



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

First Meeting of the 2022/2023 Session
First Sitting

Friday
7 October, 2022
(Pages 1-26)

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

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PRESENT WERE:

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

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 “FED” and Border Control and Labour “BCL”
Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	Minister for Education “ED” and District Administration and Lands “DAL”
Hon. Bernie A. Bush, MP	Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage “YSCH”
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP	Minister for Tourism and Transport — “MoTT”
Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	Minister for Financial Services and Commerce “FSC” and Investment, Innovation and Social Development “IISD”
Hon. Sabrina T. Turner, MP	Minister for Health & Wellness “HW” and Home Affairs “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, KC, 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> , PS to FSC and ED
Ms. Heather D. Bodden, JP, MP	PS to MoTT and IISD, Elected Member for Savannah
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MP	PS to Labour, Housing and Transport, Elected Member for Bodden Town East
Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, MP	PS to HA and PAHI, Elected Member for East End

ABSENT

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town East
Hon. 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

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST MEETING 2022/23 SESSION
FRIDAY
7 OCTOBER 2022
10:54 AM
First Sitting

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

The Speaker: I call now on the Honourable Deputy Speaker and Parliamentary Secretary, the honourable Member for West Central, to say prayers.

PRAYERS

The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: 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 now 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 of this honourable Parliament, are now in session.

Before we begin, I do have a message.

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

The Speaker: Honourable Members, firstly, let me recognise the presence in the Chamber of Mr. Farrington, a former Vestryman this morning and bid him welcome.

Honourable Members, I rise to make a brief statement and to highlight three main points:

Firstly, let me thank Almighty God for sparing us another time from a natural disaster. We have experienced tropical storm 9 or, more correctly, the effects of Hurricane Ian. From all indications there was no loss of human life here, even though some of us lost in our farms. I lost eight of my livestock, and my little farm suffered devastating damage and severe losses in produce, but nevertheless, we have to thank God for his continued blessings and mercies that we all fared well. We recognise that without him we are nothing.

We are most sympathetic to the people of Florida and other areas, in the devastation caused by Ian.

I do want to thank the Government, particularly the Premier, who was so diligent in getting assistance to members and I say members, not just the government, but I recognise that all Members of this honourable House were given supplies, and plywood and other supplies, for people of this country and I do want to thank him. He made several trips to West Bay in particular, during that time. I know one time he was a resident of West Bay, but I didn't think we would see him back there so often now; but I want to thank him particularly—and of course, thank the Cabinet for their work with him on these matters.

I do also want to thank members of West Bay West, my constituency, the West Bay West Enhancement Council for all their work and assistance during the Hurricane and the assistance they gave me as the MP to carry out my responsibilities and duties to the people, not just of West Bay West but to other areas of West Bay, of course.

Honourable Members, secondly, there has been criticism levied against me relating to the management of the House of Parliament. Let me state and make it categorically clear, that there is a Parliament Management Commission—The Council—which manages the affairs of the Parliament. I will direct you

to section 4 of the Parliament Management Act, which expressly outlines the general functions of the Commission. So, for those who may not be aware, the Speaker is not the person who is in control or manages this Parliament on a daily basis. In many other jurisdictions the Speaker is.

For the record, no pun intended, I need to make that absolutely clear not just for your knowledge, because most of you or all of you know that because you are familiar with the law, but for the general public to understand. I have observed and mentioned that the existing Parliament Management Act, the law, is not right now, as far as I am concerned, fit for purpose, and have suggested amendments are needed now.

There are noticeable operational and administrative deficiencies since we began with the law, since we brought the law into operation, which I said don't augur well for functionality and the efficient operation and governance of the Parliament because I have a duty to act in the interest of the Parliament at all material times. Some people do believe that I have enormous power in the running of the House, but I do operate in a framework which clearly dictates that I don't enjoy that authority.

For the record, I was criticised by two people who think and would like the country to believe they are the experts on everything—my God, I pray for our people if that's who they are going to be educated by. They have criticised and indicated [that] nothing has been done in the Parliament in regards to the speakership doing it. Let me take the opportunity to correct their ignorance on the matter:

Firstly, is the Code of Conduct: Based on my commitment and undertaking I gave in my early days in this administration of the House, I took the liberty and initiated the production of a Code of Conduct within three months after assuming the office of the Speaker this time, that is last year. I believe it was a reasonable draft to adopt that most Members would find acceptable; however, the Premier assumed conduct of that said matter more than a year ago in finalising various iterations of the Code.

I am aware that there was an intention to have a more elaborate document. While some Members are of the view that the amended Code of Conduct may be too onerous, burdensome, and disadvantageous in certain areas, given our circumstances, the Premier, nonetheless, has been committed to finalise the Code in the interests and satisfaction of all honourable Members.

Just to mention that the final document to be approved is not materially different from the original draft prepared in early 2021, save for the addition of a definition section and inclusion of specific sanctions and sections 4(1) and 4 (2) which speak of allegiance and serving Her Majesty respectively, which have to be amended to now reflect **His** Majesty.

The Premier, I want to say, did make every effort to get that done. He circulated a draft, we discussed it in our discussions during the council meetings; the Clerk separated it, operated it, and sent it to the Opposition, and the Opposition has now said that they haven't seen it. The fact is, the Clerk sent it to them, and I believe that the Premier himself, I think, circulated it as well. I can't remember because there were several iterations of it, but the Clerk definitely sent it, so let us understand that all Members have had that draft for a long time now.

As we attempt to have an amenable Code of Conduct for this House, let us not lose sight of the critical importance of equally addressing our antiquated and archaic Standing Orders also, which isn't fit for purpose at this time. To that end, I also created a bipartisan working group to progress that aspect, but as you are aware, it is a matter for you, all the Members of this House, to determine the final product.

It was my original intention to give a detailed, and more elaborate and comprehensive outline of the developments concerning the preparation of the Code of Conduct but due to sage counsel, and upon reflection—and since I have learned to be more patient, more tolerant and measured in my pronouncements—I opted to just say at this stage that part of what I explained to you here. Let's work together to produce a fair and reasonable Code of Conduct that all Members are content with and that the public would believe that we are trying to conduct ourselves according to those rules.

In defence of the Premier, it think that is what he has been asking us to do. That's what he wants: Something that the people can understand where we are at with our Code of Conduct. I am confident all members can achieve this together. Let us all compromise in order to have a workable code that can be further enhanced and modified in the future, as circumstances dictate.

It is worthy to note that a review of the Code is clearly stipulated in Erskine May, 25th Edition, on page 77, in paragraph 5.3, that it is reviewed—that is the Code is reviewed—when appropriate. Be mindful it is not a partisan issue, but rather for the entire House, [for] the protection also of us all as Members, not just the Government, but the Opposition, and the Opposition ought to know this because some of them have been here quite a while.

Therefore, I urge the House, in the spirit of cooperation and being collegial, we can certainly produce a Code of Conduct—there is not much left to do with it, I can tell you—based on consensus. Furthermore, as Members are aware, I have no vote in the House as the Speaker, but will be able to vote on the issue after November 30th, if it comes to that.

Thirdly, it is my intention, and I want things to be in place, for the Parliament to be functional and with the necessary structures and systems, so it can function independently of the Council for a period of

time, because I am sure you all will appreciate and agree, that after next year all Members will be busy in campaign mode, or preoccupied with constituency matters, and the Council won't be meeting as such to address the myriad of issues that exist on a day to day basis. Perhaps I will be pleasantly surprised.

Generally, we can't afford to compromise the operation and administrative functions of this institution such as this autonomous Parliament. The overall effective and efficient running of the Parliament obviously takes precedence and should supersede many, many, things in the country. There is no need to object to meaningful proposals and recommendations due to personal reasons, and we need to remove the bureaucratic structure with the additional sub-committees of the council, some of which are not able to meet as they should, and it is not working the way we thought it would work. The status quo cannot remain because we are transforming and transitioning into a better institution.

In closing, as an indication of my intention for this autonomous Parliament, in my own unique way, I have started with the lecture series, which is the first of its kind and historic for the House, in order to stimulate discussion and generate ideas which can inform policy decisions for this country. There are other things being directed, for example the development of a parliamentary library.

I created a working group to modernise our archaic Standing Orders, which govern our procedures in the House and I will continue to engage and spear head a new approach to make this not only world class, but a first-class autonomous Parliament despite the challenges and difficulties I encounter from those who are reluctant to embrace the positive changes.

I want to expand on the number of things achieved, but I am not going to take any more time at this time because that's a specific complaint by those who think they know it all; however, I am not going to get into the reading of it, but I have given copies to the Serjeant so that you would have a list. Some of you already know some of these things but many, many, things have been done since we began as a Government, and as we have begun also from the standpoint of an autonomous Parliament; so many, many, many things, but as I said those people don't understand and so they will never understand because they believe, they believe that they should be here. Unfortunately, some of them attempted that and the people say "Shoo!"

[Laughter]

The Speaker: I will ask the Serjeant to distribute those documents, and I will lay on the Table of the House the Code of Conduct as prepared by myself, and the one by the Premier that is before Members now. They are on the Table also, but the Serjeant does have copies for all Members—not that it was not

sent before by the Premier and, I want to repeat, by the Clerk.

Thank you for your endurance and your patience.

The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

Point of Order

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Minister for Tourism and Transport, Elected Member for George Town Central: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Speaker: Yes. Can you state your point of order, please?

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

I seek clarity as to the absence of the Members of the Opposition—all of them. Have they sought leave from yourself as to Standing Order 6 or Standing Order 31?

The Speaker: Standing Order 6: **"It is the duty of a Member who is unable to attend a meeting of which that Member has had due notice, or a meeting that is adjourned to a later date, to inform the Clerk as early as possible of that Member's inability to attend and, where necessary, whether that Member has obtained written leave of absence from the Governor under section 52 (1) (d) of the Constitution."**

Section 7 has at least 11 points with four sub-points which I am not going to take the time to read, but I ask Members to take notice of it.

No, Honourable Minister, you wouldn't expect me to know what the Opposition is doing. I don't know what they are doing, but I can say to this honourable House that I have not received any apologies.

Hon Kenneth V. Bryan: Mr. Speaker, just to opine on your response: Can I ask if the Clerk received notice of absence?

The Speaker: Well, if the Clerk had received she was duty bound to alert this Presiding Officer and I have had no such message from the Clerk.

Hon Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want the record to note that there has been no permission granted for the Members of the Opposition not to attend the Parliament today.

The Speaker: Sorry; you were not asking a question at that point? Thank you.

Madam Clerk.

OTHER BUSINESS PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

**Private Member's Motion No. 2/2020-2023
Motion on confidence in the Government**

The Speaker: The honourable Member and Parliamentary Secretary, the Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Parliamentary Secretary to Labour, Housing and Transport, Elected Member for Bodden Town East: Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to move Private Member's Motion No. 2/2022-2023 standing in my name, and it reads:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Parliament does declare full confidence in the Government.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder?

Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Parliamentary Secretary to HA and PAHI, Elected Member for East End: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

The Speaker: While we usually have one seconder, it is not unheard of to have other seconders and I call on the next seconder, the honourable Parliamentary Secretary and the Elected Member for Savannah.

Ms Heather D. Bodden, Parliamentary Secretary to T&T and IISD, Elected Member for Savannah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, rise to second the Motion.

The Speaker: The question is, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Parliament does declare full confidence in the Government.

Is the honourable mover speaking thereto?

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank the honourable Members for East End and Savannah for seconding the Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I say good day to the people of the Cayman Islands and in particular, Bodden Town East; visitors in the Strangers' Gallery, invited friends, and the listening public by television or radio here in Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands.

This has been an eventful week, Mr. Speaker, and we can only imagine it's going to be an interesting weekend. I state the lyrics of one of my musical heroes, Garnett Silk, when I thought I needed this:

*Lord, watch over my shoulder
and help us live our words tomorrow,
let us not forget where we are from.
Show us the way to go and
I pray this is not a cathartic experience.*

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day in the history of Parliament, and politics in general, where the Government of the day was compelled to file a Confidence Motion.

You may ask what is a Confidence Motion as some have never heard of this before; some may have heard of a No Confidence Motion, but not many have heard of a confidence motion, especially happening here in these Islands but a motion of confidence is a motion of support proposed by a Government in a Parliament or other assembly of elected representatives, to give members of Parliament or such assembly a chance to register their confidence in their own government.

I do not take this day lightly, Mr. Speaker, as I find no joy in having conflict with any Caymanian, and once again, Mr. Speaker, I find myself at this juncture and having to make a decision on whether to support an individual, a party, or my beloved country. A scripture in Jeremiah 17:5 says: ***Cursed is the one who trust in mankind, who depends on flesh for his strength...*** God tells me to support country.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, I pray that it is appreciated that whenever country has needed me to be there for that calm—that calm, Mr. Speaker—I have always answered the call to support country.

If I paraphrase the national song, Mr. Speaker, the national song itself reads:

*When 'ere my thoughts fly Godward,
I always think of you.*

And in the chorus, my heart enshrines—in other words, idolise or admire or revere—

*My heart enshrines thee yet
homeland fair Cayman Isles,
I cannot thee forget.*

Mr. Speaker, I cannot forget the Cayman Islands; it is about country for me, fellow Members of Parliament, and yes, I defend the decision I've made although unpopular to some in this honourable Parliament. It brings calm to this wonderful place we call home.

However, I am not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed me and made me the person I am. He compares me to no one else. I would say yes, and I am one of a kind and with Him I lack nothing that his Grace can't give me. He has allowed me to be here at this time in history to fulfil his special purpose for this generation. We only need to remember the Bible and David or Joshua—their unassuming roles.

Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that we maintain stability in this country, and this is my main reason for bringing this—

[Pause]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Trying to censor me.

The Speaker: Is the Member having difficulty with his microphone?

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I don't know.

The Speaker: I'm hearing you now.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Probably the Opposition working on this but...

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, this is my main reason for bringing this Motion: having instability affects a country in many ways. It affects the economy and increases uncertainty about future economic situations and policies.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Member of the Opposition Party, and Minister under the former administration, I believe I am uniquely qualified to assure and reassure this honourable Parliament, [that] this PACT-Administration retains the confidence of the people of the Cayman Islands and myself in a personal and collective capacity. This confidence is critical to the stability and the future of the Cayman Islands, I therefore do not take today's motion lightly.

I am grateful that our constitutional safeguards allow us to debate in this Parliament without recourse to violence or turmoil. I think we should reflect on Tony Benn's quote: *"If democracy is destroyed in Britain, it will not be the communist the Trotskyists or the subversives but this house which threw it away. The rights that are entrusted to us are not for us to give away. Even if I agree with everything that is proposed, I cannot hand away power lent to me for five years by the people of Chesterfield. I just could not do it. It would be theft of public rights."*

Mr. Speaker, the PACT Government is providing an alternate way. They say when a man shows you himself, believe him. It is ironic that in 315 years since the British Parliament was established, there have only been 23 votes of No Confidence in a motion—that's in 315 years; yet, we are not even two years in, and the Opposition is seeking a change. Mr. Speaker, we do not need this at this time.

Mr. Speaker, whilst I have voted against myself already in this honourable House, I wasn't proud of doing that at this time either, and we all know too well about that event.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the determination this has given the PACT Government and their resolve to

keep going in spite of the many road blocks that lay before them but Mr. Speaker they, like every Government, want to make this country a better place for Caymanians—for all Caymanians, not just some.

Mr. Speaker, they're constantly discussing ways to ease the pain and make life better for citizens, as you saw with the C.U.C initiative, food security initiatives, gender equality, [an] affordable land purchase programme—never done before—the housing initiative to build over 100 affordable homes, four times than any other government. As former Minister of Housing, I went at land purchases, and the now Minister went at building more homes and this shows how it works: some water, and some plant, as you can't do it all in one term, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, we know inflation is worrying to the nation, gas is up at the pumps, goods are up at the supermarkets, and we need to attack and manage this in a rapid manner.

I also implore my PACT team to consider raising salaries for teachers again; they need to be paid more; the pandemic should have made us understand how valuable they are.

Let's ensure our civil service are paid comparable salaries, so we don't lose them to the private sector; let's ensure that the government that prides themselves in being the most environmentally conscious, that we start the new waste to energy facility or ISWMS (Integrated Solid Waste Management System) as it is called; let's ensure Cayman Brac gets their new high school, they deserve everything.

We are a small Island and we don't have much land for our children, so let's utilise our air space; we need to investigate a train or tram system. Not everyone needs a car that arrives here, Mr. Speaker. Let's focus on conflict resolution, training our boys and girls from primary school level. Mr. Speaker, this PACT team can deliver this.

Let us be clear in laying out my case to my history in this term: I ran for office with the PPM group that now sits on the Opposition side of the Parliament. They treated me well, I must admit, and I am forever grateful for this. After the April elections in 2021, I think it is safe to say the former government failed to negotiate with the elected cohort in winning back control of the government.

I spent the first eight months on the Opposition side, and then Honourable Deputy Premier Saunders and Minister Ebanks of North Side used one of the old PPM tricks—

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: —And publicly called me out saying I could add great value to their team with my experience and not just because I was former Minister of Health, Environment, Culture and Housing, but also because they knew I care about Cayman and its people.

I just want to note, Mr. Speaker, that during these negotiations for me to come over, Minister Bryan, the Member for George Town Central, and Minister Ebanks, the Member for North Side, didn't know that I had COVID and called me for a meeting. I gladly accepted, but tried to warn them and I think Minister Jay kind of caught on that I wasn't feeling too well and so he decided to have a meeting on the outside; so I want to thank them for coming all the way to Bodden Town and showing interest in me.

Mr. Speaker, as in all major things in my political life, I called an emergency public meeting in my constituency of Bodden Town East, and in the end my constituents thought it best for me and to get things done I needed to be around the table, so I respectfully left the Opposition whom I informed—the Opposition of PPM who called me a friend, but I am not sure if I am now.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, if I'm being truthful, when I first came over I saw a style of operation I had never seen before. I already knew the group was young and inexperienced and it was part of my reason for not joining when I was initially called. I recognise no Government, that I can remember, was formed with more than 80 per cent of its members who had never been elected before or served as Cabinet Ministers and I was like, *what in the world did I get myself into?* Just being honest, Mr. Speaker.

I wondered how the Premier controls such a vociferous bunch. In that man (the Premier), I saw the greatest calm during a storm and I saw the exuberance of a group who were motivated to get things done for the regular common man, while balancing all. I witnessed a group that had interrogation-style tactics of questioning any witness who came through the door and left no stones unturned determined to change the status quo.

Of course, I was frustrated at the start and did not understand much going on, then I remembered the Caymanian seamen who were teenagers and taking on a role in the world, leaving here as 16-year olds, coming back home as captains, engineers and chefs.

Then our heroic women, who had never managed a home by themselves, all of a sudden became mother and father and build their homes, educated our children all on their own, with funds sent home by the seamen, whom I call my heroes, and I said, if they could do it, then this young team just needs some guidance. I said to myself, *'anything is possible when a Caymanian is in it,'* but Mr. Speaker, I should have said aloud, *'anything is possible with God in it.'*

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: In fact, Mr. Speaker, in Romans 13 vs 1: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist

have been established by God." If the Bible says that, then why not respect the PACT Government? No government in the past or in the future will be perfect. Some will have more experience in this and that, but none will be perfect, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the foundation of Cayman's comparative success is built not demolishing our people, our economy and society. We improve, enhance, and paralance with our words, but we do not play with the lives and livelihoods of people. We promote our political stability, yet today we have a motion from the Opposition that could damage this perception, simply because they have to accept that our people have spoken, and the people who they chose found the 13 Elected Members the quickest. It's just that simple Mr. Speaker, and—

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Although it was fortuitous, it is a numbers game, Mr. Speaker. Over the years, politics has proven to be a game of numbers which the smartest, armed with the required numerical strength, wins; so, it's a clear case of the majority having their way and the minority having their say, and we all know, Mr. Speaker [that] success has many mothers and failure has an orphan. I get it, winning is key, but the numbers...

I even tried helping them at one time, although in a clandestine manner, privately...

Mr. Speaker, we have a government to run. We have a country to steer, we have children to educate and seniors to care for, and my support for this PACT Government therefore comes from hope. But I despair knowing that the ship whose destination is the betterment of Cayman, Mr. Speaker, the cargo, the aspiration and hard work for us, our home and place of business, must now be sunk to the bottom of depths of the ocean floor because of what, may I ask?

I urge those who feel they are not being heard to call your representative and outline your case! Also for those in the business community, I have spoken to the Honourable Premier and he accepts that a reset was needed and we need to ensure that we listen to all, return all those phone calls, respond to all those queries and asks, and take into consideration the many desires, but of course, with a balance in protecting our precious environment.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker: Congratulations, you first time parliamentarians, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. They say a day in politics is a long time, but you have now done 541 days. You're officially experienced. You have even had two hurricanes and an opening of a country after a pandemic. You have had your first budget experience and

a Confidence and a No Confidence Motion to address. Mr. Speaker, I now declare them experienced.

In the end, politics is essentially a numbers game. Who has the greatest number wins the Government, so if you can't find a way to master that or outsmart the other side, then you need to be patient and wait for an opportune time! As I mentioned earlier, I am uniquely qualified to move this Motion. I have been on the government side, the Opposition side, and sometimes on the fence itself!

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I am just being honest.

Keeping the peace between sides; after three terms being elected and lastly, spent four years outside when my re-election campaign was less than successful.

Mr. Speaker, I quote Sir Isaac Newton: “**energy is never lost, [nor destroyed] it is merely transferred from one party to the next.**”

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, I got the same public call to come over to the other side. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't have gone if they didn't have enough to form the government, and again I went for the good of the country. They treated me well and I appreciate that, as I have said many times, and if the foot was on another shoe, Mr. Speaker, I would do the same thing.

If this came up in the 2017 to 2021 term, I would have filed a Confidence Motion and support the government for the good of country, Mr. Speaker. Many wonder and frown on what I am doing here today—even some of my own constituents may be wondering—but I can assure them that if your Bodden Town East Member of Parliament, Dwayne S. Seymour is at the table, you will get your share.

As the good old icon Jimmy Cliff said, ‘*as sure as the sun shines, I am going to get mine*’ for my people, even if that means that we need to put more pressure on this vexing traffic problem that we have. I know there are more things that are needed in Bodden Town, like:

- a main road facelift;
- housing repairs;
- the Coe Wood beach upgrade;
- Governor Russell beach upgrade;
- toilets and cabanas;
- road repairs;
- flooding—Minister Jay, the Member for North Side has been helping me well with that;
- additional hurricane shelter space;
- additional school space;
- affordable housing for our people;
- shutters for the elderly;
- reviving the first capital and adding it to our tourism product;
- ease up the cost of living

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that I have my eye on that East West arterial road being built. My people in the East need one more hour sleep just like everybody else.

Premier Panton, Deputy Premier Chris Sanders, Minister Jay Ebanks...

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders, Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, and Border Control and Labour, Elected Member for Bodden Town West: But what does he do?

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:—Parliamentary Secretary Rankine, and even Minister Turner in Prospect and I, are working hard with the rest of the team to make this talked about matter become reality for our people.

To the people of Bodden Town East, I will continue to fight for the things that are most important to you without fear or trepidation. Yes, I am the voice of the voiceless and the face of the faceless. I hope all Ministers took note of the things that I just mentioned, so when you stand up, I implore you to indicate to your staff to start working on these tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this Government deserves a chance; at a time in the world that no one has ever seen, with a still ongoing pandemic after two years and economies around the world so dim. The UK pound is the same value or thereabout as the Cayman dollar, and this PACT Government is expected to be better than sliced bread.

Mr. Speaker, they are trying their best and some may say ‘*speed it up*’ and I say, ‘that may not all be up to them’. These guys are not destination politicians where quick results are always wanted.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the listening public: everything has changed since this guy came around. The guy I am talking about is COVID-19. This guy came into our lives and things have changed; the whole world has changed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that no one ever questions my loyalty again, to this country and to the group I signed up to support. Mr. Speaker, they know that I will speak up, I am not afraid to voice my concerns and support, and if you don't do your job, I will first whisper silently to you; and if you all don't listen, I will call you out! Are you hearing this?

Premier, you have the hardest job and that is to control all these independent thinkers who so brilliantly express themselves in colour at times.

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I leave that job to you, Premier, sir.

This politics is serious business as you value every Member of our team as equals. It may not be what you think was best, but this is a wakeup call for the PACT Government to work best for this country, respond with haste and listen with intent.

Mr. Speaker, what is the purpose of the coming to this honourable House with just five signatures? They should have ensured they had the 11 needed to take over, so let us not confuse or conflate the exercise of democracy with the mechanics of politicking — they are doing a good job at it.

Mr. Speaker, thank you in advance for allowing me to exercise the rest of my democratic time, to remind this honourable House where there is confidence in this PACT Government. The Motion did not say, *'it's against the PACT-Government and not John John'*, so it's against all of us on this side, therefore I must defend the government!

Mr. Speaker, the electorate thankfully sees, and more importantly, values the diversity of opinion and skillsets we bring to the table. No one will ever accuse us or mistake us for a band of yes-men or yes-women or marionettes.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I will be honest, and I am sure the Premier sometimes wishes we were not so vocal, but he appreciates our passion coming from wanting the best for our constituents and this country.

*"The beauty of life does not depend
on how happy you are,
but on how happy others can be
because of you."*

Mr. Speaker, before closing I would like to say that although I am moving this Motion in my name, it is a Motion on the people's behalf. It is a Motion that reaffirms their confidence that this is a People-driven, Accountable, Competent and Transparent Government.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: To the people of the Cayman Islands watching this debate, I thank you for choosing the PACT-Government to navigate our ship.

To my honourable colleagues, diversely on life's vast ocean, we sail carrying the hopes and love of our beloved Caymanian people. No captain can sail alone. A great captain understands they could not possibly operate their ship alone. No single person can do it—from steering the ship, navigating the course, and overseeing all essential ship operations [of] the good ship Cayman; the multiplicity or the diverse nature in our team.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to just mention all of the Members in this honourable House, just to show the diversity of the group that we put together.

Mr. Speaker, we have you: the Honourable William McKeeva Bush, Father of the House, busi-

nessman, real estate mogul and farmer — West Bay West.

We have the Honourable Premier Wayne Panton: lawyer, businessman, boat Captain — Newlands.

We have the Honourable Deputy Premier, Christopher Saunders: accountant, businessman — Bodden Town West.

We have the Honourable Minister Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Cayman Brac East: A lawyer, educator, a farmer, my friend, my confidant—one of the smartest people I know. Thanks for your encouragement, Minister O'Connor-Connolly.

We have the Honourable Minister Kenneth Bryan: businessman, finance Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Chairman - George Town Central.

We have the Honourable Minister André. Ebanks: lawyer – West Bay South.

We have the Honourable Minister Jay Ebanks: businessman, farmer and fisherman – North Side.

Minister Sabrina Turner: businesswoman, healthcare – Prospect.

I just want to confirm, Mr. Speaker, I did not confirm all these accolades that I'm actually putting on them. I'm somehow guessing, but I think I'm not far off.

Honourable Minister Bernie Bush: a businessman, aviation and sport expert.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Parliamentary Secretary, Katherine Ebanks-Wilks: lawyer, advocate for women rights for fairness and equal rights. You make me proud every day. West Bay Central has a great defender.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Honourable PS Ms. Heather D. Bodden: businesswoman, philanthropist – Savannah.

PS Isaac Rankine, East End: businessman, engineer and preacher.

[Pause and inaudible interjection]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, myself, the unassuming one; someone else can name what they think of me, but Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa said, *'you have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.'* That means a lot to me, Mr. Speaker.

God bless the people of this country. God bless our Parliament. God bless our civil servants. God bless our families. God bless my family. God bless the Church. God bless the people of Bodden Town East—I thank you all so much.

As I wrap up now and use only my first speech and not the second one I have in my back

pocket, just in case any interruption came, I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

God bless these honourable Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping and applause]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak? The Member for East End.

Mr. Isaac D. Rankine, Parliamentary Secretary to HAYSCH and PAHI, Elected Member for East End: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how I can follow that, sir.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep humility and a sense of pride that I rose a short moment ago to second this Private Members' Motion No. 2-2022/23, Motion of confidence in this PACT Government, which was moved and debated by my honourable friend and colleague, the Member from Bodden Town East.

As a fairly new Member of this honourable Parliament, I can say without reservations that I, along with the constituents of East End, whom I am honoured to have represented for the last year and a half, have seen first-hand the success of the PACT administration since taking office. I am also heartened by the support I received from my colleagues in this honourable House, as well as members of the Civil Service, as we all work together to improve the lives of our fellow Caymanians and residents of these beloved Islands.

For reasons I will soon outline, I confidently give my support to the motion of full confidence to the government of the Cayman Islands. I am fully supportive of the Premier as leader of this team of independent-thinking public servants, a group with diverse backgrounds who are united in the mission of creating a better quality of life for our people, as outlined by my honourable colleague earlier.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank the Honourable Premier for placing his confidence in me, giving me the opportunity to serve in my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Planning Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, and also to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

To this end, I would also like to thank the Honourable Minister Jay Ebanks, Honourable Minister Bernie A. Bush and Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Sabrina Turner, as well as other Ministers and their staff, particularly those whose work impact the Ministries in which I serve. We all work together in the best interests of the Cayman Islands, even when we sometimes do things from different perspectives, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, please also permit me to take a brief moment to extend special gratitude to the Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers, Heads of Departments and staff in all the Ministries, for their conscientious work over the past year and a half in progressing a

number of the government's broad outcomes for this PACT Government.

Special thanks must be reserved for my constituents in East End, Mr. Speaker for their generous support since I was elected; it remains a great honour to represent them here, and today I reaffirm my commitment in striving to be the best representative for them, and to keep working tirelessly to ensure that East End remains a model constituency.

During the election, I made a commitment to my constituents that should they find it fit to elect me to this high office, I would do my endeavour best to ensure that the District of East End was no longer regulated as a default on the Opposition benches. For far too long, the District of Eastern was a back-burner district and, as a result, improvements seemed out of reach for us. Since taking office, I can say without hesitation that in their respective areas, my PACT colleagues have ensured that I am able to fulfil that promise to my constituents of bringing my constituency to the front burner again.

The passion, dedication, and inspiration I received from the group of men and women who currently surround me here on this side of the House, made me proud to call them my government colleagues. In spite of the challenges we face day to day, we remain committed and dedicated to helping each other and by extension making the lives of the people of the Cayman Islands easier.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason [that] I am proud to be a part of a government made up of a diverse group of independent-thinking leaders; a strong team working towards better political representation based on our agreed PACT principles—People-driven, Accountable, Competent and Transparent. For my constituency and the wider Cayman Islands, the improvements that I will outline in my contribution represents a fraction of the larger part of this administration.

By presenting my constituency as a microcosm, I am sure the listening public will see the bigger picture for what this PACT administration is aiming to do in our term in office. Thus, Mr. Speaker, my contribution today serves two purposes:

- The first to underscore my support and confidence in our PACT Government; and
- Secondly to provide an update to the residents of East End on what the government has been doing for them.

Mr. Speaker, before I highlight some of the work that has been done in East End over the past year, I would like to commend the Honourable Jay

Ebanks, Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, for all the hard work that has been accomplished under his leadership over the past year and a half. The Ministry has made much progress in a number of key areas, including:

- Supporting the agriculture sector to enhance food and nutrition security;
- Investing in young Caymanians through training and development programmes;
- Increasing the number of affordable housing; and
- Improving the road infrastructure to ensure the successful future of our Islands.

As it relates to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, we are thankful that we were only likely brushed by Hurricane Ian two weeks ago. The \$3 million grant the PACT Government provided to farmers under the Tropical Grace Assistance Project has benefited the farmers tremendously, and placed them in a position to repair their farms and return to production earlier this year. We are therefore relieved that Hurricane Ian did not set them back again, as that would have been a big blow for them and for our Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has been focused on the Islands' food security and I cannot underscore enough the importance of this approach given the challenges many countries, including the Cayman Islands, are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues that have impacted global food supply chain.

The Honourable Minister and the team in the Ministry, along with members of the private sector, have been engaging in regional discussions and have made some concrete arrangements with the aim to ensure accessibility to high-quality food from other sources, while at the same time strengthening and modernising the local agriculture sector.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we can all agree, that for the countries within the region to mitigate the current global challenges, we all have to work closely together to share resources and solutions, so we can pave the way forward. Given the region's climate and environment, Mr. Speaker, we have the capacity to produce much of the food we consume. I believe that the collaboration and growth in trade, in agriculture produce, and other inputs between Cayman Islands and neighbouring countries, can be viable.

The Ministry has also provided support to the Cayman Islands Agriculture Society. Through the support, the society has already completed two successful importations of cattle, to upgrade the livestock sector. The team in the Ministry has informed me that they are acquiring cattle that best suits our local conditions, including the Jamaican Red Poll breed, which has been requested by our farming communities. The Ministry, through the Department of Agriculture, has ensured that all regulatory requirements are met to safeguard against possible introduction of pests and diseases that could impact the health of local livestock population.

Mr. Speaker, it will be of no surprise that as the representative of the largest farming district, I firmly support any assistance and support that the government can create and provide for our farmers. I un-

derstand just how important our farming industry is, and I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Department of Agriculture, ably led by Mr. Adrian Estwick and supported by the Minister, for the commitment in supporting our farmers.

I must also commend the Department for the training that they have been providing for the agriculture sector. In May this year, the department delivered a home gardening course designed to provide homeowners with the skills to have successful home gardens. Some of the topics covered included the introduction to vegetable gardening, crop nutrition and irrigation, principles of pest management, home garden safety, harvesting and post-harvesting handling.

Home gardens, Mr. Speaker, are a perfect way for our families to reduce their food bills, improve nutrition and supplement income, and are therefore a key component of a draft food and nutrition security plan. The demand for the home gardening course was so high, that the Department will be hosting similar sessions in the near future.

Also, just two months ago, the Department collaborated with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica to deliver a highly-successful Agro-Processing course for Caymanians to learn about the production development basics for jam and jellies, sauces, seasoning blends, and other products. Training of this nature is of great significance in the context of value-added products being regarded as a means to transform agriculture into a profitable endeavour for farmers.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, many of our farmers often face the challenge of periodic production gluts, which lowers prices and limits their ability to sell their crops; through this training, they will be able to convert this excess into something that can be stored for later sale or transformed into a new range of products that can be sold at a better price. This training will also provide Caymanians with opportunities to expand linkages with the tourism sector through the production of unique products that visitors can take home as souvenirs from our Islands.

As I touch on the topic of training for Caymanians, I also want to move to the apprenticeship training programme which is led by the Ministry's Public Works Department, also ably led by Mr. Troy Whorms. Earlier this year, I attended the Public Work Department (PWD's) inaugural Skills Training Competition aimed at showcasing the skills of the students in the programme and creating awareness about Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) in the Cayman Islands. A wealth of talent displayed by the trainees as they competed in the areas of electrical installation, carpentry, masonry, air conditioning and refrigeration, gave me great pride and confidence in recognising that we have a bright future within our TVET sector.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend the team at Public Works Department for establishing this Inaugural Skills Training Competition. They have taken on the responsibility to promote the careers of young Caymanians, not only through the mentorship of interns from high school, but through proper technical training that will lead to an internationally-recognised City and Guilds London certification.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago I joined the Honourable Minister and the Ministry's team at an orientation session of new trainees and the opening of a new simulation lab to support their training. I was particularly pleased to learn that the trainees enrolled in the construction trades programme designed and renovated the building that houses the simulation lab, and I just want to congratulate them and the instructors for their hard work, and encourage them to continue to strive for excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of this government that is supportive in the expansion of technical and vocational training across our Islands and one that will continue to provide as many opportunities as possible for Caymanians.

I am also proud to be part of a government that is committed to invest in the road infrastructure of our Islands, while actively seeking to find alternatives to solve our transportation and mobility challenges. The road infrastructure, traffic and housing are some of the pressing issues affecting my constituents in East End.

Traffic is a number one concern, and just this morning I had a WhatsApp message from a constituent who expressed her dissatisfaction with the wait time in the traffic from East End to George Town. It has been a concern for the residents of these Islands for a long time. I understand the difficulties and complaints from my people in East End, and I also understand how this issue affects the quality of life, so I want to reassure them that the Ministry and the Government is working on solutions to address these challenges. I also know that the Minister of Tourism and Transport is desirous of finding solutions to these traffic issues, and it is my intention to work closely with him so that East End will be a beneficiary of these solutions as well.

The Honourable Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure will highlight the main road infrastructure projects being undertaken across Grand Cayman, but I will touch on those that are taking place, or affects us in East End.

Phase one of the East West Arterial: The road from Hirst to the Woodland Drive area is at 65 per cent design, with most of the base work completed up to 4 feet.

Phase two of the East West Arterial: The tender process for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultant is complete, and that consultant started work in September, on the 12 to 16 months' long study.

Crewe Road, Hurley Merren Boulevard: This segment between Grand Harbour and the Red Bay roundabout is now 90 per cent complete. National Roads Authority (NRA) is now focused on widening both sides of the corridor between the Grand Harbour and CUC roundabouts.

It is our hope, Mr. Speaker, that once these improvements are completed, it will further make our morning and evening commute to-and-from East End more bearable.

In addition to those road projects, the National Roads Authority has also been undertaking other works which will benefit the eastern districts and some of the specific East End road upgrades carried out include:

- Road shoulder rehabilitation works at Queens Highway;
- Austin Connolly Drive and Seaview Drive;
- District road upgrades also took place on Tangelo Lane, Knot street;
- One of our farming roads—Sierra little bluff;
- Welcome Way
- Fiddlers Way; and
- Sterling Lane.

Over this financial year, the NRA will also be continuing to upgrade of the Guardrail Programme, speed bumps installation and other island-wide district roads improvement programme. To this end, I need to also mention Mr. Speaker, that the NRA has completed additional drain wells in East End to mitigate any flooding issues we may see now or in the near future.

In housing, I am pleased to report that the National Housing Development Trust (NHDT) has completed seven more affordable homes, which will soon be handed over to the assigned home owners. The Trust is already in the planning phase for further projects in East End and the rest of the Islands, and I want to encourage young Caymanians, especially East Enders to visit the NHDT offices to learn more and sign up for applications when more opportunities become available.

I am also encouraged that the PACT Government is focused on providing more housing opportunities for Caymanians than previous administrations—again, the Honourable Minister for Housing will soon outline this in further details in his contribution. Mr. Speaker, I pledge my support to the Minister and his team at the National Housing Development Trust on these projects, as well as work to revise the affordable housing policy to create a new strategy that will meet the demands of our Caymanian people.

Moving on, Mr. Speaker, in support of plans to improve the East End community, works have been undertaken by the Ministry's Facilities Management Department at the William Allen McLaughlin Civic Centre. To date, new flooring, new ceiling air conditioning unit and the ducting, the installation of a new

stage, as well as interior and exterior painting have all been completed. The installation of the electric vehicle charging station, as well as the installation of a new grease trap system for the kitchen, have also been completed.

Paving at the William Allen McLaughlin Civic Centre has also been completed. Work continues on the bathroom renovations, and I am pleased to report that the roof repairs are about to commence. Other upcoming works at the William Allen McLaughlin Civic Centre include upgrades to the landscaping, and the transformation of the bathroom facilities to be American Disabilities Association compliant; and we shall not forget Gun Bay, sir.

For the Elliott Connolly Civic Centre in Gun Bay, the following works have also been completed:

- Facilities equipped with new appliances;
- Addition of chairs and tables;
- LED lighting upgrades;
- Entry door replacement;
- Resurfacing and marking of the basketball court; and
- Installation of basketball backboard and hoops.

Mr. Speaker, the facilities team in the Department is confident that during this financial term there will be a number of other updates in this, and other civic centres, including works on the interior for the installation of video and audio equipment, installation of security alarm systems, and installation of automatic security lighting around the property. These enhancements will make it safer for the members of the East End community and other communities to use these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform that I am working in partnership with the Minister of Sports, Youth, and Culture, the Honourable Bernie Bush, and his team on the following areas:

Firstly, to upgrade and enhance the sports facility in East End, which will not only benefit my constituents but the country on a whole. We are discussing how we can bring this facility to international sporting standards, and the plan is to include new infrastructure such as restrooms, a walking track, and other ancillary facilities.

Secondly, to introduce cultural features and awareness unique to the district of East End to the members of our community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to ongoing collaboration with Minister Bush and his team on various other projects relevant to his subject matter.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Works Department has also been undertaking works in East End notably, the Colliers Beach dock. They're seeking to reinstate the damaged dock structure and to this end, a structural assessment has been completed and the subsequent bathymetric survey completed as well.

The Gun Bay boat ramp and restroom facility: the design work has been completed, planning approval is pending, and the Building Control Unit (BCU) permit and application are also pending. The heritage field dock and boat ramp will be redeveloped similarly to the Bodden Town Coe Wood beach dock—we deserve no less in East End. [I am] working with the Department of Environment to establish swim areas on both public beaches in the district. This will enhance it for residents, as well as our visitors to our district.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to touch on some improvements to the East End Primary School. During the delivery of my budget address I acknowledged and highlighted the continued dedication of the Minister of Education, the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, and once more am sure that I speak on behalf of the entire House—at least those on this side. I have said many times in private, that the future of our students, whom she refers to as her students—are surely in safe hands. The Minister has been a steadfast and a lifelong educator who, without question, ensures that the education of our students is not a political matter. I want to thank the Minister and her team at the Ministry and the Department of Education for their continued support to our students.

I am pleased to report that under this PACT Administration, and under the experience and wise stewardship of the Minister of Education, the following projects have been completed at East End Primary School:

- Extension of the reception playground through the construction of a retaining wall;
- Backfilling of the area and installation of artificial turf;
- Repairs to perimeter fencing and gates;
- Repairs and adjustments to the perimeter concrete block wall to improve visibility at the road junction;
- Changing of the extractor fan on the roof of the new block above the kitchen;
- Removal and retiling of the walls in the girls' bathroom;
- External painting of several walls;
- Repairs of the fascia board and guttering are just a few of the items that have been done at East End Primary School.

I am also pleased to report that other infrastructure projects planned for the East End primary school include:

- Major repairs to the kitchen roof;
- Construction of a security guard house;
- Installation of security fencing; and
- The acquisition of a school intercom system.

Mr. Speaker, again, during my budget address, I mentioned that with the support of this PACT

Government, one of the first acts was to purchase acreage for the construction of a new facility for our seniors. The plan then evolved as additional land was purchased, and a project aimed at affordable housing lots was included. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to confirm today that this government, of which I am proud to be a part of, has made further progress towards implementation of the affordable residential land lot programme. Caucus and Cabinet has reviewed and approved a tentative design and funding for the project, and a working group has been established to finalise the launch of the programme which is anticipated in early 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this project—the first of its kind in our jurisdiction and perhaps the Caribbean—will focus on Caymanians who wish to own their own parcel of land to construct their own house and as such, is not connected to the affordable homes programme. This programme is anticipated to fill a gap which we all see today, where in short, Caymanians cannot afford to purchase land in their own country, whether it be to hold for a child or grandchild, or for themselves to build a home.

Mr. Speaker, the government will utilise existing Crown lands in each district and on each of our Islands, where we will create residential land lots subdivision. The subdivisions will include the necessary road infrastructure and utilities and then allow the Caymans to purchase these residential lots at an affordable price. We anticipate having over 40 lots available for sale to Caymanians in this pilot programme.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. Isaac D. Rankine: We envisage a fully integrated community that will have house lots for sale: lots on which the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development can build much-needed multi-family social housing; lots for the National Housing Development Trust to construct affordable homes, a lot for commercial use, a lot for a community centre, a central park and other green space, and a lot for general parking because this community will be immediately across the road from a brand new public beach which will be opening in the coming months. This community will also include the new older persons' home in East End on a two-acre parcel.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we will be fully launching the programme in 2023 and will be providing further details at that time, but for the completeness of thought, I am pleased to also inform the Parliament that the Ministry of Social Development is set to begin the design phase for this new Seniors' home in 2023. I am sure this will come as a great relief to many of our older residents who may require such services in the future—I am sure I will probably be one of those.

[Laughter]

Mr. Isaac D. Rankine: This too was a priority for my constituency during the last election.

As I begin to draw near to the end of my contribution, Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly touch on a key area of focus for me, as Parliamentary Secretary, in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The wider scope of home affairs include emergency dispatch, communications, and national CCTV surveillance systems; the detention and rehabilitation of offenders through multi agency offender management principles; provision of disaster relief and humanitarian aid services, and delivery of fire and rescue services within the aerodrome, domestic and maritime domains.

While the Minister will give more details on these plus more in her contribution, and I wish not to steal her thunder, I am happy to give a brief outline on a development pilot programme that is moving ahead and something I strongly support. You see, Mr. Speaker, like other Members in this honourable House, my constituency is home to a fairly large number of older and ageing residents.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Sabrina Turner, and in conjunction with the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development, I can probably say that the pilot programme is in the development stages for a medical device alert system that will be used to keep our ageing population safe within our communities.

The programme's aim is to assist by exploring, testing, and possibly monitoring using a non-intrusive monitoring system that can be installed in homes and also in elderly persons to remotely alert their caregivers or any responding agencies. This initiative can increase elderly independence, save lives, and possibly reduce government spending.

Mr. Speaker, under this Government, our districts are getting comprehensive and holistic upgrades from a government that has been purpose-driven on making changes supported by the Deputy Governor and the rest of the civil service. On the things that I mentioned which benefit my constituency, I think it is worth emphasising that what I have articulated here today does not even begin to scratch the surface of what we have achieved as a PACT Government.

While my other colleagues will elaborate on more achievements in their contribution, it is for the reasons I have outlined [that] I can confidently lend my support to the Motion of full confidence in the Government of the Cayman Islands. I can also offer my full support to the Premier as leader of this team of independent-thinking public servants. A diverse group who are united in the mission of creating a better quality of life for all Caymanians and for the people of these Islands. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of this House to vote in favour of the Motion of full confidence in the Government of the Cayman Islands.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker. God bless this honourable Parliament and God bless these Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: I think it an appropriate time to take a suspension until 1:30. The House shall suspend until 1:30pm.

Proceedings suspended at 12:22 pm

Proceedings resumed at 1:57 pm

The Speaker: Please be seated.
Proceedings have resumed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

The Government Minute – Segregated Insurance Fund (SIF) 2015/16 Accounts & Cayman Islands Monetary Authority's (CIMA) 2015/16 Accounts

The Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, the Government's response to the Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee for the Segregated Insurance Fund (SIF) 2015/16 Accounts & Cayman Islands Monetary Authority's (CIMA) 2015/16 Accounts.

The Speaker: So ordered.
Is the Member Speaking?

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government Minutes provide management responses to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. This includes responses to any additional recommendations from the PAC itself. Where relevant, they also provide further updates to the management responses previously provided on the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that this particular Government Minute was one of those that was flagged by the Auditor General as past due/outstanding for some time, so I am happy that we are able to lay it on the Table of this House at this Meeting.

Mr. Speaker, in reference to the Government Minute on the 'Segregated Insurance Fund (SIF) 2015/16 Accounts & Cayman Islands Monetary Authority's (CIMA) 2015/16 Accounts', the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) made four recommendations.

The PAC recommended that Government consider:

1. Allowing the Health Insurance Commission to regulate the premiums for all health insurance plans not just the Standard Health Insurance Contract (SHIC) and ensure that they are adequately resourced to carry out these additional duties. This is in the interests of keeping private health premiums as low as possible especially given SHIC only accounts for 20 per cent of health insurance plans.
2. Changing the law to ensure that private sector employers offer post-retirement healthcare benefits to lessen the cost impact on the government finances.
3. Increasing the \$10 individual and \$20 family fee that this is levied on private health insurance plans to better help fund the costs of indigent health care.
4. Doing whatever is necessary to give CIMA, as property insurance regulator, the ability to influence the property insurance market premium increases in the Cayman Islands.

In response to recommendations, one through to three, the Ministry of Health and Wellness indicated that these will be addressed with the Health Insurance Commission this year.

By way of update, Mr. Speaker, I note that, since the preparation of the management response to this report, the Ministry has indicated that a review of the Health Insurance Act & Regulations has commenced and these recommendations will be further considered within that process.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to recommendation four, in the management response, the Ministry of Financial Services & Commerce has indicated that currently, CIMA does not have statutory power to regulate property premium rates in the Cayman Islands, but in performing its regulatory functions, is expected to use its best endeavours to promote and enhance market confidence and consumer protection. Some of the steps CIMA has taken to achieve this includes:

- Put in place a Rule on Market Conduct – Insurers, Agents and Brokers, in line with the international standards, focusing on fair treatment of customers, obligations for information provision by insurance companies and intermediaries to their insurance consumers, mandatory disclosure requirements around the compensation structure and remuneration arrangements between intermediaries and insurers, et cetera;
- Mandatory annual and quarterly reporting requirements to ensure insurance companies remain financially stable as a stable business environment is important for the insurance sector and consumer confidence;

- Offsite and onsite inspections to audit insurance companies and intermediaries' conduct and treatment of customers;
- Prompt investigation of customer complaints against insurance companies and intermediaries; and
- Trying to balance the need for consumers to receive an appropriate level of protection and the benefits of competition by not imposing unreasonable barriers to entry for new insurance and intermediary businesses.

Mr. Speaker, while the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the office with responsibility for the reporting on the implementation of these recommendations, I believe it is important that I provide a brief synopsis on the progress being made by the Civil Service.

The Civil Service values these opportunities to reflect and improve and will continue to work towards the successful implementation of these recommendations in a timely manner.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OAG, the PAC, Chief Officers and their teams for their efforts in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Government Minute – Follow-up on past PAC recommendations – October 2018

The Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

In accordance with section 77(7) of the Parliament Standing Orders, I am hereby Tabling the Government Minute on the following Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee and the Office of the Auditor General: The Government Minute – Follow up on PAC recommendations – October 2018.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Member want to speak to it?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Again, just briefly.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Minutes provide management responses to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. This includes responses to any additional recommendations from the PAC itself. Where relevant, they also provide further updates to the management responses previously provided on the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that this particular Government Minute was again one of those that was flagged by the Auditor General as past due/outstanding for some time.

Mr. Speaker, in reference to the Government Minute on the 'Follow up on past PAC Recommendations – October, 2018', the Public Accounts Committee made four additional recommendations in relation to Social Assistance Programmes and three additional recommendations in relation to Ensuring Quality Healthcare and a Healthy population.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, both our health care systems and our social assistance programmes were put to the test during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I would like to publicly thank, once again, all those in the Civil Service, Public Service, our elected leaders and private sector for their preparation and responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, which helped to ensure the safety of our people.

Mr. Speaker, one of the additional recommendations dealt with in this Government Minute was a recommendation to the former Ministry of Health, Environment, Housing and Culture (HEHC), to develop a housing strategy for the country.

In the Management Response the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, which currently has responsibility for this area of work, has indicated that they are preparing a draft strategy which will include housing proposals for low-income families. The Chief Officer has indicated that this draft is due to be submitted to the Government by the end of 2023.

It was also recommended that the former Ministry of HEHC review its methods for approving medical indigents and establish a post to provide easier access.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note, from the Management Response, that collaboration between the current Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Health Services Authority (HSA) has been ongoing. In the management response, the Chief Officer indicates that an initial meeting was held in March of this year to review the approval methods for indigents. The Chief Officer also noted that the HSA patient services and the medical social worker at HSA currently provide assistance to help persons navigate the application process.

Mr. Speaker, there is a recommendation to replace the Poor Relief Law. In the management response, the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development noted that the recommendation for legislation was underway. The draft legislation has been titled the '**Financial Assistance Bill**' and, by way of an update, I am pleased to note that the Ministry has indicated that the Bill was gazetted on 12th August, 2022, and the "Financial Assistance Bill" is on the Order Paper for consideration during this current meeting of Parliament. This is a huge win for all of us Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, recommendation four of the report calls on the former Ministry of Community Affairs to conduct a review of the staffing level of the Needs Assessment Unit to determine that adequate re-

sources are provided to deal with the workload. In the management response, the current Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development has indicated that they are undergoing an organisational review which includes an analysis of the human resources capacity, organisational structure and job descriptions, as part of a Social Development Strategy that is being drafted.

Mr. Speaker, there were three recommendations related to 'ensuring quality healthcare and a healthy population' for the former Ministry of Health, Environment, Housing and Culture.

The first recommendation was for the Ministry to consider Canada as an option for Caymanian doctors to obtain a speciality board certification. In the management response, the Chief Officer in the current Ministry of Health and Wellness has indicated that they have developed a draft policy on the development of Caymanian Doctors which considered Canada as an option as per the recommendation. The policy will need to be presented to Caucus. Mr. Speaker, it was also noted in the management response that the Ministry currently supports Caymanian doctors by funding \$150,000 to the HSA each year for medical internships.

In response to a recommendation to consider ways to reduce cost of healthcare, the Chief Officer indicates in her management response that the Ministry of Health and Wellness is currently reviewing the costs of healthcare, which includes a review of the duty and mark-up on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the last recommendation in this report was to publish the findings of the review of the health insurance providers that was conducted by the Health Insurance Commission. I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Management Response indicates that the Department of Health Regulatory Service has published this information on its website.

Mr. Speaker, whilst the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the office with responsibility for the reporting on the implementation of these recommendations, I again believe it is important that I provide a brief synopsis on the progress being made by the Civil Service. The Civil Service values these opportunities to reflect and improve and will continue to work towards the successful implementation of these recommendations in a timely manner.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OAG, the PAC, Chief Officers and their teams for their efforts in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Government Minute – Reports of the Office of the Auditor General on:

Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) Terminal Redevelopment Project – Progress Update as at August 2018 (January 2019);

Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 2019 (December 2020);

and

Improving Financial Accountability & Transparency: Budgeting (December 2020).

The Speaker: The Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 77 (7) of the Parliament Standing Orders, I am hereby Tabling the Government Minute on the following report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee and the Office of the Auditor General: The Government Minute – Reports of the Office of the Auditor General on:

- Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) Terminal Redevelopment Project – Progress Update as at August 2018 (January 2019);
- Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 2019 (December 2020); and
- Improving Financial Accountability & Transparency: Budgeting (December 2020).

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Member wish to speak?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Deputy Governor: Mr. Speaker, again, just briefly.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Minutes provide management responses to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. This includes responses to any additional recommendations from the PAC itself. Where relevant, they also provide further updates to the management responses previously provided on the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General.

Before providing some brief remarks on this Government Minute, Mr. Speaker, please allow me to advise this honourable House that, in January, 2022, I took personal responsibility at a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting for coordinating the tabling of the Government Minutes, with a view to addressing a backlog of past due Government Minutes, and improving the timeliness with which Government Minutes are tabled.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that my Office has made good progress in preparing the Minutes for Cabinet approval and submitting them to the Parliament for tabling, and we are almost fully caught up on the backlog. However, it should be not-

ed that the actual tabling of the Minutes are subject to the meeting schedule of the Parliament.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that this particular Government Minute was one of those that was flagged by the Auditor General as past due/outstanding for some time.

Mr. Speaker, this particular Minute incorporates three separate reports, and the following should be noted:

- No additional recommendations were made as part of the PAC Report on the OAG report entitled "Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) Terminal Redevelopment Project"; therefore, no Government updates were provided as part of this Minute.
- Two recommendations were made for 'Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 2019 (December 2020) and';
- Seventeen recommendations were made for 'Improving Financial Accountability & Transparency.

Mr. Speaker, in the Management Response from the Financial Secretary and the Accountant General, on report entitled, Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 2019 (December 2020), I am pleased to note that the two recommendations focusing on the timely laying of annual reports and stronger functional leadership through the Ministry of Finance have been actioned. I personally have reiterated the importance of the timeliness of these reports to the Chief Officers and I thank them and their teams, including their CFOs, for their efforts in this regard. The Ministry of Finance has also been diligent in reminding agencies of their responsibilities and the relevant timelines.

Mr. Speaker, if you note on the Order Paper today, you will see a number of reports being Tabled in accordance with this recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that in a response to a recommendation from the report titled, Improving Financial Accountability & Transparency: Budgeting (December 2020), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, has revised the delivery date of a Modernised Budget Framework, to be delivered on 28th February, 2025. In the management response, that team has indicated that progress to date includes:

- The Steering Committee for Modernising the Government's Budget and Reporting Framework (formerly Performance Budgeting and Reporting Working Group) has held several meetings so far this year (2022). Coming out of these meetings, an RFP (for the Outline Business Case) has been prepared and was issued 31 May, 2022; and
- The Steering Committee plans to include all recommendations made in the OAG's reports.

By way of update, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that, since the preparation of the management response to this report, Phase 1 for the Modernisation of Government's Budgeting and Reporting Framework has now started. EY Cayman has been selected after a competitive bidding process to assist with the development of a Business Case. With the change to Outcome Budgeting and Reporting, the Ministry of Finance envisages that the budget documents will be substantially more condensed than their current form as has been recommended.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that I attended a meeting Wednesday of this week, with my senior leadership team, the Ministry of Finance and EY to take this project forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Financial Secretary, the Accountant General and their teams for their work to progress these recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, the report entitled, 'Improving Financial Accountability & Transparency: Budgeting (December 2020)', also included a recommendation for the Portfolio of the Civil Service (POCS) to develop a pay strategy that sets out if and when pay rewards will be given and, where appropriate, to factor this information into budget estimates. Mr. Speaker, from the Management Response I note that the PoCS has formulated pay proposals for 2022-2023, which are informed by economic forecasts and are compliant with CIG's existing 2022-2023 approved global HR Budget for the core Civil Service.

These pay proposals address consolidated basic pay increases (e.g. Cost of Living Adjustments and Pay Progression) and variable pay such as one-off honorariums. The work to produce a two-year pay proposal, will be replicated in 2023, in order to recommend pay proposals as part of the 2024 and 2025 budget process.

Additionally, the POCS Management Response indicated that, as recommended, the Portfolio plans to introduce Total Reward Statements for each staff member that provides greater transparency of the total value of working within the Civil Service, including the monetary value of passive benefits such as health insurance. We believe that is going to be of great value to our teams.

Mr. Speaker, in this report there were also two recommendations assigned to me, as Deputy Governor, and those were to discuss with the Parliament:

The introduction of a formal timetable of regular, scheduled meetings that includes dedicated time for scrutiny of original budgets and changes to these as well; and

- Arrangements for ensuring that the Supplementary Appropriations Bill is introduced in the Parliament in a timely manner, and at the latest within three months after the financial year end as required by legislation.

Mr. Speaker, by way of action, you will recall that I forwarded these recommendations to the Honourable Premier and to you, the Honourable Speaker of the House, for your attention and consideration, as these matters fall under the remit of the independent Parliament and not the Executive.

Mr. Speaker, while the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the office with responsibility for the reporting on the implementation of these recommendations, I believe it is important that I provide a brief synopsis on the progress being made by the Civil Service.

The Civil Service values these opportunities to reflect and improve and will continue to work towards the successful implementation of these recommendations in a timely manner.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OAG, the Public Accounts Committee, Chief Officers and their teams for their efforts in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ministry of Tourism and Transport –
Annual report for the year ended
31 December 2021**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Transport.

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

In accordance with section 44 (5) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision), it gives me great pleasure to place before this honourable House the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Ministry of Tourism and Transport for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered. Is the Minister wishing to speak?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Just for a short moment.

Mr. Speaker, the Audited Financial Statements show that the total income for the year ended 31 December, 2021 was \$28,995,000, while total expenditure was \$26,980,000. This resulted in a surplus of \$2,015,000. The Ministry had current assets of \$22,880,000 and non-current assets of \$325,000. Total assets amounted to \$23,155,000 as at 31st December, 2021. Current liabilities of \$20,910,000 reflect the total liabilities for the Ministry. The Total Net Worth was \$2,245,000, which consist only of Contributed Capital. There were no revaluation reserves or accumulated surpluses for this financial year.

Mr. Speaker, this was an unqualified audit opinion by the Auditor General, signed off on 29th April, 2022. The Auditor General stated: “In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the “Ministry” as at December 31, 2021 and its finan-

cial performance and its cash flows for the year ended 31 December, 2021 in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.”

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is pleased to have received another unqualified opinion and is proud of the continued hard work undertaken by my Ministry’s team, led by the Chief Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, to receive this opinion. So I take this opportunity to thank my Ministry’s staff and the Office of the Auditor General for the work that has gone into producing the Audited Financial Statements of the Ministry of Tourism and Transport for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2021.

I now invite the Members of this honourable House and the public to review the report in detail.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**2021 Annual Report - Portfolio of Legal Affairs -
Cayman Islands Government**

The Speaker: The Honourable Attorney General:

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I seek leave of this House to lay on the table the Annual Report for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs for the financial year ending December 2021.

The Speaker: So Ordered.

Is the Attorney general Speaking?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Speaker, with your leave, only to say thanks to the staff of the Portfolio of Legal Affairs, in particular:

- the Solicitor General and staff in the Department/unit
- the Head of the Legislative Drafting and staff there
- the Director of the Financial Reporting Authority and staff
- the Director of the Law School and staff
- Head of the Law Revision Commission and the staff;
- the head of the Law Reform Commission and staff; and the Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Unit and staff for their continuing hard work, their dedication and their professionalism throughout the year, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Water Authority Cayman - 2021 Annual Report

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

Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly, Minister of Education and District Administration and Lands,

elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the annual report for the Water Authority Cayman, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister wishing to speak?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: No, Mr. Speaker, the report is self-explanatory; just to add my sincere thanks to the excellent leadership of the Water Authority and the great work that they do.

Ministry of Education - Cayman Islands Government - 2021 Annual Report

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Education.

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

I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the 2021 Annual Report for the Ministry of Education.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister going to speak to it?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: No, Mr. Speaker. When the opportunity next arise, I will be making a detailed statement of all the wonderful things that have been transpiring the Minister of Education.

Annual Report 2021 – Investing in Our People for a Brighter Future – Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Planning.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, Elected Member for North Side: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the annual report for investing in our people for a brighter future - Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, no, the reporter is self-explanatory.

Cayman Islands Monetary Authority – Annual Report 2021

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services Commerce.

Hon. André M. Ebanks, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce and Investment, Innovation and Social Development, elected Member for West Bay South: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority Annual Report 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Only briefly, Mr. Speaker, to thank the board, the Managing Director, Ms. Cindy Scotland and her excellent staff for their hard work for that financial year.

Cayman Islands Stock Exchange – Report for the Fiscal Year Ending 31 December 2021

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange Report for the fiscal year ending 31 December, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Only to again thank the board, the CEO of the Stock Exchange, Mr. Marco Archer and his wonderful staff for their work for that fiscal year.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands - Annual Report Fiscal Year Ended 31 December 2021 – Excellence & Innovation in Aviation Regulation

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay on the table of this honourable House, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands and a report for the fiscal year ended 31 December, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Again, very briefly to thank the Board of the Civil Aviation Authority, the Director General, Mr. Richard Smith and the wonderful staff and the work that they have done over the course of the fiscal year.

Cayman Maritime – Annual Report January-December 2021 – Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands (MACI)

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

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

I beg to lay on the table of this Honourable House, the Cayman Islands Maritime Authority Annual Report from January to December, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. André M. Ebanks: Again, Mr. Speaker, only briefly, sir, to thank again, the Board and the staff led by Joel Walton. In this case, I would like a special mention for the outgoing chair, Ms. Sherice Arman, who served on the board ably for six years and took the Board and the Authority from strength to strength with her intelligence, her knowledge of Maritime Law. I just want to thank her and wish the incoming chair, Mr. Ian White, all the very best.

Cayman Islands Government – The Cayman Islands' 2021 Census of Population and Housing Report – July 2022

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance, Deputy Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands 2021 Census of Population Housing Report — July 2022.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to thank the staff of the Economic and Statistics Office, the hundreds of volunteers who undertook the census and the thousands of residents who welcomed the census workers in their homes at a time when were still dealing with the COVID pandemic.

Something I also want to highlight Mr. Speaker, is that while we had a separate press conference and we have since put this information in the public domain, we wanted to let the public know that the government is actively looking at many different initiatives as a result of the census. Working closely with the Ministry of Health, we are even looking at updates to the Standard Health Insurance plan, because when you look at the kind of disabilities that our Caymanian people and people who call the Cayman Islands home

are facing, you realise that we definitely need to make some changes to the overall health care plan.

It is also a good tool for us, in terms of finalising the terms of reference for the Minimum Wage Committee, so much so that we are looking to appoint the committee this month to start work. There's much valuable information in it and it's a good policy tool that the government can use for information, so I want to thank everyone.

Cayman Islands Government – The Cayman Islands' Annual Economic Report 2021 – August 2022

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands Annual Economic Report 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister going to speak?

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to thank the Ministry of Finance and the team at Economic Statistics office. A separate press release has already been done for this; it has already been in the public domain for quite some time and I encourage everyone to take a look at it.

Cayman Islands Government – The Cayman Islands' First Quarter Economic Report 2022 - August 2022

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands' First Quarter Economic Report 2022.

The Speaker: So ordered. Is the Minister speaking?

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Yes, Mr. Speaker, briefly.

Mr. Speaker, the First Quarter (Q1) Economic Report 2022 presents a snapshot of the state of the domestic economy based on data for the first three months of the year 2022, as collected by the Economics and Statistics Office. It also highlights key macroeconomic fundamentals of advanced economies.

Mr. Speaker, the Q1 Economic Report 2022, contains an overview sheet, which provides easy reference of the key economic developments during the quarter. In my brief introduction today, I aim to present

a summary of the global economic developments in advanced economies for the first quarter of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021. I will then proceed to summarise our domestic performance in the first quarter.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands' economic outturn in the first quarter of 2022 was recorded against the backdrop of rising economic activities in most advanced economies except the United States, which contracted in the quarter. The relatively slow pace of growth in the period largely reflected rising production costs amid relatively robust demand.

Canada's economy grew by an annualised rate of 0.8 per cent, while the United Kingdom and the euro area recorded growth of 0.8 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. In contrast, the US economy contracted on an annualised rate of 1.6 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, average inflation in the US and the euro area averaged eight per cent and 6.1 per cent respectively, while the UK and Canada both recorded average inflation of 5.8 per cent for the quarter.

Rising consumer prices were due to a general increase in the cost of all international commodity groups and largely reflected heightened uncertainty as Russia invaded Ukraine amidst existing supply chain constraints. Of note, Mr. Speaker, Russia is one of the world's largest suppliers of crude oil, while Ukraine is a key supplier of grains and precious metals. According to the World Bank commodity price data sheet, energy and food prices rose by 80 per cent and 24.7 per cent respectively during the quarter.

Turning to our domestic economy, Mr. Speaker, our country's economic output expanded in the first quarter of the year, mainly due to a recovery in the tourism and transportation sectors. The country's annualised Gross Domestic Product at constant prices expanded at an estimated rate of 3.8 per cent for the first quarter of 2022, relative to a growth of 0.4 per cent. In the first quarter of 2021.

The hotels and restaurants sector had an estimated growth of 27.8 per cent, while transport and communication expanded by an estimated 14.3 per cent. The other services sector also showed notable expansion of 9.1 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will present highlights of the economic performance in the major sectors, followed by developments in the fiscal accounts for the quarter.

Total money supply, consisting of currency in circulation and bank deposits grew by 2 per cent to reach CI \$8.6 billion in the quarter relative to the same period of 2021. The expansion was due to respective increases of 2.9 per cent and 1.7 per cent in CI dollar denominated money and foreign currency holdings by residents, respectively. As the money supply in the financial system increased, domestic credit extended by local commercial banks rose by 8.5 per cent to \$3.8 billion, with credit to the private sector increasing by 10.1 per cent.

Notably, Mr. Speaker, the central government reduced its position in the credit market with loans to the public sector declining by 15.2 per cent for the quarter, relative to the same period in 2021.

The financial services indicator showed mixed results for the quarter, with three increasing and three declining. Stock exchange list increased by 13.5 per cent, while mutual funds and insurance licence rose by 4.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively. Bank interest licence fell by 17.4 per cent, while new company and new partnership registration declined by 14.5 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the tourism sector began its recovery in the first quarter of the year with 41,007 stay-over visitors relative to the 2085 in the first quarter of 2021; additionally, with the reopening of the Islands' cruise port, which was closed throughout 2021, the Cayman Islands received 16,879 cruise visitors in the quarter.

In construction, the non-reoccurrence of two large hotel projects led to a 59.4 per cent reduction in building permits, while project approval rose by 39.3 per cent on account of a strong increase in residential project approvals. Activities in the real estate sector continued to rise, with the value of traded properties in the quarter rising 37.7 per cent relative to the same period in 2021.

In the utility sector, electricity demand rose by 3.9 per cent, while water demand increased by 5.2 per cent.

At the end of March, 2022, the number of employees in the civil service increased by 1.3 per cent to 4,433, while the number of work permits issued rose by 17.8 per cent to 29,294.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in the first quarter of 2022, the central government's total revenue grew by 10.6 per cent to reach \$446.9 million relative to the same period of 2021. This reflected increases in both revenue from trade on international transactions and domestic goods and services.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, operating expenses rose by 8.6 per cent to \$219.7 million, while net investment in non-financial assets fell by 41.9 per cent to \$3.8 million, thus overall fiscal deficit—which is total revenue less total expenditure—reached \$215.9 million in the quarter, compared to a surplus of \$188.5 million in the same period of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the First Quarter Economic Report 2022 has been circulated to the general public through the website of the Economics and Statistics Office.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Cayman Islands Government – Unaudited Quarterly Financial Report – Six-Month Period Ended 30 June 2022 – Core Government

The Speaker: The Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, the Unaudited Quarterly Financial Report for the six month period ended 30th June, 2022.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Is the Minister speaking thereto?

Hon. Christopher S. Saunders: Just brief remarks Mr. Speaker, first of all, to thank the staff of the Ministry of Finance for the fine work they have continued to do led by the very able Kenneth Jefferson.

I also want to thank my colleagues in Cabinet, my entire PACT Caucus, the Governor, the Deputy Governor and everyone, in terms of where we are financially Mr. Speaker, because, while at this point we are still ahead of budget in terms of revenues, we are also ahead of budget in terms of expenditure and the overall impact or the negative impact of being over in some areas has been negated by many hard-working civil servants and public servants who, in essence, have kept personnel, supplies and consumables costs below budget.

I think around the end of June there were about \$30 million or thereabouts below budget and that really helped us in terms of helping our people in other areas because, as you may recall, we continued the stipend payment past the first quarter budgeted, due to the Omicron variant at the time. We didn't budget for that originally, because we thought we'd have reopened the economy in the first quarter, so we basically ended up paying almost \$20 million more in stipend payments than were budgeted for, but that was actually offset by savings in personnel costs, supplies and consumables.

Equally, Mr. Speaker, we have actually spent more money in terms of care not provided by the HSA, normally referred to as NGS 55; and again, while that was actually over budget, the impact was negated by savings in personnel, supplies and consumables. I want to [state] for the record, [that] although those areas are overspent, we did have the legal approval to do so whether by Finance Committee section 12, or by 11 (5) in our Cabinet.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this overspend is a result of us spending money on our people in areas where it is well needed, which is what this government is about: Being able to take care of our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Health Services Authority Cayman Islands
Annual Report 2021 -
Staying resilient and forging ahead**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health and wellness.

Hon. Sabrina T Turner, Minister for Health and Wellness: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay before this honourable House, the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Cayman Islands' Health Services Authority for the 12 months ended 31st of December, 2021.

The Speaker: So ordered. Is the Minister going to speak?

Hon. Sabrina T Turner: Yes, I seek your indulgence.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority is a statutory body established as an authority on the 1st of July, 2002 under the Health Services Authority's Law. The purpose of the authority is to provide health care services and facilities in the Cayman Islands in accordance with the National Health Policy and Strategic Plan that is prepared by the Cayman Islands government, which is one of the top priorities my Ministry will undertake to revise during this term.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the achievements of these 2021 results were under the stewardship of the current PACT Government, and the magnitude of our efforts and those of several individuals, during what was an unprecedented period, demonstrates what can be achieved with dedicated collaboration and careful planning, in conjunction with a very strong execution.

Mr. Speaker, due to the pandemic the authority was forced to acclimate to new routines and procedures, although many sectors were put on hold and some even came to a dramatic stop. The health sector was inundated and had to double-up their efforts to respond to the great demand, and if anything, COVID-19 definitely highlighted the strengths, gaps, and also resilience of our communities and our healthcare system.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, HSA provides primary and secondary care throughout their 127-bed Cayman Islands Hospital. We have 18 beds at Faith Hospital on Cayman Brac, and a host of community-based services facilities such as:

- The Smith Road Centre;
- We have some at the Baytown Plaza George Town facility centre;
- George Town General Practice Clinic;
- The West Bay Health Centre;
- Bodden Town Health Centre;
- East End Health Centre;
- North Side Health Centre;
- Public Health Department;
- Lion's Eye Clinic;
- George Town Dental Clinic;
- Merren's Dental Clinic;
- Cayman Brac Dental Clinic; and
- Little Cayman Clinic.

It's amazing how we have grown.

Mr. Speaker, before reviewing the audited financial statements, I will outline and highlight the 2021 audited report.

There are five strategic priorities which guides the Authority's mission to provide the highest quality of healthcare and improve the well-being of our people in the Cayman Islands, through accessible, sustainable, patient-focused services. It is my vision, Mr. Speaker, that when you go to the Health Services Authority, it is almost like an all-inclusive resort. That's exactly what I expect, and how our patients and persons seeking those services should be treated, and that's why I refer to them as the ladies and gentlemen of the Health Services Authority.

Strategic priority one is improved patient and staff experience. In 2021, there was an expansion of infrastructure with the addition of three new locations—these included the Smith Road Centre, Bay Town Plaza and George Town Financial Centre. As a result, patients were exposed to a broad range of outpatient and diagnostic services in one building, which eliminated the need for patients to move to multiple location points.

Mr. Speaker, the Smith Road Centre has many new features including redesigned waiting and clinical rooms; a new staff lounge; improved clinical workspace like the nursing station, and an advanced environment of care to meet Joint Commission International standards (JCI); furthermore, the introduction of a well-needed transport shuttle for patients and staff, as well as the non-emergent patient transport service to support patients requiring wheelchair and stretcher assistance.

The Authority has made other advancements, Mr. Speaker, like the new ergonomic wheelchairs for the accident and emergency department, along with the expansion of the information desk within that department. Subsequently, a survey was conducted which involved 21,439 patients and the results indicated that 83.5 per cent gave the quality of care and service a positive rating. Far too often we hear the negative, but the results prove that the staff and services being provided, based on this ranking was an excellent score of nine out of 10.

Strategic priority number two is to expand the HSA's clinical capabilities and optimise core services.

Mr. Speaker, a phased acquisition of the Smith Road Centre began in 2018 and ended [at] the end of 2021, thus the HSA now owns 80 per cent of the 45,000-square feet complex. This investment doubled the serving capacity of patients, [and] created more space for the implementation of new services such as complementary alternative medicine, sports medicine, chiropractic and microbiology services. Existing services expanded significantly with the addition of 39 clinical rooms, four rooms in the specialist clinic, and seven rooms in cardiology. In fact, there was an

increase of ten rooms in the general practice and primary health care departments.

Strategic priority three is talent attraction and retention, which is key. The HSA continues to be one of the largest single employers in the Cayman Islands with over 1000 employees, 57 per cent of whom are Caymanians—and I am proud to deliver those results. The work to implement the new HR information system commenced back in 2021, [and] when the system launches, it will provide complete electronic solutions for Human Resources management of on-boarding and retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to report that the annual summer internship programme for 2021 was relaunched due to a one year hiatus caused by COVID-19. It provided approximately 80 high school and college students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in a variety of departments within the medical field. Furthermore, all senior and section managers completed an adjust-culture training course to alter the work environment by applying accountability.

Likewise, 589 employees were recognized with long-service awards for work anniversaries of five years to 45-plus years spanning back as far as 2017 to 2021; and Mr. Speaker, a park and ride pilot programme was also launched to provide staff a peaceful commute, to and from work, to help reduce fuel, vehicle maintenance and carbon emission. It's all about sustainability.

Strategic priority four is to develop and expand current infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, last year the capital budget of \$8 million was appropriated to fund approximately 35 critical infrastructure projects of varying scopes and complexities, now the largest single investment since the inception of the authority in 2002. Here we go: PACT's got their back. Four out of 35 approved projects will collectively result in annual cost savings of approximately half a million dollars to the Health Services Authority, with the recovery of investments in less than 10 years—now, if that's not smart, I don't know what is.

Some of the investments conducted were:

- The expansion of the mental health inpatient unit by adding three rooms and increasing the total number to 11;
- The acquisition of the first floor of the Smith Road Centre for expansion of [the] radiology, blood bank and microbiology departments;
- Upgraded camera and alarm systems across the campus; and
- Converted several spaces into negative pressure environments for COVID 19-positive patients

Strategic priority five Mr. Speaker, is leverage technology to improve access to and the delivery of

care. Now, information technology (IT) supported and implemented multiple departments' off-site relocation and service expansions, including Faith Hospital with over 200 PCs and 350 monitors. Far too often our Sister Islands feel that they're forgotten, but I am telling you, works and improvements are in tow with making sure that we are on equal footing over in the Sister Islands.

Mr. Speaker, further implementation of the new anti-spam software for e-mails, disaster recovery backup system, firewalls, un-interruptible power supply (UPS) system upgrades, and over 129,000 in additional storage to increase space, speed, and zero downtime. In short, Mr. Speaker, we want the public to know that the HSA plays an indispensable role in our community. What we cannot forget, is where we are coming from.

The authority has increased its presence in the community by providing education on diabetes, hypertension, health, safety, hand-washing techniques and smoking cessation.

The Public Health Department made great strides during the COVID-19 pandemic and consequently, the 2021 statistics indicated that there were 54,363 general practice visits in Grand Cayman; 4758 general practice visits in Cayman Brac; and 531 general practice visits in Little Cayman.

They received 21,645 calls to the flu hotline as well; despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, Mr. Speaker, the Health Services Authority secured access to more than 9,750 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the beginning of 2021. Other achievements included:

The establishment of the largest and most successful testing infrastructure in the Caribbean, through the roll-out of the national vaccination programme, which resulted in the vaccination of over 58,000 people in the Cayman Islands—that is something to be proud of, and it is the reason our borders are open safely today.

The six-bed respiratory care unit reactivated, and another section of the hospital converted and dedicated to the care of COVID-19 patients.

The third-dose booster programme was launched with a new supply of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines. The Health Services Authority continues to promote the programme and aims to increase the booster uptake rates, and I will stress to the public: we are rolling out a big campaign because booster is key for coverage throughout.

Now Mr. Speaker, there are also many enhancements to the facilities in the Sister Islands, which include the new proposed/purpose(?) built ambulance for Little Cayman. We have infrastructure upgrades to meet to meet JCI requirements including:

- Replacement of ageing air conditioners;
- Their water system, as well as enhancements to the medication rooms;

- relocation of female ward bed and updated restrooms;
- Installation of three negative-pressure rooms for the care of COVID-19 patients; and
- The installation of new chairs for the inpatient unit and emergency room and outpatient waiting areas.

I am sure the people of the Sister Islands are elated at this report. Additionally, significant investments were made in purchasing clinical equipment including a colonoscopy machine, physiotherapy equipment, fridge and freezer and an X-Ray imaging system arriving later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I now invite honourable Members of this House and members of the public to delve into the 2021 HSA report. The Auditor General's report for the Audited Financial Statements of the 12-months ending the 31st of December 2021, declared that the Authority recorded a total revenue of \$169,073,757 from the government programme patient services fees and other sources. Additionally, the total operating expenses was \$161,011,245 and the net income for the year was \$8,062,512 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General issued an unqualified opinion on the HSA's Financial Statements for the period ending December 2021—in other words, the financial statements present fairly in all material aspects. Furthermore, the financial position of the authority, its financial performance and its cash flow as of the 31st of December 2021, were in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

Mr. Speaker, we should expect no less from any of our other statutory authorities. Despite the challenges they face, they should be applauded for achieving another clean audit opinion on its 2021 financial statement, and I am sure that you will agree that we look forward to witnessing this upward trend.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognise the authority for their achievements in 2021, and publicly thank the board and management of the HSA for their hard work and perseverance in producing this report in the high standard required to receive an unqualified opinion. The health system is only as good as the care it provides; every employee of the HSA plays a role in doing so, and they have my sincere gratitude.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the cooperation of our Caymanian community as we individually and collectively calibrated to the new circumstances. I wholeheartedly concur with our Premier who often notes, that our best days are yet to come and community makes country.

Thank you.

[Desk thumping]

**National Trust Cayman Islands
Annual Report 2017 to 2018
Annual Report 2018 to 2019
Annual Report 2019 to 2020
Annual Report 2020 to 2021**

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier—and yes, Minister of all those, too.

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency: Thank you; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker. I rise to seek your permission to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Reports for the periods 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 for the National Trust of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: So ordered. Is the Premier speaking [thereto?]

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Very briefly, sir, to say that I commend the reading of the reports to the public and, of course, my colleagues.

The reports reflect the good work of the National Trust and I commend them for their efforts in terms of maintaining our natural assets, particularly the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme which they are a significant part of; and of course they contribute significantly, in terms of their land holdings, to the protection of lands for the country.

Thank you, sir.

**The National Conservation Council
Cayman Islands
Annual Report 2020
Annual Report 2021**

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

I rise to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Reports for the National Conservation Council dated 2020 and 2021.

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

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Very briefly to thank the members of the council for the hard work that they put in. Again, I commend the reports to the public and to colleagues to read; they reflect much positive contribution to the protection and the mitigation of threats and risks to our natural environment to achieve the right balance, which is critically important for us. Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: That ends the business on the Order Paper; before I call for the adjournment, I have been given notice by the honourable Minister of Tourism and Transport to make a short statement.

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

**Hon. Kenneth V Bryan
On the passing of Ms. Janilee Clifford**

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

I rise in this honourable House to pay tribute to a true Caymanian icon. It saddens me today to announce the passing of Ms. Janilee Clifford who is known to most Members of this honourable House as being one of Cayman's iconic teachers—a woman who has left her fingerprints on the development of this country by her amazing ability to develop Caymanians, hundreds and hundreds of Caymanians, through her teaching times.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Clifford passed away yesterday, and on behalf of all my colleagues in the PACT Administration, and particularly that is of the Honourable Premier, we send our greatest sympathies and empathise with the family as they go through this difficult time. She was truly a leader worthy of many awards that sadly she may not be here to be recognised, as I am certain her name shall be in our history books more than it is already.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that I highlight the fact that not only is she my constituent; not only is she an amazing teacher and developer of Cayman as a nation, but also the mother of one of our past colleagues, the honourable Charles Clifford, Member of Cabinet so, on behalf of the PACT Administration, on behalf of the good people of George Town Central where she resided, I pass on the greatest sympathies to her family and loved ones, as they go through this difficult time. She will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Chair can associate with the remarks made. I have known Ms. Janilee for many years and know that she was a dedicated teacher and a dedicated Presbyterian belonging to the United Church. Over the years I knew her, she was a very, very pleasant lady.

These are the people that have helped to put Cayman straight and we call it Grand Cayman, and we do have a grand country, but it wasn't just brought up; we had good people that have worked over the years to make us what we are and teachers have been particularly in that group, as they worked for barely anything, so we want to recognise and send our sympathy to the family, and I will direct the Clerk to send those on [our] behalf inclusive of the remarks

made by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, seeing that she was his constituent. May her soul rest in peace.

Honourable Premier—before I do that.

There have been several people who have made contributions to our country, who have passed away since we last met here. I don't have all names, but many of them have made their contributions and we want to recognise and sympathise with their families.

Indeed, I have one lady. She is family to Cayman of course, but lived for years in Cuba and came back to Cayman. Her family is well known in West Bay, and in fact, her husband worked for years with the Public Works Department when he came back. We recognise that those people, particularly our families from Isle of Pines, came at a time when we didn't have mechanics, we didn't have road engineers, and they came and played those roles with their expertise and knowledge that they had gained in the Isle of Pines. Her granddaughter has just gained employment with the Parliament, and so we want to send our sympathy to all the family of Armando Ebanks, as well.

The Honourable Premier.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Speaker today has been an interesting day, but we have certainly accomplished quite a bit; before moving the motion, I want to acknowledge that it is Older Persons Month and of course it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month as well, and you will notice that we are all wearing our bands and lapel pins showing our support in that respect.

In terms of older persons, sir, I think we all regard those older members of our society as the nation builders that we should acknowledge and we should honour, and tomorrow I will have the honour and privilege of attending a birthday celebration for one of my colleagues', the Member for East End, constituents—Mr. Frank Connolly. He will be 95 years old tomorrow, sir, and I'm sure all of my colleagues will join me in wishing him a Happy Birthday tomorrow.

Just to add [that] he's the father of—I think the honourable Deputy Governor can confirm—perhaps the longest-serving civil servant in the history of the Cayman Islands government, Mrs. Anne Kirchman.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: It is fifty years or more, I think. I can't remember exactly what it is. He is also the father of Mr.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: How much?
[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: He is also the father of Mr. McFarlane Connolly, who chairs the National Conservation Council, which reports I have just submitted, so I want to wish him a Happy Birthday from all Members of the Government as well, sir.

We also want to extend a belated Happy Birthday to Miss Georgette Ebanks who I think was—

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton: 95 as well. Another iconic lady from George Town. In fact, I specifically remember that she was one of the signatories on the petition to demand the right to vote for women.

With that Mr. Speaker, I will move the motion for the adjournment of this Honourable House until 10 a.m. on Monday morning.

The Speaker: Your mention of those elderly persons are well taken and recorded, and we all know both of them, the oldest ones that you mentioned.

Mr. Frank Connolly is well known in tourism. The role he played in tourism over the years; I remember calls from him, things he said to me as the Minister of Tourism over the years, good ideas. Knowledgeable about Cayman, knowledgeable about our culture and our heritage, and was proud of it; and of course, Ms. Georgette in her own way, who worked in the government's Post Office department for years as well.

Today leaves me 54 more days to be in this chair; that will probably be like 54 more years.

The question is that this honourable House do stand adjourned until 10 am on Monday morning next. All in favour, please say, Aye. Those against, no.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it. This house stands adjourned until 10am on Monday next.

At 4:35pm, the House stood adjourned until 10am Monday, October 10, 2022.