



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

**Swearing-in Ceremony of the
Speaker and Members of Parliament and
First Meeting following the General Election**
Second Sitting

**Wednesday
7 May, 2025**
(Pages 1-21)

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	<i>Premier</i> – Elected Member for West Bay South
Hon. Gary B. Ruttly, MP	<i>Deputy Premier</i> – Elected Member for George Town South
Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for West Bay Central
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, JP, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for West Bay North
Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for North Side
Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, JP, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for East End
Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, JP, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman
Hon. Michael S. Myles, MP	<i>Minister</i> - Elected Member for Prospect

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

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter, JP, MP	Elected Member for West Bay West
Ms. Heather D. Boddén, OCI, Cert. Hon., JP, MP	Elected Member for Savannah
Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP	Elected Member for Newlands

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town North
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, MP	Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town Central
Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, MP	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Elected Member for George Town West
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac East
Mr. A. Royston Tatum, Jr., Cert. Hon., MP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	Elected Member for George Town East
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, CCI, JP, MP	Elected Member for Boddén Town East
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	Elected Member for Boddén Town West

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION
WEDNESDAY
7 MAY, 2025
1:59 PM
Second Sitting

[Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Speaker, presiding]

The Speaker: None.

The Speaker: I invite the Honourable Premier to read prayers.

PRAYERS

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks, Elected Member for West Bay South: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bless our Sovereign, King Charles III; William, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Premier, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of the Cabinet, ex officio Members, Members of the Parliament, the Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always. Amen.

The Speaker: Please be seated.

The House is now in session.

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

**NOMINATION FOR ELECTION OF
MEMBERS TO THE STANDING PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

The Speaker: The standing Public Accounts Committee exists under Standing Order 97, therefore, there is no need for a Motion to establish the Committee.

I will now ask the Honourable Premier to read the Public Accounts Committee terms of reference.

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

The Public Accounts Committee terms of reference, as provided under Standing Order 97(1), (2), (4) and (5) are as follows:

"97. (1) There continues to be established a standing committee, styled the Public Accounts Committee, to consider reports of the Auditor General—

- (a) on the accounts of the Government;**
- (b) on such other accounts required to be laid before the House as the committee may think fit; and**
- (c) on any matter incidental to the performance of the Auditor General's duties or the exercise of the Auditor General's powers as the committee may think fit.**
- (2) The Public Accounts Committee shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a general election and consist of six [elected] Members. The quorum shall be a majority of Members, including the Presiding Officer.**
- (4) The Public Accounts Committee shall make their report upon the report of the Auditor General on the accounts of Government before the Auditor General's report is laid on the Table of the House**

and both the Committee's report and the Auditor General's report shall be laid at the same time.

- (5) Subject to these Standing Orders, the practice and procedure of the Public Accounts Committee shall be determined by the Committee."

The Speaker: The Floor is open for nominations for the Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee is made up of six elected Members.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Government to nominate two Members:

- The Member for West Bay West; and
- The Member for Newlands.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay West, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter, Elected Member for West Bay West: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do.

The Speaker: Member for Newlands, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Elected Member for Newlands: I do indeed, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Opposition to nominate four Members to the standing Public Accounts Committee:

- The Member for George Town East;
- The Member for George Town Central;
- The Member for Red Bay; and
- The Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Speaker, would this be a time that we would suggest a chairman, sir?

The Speaker: I think I would appoint a chairman after the Committee is elected.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for George Town East, you have been nominated to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, Elected Member for George Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do.

The Speaker: Member for George Town Central, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town Central: Mr. Speaker, I do.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Mr. A. Royston Tatum, Jr., Elected Member for Red Bay: I accept, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for Bodden Town East, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Elected Member for Bodden Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do.

The Speaker: I think the people on your side need a seconder.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: May I have a second, Mr. Speaker?

[Pause]

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, my apologies to you and the House, sir. I made a mistake in saying Bodden Town East, I meant to say Bodden Town West, sir.

The Speaker: Okay.

Member for Bodden Town West, you have been nominated to serve on the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, Elected Member for Bodden Town West: Mr. Speaker, yes.

The Speaker: Mr. Leader of the Opposition, I need a seconder for all four of those people for the Public Accounts Committee, please.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Mr. Speaker, [it's] indeed my pleasure to second the four nominations.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any other nominations? [Pause] Are there any other nominations? [Pause] Are there any other nominations? [Pause]

If not, I would ask for a Motion to close nominations.

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: Mr. Speaker, I move that nominations be closed.

The Speaker: Can I get a seconder?

Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for George Town West: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion.

The Speaker: The Motion has been moved to close nomination for the members of the Public Accounts Committee.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Nominations for the Public Accounts Committee closed.

The Speaker: There being only six people nominated, I therefore declare that the Public Accounts Committee shall consist of the following honourable Members:

- The Member for West Bay West;
- The Member for Newlands;
- The Member for George Town East;
- The Member for George Town Central;
- The Member for Red Bay; and
- The Member for Bodden Town West.

I believe at this point in time, I will name the Leader of the Opposition as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Oh, I'm sorry. You want to let the Committee elect its own chairman or do you want to nominate a chairman now?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to nominate the Member for George Town East as the Chairman of the standing Public Accounts Committee.

The Speaker: Member for George Town East, you have been elevated to the lofty position of Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Do you accept?

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I therefore declare that the Member for George Town East will be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Thank you all very much.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 1/2025-2026 APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Speaker: I call on the Honourable Deputy Governor to move Government Motion No. 1/2025-2026: Appointment of the Standing House Committee.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 99, this House appoints a Standing House Committee charged with the duty to make recommendations to the House in respect of –

- (a) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for Members during Meetings of the House;
- (b) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for the Officers of the House;
- (c) the operation and maintenance of the library of the House and the provision of research facilities;
- (d) the maintenance, upkeep, furnishing and equipment of the Parliament building and its precincts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing House Committee shall comprise five Elected Members, one of whom shall be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman and one as Deputy Chairman;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Motion has been moved.

Does the Member wish to speak to the Motion?

[Pause]

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: No, sir, I think the Motion is quite clear. This standing House Committee is responsible for running the business of the House; making sure that Members are comfortable, and that they have the necessary facilities to carry out the duties of their office responsibly.

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

If not, does the Member wish to exercise his right to reply?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: No, Mr. Speaker. Just thank everyone for their support.

The Speaker: The Motion is:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Standing House Committee shall comprise five Elected Members, one of whom shall be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman and one as Deputy Chairman;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 1/2025-2026 passed.

The Speaker: The Standing House Committee having been duly established, I now open the Floor for nominations for members of the Standing House Committee.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister, Elected Member for North Side: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Government to nominate:

- The Member for West Bay Central;
- The Member for Cayman Brac West [and Little Cayman]; and
- The Member for Savannah.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay Central, you have been nominated to serve on the Standing House Committee. Do you accept?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, Minister, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Member for Cayman Brac West [and Little Cayman], you have been nominated to serve on the Standing House Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, Minister, Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Member for Savannah, you have been nominated to serve on the Standing House Committee. Do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Heather D. Bodden, Elected Member for Savannah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Are there any other nominations?

[Pause]

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I rise to nominate:

- The Member for Red Bay; and
- The Leader of Opposition, the Member for George Town North.

The Speaker: Leader of the Opposition and Member for George Town North, you have been nominated to serve on the Standing House Committee. Do you accept?

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: I do.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Royston Tatum, Jr.: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do.

[Laughter]

The Speaker: Now that's the kind of enthusiasm we need.

We need to have a seconder for the Opposition's nominations.

Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker: I second the Motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: There being only five Members nominated, which is the full makeup of the Committee, I now declare that the members of the Standing House Committee shall be:

- The Member for West Bay Central
- The Member for Cayman Brac West [and Little Cayman]
- The Member for Savannah

- The Member for Red Bay; and
- The Leader of the Opposition, [Member for] George Town North.

Congratulations.

Point of Elucidation

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I rise seeking clarity on the new Standing Orders. As Section 69 *[sic]* of the Standing Orders does not outline how the chairperson is selected, I seek your guidance as to whether or not it needs to be done now, at the selection of the committee, or is that determined based on the committee members themselves?

The Speaker: You're talking about the Standing House Committee? The second resolve says that the Standing House Committee shall comprise five members, one of whom shall be elected by the members, so [at] the first meeting of the [committee] the members will have to elect a chairman and deputy chairman.

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 2/2025-2026 APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

The Speaker: I now invite the Honourable Deputy Governor to move Government Motion No. 2: Appointment of the Standing Select Committee on Privileges.

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

WHEREAS Standing Order 99 provides that this Honourable House may appoint other standing select committees as required from among its Members;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 99, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee of Privileges to consider and report to the house on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee comprise all Honourable Members of this Parliament, the Chairman being elected from among the Committee Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall elect a Deputy Chairman from among the Committee Members who shall act as Chairman of the Committee during the absence of the Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Government Motion No. 2/2025-2026 has been moved. Does the Member wish to speak to the Motion? *[Pause]*

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: No, Mr. Speaker. I think the Motion is self-explanatory.

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

Would the Mover use his right to reply?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Mr. Speaker. Just to thank all Members for their support.
Thank you.

The Speaker: The Motion is:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 99, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee of Privileges to consider and report to the house on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee comprise all Honourable Members of this Parliament, the Chairman being elected from among the Committee Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall elect a Deputy Chairman from among the Committee Members who shall act as Chairman of the Committee during the absence of the Chairman.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

The Standing Select Committee on Privileges is therefore established. It comprises all Members of the House, and at its first meeting the members will elect a chairman and a deputy chairman.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 2/2025-2026 passed.

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 3/2025-2026 APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Speaker: I invite the Honourable Deputy Governor to move Government Motion No. 3/2025-2026.

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

WHEREAS section 45 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) states that the Ombudsman shall be accountable to the Parliament for the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman;

AND WHEREAS Section 45 of the said Act provides that a Committee of the Parliament should be responsible for overseeing the performance of

the Office of the Ombudsman, or if no such Committee exists, the Speaker shall be responsible for same;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in order to provide for the oversight of the Office of the Ombudsman, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee to provide such oversight.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Member for George Town Central.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Only to give a short contribution on a procedural matter. There are 19 elected Members of this Parliament and two ex officio Members. As we transition, Mr. Speaker, to the independence of the elected arm, on behalf of the good people who we represent and for those who are listening, I would like clarity for them to understand the procedure as to why the Motion is being brought by the Honourable Deputy Governor as opposed to its representative, the Honourable Premier. This is a non-contentious issue, but we have to continue to mature and transform; this Motion, in my humble opinion, should be brought by the elected arm and not by the Deputy Governor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

If not, I'll ask the Mover of the Motion to exercise his right of reply.

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

Mr. Speaker, I confess that I sort of asked the same question—why am I doing this? I'm not looking for more work. If the Members think that going forward an elected Member should bring the Motion, I'm happy to give way and I thank the Member for raising the issue.

A few years ago this Parliament was not independent; now it is. If this is just part of our maturity as we move forward, I am happy to go along with it, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank Members for their support.

The Speaker: The Motion is:

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in order to provide for the oversight of the Office of the

Ombudsman, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee to provide such oversight.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 3/2025-2026 passed.

The Speaker: The Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman having been established, I now open the Floor for the nomination of five members.

Honourable Premier.

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

I'd like to nominate three members:

- The Member for North Side;
- The Member for George Town South; and
- The Member for West Bay West.

The Speaker: Member for North Side, you have been nominated to serve on the Select Committee to oversee the Office of the Ombudsman. Do you accept the nomination?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I accept.

The Speaker: Member for George Town South, you have been nominated to serve on the Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman. Do you accept the nomination?

Hon. Gary B. Ratty, Deputy Premier, Elected Member for George Town South: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I accept, sir.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay West, you have been nominated to serve on the Committee to oversee the Office of the Ombudsman. Do you accept the nomination?

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept.

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

The Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to nominate two members for appointment of the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman. I'd like to nominate:

- The Member for Bodden Town West; and
- The Member for George Town West.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I second the nominations for Bodden Town West and George Town West.

The Speaker: Member for Bodden Town West, you have been nominated to serve on the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman. Do you accept?

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders: Mr. Speaker, I accept.

The Speaker: Member for George Town West, you have been nominated to serve on the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman. Do you accept?

Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker, I accept.

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

If there are no other nominations, I would accept a Motion for the closure of nominations.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a Motion for the nominations to be closed.

The Speaker: Can we have a seconder?

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister, Elected Member for West Bay North: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion to close nominations.

The Speaker: The Motion is that nomination for the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman be closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Nomination for the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman closed.

The Speaker: I therefore declare that the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman shall be:

- The Member for North Side
 - The Member for George Town South
 - The Member for West Bay West
 - The Member for Bodden Town West; and
 - The Member for George Town West.
- Congratulations.

The Speaker: At this time, I would invite each Member to speak for three minutes. There's a big electronic clock with red lights over there, so you can time yourselves. Does any Member wish to speak? *[Pause]*

INAUGURATION SPEECHES BY ELECTED MEMBERS

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, honourable Members—what a journey it has been.

I stand before you today, deeply humbled and grateful to the people of North Side for trusting me with their future once again. This victory belongs to the people of North Side, I am merely the vessel through which God fulfils the dreams and hopes of the people of North Side. I thank them for seeing me fit to be this vessel.

From the very beginning, I promised to listen, consult and to deliver results that matter to the district, and I remain true to that promise. North Siders believed that I kept my word, and indeed, that was the cornerstone of my campaign – I Kept My Word.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to some of the very special groups within our North Side family. Our senior citizens: you are the memory and the wisdom of the district. Your stories and your experiences are invaluable as we move forward, and I vow to honour your needs and give you a voice in every decision we make. I thank you for sharing your hopes, prayers and dreams with me. To the children: you are our future, and your energy inspires us every day; I am dedicated to ensuring you have a safe, and enriching, North Side to grow up in. With every decision we make, I will keep your best interests at heart.

To the women of North Side: you are the bedrock of our district. I recognise and appreciate the vital roles you play as leaders, caregivers, and advocates. Your voices matter, and I am committed to ensuring that your needs and aspirations are represented in every decision we make. Thank you for your support and for being the champions of change in our district.

To the men of North Side: thank you for standing with me and for showing your commitment to our future. Your support has been invaluable, and I appreciate the roles you play as fathers, brothers, husbands, and friends. Together, we can create a stronger future for everyone.

To my fantastic constituency team: you have been my backbone throughout this entire process. Your tireless dedication, passion, and love for our district have made all the difference. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for your support and hard work. I could not have done this without you.

To my colleagues in this House: thank you for your support and collaboration along the way. Your commitment to our shared mission has been instrumental in making our work possible, and I look forward to us continuing our efforts together.

Of course, I must express my deepest gratitude to my wife, Felisiana and my family. Their support kept me grounded during the challenging moments of my first term and throughout this campaign for a second term. They have stood by me every step of the way, and I thank them for their sacrifices that made it possible for me to serve our district. With their support and understanding, I have always felt cared for.

To the people of North Side, as we celebrate this moment, I ask for your continued support and your prayers. Together, let's vow to make North Side a true priority. I pledge to serve [selflessly], prioritising our district's needs above my own, and to ensure we are always moving forward together. Through consultation and open dialogue, know that your voice will be heard. Together, we will get things done. Let's focus on what really matters - our families, our jobs, our beaches, our properties, our heritage, our schools, our churches, our values and our future.

I promise you this: Jay will continue to fight for the needs of North Side, and Jay will always keep his door open. Jay wants to hear from you, learn from you, and work with you.

Thank you once again for your trust, your belief in me, and your commitment to making North Side an even better place to live and work. Together, we will accomplish great things and put North Side on top.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, thank you so much for your attention. It's time to get to work.

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

Member for West Bay West.

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and good afternoon, honourable Members of this House.

Today is a profoundly special day for all of us who are stepping into this honourable House as first-time Members of Parliament. Having taken our oath to serve these beloved Cayman Islands, I can think of no greater honour.

I first give thanks to God for his direction and strength throughout this journey. There were many difficult days on the campaign trail and without his guidance and favour, I could not have made it to this moment. I extend my heartfelt thanks to my family, who stood by me and made countless sacrifices of time,

energy and peace of mind; to my husband Robert and my children, Tasha, Clint and Shanda; and to my brothers who gave unwavering support. A special "Thank You" must also go to my brother Charles, who returned home from the UK and dedicated the past two and a half months to assist me during this journey.

To my committee, who knocked on doors, handed out flyers and showed up whenever there was work to be done: thank you. I am eternally grateful to each of you for helping push me across the finish line. To my nominators—Mrs. Shelene Sibaja and Ms. Shanika Groves, thank you for believing in my ability to lead West Bay in a new direction and for having the courage to nominate me.

I also want to recognise and thank my Cayman Islands National Party (CINP) team for their tireless support; from countless strategy sessions, consultations with subject matter experts, legal advice and debate preparation, your guidance helped shape my success. Thank you for standing beside me, and the rest of our colleagues here.

A special "Thank You" must go to my prayer partners for holding me accountable and helping me stay true to the clean, principled campaign that we ran. Your prayers were a covering over this entire journey. Thank you.

To the voters of West Bay West, especially our young people, thank you. You believed in me, you showed up and you found your voice and you took action. As I knocked on your doors and listened to your concerns, so many of you spoke to me of wanting change. You stood strong, determined and unwavering. I am deeply honoured to serve you. I pledge to represent our resilient, vibrant community with all the energy and integrity that I have. We must continue to raise our voices, break barriers and build a Cayman where every Caymanian can thrive.

I want to acknowledge and applaud all the candidates who put themselves forward but were not elected this time. This is no easy feat, and I am proud of your courage. Your communities still need you; stay active, lead the district councils, continue making a difference. Your talents matter, and your service is so valued.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my predecessor, the Hon. McKeeva Bush, for over forty years of service to the Cayman Islands. He spent more than half of his life serving these Islands, and for that we say: Thank you.

[Desk thumping]

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter: It has been said that the National Coalition For Caymanians (NCFC) is a marriage of convenience. If advocating for jobs for every Caymanian, ensuring our seniors do not have to choose between food and health care, making our university students have opportunities when they return home, creating access to vocational training for our young

people or promoting inclusion for those with special needs and slowing the pace of unsustainable development qualifies us for such a label—then so be it.

We are determined to accomplish the many things that previous governments have not done for the good of our people. We are united as Caymanians. We are proud of our heritage. We cherish our freedoms and we must do everything in our power to preserve Cayman for Caymanians. Love for each other and a commitment to the common good must guide every decision that we make, and my guiding principle question before every decision, will always be: *Is it good for the Caymanian people?*

To my fellow parliamentarians: we have formed a strong, capable government swiftly and decisively. The people of this country have spoken clearly, they believe in us. Now, let us honour that trust by governing with transparency, wisdom, humility and accountability. Always seeking guidance from God above, let us leave these Islands better than we found them.

In closing, to the people of West Bay West, I will never forget you. You placed your trust in me and I will serve you with all of the sincerity and dedication that I have. I am committed to improving your lives through effective governance and compassionate leadership.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may God bless our beautiful, beautiful Cayman Islands.

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

Member for George Town South.

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier: Mr. Speaker, honourable Members, I stand before you today with deep gratitude and humility. I am truly honoured to take on the responsibility of serving our beloved Cayman Islands. To walk the path our forefathers walked, and follow in the footsteps of those who shaped their nation is not just a duty, but a calling I accept with pride and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity in this sacred chamber to first of all, thank God, because without Him this would not be possible. Yesterday, as I sat out there, great pride came over me because my 93-year-old dad, who served this country back in the 60s, was able to witness me getting sworn in.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier: I want to wholeheartedly thank him for everything he's [done], to help me be the man I am today.

I also want to thank the people who helped me to this point: my wife, Angel and my children, Hannah, Gannon and Raegan because they are the ones for whom we are actually doing this today, sir; my committee members; and most of all, the great people of George Town South.

My fellow Caymanians have placed their trust in me, not just with their votes, but with their hopes and their dreams, and I promise to work every single day to honour that trust. My call today and for the next four years is to serve the people. It's about building stronger communities, uplifting families and creating opportunities for everyone. My commitment is real and my love for these Islands runs deep.

Mr. Speaker, I am respectfully asking all 19 honourable servants of this House to work together for the best interests of our beloved Cayman Islands and our fellow Caymanians. I thank God for his blessings and I look forward to working passionately with each and every one of you for a better Cayman. Let's move forward with unity in our hearts, hope in our spirit and a shared belief in the prosperity that we can build together.

I thank you, and God bless these beloved Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping]

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

Member for Savannah.

Ms. Heather D. Boddan, Elected Member for Savannah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a brief contribution and I begin by stating a truth that resonates deep within my soul: God is good. Yes, Mr. Speaker, God is good.

As we embark on this four-year term, I wish to seize this opportunity to express my sincere and profound gratitude to the wonderful people of Savannah. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. Thanks to the staff of the community office, they toil tirelessly. To my foot soldiers, committee members, [and] agents: You took me over the finish line—thank you.

My heartfelt thanks go to Sis. Emmie Jane Jackson and Bro. Ray Hydes, for their unwavering support and for nominating me on 3rd March. I'm also deeply grateful to Mrs. Eloise Seymour and my niece Kimberly Ebanks for their presence and belief in me. Witnessing that momentous occasion were: my nephew, Justin Hartmann, my grandnieces Sienna and Emmie, and my grandnephews Beckett and Emmett. Their presence filled me with pride and purpose.

Throughout this journey, Mr. Speaker, there were countless others who helped carry the load, offered encouragement and shared in the vision. To each of you, I extend my deepest appreciation.

It is now my distinct honour to serve this term alongside my fellow Caymanians within the NCFC Government. I'm particularly proud of my colleagues from The Caymanian Community Party (TCCP). A team that has accomplished so much in so little time, and has, undeniably, captured the hearts of the Caymanian

people. Under the steadfast leadership of our Premier, I eagerly anticipate working collaboratively with all my colleagues to achieve great things for our nation, our districts, our communities, and our neighbourhoods.

Mr. Speaker, this is a moment of renewal, a chance to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to you, my community and to the Cayman Islands. We have real work to do and real hope to deliver on, and I am ready to keep pushing forward with honesty, determination and heart. I pledge to be a steadfast guardian of Caymanian values and a passionate champion of Caymanian excellence.

Finally, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your willingness to serve our nation once again. Your dedication is deeply appreciated.

God bless these beautiful Cayman Islands. Thank you.

The Speaker: Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make a brief statement.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, and my fellow Caymanians: Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for our Parliament and our country. The election is now behind us and, while the results may not have unfolded as we hoped, they tell a story we must all take to heart. The People's Progressive Movement emerged with seven seats—the largest number won by any single party. The CINP secured four, the TCCP also four, and independents took four. Once again, it is negotiations, and not the clear will of the people, that have shaped the formation of our government.

As many of us will remember, this is not the first time we find ourselves in such a position, but Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, while it would be easy to dwell on disappointment, that is not why I stand here today. Instead, I rise with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit renewed by the resilience of our people.

I want to say thank you, first and foremost, to God who makes all things possible, to every voter who placed their trust in our team—all five thousand plus of you—to every volunteer who knocked on doors, made phone calls, and worked tirelessly to spread our message of progress. To the thousands of Caymanians who elected seven of our members to this Parliament, you have given us a strong voice, and we are ready to serve you with dedication and integrity.

To my family, my wife, and two sons: you have stood by me for four elections now; each one seems harder than the other. I apologise for the late nights, exposing you to sometimes vicious and cruel comments on social media; the missed special occasions and the emotional rollercoaster you have had to endure over the past several months. I thank you for your unwavering support and shared commitment to our country.

To the members of our team who fought valiantly but did not achieve victory this time, know that your efforts were not in vain. You remain an integral part of the PPM family, and I am proud of the heart, the courage, and the commitment each of you showed. Let us remember: *change is not a single event; it is a continuous process*. Each of you, through your hard work and belief in a better Cayman, has contributed to that process in meaningful ways.

To our opponents: congratulations on your success. I extend my sincere hope that you will lead with wisdom, fairness, and a deep commitment to the values that unite us as Caymanians. Though we stood on different sides in this election, we now face the same challenges: building a stronger economy, ensuring fairness and equality for all, and safeguarding the well-being of future generations; however, be forewarned that we shall not waiver or falter in our duties as the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, we may be divided in party, but we are united in purpose. The work ahead demands collaboration, humility, and a focus on the greater good. As I step back into the role of Leader of the Opposition, I want to make this pledge to the people of the Cayman Islands: I will not stop fighting for the principles we believe in. I will continue to serve as your advocate, your representative, and your champion. I will hold the Government to account where necessary and work with them where possible, always with the goal of moving our country forward.

Mr. Speaker, let this moment remind us all that democracy's true strength lies in its ability to empower every voice and every vote. Though we may have different visions and ideas, our shared goal remains unchanged—a brighter, more inclusive, and more prosperous Cayman for all.

To my team, thank you for making me proud. To the electorate of George Town North, thank you for giving me hope and for reaffirming my belief in the power of community and collective action. Let us move forward together—with resilience, with determination, and above all, with unity.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you all. May God bless these three beautiful Islands and all those who call them home.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

Member for East End.

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Minister, Elected Member for East End: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon to you and other honourable Members of this House. I rise this afternoon in gratitude and purpose as I take up a second term in this honourable House of Parliament. First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt thanks and praise to our

father in heaven for his continued blessings in my life and on the people of East End and the Cayman Islands.

To my East End committee and the great people of East End, thank you. Thank you for recognising the work that has been done on behalf of our district and for placing your trust in me once more to see that work through to completion. Your unwavering support strengthens my resolve to continue advocating for the needs of our community and striving to improve the lives of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to publicly extend my gratitude to Chief Officer, Teresa Echenique and the dedicated team at the Minister of Youth, Sports and Heritage for their efforts in organising the church service on Sunday at the Webster Memorial Church in Bodden Town, and the Emancipation Day Celebration in George Town on Monday past.

It is often said that good teams make great leaders, and with this team, I sometimes feel my job is made too easy, sir. They worked beautifully incorporating every aspect of the Ministry's portfolio into the Emancipation Day celebrations in George Town. For example, we had an uplifting, moving prayer blessing our nation by 13-year old Nyla Christian. The Cayman Islands Watercraft Association brought excitement and energy through the sport of jet skiing; the main stage and dance floor came alive with vibrant displays of our culture and heritage, which is offering a powerful testament to the theme of building unity while strengthening our legacy.

I would also like to invite the public to join us as we conclude these meaningful celebrations this weekend in the Brac. On Saturday, we gather at Watering Place Gardens at 4pm, and on Sunday the 11th at 11am we hold our closing church service at Bethel Baptist Church in Spot Bay.

As I conclude Mr. Speaker, I am, again, deeply grateful to the people of East End and the wider Cayman Islands for entrusting us with the opportunity to serve. Over the next four years, I am committed, as I am certain we all are, to working tirelessly to make our country stronger, brighter and better than ever.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless these wonderful Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman.

Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, Minister, Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before all of you humbled, honoured and filled with gratitude, to address this honourable House as a newly elected Member of Parliament for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman, and to stand in unity with the National Coalition For Caymanians.

We've been called a marriage of convenience, Mr. Speaker, but I think it is more of an arranged marriage—an arrangement for people over politics; an arrangement to bring unity, prosperity, and hope to all Caymanians throughout our Islands; and an arrangement to bring better days for our beloved Cayman Islands. As with every great wedding celebration, there comes a vote of thanks, so with that, Mr. Speaker, I will use the rest of my three minutes to give my vote of thanks.

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I must give thanks to our Almighty God for all of his grace, his guidance and strength throughout this journey because surely without him, none of this would be possible.

I give heartfelt thanks to my family, especially my wife Aimée who has now humbly agreed to share me with our people in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman and, indeed, the wider country. I thank them for their unwavering love, patience and encouragement. They truly have been my rock, my firm foundation through every challenge and triumph, and I am deeply and forever grateful to them for that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman. My committee that brought me here today; you have placed your trust in me, and I do not take that lightly. I am here because of you and I am here to serve you—every child, every elder, every family, every business, every corner of our beloved Sister Islands. You are all my people.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and pay respect to the honourable Member for Cayman Brac East. Although we may be on opposite sides of the “well”, I commit to working for our people across Cayman Brac and Little Cayman to ensure that all of our people draw water from the well; and that is my commitment to everyone there. We'll work together in good faith, we will work together in unity, and for the betterment of all who call Cayman Brac and Little Cayman their home.

Mr. Speaker, I came into public life not for position or prestige, but out of a genuine desire to make a difference, to fight for opportunity, for equity, for dignity and hope; and I am committed to ensuring that the voices of our people in the Sister Islands are heard, respected and acted upon. I will advocate—not only for the people of the Sister Islands, but for all Caymanians—for better jobs, affordable living, access to quality healthcare and sustainable infrastructure that respects our heritage while building our future.

Mr. Speaker, let this be the beginning of a new chapter for all of us. One where unity triumphs over division, action replaces talk, and service is always our highest calling. To the people of Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman, Mr. Speaker—if you may allow me: This is your seat, your voice, and I have the honour to be your faithful servant.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

[Pause]

Member for Prospect.

Hon. Michael S. Myles, Minister, Elected Member for Prospect: Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, thank you for indulging me.

I'd like to thank God. It's been a long haul for me. Over the last four years when I didn't win my seat, I kept on going because there were so many people who reached out to me and it is an honour to now be here. It's been an honour because my mom watched me get on the stage and take my oath for the first time. That has truly been an honour for me.

I've been serving my country, Mr. Speaker, since I was ten years old, from playing football on behalf of our country, from a youth to a senior player and representing the Civil Service as a civil servant. All of those have been an honour. My mother always taught me to be brave, to have integrity, to work hard, to be persistent, to have love in my heart and to persevere. These are all things that I will bring to this honourable House, our team, and certainly, the Opposition and our country.

I'd like to thank my wonderful wife. Over the last four years, it hasn't been tough for her because this has been a dream of mine and she has supported every step of it. She's been the glue that keeps our family together. I want to thank my daughters, Gabby, Hayley, Lauren and Marley, for sharing me, certainly with Prospect, but [also] the Cayman Islands, all my professional life. As a social worker and as a youth advocate, I've always been in the public domain. Thank you for allowing me to be your dad and allowing me to continue to do the work for the people of the Cayman Islands.

I want to thank my Cayman Islands National Party (CINP) colleagues because without them, none of this would be possible. I especially want to thank Mr. Dan Scott for inviting me into this party and giving me a dream and a mission to follow. I appreciate his brotherhood and his leadership. I want to thank my surrogate fathers, the late Winston Chung, the late Richard Marshall, Gillie Seymour and Everton 'Sarge' Edwards. These men have been instrumental in my life. They've shaped me into who I am. I cannot tell anyone enough about how it has been a privilege to be their son over the last 50 years of my life. They have taught me to hope, and they have given me discipline. They've given me guidance and brotherhood.

I want to thank my committee members. Over the last six months it's been gruelling, nonstop. They've worked beside me; they've canvassed with me; they've knocked on many doors, sat in many living rooms and at dinner tables with me and I can't thank them enough. I'd also like to thank the voters in Prospect. Four years ago, I sold them a dream that I could do this job, and they decided to make me wait. I want to thank them for embracing me in this current day because they felt that

I was the better person to hopefully lead them in that constituency.

I also want to thank my opponents, Mr. Speaker. I believe they have done a phenomenal job in putting their campaigns together, and it's been awesome seeing how they've worked, understanding that we all share the same commonalities of representing our country.

Finally, I want to thank our people. We all share the commonality of serving you. I hope over the next four years, we as a country can put petty politics aside and live in a harmony where we can have a healthy debate and ensure that the Caymanian focus is why we're here. I came to Parliament to work and, while I'm hoping to make friends and have colleagues, I have come to do a job.

My responsibility, along with my colleagues and my team, is to fulfil the mission of what Caymanians have asked me and certainly all eighteen (18) [sic] of us, to do. I intend to fulfil that promise, and I am hoping that everyone in this honourable House will help me do so. I'm here to work with everyone, not just the ten other people in our team. If anyone wants to solve our country's problems, I'm willing to reach across the aisle.

Thank you. May God bless the Cayman Islands and may God bless this wonderful House.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Member for West Bay Central.

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I share a few short words, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker, and thank you for accepting the nomination. I will say to you that the staff here at Parliament are lovely people; they will take care of you, and I'm sure you are going to take care of them as well.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Mr. Speaker, I would like to first give gratitude to God for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding during my journey here in this role as representative for West Bay Central and, most importantly, for health to be able to get up every day to stand in this position. I would also like to thank the people of West Bay Central. Being elected for a second term is not just an honour, it is a testament to the trust that the people I represent have placed in me so, to the people of West Bay Central I say: Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge the Caymanian Community Party, all of the founding members, every candidate and certainly all of our volunteers for all of their hard work as we worked together to create a platform that represents the voices and aspirations of the people of the Cayman Islands.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the people who make me who I am, whom I represent: my dad, Austin, who's still here in spirit; my mom, Mary; my husband, Michael; my children, Rayne, Zoe and Max. My siblings, Martha, Magdalena and Billy; and, of course, the West Bay Central team, Miss Nicky, Miss Glenda and Miss Sophia who have worked very hard to keep the people of West Bay Central happy, especially during a very busy campaign period.

I would also like to thank my campaign committee, who also knocked on doors and canvassed with me. I think I would be remiss if I don't highlight two ladies who are very important in my success as an MP. These are the ladies who care for my home and for my children—Miss Leslie Sophia Ebanks and Miss Marcia Joy Hamilton; because of them, I don't have to worry about my children and the care of my home.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, our Premier reminded us of the importance of unity and collaboration in moving our Islands forward. I make my commitment to do just that. As we look to the future, I'm filled with hope and determination to put Caymanians first in all that we do. I say to my colleagues on the government bench, let this be our guiding principle. West Bay Central, thank you, once again, for your support. I remain committed to you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Any other Member wish to speak?

Mr. Arlin Royston Tatum, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am filled with humility and a deep sense of responsibility to be a part of this honourable House as the representative for Red Bay. I sincerely thank the people of Red Bay for their trust and support; it is a deep honour to represent you. Thank you for opening your doors and your hearts to me. As your representative, I commit to serving each and every member of our Red Bay community. I will approach each day, guided by your hopes, your concerns and your ideas. I will work hard and I will not let you down.

I have to thank some of the folks who are very close to me. To my wife, Esther, thank you for your strength, patience, and your unwavering support; to our daughters, Sarah and Hannah, your love and understanding throughout many, many years of my being involved with politics have kept me grounded and inspired. I honour the memory of my late parents, Arlin and Magdelene Tatum, and my late brother, Russell. I must thank my sister and my family and friends in Grand Cayman, and all of those in Cayman Brac for always being there for me.

Special thanks to all who helped me get elected over these past months. I can never repay you for your hard work, dedication, encouragement, and advice. Of course, I will be forever beholden to the Honourable Kurt Tibbetts who invited me into the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) probably 25 or so years

ago, and helped set me on the path that has brought me here today. I also thank Miss Lucille Seymour, whose support over the years has meant a great deal to me. I extend sincerest appreciation to Moses Kirkconnell, a friend and colleague who has, consistently, reminded me of his belief in my potential. To Sir Alden McLaughlin, my friend, my mentor, thank you for your trust, your guidance and your tremendous contribution to our country. Of course, I must thank every one of my PPM family, whose support and friendship over the years I can never forget.

Mr. Speaker, in his final address to this House, I sat opposite and listened to the Honourable Kurt Tibbetts note that on his very first day here, he pledged to his God and to himself to remain a Member of Parliament only for as long as he could do the job, every day, that he could do on that very first day—so he knew when it was time to leave. That is the spirit I carry with me. I will serve with all I have to give for as long as I am effective and the people continue to place their trust in me.

I will close with this reminder to the entire House, Mr. Speaker, that while the days and weeks may feel slow in passing, the years will pass quickly. Another election cycle will be upon us before we know it. We do not have time to waste. We have work to do for our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Member for George Town West.

Hon. Pearlina L. McGraw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, people of this great nation: I rise today with a heart full of gratitude, first and foremost to Almighty God, whose grace and guidance have brought me to this moment; without his divine favour, none of this would be possible.

I give thanks to my family. My husband, Colin Lumsden, whose unwavering love has been the foundation of my strength. To my committee members—your voices, your encouragement, and your relentless knocking on doors, have led to this shared victory. You believed, you stood by me and you walked every step of this journey with me. The seat I now hold is not mine alone; it belongs to you.

To the people of these Islands, I say this clearly and sincerely: I am here, to work. I am here to represent your hopes, your challenges and your dreams. My only purpose in this House is to serve on your behalf, in your interest and for your future. Every decision I make, every late night spent in thought and preparation, it will be for you and for the people of this country. To the great people of George Town West, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lastly, to my mother, my rock, my provider, my example of quiet resilience. You gave when you had nothing to give, you sacrificed so that I could stand and today I stand in this Chamber with your loved wrapped

around me like armour. Let this be a reminder to every young person, every struggling parent and every community that still feels unseen: Your faith, your voice, your work—they matter. They can move mountains.

To the Government of the day. I wish you well. To my PPM colleagues, **“Hold fast that which is good”**. I thank you, God bless you and good evening.

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

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate you on your appointment. I know you will do a marvellous job. I see how you started today and I was not surprised—I surprised myself by being on time.
[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I want to thank God and all of my prayer warriors. I want to thank my family. I want to thank my wonderful constituents of Bodden Town East for placing trust in me, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my committee and all my canvassers. I want to thank my Bodden Town office staff and my nominators. I want to thank all the young people who showed interest; just showed up and endorsed me on the fly.

I want to wish the Government well, the Premier, Deputy Premier and all the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries when appointed. I really want this country to do well and my wish is that everyone rises with the tide.

Mr. Speaker, I make a special note that the fastest-growing district, and one that has the largest constituency, is not represented in Cabinet. Though I know and trust all Members of the current Cabinet, I can only pray that we're not left out in Bodden Town.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: That's so true.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Bodden Town East have already started some great work and I want to continue being a beam of hope for them. No matter where I sit, I am proud to be the MP who has done a vast amount of work for Bodden Town, and I'm reminded it goes unmatched.

Mr. Speaker, my wish is that every constituency office, all nineteen of them, are funded with greater support for those in need. I also ask for the Government to continue their work in trying to ensure our seniors and our children receive free health care. Let us also continue to investigate a government discount store, as the Minister for North Side and I started.

Mr. Speaker, only now will I ramp up my efforts and roll up my sleeves to work hard for the people of Bodden Town East. I accept the task of being the voice of the voiceless and the face of the faceless. I thank God for the courage He has given me to stand up and take on this sometimes unthankful job of politics. May we be reminded of the old proverb: *“When elephants*

battle, the ants perish,” symbolising how the weak suffer in conflict between the powerful.

Mr. Speaker, the Gun Square village raised me. I'm very proud of it, and I'm only giving back. From taking the instrumental task in having the Bodden Town Football Club on its first overseas tour, to scoring the winning goal to give Bodden Town our first FA Cup championship that eluded us for some forty years. From cooking fish tea every Saturday for ten years just so hundreds could come from around the country to socialise in Bodden Town. From delivering groceries to seniors in Bodden Town at age 7—yes, Mr. Speaker, I am Bodden Town.

I want to thank everyone who carved me into what I am today. To all the persons who picked me up at 4am in the morning for two years at 16 years old with no licence; the garbage truck drivers who picked me up and allowed me to ride on the back of the garbage truck to my job at Cayman Airways because the cab was full.

[Pause]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I want to thank the church and our pastors, who helped me to gain so much faith. The only thing that matters is reaching heaven. My mother, Petals; my wife, Tiffany; my children, Zachary, Tahiti, Dior, Tanieyah, Tessara, Terrell—and I could go on, Mr. Speaker.

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I'll stop right there for blogging purposes. Forgive me, my family. I want you to forgive me for missing time over the years—my aunts, cousins, friends, brothers and sisters.

Thank you, colleagues. Again, I wish the Government well. God bless these Cayman Islands.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, let me first join voices with others in congratulating you on your acceptance and appointment as the Speaker, Presiding Officer for the Parliament of the Cayman Islands.

Indeed, every journey here is unique, and I dare say mine is as unique as they come, for I spent 12 years here and it's been 12 years since I've been here. I want to thank my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for giving me faith and inner strength to do and continue to do that which I know is right. Let me also thank all of the voters of West Bay North, those who voted for me or another candidate and those who didn't bother to show up. I am the representative for you all and I am there to serve all of your needs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my nominators, Mr. Orman Ebanks and Ms. Rashana Hydes for the confidence they had in me. I would like to thank my

entire committee—too many to mention, but thirty-two strong. I will thank them personally at a later date. I would also like to thank all of my election agents for all of the work they have done throughout this journey.

Let me also thank my family. My mother was here when I began the journey; she is no longer with me, but God saw it fit that my father could see me return to this House. All of my children, Sheryl, Sherena, Raheem, Sharice and Rolston, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, it has been quite interesting to not have been here for over a decade, to have seen Cayman from another lens and then return. To return refreshed, reinvigorated and blessed to still be young enough to have much work and a lot of energy for the days ahead. I commit to the children, families and everyone who will fall within my ministerial responsibilities to be true to the cause, to be true to the work, to be accountable not just to my colleagues on the Government bench, but to this entire Parliament. For indeed, the work of Government is not just about forming a government, but ensuring that we deliver for all the people of our beloved Cayman Islands.

Mr. Speaker, during this journey there are a few whom I do have to mention individually. To all of the people who were confident enough to put out videos and endorse me; to my ex mother-in-law Ms. Brenda Timothy, who stood by me like no other; to Ms. Magalyn Ebanks-Clarke; Debbie Pennington-Ebanks; Rashana Hydes; Matthew Ebanks; Alejandro Dominguez; Jewel Ebanks; Ashley, Chloe and Caleb; Velma Hewitt-Powery; Jerrin Reynolds-Velasquez; Marva Reid; Dena Hydes; Aquina Ebanks; and I cannot leave out my good prayer warrior who prayed at every single one of my meetings, Mr. Dewey Powery.

I also want to give special thanks to Mr. Rico Orrett-Ebanks for creating my special song and to all of my hosts along the way; Mr. Everton Mckail; John Thompson and Heather Lockington; Timmy and Diana Hydes; Carlton and Pearl McDoom; and of course, my uncle Hartley's family down in the Super C's square in goat yard, Boatswain's Bay.

You see Mr. Speaker, this journey, being such a winding one, has had to involve a very interesting collaboration of individuals and personalities for me to have achieved this goal. I end with Joshua 1:9—**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Yes, Member for George Town East.

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I shall be brief with my comments.

Mr. Speaker, like everyone else here I, too, give thanks to God for guidance throughout the entire period of the campaign. I am grateful to Him and to the voters who saw fit to return me to office in the recent

elections. I am eternally grateful to them and I promise that I will serve with the same vigour with which I have served for the twelve years that I have been a Member of this Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I first of all congratulate you, too, on your appointment. I say this sincerely, sir, I'm glad to see you back and I wish you every success in your role as Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here I must give thanks especially to my wife, Glenda, who has truly been my rock during these twelve years. She has stood beside me, she worked late all hours of the night helping me and she still had to get up at six o'clock every morning for work—so she has done double shifts for 12 years and four elections and I'm eternally grateful to her as well.

I have to give thanks as well to my three daughters. For the first time, in this past election, they participated in a meaningful way as election agents. Not just for me, but for other PPM candidates as well. Their interest in things political is starting to develop, and I am grateful for that because I have found great satisfaction in being a Member of this honourable House, [whether by] serving on the Government side as a Minister or serving here in the Opposition. It truly has been a great experience and one which has been very rewarding for me. I'm hopeful that my children will continue to develop that interest in the political world and at some point, in their lives, at least take the plunge and seek public office.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give thanks to all the people that helped me during the campaign. Especially, I'd like to acknowledge the participation and help of my brother who was an election agent. He was my super-agent on Election Day, and was one of my nominators as well. To all the people who worked for me and volunteered their time and effort, I'll have an opportunity later to show them my thanks, but being able to stand here this afternoon and acknowledge them, is gratifying to me. To be able to do so and let them know that their efforts are truly appreciated; that I'm grateful for their commitment, their hard work and the long hours they put in helping to canvas and helping on Election Day... You name it, they were there for me.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say congratulations to everyone in the Chamber this afternoon. As I look out on the Government bench, I think I counted five new faces in the team over there. I say, very special congratulations to you—welcome to Parliament. I say the same, too, for my colleagues here, Mrs. Pearlina and Mr. Roy Tatum. He has also been a very strong supporter of me and was my political advisor in the last term, so I'm glad to see him make the transition. He has probably well north of twenty-five years of experience not just inside this Parliament, but from working as a political advisor and chief of staff to Sir Alden McLaughlin during his two terms as Premier so I say, thank you.

I'm looking forward to the four years ahead of us and to some lively debate and engagement with

everyone in this House, and I wish us all a very successful term.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. G. Wayne Panton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would first join with all colleagues in this House who have offered congratulations to you, sir, on your appointment as Speaker. I think it is well deserved and we are all looking forward to a well-run Parliament, starting on time and the fair application of the Standing Orders by yourself, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I think I would start by saying thank you to the people of my home constituency of Newlands. Mr. Speaker, they have filled me with humility. They have, again, allocated responsibility to me to act in their best interests and to be their representative and it is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I am, as I said, filled with gratitude, but I recognise the challenges, I recognise the responsibility and I will pledge to the people of Newlands—and I mean all of the people of Newlands, irrespective of what side of the political equation they may have been in the last Election. I will be their representative and will seek to ensure that the needs of Newlands are addressed.

Mr. Speaker, we've just come off a long weekend in which we had two motor vehicle accidents with four different cars, a number of people injured, all occurring within about 50 feet of each other. I highlight that to say that my colleague, whoever is going to have the allocation for roads—I think we all know who that's likely to be—is going to be hearing from me in terms of trying to ensure that we have the situation addressed. We must advocate for the best for the people of our constituencies, and I will be starting with that immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I have many people to thank, but first, obviously, I have God to thank for being here. The God who created all of us and the God who gives us the strength and the willingness to seek to serve the people of this country, the people of our constituencies and ultimately the God who facilitates and allows us to be elected to represent our people.

Mr. Speaker, we can't do this job without the support of our families, and I join with so many of my colleagues who have voiced their views this afternoon that our families are our bedrock. [They] are the guiding voices for all of us and they're the ones who suffer much; in some cases, probably more so than we do. When you do this job, Mr. Speaker, after a while you get used to the political commentary, but they don't. They don't deserve it.

They shouldn't be expected to have to deal with it and manage it. Criticism can be fair and in that case it is oftentimes capable of being accepted, but when it is misinformation, when it is in poor taste, when it is deliberately done to hurt feelings, I think we passed

the line. Mr. Speaker, I've certainly had rocks thrown. I chose to pick them up and build bridges and I think that's how we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Jane, and my son, Cody—I'll say particularly my wife, Jane, is my biggest rock, but let me tell you, she can also be my biggest critic. If I don't do something that I said that I was going to do she's the first one to tell me and of course, I can't put down the phone. I can't ignore her; she's going to tell me so every day. I actually thank her for that, and I think we all should be blessed enough to have people in our lives who are honest with us every single day as well.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of my campaign I have so many people to thank, probably too long to list, but I want to say thanks to Ms. Debbie who works in my office, who toils under very difficult circumstances sometimes, when she doesn't feel well. I so appreciate her and the energy she brings, when she can find it. I'd like to thank so many others. I will do that in a more personal way later on.

Mr. Speaker, my contribution to the country comes from a place, a desire, to just purely do public good, not to seek anything else. I pledge to my colleagues in Government and in this wider House that I will seek to work collaboratively to achieve the best for this country that we all love so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like in particular to thank my colleagues in The Caymanian Community Party and to say it has been an honour [to be] in this campaign with them, and I look forward to the growth and development in the coming years. I certainly would also like to thank all other colleagues—those in the Cayman Islands National Party (CINP) and the members of the Independent group who have come together to serve with us; to deliver what we need for the people of this country to move this country forward and to provide a better future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I will stand down so that we can get on with the work to make this country better, sir.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for Cayman Brac East.

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

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, let me say how absolutely delighted I am to see you in the Chair. I certainly had the opportunity to serve with you in a different capacity in this honourable Chamber. I am totally confident that you have already wrapped your mind around the amended, almost new, Standing Orders and will have no hesitation to administer them on both sides of the aisle in a very fair and equitable manner. That gives me great relief and confidence. May this not be the only term.

I also wish to go on record to thank the good Lord, without whom I certainly would not be in this

Chamber [for] about 28.5 years or about 32 years [if you include] getting my induction in the Bodden Town politics of the Unity Team; the former Speaker and her husband's newspaper, when we had real journalism that taught us about history, about strategy, about the way of life.

Certainly, the very early and late eighties of the late Benson Ebanks and those in West Bay (and the good meals we were served) were when I first whetted my appetite until the late Captain Charles took me to Little Cayman and asked me to look across the five-mile span of Sprat—some of the deepest water in the Caribbean—and asked me what I saw. Of course, I answered the obvious way, I saw Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. After he asked the third time, I realised there was a much deeper response that he was looking for, and I said I saw an island that you very aptly and ably represented. He said, *that's the purpose of my visit here, to endorse you to do that*, so I give thanks to him.

Also, to Mr. Gilbert McLean, who saw [something] in me as a young lawyer who thought that I was going to get justice for everyone who couldn't afford the courts before the advent of legal aid, and be an advocate. As it was then, my *modus operandi* was not to become a partner, though that's all well and good. When I started, I thought, well, I'll make Captain Charles happy and I'll say yes. I looked at Miss Annie and thought, *"Oh, what a wonderful woman—serving 20 years,"* little did I know that I would become the Mother of the House.

It doesn't matter from whence we come, when you put your trust in the people and it is reciprocal, only God knows the outcome. I haven't been home since election night and I'm getting withdrawal symptoms from the good people of Cayman Brac, whom I will thank on a more personal note at a more appropriate time. As I sat here, contemplating and watching the clock because I have about 15 minutes till check-in, I also want to particularly enter into the record the colossal assistance from my mother, who actually turned 81 yesterday—

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: It was a bit ironic that she was able to sit in the Chamber with two artificial knees. I had trepidation that she would have difficulty climbing the stairs, but my daughter, Kimberly, who was also a tremendous help, was able to get her up there sitting where now the former [Members] sit. I kept looking up there trying to hold back the tears because I know, had *daddeh* been alive he would have been right there with her. He was the political animal.

My mother sat in the background until the advent of my daughter, Kimberly, and the introduction to social media—I'm just now trying to catch up with my messages and I've seen her all over Facebook. Although, if you know her you'll see that she was hardly looking at the camera, she was holding her head to the

side; but boy, I think she's got the political bug, so it is about time for me to have a chat with her about that hidden talent that she has. I went around to businesses here in Cayman for various reasons and they seem to now call her 'the Facebook mom' I think. Although there was great resistance, Mr. Speaker, with her getting that smartphone. When my son bought it for her, she put it in her night table and took a long time to look at it—now we can't get her to put it down.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen many generations come and go but as I sat here and observed the landscape of some familiar faces, some previous and continued colleagues—I've said, God comes first. In my world in which I live and enjoy and have my being, I never let the sun go down on my anger and I've always looked to him for scripture to take me through every single election. This time the scripture was Exodus 14:14, **"I, The Lord, will fight for you, hold your peace."** Little did I know the significance of that when the battle came. I almost felt like David, the Psalmist, in Psalms 27: when my enemies came up against me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell, but before the temptation was able to make its manifestation, I remembered, **"I, the Lord, will fight for you, hold your peace."**

My journey this time was a bit different. I certainly did not intend to be back in this Chamber. I had well planned my retirement, [even] shipped my furniture; now I have to go and look for a new bedroom set somewhere in Cayman. Then I went to Barbados—some of you would have heard this before but it bears repeating in my entering this honourable Chamber—and when I got to the Brac, I don't know what happened but people, not just in Cayman Brac East, but from West, from Grand Cayman, even on the talk shows, asked me to run. It was perhaps one of the most difficult decisions in my life and I just want to go on record to thank the people of Cayman Brac East for keeping their end of the bargain. I didn't canvass, I didn't solicit, I never asked one person for a vote. I relied on: **"I, the Lord, will fight for you, hold your peace."** It was a resounding victory and that victory belongs to the people of Cayman Brac East.

On the day of election, I went into the polling booth once and that was to vote. I never went to check the figures, I never went to compare it because I felt that if it was the will of the Lord, I was leaving it to him. I felt I had the will of the Lord in retiring and assisting the church as they had asked me to do. When this new mandate came, I wanted to make sure that I extricated Juliana and left it to Him.

When I heard it later in the night, I didn't even know that I had won. I was down by Moses', who gave me tremendous help with his endorsement and his support, physical and otherwise. Financially, I ran a very lean campaign. I got a photocopier and my poor mother, my daughter, my son and I hit the road; and because I know my people and they know me—throughout the entire year, I go to their house, [and]

they come to mine, I don't have to take time with introductions, so Mr. Speaker, today is a very blissful day.

I am happy that the people kept their word and I firmly believe that I have been called for such a time as this. I don't know what the challenges are going to be, I don't know what will be out there, but one thing I know, I see all Caymanians sitting in this Chamber because that is what the Constitution asks for. I see those that I've served with, up close and personal. I see new ones that I have known for a long time and, if you would permit me, I see my good friend from UDP, Rollie.

Many times I've had to say, *'Not my Rollie'*. I'm glad he has come back, and he ended with scripture, which did my heart good because this time I don't plan to say, *'Not my Rollie'*, I want to say, *"That's my Rollie"*. There's a difference.

I want to congratulate the new Premier and his entire team for putting the team together. It is also historic that we now have, if I counted correctly, six Cayman Brackers, holistically or partially. It gives me great confidence to know that the Sister Islands will be well represented by 33.3 per cent of the entire Parliament.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I'm also very happy, Mr. Speaker, to see the Member for Cayman Brac West. He would appreciate that I refer to him as my little boy Nick and he refers to me as Aunt Julie. He's spent quite a bit of time around my table on the day of election, learning some of the tricks of the trade and I have confidence that he will do the island proud. I'm glad that I'm here for whatever assistance may or may not be needed. He knows where my heart is, Mr. Speaker; I've always operated that it matters not what side of the honourable Chamber you're in, if you're Caymanian you're in the fighting side of Juliana.

I look forward to us working together. As David the psalmist said, **"Behold, how good it is when brethren work together in unity"**—and because of my gender sensitivity I also like to say *sisteren*, though that's a Caymanian word—because there's much work to be done. A House divided cannot stand. We're already bordering the minority, but with God, we can be a majority and we can continue to make these three beautiful Islands, the Cayman Islands, a place which will continue to be the envy of the world.

As I continue to pray with my prayer warriors, as many Members have said they had, I remember my very last meeting—and those of you who are in church would understand this. I go to Church of God (Holiness), yet the Adventist Church came at midnight to pray for me at my house, and that's why I say it makes no difference what your denomination is because we have more in common than we have to divide us and there's only one true God. There are many people wishing us well, many people praying. Many people want this to work, and whatever I can do to assist in that regard, I offer my most sincere endeavour.

May it please you, Mr. Speaker, and I tender my apologies for my departure thereafter. Thank you.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? The Member for Bodden Town West.

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

Mr. Speaker, Matthew 6:33 teaches us to, **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and those things shall be added unto you."** This is my third time standing in this House and my fourth election. Of all my elections thus far, I would probably say this was my easiest election. I say it was the easiest because this is one time I can honestly say that the people of Bodden Town West actually carried me. As some of you may have known, my wife lost her sister at the start of this election campaign and that took the entire energy out of my house. I did not realise how dependent on my wife I was during the previous three elections—her energy and whatever else she brought, until that energy was no longer there.

Mr. Speaker, my sister Carlene (God bless her), left her family in the UK for around three months to come down and knock on just about every single door. There were days when Carlene would lightly beg me to come out of the house, because I really couldn't be bothered, but I can tell you, prayers work. We have some prayer warriors in this country and I can tell you—they work. I also saw this election as a referendum on the type of people we have and the people I represent; and I am humbled and privileged to represent [them] because they basically said, *"Chris, we got you this time"*. It was probably my easiest in the sense that my base came out for me.

Mr. Speaker, I must also congratulate you for accepting the role that you have. For some of you who don't know in this House, the Speaker holds a very special place in my heart. Simply put, he saved my life. For those of you who have not heard this story, you going to hear it. I was misdiagnosed at the hospital and sent home, basically told I was on the mend, when I really wasn't. Ezzard came to visit me—don't mind me, Mr. Speaker, forgive me for referring to you by your first name. Having visited me, he went to my wife's workplace and said, *"Go home and pack Chris' bag. Chris is not well. I need to take him to Cleveland Clinic."*

It was on a Monday evening that we flew up to Cleveland, and Tuesday we were at Cleveland Clinic. I remember at the hospital they were saying that I couldn't get an appointment for whatever reason, and Ezzard pulled out his phone right there in Cleveland Clinic on the third floor and dialled 9-1-1. He said, *"I bet you he'll see somebody now"*. They had to send the ambulance from one side of the hospital to pick me up from the other side of the hospital to carry me to emergency. By Thursday, I had my first procedure and by Friday, I had my life-saving surgery.

I've always been very grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, for coming to visit me when you heard I wasn't well and for what you did. My family owes you a debt for that; because of you, my mother still has her one son, Shawnette still has her husband and my kids still have their father.

Mr. Speaker, I need to thank Mark Bowen, Aiden Bowen, Saffrin Bowen and Saren Bowen, those are my brother-in-law, my nephew and my nieces, for giving me their mother for such a long period of time. She couldn't go home even if she wanted to because I visited *mummeh's* house once, saw her passport there and I took it, and I was like *you ain't leaving*. I had her passport, even if she wanted to go back home, she couldn't go back home.

Mr. Speaker, as I look back and reflect on this election, I'm reminded that elections are not about winners and losers. Elections are to determine the will of the people. Regardless of how people feel about elections or their outcome, the bottom line is that right now this House, this Parliament, reflects the will of the people and that is something all of us in this House should be proud of.

I am happy to see some of the new faces that are here. Mrs. Pearlina, welcome. Mr. Roy, I'm glad to see you, sir. Well, in this case, Roy Junior, because there's already a Roy Senior in the House. I want to say something [to] Mr. Roy. In my first term, despite being in opposition to the PPM, it was never lost on him to come up and either congratulate me or give me advice or guidance. It says something about him and about his character. I found you to be a decent person, and as I said to you at the start of the election, I wish you luck.

Nickolas, I've worked with you, I know what you have brought; Michael, I know what you have brought; Rollie, it is good to have you back; and Peanut, you know we go way back. He has always been a very nice person to deal with. As I said to him yesterday, I am very happy that his father was alive to see this moment for him. This was something my father wanted for me, and he never lived to see it.

Mr. Speaker, we have challenges ahead, and one thing I will say to this House and I'll say to this Parliament: we will always have nice speeches inside here, but we must also remember that well done is always better than well said. There are many challenges that are facing the Caymanian people. The stock market has lost trillions of dollars since the start of the year, which means that our pensions are down. We see the trade war that is already happening, and we see the price of goods, et cetera.

My colleague for Bodden Town East spoke about some of the priorities that need to be addressed; while we're still in a good mood from being successful at the polls, we also need to remember that many of our people out there are still struggling and suffering. I can say to the people of the Cayman Islands, despite our challenges, we still have a population that can fit inside a stadium and some of the challenges that we

have in this country are unnecessary and we in this House, all 19 of us, will have to find a way to make our people's lives better. This is what this election was all about and, most importantly, is what this Parliament is about, giving our people opportunities—and a chance to live a better life.

As I listened to the Member for Cayman Brac East speak about her mother's 81st birthday, I remembered that my last-born son, Daniel, turns 18 today. I've said in this House before that this is the first time ever in human history that we have four generations working together. You literally have an 18-year old working alongside an 81-year-old. Never happened before in the recorded history of humanity. That in itself brings certain challenges, where people are living longer and as a result, we need to find ways for people to engage longer within the workforce. We cannot push Caymanians out of the workforce at 65; not when women are living to 84 and men are living to 79, and you have an inadequate pension regime. One of the things I ran on is to maintain our people's dignity. We need to find a way to ensure our people have that dignity.

Mr. Speaker, there's much work to be done. I want to thank—I don't have a committee, I just had my one sister knocking on doors, but I want to thank my office manager, Kaylene. Kaylene has been one of my best friends for about 40 years now. She suffers from MS (Multiple Sclerosis), which is something that we spoke about in the campaign. To see Kaylene getting up every day despite her health challenges, and working for the good people of Bodden Town West... Even on the ride coming in this morning she was giving a list of all the people she engaged then and I really want to thank her.

My election agents, Andrea Fitzroy, my daughter Jordan who was there, aunt Minette, my cousin Jackie—and I'm sure I left out a couple because there was around ten of them, but I'm really grateful for their support. I will hopefully be having an event soon to thank all the people of Bodden Town West and everyone who supported me so we can at least celebrate; but for right now, we laid my sister-in-law to rest last weekend so my wife, our family, is still in the healing phase.

I want to give a special mention to my mother-in-law, Ms. Shirley. She prayed for me every single day. While people complain about their mother-in-law, I can safely say that I am blessed to have a mother-in-law. I've been her son for 35 years. I've been with Shawnette since I was 17—I'm 52, for those who didn't work out the maths; but I am really grateful to have been blessed with a good set of in-laws.

I'm looking forward to working with just about every one of you in this House. Whatever we can do to make our people's lives better, I'm here to help. My education was paid for by the people of this country, and I owe them a debt to give back, so any research or anything that anyone needs, Chris is here to help. Chris is here to be part of the solution.

With that Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone. Daniel, happy 18th birthday. Thank you.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join all Members of this House in congratulating you on your appointment. We have worked together in the past when you were a Member of this House and also Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I think we achieved some good things together, so I look forward to continuing on that tradition.

Mr. Speaker, many thanks from me, as well. I don't run for election, but I have a fairly large constituency of 4,832 civil servants that I do want to thank for their conduct and their professionalism during the period of sensitivity. Much work has to be done. Civil servants, I think, felt a bit constrained during this election period. We told them they have a right to be informed, they have a right to get familiar with their candidates, but I think there's still some more work to be done to ensure that our civil servants don't feel too restrained during the election period. We will continue to work with them to provide the necessary guidance and support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks to my former colleagues in Cabinet. We worked together for a number of years and we achieved some good things together. I thank them for their support of the civil service.

Mr. Speaker, one of the obligations of a civil servant is to serve one Government today with passion and conviction and serve another Government the next day, with the same passion and conviction. I, along with Her Excellency, met with the new Government this morning. I assured them, and I do so now publicly, that they have the full support of our civil service and the wider public service. We will work shoulder to shoulder with them to allow them to deliver on their promises to our people, giving them all the support they need to deliver their policy priorities in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, many promises have been made; it is now our job in the civil service, once we get the policy priorities from the Government, to translate them into action. I thought we had a really great first meeting this morning. We were able to show our elected leaders information about the civil service, some of what we are doing to train our people, to equip them to carry out their responsibilities, but also to assure them that we are here to support.

Mr. Speaker, we did much work leading up to the election. The team in my office, whom I owe a great deal of gratitude to, analysed Manifestos, looked at how we can give the Government some options for setting up a new organisational chart and developing ministries, and I think the Government today was impressed with the work we did. I think they now have

some really good information in which to make their decisions, and that's the job of the civil service.

I want to close by thanking Ms. Gloria McField-Nixon; Ms. Mary Rodrigues; Ms. Cetonya Cacho; Ms. Jennifer Ahearn; Ms. Christen Suckoo; and the Deputy Chief Advisor, Matthew Hylton for all of the work they have been doing. They have had long nights to get us to where we are, and they made me very proud today. Like I said, I hope the Government is now ready to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and all Members of this honourable House.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Attorney General.

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall be brief as well.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by also congratulating you on your elevation to the Chair. I am confident that the Standing Orders—understanding, interpretation and application of them, are in good hands. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate all honourable Members of this House on being elected and I certainly look forward, along with my Chambers, to working with Members with the delivery of timely, quality legal advice and representation. It's a bit different now. I think it is common knowledge that we are now living in a very litigious society and persons are no longer afraid to challenge government's decisions and actions in the courts, so over the last couple of years, we have been extremely busy. Let me hasten to say I have absolutely no issue with persons ventilating their matters in court; it is to be encouraged, as it is good for democracy, accountability and transparency. That is the direction of travel going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Supervisor of Elections and his staff. I am so proud of our democratic framework. The campaign has been civil (relatively, some will say). The election was peaceful, the outcome has been uncontested and the country has settled down and moved on. Not very many countries can say that, [even] big democracies, so we have everything to be proud of in this country. I want to congratulate the supervisors and all those who were involved. Long may it last.

With that, I look forward to working with all honourable Members in delivering the needs of our community and our people, and to do so in a way that is transparent and understandable.

I thank you.

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

[Inaudible interjection]

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The question is that this House do now adjourn sine die.

All those in favour, please say Aye. All those against, please say no.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

This honourable House stands adjourned sine die.

At 4:13pm the House stood adjourned sine die.