



CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

First Meeting of the 2017/2018 Session
Third Sitting

Friday
25 August, 2017
(Pages 1-19)

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush
Speaker

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the *Official Hansard Report* is for informational purposes only.
The printed version remains the official record.

PRESENT WERE:

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA	<i>The Premier</i> , Minister of Human Resources, Immigration and Community Affairs
Hon. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, MLA	<i>Deputy Premier</i> , Minister of District Administration, Tourism and Transport
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly JP, MLA	Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands
Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MLA	Minister of Health, Environment, Culture and Housing
Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MLA	Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Hon. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MLA	Minister of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure
Hon. Tara A. Rivers, JP, MLA	Minister of Financial Services and Home Affairs

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, JP	Acting <i>Deputy Governor</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service
Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, QC, JP	<i>Attorney General</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, JP, MLA	Elected Member for West Bay Central
Mr. David C. Wight, MLA	Elected Member for George Town West
Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, MLA	Elected Member for George Town South
Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr., MLA	Elected Member for Prospect

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, MLA	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for North Side
Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., MLA	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for Newlands
Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan, MLA	Elected Member for George Town Central
Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, MLA	Elected Member for Savannah
Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP, MLA	Elected Member for East End

ABSENT

Hon. Bernie A. Bush, MLA	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Elected Member for West Bay North
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MLA	Elected Member for Bodden Town West

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST MEETING OF THE 2017/18 SESSION
FRIDAY
25 AUGUST 2017
10:50 AM
Third Sitting

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

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed.

The prayer is to be read by the Hon. Minister of Financial Services.

PRAYERS

Hon. Tara A. Rivers, Minister of Financial Services and Home Affairs, Elected Member for West Bay South: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning colleagues.

Let us pray:

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

Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Charles, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Premier; the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of Cabinet, ex-officio Members and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together:

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

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

The Speaker: Please be seated.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

The Speaker: None.

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

The Speaker: I have received apologies for today from Hon. Bernie Bush, the Member for West Bay North; and Mr. Christopher Saunders, the Member for Bodden Town West.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Speaker: None.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS
AND OF REPORTS**

**2013/14 SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL PLAN AND
ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

**2014/15 SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL PLAN AND
ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

**2015/16 SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL PLAN AND
ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Elected Member for George Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Government, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, Supplementary Annual Plan and Estimate documents for the Government of the Cayman Islands with respect to the Financial Years ended 30th June, 2014 through 30th June, 2016.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Could I enquire from you—are you speaking to the laying of all of the reports at one time?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Yes.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In accordance with Standing Order 67(1), the three Supplementary Annual Plan and Estimates documents that have been tabled stand referred to the Finance Committee. As the estimates will be considered in Finance Committee at the conclusion of the Second Reading of the associated Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I wish to make only very brief remarks with respect to the documents that have now been tabled. The Supplementary Annual Plan and Estimates that have just been tabled are all structured in the same way:

Part A of the documents contain changes to the Appropriations Law for a specific Financial Year. Part A also shows with respect to the specific appropriations being changed the following information: The amount of original approved appropriation for a particular budget item, the amount of the Supplementary Appropriation proposed for the particular budget item and the revised appropriation amount for that particular budget item.

Part B of the document shows the amount for the Supplementary Appropriations for particular items in the Appropriation Law for that particular Financial Year. Details in Part B of the documents correspond to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the particular Financial Year concerned. It is also important to note that whilst the word 'Supplementary' is used frequently in the documents, changes to appropriations do not only involve expenditure increases but the documents will also clearly demonstrate that there are reductions to expenditures as well.

Part C of the documents shows the financial statements for the Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker, the Supplementary Annual Plan and Estimates documents tabled today represent expenditure changes for which the Government seeks the Legislative Assembly's approval.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will recall—except, perhaps, our first-time MLAs—that shortly after taking office in 2003, the then Government brought Supplementary Appropriation Bills that tidied up Supplementary Expenditures that were incurred by the two previous Governments during the four year period from May 2009 – May 2013. The process to obtain approval from the Legislative Assembly for Supplementary Expenditures incurred during the four-year period with respect to the Financial Years ended 30th June, 2010 to 30th June, 2013 was carried out in September 2013.

Mr. Speaker, the practice of a current Government bringing Supplementary Appropriation Bills to the Legislative Assembly at the start of its term with respect

to supplementary expenditure matters incurred by a previous Government, is a practice that should be discouraged because it does not represent good fiscal management and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, except for our first-time MLAs, Honourable Members will recall that the documents just tabled and their associated Supplementary Appropriation Bills were brought to the House in March 2017, and the Bills all received their second readings and were set to be considered afterwards by Finance Committee. Unfortunately, the House was dissolved in late March 2017 as it was required to do prior to the 2017 general elections. The documents and Bills were not considered by Finance Committee and this entire process had to be restarted and this explains why some Members will recall seeing this information and these documents before.

Accordingly, Government is now bringing Supplementary Appropriation Annual Plan and Estimates documents and Supplementary Appropriation Bills to the Legislative Assembly at the first possible opportunity during its current meeting. This change represents an improvement to past practice and is not being said to boast, but because it represents better fiscal management and accountability, which we are striving for.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: Before you take that item, we have reached the hour of 11:00 a.m.

Honourable Premier, is there a motion to suspend Standing Order 23(7) and (8)?

Suspension of Standing Order 23(7) and (8)

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Minister of Human Resources, Immigration and Community Affairs, Elected Member for Red Bay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move the suspension of Standing Order 23(7) and (8) in order that question time may commence and continue beyond the hour of 11 o'clock.

The Speaker: Thank you.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 23(7) and (8) suspended.

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

QUESTION NO. 7
HOW IS OFREG ENSURING COMPLIANCE
AND HANDLING COMPLAINTS

The Speaker: The Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: Question No. 7, standing in my name, is asked of the Premier.

Can the Honourable Minister state:

- (a) What measures are being taken by the Utility Regulation and Competition Office (OfReg), and/or the Information [and] Communication Technology Authority (ICTA) to ensure information communication technology providers are complying with the requirements of their license; and
- (b) How are complaints from the consumers of ICT networks dealt with by OfReg and/or ICTA?

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, to adequately answer this question, some background is necessary on the Utility Regulation and Competition Office, also known as OfReg.

Having been established pursuant to the Utility Regulation and Competition (URC) Law, OfReg came into effect on January 16th this year; as a consequence, the ICTA and Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) ceased to exist. In effect, the office subsumed the Laws, Regulations, Rules and Policies of the ICTA and continues to manage compliance and complaints as the ICTA did previously.

OfReg was established primarily to regulate the utility sector including ICT, energy, fuels and water. The responsibility for actual Sector policy is managed by two separate Ministries. The Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for policy related to ICT, fuels and energy, including electricity and renewable energy; and the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands is responsible for water policy.

It should be noted that policy related correspondence between Ministries and OfReg is set up to occur between respective Chief Officers and the CEO of the Office. OfReg reports to the Cabinet Office on administrative matters, relations with Cabinet, its budget, etc. As the office continues to establish itself, it will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of its compliance framework and make amendments where necessary. The general provisions within the URC Law impose powers, rights and obligations on OfReg. The ICTA Law (2016 Revision) has main headings setting out powers or obligations standards serving to ensure compliance with the national needs that the ICT regulator serves to uphold.

Compliance generally relates to operation policy and/or technical aspects of a licensee as appropriately regulated by OfReg. Essentially, the URC Law and the ICTA Law prescribe the legal framework dictating OfReg's enforcement powers. OfReg relies on its sector-monitoring activities, complaints received from licensees about other licensees, consumer complaints and its own analysis of reports that licensees are required to provide on a periodic basis and on demand, to assess compliance of licensees with their licences. The nature, scale and scope of any instances of non-compliance identified will determine the enforcement measure taken by OfReg.

The second part of the question, Mr. Speaker: section 9 of the ICTA Law provides OfReg with powers **"to investigate and resolve complaints from consumers and service providers concerning the provision of ICT services and ICT networks."** The process which addresses this provision is split between service providers' complaints and the ".ky" domain name space complaints.

Regarding consumer complaints about service providers, the office requires that all operators establish a complaints process and make that process available to all consumers; however, where a consumer tries to resolve the matter with the operator and is not satisfied, the consumer may complain directly to OfReg in writing by filling out an online form or submitting a letter or email. The complaints process can be found on OfReg's ICT sector webpage <http://www.ofreg.ky/how-to-make-a-complaint>

Naturally, the office accommodates individuals unable to submit complaints in writing, but the written version is preferred because of the record it provides. OfReg goes through an internal process including interrogatories to the licensee involved to investigate and resolve the complaint.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you.

I wonder if the Minister can tell us if there has been any move to ensure that ICT networks are compliant with build out to have proper services throughout the eastern districts.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you for your indulgence, Mr Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, there is active engagement by OfReg with respect to trying to resolve some of the pole attachment disputes which are a key factor in inhibiting the spread of fibre into the other dis-

tricts. There are also ongoing discussions about concerns for the need for more offshore connectivity on the sea cables and so forth; the office is in the process of doing an assessment with respect to that.

The Speaker: Are there any other supplementaries?
The Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I wonder if the Minister can tell us if there is any resolution in sight; and I am not only talking about telephony—I am also talking about television and those in the internet service, period.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Member if he could be a bit more specific with respect to his question? Is there any resolution in sight with respect to what, specifically?

The Speaker: Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure all of us have received complaints from our constituents, and in particular the eastern end, on delivery of TV and internet services—all of these things combined.

I would like to know if these things are monitored—watched over. Where are the complaints coming from, really, and if there is any resolution in sight to try and get these people to build out their system to make sure that what they are advertising is received. That is, I guess, our largest complaint throughout the country.

[Long pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; again my apologies, but as this is a technical area which is not necessarily my forte, I need briefing.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. There are active measures underway to seek to resolve and improve the quality and choice of service within the Eastern Districts. A part of it I referred to before, which is efforts to resolve these disputes about pole attachment, which continue to be a major inhibitor of the ability of other providers to provide the service, and to address other disputes relating to duct sharing and misleading advertising.

There is an ongoing revenue reporting audit and OfReg has put in place outage reporting rules; they have to report when they have outages, so that the

necessary measures can be taken by the regulator, engaging with third-party bandwidth monitoring agency to install bandwidth bots locally; the creation of Internet Service Provider (ISP) regulations which deal with minimum speeds per contract, contract terms, quality of services, etc.; the development of consumer protection regulations, and a cyber security strategy which is currently under development.

Mr. Speaker, the three big issues that OfReg is seeking to promote and push are issues of choice and the Member spoke about some of these—that is fixed and mobile voice internet service and TV, and quality of service and encouraging innovation. It continues to be a major challenge, particularly the disputes that still rage between the service providers and particularly this issue of sharing the poles, which is a key factor in making these services more generally available and higher quality.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if the Premier could state whether there are provisions in the licences to cancel them if they have not met the build-out projections that they have put forward, because some of these have been going on over ten years. If so, why have they not been cancelled?

[Crosstalk]

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, there are provisions in the licences which allow for suspension or ultimately cancellation of the licence in appropriate cases; but my remark made earlier, although appearing to be in jest, is absolutely right: if we suspend the services or cancel the licences, it is the consumer who is going to suffer as much if not more than the actual service provider, so it is a balancing exercise which OfReg has to carry out.

In the years immediately following liberalisation it has been really a free for all in terms of the way the service providers operated—they are motivated principally by commercial considerations; in more recent times, with greater efforts at regulation, it is OfReg's job to try to balance those considerations ensuring that the service provider continues to be motivated by the profit potential but at the same time, that they do not falsely advertise services that they can't provide and that the interests of the consumer are met.

We are a long ways from achieving the ideal situation, but I do hope that what we were able to explain today indicates that OfReg, a new entity, is really

pressing forward with alacrity to try to resolve some of these long-standing issues.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, I support the Premier in that—

The Speaker: This will be the last supplementary on this question.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I support the Premier in that we can't just remove the licence or in many instances it doesn't make sense to suspend it as they are still operating because of how their networks are designed; however, that has been the problem that we have experienced for the last 12 years, I would say.

We didn't have proper mechanisms in place to monitor and to force them into getting these things done, such as build-out. The last administration said the Law did not have sufficient teeth, thus, no enforcement could be done, so we changed the Law to have administrative fines up to \$500,000. Coupled with that, the number of complaints and the lack of compliance on their part to—

The Speaker: Are you forming the question?

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan, Elected Member for George Town Central: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister responsible for OfReg explain what the penalties are for those who are found to be in violation by way of not offering what they advertised? Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the measures available, starting at the lowest end there is the ability to issue a recommendation to the provider to do something or [the] other—a directive, a fine, suspension, and ultimately cancellation of the licence.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

I was actually trying to establish the amount of the potential fines, and the reason I asked is because the Premier acknowledged the difficulty for the Office when these violations happen because they don't want

to just turn off the service, so, we, on behalf of the customer, must make sure that the fines are strong enough to stop those who would violate.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, the maximum fine possible is \$500,000.

The Speaker: Can we move on?

QUESTION NO. 8 ONGOING SHORTAGE OF MEDICATION AT THE HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY (HSA) PHARMACY

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for Newlands: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask question No. 8 in my name to the Honourable Minister of Health. Can the Honourable Minister state what, if anything, is being done to address the ongoing supply issues with critical medications at the Health Services Authority's (HSA) Pharmacy, including but not limited to antibiotics?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour, Minister of Health, Environment, Culture and Housing, Elected Member for Bodden Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the management of pharmacy stores at the Health Services Authority changed more than two years ago and the Authority has considerably increased the resources allocated to managing medication purchases. Since then, the Authority has made major changes in eliminating shortages of regularly demanded medication.

Ad hoc medication purchases for specialty use, which are not part of the tendered contracts, can be challenging to source from time to time. The pharmacy store's team works tirelessly behind the scenes to resolve these ad hoc shortages.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister give some indication of what he means when he says "ad hoc medication"?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: It means ad hoc.

[Laughter]

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: I will be more specific then. Does ad hoc include medications such as antibiotics, antihistamines, cough medicine, and medications generally prescribed for the flu and cold?

[Pause]

The Speaker: Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
It is ad hoc shortages, not ad hoc medication. Mr. Speaker, there is no shortage of medications.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Maybe I am not reading this answer clearly or something but “ad hoc medication purchases for specialty use”. I take that to mean it is not just the regular medication that you would find in the pharmacy but special medication. For example, it might be something to do with cancer treatment and so forth.

What I am referring to are shortages of medications that are prescribed on a daily, regular basis, such as antibiotics which I know for a fact, because I have taken my child to the hospital at least four times and been told that there are no antibiotics, so I know for a fact that there have been shortages.

I am not relying on anyone else for this information; however, I am being told by constituents that they have the same problem. That is where I am going with this question, if that clears it up.

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

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

I have been reliably informed that there are no shortages; however, for the Member for Newlands' comfort I will undertake to seek further information, possibly even as early as today, to share with this honourable House.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

I realise that we have only been in Parliament three months, so maybe the lack in timing of when those shortages that we are discussing happened,

could be the reason for confusion. They could potentially have not been a shortage since the Minister took office but—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Three weeks ago; okay. If in fact there were any shortages, would those shortages be in connection in any way to lack of payment to the providers of the medications?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Member for George Town Central, as I stated earlier, I will undertake to get further information on this subject matter.
Thank you for your patience.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to give the Minister a parting word of advice: this question has come up before in this honourable House; we received the same answer that you just gave and nothing has changed so, it is not really me that you have to worry about, but the people who rely on the Health Services for medications, including elderly people who need to get medication in a timely manner.

I am not trying to embarrass the Minister or make him feel as if he is not doing his job, I just want these issues to be resolved because I get the complaints, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: I appreciate the Member for Newlands' concern. I have the same concern so, in hearing his sage words that these comments have been made in this honourable House before, I definitely will take special interest in ensuring that you are provided with accurate information.

If I am not satisfied, as this is something that affects every resident of the Cayman Islands, I will undertake to ensure that it is rectified.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

This is the last supplementary.

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

This would have been my last question anyway, and forgive me if I am not familiar with the parameters of the questioning, but I assume that my next question is within the parameters of what we are discussing.

The Strategic Policy Statement delivered by the Honourable Premier highlighted some cost reduction measures in medication and I highlighted one line that said: **'In terms of procurement, work has already begun to reduce costs with the use of the reverse auction system to purchase pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.'**

Now, I take that as a new strategy to be able to get prices of medication much cheaper for a simple man's terms. I just want to make sure that I am clear that such is the case and if so, can the Minister possibly elaborate how, so the general public can understand that the Minister is working hard to reduce the cost of medicines for Caymanians.

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Just to say to Members, whenever you are quoting from the SPS, since we have several questions and I don't know where Members will be asking, please state the pages that you are quoting from.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Elected Member for George Town Central, can you state the page for the Hon. Minister?

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Page 20 of the statement delivered by the Honourable Premier—the very first paragraph, the fourth line down. For clarity, Mr. Speaker, there are obviously two strategic policy statements: one delivered by the Honourable Minister for Finance and one delivered by the Honourable Premier; the one I quoted from was from the Honourable Premier.

The Speaker: The Motion.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: I can only thank the Member for George Town Central for his kind comments.

The reverse auction process will actually save us millions of dollars; it has just been introduced to me and [I will undertake to share more information on how the actual process works.](#)

**QUESTION NO. 9
HOW IS GOVERNMENT MONITORING ITS
GRANTS TO SPORTS ORGANISATIONS; AND
LIST OF ALL SPORTS ORGANISATIONS
RECEIVING GRANTS, THEIR OBJECTIVES
AND DELIVERABLES**

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Question No. 9 standing in my name, to the Minister of Sports: Can the Honourable Minister state:

- (a) How is the Government ensuring that sports organisations are operating according to the standards and expectations of the Ministry of Sports, in particular, those organisation that receive grants from the Government; and
- (b) Provide a list of all sports organisations that currently receive financial support from the Government, as well as amount details of the sum given; and state what objectives and deliverables these organisations are expected to meet?

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands, Elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Answer 1: Sports organisations are now included under the definition of the recently commenced Non-Profit Organisations Law, 2017, which requires all non-profit organisations to complete a one-time registration process with the Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations which have been designated as the general registry. The registration will include information on the name, purpose and activities of the non-profit organisation, as well as the verification of the persons who own, control, operate and manage these entities.

Additionally, when registered, non-profit organisations are required to file annual returns which detail the business conducted by the non-profit organisation, for the preceding financial year. Furthermore, non-profit organisations are required to notify the Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations, within 30 days, of any changes made to the non-profit organisation. The Non-Profit Organisations Law, 2017, also requires non-profit organisations to maintain financial records that prove the financial position of the organisation for a minimum of five years and requires non-profit organisations to have appropriate internal controls that mitigate the risk of terrorist financing.

It is also important to note, Mr. Speaker that internal controls mitigate the risk of terrorist financing. They also mitigate the risk of theft, defalcation, money laundering and other untoward activities. The Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations is responsible for ensuring that such organisations have appropriate internal controls, as well as ensuring that appropriate financial records are maintained. The Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations will ensure that these requirements are being met through a supervisory regime that includes on-site inspections and offsite supervision.

Lastly, the new Non-Profit Organisations Law, 2017, provides the Registrar with powers to institute an investigation into a non-profit organisation, as well as

to impose administrative penalties on non-profit organisations that fail to comply with the legislation and further cancel or suspend the registration of a non-profit organisation that fails to comply with the requisite legislation.

Sports organisations are funded through purchase agreements approved by the Legislative Assembly. Funds are disbursed to these organisations based on the said purchase agreement. The disbursement is made following the submission of reports of their activities and an accompanying invoice. The periodic reports by these national sports organisations follow the reporting policy and guidelines put into use starting in 2015 – 2016 Financial Year. They seek to get a comprehensive understanding of the various component activities that comprise the overall development of the particular sport.

These reports require the submission of general information about the association and more specific information such as the membership of the executive, staffing levels and coaching levels of the staff. The reports also contain sporting activities of the association broken down in three age categories: primary age, secondary age, and those over the age of 17. Associations are asked to further break down their Programme into four groups—fitness, recreational, developmental school, and high performance; and give additional details on any activities executed in relation to:

1. Coaching development;
2. Officials development;
3. Volunteer development;
4. Events (fundraising, camps, meets, introductory sessions, award events, etc.); and
5. National competitions.

The reporting policy and guidelines also require annual submission of financial statements based on the level of funding granted, from the various organisations as follows:

- For those granted less than CI\$20,000 per annum, audited financial statements must be submitted where available. Where audited financial statements are not available, management accounts—for example, trial balance, profit and loss statements and cash flow—prepared and signed by the entity's treasurer, president and chairman.
- For those granted more than \$20,000 but less than \$50,000, audited financial statements must also be submitted where available. Where audited financial statements are not available, management accounts must be submitted; these must have been reviewed and signed by an independent licensed accountant from outside the entity.

- For those granted more than \$50,000, audited financial statements must be submitted for the organisation's last Financial Year.

In February this year, a Child Abuse Prevention Policy for National Sports Association was instituted, with each association required to sign. All National Associations have now signed on to the policy, and the Ministry has provided a series of training sessions to train officials of the National Association in child abuse matters; another series will run in September 2017.

Answer 2: Organisations receiving funding in 2016 - 2017 are as follows, Mr. Speaker:

CI Amateurs Swimming Association	\$107,587.50
CI Athletic Association	\$135,262.50
CI Basketball Association	\$107,587.50
Cayman Cricket	\$107,587.50
CI Cycling Association	\$5,000
CI Darts Association	\$6,175
CI Equestrian Federation	\$3,000
CI Marathon Kelly Holding	\$14,000
CI National Squash Association	\$14,000
CI Netball Association	\$107,587.50
CI Olympic Committee	\$104,125
Rugby Football Union	\$75,263
CI Sailing Club	\$56,288
CI Volleyball Federation	\$35,000
Special Olympics Cayman Islands	\$10,000
Sports Association Sister Islands	\$24,000
CI Boxing Association	\$145,987.50

NGS 82—Other Sports Programmes

Academy Sports Club	\$12,065
Bodden Town Football Club	\$24,130
Cayman Athletic Sports Club	\$12,065
Elite Sports Club	\$24,130
FC International Football Club	\$8,550
Flowers Sea Swim	\$10,000
Futures Sports Club	\$12,065

Kystar Athletics	\$30,000
Prison Welfare Fund Cricket Club	\$4,275

The Associations and Clubs assisted are expected to meet the deliverables as outlined in the purchase agreements and confirm in their reports as outlined.

Currently in progress: National Sports Associations are governed by their respective international governing bodies of sport, which has standards that they must adhere to. For those that are Olympic sports, they are also required to be Members of the Cayman Islands' Olympic Committee.

The Ministry recognises that care must be taken to avoid interfering with the operations of local governing bodies of sport as per international sporting protocols but, in light of recent policy additions and legislative changes, the Ministry will be proposing several additional requirements for sporting organisations receiving funding as follows:

For national sport associations:

1. A Certificate of Good Standing from the Cayman Islands' Registrar of Companies;
2. Confirmation of good standing from the relevant international governing body of sport;
3. A list of current directors certified by the Registrar of Companies; confirmation of the executive members and their various roles;
4. Confirmation of good standing from the Cayman Islands' Olympic Committee for Olympic sports;
5. Provision of relevant management accounts for the organisation as per the reporting policy for National Sports Associations;
6. Reports on activities to achieve the requirements of the Child Abuse Prevention Policy.

For sports clubs:

1. Certificate of Good Standing from the Cayman Islands' Registrar of Companies;
2. Confirmation of good standing from the relevant local government body of that particular sport;
3. A list of the current directors certified by the Registrar of Companies and a confirmation of the executive committees and their various roles;

4. The provision of the relevant management accounts for the organisation as per the reporting policy for national sports associations, provision of reports of the club activities in relation to Child Abuse Prevention Policy.

Transfer Payments

Through a transfer payment grant process, the Government also assists with the funding of sports proposals that were not specifically budgeted through the purchase agreements. There are several categories Mr. Speaker, through which these funds are granted.

1. Partial sports scholarships for high school students;
2. Sponsorship of locally hosted international events;
3. Sponsorship of locally hosted sports events;
4. Support for locally hosted sports camps;
5. Support for locally held youth camps;
6. Support for athlete development;
7. Other youth or sport development grant, for request for sports other than those categorised above;
8. Support of training for, and travel to, international tournaments.
9. Partial sport scholarship for collegiate students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there any supplementaries?
The Elected Member for Newlands.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Minister for that very thorough answer.

Mr. Speaker, I will cut straight to the crux of the issue here, because I am sure the Minister is aware the Cayman Islands' Boxing Association has run into some difficulty in that the legal entity has been struck from the register now for over ten years, I think. The organisation is sort of in limbo because they are no longer recognised by the International Amateur Boxing [Association] (AIBA) and I am now hearing concerns that coaches are not being paid; apparently, the former president of the Association has cancelled the work permit of the head coach without him knowing, and the boxers are now in a state of uncertainty.

I wanted to bring this issue to the Floor of this honourable House because I am very concerned; there are a number of young athletes who are depending on the association to help them move forward with their

careers, move forward into becoming professionals and so forth. I am asking what is being done to remedy all of this as quickly as possible. I understand that there may be some legal concerns, et cetera, but at present the situation is not good.

Just to add to that Mr. Speaker, I understand that a new entity has been formed and a new Board has been elected and that entity is now asking for recognition as the Cayman Islands Boxing Association and is now working to get recognition from AIBA; and in my mind the way forward is to obviously try to get that entity working and funded and so forth, so I am trying to find out what the plans are:

1. To remedy the situation with the old entity; and
2. Recognise the new entity going forward.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am reliably informed that they have been paid funds due under this grant up to the end of June. The Ministry has refused to release any further funds until they get their act in order, but I am happy to report that it is not a stagnant position but that they are, in fact, vigorously ensuing to re-establish themselves.

My instructions are that they have formed a new corporate company, which is now legal, and are also seeking to get on par with the international standards. They are a private company, so it is not the business of the Ministry to get into the HR responsibilities, but we deal with the financial aspects and if we feel that this Board is not delivering the achievables set out in the purchase agreement, then the Ministry will take a more hands-on approach.

We intend to meet with all associations including the Boxing Association, and I am happy to say that the Ministry is very, very, much equipped with an excellent team of sports persons advising me. I am also happy to report that based on my background in sports, it would take a pretty good person not to give me accurate information.

I thank you.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Another small matter that I was reluctant to raise, but I will raise it because we are in a public setting and I want it clarified because apparently I have been accused of interfering in the process of getting rid of the old president and getting a new president installed.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: If you let me finish, you will understand whether or not it is true. Just to clarify, I don't know if your Ministry received—

The Speaker: Are you asking a question honourable [Member]?

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Yes.

The Speaker: Are you coming to the question?

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Yes, sir. Has the Ministry received any form of complaint about me interfering in the process or being involved in any on this?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Mr. Speaker, to date, the Ministry is not in receipt of any complaints or statement of facts that the honourable Member for Newlands is guilty of, and I am happy to hear first-hand testimony that he is not.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

I want to say thank you so much to the Honourable Minister for such a detailed response—I learnt a lot in that short period of time.

Of the different sporting associations that were listed, three that are of concern for me, particularly because they came up in the campaign, were not listed here. I am not saying that they are not being assisted, but I just want some clarification, those being particularly the water sports, with the jet skis and wave runners; the Bikers' Association, and the cars in sporting, because these three areas are also sports, but I saw no allocations for them.

I am not suggesting that there weren't, but maybe the Minister can indicate to me that the Government has assisted them before or that they are listed as sporting activities in the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Sports.

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

Again, I am reliably informed that the water sports have been assisted. They ebb and flow; sometimes assistance is not requested but when it has been, they have been assisted. This year the motor sports is being assisted to quite a substantial aggregate amount through our capital vote, which you will see in the upcoming budget.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

That leads me to my follow up question, which will be my last one. The honourable Osbourne Bodden, former Minister of Sports, made the statement that, if re-elected, the former administration would secure proper facilities for motor vehicles, whether that is motorcycles or cars, in this administration.

Can the Minister indicate that that promise is being fulfilled, because there are many young people who take up that activity, which keeps them away from other negatives; can the Minister say that it is following through.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from George Town, led ably by the Honourable Premier, insisted that a significant sum is placed in the upcoming estimates and we look forward to the support of all Members to make this realisation in East End for this up and coming popular sport.

The Speaker: Shall we move on? Next question.

QUESTION NO. 10

HOW MANY CAYMANIANS ARE STUDYING MEDICINE, THEIR PROJECTED DATE OF COMPLETION AND DO THESE SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE BOARD CERTIFICATION AS SPECIALISTS

The Speaker: The Elected Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for North Side: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister of Health: how many Caymanians are currently studying Medicine, their projected date of completion, and if the scholarships include Board certification as specialists?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I want to thank the honourable Member for North Side for that question.

Mr. Speaker, the database at the Health Services Authority reflects thirteen post-graduate and five undergraduate students pursuing medical studies; these individuals are known to the Authority.

Of the 5 undergraduate students, 3 should graduate in 2019 and the remaining 2 in 2020. Of the 13 postgraduate students, 2 are expected to complete their studies in 2018, 3 in 2019, 5 in 2020 and 3 in 2021.

The Ministry is not aware if any of the above mentioned students are on scholarships. I would defer to the Ministry of Education for such information.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

The Speaker: The Elected Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Just for clarity, when the Minister says five undergraduate students, is he talking about the pre-medical degree or is he talking about an MBS—Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery Degree.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

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

Honourable Member for North Side, [I will undertake to get this information for you](#); I requested for the technocrats to be here and the seat is empty.

The Speaker: If there are no other questions...

QUESTION NO. 11

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING NEW AMBULANCES, TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICTS OF NORTH SIDE, EAST END AND BODDEN TOWN

The Speaker: The Elected Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, through you to the Minister of Health: Can the Minister state what, if any, improvements including new ambulances are planned to the ambulance service for the districts of North Side, East End and Bodden Town?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Health Services Authority continuously reviews the operations of all District Health Clinics to evaluate the need for capital investments in facilities, equipment or new services based on our existing data showing, for example, utilisation, trends and population changes.

As part of the vehicle replacement plan, all emergency medical services stations on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac will receive new units before the end of 2017; this includes the Eastern districts having a new ambulance. Approval has also been given for the extension to the North Side ambulance bay through capital funding for the current Financial Year, as well as submissions made in the budget for an expansion of emergency medical services in the district of Bodden Town.

The Speaker: There are no supplementaries?

QUESTION NO. 12
HOW MUCH OF THE HSA's BAD DEBT HAS BEEN
WRITTEN OFF UP TO JUNE 30th, 2017

The Speaker: The Hon. Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister of Health: Can the Minister state how much of the bad debt for the Health Services Authority (HSA) has been written off up to June 30th, 2017.

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Health.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Health Services Authority has implemented several initiatives to reduce its receivables.

Whilst there will continue to be some level of uncollectable revenue, the authority has made significant improvements in its bad debt expenses this year, compared to previous years; the uncollectable debt was reduced by half as reflected in the chart below:

YEAR	WRITE-OFF	BAD DEBT
2013	\$4,010,851	\$15,410,625
2014	\$3,608,314	\$11,353,203
2015	\$2,302,332	\$16,991,857
2016	\$3,513,807	\$14,013,265
2017	\$15,076,025.32	\$7,753,689.53

For 2017, the Authority's Board approved the write-off of just over \$15 million in unrecoverable debt which had accumulated for over a decade and was deemed uncollectable. This exercise was also a recommendation made by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee last year. In addition, the authority is in the final stages of engaging a Debt Collection Agency to help collect outstanding receivables.

Mr. Speaker, the authority has made provisions this year for \$7 million in uncollectable revenue, which is within the Health Care industry ratios in the United States and considerably lower than previous years' provisions; however, the Authority is working to achieve the industry standard set by the American College of Health Care Executives—an international professional society of 40,000 health care executives who lead hospitals, health care systems and other health care organisations—which recommends bad debt write-off as a percentage of gross revenues of 3.3%.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

The Speaker: The Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of public record and accuracy, the

Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee does not make any recommendations, it is the Committee that makes the recommendations.

Without having to go through the process of Standing Orders, I would invite the Minister to set the record straight and withdraw that statement from the answer.

Please, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: Mr. Speaker, this exercise was also a recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee last year—a correction of this good House.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: You got to withdraw the statement first and then correct it.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, we take it that by substituting that the other one is withdrawn, so I think that should satisfy the Member for North Side.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Not really.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, to keep the peace.

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: For the ease of hearts and the abundance of caution, I would like to withdraw the previous statement and supersede it by the latter.

The Speaker: Thank you.

There are no more supplementaries?

QUESTION NO. 13
CAYMANIAN MIGRATION DATA COLLECTED
WITHIN THE LAST TEN YEARS INCLUDING THE
NUMBER OF CAYMANIANS WHO MOVED TO THE
UK SINCE THE GLOBAL RECESSION IN 2008

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

Can the Honourable Minister state:

- How many Caymanians have moved from Cayman to live in another country within the past 10 years?
- How many Caymanians have moved to the UK since the 2008 global recession?
- Is any Caymanian migration data being collected by our government authorities; if so, what has been collected in the last 10 years?

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will answer the sub-questions, contained in that one parliamentary question in the same order in which they have been posed.

The data with respect to how many Caymanians have moved from Cayman to live within another country within the past ten years is not being recorded and is therefore not available.

How many Caymanians have moved to the UK since the 2008 global recession? This data is not being recorded and is therefore not available.

Is there any Caymanian migration data being collected by government authorities, if so, what has been the data collected in the past 10 years? No government agency is collecting Caymanian emigration [data].

The Economics and Statistics Office attempted to capture Caymanian emigration data during the 2010 census; however, the majority of the responses were “don’t know” and “not stated”, therefore, this data was not reported on.

SUPPLEMENTARIES

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central; supplementary.

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

Just for formality purposes, can you indicate the process to me—do I stand up first or do I just nod to indicate that I want to follow-up questions?

The Speaker: Standing is the best form, however, you can grab the mic and if I catch your eye, then I will call on you.

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

Can the Honourable Minister say, whether there is a priority to start collecting data on potential Caymanian migration?

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Honourable Member, I have spoken to the Member for East End before.

I am not going to be abused either on the mic or by any whisper once I can hear it—I am not. If you have threats, carry them out and let me see, but I am not going to be abused, either on the mic or off.

Continue, honourable Member for George Town Central.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Mr. Speaker, can I capture your attention please, sir?

The Speaker: You have caught too much of that already; the Member for George Town is on his feet.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Mr. Speaker, you are truncating me in my responsibilities here.

The Speaker: The honourable Member should take his seat.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: And I do not appreciate it.

The Speaker: The honourable Member should take his seat.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Nor should this country appreciate it.

The Speaker: The honourable Member should take his seat!

Mr. V. Arden McLean: You have done it ever since you have been in here and it needs to stop. It is you who started it by whispering *[INAUDIBLE]*.

The Speaker: The honourable Member should take his seat!

Serjeant, under the Standing Orders, I am asking this Member to stop. I will carry out the Standing Orders and the Member is testing me to do it. That’s what he wants done. I’ll give him another opportunity.

Honourable Member for George Town, carry on.

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

Can the Honourable Minister responsible for Immigration indicate whether it is a priority for this Administration to start collecting this type of data?

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, this is not something that has been discussed since I have been the Minister responsible for Immigration or, indeed, even during the previous term.

It is an issue that I will raise, as we are going through this process now of proposing amendments to the Immigration Law and, more broadly, looking at the whole issue of human resources in these Islands, so it is something I will take on board.

The Speaker: There are no supplementaries.

QUESTION NO. 14 ARE ALL GOVERNMENT VACANCIES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NWD) JOBS DATABASE?

The Speaker: The honourable Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 14 in my name: Can the Honourable Deputy Governor, ex-officio Member state whether all government vacancies are

now being listed in the National Workforce Development Agency's (NWDAs) jobs database?

The Speaker: The Hon. Deputy Governor.

Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, Acting Deputy Governor: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, by Law, the Cayman Islands Civil Service is required to fill vacancies by way of open competition. In practice, government vacancies are notified through numerous channels including online.

Online government vacancies are notified primarily through the dedicated jobs page at www.recruitment.gov.ky website; all externally advertised civil service jobs are listed on this site. Additionally, government vacancies are notified on the NWDA job portal, either through a full listing on the NWDA job portal, or at a minimum through a link to the www.recruitment.gov.ky website, which is embedded on the NWDA jobs portal. Finally, both websites, that is, the main government recruitment site and the NWDA jobs portal, have links located on the www.eservices.gov.ky website under the header of Education and Employment.

In terms of the NWDA jobs portal, the NWDA reports that approximately 11 public sector agencies are registered to use the full listing on the NWDA's job portal, including five civil service entities. This number is gradually growing and as recently as this summer the NWDA provided training to civil service departments on how to register jobs.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, the purpose for which the NWDA's job portal was created is being tackled within the civil service. The civil service's commitment to hiring Caymanians is manifested in many ways, the most obvious is the fact that as of the 30th June 2016, the Civil Service is 74.3% Caymanian. When you exclude the four Departments who hire the most non-Caymanians, specifically, Education Department, the Police Department, Prison Department and The Department of Children and Family Services, the percentage of Caymanians comprising our workforce is 87%, or nearly 9 out of every 10 employees.

Coupled with this, the Cayman Islands Government has numerous checks and balances in place to regulate our hiring practices. The civil service has a dedicated HR audit function—ensuring legal compliance; is subject to freedom of information, facilitating transparency; and employment decisions are subject to appeal to the Civil Service Appeals Commission, ensuring arm's length objectivity and fairness.

Each year the Civil Service employs more than 100 Caymanian interns and provides upward of 80 unpaid work attachments for Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC) students, amongst other employment initiatives targeting qualified Caymanians.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, yes, we are increasingly using the NWDA jobs portal but even prior, our efforts to hire Caymanians has historically been manifested in

diverse, yet successful ways. We are seeking to strategically expand these hiring channels in 2018.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

Can the Acting Honourable Deputy Governor say whether there has been any indication, in this current Administration with the new Human Resources Authority as suggested by the Honourable Premier, that there will be a working partnership? We acknowledge that the Cayman Islands Government is a very big employer in the Islands, so one would assume that their role within this human resources development would be very important. Maybe the Acting Deputy Governor, the Hon. McField, can answer that.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Honourable Acting Deputy Governor.

Hon. Gloria M. McField-Nixon, Acting Deputy Governor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Member for George Town Central for that question.

Mr. Speaker, the Member has touched on a very important opportunity that has been identified by the Portfolio of the Civil Service, as well as the Ministry responsible for the new Department of Human Resources. This would give us an opportunity, as they are looking at what changes might be brought about in the amalgamation and restructuring of that Department, to also factor in the employment needs of the Civil Service.

We already had initial discussions with the Chief Officer responsible, and we agreed that as they are formulating their plans for the way forward we will be a part of that consultation, which is something that we very much welcome; being able to increase our channels for reaching Caymanians in a way that is also going to deliver on the outcomes that we have, because it takes into consideration what our particular challenges have been historically. We welcome the opportunity to get in from the ground up.

Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

The Speaker: None

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: None

OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

The Speaker: None

RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGES

The Speaker: None.

Before you enter item 11, it seems like a good time to take the luncheon break until 2:00.

Proceedings suspended at 12:25pm

Proceedings resumed at 2:10pm

**Hon. Minister of Health, Environment,
Culture and Housing - Updated information
on Question No. 8**

[Audio missing]

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour: —to give some clarity on the answer, as promised during the PQ.

The Speaker: Permission is granted.

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

The question in terms of whether it was pre-med or MBBS, the undergraduate's degree is the MBBS Degree, which is a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery. It would not be the pre-med as the pre-meds can switch at any time.

On the other question, regarding reverse auctions, as explained, reverse auctioning is a process where suppliers are allowed to submit multiple offers in competition with and in response to competing suppliers' offers; this results in the bidding down of the price of goods and services to the lowest price suppliers are willing to offer. Competing bids are revealed in real time to each participating supplier, which allows for transparency and improves the chances of reaching the fair market value of the purchase. I must add that this doesn't necessarily mean that the goods may be generic. Also, in regard to reverse auctioning, it was realised by the Minister of Finance that approximately \$400,000 was saved during this period.

The question in terms of what contributes to ad hoc shortages of drugs. Various factors contribute to the shortages including:

1. Overall recalls - when drugs are recalled in the United States, it takes a while for them to be replenished because they have to alternately be sourced.
2. Prescribing changes - sudden increase in usage of items due to outbreak such as pink eye or influenza.

3. General items that are not sold in the region - it takes a while for us to replenish them, such as chemo drugs.

I think I've answered all the questions and I hope that this satisfies the Members.

Thank you.

[Inaudible interjection]

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

FIRST READINGS

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2016) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for a second reading.

SECOND READINGS

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved.
Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill arises due to a requirement in the Public Management and Finance Law (PMFL).

Honourable Members are well aware that circumstances arise during the course of a financial year that necessitate changes to the Appropriation Law passed by the Legislative Assembly for that Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker, as the original budgeted executive revenue for 2013–2014 Financial Year was \$612 million, the limit established for Cabinet-approved expenditures was \$30.6 million.

Whenever Cabinet is asked to approve supplementary expenditures, Ministries, Portfolios and Offices are advised to, as far as possible, put forward expenditure reductions to mitigate or counter-balance an increase in expenditure that Cabinet is being asked to approve. The aim is, wherever possible, to arrive at a net zero position; however, this is not always achieved, and some net positive supplementary expenditure requests will arise. In terms of operating expenditure for 2013–2014 Financial Year, the net of increases and decreases of supplementary expenditures approved by Cabinet was a very modest increase of \$34,519.

During the 2013–2014 Financial Year, the appropriation with respect to personal loans was reduced by \$85,000; therefore, the supplementary requests in the 2013 Appropriation Bill are significantly less than the \$30.6 million that the PMFL allows for the Financial Year and it demonstrates that Cabinet was prudent in its supplementary expenditure approvals.

The Bill before the House is very simple; it consists of three main parts: clause 1 gives the name of the proposed Law; clause 2 speaks to the appropriation authority of the Cabinet; and the Schedule to the Bill which shows the individual appropriation changes that the Legislative Assembly is asked to approve. I respectfully ask all Members to support the Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Does the Honourable Minister wish to exercise his right of a reply?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to thank Members for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017 was given a second reading.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, very briefly.

Mr. Speaker, as with the previous Bill for 2013–2014 Financial Year, this Bill arises due to a requirement of the Public Management and Finance Law (PMFL). The PMFL allows Cabinet to incur expenditures of no more than 5 per cent of budgeted executive revenue for the 2014–2015 Financial Year. With respect to equity investments and executive assets, the net increase approved by Cabinet was a modest increase of \$1.2 million.

During the 2014–2015 Financial Year, the loans made category within the Appropriation Law for the year were reduced by a very small amount of \$12,000. Therefore, the supplementary requests for the 2014–2015 Appropriation Bill, are significantly less than the \$31.2 million that the PMFL allows for the Financial Year and it shows Cabinet was prudent in its supplementary expenditure approvals. I respectfully ask all Honourable Members to support the Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

I call on the mover to have his right of reply if he cares to.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to thank Members for their tacit approval.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017, be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017 was given a second reading.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2016) BILL, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, very briefly.

Mr. Speaker, as with the previous Bills on the Order Paper, this Bill arises due to a requirement in the PMFL. The PMFL allows Cabinet to incur expenditures of no more than 5 per cent of budgeted executive revenues for the 2015–2016 Financial Year.

As the original budgeted executive revenue for 2015–2016 was \$628.2 million, the limit established for Cabinet-approved expenditure was \$31.4 million. In terms of operating expenditures for the 2015–2016 Financial Year, the net of increases and decreases of supplementary expenditure approved by Cabinet was an increase of \$13.9 million. This overall amount is dominated by three items, Mr. Speaker:

1. Approximately \$2.9 million was requested with respect to services for irregular migrants or refugees;
2. [Another] \$1.4 million was approved as a supplementary expenditure for mosquito control services in light of the fight that we had against the Zika virus; and
3. To cope with tertiary care of indigents, seamen and veterans that are referred to various local and overseas institutions for health care, \$5.9 million was approved.

These three items account for \$10.2 million of the total \$13.9 million relating to operating expenditure.

With respect to equity investments and executive assets, the net increase approved by Cabinet was a very modest \$2.1 million. Therefore, the Supplementary requests in the 2015–2016 Appropriation Bill are significantly less than the \$31.4 million that the PMFL allows for the Financial Year end, once again, demonstrating Cabinet's prudence in its supplementary expenditure approvals. I respectfully ask all Honourable Members to support the Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Does the mover of the Bill wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to thank Members for their tacit support.

The Speaker: The question is, that a Bill shortly entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017 was given a second reading.

The Speaker: The House will now go into [Finance] Committee to consider the Bills.

Proceedings suspended at 2:28pm

Proceedings resumed at 8:32pm

The Speaker: The honourable Assembly has resumed. Please be seated.

REPORT ON BILLS

**REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE APPROPRIATION CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 25 OF THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE LAW (2017 REVISION) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2014, 2015 AND 2016
AND
REQUEST IN ADVANCE OF APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12 OF THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE LAW (2017 REVISION)**

**THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017**

**THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017**

**THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017**

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Report of the Standing Finance Committee from its meeting earlier today.

The Finance Committee considered and passed with amendment, three Supplementary Appropriation Bills, with respect to the Government's Financial Years, 30 June 2014, 30 June 2015, and 30 June 2016.

In addition, the Committee considered and approved a paper entitled "2016/2017 Budget - Request to Incur Expenditure in Advance of Appropriation", thereby granting approval in accordance with section

12 of the Public Management and Finance Law (2017 Revision) for the Government to incur the following additional expenditure in 2016/2017 in advance of appropriation.

Appropriation Reference:

- NGS 55 - Tertiary Care at Various Overseas Institutions, \$6,268,403.
- OE 105 - Settlement of Case, \$4,500,000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The Bills have been duly reported and are set down for a third reading—bearing in mind that there are three Bills at one time.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Bills be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: No, before you get to that we have to suspend Standing Orders.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Okay.

Suspension of Standing Order 47

The Speaker: Premier, suspension of Standing Order 47.

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 47 in order that three Bills shortly entitled “The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017”, “The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017” and “The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017”, may receive a third reading in the course of this sitting of the House.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 47 be suspended in order for the Bills to be given the third readings.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 47 suspended.

THIRD READINGS

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 – June 2014) Bill, 2017, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2013 to June 2014) Bill, 2017, was given a third reading and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017, be given a third reading and pass.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2014 to June 2015) Bill, 2017, was given a third reading and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017

The Speaker: The Honourable Minister.

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017, be given a third reading and passed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Supplementary Appropriation (July 2015 to June 2016) Bill, 2017, was given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The Premier.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment of this honourable House, I wish to thank all Members for staying late and right through the course of this short meeting of three days and three nights and helping us work through particularly this evening, which is Friday evening, to complete the business of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I move the Adjournment of this House *sine die*.

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 8:40 pm the House stood adjourned *sine die*.