every game is streamed on the League's iFollow Channel.

Portsmouth's social media value for sponsors has been calculated as 380,000 — the highest in League 1, and their total sponsorship media value calculated at £1.3 million. In addition, an average crowd of 18,000 attend each game—higher than the majority of Championship sides. Portsmouth's marketing channels:

- E-mail database: 156K
- Twitter: 157.6K
- Facebook: 238K
- Instagram: 135K
- LinkedIn: 13.2K
- YouTube: 36.1K
- TikTok: 53.9K

Mr. Speaker, to drive visitation to the Cayman Islands in off-peak season, Portsmouth FC has agreed to play a pre-season friendly with First-Team players against the Cayman National Team, subject to the pitch at the Truman Bodden Stadium being re-laid to international standards. The Cayman Football Association have agreed and welcome the fixture, which would take place in the off-peak.

Portsmouth would work with their fan base to provide packages for them to come to Cayman for the game and actively encourage visitation. Should the

game not be possible for any reason, a few key coaches and players would visit to do some development work with the Cayman Football Association, and be filmed enjoying the tourist sites around Cayman, to be relayed back to fans throughout the year.

The duration of the sponsorship arrangement with Portsmouth Football Club is for three years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to add that the history of the Club Pompey, as it's called, enjoys a golden Post-war era, Winning Division 1, which is now the Premier League in 1949/1950 becoming one of the only five clubs to win the trophy in back-to-back seasons since the war.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**QUESTION No. 10  
WAS A BUSINESS CASE DONE IN RESPECT  
OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH  
FASHION FIRM LAUDI VIDNI**

**The Speaker:** The Member for George Town East.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 10 standing in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Transport.

Can the Honourable Minister advise:-

- (a) Whether a business case was done in respect of the arrangements with fashion firm Laudi Vidni, to provide be-spoke custom leather goods to help promote Cayman tourism, and can he provide the House with a copy of this business case?
- (b) What is the cost of the arrangement with Laudi Vidni and what is the expected return on investment for this arrangement?
- (c) What is the duration of sponsorship of the sponsorship arrangement with Laudi Vidni?

Thank you, sir.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable temporary Minister of Tourism.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The answer to the Honourable Member: There was not a business case completed as the cost of the arrangement was less than the \$100,000 requirement for a business case to be completed.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of the arrangement with Laudi Vidni is US \$37,500. The Cayman Islands return on investments include—and I add, Mr. Speaker:

- Receiving a high-level of awareness and marketing support tied to a prod-

uct featuring the Cayman Islands' namesake with the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism supported messaging and creative direction;

- A new channel for premium VIP gifts experience to key media and travel trade partners, to build stronger relationships with the crucial partners and ensure that the Cayman Islands stays in the forefront of their minds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add: Supporting the Cayman Islands' positioning as a lifestyle destination with a focus on fashion and luxury amplified. The sponsorship arrangement with Laudi Vidni has a duration of 12 months.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**QUESTION No. 11  
COMMENCEMENT OF THE  
LEGAL SERVICES ACTS 2020**

**The Speaker:** The Member is not in the Chamber, I do not know if anyone in the Opposition has been authorised to ask the question on his behalf. If so, I would allow it.

**Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I am aware that he is in the building. He did come in just a few minutes ago. I wonder if he just stepped up—there he is.

**The Speaker:** I think he has entered the Chamber now.

**Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:** Yes, thank you sir.

**The Speaker:** The Member for Red Bay—question No. 11.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, Elected Member for Red Bay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am to ask the Honourable Premier, the Minister responsible for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency to advise what is preventing the commencement of the Legal Services Act, 2020.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for Red Bay for the question.

The answer is, Mr. Speaker: As the Member for Red Bay will know, commencement of the Legal Services Act, 2020, is not simply a matter of the adoption of a Commencement Order by Cabinet, as is often the case with other recently passed legislation.



When I came into Office, I found there was a substantial amount of preparatory work still to be done to complete the full commencement of this Act. The work outstanding consists of the preparation of at least four sets of regulations, namely, the:

- Legal services fees regulations;
- Legal services savings and transitional regulations;
- Legal services recognised law entity regulations; and
- Legal services professional development regulations.

Mr. Speaker, initial progress was made in moving these matters forward in consultation with the Honourable Chief Justice and the Honourable Attorney General, and with the benefit of their assistance, I think we are now in a much better position to take forward the finalisation of the required action on these regulations.

In addition to distractions brought about by the pandemic generally, and the reopening plan for the tourism economy, in particular, there were continued lobbying efforts—presentations both in writing and in person, which also took time to consider.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, we anticipate proceeding with the finalisation of the appointment of the members of the Council and completion of the necessary work to accomplish commencement in the Third Quarter of this year.

### Supplementaries

**The Speaker:** The Member for Red Bay, supplementary question.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier will be well aware of the length of time it is taking—because the Act has still not commenced—to get a modern piece of legislation to regulate the legal profession. I have in my hand a number of statements which he made, when he was Minister of Financial Services in my first administration and in which he, as well as myself as the Premier, constantly spoke about the critical importance of modern legislation to regulate the legal profession, which is still operating under a 1969 piece of legislation—a legislation which was passed when Cayman had about 15 lawyers; we are now nearly 1,000.

**The Speaker:** You are going to ask the question, yes?

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Right. That is a long preamble, I apologise, Mr. Speaker.

The real point I want to make, aside from that, is that the failure to properly regulate the legal profession has been a major factor in the findings, over

many years, of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other international regulatory bodies, about what they claim is the inadequacy of our whole framework to regulate the financial services industry. We are now—

**The Speaker:** I understand, and we know.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** I am going to put a question right now.

**The Speaker:** Yes, please.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Right now, sir. Right now, sir; right now. You have been most generous, sir.

[Laughter]

**The Speaker:** I know you are eager to ask the question.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Mr. Speaker, the question I want to ask is: Given the fact that Cayman is still currently on the FATF grey list, which in turn has caused us to be placed on the European Union's blacklist, which in turn has caused the United Kingdom to place us on their blacklist.

Does the Premier not see the real urgency of addressing these perceived failures, or inadequacies, in our financial services legislative framework?

**The Speaker:** You mean, though, that we *remain* on the list—because that did not just happen.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** It just happened in March, sir.

**The Speaker:** This March? Give the Premier time to consult.

[Pause]

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for giving me a moment to confer.

Mr. Speaker, I absolutely agree with the Member for Red Bay, in terms of the need to get a modern framework of regulatory legislation in place to deal with the regulation of the practice of law. As he says, I have stated it many times, as he has done himself as well.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, my position remains unchanged. I am fully committed to getting proper regulation in place. I regret to an extent that the opportunity was not taken when the law was passed, to have it all dealt with in the early part of

2021 in the previous administration; but be that as it may, we are here now.

What I want to correct, is that there are no outstanding matters in relation to an FATF review which relates specifically to the regulation of lawyers. We are not on a FATF blacklist. We are on an enhanced review list and we expect, with some luck, to be able to move off that relatively shortly. The same is true of any other related action that could have been taken, including through the EU. However, Mr. Speaker, the reality is still the same—that today, as the Member started off in his long preamble to his question—the profession is still being regulated by a piece of legislation that was in place from 1969; four years after I was born.

Hence, Mr. Speaker, it is obviously wholly inadequate. It has been an issue of contention for a long time. The Member knows well, the struggles that have been endured to try to get this legislation in place—to provide a proper modern framework for the regulation of the practice of law. So, Mr. Speaker, I have indicated what we see as the time frame, we have engaged with the regulatory body, the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association.

In fact, we have a meeting scheduled next week, I think it is, to continue to move things forward; so I want to convey to the Member an assurance that this is a matter that is regarded as very important, notwithstanding the fact that it is not one of the matters on which we have had any kind of negative reporting or finding by the FATF at this point.

If we do not do anything that may change but, suffice it to say, there are many other reasons why we need to address this because as I have spent years saying, the status quo is the worst possible position for the interests of Caymanian practitioners and this is a matter that needs to be resolved for us to make sure that we have a very solid foundation to one of the most important industries that we have in this country, sir.

**The Speaker:** The Member for Red Bay. Supplementary.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to the Premier for his very frank commitment to having this piece of legislation brought into place. He knows better than most people, not only how important it is, but how hard it has been to get here. He tried as Minister of Financial services twice in his term to get a Bill passed and it took eight years—the term, he was Minister of Financial Services and then when I took responsibility for it as Premier, so it has been nine years to get here.

I just warn him, Mr. Speaker, as one who has been Premier, how swiftly the four years fly-by, and a full quarter of that has now gone. I do hope, Mr.

Speaker [that] we will get this commenced very quickly.

**The Speaker:** The Member for George Town East.

**Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you—

**The Speaker:** Honourable Member, before you start.

While this question has reached the Order Paper, I have to contemplate it because it is asking for an Auditor General's report to be published and that is really not the purview of any Member of this House, as far as I know. That is the Auditor General's purview—his responsibility. Now, if the Premier is willing to answer, or has an answer prepared...

I am reluctant for it to go ahead, because of what it asks for. It is not proper. It is not proper—but if you want the air cleared and the Premier is willing, we will move forward with it.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Go ahead.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 12—

**The Speaker:** Please.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Yes, we need a suspension—been needing the suspension of Standing Orders.

We are a little bit behind on that, but we ask the Premier, out of an abundance of caution, to do so at this point. Suspension of Standing Order—thank you.

#### **Suspension of Standing Order 23 (7) and (8)**

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Belatedly is better than not at all, I guess. I rise to move the suspension of Standing Order 23 (7) and (8) in order to allow the taking of questions after the hour of 11am.

**The Speaker:** The question is that Standing Order 23 (7) and (8) be suspended in order for questions to continue after 11.

All in favour, please say Aye; those Against, No.

**AYES.**

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

**Agreed: Standing Order 23 (7) and (8) suspended.**

**QUESTION No. 12  
COMMENCEMENT OF THE  
LEGAL SERVICES ACTS 2020**

**The Speaker:** The Member from George Town East.

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

I rise to ask question No. 12 standing in my name, to the Honourable Premier, Minister of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency.

Can the Honourable Premier state:

- (a) Whether a report from the Office of the Auditor General has been completed on the procurement procedures regarding the purchase of lateral flow test kits from Blue Water Medical Supplies and Crown Agents; and
- (b) If the report is completed, when will it be published?

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker to my knowledge, the answer in respect of Part (a) is yes.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to Part (b) of the question, where there is obviously some sensitivity the answer is: I imagine that the Office of the Auditor General will publish the report in due course, I do not feel that it is within our control to address that.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I note that the Public Accounts Committee, of which the Member asking the question is the Chair, and can request a copy of the report—in fact any report, I think—from the Auditor General under Section 114 (7) of the Constitution.

Obviously, while our consent is unnecessary, I would simply confirm that the Government certainly has no objection to the publication of the same.

**STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE  
MEMBERS AND MINISTERS  
OF THE CABINET**

**The Speaker:** I have been given notice of two statements. The Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton  
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS**

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

Mr. Speaker, our beloved Cayman Islands has had much to celebrate in 2022, this most special year of Her Majesty the Queen's, Platinum Jubilee; so much so, that as the finishing touches were being made on the preparations for our local festivities, we

received the delightfully surprising news that four exceptional individuals who have faithfully served our community, had been named amongst the Queen's Birthday Honours for this year's Jubilee. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and with a great sense of pride, I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to:

- Our Chief Justice, the Honourable Anthony Smellie, QC—now, Sir Anthony—on receiving the honour of a Knighthood;
- The Managing Director of the Cayman Islands' Monetary Authority (CIMA), Mrs. Cindy Scotland, on receiving an Order of the British Empire (OBE);
- Mr. Steve Barrett, our former Prisons' Director, on receiving an OBE; and
- Mrs. Jondo Obi of the Cayman Islands Red Cross, on receiving the BEM—British Empire Medal.

Mr. Speaker, His Lordship, the Honourable Chief Justice Sir Anthony Smellie's appointment as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George adds a well-deserved exclamation point on a very distinguished legal and judicial career. Having joined the Cayman Islands civil service in 1983 as Principal Crown Counsel, he was subsequently appointed to the post of Solicitor General in 1987, and after several periods of Acting as Attorney General, he accepted and appointment as a Judge of the Grand Court in February 1993, becoming Chief Justice in June 1998.

Mr. Speaker, his dedication to the development of jurisprudence and to the rule of law has helped to solidify the global reputation of the Cayman Islands judiciary earning us worldwide respect and recognition for impartiality and independence, as well as the robustness of our legal system in general. In any organisation, the tone is indeed set from the top, and while the Courts are steeped in important time-honoured traditions, Sir Anthony has embraced innovation and the expansion of the services provided by the courts, offering online services and videoconferencing [as well as] mediation and specialist courts, such as the Drug Court and Financial Services Division.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands position as the global leader in financial services would not be possible without the confidence of our stakeholders, our investors and clients, in a legal system serving as the foundation of all transactions and interactions. For this, we must once again acknowledge the guiding hand of the Chief Justice through the years. It is important to note that the Chief Justice's impact has not been merely felt within the Cayman Islands, but also in other Overseas Territories. In March, 2018, he was appointed to the Bermuda Court of Appeal, which is a testament to the high esteem in which he is held regionally.

Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to also offer congratulations to his dear wife, Jackie, now Lady Smellie and Sir Anthony's children. There is no doubt that their beloved husband and father has sacrificed much of himself, his time, and his effort, in faithful service to his adopted home, the Cayman Islands. Given their shared sacrifices over the years, it is most fitting that they too, embrace and enjoy this wonderful achievement.

Mr. Speaker, having only received our first Knighthood in the Cayman Islands in 1994 when Her Majesty the Queen bestowed this great honour upon Sir Vassel Johnson, the Cayman Islands had to wait for another 28 years for this honour to be bestowed again on our colleague and my friend, the Honourable Sir Alden McLaughlin; so I trust I will be forgiven if I sound surprised that within six months of our second knighthood a third Caymanian, Sir Anthony Smellie, KCMG, QC, has now been knighted. Her Majesty the Queen certainly has a very special way of making her presence felt at our Jubilee celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that I cannot begin to express how pleased I am that Mrs. Cindy Scotland has been recognised as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire or OBE.

As I carefully recounted the importance of the judiciary to the strengthened global reputation of our financial services Mr. Speaker, the role of our regulator, the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, has been a window to the world, guarding the Cayman Islands' reputation, supporting strong governance and best practice within our industry, and standing firmly to ensure a level playing field as stakeholders compete in our jurisdiction.

Having joined the Monetary Authority at its inception in January 1997, as the Head of Currency Operations, Mrs. Scotland was promoted to the post of General Manager in June of that year. Prior to CIMA, she spent six years with one of its predecessor organisations, the Cayman Islands Currency Board, even serving as the Board's Manager. In June 2000, she was appointed as Managing Director of the Authority and has served the Cayman Islands with distinction in this role, for 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune of knowing and observing Mrs. Scotland in various capacities. When I was a practicing attorney I had the privilege, on many occasions, of, observing Mrs. Scotland and developed a deep admiration and respect for the impact of her advocacy for the Cayman Islands and her very clear mandate on protecting and defending the global reputation of the Cayman Islands Government and our financial services industry.

During my term as Minister for Financial Services from 2013 to 2017, I had the great privilege of working directly with her and this gave me an even greater sense of respect for this dedicated, hardworking, Caymanian woman. Let us not pretend, Mr. Speaker, that maintaining a leadership role—any

leadership role—for 22 years, especially in an industry that has been so male-dominated, is anything less than very significant; but Mrs. Scotland, with diplomacy, tact, intelligence, skill, and a clear mission to protect the reputation of the Cayman Islands has done her job, and done it well.

While I did not think it possible for Mrs. Scotland to go any higher in my personal regard, Mr. Speaker, I certainly fondly remember my period of serving as the Chair of CIMA's Board of Directors, which gave me an even greater insight into her vision, leadership, and reverence for the critical, and sometimes not so popular role that CIMA has to play. It is fair to say she is uncompromising when it comes to the reputation of the Cayman Islands and that is what we should expect from a regulator.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted, that as the head of our main financial services regulator, her influence and impact extends far beyond our shores. Her role requires her to represent Cayman on various regulatory and international cooperation matters. This includes serving as the Deputy Chairman of the Group of International Financial Centre Supervisors and Co-Chair of the Financial Stability Board's Regional Consultative Group for the Americas.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, there is regular interaction with key bodies including the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, the International Monetary Fund, and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, as well as with jurisdictional regulators such as the UK Financial Services Authority, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and the European Securities and Markets Authority. It is my sincere hope that Mrs. Cindy Scotland, OBE, a most deserving honours recipient, takes more than a passing moment to reflect on her outstanding achievements and exceptional stewardship.

I therefore wish to extend my sincere congratulations as well, personally and on behalf of the Government, to her husband, Mark and their three children and, indeed, to her dedicated team at CIMA, which is coincidentally celebrating 25 years of service to the Cayman Islands. I say: Well done, Cindy.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure as well to congratulate Mr. Steven Barrett on receiving the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire or OBE.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands Government was fortunate to recruit Mr. Barrett as an interim Director of Prisons in 2018 after a very successful tenures in prison leadership in our sister Overseas Territory the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as in his native Scotland. He was confirmed to the post after a competitive recruitment process later that year, and quickly set himself apart with his unparalleled enthusiasm, energy, and demonstrating a real passion

for his work, which he was often heard describe as *the best job in the world*.

Mr. Speaker, in particular what Mr. Barrett believed in and was deeply committed to, was rehabilitation of offenders. The programmes and enhancements which he drove, were evidence of his own value system of respecting the humanity of everyone, including offenders, and creating pathways for change.

While Mr. Barrett is no longer with the Cayman Islands Government, his honour is an acknowledgement of a distinguished career dedicated to working with offenders in three jurisdictions; we continue to wish him the very best and offer congratulations today to him and his family.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the fourth honouree was none other than Mrs. Jondo Obi, the Director of the Cayman Islands Red Cross, who received the British Empire Medal for services to the community. We are all aware of the important role the Red Cross plays in the Cayman Islands from supporting responses to natural disasters, to coordinating First Aid training, assisting with the COVID response, or leading awareness and training on child sexual abuse.

Along with its band of volunteers—I think they have something like 200-plus volunteers, which is amazing—the Cayman Islands Red Cross has made its impact felt through-out the Cayman Islands. Mrs. Obi has been leading this important organisation for almost 19 years and does so with vigour and energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Jubilee events of the week-end past have given us an opportunity to carefully reflect on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's life of service; throughout the United Kingdom, its Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth, Her Majesty's sacrifices, commitment, and dedication through the years of incredible reign have been examined. Any fair assessment of her execution of her duties and conduct in public life results in admiration and acceptance that she is an unparalleled example of service above self.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of how people view the monarchy or the system of honours for which we as overseas territory citizens are eligible, there is no doubt that four individuals who have been named in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours are, in their own way, worthy of examples of selfless service to our community and the wider British family. Mr. Speaker, 2022 will be a year we will never forget in Cayman—a year to celebrate, a year to commemorate, and a year to honour not only our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, but a special number of our own exemplars.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to end my remarks by thanking Her Majesty the Queen, for generously including recipients from the Cayman Islands in the highest honours bestowed in this year of the Jubilee. I also wish to thank His Excellency the Governor, for personally advocating for nominations of recipients, and to those individuals who took the time to prepare

nominations, I express heartfelt gratitude for putting forward these most-worthy nominees.

In closing, I once again thank and congratulate the Honourable Sir Anthony Smellie, KCMG, QC; Mrs. Cindy Scotland, OBE; Mr. Stephen Barrett, OBE, and Mrs. Jondo Obi, BEM, for all that you have done individually, and collectively, for our beloved Isles Cayman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*[Desk thumping and inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Mr. Premier, I do not know if you meant to, but there is a former Member of this House who was also awarded—Ms. Lucille Seymour, [as well as] Mrs. Sharon [Smith], who is our former Clerk. Perhaps it just slipped your mind, but they were awarded as well.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Mr. Speaker, I absolutely agree. I was confining my remarks to the most recently announced awardees. I think those announcements were...

**The Speaker:** Oh okay, all right.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Last year, I believe.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** A few years.

**The Speaker:** Still worthy of mention.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Yes, absolutely.

**The Speaker:** Very worthy of mention.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** We certainly celebrate...

**The Speaker:** I understand what you were doing; you were doing what has been announced in June, this month.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Correct. Not in any way intended as a slight of our [inaudible].

**The Speaker:** Yes, we understand that.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** We celebrate and honour all.

**The Speaker:** I did not catch the part that you were [referring to] this month's awardees.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Yes, sir.

**The Speaker:** You do have another statement.

## INITIATIVES TO MITIGATE COST OF LIVING

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** I do indeed, sir.

Mr. Speaker, following from yesterday I wanted to provide some additional information, so Mr. Speaker the statement:

People often ask me what keeps me up at night. At this point, as I noted previously, increases in the cost of living and climate change are the two greatest impacts that I am concerned about on our lives and businesses in existence in this country, right now. The cost of living, Mr. Speaker, is the amount of money needed to sustain certain standards of living by affording basic expenses—basic expenses include housing, food, transportation, and health care.

For the past several years, the cost of living has been increasing, Mr. Speaker, not just in the past quarter.

**The Speaker:** No.

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** The past several years.

Mr. Speaker, the rate of inflation in the US which has triggered the Federal Reserve's response there, was not 11.2 per cent, it was 8.5 per cent or in that range.

Mr. Speaker, this has been increasing here because of the issues around the pandemic, [and] the supply chain disruption and it has worsened in the past six months—and the rise in fuel prices as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, is another very unpleasant experience. We are living in some of the most challenging times in recent history, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since getting elected, the PACT-Government has taken more than a dozen substantive actions to lower the cost of living for some of the most vulnerable people in our society—I outlined some of those in brief yesterday—to benefit lower and middle class families and our senior citizens, including our students.

Mr. Speaker, I know I provided most of this information yesterday in brief, but I think it is worth repeating again today, because the Opposition may have forgotten. Some of these initiatives, and I am going to go through these rather quickly, Mr. Speaker:

- Free school lunches offered to all primary and secondary schools, saving Caymanian families hundreds of dollars in school lunch costs;
- Reducing certain fees for seniors—driver's licence, car licensing, passport applications;
- Removing import duty on certain food items and essential family items such as feminine care products, baby products;
- Continuing the displaced tourism workers stipend for an increased period;

- Provided financial support to employees who had to quarantine and could not work to earn their salaries;
- Provided financial support to small and medium-sized businesses to help them protect their assets so that they could start operations as soon as the opportunity to usefully employ them returned with the reopening of our borders;
- Continued the insurance premium payment assistance programme;
- Provided free masks, free Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs), free testing;
- Increased the private school grants to help more Caymanian children going to those institutions;
- Increase the A-level scholarship funding;
- Increase the funding and the maximum amounts for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships;
- Offered a \$1,500 stipend to scholarship recipients; and
- Committed funding and policy to build 100 affordable homes—I believe that target was a year.

Mr. Speaker, we have done what few governments have done in a long time to help the people in this country. Not saying that no actions were taken, but we certainly significantly exceeded actions that have previously been taken, and that is without having any layoffs in Central Government or the Statutory Authorities and Government Owned Companies (SAGCs).

In addition to all that we have done so far after months of work, we have a number of initiatives which are about to be rolled out to the public. These include the expansion of the CINICO offerings which I outlined last night. I think my colleague, the Deputy Premier [outlined] as well the CIBD mortgages with a fixed rate of two years at 3.75 per cent.

We are also going to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy by investing in utility-scale infrastructure which will both reduce and stabilise energy costs for the people of these Islands. With recent economic reports forecasting a large economic shock comprising global exponential increases in the prices of fuel oil, inflation and disruptions to supply chains, our government's determination to do more than pay lip service to renewables is reflected by this decision, Mr. Speaker.

We will invest in renewables' infrastructure and this will benefit the environment by reducing our carbon emissions and benefit, importantly, our economy and the people of this country. We believe this policy, and the ensuing actions, will be good for the environment, good for the economy, [and] great for our residents, including keeping energy prices down for families, business, and institutions. Lower fuel

costs means businesses can keep down the costs of goods and services for our consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on talking about these matters, but I want to get to the details of two important initiatives we will be taking within the next month, that directly provides meaningful relief to the cost of living crisis facing our Caymanian families. These two initiatives, Mr. Speaker, will help thousands of families across our three Cayman Islands and are designed to help families offset some of the sharp increases in costs. Nothing is going to be a full solution Mr. Speaker, but it will help and it is designed to help as many as possible.

The first is a temporary assistance programme for residential electricity costs. We know that for most families, after rent or mortgage, the electricity costs is the single largest expense they face each month. We also know, that fuel prices have spiked and this is causing electricity costs to rise sharply.

Mr. Speaker, the PACT Government has been in discussions with the main utility providers or obtaining information from those who can assist in identifying those in need and we will be setting aside an amount in the region of \$5 million to help families across the three Islands with increased electricity costs resulting from the increase in fuel costs in the months of July, August and September—the hottest months of the year, and when electricity consumption is normally at its highest.

Mr. Speaker, the assistance will be for residential customers only, and capped at consumption of 2000 kilowatt hours per month. We will be finalising the details with the two utility companies and rolling out a more detailed announcement the week of June 20th. This initiative, in terms of the customers combined across our country's two utility providers, will help some 22,000 households.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** The second initiative, Mr. Speaker, as alluded to yesterday, is a cost of living increase for civil servants—the largest single employer on the Islands.

Mr. Speaker, obviously, as I said before, we are living in challenging times, and this Government has certainly expanded efforts to combat the threats around COVID-19. We have safely and methodically re-opened our borders, kick started our vital tourism industry, and we have steadfastly supported Caymanian families and offered regular financial support and job matching assistance for persons still actively returning to the workforce.

We have prudently and diligently managed government's revenues and delivered policies whose aims have always been to make the lives of our constituents, our Caymanians, better. Amidst such challenging times, Mr. Speaker, government's fiscal outlook remains positive, as shared from time to time by

my colleague, the Deputy Premier, Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

Yet my good ship Cayman, despite the strong and positive momentum, we must acknowledge the inflationary pressures experienced around the globe, and the buffeting that is occurring in relation to ships that are much larger than ours, here at home. Governments in the United States, Canada, Europe—the world over—are confronting the same dilemma of how to safely navigate an uncertain future, provide relief to its citizens, and to alleviate the impact that inflation has, particularly in the middle class and low income families.

While our Government has limited levers at its disposal given the existing drivers of inflation, or global factors, such as supply chain constraints, war, and the pandemic, the PACT Government nevertheless remains committed to doing what we can.

Mr. Speaker, we know that our civil service has worked tirelessly to see this country through each challenge. So Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say, again, that we have been working closely with the Honourable Deputy Governor to see what relief can be provided to civil servants within the confines of the approved budget.

Mr. Speaker, as we head into the summer months, when temperatures and fuel prices will rise in tandem, the Government will support not one, but three, monthly honorariums of \$150 per month to help the civil service fend-off higher utility costs over the summer. This honorarium will commence this month and continue through August and will only be paid to non-executive staff on grades E and below.

Then, commencing in September, as families prepare for the reopening of schools, the civil service will receive a 2 per cent cost of living adjustment or COLA, which will provide a sustained salary increase.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, starting in December this year, qualifying employees on non-executive grades will, by way of progression, receive one increment which is roughly valued at 2 per cent of pay.

In total, Mr. Speaker, by the end of the year the civil service will see a 4.5 per cent increase this year, comprising a 2 per cent COLA, and the remainder in pay progression and three months of honorariums timed to help offset rising electricity bills over the summer.

These times are difficult, Mr. Speaker, due to the forces beyond our control; yet, working together and within the approved budget, we all will get through this.

Mr. Speaker, the sentiment that I know is shared by those in this Chamber, and many hearing this message is that, at its best, our civil service can deliver world class outcomes. We have seen this on so many occasions, and most recently, in the response to COVID-19. Given the challenges which have been shared, the Government and country continue to rely on the men and women within our civil

service to see us through the daunting challenges which lay ahead, as they are called upon to execute on the Government's policies.

As the civil service is our bedrock, the 4,400 employees comprising the civil service are equally the bedrock within our communities. The investment in this predominantly Caymanian institution, Mr. Speaker, has a high multiplier effect across our economy, as they anchor their wider families, and are equally critical to keeping small businesses and local retailers afloat.

The investment, Mr. Speaker, is made on the prerequisite that the civil service must, again, fund these salary adjustments using savings from within the existing Human Resources budget. In addition to delivering this fiscal strategy, they must also continue to ensure the Government's priorities are also achieved. Mr. Speaker, the Civil service has done this before, and I am confident that they will do so again.

The pay proposals which have been set out are timely, relevant, and sustainable and I am happy to report as well, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of these, as I noted, are being funded through savings, the vast majority of that has already been achieved within the global Human Resources budgets of the Civil service year to date. Simply put, Mr. Speaker: my colleagues and I wish we could do more at this point, but today we have demonstrated that we will do what we can, which is fiscally prudent and what is sustainable. We will closely monitor the performance of our budgets to see what may be possible in future years.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier this week, there are two things that often keep me up at night: soaring cost of living and the implications of climate change. The local cost of living situation has been brewing for years and as I said before, the recent spike is due to factors outside of our control, as is usually the case; but that is why my colleagues and I, immediately after getting elected, got to work putting in place a number of initiatives to help the lower and middle-income Caymanians.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that there is a limit to what political and financial leaders can do about rising inflation, especially given the varying causes, but we are going to continue to do everything in our power to help lower the costs of goods and services to the people of these Islands and where it is possible, to help provide a reasonable income to afford a basic, decent standard of living in our country—our beloved Cayman Islands.

Mr. Speaker, we are a people-driven Government and we will always put the people of the Cayman Islands first.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Speaker:** I have been given a statement by the Honourable Deputy Governor. Honourable Deputy Governor.

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson,  
VOTE OF THANKS FOR SALARY INCREASES**

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Civil Service, I offer profound thanks to the Premier, Deputy Premier and all Members of the Government for their support and approval of the salary increases outlined by the Premier; I also wish to thank the Opposition for their support.

Mr. Speaker, in challenging times leaders are required to make difficult decisions. Decisions that may not be popular with everyone, but are the right decision and at the right time. That is exactly what the Government has done today, in awarding the salary increases.

Mr. Speaker, these awards demonstrate to our hard-working civil servants that their leaders, both elected and un-elected care about them, and their families. We require our civil servants to perform at their best every day, to provide the world class services that our customers deserve; however, we all understand that providing that high level of service can be challenging, when they are worried about their ability to feed their families and pay bills. The salary increases put extra money in the hands of civil servants who need it most when they need it, and it delivers on a promise to increase the salary for staff below grade D.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier said, we would have loved to give a much larger COLA, however, we are under a duty—and the Deputy Premier constantly reminds us of this—to be fiscally responsible in all that we do. In these uncertain times and [with] the global challenges that confront us, we must show restraint with our spending, and we have done so. To this end, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that these salary increases will be funded from within the existing HR budget.

Mr. Speaker, I close by once again thanking the Government for their support for the civil service. Thank you.

**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.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all Members for the contributions that have been made and the progress reflected in the work that has been accomplished over the last few days. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we intend to hold Finance Committee this afternoon starting at 2pm.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will move the adjournment of this House sine die before the commencement, subsequently, of Finance Committee.

**The Speaker:** The question is that this honourable House do now—

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before you put the question may I ask—

**The Speaker:** The Member for Red Bay.

**Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin:** May I ask if Members of the Opposition will not have the opportunity to see the agenda before we start Finance Committee? We did not even know Finance Committee will start today.

**The Speaker:** You sound a little bit like the Member for George Town Central when you were on this side and he was on that side.

**Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier:** Mr. Speaker, I do apologise to the Member for Red Bay but I think when we discussed it he was not actually in Chamber. The plan was actually to keep it for Monday, but we were asked to keep it today, so we rushed to basically get it over with this afternoon. However, I am more than happy to have it on Monday if it is a problem, and so they can have the weekend to look at it.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Chairman, if you have said so to Members...

**Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier:** Yes, sir. We rushed to get it down here for this afternoon.

**The Speaker:** Then it is up to the Government, but I would suggest that we are here; let's finish our work.

**Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier:** It is four or five items and I pretty much have told the Leader of the Opposition what those four or five items were, so we are rushing to get it down.

**Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I honestly do not hold water. If the Section 12 requests are here can we, then, just have a copy before we move into—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Minister has intimated that the correct or relevant information should have reached the House by now.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** I suggest by the time we eat, we will be ready to talk again.

The question is that this honourable House stands adjourned sine die.

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

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The ayes have it.

This honourable Parliament stands adjourned sine die.

**At 12:57pm the House stood adjourned sine die.**