

Statement in relation to the 2024 3rd Supplementary

**Third Meeting of the 2024/2025 Session
of the Cayman Islands Parliament**

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

Minister of Education

*Statement in relation to the Exceptional Circumstance Appropriation
changes resulting in the 3rd 2024 Supplementary Appropriations of the
Ministry of Education*

31 January 2025



**MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION**

CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Mister Speaker, as required by Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision), I make this Statement to the Members of this Honourable House with respect to the “exceptional circumstance” transactions that Cabinet approved for the Ministry of Education for the period 1 December 2024 – 23 January 2025. Such transactions were approved pursuant to Section 11(5) of the PMFA. This Statement provides details of the aforementioned transactions.

EGA 8 - Facilities Maintenance and Operational School Support Services

Madam Speaker, in 2024, the government school system saw an increase in student enrolment, which has affected several areas, such as

- More students riding school buses to and from school. Additional buses were added to key routes to support the growing school population.
- Additional janitorial services to support increased instructional areas (such as satellite classes for special needs students at various primary schools)
- Increase programme support costs

Additionally, the ongoing maintenance of government schools' facilities to accommodate ageing infrastructure and the cost of repurposing spaces to allow more play and instructional areas to be accessed due to the increased student

population have resulted in further increased costs in this appropriation group.

These increased costs have resulted in the need for additional funding.

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

- increase EGA 8 - Facilities Maintenance and Operational School Support Services by Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease EGA 1 – Policy Advice, Governance and Ministerial Support by Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) in FY 2024
- decrease EGA 6 - Secondary Education by One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) in FY 2024

TP 30 - Local and Overseas Scholarships and Bursaries

Madam Speaker, funding gaps were identified to cover costs for the Fall 2024 semester. Due to the increasing number of students meeting the academic criteria for scholarships and the expanding associated benefits, additional funding is required.

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

- increase TP 30 - Local and Overseas Scholarships and Bursaries by One Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease EGA 1 – Policy Advice, Governance and Ministerial Support by One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease NGS 91 - Public School Meals Programme by One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease TP 83 - Scholarship – Medical by One Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease TP 93 - Public School Grants and COVID-19 Recovery Programme by Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease OE 12 – University of the West Indies Membership Levy by Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) in FY 2024

TP 51 - Other Educational and Training Assistance & NGS 34 – Primary and Secondary Education by Private Schools

Mister Speaker, Wesleyan Christian Academy continues to foster an environment of academic excellence and spiritual growth as one of the private schools run by churches on the island. However, at present, the school's financial position makes it difficult to fund new projects or provide much-needed salary increases for its staff.

Although the school has raised tuition and book fees, this has not been sufficient to enable them to achieve the initiatives mentioned earlier.

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

- increase TP 51 – Other Educational and Training Assistance by Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in FY 2024
- decrease NGS 91 - Public School Meals Programme by Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in FY 2024

Additional approval to Wesleyan Christian Academy of funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (CI\$500,000.00) was made as follow:

- increase NGS 34 – Primary and Secondary Education by Private Schools Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in FY 2025
- decrease EI 12 Ministry of Education (New West Bay High School) Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in FY 2025

Additionally, Mister Speaker, the Triple C School has been undergoing serious financial challenges for some time. In 2023, the Cabinet approved a one-time grant to help alleviate the potential impact on the wider educational provision across the island. Another grant was approved in 2024 due

to the continued financial hardships. The school, at this point, is at a critical juncture due to sustained hardship for such an extended period of time.

Due to the extenuating circumstances that Triple C School has found itself in and considering the social impact on families it serves, it was befitting to assist in whatever way possible. This assistance was in the form of a grant of \$400,000.00.

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

- increase NGS 34 – Primary and Secondary Education by Private Schools Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) in FY 2025
- *(decrease was taken from the wider CIG budget for 2025)*

CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational Programmes

Mister Speaker, the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) is the premier provider of post-secondary education in the Cayman Islands, which the Cayman Islands Government wholly owns.

As of 1 January 2025, UCCI has a staff complement of eighty (80) with an additional fifteen (15) vacant posts. The cost of awarding the 5% COLA approved by the Government

is Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Nighty-Eight Dollars (\$366,598.00).

UCCI does not have the funding capacity to meet this expenditure within its existing financial resources

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

- increase CCO 1 Teaching of Tertiary Level Professional and Vocational Programmes by Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Nighty-Eight Dollars (\$366,598.00)
- *(decrease was taken from the wider CIG budget for 2025)*

Conclusion

Mister Speaker, thank you for allowing me to explain the exceptional circumstances that have resulted in the Ministry of Education requesting Supplementary Appropriations for 1 December 2024 – 23 January 2025.