



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

Third Special Meeting of the 2022/2023 Session

Friday
21 April, 2023
(Pages 1-6)

Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, MP
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, MP
Speaker

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

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

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

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

ELECTED MEMBERS
GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

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

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

INDEPENDENT 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
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

ABSENT WERE:

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, MP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman
Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town West

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 2022/23 SESSION
FRIDAY
21 APRIL, 2023
4:39 PM
First Sitting

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

The Speaker: Prayers. I will invite the Honourable Premier to grace us with prayers.

PRAYERS

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency; and Minister for Finance & Economic Development, Elected Member for Newlands: 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.

The House is now resumed.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Elected Member for West Bay West: Madam Speaker, maybe I'm just making a query but do we need to suspend the Standing Orders since we are beginning after 4.30 p.m.?

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member. Can I ask someone to move a motion to suspend?

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

I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) in order to allow the business of this House to continue past the hour of interruption.

The Speaker: The Motion has been duly moved.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

The Speaker: Proceedings are now resumed.

I now call for nominations for the election of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Nominations are now open.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, I rise to nominate Parliamentary Secretary, Isaac Rankine to be nominated as the Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

The Speaker: Thank you, there is a nomination. Does the elected Member for East End accept the nomination?

Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Elected Member for East End: Madam Speaker, I humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Are there any other nominations?

Mr. David C. Wight, Elected Member for George Town West: Madam Speaker, I rise to nominate Barbara Conolly as Deputy Speaker.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, there is a nomination. Is there a seconder?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town East: Madam Speaker, I second the nomination.

The Speaker: We have a nomination and a seconder for the elected Member for George Town South.

Does the elected Member for George Town South accept the nomination?

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Elected Member for George Town South: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I humbly accept the nomination. Thank you.

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

There are no more nominations. May I ask for a motion to close the nomination process?

Honourable Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, I move that the nomination process be closed.

The Speaker: The Motion is moved.

All those agreed that the nominations be closed please say, Aye. Those opposed, No.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

As there is more than one person being nominated for the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, we will have to proceed by way of a ballot. Therefore, we ask that we be given a few minutes to prepare the ballot papers. Everyone, can I ask that you please remain in your seats.

[Long pause]

The Speaker: The ballot papers are now being distributed and I ask that you vote for no more than one person for the position of Deputy Speaker.

While the Members are voting, I would like to ask the Honourable Attorney General and the Honourable Deputy Governor to attend the Clerk's dais to act as scrutineers.

[Long pause]

The Speaker: All the ballots are in.

I ask that the Deputy Governor unlocks the box and hands the Clerk the ballots as he reads the votes.

[Pause]

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Who's reading it? The Attorney General.

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Isaac D. Rankine.

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Can you please speak into the mic that we can hear on this end, please?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Isaac D. Rankine.

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: That's two or one?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Isaac D. Rankine. That's better, sir?

An Hon. Member: He is asking about the same one?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine—

An Hon. Member: Ms. Barbara, nobody *nah* vote for you?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Ms. Barbara E. Conolly.

[Pause]

The Speaker: The result of the ballot is 11 for Mr. Isaac D. Rankine and 4 for Ms. Barbara E. Connolly.

It is my duty to announce that the elected Member for East End is hereby elected as the Honourable Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Would the Honourable Deputy Speaker wish to speak?

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to let my colleagues know I am very gracious and humbled by their support to be elected to the post of Deputy Speaker. While it comes with the title of Honourable, I would still be the same person working just as hard in the post of Deputy Speaker as the post of Parliamentary Secretary. Therefore, I want to thank my colleagues for their support. Thank you so much.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 6 OF 2022-2023: CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to move Government Motion No. 6 of 2022-2023, in respect of the Change in Membership of the Standing Business Committee. With your permission, I will proceed to read the Motion.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints the Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House, and in particular -

- a. to consider the Business Papers of the House;
- b. to decide and inform the Clerk the order in which Private Members' Motions are to be debated on;
- c. to decide and inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day, the questions to be put down for reply on the Order Paper for that Question Day;
- d. to provide a ready means of consultation between Members who are not Members of the Cabinet, and the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Presiding Officer and the Clerk;
- e. to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of the Meeting of the House other than the State Opening Meeting;
- f. to inform the Clerk, the Order in which Bills shall be set down upon the Order Paper;

AND WHEREAS following the resignation by the Honourable Christopher Saunders from the Committee by letter dated 11th April 2023, the current membership of the Standing Business Committee comprises of:

- a. The Hon. Premier as Chairman;
- b. The elected Member for George Town Central, Hon. Kenneth Bryan;
- c. The elected Member for West Bay South, Hon. André Ebanks;
- d. The Leader of the Opposition and the elected Member for George Town East, Hon. Roy McTaggart
- e. The elected Member for George Town North, Hon. Joseph Hew
- f. The elected Member for Red Bay, Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin

AND WHEREAS it is desirous to appoint the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly as a Member of the Committee;

Accordingly, BE IT RESOLVED that the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly be and is hereby elected a member of the Standing Business Committee of Parliament.

Thank you.

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

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, thank you. I think we can just move to voting. I think this is reflective of the change that has occurred and I think my Honourable colleagues will be supportive.

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

Does the Honourable Premier wish to exercise his right of reply?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Just to thank Members for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is that the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly be and is hereby elected a Member of the Standing Business Committee of Parliament?

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

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

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

The Speaker: Honourable Member.

Mr. Joseph X. Hew, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, I see that I am listed here as being a Member of the Committee but I am not a Member of the Committee, Madam Speaker.

I mean there was a vote and I am now but—

[Laughter]

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

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Obviously, we have a scrivener's error in respect of the Motion. Out of an abundance of caution, I would move the deletion of item "e" in the second "whereas" in terms of the reference to the Member for George Town North and move to recommit it to vote.

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I believe it might be a little bit more to the process than that because I think we just voted on the Motion. Therefore, I think there has to be a little bit different process because of the timing.

[Long pause]

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, the “resolved” is for the Deputy Premier to be a Member, so I think we might get away with it because it’s only in the make-up of the Motion that his name is added and because it is a resolve that counts, maybe we can just move on if Members are satisfied to do that.

I'm glad to take off his name as far as I am concerned.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, my view was what the Premier had proposed, to just amend the recital seemed to me to be an easy way to deal with it.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: My apologies, it is late on a Friday.

Madam Speaker, I just thought that the Premier’s proposed solution to just amend the recital to correct it would, I think, seem like a reasonable way to deal with the issue because it doesn't alter the outcome in any way.

[Inaudible interjections]

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, for clarity, I think the proposal was for him to move that Motion to amend the section “e” of the second recital, to remove it.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, can you please move the Motion to amend?

[Long pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, can I call on you to move a Motion to recommit the Motion?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, I am happy to follow your suggestion to address this scrivener’s error. Therefore, I move a motion to recommit Government Motion No. 6 for the purpose of recognising the scrivener’s error and deleting the reference to the Honourable Member from George Town North. That’s item “e” in the second “whereas” of the Motion.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 6 of 2022-2023, re-committed.

The Speaker: Now I will call on the Premier to move a motion to amend.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion to amend Government Motion No. 6 of 2022-2023 as reflected by the deletion of paragraph “e” in the second “whereas” in the recitals to Government Motion No. 6.

The Speaker: Would anyone wish to debate the Amendment? *[Pause]*

The question is, that the Government Motion No. 6 be amended to remove recital “e” in the second “whereas”.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to Government Motion No. 6 of 2022-2023, passed.

The Speaker: Would anyone like to speak on the amended Motion? *[Pause]*

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Let's go to the vote then. For clarity, let me go over the resolve. The question is, that the Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, be and is hereby elected a Member of the Standing Business Committee of Parliament.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 6 of 2022-2023 as amended, passed.

**GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 7 OF 2022-2023
CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.
Madam Speaker, thank you.

I rise on behalf of the Government to move Government Motion No. 7 of 2022-2023: Change in Membership of the Public Accounts Committee. With your permission, I will read the Motion.

WHEREAS paragraph (1) of Standing Order 77 provides, "There shall be a standing select committee to be styled the Public Accounts Committee, to consider reports of the Auditor General—

- a) **On the accounts of the Government;**
- b) **On such other accounts required to be laid before the House as the committee may think fit; and**
- c) **On any matter incidental to the performance of the Auditor General's duties or the exercise of the Auditor General's powers as the Committee may think fit."**

AND WHEREAS the current Public Accounts Committee is comprised of:-

1. **Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town East, Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, as Chairman;**
2. **Elected Member for George Town North, Mr. Joseph X. Hew;**
3. **Elected Member for George Town South – Ms. Barbara E. Conolly;**
4. **Elected Member for East End, Mr. Isaac D. Rankine;**
5. **Elected Member for Savannah, Ms. Heather D. Bodden; and**
6. **Elected Member for Bodden Town East, Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour;**

AND WHEREAS paragraph (4) of Standing Order 80 provides that, "a member of a standing select committee may resign from that committee by tendering his resignation to the Presiding Officer whereupon the House may appoint another Member to fill the vacancy."

AND WHEREAS the Elected Member for Bodden Town East, the Hon. Dwayne Seymour tendered his resignation from the Committee to the Presiding Officer on 18th April, 2023.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Parliament accepts the resignation of the elected Member for Bodden Town East and elects the Elected Member for West Bay [West] as a Member of the Committee.

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

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

I don't think there is any need for me to speak. It is supported by the Government Bench.

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

Does the Honourable Mover of the Motion wish to exercise his right of reply?

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to thank Members for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is, that the Parliament revokes the appointment of the elected Member for Bodden Town East and elects the Elected Member for West Bay West as a Member of the Committee.

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: Before I call on a motion to adjourn, I just want to say quickly that I failed to put on record apologies that were received this afternoon for the Special Meeting from the Member for Cayman Brac West [and Little Cayman], Mr. Moses Kirkconnell, also from the Member for Red Bay and the Member for Bodden Town West. Thank you.

I call on the Premier to move a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the cooperation and support in respect of these items on the special meeting which was called to take advantage of the fact that we'd have everyone here in any event this afternoon following the swearing-in of our new Governor. I thank every Member for their support and cooperation, and apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced.

Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of this honourable House until Wednesday of next week, which is 26th April [2023].

The Speaker: The question is, that this honourable House be adjourned until next Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.

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

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

This honourable House do now stand adjourned until Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

**The House stood adjourned at 5.23 p.m. until
Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.**