



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**REPORT
of the
STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

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

Laid upon the Table of this Honourable House this day of 2025
By the Hon. Premier

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament appointed the Standing Business Committee with the passing on 23rd April 2021 of Government Motion No. 1 and resolved that –

“In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House and, in particular –

- (a) the Business Papers of the House;*
- (b) to decide and inform the Clerk the order in which the Private Members’ Motions are to be debated on;*
- (c) to decide and inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day the questions to be put down for reply on the Order paper for the Question Day;*
- (d) to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of a Meeting other than a the State Opening Meeting;*
- (e) to inform the Clerk the order in which Bill shall be set down upon the Order Paper;*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing Business Committee shall comprise six Elected Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be four Members of the Committee including the Chairman and that the Committee shall meet at such times as called by the Chairman;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee review its terms of reference and report any recommendations to this Honourable House.

The Motion was moved by the Deputy Governor the Honourable Ex Officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The following are Members of the Committee:

Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly, JP, MP, Premier – Chair
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP – Deputy Premier - Member
Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP - Leader of the Opposition (LoO) - Member
Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP – Member
Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP - Member
Mr. André M. Ebanks, MP – Member

3. BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE

In arranging the business of the House for the Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session of the Parliament, the Committee held one meeting -

- Minutes – Thursday, 29th January, 2025;
- Round Robin 1 – Tuesday, 4th February, 2025
- Round Robin 2 – Wednesday, 5th February, 2025

The Minutes of the Standing Business Committee meeting and Round Robin are attached hereto as *Appendix 1* and form part of this Report.

Eight (8) Business Papers containing the business of the House for the Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session of the Parliament were circulated to Members and are attached hereto as *Appendix 2* and form part of this Report.

4. REPORT TO THE HOUSE

The Committee agrees that this Report be the Report of the Standing Business Committee for the Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session to this Honourable House.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP
Premier
Minister of Finance, Education,
District Administration & Lands,
Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health
Elected Member for Cayman Brac East
Chair

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP
Deputy Premier
Minister of Tourism & Ports *and*
Social Development & Innovation
Elected Member for George Town Central
Member

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town North
Member

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP
Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development
Elected Member for North Side
Member

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town East
Member

Mr. André M. Ebanks, MP
Elected Member for West Bay South
Member

Appendix 1:



PARLIAMENT OF THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 29th January, 2025

Minutes of proceedings of the Standing Business Committee's meeting held at the House of Parliament on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025 at 11:00 am to arrange the business of the House for the Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session of the Cayman Islands Parliament.

Present: Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP, Premier – Chair
Hon. Kenneth Bryan, MP, Deputy Premier
Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP, LoO – Member
Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP – Member
Mr. Roy McTaggart, JP, MP – Member
Mr. André M. Ebanks, MP – Member – via zoom

Committee Clerk: Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin

1. Meeting to Order

The Chair welcomed and thanked the Members for attending the Meeting. There being a quorum present, the Chair brought the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

The Chair advised that the purpose of the meeting was to approve the Business of the House for the Second Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session of the Parliament commencing Friday, 31 January, 2025

3. Approval of Minutes and Report

- i. The **Minutes** of **Thursday, 5th December, 2024** Business Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as amended on a motion moved by Hon. Kenneth Bryan and seconded by Hon. Johany Ebanks.
- ii. The **Report** of the Standing Business Committee – Second Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session, Parliament of the Cayman Islands, was approved as amended, on a motion moved by Hon. Kenneth Bryan and seconded by Hon. Roy McTaggart.

3. Approval of House Business

The Committee moved to consider Business Papers 1 through 6.

At which time, Mr. Andre Ebanks, MP opposed the placing of the following Bills on the Order Paper for the upcoming the Third Meeting of 2024-2025 Session of Parliament:

1. Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling and Cannabis) Bill, 2024
2. National Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Joseph Hew, MP also raised an objection to the same two Bills.

Both Members raised concerns regarding the timing and controversy in the public domain of the subject matters of the two Bills. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition went further to say that the Opposition had agreed to support the Minority Government provided there were no contentious matters and to now attempt to bring these matters before the House was clearly against their agreement.

A debate ensued regarding the legal functionality of the Standing Business Committee and its remit on removing items listed on the Agenda which met the requirements for the business of the House but were opposed by the Opposition. As the debate continued it became apparent that the Members of the Committee had reached a stalemate and it was agreed to reach out to the Hon. Attorney General via the Clerk to seek a legal ruling on whether the Bills in question could be removed from the Agenda and not be listed as items on the Order Paper.

The Clerk left the Committee Room to speak to the Hon. Attorney General. The Members agreed to wait for her return. The Clerk returned and relayed that the Hon. Attorney General said that the Business Committee had a wide remit on how to proceed with the Business of the House and can proceed with the business in the order of the agenda.

The Hon. Premier referred to the recital of the Standing Business Committee and provided her legal opinion that the Standing Business Committee was reflective of the motion to establish the committee.

A further debate ensued on the interpretation of proviso:

“(a) to consider the Business Papers of the House”

Mr. Andre Ebanks was of the opinion that items listed on the Business Papers were for consideration only. The Hon. Premier was of the view that the business as presented on the Business Papers was to be placed on the Order Papers of the House and any interpretation otherwise was undemocratic and circumvented parliamentary procedures.

As the debate continued, Mr. McTaggart asked if there was any precedent for this particular situation. He pointed out that normally the Government has the majority but as the Government now stood it did not have the majority and that all members of the Standing Business Committee were representatives of the House.

The Hon. Premier was of the view that the Standing Business Committee did not have the *locus standi* to refuse the items on the Business Papers for listing on the Order Paper.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. McTaggart and Mr Andre. Ebanks, reiterated that the Government did not have a majority in the House and that it was important to get this right for future administrations in similar circumstances.

All Members agreed that a precise legal ruling was needed and that the Premier should seek a further legal ruling from the Hon. Attorney General.

The meeting was adjourned to allow the Premier accompanied by the Clerk to consult with the Attorney General on the interpretation of proviso (a) of the Standing Business Committee and the authority of the members to list and or remove items listed on the Business Papers.

The meeting resumed at 12:22.

The Hon. Premier provided the legal guidance given by the Hon. Attorney General as follows:

“In the absence of express guidance, it is better to be guided by the literal language of the Motion which was based on the current House being charged with deciding the order of bringing the business to the House as is stated in the Report.”

The Hon. Premier continued that she accepted the guidance provided by the Hon. Attorney General and suggested that the Members proceed to consider the items on the Agenda unless there were any other interventions or comments.

Mr. Ebanks reiterated he remained opposed to the same bills on Business Papers 1 and 2 being placed on the Order Papers and asked that his objections be included in the Minutes.

No further comments or interventions were raised and the members reverted to the Agenda. It was agreed that all nine reports listed on Business Papers 4, 5 and 6 be placed on the Order Paper.

The Hon. Johany Ebanks asked for the time line of meeting of the House on Friday, 31 January, 2025 and whether the House intended to sit late.

Mr. Ebanks raised the question that the Bills listed on Order Papers 3 and 4 did not meet the required 21 days before the commencement of the meeting.

The Hon. Premier indicated she would prepare a certification for the Sexual Harassment Bill, 2025 and enquire with the Hon. Attorney General on the urgency of the Bills listed on Order Paper 4

3. Grand Court (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4. Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Hon. Premier further requested the Assistant Clerk to seek the Hon. Attorney General's response on the urgency of the two Bills.

a. **Reports:**

The Committee **agreed**:

- (i) The Standing Public Accounts Committee Reports be approved for the Order Paper via Round Robin.
- (ii) All Reports would be listed for Monday, 3rd February, 2025.

b. **Parliamentary Questions:**

The Committee **agreed** that an answer to the sole Parliamentary Question received by the Clerk be placed on the Order Paper once the answer was provided.

c. **Bills:**

The Committee **agreed** that the First Readings of the following Bills would take place on Monday, 3rd February, 2025.

The Committee further **agreed** that the following Bills be placed on the Order Paper for Monday, 3rd February, 2025 for first readings:

- (5) Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling and Cannabis) Bill, 2024 (*gazetted 23 December, 2024*)
- (6) Customs and Border Control (Amendment) Bill, 202 (*gazetted 27th December, 2024*)
- (7) Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*gazetted 20th September, 2024*)
- (8) National Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*gazetted 31st October, 2024*)
- (9) Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2025 (*gazetted 8th January, 2025*)
- (10) Grand Court (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*gazetted 17th January, 2025*)
- (11) Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*gazetted 17th January, 2025*)

d. **Government Motion:**

The Committee **agreed** that the following Government Motion be placed on the Order Paper:

- 1) Government Motion No. 7 of 2024-2025
Recommendations of the 2023 Electoral Boundary Commission.

e. Private Member Motions:

The Committee **agreed** that the following Private Member Motions be placed on the Order Paper, on Thursday, 6th February, 2025 in the following order:

- 1) Private Member's Motion No. 9 of 2024-2025
Motion to Launch a National Awareness Campaign
- 2) Private Member's Motion No. 10 of 2024-2025
Motion to Reduce Duty for Small and Medium Enterprises
- 3) Private Member's Motion No. 11 of 2024-2025
Motion to Establish Secondary Educational Programmes
- 4) Private Member's Motion No. 12 of 2024-2025
Motion to Regulate Real Estate Agents

The Committee **agreed** any additional Private Member Motions could be dealt with via Round Robin with the approval of the Honourable Speaker.

4. Other Business

- i. The Chair advised that the Standing Finance Committee would not meet.
- ii. The Committee **agreed** that the House would sit until 9pm daily, would not sit on Tuesday, 4th February, 2025 and would conclude on Friday, 7th February, 2025.

5. Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.



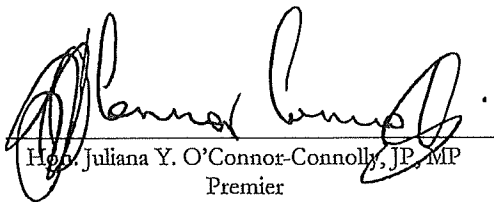
PARLIAMENT
STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ROUND ROBIN 1

Tuesday, 4th February, 2025

We, the undersigned Members of the Standing Business Committee agree that the following Reports be placed on the Order Paper for Wednesday, 5th February, 2025:

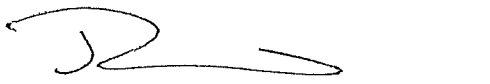
- i. Cayman Islands Expungement Board - Office of the Deputy Governor - Cayman Islands Government - 2023 Annual Report;
- ii. Office of the Auditor General Cayman Islands – Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 31 December 2023 (November 2024);
- iii. Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Office of the Auditor General - Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 31 December 2023 (November 2024);
- iv. Office of the Auditor General Cayman Islands - The Government's approach to sustainable economic development (November 2024); and
- v. Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Office of the Auditor General - The Government's approach to sustainable economic development (November 2024)



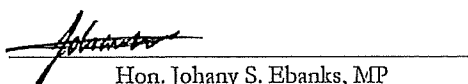
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP
Premier
Minister of Finance, Education,
District Administration & Lands,
Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health
Elected Member for Cayman Brac East
Chair



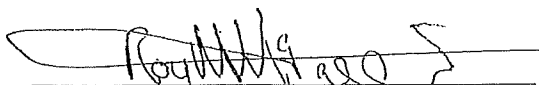
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP
Deputy Premier
Minister of Tourism & Ports *and*
Social Development & Innovation
Elected Member for George Town Central
Member



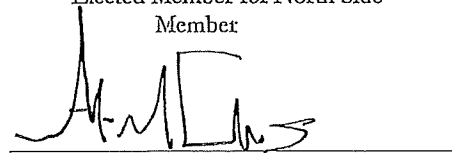
Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town North
Member



Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP
Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development
Elected Member for North Side
Member



Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town East
Member



Mr. André M. Ebanks, MP
Elected Member for West Bay South
Member



PARLIAMENT
STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ROUND ROBIN 2

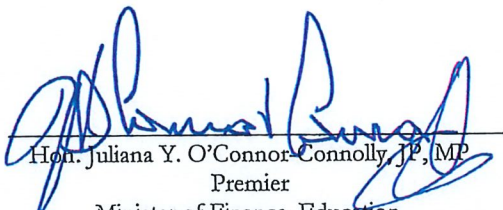
Wednesday, 5th February, 2025

We, the undersigned Members of the Standing Business Committee agree that the following Government Motion be placed on the Order Paper for today, Wednesday, 5th February, 2025:

Government Business - Motions:

- 1) Government Motion No. 9 of 2024-2025
Motion to Establish Standing Orders Select Committee to Consider a Proposal to Amend the Parliament Standing Orders

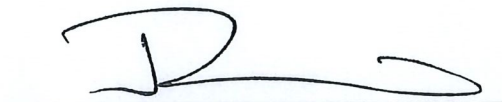
To be moved by the Honourable Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs.



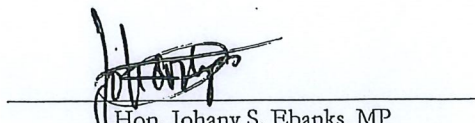
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor Connolly, JP, MP
Premier
Minister of Finance, Education,
District Administration & Lands,
Financial Services & Commerce and Health
Elected Member for Cayman Brac East
Chair



Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP
Deputy Premier
Minister of Tourism & Ports and
Social Development & Innovation
Elected Member for George Town Central
Member



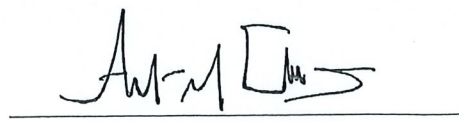
Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town North
Member



Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP
Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development
Elected Member for North Side
Member



Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town East
Member



Mr. André M. Ebanks, MP
Elected Member for West Bay South
Member

Appendix 2:



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 1

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills:

1. **Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling and Cannabis) Bill, 2024**
(gazetted 23rd December, 2024)
2. **Customs and Border Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024** *(gazetted 27th December, 2024)*
3. **Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) Bill, 2024** *(gazetted 27th December, 2024).*

27th December, 2024



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 2

Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session
Parliament of the Cayman Islands

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills:

1. National Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*gazetted 31st December, 2024*).

31st December, 2024



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 3

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills:

1. **Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2025** (*gazetted 8th January, 2025*).

9th January, 2025



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 4

Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session
Parliament of the Cayman Islands
commencing Friday, 31st January, 2025

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

- i. 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Standing Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Elected Member for West Bay North.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills:

1. Grand Court (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*gazetted 17th January, 2025*)
2. Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*gazetted 17th January, 2025*)

17th January, 2025



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 5

Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session
Parliament of the Cayman Islands
commencing Friday, 31st January, 2025

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

i. **Cayman Islands Government 2021 and 2022 Annual HR Reports**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Deputy Governor, ex-officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

ii. **Report & Recommendation of the Minister Responsible for Lands on the Vesting of Crown Land Block 25B Parcel 470 (part) to Peter Jervis, Rose Ebanks and Maureen Jervis-Brooks**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Education, District Administration & Lands, Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health.

QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Elected Member for West Bay South to ask the Honourable Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport & Development

No. 1: Can the Honourable Minister confirm whether the required coastal works licence, necessary for the completion of the Morgan's Harbour dock, has now been obtained?

23rd January, 2025



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 6

**Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session
Parliament of the Cayman Islands
commencing Friday, 31st January, 2025**

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

- i. **Ministry of Border Control, Labour & Culture - Cayman Islands Government - The Immigration (Transition) Discussion White Paper – Consultation Overview - (22 January 2025)**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Minister of Border Control, Labour & Culture, Sustainability & Climate Resiliency *and* Wellness.

- ii. **Cayman Islands Constitution - Electoral District Boundaries Order, 2025**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Education, District Administration & Lands, Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health.

- iii. **Cayman Islands Stamp Duty Act (2019 Revision) - Stamp Duty (Rates of Duty) Regulations, 2025 - (SL 3 of 2025)**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Education, District Administration & Lands, Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health.

- iv. **Cayman Turtle Conservation and Education Centre Ltd – Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2022**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism & Ports *and* Social Development & Innovation.

- v. **Cayman Airways Annual Report 2023**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism & Ports *and* Social Development & Innovation.

- vi. **Parliament of the Cayman Islands 2024-2025 Session – 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee**

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Standing Public Accounts Committee, the Elected Member for George Town East.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- 1) **Government Motion No. 6 of 2024-2025**
Public Consultation on the proposed amendments to the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) set out in the Immigration (Transition) Discussion White Paper

To be moved by the Honourable Minister of Border Control, Labour & Culture, Sustainability & Climate Resiliency *and* Wellness.

- 2) **Government Motion No. 7 of 2024-2025**
Recommendations of the 2023 Electoral Boundary Commission

To be moved by the Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Education, District Administration & Lands, Financial Services & Commerce *and* Health.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motions:

- 1) **Private Member's Motion No. 9 of 2024-2025**
Motion to Launch a National Awareness Campaign

To be moved by the Elected Member for West Bay West and seconded by the Elected Member for Bodden Town West.

- 2) **Private Member's Motion No. 10 of 2024-2025**
Motion to Reduce Duty for Small and Medium Enterprises

To be moved by the Elected Member for Bodden Town West and seconded by the Elected Member for West Bay North.

- 3) **Private Member's Motion No. 11 of 2024-2025**
Motion to Establish Secondary Educational Programmes

To be moved by the Elected Member for Bodden Town West and seconded by the Elected Member for West Bay North.

4) Private Member's Motion No. 12 of 2024-2025
Motion to Regulate Real Estate Agents

To be moved by the Elected Member for West Bay North and seconded by the Elected Member for Bodden Town West.

28th January, 2025



PARLIAMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 7

Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session
Parliament of the Cayman Islands

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

- i. **Cayman Islands Expungement Board - Office of the Deputy Governor - Cayman Islands Government - 2023 Annual Report**

To be laid on the Table by the Honourable Deputy Governor, ex-officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

- ii. **Office of the Auditor General Cayman Islands – Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 31 December 2023 (November 2024)**

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Standing Public Accounts Committee, the Elected Member for George Town East.

- iii. **Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Office of the Auditor General - Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 31 December 2023 (November 2024)**

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Standing Public Accounts Committee, the Elected Member for George Town East.

- iv. **Office of the Auditor General Cayman Islands - 'The Government's approach to sustainable economic development (November 2024)**

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Standing Public Accounts Committee, the Elected Member for George Town East.

- v. **Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Office of the Auditor General - The Government's approach to sustainable economic development (November 2024)**

To be laid on the Table by the Chairman of the Standing Public Accounts Committee, the Elected Member for George Town East.

4th February, 2025



**PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

BUSINESS PAPER NO. 8

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- 1) **Government Motion No. 9 of 2024-2025**
**Motion to Establish Standing Orders Select Committee to Consider a Proposal
to Amend the Parliament Standing Orders**

To be moved by the Honourable Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible
for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs.

4th February, 2025