



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



## **OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

### **First Meeting of the 2025-2026 Session** *First Sitting*

## **STATE OPENING**

**Wednesday**  
**25 June, 2025**  
*(Pages 1-32)*

**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> , Minister of Financial Services & Commerce                                  |
| Hon. Gary B. Ruttly, MP             | <i>Deputy Premier</i> , Minister of Tourism & Trade Development                             |
| Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, MP  | Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability                                            |
| Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, JP, MP      | Minister of Finance & Economic Development <i>and</i><br>Education & Training               |
| Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP           | Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure                          |
| Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, JP, MP       | Minister of Social Development & Innovation <i>and</i><br>Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage |
| Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, JP, MP | Minister of District Administration & Home Affairs                                          |
| Hon. Michael S. Myles, MP           | Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration                                              |

## **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

|                                              |                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hon. Franz I. Manderson, MBE, Cert. Hon., JP | <i>Deputy Governor</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the<br>Portfolio of the Civil Service        |
| *Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, JP            | <i>Acting Deputy Governor</i> , ex officio Member responsible<br>for the Portfolio of the Civil Service |
| Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, KC, JP                | <i>Attorney General</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the<br>Portfolio of Legal Affairs           |

## **ELECTED MEMBERS**

### **GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS**

|                                                |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter, JP, MP                | Elected Member for West Bay West |
| Ms. Heather D. Bodden, 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, JP, MP             | <i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , 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. Roy Tatum, 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 Bodden Town East                                             |

### **APOLOGIES**

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP | Elected Member for Bodden Town West |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

*\*Hon. McField-Nixon was sworn in as ex officio Member during the afternoon period of the sitting, following the departure of the Honourable Deputy Governor who assumed the role of Acting Governor.*

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**  
**STATE OPENING AND FIRST MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**25 JUNE, 2025**  
**1:59 PM**  
*First Sitting*

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

**The Speaker:** I invite Pastor Alson Ebanks to grace us with prayers.

**PRAYERS**

**Pastor M. Alson Ebanks:** Let us pray.

*Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the many blessings we have received from your hand, including the blessings of protection from natural disasters, the gifts of social and communal peace, financial prosperity, and spiritual enlightenment. We thank you for the level of social harmony that we enjoy in this collective of persons from over 140 nations. We further give thanks for the leadership you have granted unto us so that we are served through our civil service and elected representatives by men and women of ability, experience, and integrity.*

*We pray now for His Majesty the King that he would prosper and be in good health even as his soul prospers. Likewise, we pray for Her Excellency the Governor that You would prosper and guide her so that she will correctly and wisely carry out her responsibilities for the good of these Islands.*

*Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless this Parliament. We pray for wisdom and understanding in all their deliberations. Grant them courage to grapple with difficult challenges, both internally and externally, and that they may labour together in a spirit of unity and co-operation. May they never lead this little country wrongly through love of power, personal pride, desire to please, or other unworthy ideals. May these men and women, to whom we have given our allegiance and in whom we have placed our trust, remember that leaders are not only known by the way they go, but they also show the way as they go the way, setting examples in character and conduct for those who lead and influence.*

*May the Members of this honourable House lay aside all private interests and prejudices and never deviate from their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all who reside in these three blessed Islands, both citizens and aliens, holding fast always to the values of Christ's Kingdom so that Your name be hallowed in these halls as well as across the length and breadth of these beloved Isles Cayman.*

*We honour Your name now according to the prayer given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Let us pray:

*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 Speaker:** Good afternoon, everyone.  
Please be seated.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS  
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a Motion to defer the Administration of Oaths or Affirmations to later in this sitting.

**The Speaker:** Does the Member wish to speak [thereto]?

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

Mr. Speaker, Her Excellency the Governor will leave the Cayman Islands later this afternoon on the British Airways flight, which means that I will then become the Acting Governor and I will have to leave these Chambers; and an Acting Deputy Governor will be sworn in. I will give notice of my time to leave once Her Excellency is on the plane.

Thanks.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The question is that the administration of oaths or affirmations be deferred to later on in this sitting.

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

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

**Agreed: Administration of Oaths or Affirmations deferred until later in this sitting.**

## MOTION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE HOUSE

**The Speaker:** Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce, Elected Member for West Bay South:** Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move that this honourable House do rise to await the arrival of Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen, to receive a gracious Address to the Parliament.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable Premier.

The question is that this honourable House do rise to await the arrival of Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen, to receive a gracious Address to the Parliament.

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

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

The House is now suspended to meet Her Excellency the Governor.

**Agreed: That the honourable House rise to await the arrival of Her Excellency the Governor.**

Proceedings suspended at 2:05pm

## ARRIVAL OF HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

**The Speaker:** I now invite Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen, to address this honourable Parliament.

## HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO THE PARLIAMENT

**Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen:** Please do be seated everyone.

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Chief Justice and all the honourable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.

It brings me great pleasure to address this, the first session of our Parliament following the election in April this year. I would like to commend again the Honourable Speaker in his important role and welcome again our Honourable Premier André Ebanks and his Government, as well as all parliamentary representatives gathered together today in this Chamber.

Now is a good moment to join together with all of those watching these proceedings to celebrate the

democratic processes that delivered our government who are sitting here today— the National Coalition for Caymanians. Our esteemed Members of the Opposition will also play an important role, in this and every Parliament, as they contribute to the debate. I expect there will be some areas of consensus and, perhaps, some too of disagreement, but I know these debates will be carried out with our customary values of mutual respect as each side takes the Floor.

Looking back on the election, as you know, we invited an international observer mission from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as well as a domestic observer mission to report on our election processes from all angles. Their observations so far give full credit to our Election Supervisor for the first-class management of the election and in a wider context, both observer missions have raised again the need to update our campaign financing rules. I believe this is a gap worthy of consideration at an early stage of this Parliament to reflect evolving international standards and to give our voting public more clarity on political funding. Decisions on this aspect, along with any future consideration of election boundaries, are clearly devolved within the Constitution to our elected representatives and to this House.

As we enter this era of our new administration, we can be confident that we are members of a strong society and a growing economy. Government revenues continue to rise and benefit from some increases in fees to keep pace with inflation. The challenge for the future will be balancing and prioritising the needs of our community for both services and capital projects. The proposed change before this Parliament to align the Strategic Policy Statement, or SPS, process with the budget announcement in autumn, will, I believe, help us become more accurate and efficient in our forecasting.

Now, turning to some of the business of this Parliament, I believe it is clear to us all that there are a number of priority areas for action to protect and promote Cayman's success for the future.

The first is reform of our immigration system. The Government is bringing a Bill to amend the Public Service Management Act (PSMA) to introduce term limits for all non-Caymanian civil servants. These changes are intended to come into force from January next year, affording existing and new civil servants the same term limit and putting in place a two-year "rollover" period at the end of the term limit. As we all know, Cayman's civil service, ably led by the Honourable Franz Manderson, has an excellent record of employing Caymanians who make up around 70 per cent of the civil service workforce. We also continue to draw in specialist skills and international experience among the 1,400 dedicated non-Caymanians who play crucial roles; for example, in our police, in our prison, our health and social services, our teaching staff, and many other areas.

The Government has also made clear its intent, in tandem with the civil service reform, to consider further changes to Cayman's wider immigration policy, including the rules for permanent residency, marriage, and Caymanian status. I welcome the committee which the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister Myles have established with the Chamber of Commerce, other private sector entities and key government departments to assist with developing a national workforce plan. We look forward to hearing the results of the debate in this Chamber on all of these important matters.

I know that education, training, skills development and job opportunities are also a priority for this Government and these go hand in hand with changes to our immigration rules. The Government intends to work within our public sector schools in particular, to improve outcomes and opportunities for Caymanians. I hope we can encourage more young people to consider pathways in some of the fields where Cayman is growing fast, not just accountancy and law—though I am sure that our Chief Justice sitting here beside me would commend those particular choices—but what about careers also in hospitality, information technology (IT), engineering or social services? It is the intention of this Government that all Caymanian school-leavers have a route to further education, either at vocational or degree level, or, indeed, opportunities to take up internships and apprenticeships in the private sector and civil service so that we can ensure in future that all our young people are employed at a level that fits their skills and abilities.

While I'm on the subject of supporting our youth and, indeed, supporting all of the residents of our wonderful Islands, I could not leave this platform without mentioning the importance of action to target mental health and overall wellbeing within our communities. We know the modern world can put untold pressure on us all, and that includes our young people. Many non-profit groups are already making excellent interventions, but I believe we can do better to join up their work with government initiatives and to prioritise programmes that really make a difference. This means ensuring that Poinciana develops into a world-class residential facility. It means doing more to support special needs in our schools. It means coming together as a community to support those who might be facing personal challenges or who are trying to get their lives back on track, perhaps after serving some time in prison or overcoming an addiction.

More generally, initiatives to support our health, our sport, our fitness and wellbeing can not only create a happier population but will also reduce our future costs for healthcare, which have expanded exponentially in recent years. This is a challenge for me too—having done a very slow Flowers Sea Swim this month, I know I do need to work on my 'turtle breast-stroke' to try to go a little bit faster next year.

*[Laughter]*

**Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen:** We must all remember of course, that the state of our economy will, in no small measure, determine the funding available to drive these plans and support our people. It is therefore very satisfying that following a recent visit here, Moody's credit agency has reconfirmed Cayman's economic standing as Aa3, which is on par with the United Kingdom, France and Hong Kong. As we know the financial and professional services industry remains the mainstay of our economy and a key factor in Cayman's global reputation. Cayman worked hard to secure its removal in 2023 from the "grey list" under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and this Government is striving to ensure that our regulation continues to meet or exceed global standards. This is particularly important in the areas of sanctions, illicit finance and access to data on beneficial ownership. Our Honourable Premier met Minister Stephen Doughty in London last week and agreed a positive and forward-looking joint statement on this subject.

As we consider the many cranes on the skyline across our Islands, we are reminded that development is a necessity to improve housing, transport, energy and entrepreneurship for all our people. Development can also deliver improvements to our premium tourism product, widely known for its high standards in accommodation, food, service and experiences; but we also know that we need to balance development with steps to protect the environment and retain the natural beauty that has been the hallmark of Cayman for centuries. It is through working together and making decisions based on facts and on science that we can secure the broadest possible consensus for future sustainable growth.

As we enter the hurricane season this month, we recall also the importance of "being prepared" in every sense. The National Executive Committee which includes all Cabinet members and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, will assume strategic oversight of our response in the case of an emergency. We are grateful to all the staff in Hazard Management, to our emergency responders, our Regiment, our infrastructure teams, hospitals, shelters, and volunteers across all three Islands who are already making sure that we are ready to face what looks to be another active season of bad weather.

As all Honourable Members in this Chamber well know, the security risks we face do not emanate only from natural disasters. In my role as Governor, I'm fortunate to work with highly competent leaders and staff in our Police, Coast Guard, Prison, Regiment, Customs and Border administration, Port and Airport and cyber security experts. Our economy and way of life depend to a large extent on a stable and secure society and we know that this is threatened—in particular

by the availability of guns, by knife crime, by increasingly engineered drugs, by gangs and groups in organised crime, and those who support and protect them.

I am pleased that this Government, as its predecessors, is taking a joined-up approach to security and law enforcement. I would draw the attention of this Chamber, in particular, to the excellent work being done by Police Commissioner, Kurt Walton, to deliver effective crime analysis, forensics and detection, which has led to our overall rate for solving crimes rising close to 50 per cent (and 85 per cent for our most serious crimes). We're also working hard to tackle Cayman's abysmal record for road deaths and injuries through the Government's plans to introduce a penalty point system on driving licences, as well as by improving public transport.

As Governor, it is also my responsibility under the Constitution to promote "Good Governance"—this means working in partnership with the Government and with everyone in this House to ensure integrity, transparency, accountability, and lawful process in all we do. I am immensely grateful for the support of the Honourable Attorney General and his Chambers who ensure that legislative changes and improvements are carefully scrutinised before they come to Parliament. We're also fortunate in Cayman to have a number of independent bodies who oversee different aspects of public sector work—for example, the Auditor General; the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Ombudsman; and our commissions on the Constitution, the Judiciary, human rights, standards in public life and anti-corruption. These bodies all ensure that Cayman retains its strong reputation, both regionally and globally, for a high standard of governance and oversight that we can all be proud of.

As the Government and the civil service plan to deliver this ambitious agenda, I am confident that they will work in partnership, reaching out also to the private sector and civil society for added ideas, talent and resources. We are grateful for the work of Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Sam Rose, in support of our government and Cabinet meetings. The United Kingdom also stands ready to partner Cayman as we forge a refreshed relationship fit for the future. His Majesty King Charles III is always interested to hear about developments and decisions in Cayman, and is a strong supporter of our work through the Commonwealth and of our bid to make Little Cayman's coastal waters a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our Premier was able to further this bilateral agenda with Foreign Office Minister Stephen Doughty in London last week, and tonight, I travel to the United Kingdom for our annual conference of ambassadors and other heads of delegations, where we will discuss world affairs including security, the global economy, development, environment and societal issues, and yes, probably artificial intelligence (AI) as well. I shall be proud to represent Cayman and the contribution we make through our regional and international links.

Today, I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all of the honourable representatives in this House for your unwavering service and effort; for your dedication to our communities; and for your support to me as Governor. Our partnership is precious and makes us all stronger, as we look to the future with confidence and compassion.

God bless this House, and God bless these wonderful Cayman Islands.

## DEPARTURE OF HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

*Procession departed in the following order:*

*The Serjeant-at-Arms  
The Honourable Speaker  
Her Excellency the Governor  
The Governor's Aide-de-Camp  
The Chief Justice, Hon. Margaret Ramsay-Hale  
Pastor M. Alson Ebanks*

**The Clerk:** The next item on the programme is the official photo, so if the Members could actually attend on the steps so that the group photo could be taken outside. For the members of the public, could you give us about 10 minutes and then we will be back in to continue with the items on the Order Paper.

Thank you so much.

**Proceedings resumed at 2:50pm**

**The Speaker:** [Parliament is resumed.]  
Please be seated.

## VOTE OF THANKS TO HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

**The Speaker:** This Honourable Parliament does record its grateful thanks to Her Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Jane Owen for her gracious Address delivered at this sitting.

## READING BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Speaker:** I don't have any messages or announcements, but I would like to use this period on the Order Paper to recognise some Caymanian citizens.

We have in our gallery, representatives from the government primary schools, other representatives from constituencies, and members of the financial industry who have accepted my invitation and are in attendance. Members of the financial industry are as follows: Jonathan Green and Christina Bodden from Maples; Amanda Bodden from Butterfield; Stacy Belnavis from Proven; James Bergstrom, Rachael Reynolds and Jennifer Fox, Ogier; Peter Small, PwC; Matthew

Stocker, Conyers and Dill; Wanda Mellaneo and Stephen Whittaker, KPMG; Jeffrey Short, Ernst & Young; Carolynn Vivian, Harneys; Richard Campbell and Richard Spencer, Campbells; Tracy Ebanks, Cayman Islands Development Bank; Ian Jamieson, Bedell Cristin; Sebastian Said, Appleby; and Sarah Lee Hobbs, Bank of Nova Scotia. I want to thank you all for accepting the invitation and if this is your first visit to this honourable Parliament, please do not make it your last. I look forward to seeing you in the future.

I will now call on the Members of Parliament to introduce their guests, starting with the Premier and I will call each person in turn. When the guests are introduced, would the guests please stand so that members of the media—who we hope are here—will have an opportunity to recognise them.

Honourable Premier.

**The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks:** Good afternoon again, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity. I think it is marvellous that you will allow this moment at this opening for us to recognise Caymanian citizens.

I am deeply honoured and have the great privilege that Sir John A. Cumber Primary School, West Bay is in the House. My two guests in particular, from the group, who are residents of West Bay South are: Miss Sophie Sahadeo, Year 6, who is a prefect—among other things. Sophie looks like her mother Ivy and I was easily able to pick her out from the group because she looks so much like her mother. In addition to her academic skills, she is also a lover of art. Thank you, Sophie. Keep your chin up, keep your spirits high, because the sky is the limit. Thank you, Sophie.

The second Year 6 prefect, who is also a West Bay South resident, is Roger Alvarado. Greetings, Roger. In addition to his academic ability, I understand he is an excellent goalkeeper—a position I could never play on the field. Thank you, Roger. Welcome to Parliament and the same message goes to you. As we look around the world and we see Caymanians striving in all sectors—regulatory, sports of all kinds, police helicopter pilots—you all should know you are the future and there is no limit once you apply yourselves. God bless you all and thank you for coming.

One quick word, Mr. Speaker, just to recognise those who are from financial services who attended—some of whom have gone back to do billing—

*[Laughter]*

**The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks:** —and we hope that they will bring in more registrations and fees; but for those who remained, thank you for staying with us. All of you in financial services continue to wave the flag and represent us well and uphold our economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism & Trade Development, Elected Member for George Town South:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I thank you very much for giving us this honour to recognise some of our many deserving Caymanians.

Unfortunately, one of mine has had to leave this honourable House, but I would like to have recognised him, William Norman Bodden. He was a prominent Caymanian public servant, an aviation and tourism leader, and a businessman who played a key role in shaping the modern Cayman society. He served 12 years in this elected office of Parliament [then Legislative Assembly] from 1980 to 1992, and was the first managing director of Cayman Airways from 1968 to 1980. He has been honoured with both MBE and OBE distinctions for his extensive contributions. Uncle Norman, as I affectionately refer to him, is a man of honour, respect, dignity and integrity and someone that I look up to and I wholeheartedly thank for the foundation that he's laid that everyone in this House can enjoy today.

*[Desk thumping]*

**Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier:** I would also like to welcome a young man, Josiah Estrella. This young man was seen at several of my meetings, around Windsor Park in George Town South and greater George Town. It is an honour to have this young man here with me today, Mr. Speaker. He will be graduating tomorrow from the Lighthouse School. He was born with a heart defect and had to have two open heart surgeries in Miami to correct an AV canal defect in his heart. Once his heart was fixed, he said he began to live a normal life. This young man has had challenges, but he continues to overlook [them]. As he wakes up each morning, he sings a song and most of the time, it's a song of praise and worship to his beloved Jesus Christ. He loves going to church and was baptised in 2023, and is an active member of Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier:** His mom is his hero and she believes in him and always tells him, *Josey, you can do it*. Josey, take it from me, you can do it. I am proud of you. Good luck tomorrow and continue to strive. God bless you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, Minister of Health, Environment and Sustainability.

**Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability, Elected Member for West Bay Central:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to just echo what my colleagues have just said in thanking you for this opportunity today. What a feel-good feeling, to

sit here and listen to us talk about our Caymanian people. I just want to say that I, too, was particularly happy to see Mr. Bodden in this honourable House today. I have a special connection with Mr. B. as well, as I worked for him, so I'm happy that we're doing this today.

Today, I am also acknowledging two students from Sir John A. Cumber Primary School. I have a young man by the name of Jaymar Morris. I think they're still here—there he is. He is the Deputy Head Boy and he has been nominated by his school because he is a hardworking, dependable student who never gives up—sounds like the people we have around here, resilient Caymanians. Next, a young lady by the name of Stephanie Hamilton. She is a prefect and she is committed to school. Hear how committed she is, Mr. Speaker. She has never missed one single day of school.

*[Applause and desk thumping]*

**Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks:** Thank you both for attending today, and I want to thank their teachers for accompanying them.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training, Elected Member for West Bay North:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I join voices with all of my colleagues, but to say that I had no doubt when you took up the Speakership, that you were going to deliver on something that you advocated for decades, which is to make the Parliament relevant to the citizens, and to bring life to the Parliament to ensure that people understand honour, and recognise this key component of our democracy, so I congratulate you for following through and coming straight out the gates and doing this very, very outstanding initiative.

It would be remiss of me if I did not join voices in saying how thrilled I was to see Mr. B. He was a client of mine for a long time, and during that time we got to forge a very, very special relationship and special friendship. The three young people who I have to introduce today are all coming from Sir John A. Cumber Primary School—a Good School.

Honesti Thompson Lamont. Honesti is a prefect; a very outstanding young lady, with a keen passion for art. Jonte Jennings. Jonte is the Deputy Head Boy, and he loves to face challenges head on (sounds like a future Member of Parliament); and last, but by no means least, Rubianna Stewart. Rubianna is in Year 2, so very much younger, but she is a very friendly and sociable student who absolutely enjoys spelling.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Johanna (*sic*) Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure, Elected Member for North Side:** All right, Mr. Speaker, I'll still stand up on the Ebanks side of that one.

*[Laughter]*

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to rise to say [it is] a wonderful privilege being here today and seeing so many people in the Gallery. In the four years I've been here, it's usually empty, and I'm hoping that we can see this more often.

I want to say a special thank you to our Head Girl and Head Boy from the Edna Moyle Primary School. As you would know, Miss Krystal Miller graduated recently. I cannot even remember how many trophies and certificates Miss Krystal got that night, but I was thinking to myself [that] I might need to get a wheelbarrow to help her carry everything outside, so I know you were a proud father to see that night. I'm honoured for all the hard work you have put in with her; if you continue to do that, I'm pretty sure we will have the same output as you sit in the Chair.

Also, Mr. Rashad Watler, who is Head Boy for the Edna Moyle Primary School. I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to recognise them both.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Isaac Rankine, Minister of Social Development and Innovation *and* Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Minister of Social Development & Innovation *and* Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage, Elected Member for East End:** Mr. Speaker, I'm beaming with pride here today, sir. It is a great privilege and honour to tell you about the two students we have here representing East End Primary & Nursery School.

The first one, Mr. Speaker, is Jameila Bodden, who is a bright and enthusiastic student with a deep love for school and learning. She's extremely athletic and is a respected leader amongst her peers. Jameila serves as a prefect and is on the Student Council as a Secretary—so she's getting a bit into politics, sir, at the school—but what I'm proud of, sir, she is my niece—love you, Jameila.

We also have Mr. Matthew Frederick. There is a saying that goes, "*Little but tallawah*". That's Matthew, sir. Matthew is a polite, eager learner who approaches all areas of school life with enthusiasm. He is a well-rounded student with a particular passion for mathematics. As a Student Council representative for Year 6, Matthew is also a role model for his classmates. Thank you, Matthew.

Well done, to both you and Jameila.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Nickolas DaCosta, Minister of District Administration and Home Affairs.

**Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, Minister of District Administration & Home Affairs, Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues before me, it certainly brings me great joy to welcome some of our youngest homegrown talent to Parliament. The homegrown talent I'm talking about is, of course, my Primary School students who didn't just drive around the corner; they flew in very early this morning, Mr. Speaker, just to be here today, so it's with immense pride that I get to introduce them.

Representing West End Primary School in Cayman Brac, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two outstanding students: Mr. Jaxon Whittaker and Miss Jacinda Brown-Ramdat.

Mr. Speaker, Jaxon is a polite, pleasant, and conscientious student who constantly strives for excellence. He applies himself diligently across all areas of learning and demonstrates a strong understanding of most subjects. As an elected member of the School Council and maybe in about 30 years, this honourable House, Jaxon willingly supported not only his classmates, but also students across his year group. He is trustworthy, responsible, and embraces the principle of being better today than he was yesterday.

Jacinda, Mr. Speaker, is a cheerful, inquisitive, and enthusiastic learner who radiates a love for learning. She actively seeks feedback and applies it constructively to improve her work. A former School Council representative as well, Jacinda listened attentively to the views of students across both Key Stages and advocated for them with care and maturity. She is especially kind and nurturing in her interactions with younger students in Key Stage 1 and exemplifies the West End Primary School's vision of continual self-improvement.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, to echo earlier sentiments, I want to commend and thank you for exercising your powers under the Standing Orders to establish this meaningful initiative. It is my hope that celebrating our Caymanian students becomes a cherished tradition of our honourable House; and in doing so, encouraging the development of future leaders from a very early age.

Jaxon and Jacinda, thank you so much for being here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Michael Myles, Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration.

**Hon. Michael S. Myles, Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration, Elected Member for Prospect:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for this honour.

Today, I want to recognise my mother because without her, I wouldn't be here. While she's not here, she's really been the driving force behind me for my 51 years and I want to salute her today because I represent the Myles clan, the McField clan, the Chisholm clan, and the Bodden clan; and it's a tall task for me to be here.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. Michael S. Myles:** Not Rankine, sorry.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognise several people. One [whom] I would say is the foundation of my life as well is my lovely wife, Jackie. I want to recognise her today because she has also been the foundation of everything that we've accomplished over the last 15 years as a mother, a wife, daughter, and certainly a confidant. We have not got to best friend just yet, but we're working on it. That's in the works but, Jackie, you've been my world. Thank you for being here.

I'd also like to recommend a gentleman who walked into my life about seven months ago, Mr. Dan Scott, who is the Chairman of the Cayman Islands National Party. I'd like to recognise Mr. Scott, who's been a driving force behind what we've accomplished in the last seven to eight months. He's been a friend and confidant and is quickly becoming one of my favourite people to speak with and a mentor of mine. Thank you, Dan, I appreciate you being here.

Mr. Speaker, I'd now like to recognise two wonderful students from Prospect Primary. Today, I had the opportunity to meet Ashton Warren, who's the Head Boy of Prospect Primary. As I met Ashton, he shook my hand and it felt like I was shaking my hand, because I have a pretty strong handshake. Ashton, you are going to do really great things—please keep that wonderful handshake.

Mr. Speaker, Ashton is a Year 6 [student] of Prospect Primary School and, based on what I was made to understand, he is quite a bright young man who has a wonderful future ahead of him. As a Year 6 student, Ashton is transitioning to a big school, hopefully in September. Thank you, Ashton, for being here.

My next guest is Shemiya Crawford. Shemiya is the Head Girl of Prospect Primary School and she's in Year 6. Based on what I was made to understand from the school, she is also quite a bright young lady and has a wonderful future ahead of her. Shemiya, thank you for being here, and I appreciate your mom bringing you guys. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the time.

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** Mrs. Julie Hunter, Elected Member for West Bay West.

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

Good afternoon, everyone. It is my distinct privilege to continue to introduce our Sir John A. Cumber Primary School students—I must say that [I am a] very proud, proud West Bayer as you know.

Simon Rivers Jr. is our Head Boy this year. Simon loves to play American football. Something that stood out to me about Simon was that I was privileged to see their *The Little Mermaid* play about two weeks ago, and I was just blown away by their performance. Both students, right. Simon just took everyone by storm. I went out after, and told everyone I could find about the play, and for the three nights, the place was jam packed. It was just awesome—so Simon, thank you for all that you are doing. You're a wonderful, wonderful example, and I know you're going to continue to excel.

We also have Jahnessa Bodden, who is our Sir John A. Cumber School's Head Girl, and she also enjoys playing football. She's an excellent actress as well; she was also in the play, and they did a phenomenal job. I'm just so very, very proud of them and I know that as they transition to High School they're going to continue to make us proud as West Bayers, so thank you, again.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognise the fact that they were accompanied by Ms. Franklin, Head of Year 6, and Ms. Cooper, Acting Deputy Principal.

*[Applause]*

**Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter:** Thank you for taking the time to bring them and for all that you do for our students and, by extension, us as citizens. Thank you.

I want to continue to echo the fact that you've given us this awesome privilege, Mr. Speaker. I think this is probably the first time this has been done. It took me into adulthood to get into the Chamber, so I'm just happy that these students could make it at such a young age. We gotta “big you up” for that, as we would say.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Ms. Heather Bodden, Elected Member for Savannah.

**Ms. Heather D. Bodden, Elected Member for Savannah:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I consider this a great honour as well.

Joining us today are two students from the Joanna Clarke Primary School, Head Boy Jonathan Barrett—thank you, Jonathan; and Head Girl Lily Bennett. Thank you both for being here. These two students were the MCs (Masters of Ceremony) at the recent school leaving exercise. They did a smashing job with

their MC duties and now they're heading off to big boys' and big girls' school in August, at Clifton Hunter High School.

I want to say to Jonathan and Lily: welcome to Parliament, and thank you for being here. I thank your parents and teachers for accompanying you. Have a good one.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Honourable G. Wayne Panton, Elected Member for Newlands.

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton, Elected Member for Newlands:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I join with colleagues in this House in giving a warm welcome to all of our guests as you noted earlier, sir.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to recognise someone who probably needs no introduction lately because he's had quite a bit, but it is my honour and my privilege to acknowledge the presence of Captain Darren McLean from the Royal Cayman Islands Police Helicopter Service.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Mr. Speaker, in 2003, Captain Darren was the Head Boy at the then Savannah Primary School, now Joanna Clarke Primary School. I think that's the order of it.

I thought it would be a great example for all the wonderful young people here, particularly those who are serving as prefects now, to see the product of determination and perseverance. To see what they can achieve as young Caymanians. To reflect Caymanian excellence, and the achievements that are possible from working hard. This is a young man, Mr. Speaker, who exemplifies hard work and achievement.

I also want to acknowledge his parents Darwin, better known to us as Buster, and Gwenda, two parents who have been involved in his life and, I think many of us will recognise, have been a driving force, combined with his own skills and his own level of determination and ability, to have him here today as the Cayman Islands' first helicopter pilot with the Royal Cayman Islands Police [Service]. You have our respect, sir, and thank you for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I would also mention Mr. Deshawn Whittaker. His grandparents are from, well, what we would call Newlands, originally, but nowadays is kind of on the border. It's more Savannah than Newlands technically, in terms of the elections law; but Mr. Speaker, this young man also represents excellence and hard work in our country's young people. Most recently he is well-known for being the virtual wall in the goal for the Cayman Islands game against Honduras, I think it was?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Minister, you can correct me if I get anything wrong. He did such a great job. I can't quite see him right now; if he's here, I think he's somewhere behind the wall there, but he is—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Is he standing? I don't know.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this young man kept the score down to just one - love for Honduras. There he is, sir.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Hon. G. Wayne Panton:** He made eight amazing saves, and it was only bad luck that led us to that "own goal", I believe.

Sir, thank you; continue to shine and continue to develop as well. I hope one day we'll see you on a World Cup Cayman Islands squad as Goalkeeper.

Thank you.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Not to bypass Official Members, but they know that their turn will come on Friday.

Leader of the Opposition, I wish to ask for your indulgence to let me call Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly prior to calling your name because the students from Cayman Brac have to catch a flight. Thank you very much.

Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly.

**Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon to all, and thanks to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his indulgence in acquiescing for me to break rank so that I could, with great pride and joy, take this wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and welcome to this esteemed House of Parliament our two distinguished students from Cayman Brac East—Creek and Spot Bay Primary School, Benjamin McDonald and Isabella Brown. Thank you for standing. I see that you're very active and observant; before I could ask you to stand, you already had.

I want to say that the entire Cayman Brac and by extension Little Cayman, are proud of these two students as well as Ms. Chelsea's son and the student who stood before, whom Nickolas invited from West End. We take what we have and we work with it, and when we get what we want, we work with it even more. These students are top academic students, but they're [also] well-rounded students. If persons were to see all the accolades and awards they got at the Awards Ceremony just last week... It was, indeed, commendable. I wish them a safe flight.

It's important for them to come to Parliament, so I want to go on record to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this brilliant idea. I know you are a very strong, avid, formidable advocate of participatory democracy, and this is actually a prime example of it. It gives them the opportunity to see what the Cayman Brac representatives have to endure and go through—the resilience in that we have 90 miles separating us, not counting the distance from East End to George Town—especially now, when we have inclement weather and waiting [because of] cancellation of flights. Being a representative for Cayman Brac East and Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman takes a special type of individual, so it helps to have a mixture, not just an academic intelligence capacity, but to have God as a central force.

I thank you as well as your escort, Ms. Carla Smith. Their Principal, Mrs. [Margaret] Juman, was unable to come but to her and Ms. Tammy, and all the parents and guardians and teachers there, may I take the liberty to convey, on behalf of this entire Parliament, our sincere gratitude and appreciation to you and our educators who do a sterling job in educating all of our students.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity,

**The Speaker:** Honourable Joseph Hew, 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 join the chorus in saying how wonderful it is to see so many persons here—young people, civil servants, families, and also we have a number of past Parliamentarians here, or Members of the Legislative Assembly as they were known then.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and the Deputy Leader, Mr. Kenneth Bryan, to introduce a couple of kids from the Marie Martin Primary School, known to us as George Town Primary. [It is] nestled right in the centre of George Town, hidden behind the Annex Football Field, on the border of our constituencies, often forgotten about, but what a powerful school. A school made up of dedicated teachers and even more dedicated parents.

A few weeks back I attended an Awards Ceremony for parents who were involved in the school on a daily basis not just with their kids but with the school overall. Amazing stories of persons driving people around; of handymen fixing things around the school [and] even of parents caring for kids who needed care in their homes. What was most amazing for me that evening was the number of men who received awards for their interaction and their dedication to the school.

Mr. Speaker, two students are with us today, and it was very difficult to choose because the school is filled with amazing students.

The first is Miss Tahery Powell. An enthusiastic Head Girl for Year 6, she's a passionate athlete with a

strong love for Track and Field, and she brings the same energy and determination to all areas of school life. Actively involved in cricket, netball, and the NCFA (National Children's Festival of the Arts) choir, she balances her wide range of interests with impressive academic performance. Her respectful nature, positive attitude, and ability to connect easily with both peers and teachers make her a valued member of our school community. A natural role model, she leads with quiet confidence and a genuine sense of responsibility.

Thank you so much for joining us today, Tahery Powell.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the second student with us today.

Mr. JaDon McMahon, our dedicated Head Boy for Year 6. JaDon is a natural leader who brings energy and thoughtfulness to our school community. Known for his articulate communication and problem-solving abilities, he actively participates in various school activities and consistently shares insightful ideas during class discussions. His peers look up to him not only for his leadership qualities, but also for his respectful demeanour.

Outside of his academic pursuits, JaDon is passionate about football and has achieved significant progress in Taekwondo—so don't mess with him. This demonstrates his commitment to both mental and physical discipline. Thank you for joining us, JaDon.

Mr. Speaker, as school is probably over right now, I have to also recognise one of the dedicated members of the Marie Martin Primary School faculty for taking time out and making the effort to bring the students here, so I'd like to thank the Deputy Principal Ms. Erica Greenidge Daniel for accompanying the kids and spending the afternoon with us.

Thank you.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I want to say thank you to my Honourable Leader as well, for speaking on behalf of both of us because we share a Primary School in [the] spirit of this wonderful ceremony that you constructed in your first steps and efforts as Speaker of this honourable House. I think we're going to have an amazing four years.

Mr. Speaker, in light of him highlighting those two amazing students from George Town Primary, whom we are so proud of, I thought I would take up a

couple of minutes' opportunity to go a little further than that.

You see, Mr. Speaker, it's hurricane season, but it's also the season for graduations, and so I want to take this opportunity to tell every child across the three Cayman Islands who is taking that journey to another platform of education—whether it be graduating from preschool to primary, from primary to high, from high to tertiary or from tertiary to your doctorate and so forth—I want to say that the country is depending on you. As you know, we are going through a transition of a very sensitive topic called immigration, and we need every single Caymanian to work extra hard because we are depending on you. We need leaders for the future. We need doctors, lawyers, scientists—all the roles that need to be played and it depends on you, so the weight is on your shoulders.

Mr. Speaker, I also don't want to limit this just to the government [public] schools. We have private schools—Triple C, [Cayman] Prep, Catholic, Seventh-day Adventist, and the list goes on. We have amazing parents who home-school their children, who may not have the opportunity to be recognised here today, but we want you to know that we recognise you for the hard work that you do.

Mr. Speaker, in wrapping up, I want to take the personal opportunity to congratulate my amazing first child, Renée Bryan, who graduated on Friday—I'm the proudest father in the world. Also, to [congratulate] my best friend, Edlyn Moore whose son, most of you know, graduated from George Town Primary as well. Unfortunately, we were here for Public Accounts Committee so I missed it. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Adean Moore as he moves on to High School.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to contribute.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Pearlina McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for George Town West.

**Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for George Town West:** Mr. Speaker, thank you so much for this opportunity. It surely does warm my heart to introduce two students from John Gray High School.

Leah Warren: Leah, is a prefect at John Gray High School. She had Grades 1 in EDM (Electronic Document Management), Mathematics, Principles of Business, English Language, Office Administration, Physical Education and Communication Studies. She has two subjects at grade 2—English Literature and Social Studies. This month she completed an additional seven subjects, six subjects at GSEC (*sic*) level and one at the CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination) level.

Leah is also a Microsoft Office expert and has served as President of the school's Junior Optimist Club through to Year 11, and planned and executed a 3K which raised over \$400 for Down Syndrome in the Cayman Islands. She served as Secretary of the club in Year 10. She has also represented John Gray in several debate competitions earning many awards, two of which being the top team and the debater in the Novice Division. She has earned 100 volunteer hours representing the school and assisting at sport, school and club levels.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen: Leah Warren.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker:** The next student is Isaiah Myles.

Isaiah is currently in Year 11 and has recently completed the sitting of external examinations in eight subjects which include Physics, Biology, Human and Social Biology, Geography, Information Technology, Caribbean Studies, Additional Mathematics. He has completed a total of fourteen subjects throughout his time at John Gray High School, with others including Mathematics, English Literature, Electronic Document Preparation, and Management Principle of Business, Physical Education and Communication Studies.

At John Gray he is one of two Deputy Head Boys. He's also a lead mentor and is currently Captain of the John Gray High School Robotics Team where he was granted the opportunity to represent John Gray and the Cayman Islands at the FIRST Global Challenge in Singapore, an international competition where countries from across the world come together and develop creative ideas and solutions to problems faced around the world through the use of robotics. He is a gold swimmer of Seven Mile Swimmers, swimming in both local and international events.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, Isaiah Myles is the son of the late Judiann Myles. Please give him a warm welcome to Parliament.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Mr. Roy Tatum, Elected Member for Red Bay.

**Mr. A. Roy Tatum, Elected Member for Red Bay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would also join in saying thanks for this opportunity. It really is good to see so many people, and so many young people, in the Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to recognise Sha'Hannah Lauder and Kevahni Hill, Head Girl and Head Boy of Red Bay Primary respectively. Two fantastic young people accompanied by their parents whom I would invite to rise also, if they wish.

Mr. Speaker, these two students exemplify the school's motto of integrity, compassion, and excellence, and they are true ambassadors of their school and serve to show that our future is indeed bright. Mr. Speaker, I also found out today that they are first cousins, which I think is even more remarkable.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Mr. A. Roy Tatum, Elected Member for Red Bay:** Sorry, a bit of nerves there, sorry.

Reviewing the biography provided by the Principal, Doctor Ryan Dale, I note the following: Sha'Hannah leads with quiet strength and unwavering purpose. Grounded in integrity, compassion, and a relentless drive for excellence, her achievements span academics, science, athletics, and the performing arts. She has represented her school with distinction both on the sports field and on the stage. Her Principal noted that Sha'Hannah stands as a proud ambassador of Red Bay Primary School, and a shining example of what it means to lead with heart, serve with purpose, and strive for excellence.

Kevahni is equally impressive; a natural leader whose warmth, faith, and dedication shine through everything he does. He is a top academic performer, a gifted athlete involved in the arts, and a respected, grounded, young man admired by peers and teachers alike. He competes in various sports and has also proudly carried our flag overseas. His Principal noted that with a vision for unity, growth, and student empowerment, Kevahni is leading Red Bay Primary into a bright future marked by service, strength, and pride.

Mr. Speaker, both Sha'Hannah and Kevahni have helped champion initiatives that have uplifted their school community and inspired their fellow students. The accomplishments of these young people are not only a reflection of their own determination, but of the incredible staff at Red Bay Primary School and the families who have nurtured and supported them every step of the way. I commend their parents for instilling the values of discipline, service, and faith. In honouring these two young people, we also honour Red Bay Primary and every student striving to do their best.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most joyous occasions I've had in the short time I've been elected was attending the graduation service at Red Bay Primary School, so congratulations to Sha'Hannah and Kevahni; and congrats to your parents and to Red Bay Primary.

Thank you, sir.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**The Speaker:** Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Elected Member for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Elected Member for Bodden Town East:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone today.

I am extremely proud to represent my alma mater—what we knew as the Bodden Town Primary, now renamed the Theoline McCoy Primary School. Unfortunately, the school leaving ceremony for Theoline McCoy Primary School is happening right now, at the same time as our Parliament's State Opening, so I extend apologies, Mr. Speaker. I hope to break at some point to visit them today. I am so proud of the usual busing of students to and fro Pedro and Red Bay; so grateful to these churches for allowing us to utilise their premises, but at this time we just walk down the hall.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the former Government, and especially the representative of Cayman Brac East, the former Minister of Education, who believed in the mission. I also want to recognise the former Speaker of the House, Ms. Mary Lawrence, whom I nominated to be Speaker; I thank her for coming today. I also want to recognise my aunt, former representative for George Town, Ms. Lucille Seymour, soon to be Doctor and one of the reasons I chose politics—she didn't even know that.

The Savannah Primary as we knew it then, now the Joanna Clarke Primary School—I was so jealous to learn that they actually christened the new hall in Bodden Town at the Theoline McCoy Primary School, now the Francine Gardner Hall, and at the same time I'm proud to have been able to house their graduation there last week. No malice, Member for Savannah; we were glad to help. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for helping us work out all the kinks in the new building.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for this gesture under your power. It's much appreciated, and we need to do much more of it. I've been an advocate of Youth Parliament held annually to be taken more seriously and having it form part of our discussions for policy and law. Many can remember that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing us to recognise children; so often, children of this country feel like they're not put at the forefront, so I thank you for putting them at the forefront today.

*[Desk thumping and applause]*

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you to the people of Bodden Town East, and thank you to my committee. I want to say to all the students here today: the work doesn't start when you get in the classroom. Do a little bit at home also; some of us thought we could pass exams so easily we didn't even have to study... until it got harder. I'm telling you, I'm proof.

God bless you all.

**The Speaker:** I have the distinct honour and privilege to read for the two students from the Lighthouse School.

The first one is Naelani [Clarke], a compassionate and dedicated student leader who consistently

goes above and beyond to support her peers. Her attentiveness to the needs of others and her willingness to listen and help, have made a lasting impact within the school community. She leads with heart, setting an example of kindness, empathy, and true leadership.

Kaydon [Bush], the second student, is an aspiring student leader who has shown remarkable growth in both his academics and self-regulation. His commitment to personal improvement and positive attitude reflect his potential to inspire others. With combined focus and determination, he is well on his way to becoming a strong and impactful leader.

I express apologies from the Bodden Town West Independent Member, Mr. Christopher Saunders, who unfortunately is off the island attending his father-in-law's funeral, so he has asked me to read about the two persons he wishes to honour today.

The first one is Josie Welcome. *Over the years, Ms. Welcome has exemplified the true spirit of community service through her unwavering dedication to numerous causes across the Cayman Islands. Her tireless volunteer efforts span a wide range of areas, from civic engagement to faith-based initiatives, each marked by humility, compassion, and a sincere desire to uplift others.*

*She showed this commitment to volunteerism all while raising her daughter as a single mother, attending school part-time, and dedicating 42 years to the civil service. When Josie retired from the civil service in 2016, she had completed her schooling and attained an Accounting certification. Growing professionally each year, and leaving the service at a Deputy CFO (Chief Financial Officer) level, she utilised the certification she gained to assist in professional areas, acting as Treasurer for many communities, and assisting her church with financial functions when the role was vacant.*

*Josie's longstanding commitment to the Cayman Islands Civil Service Credit Union and the Elections Office speaks to her sense of civic responsibility and her willingness to serve quietly but effectively, behind the scenes; however, it is within her faith community that Josie's contributions have truly shown. As a devoted Member of the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, specifically the church located in Savannah, Josie has been a steadfast presence. Always ready to lend a helping hand, she has served on numerous church committees whose outreach efforts extend far beyond the sanctuary walls, impacting individuals and families throughout the surrounding districts.*

*For many years, she has volunteered for Vacation Bible School, nurturing and guiding the spiritual development of children with warmth and dedication. She also supports senior citizen programmes in multiple districts, particularly in East End and Bodden Town, ensuring the elderly are celebrated, cared for, and never forgotten.*

Most recently, Josie was once again found doing what she does best—serving with quiet grace at the church's Mission House, a haven for young patients and their families who travel to the island for critical heart surgeries not available in their home countries. From cleaning and preparing the home to sourcing clothing, groceries, and other essential items, Josie provides both practical assistance and heartfelt comfort. This last weekend, in a touching gesture of kindness, she helped organise a birthday celebration for one of the visiting family members, transforming a difficult time into a moment of joy and belonging.

Josie Welcome's compassion and dedication continue to touch countless lives. Her service is not motivated by recognition, but by a genuine love for her community and an unwavering commitment to faith in action. She is, without question, a treasured pillar of the community whose legacy of kindness will be felt for generations to come.

The second person is Marjorie Scott. Ms. Scott began her teaching career as an English teacher at Kingston College in 1977 after graduating from the Mico Teachers College in Jamaica. As newlyweds, Marjorie and her husband Anthony Scott relocated to where his family was originally from, the Cayman Islands, at the end of the 1979 academic year. She secured a position at Cayman Islands High School, where she continued to teach English. A year later, she moved to the newly-opened Cayman Islands Middle School, where she added Religious Education and Social Studies to her teaching portfolio. She always, however, was very involved with sports days and sports in general for her House Teams, as sports was also a passion of hers.

After 14 years of working in the English Department, Marjorie was presented with an opportunity for a career change. Due to a shortage of Physical Education (PE) teachers at the Primary School level at the time, Mrs. Scott made the decision to change not only age groups, from High School to Primary School, but to change her teaching focus from English to another passion, Physical Education. To date, she has never looked back.

In 1993, Mrs. Scott was assigned to the newly opened Red Bay Primary School where she spent fourteen years in their Physical Education Department. During her tenure as physical education teacher, Red Bay Primary earned the title of Champion Primary School in PE. Their excellence in sports was evident in their achievements in Athletics, Basketball, girls' Football and Netball. After two years of service at Sir John A. Cumber Primary, and two years at Savannah Primary School, Mrs. Scott was transferred to Prospect Primary in 2011, where she created a robust Physical Education Programme that included six focused sports.

Mrs. Scott continued to use her skills to train and develop students in various sports, some of whom may have represented the Cayman Islands on a global stage. As a PE teacher, Marjorie addressed both the

physical and emotional needs of her students. Although it wasn't part of her description, she always showed extra care by ensuring that her students were well-fed, particularly when they were required to remain after school for practice, often going the extra mile to cook and provide meals and snacks. She was more than a teacher; she was a mentor, a mother and a motivator. Examples of her excellence are demonstrated through her results.

Mrs. Scott has worked at every primary school in Grand Cayman, including the middle school. She has devoted over forty years of outstanding service to the children of the Cayman Islands, many of whom have gone on to excel in their careers as politicians, doctors, lawyers and engineers. Her dedication and teaching are supported by her wonderful family, in particular her children Shomari and Makenna, who have followed in Marjorie's footsteps with their involvement in basketball coaching. She left an indelible mark in the development of sports education in the Cayman Islands.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome [former] Madam Speaker, Hon. Mary Lawrence to the Chambers, and former MP Ms. Lucille Seymour. Glad to have you all. Very good supporter of mine back in the day. I believe that Ms. Janet Hislop was [also] here and I'm going to take the profound leap and assume that she was representing Cayman National Bank.

Thank you all. Thank you, MPs, for spending the time and effort to honour these wonderful children and we look forward to finding a way to constantly promote, support, and celebrate Caymanian children, middle-aged people, teenagers, old people. There are too many negative things going on in our community, and we need to find positive ways like this to lift up our community.

Thank you all, very much.

[Desk thumping and applause]

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

**The Speaker:** None.

## PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

**The Health Insurance Commission Annual Report 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - Health Insurance Commission in Review – Issue No 16**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Health, Environment and Sustainability.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to lay the Health Insurance Commission Annual Report, 2023.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

**Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**Ministry of Youth, Sports & Heritage - Cayman Islands Government – 2024 Annual Report – Preserve our Past. Strengthen our Future.**

**The Speaker:** Minister of Social Development & Innovation and Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 44(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision), it is my honour to lay before this honourable House the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Heritage for the Fiscal Year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Briefly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Heritage, now known as the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage is responsible for providing strategic and policy direction, advice, funding, and governance support to its departments, units and statutory authorities. The departments, units and statutory authorities under the Ministry in 2024, were:

- The Youth Services Unit,
- The Department of Sports,
- The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands; and
- The Cayman Islands Museum.

[With] the subject of culture back under the remit of the Ministry, we also welcomed back the National Cultural Foundation to the Minister's Portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry has four priorities that are the foundation of its work and the driving forces behind its initiatives. These are talent identification and development; enhancing and empowering our youth; awareness and preservation of culture and heritage; and promoting an active and healthy lifestyle for all.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministry received an unqualified opinion from the Auditor General on its financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024. I also wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the Chief Officer Ms. Echénique, the Deputies, heads of departments, and the entire team of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage. Through their hard work, professionalism and passion, the Ministry's team has delivered meaningful outcomes and made a significant impact across our subject areas.

I invite all Members of this House and the listening public to review the report, to learn more about the Ministry's work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**Ministry of Home Affairs - Cayman Islands Government - 2024 Annual Report – For the Period: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of District Administration and Home Affairs.

**Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 52(8) (*sic*) of the Public Management and Finance Act, I'm pleased to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report for the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

**Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, very succinctly.

Mr. Speaker, this report outlines the Ministry's achievements in enhancing public safety, modernising infrastructure, and strengthening offender management and rehabilitation efforts aligned with the government's wider priorities of national resilience and improved quality of life.

In 2024, the Ministry was responsible for providing policy direction and monitoring the overall performance of its then six departments. Key highlights from the report, Mr. Speaker, include:

- Enhanced information sharing and collaboration formalised in the first-ever joint offender management MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed by the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, the Prison Service, and the Department of Community Rehabilitation;
- Strengthening of prison security and offender management, including the establishment of an Operational Analytics Unit;
- Advancement of prisoner rehabilitation efforts, including design planning for a modern facility and implementation of wellness programmes;
- Expansion of the national CCTV network with over 100 high-definition cameras and new data analysis tools to enhance law enforcement capabilities;
- A new cross-agency partnership between the Coast Guard, Fire Service and Cadet Corps [which] saw the launch of the Sea

Cadets and Fire Cadets, which aims to establish career pathways for young Caymanians within the public safety and uniformed service industry; and

- The introduction of the Ministry's Emerging Leaders Programme to promote excellence and succession planning amongst our ranks. Seven graduates of the first cohort were recognised at the inaugural Frontline Employee Event.

Mr. Speaker, the Annual Report is self-explanatory and provides further detail on these initiatives as well as the Ministry's strategic directive for 2025 which includes a focus on enhancing border security of all three Islands, people development, partnerships, service excellence and intelligence-led public safety.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, and most importantly, I extend my sincere thanks to the ministries, departments and leadership for their dedication and for achieving an unqualified audit opinion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

#### **Ministry of Finance and Economic Development - Cayman Islands Government – Annual Report 2024**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on [the Table of] this honourable House the Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, just a few brief remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Ministry for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024. Unqualified opinion signifies that the information contained in the financial statements is accurate and can be relied upon.

As shown on page 12 of the annual report during the 12-month period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, the Ministry comprised 90 staff members of which 84 per cent were Caymanian, 61 per cent were female, and the majority of staff were 46 years or older.

Mr. Speaker, some of the Ministry's key events and achievements during the financial year included—

- Processing 720 requests for waiver of stamp and import duties at a value of \$8.6 million;

- Conducting public procurement related training sessions of over 275 attendees;
- Establishing a procurement concerns reporting mechanism to allow for anonymous reporting of procurement concerns, both internally and externally;
- Generating \$28.9 million in investment revenue from government's investment portfolio; and
- Managing the health insurance benefit of 1,002 seafarers, veterans and their dependents.

On pages 52-57 of the Annual Report, the Statement of Executive Financial Transactions show that on behalf of the Cabinet, the Ministry collected \$30.5 million in executive revenue, of which \$1 million is under budget. The Ministry also incurred \$65.1 million in executive expenses which were \$7.1 million below budget. Some of the reasons that contributed towards the overall underachievement of the executive financial transactions were:

1. Cruise ship departure tax was under budget by \$1.6 million due to a decline in cruise ship arrivals.
2. Property insurance stamp duty was over budget by \$1.7 million due to an active real estate market; and
3. The general insurance was under budget by \$1.7 million. While an increase has been noted in the premiums, it was not as high as anticipated during the budgeting process.

Mr. Speaker, the Statement of Financial Position on page six of the report shows that the Ministry ended its financial period with \$15.6 million in total assets. Of this amount, \$12.6 [million] (81 per cent) comprises cash and cash equivalents which include cash on hand, cash in-transit, bank accounts [and investments] with a maturity of not more than three months from the date of acquisition. Total liabilities amounted to \$1.3 million, the majority of which comprises \$0.9 million of other payables and accruals. Net assets, which are total assets less total liabilities, amounted to \$14.3 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Statement of Financial Performance on page seven of the report shows that the Ministry earned \$12.5 million in operating revenue for the year. Almost all of this revenue was earned from the delivery of outputs to Cabinet. The Ministry incurred the same amount of operating expenses (\$12.5 million) during the 2024 Financial Year of which \$9.9 million (79 per cent) comprised personnel costs. The Ministry ended the 2024 Financial Year in a breakeven position.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff and management of the Ministry for their hard work during the 2024 Financial Year and I look forward to future successes in years to come.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**CINICO Annual Report 2024 – Fiscal year ended  
31 December 2024**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of Parliament the Annual Report of the Cayman Islands National Insurance Company, which is commonly referred to as CINICO, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, just to offer a few brief remarks to this honourable Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of CINICO for the 2024 year. During the 12-month period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, CINICO employed 54 staff members of which six were at a senior management level. By the end of 2024, CINICO insured 18,434 persons which represented a two per cent increase from the prior year. The civil servants and pensioners segments realised the largest increases over the prior year with growth rates of five and six per cent respectively.

Mr. Speaker, during 2024, CINICO implemented a number of expansion programmes as part of its strategic growth and modernisation efforts. Firstly, CINICO completed its brand refresh which included the introduction of a new logo and website. The brand refresh brings an improved corporate image and enhanced customer engagement through modernised branding and communication tools.

Mr. Speaker, in 2024, CINICO consolidated all of its Grand Cayman operations and moved into a new state of the art office on Elgin Avenue. Consolidated operations improved the staff's work environment and provided a more efficient and unified customer experience.

Thirdly, CINICO also launched an online portal for claims and submissions which streamlined the processing of claims and improved customer convenience. Finally, Mr. Speaker, CINICO introduced a motor insurance plan in March 2024, followed by home insurance in August 2024. The expansion into property and casualty insurance brings a number of benefits including—

1. Addressing the insurance gap caused by reduced reinsurance capacity in the Caribbean;
2. Providing a safety net for residents who are unable to secure adequate coverage; and

3. Introducing a parametric insurance feature which offers pay-outs based on storm proximity and wind speed even without structural damage and covers incidental costs, such as groceries and supplies.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 CINICO had just over 300 policyholders for home and property insurance.

Mr. Speaker, financially, CINICO continues to demonstrate resilience and stability, further strengthening its foundation for sustainable growth. For the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, CINICO earned a surplus of \$3.1 million compared to the prior year surplus of \$8.4 million. Also, CINICO ended 2024 with \$70.7 million in assets and \$17.7 million in liabilities, demonstrating that the Company has ample assets to cover its financial obligations.

Mr. Speaker, the Government wishes to express its gratitude to CINICO and its board of directors for their assistance and support during the period under review.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**Portfolio of the Civil Service - Cayman Islands  
Government – Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024  
(30 April 2025)**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Governor responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service (PoCS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the report?

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

I'm pleased to report that for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, the Portfolio of the Civil Service has yet again received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General signifying that the Portfolio's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Portfolio for the stated period.

Mr. Speaker, the Portfolio of the Civil Service has three strategic areas of delivery: human resource policy, public sector reform and good governance. The Portfolio comprises the Office of the Deputy Governor, the Policy Support Unit, the Civil Service College, the Management Support Unit, Strategic and Corporate

HR, the National Archives, the Commission Secretariat, the Internal Audit Service, the Elections Office, the Office of Education Standards, and the Passport and Corporate Services Office.

Mr. Speaker, in 2024, the Portfolio of the Civil Service continued leading and supporting strands of work and bespoke programmes to modernise the civil service and move the needle towards our vision of becoming a world-class organisation. A major undertaking of the Portfolio involved leading the development and implementation of the 2024-2026 Civil Service Strategic Plan—the successive strategy to the initial civil service five-year strategic plan.

The strategic plan was launched in Grand Cayman in April 2024 and launched in Cayman Brac in May 2024. The strategy tagline, *Our Journey to World-Class: Building on a Solid Foundation*, acknowledges the significant progress made under the preceding five-year strategic plan, while simultaneously setting out additional plans and initiatives through the end of 2026. The 2024-2026 Civil Service Strategic Plan has maintained the five previous goals established under the original five-year strategic plan; however, it importantly introduced a sixth goal, focused entirely on accountability.

The new accountability goal recognises the importance of the civil service being accountable to the Government and people of the Cayman Islands. This new goal will ensure that every Ministry, Portfolio, Department and individual demonstrate a firm commitment to delivering world-class results, while consistently upholding the civil service values and code of conduct.

To support the new strategic goal to create a culture of accountability, the work carried out by the newly established Disciplinary Review Committee laid the foundation for modernisation and strengthening of accountability and fairness. This will primarily be achieved through amendments to the disciplinary provisions within the Personnel Regulations. Following the groundwork that was completed in 2024, the PoCS is now well poised to deliver the required reforms in 2025, which will streamline, modernise and simplify the disciplinary process within the civil service.

Mr. Speaker, in March 2024, the Portfolio policy team made the lives of civil servant parents better by facilitating legislative reforms that significantly enhance parental leave benefits. The amendments brought by the policy team increased civil service maternity leave from 90 to 110 working days and doubled the paid portion of maternity leave, taking it from 30 to 60 working days. Civil service fathers saw their leave entitlement increased from two weeks to four weeks and the paid portion of their paternity leave increased from one week to two weeks paid leave. These amendments made the CIG family packages highly competitive, further reinforced our commitment to being an em-

ployer of choice, and ensured that our workforce is supported in balancing professional obligations and family life.

Also during the year, Mr. Speaker, the PoCS made significant strides in modernising the government's HR systems, including launching within my-VISTA, CIG's payroll functions for the Parliamentary Management Commission and wider Civil Service. Later in the year, PoCS launched a new HR resource centre within my-VISTA—a repository of HR specific news, calendar events, laws and policies to bolster HR ability and to support our customers throughout the civil service.

Mr. Speaker, for the eighth consecutive year, the Portfolio of the Civil Service conducted our annual employment engagement survey which yielded responses from 3,969 employees, approximately 85 per cent of all civil servants. Notably, this is the highest participation rate recorded since the survey was launched in 2017. As per the 2024 results, the engagement index, which is a measure of the average level of engagement across all civil service entities, held steady at 73 per cent for the fourth consecutive year.

Mr. Speaker, notably the score for the survey statement “I feel proud to be a civil servant” climbed to 90 per cent, representing a 2 per cent increase compared to the year before. Now, Mr. Speaker, this score in particular creates a tremendous sense of joy for me, as it is heartening to know that the vast majority of civil servants, despite all of what is said in the press and on the Marl Road about civil servants, they still feel proud to be a civil servant. We should be very, very happy about that.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** As it relates to continuing education and lifelong learning, the Civil Service College continues to assist with upskilling employees, with over 200 civil servants achieving internationally recognised City & Guilds ILM qualifications in leadership and management, from Level 2 to Level 7. Additional civil servants completed 5,000 individual LinkedIn Learning courses, reflecting over 6,500 hours of online learning. Also, during the year, the Civil Service College launched their scholarship programme, a framework developed to provide eligible Caymanian scholarship applicants with financial support and internal guidance to pursue a degree to Master's level. Civil Service Online, a learning management system, was also launched allowing for increased access to quality learning, better reporting and improved insights on skill development opportunities for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also very proud to say that in 2024 the civil service welcomed over 130 Caymanian interns. That programme is very near and dear to me as well, as I started in the civil service as an intern, and it is my goal to ensure that as many Caymanians as

possible are able to enter the civil service through the internship programme and hopefully remain with us throughout their working life. I know, Mr. Speaker, you have invited the interns down here on Friday and sir, I cannot thank you enough for that gesture. We're going to make sure that we fill the seats upstairs with our interns; so Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for that.

Mr. Speaker, continuing on the topic of education, in January 2024, the Office of Education Standards (OES) deployed the newly developed Early Childhood Inspection Framework for the first time on the inspections of early childhood settings. Copies of the new inspection framework were distributed to all early childhood centres and schools with reception/kindergarten classes. Additionally, the OES team, alongside two international inspectors, successfully piloted a risk-based approach to school inspections. This approach prioritises resources and attention on higher risk institutions based on educational quality, regulatory compliance and overall performance.

Mr. Speaker, just allow me to deviate for one minute to congratulate Sir John A. Cumber Primary School on becoming a 'Good' school. The Office of Education Standards went into that school, they did an inspection and at the end of that, they were able to improve that school from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'. I want to go on record in really recognising our Caymanian principal there, Miss Jovanna Wright, all of her teachers and staff, and the entire Ministry for all the work they have done to get the school from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'.

Mr. Speaker, it is something that I know the Minister of Education has challenged us with, to ensure that *all* of our schools are good; and I'm sure after 'good' he's going to say 'excellent'. Right? Yes.

*[Laughter]*

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** We shall deliver, Mr. Speaker. We shall deliver.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** Mr. Speaker, in the area of governance, the Commission Secretariat supported the Commission for Standards in Public Life in achieving the highest return rate for the Register of Interest process since the process first begun in 2020. This helped to foster increased transparency and accountability amongst public officials. The secretariat also provided support across the various commissions, including—

- Assisting with the recruitment of 3 Magistrates and 6 Grand Court judges;
- The processing of 30 human rights complaints; and
- Organising 4 CSAC hearings (that is the [Civil Service] Appeals Commission).

Additionally, across the six Commissions, 10 major public relation and educational initiatives were executed, including—

- Engagement with schools on human rights issues;
- A public awareness campaign related to the Register of Interests; and
- Education for civil servants on the Bill of Rights and the role of the Commissions.

In the office of the Deputy Governor, the Strategic Reforms Implementation Unit (SRIU) continued to build competency in areas of business case development and change management. During the year, the SRIU facilitated another successful year of the SRIU Professional Certification Programme with 63 civil servants achieving globally recognised professional certifications in [Association for Project Management] APM Project Fundamentals, APM Change Management, [APM Group] APMG Agile Project Management and APMG Better Business Case Writing.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Deputy Governor also established a senior leadership committee dedicated to overseeing risk, drafted a comprehensive enterprise risk management framework, developed and implemented an internal risk register and completed across government assessment of the top internal risk. The Office of the Deputy Governor also continued important work in the areas of sustainability, child safeguarding, support for major civil service projects and the provision of citizenship services.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues in the Passport Office assumed the process of document legalisation in 2024. The process, which previously required documents to be signed on behalf of the Governor, was adapted so that legislation is now executed on behalf of the Head of the Passport and Corporate Services. The Passport Office worked very closely with the Governor's Office and the UK Legislation Office to facilitate this significant change.

To strengthen governance, the Cayman Islands National Archive helped to enhance public servants' understanding of records and information management by completely redesigning the static Introduction to Records and Information Management training course into a highly interactive and engaging session available through the Civil Service College online system. Further strengthening good governance, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) embedded a new quality assurance approach across the IAS team, delivering high quality audits and recommendations, including eight investigations and 1,096 hours of advisory support across the civil service.

Mr. Speaker, PoCS continued to play a role in community engagement and supporting charitable organisations through the Deputy Governor's 5K Challenge. The 2024 5K raised an impressive \$90,000 which was split equally among the three local charities: Boyz2Men, the NCVO (National Children's Voluntary

Organisation) and the Addison Kelly Memorial Scholarship Fund. Significantly, the 2024 5K Challenge marked a decade of giving back to the Cayman Islands, with a total of \$649,000 having been raised and shared between 22 local charities over the 10 year span of the programme. I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that next year, all Members of this House are going to be joining me in the 5K.

On the topic of health and wellness, the CIG Wellness Committee, led by PoCS, demonstrated an impressive commitment to fostering employee wellbeing throughout 2024 by organising a diverse range of impactful programmes and events. The range of programmes and events include a gym membership deduction programme; a number of educational webinars; lunch and learns; positive parenting programmes; and a Wellness Fair, which was held at the Government Administration Building and featured a number of free health-care checks and screening.

In recognition of the impactful programme organised by the Wellness Committee through 2024, they were awarded the prestigious Oasis Award for Employee Wellness, which is a testament to their efforts and reach.

Mr. Speaker, PoCS continued to make lives better by funding the participation of two persons in our Second Chances Programme—a programme designed to provide ex-offenders who meet certain criteria, access to employment opportunities within the civil service. One participant was paired with a job in the Public Works Department and the other joined the Department of Agriculture. The addition of the two Second Chances participants in 2024 brought the total number of participants who have successfully been matched to jobs in the civil service to 16.

Mr. Speaker, that is 16 of our people who previously could not get a job; some of those persons had been out of a job for four to five years. I am pleased to say that so far we have placed 17 persons and only one person has not done well in the programme. Again, it proves if we give our people an opportunity, they will take it; so I'm very pleased with that programme.

Mr. Speaker, another talent management programme within the Cayman Islands Government is the Emergent Talent Programme which, in 2024, provided opportunities for five Caymanians to gain experience in their respective fields, with three participants joining Public Works and one each joining the Cayman Islands National Archive and the Mosquito Research Unit. Again, this programme is centrally funded and it allows us to take college graduates coming back with zero experience. If we can find a job for them, then we can use the funds to put them in a job. It's working very well.

*[Desk thumping]*

**The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** Mr. Speaker, the Government has already indicated its support for this programme and, of course, we want to

now do it on a much larger scale to ensure that all our young people coming back from college can have a job lined up for them on return.

Mr. Speaker, a very important moment for the Cayman Islands Civil Service in 2024 was the privilege of hosting the two-day Heads of Public Service meeting which was attended by the heads of the public service for Anguilla, Bermuda, BVI, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. As part of the two-day meetings, various civil servants from across the CIG made presentations on topics of high interest, hence demonstrating Cayman's readiness to share its strategies and wins with other Overseas Territories; and, our desire to strengthen communication, information sharing and working relationships with our overseas partners.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2024 on behalf of the Government, the PoCS facilitated the payment of a one-off \$2,000 honorarium. I want to thank the previous Government for that award which was paid to all civil servants.

In addition, in support to the CIG's commitment to recognising and rewarding performance, PoCS implemented on behalf of the Deputy Governor, the grant of one additional day's leave for high performing civil servants who achieved all aspects or exceeded their annual performance targets. We want to show that performance matters, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the achievements of 2024 reflect the unwavering dedication of our team and the collaborative spirit of the civil service. As we look ahead to 2025, PoCS remains committed to delivering solutions that advance the government priorities, enhance employee experiences and contribute to the continued success of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heart for gratitude to Mrs. Gloria McField-Nixon, who is the Chief Officer in the Portfolio of the Civil Service—who shortly may be sworn in here as the Deputy Governor, as the Governor departs—and her entire team for the work that they do every day to make people's lives better and to work collaboratively across our entire civil service. Together, they continue to make a difference across our civil service and uphold the values of professionalism, integrity and excellence as we can continue in the direction of world class.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much.

#### **Office of the Commissioner of Police - Cayman Islands Government - Annual Report 2024**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Governor responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Office of the Commissioner of Police Annual Report for the year ended 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the report?

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

First of all, I want to thank the Commissioner of Police and his team for the outstanding work that they continue to do to keep us all safe. Mr. Speaker, while 2024 was a year of challenges, serious crime levels decreased—and Mr. Speaker, there are not many countries in the world that can say, in 2024 their serious crime levels were down. That speaks well to the abilities and the success of our Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to share some numbers this afternoon—a year in review. The number of incidents reported to the police, 34,934; crimes recorded, 4,218; and arrests [made], 2,398. Persons arrested through proactive, serious and organised crime investigation searches were 98; 15 guns were taken off our streets; over \$3 million worth of drugs were seized or recovered—but Mr. Speaker, there were 3,253 motor vehicle accidents. In our little island, there were 3,253.

Mr. Speaker, I know this Government is keen to look into this and to work collaboratively with the RCIPS to find a way to get people to slow down and not drink and drive, because there were 281 persons arrested for driving under the influence. That is a shame. There is no excuse for drinking and driving. There's none. I think we all know if we're tipsy and I think we all know if we're drunk—just don't get into the car.

Mr. Speaker, 3,215 speeding tickets. Those statistics speaks volumes. Her Excellency mentioned that for murders in the Cayman Islands, the police have an 85 per cent detection rate. That is an outstanding achievement. I think the first murder of the year happened last week and two persons have already been arrested. Mr. Speaker, I was talking to my colleagues in Anguilla, which has a population of 15,000, and they have had 23 murders in the last 2 years and [only] 2 detections. We are providing them support right now; our Firearms Unit is over there giving them some assistance. We've also sent over our Director of Public Prosecutions to assist them.

Mr. Speaker, I want Members and the public to have a read of this report. It is very detailed. It goes into the operations of the RCIPS. It tells you exactly how the money is being spent, but it also points out some areas where we, as a country, need to do better. I think we all owe our RCIPS and its leadership a debt of gratitude for the work that they do every day to keep us all safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

**Financial Reporting Authority – 2024 Annual Report – Cayman Islands Government  
Portfolio of Legal Affairs**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Attorney General responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs.

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the Annual Report for the Financial Reporting Authority (FRA) for the year 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the report?

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Mr. Speaker, yes.

Mr. Speaker, as an administrative financial intelligence unit, the FRA is responsible for receiving, requesting, analysing and disseminating financial information disclosures concerning proceeds of criminal conduct or suspected proceeds of criminal conduct. Domestically, Mr. Speaker, the investigation of financial crime and associated offences falls under the ambit of the local law enforcement agencies. The FRA received 1,395 cases during the reporting period, comprising:

- 1,194 suspicious activity reports (SARs) from 291 reporting entities;
- 101 requests for information;
- 43 voluntary disclosures from 48 overseas financial intelligence units; and
- 57 requests for information from local law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, the number of cases received, decreased by some 7 per cent compared to the number of cases received during the 2023 reporting year. In terms of sources of SARs:

- Virtual asset service providers, or VASPs, were the largest source of cases - 374 cases;
- Banks - 282 cases;
- Overseas financial intelligence units - 144 cases;
- Investment funds - 120 cases;
- Law enforcement and competent authorities - 86 cases;
- Company managers/corporate service providers - 75 cases;
- Mutual fund administrators - 64 cases;
- Lawyers - 55 cases;
- Trust companies - 50 cases;
- Money transmitters - 31 cases;
- Securities licences - 29 cases;
- Insurance business - 20 cases; and
- Dealers of precious metals and stones (DPMS) - 14 cases.

Mr. Speaker, the reason for the suspicion: 2024 was the fourth year that multiple reasons for suspicion for each case could be tracked. For the 1,395

cases received, 2,750 reasons for suspicion were recorded. The seven most common reasons for cases received were:

1. Suspicious activity – 1,058 cases;
2. Fraud - 773 cases;
3. Money laundering - 240 cases;
4. Sanctions - 114 cases;
5. Alleged corruption - 100 cases;
6. Declined business - 68 cases; and
7. Tax evasion - 64 cases.

Mr. Speaker, during the reporting period, the FRA performed the initial analysis on 1,326 cases. It also issued 183 directives pursuant to section 4(2) of the Proceeds of Crime Act, to clarify information received or to respond to a request from overseas financial reporting authorities.

Mr. Speaker, Russia Sanctions. The FRA continued to see a number of sanctions being imposed by the United Kingdom and other countries in 2024 in response to the Russian invasion of the Ukraine in February 2022, in terms of size, scale and complexity. It has been another year of challenges for sanctions implementation due to the increasing demand on the FRA. During the reporting period, the FRA published 102 financial sanctions notices on its website.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time, in September 2024, the FRA published specified ship sanctions notices under the Russia regime. During this period the FRA published seven such sanctions notices, a total of 109 ships specified on the website. For the benefit of the Parliament, a specified ship is prohibited from entering a port in the Cayman Islands; may be given a movement or a port entry direction; can be detained; and will be refused permission to register on the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry, or may have its existing registration terminated.

Mr. Speaker, relevant firms continued to submit information concerning funds or economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled by a designated person and during 2024, a total of 122 Compliance Reporting Forms, or CRFs, and 5 Reports by Designated Persons were received by the FRA related to Russia Sanction regime. Mr. Speaker, as of December 2024, a total of approximately USD 8.89 billion, EUR 230 million and GBP 234,000 held by or on behalf of persons designated under the Russia sanctions regime were reported as being frozen.

The FRA continued to process licence applications and respond to queries received under the Russia Sanction regime. During the year ended December 2024, 13 applications have been received, compared to 13 in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands has adopted what could be described as a robust and comprehensive response to the imposition of the new sanctions measures. Of note, in March 2022, a joint Task Force on Russia Sanctions comprising representatives from 11 Ministries, Offices, Portfolios and Agencies was formed to coordinate, identify and implement policy

amendments to the Russia Sanctions regime. The Director of the FRA is the Chair of the Task Force and the Sanctions Coordinator is also a member. The primary purpose of the Task Force is to provide centralised discussions and decisions around policy and communications arising from ongoing sanctions. The Task Force continued to meet regularly during 2024.

Mr. Speaker, apart from the Russia Sanctions, the FRA also continued the actions taken to address recommended action in the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) 4<sup>th</sup> Round Mutual Evaluation Report—these are matters that are directly related to the targeted financial sanctions for terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

Mr. Speaker, since being appointed as regional representative for the Americas region of the Egmont Group in July 2023, the Director, Mr. Robert Berry, has been a Member of the Egmont Committee and played an even more active role in the work of the Egmont Group during the reporting period as detailed in the relevant section of the Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the report to the honourable Members of this House and the public, and I wish to thank Director Berry and the entire staff of the FRA for the continuing excellent performance, Mr. Speaker.

I thank you.

**The Speaker:** So ordered, for the Financial Reporting Authority. You can now speak to the Cayman Islands Law Reform Commission.

**The Cayman Islands Law Reform Commission –  
Annual Report No. 20 –  
1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025**

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:**  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in respect of the Law Reform Commission for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025: Mr. Speaker, the Commission, as we know, is established under the Law Reform Commission Act (2019 Revision) with its core mandate being to promote the systematic development and reform of the laws by eliminating legal anomalies, simplifying complex legislation, repealing obsolete enactments and recommending new laws that advance justice and good governance.

This report is particularly significant as it marks the 20-year milestone of the Commission's operations, having been established in 2005. At that time, Mr. Speaker, the Commission was established out of a recognition that the legal framework of the Cayman Islands, while functional, was in need of structured and continuous reform to keep pace with social, economic and constitutional development.

Mr. Speaker, the globalisation of financial services, increasing international scrutiny and the emer-

gence of new rights-based frameworks under the Cayman Islands Constitution further underscored the importance of a body such as the Commission, one that can ensure that legislation remains responsive, relevant and reflective of the values and needs of the modern Caymanian society.

Over the past two decades, Mr. Speaker, the Commission has indeed remained steadfast in its commitment to examining and reforming the laws of these Islands. This commitment is especially vital in today's rapidly evolving landscape. We must now also acknowledge the transformative role of technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI). Mr. Speaker, as AI begins to shape not only the way we live and work but also how justice is administered and rights are interpreted, the Commission plays a vital role in anticipating and guiding the legal and ethical implications of these developments. The law reform, Mr. Speaker is no longer just about modernising statutes, it is about futureproofing our legal framework for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is against this backdrop that the Commission's work has continued to enhance legal clarity, improve accessibility and ensure that our legislation reflects the evolving needs of the Cayman Islands.

Some of the areas, Mr. Speaker, in which the Commission's law reform Final Reports have led to enactment of new legislation over the years include—

- Residential tenancies;
- Non-profit organisations;
- Whistle-blower protection;
- Arbitration;
- Sexual harassment;
- Stalking;
- Litigation funding;
- Legal aid;
- Contempt of court;
- Plea bargaining;
- Trusts;
- Anti-bullying; and
- Decriminalisation of suicide.

All those are projects undertaken by the Commission which have resulted in enactment of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I can also confirm that the Cabinet has issued legislative drafting instructions to give effect to the Commission's final report, *Recommendations on Mortgages and Foreclosures*, with the hope that this will ultimately lead to the enactment of new legislation.

The legislative advancement in all these areas Mr. Speaker, reflect the Commission's continued efforts to address pressing legal and social issues in a manner that promotes justice, transparency and the rule of law. During the year in review, the Commission completed three major projects.

Firstly, The Penal Code Part 2, which deals with a number of issues, including abortion. On 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, Mr. Speaker, the Commission submitted its final report titled *The Penal Code Part 2 – Abortion*, along with the relevant Bill and the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2024. I know this was published in the papers and there is some disquiet, if I might put it that way, amongst some members of the public about this issue. This is really a report published by the Law Reform Commission and it is quite topical as we noticed. We saw what happened recently in the UK in terms of how the vote went—not suggesting anything, but clearly it is something that needs to be looked at.

At the end of the day, a Government might take the view that there is nothing to be reformed, but the project forms part of a broader review of the Penal Code itself and its compatibility with the Bill of Rights, as well as the International Human Rights Instruments which have been extended to the Cayman Islands. The project addresses complex constitutional human rights issues and the Commission's recommendations reflect a careful balance, Mr. Speaker, between medical, legal, social and ethical considerations.

Mr. Speaker, another project looked at by the Commission was adverse possession. On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the Commission submitted its second final report for the year titled *Adverse Possession*, with the accompanying Registered Land (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The project sought to determine whether the Common Law doctrine of adverse possession, under which a person can acquire a title through continuous possession, remains appropriate under Cayman's system of registered land. Again, I would ask members of the public to have a look at the consultation document that was published. The issue of adverse possession is one that we feel is quite relevant and the Commission obviously felt that way as well. We are aware of disputes from time to time about whether someone is entitled to acquire a title through adverse possession, having enjoyed undisturbed, if I might call it that, occupation for over 12 years or more in these Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the other project that was looked at is the Settled Land Act. On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the Commission submitted its third Final Report titled *Settled Land Act*, together with the Settled Land (Amendment) Bill. The Settled Land Act enables the creation of successive interest in land; however, it is rarely used and presents technical complications for land registrations and trusts.

Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping in due course, in keeping with the usual practice, to place these three final reports before Cabinet for consideration; it is entirely a matter for the Cabinet of the day, what becomes of these reports. They contain recommendations for legislative changes and ultimately policy decisions, but the government is not bound to accept or adopt any of the recommendations. It is entirely a matter for government whether or not to take the direction of travel suggested by the Commission in its report.

Mr. Speaker, there are some other reports that have been looked at and which we intend to deal with in short order, or at least place before Cabinet for consideration. The first relates to what is called usury; I recommend enacting legislation to provide certainty in this area of law. It is a concept where persons operate a business where they give loans to persons who are in a financial bind, if I might put it that way. They offer these loans at exorbitant and, I dare say, unreasonable interest rates. I am advised that it is a very common practice and the Commission thinks that it is something that ought to be looked at and to be regulated, Mr. Speaker, so it is on the cards for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, the second project deals with proposing to amend the Penal Code to ensure the provisions relating to minimum age of criminal responsibility, compulsion by a spouse, insulting the modesty of a woman as well as indecent assault and unnatural offences; whether these are compatible with the Bill of Rights as contained in our Constitution.

The third project, Mr. Speaker, recommends establishing a centralised Administrative Appeals Tribunal to replace the majority of existing Appeals Tribunals in order to consolidate the appeals process and improve efficiency and consistency in administrative decision-making. Mr. Speaker, as you're aware, we have the Planning, Labour, Immigration—all these various appeals tribunals; it really results in disparate approaches to how matters are dealt with by these tribunals, so we are seeking to recommend to the Government the establishment of an Administrative Appeals Tribunal, which hopefully would consist of retired lawyers and judges who would adjudicate on these matters and ensure some harmony and some consistency in approaches.

Mr. Speaker, all these reports address fundamental aspects of justice, equity and governance, and they aim to modernise outdated legislative provisions to ensure constitutional compliance and, equally important, streamline administrative processes.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the major projects previously mentioned, the Commission has continued to advance several other important law reform initiatives. These projects, though varied in scope, are equally crucial in addressing contemporary legal and societal challenges.

Mr. Speaker, following a referral from the Office of the Deputy Governor, the Commission commenced a review of the Criminal Records (Spent Convictions) Act (2018 Revision). This project examined anomalies and inconsistencies in the current law relating to spent convictions, and will lead to the publication of a discussion paper for public consultation.

The Commission also continues to work on a number of ongoing reform initiatives including:

- Reform to the penal code with a focus on interpersonal and gender-based violence;
- Consumer protection;

- Reform of the defamation legislation;
- Severance of joint tenancies;
- Reform of the succession and wills legislation;
- Regulation of cremation;
- Regulation of vaping;
- Hate crime legislation; and
- The common law forfeiture rule.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the Commission is a testament to the expertise, diligence, and strength of its members and staff. The Commission is composed of seven part-time commissioners who meet at least four times each year, and a dedicated team of four full-time legal and administrative staff, all of whom play an essential role in advancing the mandate of the Commission. In this regard, sir, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the following commissioners, who served during the reporting period.

- Mr. Hector Robinson, K.C., Chairman;
- Hon. Justice Alexander Henderson, (retired), K.C.;
- Mr. Vaughan Carter, Attorney at Law;
- Mr. Abraham Thoppil, Attorney at Law;
- Ms. Theresa Pitcairn, Attorney at Law, who was recently appointed to the Commission and brings a wealth of experience and valuable insight to the Commission;
- Ms. Reshma Sharma, K.C., Solicitor General; and
- Mr. Simon Davis, Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr. Speaker, given that it is the 20<sup>th</sup> year, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution from former chairpersons and members of the Commission over the last two decades. I also recognise the invaluable work and support of the Commission's legal and administrative staff comprising Mr. José Griffith, Director of the Commission, Ms. Catriona Steel, Ms. Felicia Connor, and Ms. Sharon Solomon among others. Recognition is also extended to Ms. Milicia Bodden who served as the Commission's Administrative Secretary for three years prior to her departure during this reporting period.

Mr. Speaker, it is through its collective expertise and dedication that the Commission continues to serve as one of the key authorities in shaping the legal landscape of these Islands. I take this opportunity to particularly highlight the evolution of the legal administrative theme of the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, looking ahead, the Commission enters its third decade with renewed purpose and vision. In the coming year, the Commission intends to formalise a stakeholder engagement framework to ensure that public consultation remains meaningful, consistent, and inclusive. Seek to support legal capacity building through public education, collaborative workshops, and engagement with academic and legal institutions and find a way to commemorate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anni-

versary through a series of reflective initiatives including public outreach and retrospective publication, capturing the Commission's legacy of reform. These efforts, Mr. Speaker will ensure that the law reform remains not only relevant but participatory and transparent *[INAUDIBLE]* in the lived experiences of those it seeks to serve.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate the importance of maintaining a modern, responsive, and principled legal system that reflects the realities and aspirations of the Caymanian people. The work of the Law Reform Commission continues to be central to these endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I commend the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Law Reform Commission to this House for its consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

### **Anti-Corruption Commission Cayman Islands - Annual Report - 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024**

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Mr. Speaker, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report - 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

**The Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the report?

**The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** Mr. Speaker, no, the report is self-explanatory. I certainly would commend its contents to honourable Members of this House and the public in general.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** So ordered.

## **PREMIER'S QUESTIONS**

**The Speaker:** None

## **URGENT QUESTIONS**

**The Speaker:** None.

## **QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT**

### **QUESTION NO. 1**

#### **DOES THE GOVERNMENT STILL PROJECT TO SHOW A DEFICIT AT THE END OF THE CURRENT BUDGET YEAR?**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I rise to ask Question No. 1 standing in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education and Training.

The question, Mr. Speaker: Can the Honourable Minister say whether the Government is still projected to show a deficit at the end of the current Budget Year in light of the First Quarter surplus recently announced?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education and Training.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, yes.

The First Quarter of each year always produces a surplus because the majority of the government's revenue is received before March 31<sup>st</sup> due to income earned from financial services and the tourism industry's peak season. Historically, the last months of the year have operated at a deficit. Further, the possibility of a deficit for 2025 can be significantly attributed to the expansionary fiscal policies that were approved during 2024 and the four-month period ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Some of the aforementioned fiscal policy decisions that would significantly impact the possibility of a deficit for 2025 include:

1. Increasing the amount of financial assistance to eligible Caymanians by \$14.4 million per year for a variety of expenses including food, accommodation, utilities, burial assistance, medical expenses which are not covered by health insurance; clothing, transportation, internet, phone, and support for children such as preschool assistance, camps, after-school care, school uniforms, shoes and other supplies;
2. Increasing the ex gratia benefits for seamen and ex-servicemen from \$1,250 to \$1,500 per month for an estimated impact of \$2.4 million annually;
3. Increasing the minimum cumulative pension from \$1,250 to \$1,500 per month for an estimated annual impact of \$5.3 million;
4. Awarding a 5 per cent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to civil servants effective 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, at an estimated annual cost of \$20 million; and
5. Granting the Church of God Chapel (West Bay) \$900,000 for the development of a new sanctuary which will also include a building that will function as a designated hurricane shelter; and a grant to the Not-For-Profit Organisation EGARS Members and Manna Foundation of \$750,000 for the development of a multi-purpose community centre in George Town.

Since First Quarter (Q1) of 2025, the government has incurred monthly deficits for April and May with comparative amounts to April and May 2024 as follows:

April 2024 showed a deficit of \$10.7 million. April 2025 showed a deficit of \$22.1 million. That is an increase year-on-year of the deficit for the month of April of \$11.4 million, or a 106.5 per cent increase year-on-year comparing 2025 to 2024. May 2024 had an actual deficit of \$14.2 million; May 2025 has an actual deficit of \$25.5 million—an increase in the deficit year-on-year of \$11.3 million, or a 79.6 per cent increase.

The task of the Government is to curtail the rate of the deficit trend shown in April and May of 2025, in the remaining seven months of 2025 so that an overall deficit for 2025 is averted; however, this may prove impossible given the nature of the increases mentioned above.

Honourable Members will find attached the actual financial results of core government on a monthly basis for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2025, proving that historical deficits are the norm for each of the last months of a financial year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Supplementaries

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Before I pose my supplementary, I want to say thank you to the Honourable Minister for the comprehensive answer; and thank you so much to the staff in Parliament. We're going through this transition to "electronic means". Normally we would—

**The Speaker:** Pose the question.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** —pass out the answer, and I'm very impressed that as soon as the Minister started to answer the question, I was able to click on the ShareFile and see everything right before me, so I'm transitioning with you.

**The Speaker:** Ask the question, please. We have some time constraints. We want to get to the Seamen's [topic,] so ask your question, please.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just trying to be kind to your staff, but okay.

**The Speaker:** We have plenty time for that.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Minister

say whether the PREFU (Pre-Election Economic and Financial Update) projections did not consider those approvals the Minister just outlined, which would have been approved before the PREFU was reported?

Is the Minister suggesting that the Finance team did not consider those things he just highlighted? They would have been considered in the PREFU because the PREFU report said so.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is confused. Of course, it considered it; that's why it projected a deficit.

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

Mr. Speaker—

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm \$54 million more than the PREFU projected in its report?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, could the Member repeat the question? I am not sure what the \$50.2 million more is being referred to?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me a little leeway, so the Honourable Minister can properly answer the question. The report was done in February. It would have considered all the things the Honourable Minister just highlighted: all the approvals of the past administration and past Cabinet, all the expenses he just highlighted, that would have caused the deficit. The actuals came in for the First Quarter, which included the projections by the PREFU with \$54 million more in revenue than the PREFU projected.

Therefore, if we had a deficit of \$26 million, and the PREFU did not consider the \$54 million, how can we possibly have a deficit at this point unless something has changed since the Government came into play?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, let's break this down for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The PREFU, of course, considered the uplift in revenue. [As] he quite rightly said, it's \$50 million more than in 2024. If the Member would turn his attention: April: \$11.4 million *more* of a deficit—higher in 2025 than in 2024. That's one month. May: \$11.3 million more.

The trend, therefore, Mr. Speaker, is for the deficit to be \$10 million more every month for nine months—9 times 11 equals 99. That's \$99 million deficit. Take away the \$54 million that you're talking about, [and] that's the \$26 million overall deficit for the year. It was a projected deficit to the end of the year.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got the answer I wanted.

I just want the Minister to do one more thing for me. Confirm that the Minister is saying that the PREFU report took into consideration an extra \$54.2 million. Is that what I'm understanding the Minister to say, in respect of the pre-election (PREFU) report?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, give me two seconds to confirm exactly what was projected as the extra that the Member is referring to.

[Pause]

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a moment to confer.

The answer: Firstly, the PREFU was done in March, not February as the Member has alluded to, and produced in April; however, of course, the Finance team had projected an uplift in revenue but as I said, as the actuals for April and May have already shown, they also projected an increase in the deficit in each of the last nine months, which is historic. Hence, the reason I gave the House a comprehensive answer—to go back to 2021, to show very clearly that in every financial year January, February and March, if you look at them in isolation, produce a “surplus”.

What the Government has to try to do is ensure that the monthly deficits from April to December don't wipe out the Q1 results. Thus, Mr. Speaker, it's very simple: All that has been alluded to was considered, and the projection of the \$26 million deficit was what the Finance team projected, and now we have to work assiduously to try to avert a deficit for 2025.

**The Speaker:** I will allow one more supplementary question.

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

Can I ask the Honourable Minister, since he has the audience and support of the honourable Member who created the report—and he can do so in writing if he needs to, Mr. Speaker—

**The Speaker:** Ask your question.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** —to provide exactly where the First Quarter projections were outlined in the PREFU report in comparison to the First Quarter report and where the \$54 million difference came up.

I'm happy to get it in writing and I'll do my homework a bit later, because this is definitely not done.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, [I am happy to provide the Member with the additional information he is referring to](#). I know that anyone who has been elected, in particular in Cabinet, would know the profiling of the government's performance—in fact, the Member for George Town East would have lived for years knowing the last nine months produce a deficit.

I'm not sure what to make of this, “surely not done”. What I can say is that if this Government does not work to avert a deficit, 2025 will result in a deficit caused by the expansionary fiscal policies of the previous administration. Period.

**The Speaker:** The House is suspended for one hour.

**Proceedings suspended at 5:23 pm**

**Proceedings resumed at 6:41pm**

**The Speaker:** This honourable House is back in session. I apologise for the late start, but it was for a worthy cause, the launching of the Seafarers' Registry; a most worthy cause.

Please be seated.

## QUESTION NO. 2 ARE THERE INTENTIONS OF CUTTING ANY MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I rise to ask Question No. 2 standing in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure. Can the Honourable Minister say whether the Government has any intentions of cutting any major infrastructure projects, and if so, can the Minister give details as to which projects, and why?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to assess the Government's financial position, and at this stage, no decisions have been made to cut any major infrastructure projects.

### Supplementaries

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Based on that answer, can the Honourable Minister say if there is still a possibility of cutting—based on the comment “at this stage”?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, as I said, “at this stage”; I can't say much more than that. The Member for George Town Central may have to put in a question later in the [year] as we continue down the road.

### QUESTION NO. 3

#### HAS PROPERTY BEEN SECURED IN THE BODDEN TOWN AREA FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

**The Speaker:** The Elected Member for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[To] the Honourable Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure: Can the Honourable Minister advise if any property has been secured in the Bodden Town area for affordable housing?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for Planning Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, at this time, no property has been secured for the purpose of affordable housing in the Bodden Town area.

### Supplementaries

**The Speaker:** Member for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Honourable Minister say if there is any search to find any property in the area?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, I think it was last week, the finance minister, the Member for East

End and I were on *Radio Cayman* and that was one of the proposals that I mentioned on the radio—that we will be looking for more land in Bodden Town for future homes. As soon as we can find something in that area, I guarantee the Member that we will be looking at securing some more property, realising that Savannah, Bodden Town is one of the fastest growing areas and we have had many people show much interest for that particular area.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Just to thank the Minister. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Member for Red Bay.

**Mr. A. Roy Tatum:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Honourable Minister, I am extremely pleased that we are looking for more property in Bodden Town, but can I ask, are there any thoughts about George Town itself? We are very limited here in terms of the housing that's being proposed, sir. I do not think anything has been built for a while.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, the National Housing [Development] Trust does own property in two locations in George Town and we are looking at building homes in George Town, coming up shortly. The next site that we're looking at (first) is in West Bay—the Apple Blossom site, to get that going. Sorry, Minister for Environment, remind me of the new name again?

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Birch Tree Heights, as it is now named. As soon as we get that up and going, the next location will be George Town at the old Cox site.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Speaker, in reference to the show that the Minister just said, the Minister also said that they were not of the view to fill the site that is on the Linford Pierson Highway.

### Point of Order

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, point of order. I did not say that, sir.

**The Speaker:** Okay.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** I did not mention anything about filling.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, if that was not said, I solely retract the statement. I do not want to impede the Member in any way. He's my friend. That's what I understood. That being said, there is a location on the Linford Pierson that was acquired—not from the last administration, but the administration before that—which is very substantial.

The question is: Is the Minister mindful to also use that location in conjunction with the Cox location for housing in George Town?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, that site was purchased for homes. We are mindful that one of these days we will be utilising that site for housing. We have a large site that's located in George Town, the Cox site, which we want to start with first and move from that direction onwards. We will continue to look for more properties that are in George Town that we would love to secure. Especially, as the Member may have known, just in the last administration we identified certain locations that probably could work for more housing and I would anticipate that we could still move forward with those locations in the near future.

I just want to go back on the spot that he's talking about off of Linford Pierson, Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me to elaborate a little further. Mr. Speaker, the location on the Linford Pierson will take a significant amount of filling. One thing, and I'm going to reference the previous government, the reason why we didn't look at it at that time also is because if we do fill that property there is going to be a significant problem for the Randyke Garden area. We already know that Randyke is a flooding area and if we fill that property right now, Randyke will be in an even worse situation. Unless the Member wants us to fill that and the Member for George Town East doesn't care about his people in Randyke, then we could take it and we can continue to move that way.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for that keen observation. I think his maps are a bit off because actually it's to the north of a development that has already happened. If there were going to be any flooding concerns, it would have happened because there's a development in between the Randyke area and where the government owns; but the Member can look that up.

I just want to follow up with my last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Minister would remember there

was a piece of property acquired in the Tropical Gardens area. The position argued for the purpose of purchasing it was for a launch ramp for the Tropical Gardens area, as well as the rest of it being for a minimum of three to four affordable homes. I just want to know if the Minister is still committed to that, because it is in George Town. It wouldn't be as large as the other sites and it could be something small that you can start with first. I would like the Minister to give commitment to that.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, I can't give commitment to it, but [I will tell the Minister that I will take it on and carry it forward to the next Cabinet meeting](#). I know it was identified in one of our last Caucus meetings (as the previous government) as a location for building homes and I know we fully supported it. At the time, I do not think we had the opportunity to transfer those properties over to National Housing [Development Trust], but if the government is mindful of doing that in the near future I will take that opportunity to continue, and also push to see that we can build some homes on it. I do think it's a property that it can be a quick win on. It wouldn't take a large amount of filling, so it's something that we could work with.

**The Speaker:** Member for Red Bay.

**Mr. A. Roy Tatum:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank the Minister also. I would urge him though, to see if any portion of that property could be used. I'm not sure if we have to fill the entire thing, but I will leave that, sir. Thank you for the commitments that you have given and I do hope at some point we'll be able to get back to that bit of property to see if any of it can be used.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Member for Bodden Town East. Last question.

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

I am proud to have bought the property. It's about 25 acres and the largest parcel, I think, that has ever been bought. The intent for that property was to take about three to four acres of that property and create a holding pond for Randyke—and even South Sound you have to be mindful of—and then try to develop the rest of it. I wouldn't necessarily say try to develop the whole piece of property, but at least 10 acres or something once a holding pond is done first. It's only a suggestion, Minister.

**The Speaker:** Next question.

**QUESTION NO. 4**  
**HAS THE EIA FOR THE EAST-WEST**  
**ARTERIAL ROAD BEEN COMPLETED?**

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Honourable Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure confirm if the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) for the East-West arterial road has been completed; and if so, what are the start and completion dates for this road?

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister for Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, the Ministry can confirm that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the East-West [Arterial] Extension has been completed. The final Environmental Statement, Non-technical Summary, Environmental Management Plan, and supporting appendices were prepared by NRA's (National Roads Authority) consultant and published on the NRA website on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The next stage is to present these documents to Cabinet.

A timeline on the road construction can only be provided once the country's projected financial challenges have been resolved.

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Supplementaries**

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, just for clarity, the Minister is saying that we won't be able to know when the timeline is going to be finished until we do the budget. Is that a fair assessment?

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, through you. What we won't know is... We have to be able to put the money in the budget to be able to build the road. [By] knowing how much money we are going to get, we'll know what the start time will be and what the projections are for that money to carry us.

I'm always happy to give the House another update on that in the future. As you know, our main focus on plans from the NRA and from the roads aspect was to focus on the East-West in the New Year, once we had a sufficient amount of funds to move forward.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I just want to say that the Minister has full support for whatever funding necessary in the upcoming budget and I hope that the Cabinet gives the Minister the necessary funds.

**The Speaker:** Is there a question?

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I *gon'* get there, sir. Boy, I'm a target today.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister believe he will get the funding for his budget?

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Mr. Speaker, I can say that the Government is fully supportive of building the East-West [Arterial]. As a matter of fact, the Premier and I were on a podcast just last week and he mentioned on the podcast that this Government is committed to building the East-West Arterial road.

*[Desk thumping]*

**QUESTION NO. 5**  
**CAYMANIANS CURRENTLY BEING ASSISTED BY**  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
**WITH RENT ASSISTANCE**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I rise to ask Question No. 5 standing in my name, to the Minister of Social Development & Innovation and Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage. Can the Honourable Minister say how many Caymanians are currently being assisted by the Department of Financial Assistance (DFA) with rental assistance?

**The Speaker:** Minister of Social Development & Innovation and Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The answer: As of 7th June, 2025, the Department of Financial Assistance was supporting 578 households. There were 1,066 individuals living in those 578 households; 543 of the households are headed by a Caymanian, while 35 are headed by a non-Caymanian parent who has responsibility for the care of a Caymanian child.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Supplementaries**

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

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister say if the Ministry is still taking the necessary steps to find transition home accommodations?

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is currently reviewing options, which include but are not

limited to purchase of property, as well as potential utilisation of current Crown property to develop social housing. Partnerships with private sector to provide social housing is also something under consideration.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister say whether there are any signs of an increased need for social housing assistance from the Department of Financial Assistance?

**The Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** One second, Mr. Speaker, while I consult with my team.

*[Pause]*

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, there's always a need, but there has not been any significant increase in those needs. We have people who are always seeking assistance for housing, sir, but there's no significant increase in those requests.

**Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker:** Can the Minister please establish how much is actually spent on housing?

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** One second, Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information right here in my current list.

*[Pause]*

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, after consulting my team, I have been told that through May of this year, \$3.4 million has been spent on rental.

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for the answer to my colleague's question up to this year.

Can the Minister tell us what is the estimated amount that they predict they will have to spend for social housing for the whole year? I know they would have a budgeted estimate. If you could provide it in writing, it would be appreciated.

Thank you, sir.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, [we undertake to provide it in writing.](#)

**The Speaker:** Next question.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Next question.

*[Inaudible interjection]*

**The Speaker:** Oh.

Member for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to ask the Honourable Minister what has been done to change property owners' perception in regard to payments from the Department whereas they don't want to accept the clients because the perception is that the funds won't come in quickly enough. Has there been any marketing done among property owners or otherwise?

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, that is a perception, and certainly, many times it's not the fault of the Department and I'll stand up and say that for them because many times there is paperwork that needs to come back into the Department for them to process; thus, many times there is some delay in payments.

Now, if anything else is causing such a delay, I would have to consult, but certainly to my knowledge that's some of what has been causing the delay in payments.

**The Speaker:** Member for Bodden Town East.

**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour:** Mr. Speaker, the real question was whether we have done anything to try to change the perception because as we don't have social housing, we need to depend on private property owners; hence, we need to do something to turn that around.

Are we willing to do some kind of marketing to the property owners to at least try to get them to rethink accepting financial assistance clients?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

*[Pause]*

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, after consultation with my team, they indicated that they are actually planning a campaign to try to address some of those issues, but there is no timeline in terms of rolling it out.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Speaker, do you want to ask a question? Oh, okay.

## QUESTION NO. 6

### WHEN WILL THE ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT, 2025 COME INTO FORCE?

**The Speaker:** The Deputy Speaker, Member for George Town West.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask Question No. 6 [standing] in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Social Development and Innovation. Can the Honourable Minister say when the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, 2025 will come into force?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Social Development & Innovation *and* Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, by way of background, the Act was passed in Parliament in February 2025, and following the most recent election, the Gender Affairs Unit was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development and Innovation.

In the legislation, the Ministry with responsibility for gender affairs is tasked with the operationalisation of the Act, which includes oversight and administrative support to the Anti-Sexual Harassment Tribunal, and investigation of complaints.

Accordingly, the Ministry is in the process of developing the necessary underlying regulations and policies to support the Act. As such, the Ministry aims for the commencement of the full legislative package by the end of 2026.

**Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Speaker— thank you, Minister.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker, I think I heard the Minister clearly when he said the end of 2026.

Can the Minister explain what would take so long (a year and a half) for this very important legislation to be implemented?

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, the answer is that the most important aspect of the Act is that entities formulate a policy and commit to protecting their staff, customers, clients, and tenants. That is the most logical first step in enactment.

However, if the systems and processes are not in place to verify compliance; enable legal recourse for the victims to make complaints to an authority, or for consequences to be applied, then it will be pointless. The initial step must be to change attitudes and culture in organisations and have the entities recognise their responsibilities. Thus, giving sufficient time for that process is imperative for successful implementation.

**The Speaker:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

Is that the Ministry's position, or the Government's position, in respect to the timeline?

**The Speaker:** I think if the Minister makes a statement, he's bound under the doctrine of collective responsibility, so I think we have to assume that it would be the Government's position; thus, I rule that question unnecessary.

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

One last supplementary—or a comment, rather. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Government to see if there are potential ways to speed that up.

**The Speaker:** That is not a statement.

*[Crosstalk]*

**The Speaker:** Okay. No, no. No crosstalk, no crosstalk. No crosstalk, please. Order, order.

**Hon. Isaac D. Rankine:** Mr. Speaker, while we are doing our endeavour best to enact it, it should be noted that until the Act comes into force, victims still have the ability to make complaints under the Gender Equality Act or the Penal Code depending on the severity of the incidents.

**The Speaker:** That's the end of question time, and I would like to remind honourable Members that the Standing Orders only allow one hour for questions now.

## ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

**Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, Acting Deputy Governor:** I, Gloria Michelle McField-Nixon, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, His heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God.

### OATH FOR DUE EXECUTION OF OFFICE

**Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, Acting Deputy Governor:** I, Gloria Michelle McField-Nixon, do swear that I will well and truly serve His Majesty King Charles III, His heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands in the Office of Ex-Officio Member of Parliament. So help me God.

**The Speaker:** Welcome, Acting Deputy Governor. Please take your seat.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

**The Speaker:** None.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** None.

## OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

**The Speaker:** Honourable Minister of Planning.

**Hon. Johany S. Ebanks:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pause to recognise the passing of two esteemed North Side individuals, Mr. Winston Miller and Ms. Thelma Range.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the loss of these two remarkable souls who have left their mark on those who were fortunate enough to have known them; both Mr. Miller and Ms. Range contributed to our community, embodying values of kindness, integrity, and dedication in all aspects of their lives.

Their presence will be greatly missed, and their legacy will continue to inspire us all. As we take a moment to honour and remember their lives, let us extend our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones during this difficult time.

## RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE

**The Speaker:** None.

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### BILLS

### FIRST READINGS

#### CHURCHES INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**The Speaker:** The Churches Incorporation (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

#### VIRTUAL ASSET (SERVICE PROVIDERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**The Speaker:** The Virtual Asset (Service Providers) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

#### PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**The Speaker:** Public Management and Finance (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for second reading.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

**The Speaker:** Public Service Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

## MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

**The Speaker:** Honourable Premier.

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

It has been a moving day. I think we were all inspired by the acknowledgement of young Caymanian students, and I have already gotten a message from the Cabinet Secretary that they were moved in the Constitution Hall by the many Members of this honourable House who attended the launch of the Seafarers Registry. Thank you for that break, and we again apologise to the listening public for a slight delay in the start, but it was for a worthy cause as you say.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that this honourable House do now adjourn until tomorrow, 26<sup>th</sup> June, at 2pm.

**The Speaker:** The question is that this honourable House now adjourn until Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, at 2pm.

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

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

The House stands adjourned.

**At 7:14pm the House stood adjourned until Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.**