



CAYMAN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

2017/18 SESSION

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
THE SPEAKER & MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

**Wednesday
31 May, 2017
*First Meeting after Election***

(Pages 1-36)

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PRESENT WERE:

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Franz I Manderson, Cert. Hon, JP	Deputy Governor, Responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service
Hon. Samuel W Bulgin, QC, JP	Attorney-General, Responsible for Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP	Elected Member for West Bay West
Mr. Bernie A. Bush	Elected Member for West Bay North
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, JP	Elected Member for West Bay Central
Ms. Tara A. Rivers, JP	Elected Member for West Bay South
Mr. Joseph X. Hew	Elected Member for George Town North
Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan	Elected Member for George Town Central
Mr. David C. Wight	Elected Member for George Town West
Mrs. Barbara E. Connolly	Elected Member for George Town South
Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP	Elected Member for George Town East
Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr. MBE, JP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.	Elected Member for Prospect
Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr.	Elected Member for Newlands
Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE.	Elected Member for Savannah
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP	Elected Member for Bodden Town East
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders	Elected Member for Bodden Town West
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller	Elected Member for North Side
Mr. V. Arden McLean	Elected Member for East End
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman
Hon. Juliana Y O'Connor-Connolly, JP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac East

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY
31 MAY 2017
10:15 AM**

The Clerk: We will now sing the National Anthem.

[National Anthem sung by all]

[National Song – sung by Ms. Deri Lee]

PRAYERS

Reverend Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.: Shall we pray?

Almighty God, in Jesus name we give You thanks for these Cayman Islands that You have Founded Upon the Seas and Established Upon the Floods. We humbly recognise that it is entirely due to Your common grace that this community has enjoyed the blessings of peace, social harmony and general wellbeing. For Your protection from major natural disasters we give You thanks. For Your gift to us of dedicated civil servants and civic-minded citizens which enable us to have well organised and peaceful general elections, we give You thanks. For men and women whose minds and hearts have been energised to serve us as legislators, we give You thanks.

We pray that You will bless our leaders with a will to do what is right, courage to do what may be difficult or unpopular and fullness of compassion to act for the common good of all. We look to You and to You only Lord, and ask that You will help our legislators make wise decisions that move our country in the right direction.

Holy Father, we ask that You will bless these proceedings this day with Your strong hand of protection. Guide and oversee these proceedings so that the spirit of grace and peace may characterise all that is said and done to the glory of God and the good of our country.

We ask that You so direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be conducted for the glory of Your 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 the Cabinet, ex-officio Members and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that all may be

enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their 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 Clerk: Please be seated.

We will now invite the Governor to administer the Oaths or Affirmations of Due Execution of Office.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS
OR AFFIRMATIONS OF DUE
EXECUTION OF OFFICE**

*Administered by Her Excellency the Governor,
Ms. Helen M. Kilpatrick, CB*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Deputy Governor

Hon. Franz I Manderson, Cert. Hon., JP

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Deputy Governor, **Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** I, Franz I. Manderson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Deputy Governor, **Hon. Franz I. Manderson:** I, Franz I. Manderson, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Attorney General

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, QC, JP

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Attorney General, **Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin:** I, Samuel Washington Bulgin do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: I, Samuel Washington Bulgin, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

ELECTED MEMBERS

Hon. W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, MLA
Elected Member for West Bay West

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I, William McKeever Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I, William McKeever Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Bernie A. Bush, MLA
Elected Member for West Bay North

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bernie A. Bush: I, Bernie Alfredo Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Mr. Bernie A. Bush: I, Bernie Alfredo Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, JP, MLA
Elected Member for West Bay Central

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: I, Captain Albert Eugene Ebanks, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: I, Captain Albert Eugene Ebanks, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Ms. Tara A. Rivers, JP, MLA
Elected Member for West Bay South

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Tara A. Rivers: I, Tara Antoinette Rivers, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Ms. Tara A. Rivers: I, Tara Antoinette Rivers, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MLA
Elected Member for George Town North

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Joseph X. Hew: I, Joseph Xavier Hew, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Mr. Joseph X. Hew: I, Joseph Xavier Hew, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan, MLA
Elected Member for George Town Central

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: I, Kenneth Vernon Bryan, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: I, Kenneth Vernon Bryan, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. David C. Wight, MLA

Elected Member for George Town West

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. David C. Wight: I, David Charles Wight, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. David C. Wight: I, David Charles Wight, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, MLA

Elected Member for George Town South

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: I, Barbara Elizabeth Conolly, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: I, Barbara Elizabeth Conolly, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MLA

Elected Member for George Town East

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: I, Roy Michael McTaggart, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: I, Roy Michael McTaggart, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., MBE, JP, MLA

Elected Member for Red Bay

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr., MLA

Elected Member for Prospect

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.: I, Austin Osbourne Harris, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.: I, Austin Osbourne Harris, Jr., do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., MLA

Elected Member for Newlands

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr.: I, Alva Horatio Suckoo, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr.: I, Alva Horatio Suckoo, Jr., do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP, MLA

Elected Member for Savannah

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: I, Anthony Samuel Eden, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: I, Anthony Samuel Eden, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Bodden Town East

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I, Dwayne Stanley Seymour, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I, Dwayne Stanley Seymour, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MLA
Elected Member for Bodden Town West

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders: I, Christopher Selvin Saunders, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders: I, Christopher Selvin Saunders, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, MLA
Elected Member for North Side

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: I, Denison Ezzard Miller, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: I, Denison Ezzard Miller, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP, MLA
Elected Member for East End

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I, Vincent Arden McLean, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Mr. V. Arden McLean: I, Vincent Arden McLean, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I, Moses Ian Kirkconnell, III, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I, Moses Ian Kirkconnell, III, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly, so help me God.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Cayman Brac East

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I, Juliana Yvonne O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I, Juliana Yvonne O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly.

The Clerk: Statement by Her Excellency the Governor, Helen Marjorie Kilpatrick, CB.

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, HELEN M. KILPATRICK, CB

Her Excellency the Governor: Members of the Legislative Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

I am very honoured to be taking part in this Swearing-in Ceremony this morning. My congratulations go to all Elected Members of the Legislative Assembly as they take their seats today. I would particularly like to congratulate those Members who have taken on the responsibility of serving our people as an elected representative for the first time. And I would

also like to thank those candidates who were unsuccessful for making their contribution to the democratic process. This is a historic ceremony this morning because it is the first time the Legislative Assembly has been elected under the new single member constituency system.

I was very pleased that the Cayman Islands once again invited the team of election observers from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to oversee the conduct of this election, and that their overall conclusion that the 2017 General Elections of the Cayman Islands amply met the International Standards democratic genuine and transparent elections. This is a testament to the exemplary work of the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Wesley Howell, his office and the many volunteers who supported the process. We are very fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated elections team and thank all of them for their excellent work.

We should also thank the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service and the Special Constabulary who turned out at full force to ensure that electors felt safe and secure as they cast their votes (thank you, Commissioner); that the highest ever, number of voters registered for this election and the high turnout at 74 per cent shows how engaged the systems of the Cayman Islands are in this democratic process.

Elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, you are privileged to have been chosen by our people to represent them. I know that you will want to justify the faith that has been placed in you by fulfilling your leadership roles with probity, with passion, and with the best interest of the Cayman Islands' people firmly in your hearts. No doubt there are challenges ahead for the Cayman Islands over the next four years of this parliamentary term. I am confident that you will all rise to these challenges and lead the Cayman Islands to an even brighter and more prosperous future.

I am only sorry that I will not be here beyond the first year of this new Parliament but I look very much forward to working with you all of my remaining time in the Cayman Islands and I wish you every success.

The Clerk: Please stand.

[Departure of Her Excellency the Governor]

The Clerk: Please be seated.

PROCLAMATION NO. 3/2017

The Clerk: Cayman Islands Proclamation No. 3 of 2017 by Her Excellency Helen Marjorie Kilpatrick, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Cayman Islands.

WHEREAS section 83 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands provides that the sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman

Islands shall be held at such places and begin at such times as the Governor may from time to time by Proclamation appoint;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Helen Kilpatrick, CB, Governor of the Cayman Islands, by virtue of the power conferred upon me by the said section 83 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands, hereby proclaim that a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands shall be held at the Legislative Assembly Building in George Town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, beginning at 10 am on Wednesday the 31st day of May 2017.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Cayman Islands at George Town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, this 29th day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen, in the sixty-sixth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDE OVER THE HOUSE

The Clerk: I now call for nomination of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Nominations are open.

NOMINATION OF HON. W. MCKEEVA BUSH, OBE, JP, MLA

Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Jr., Elected Member for Red Bay: I beg to nominate the Honourable William McKeever Bush, OBE, JP, to be the Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

The Clerk: The motion has been duly moved by the Elected Member for Red Bay.

Is there a seconder?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly Elected Member for Cayman Brac East: Madam Clerk, it is my distinct pleasure to second the said nomination.

The Clerk: The motion has been duly moved and seconded, for the Elected Member for George Town *[sic]* West to be the Honourable Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

Does the Honourable Member—

[Inaudible interjections]

The Clerk: Sorry. What did I say?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Clerk: Sorry, West Bay West. Pardon me.

Does the Honourable Member accept the nomination?

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Elected Member for West Bay West: Madam Clerk, I am thankful for the nomination and accept the nomination.

The Clerk: Are there any other nominations? *[pause]*
Are there any other nominations?

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman: Madam Clerk, I moved that nominations be closed.

The Clerk: If there are no other nominations, I will put the vote.

All those—

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Clerk, I beg to second the nomination.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Clerk, as we are not formally a government, I beg to second the motion for it to be closed.

The Clerk: The motion is that the nominations and election of Speaker be closed.

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

AYES.

The Clerk: The Ayes have it.
Nominations are now closed.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations and election of the Speaker has been passed.

The Clerk: As there are no other nominations, I now declare the Honourable William McKeeva Bush, Elected Member for West Bay West, as the Honourable Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

[Applause and thumping on desk]

The Clerk: Invitation to Her Excellency the Governor, Helen Kilpatrick, CB, to administer the oath or affirmation of Due Execution of Office to the Honourable Speaker.

The Serjeant-at-Arms: Her Excellency the Governor.
Please rise.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF DUE EXECUTION OF OFFICE—SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
*Administered by Her Excellency the Governor,
Ms. Helen Kilpatrick, CB*

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I, William McKeeva Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the Office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The Clerk: We will take a short suspension to allow the Honourable Speaker to prepare himself for the Speaker's procession.

Please remain in your seats.

Proceedings suspended

SPEAKER'S PROCESSION

*The Serjeant-at-Arms
The Honourable Speaker
The Clerk
The Deputy Clerk*

[Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, Speaker of the House, presiding]

The Speaker: Please be seated.
The Legislature of the Cayman Islands is now in session.

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I am most humbled to have received your support to be elected to this high position of being the Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly. I thank you for your trust and confidence in me as the longest serving Member of this Legislature, and if I should say so myself, indeed, of any other, in the life of our parliamentary democracy in these Islands.

When I entered this Assembly in 1984 the presiding officer was the Governor of these Islands. The Governor of these Islands was also the president of the Executive Council, the forerunner to our Cabinet. It was an untenable situation indeed, for me and fortunately for others who shared my thought process of the true separation of the Executive and Legislative Authority.

We, the men of real understanding and intelligence of the trappings of the colonial administration, Mr. Roy Bodden, Mr. John Jefferson Jr., Mr. Gilbert McLean, Mr. John McLean Sr., the late Mr. Haig Bodden, and the worst or strongest conservatives of the conservatives, Mr. Truman Bodden, all banded together to vote for a motion piloted by myself and seconded by Mr. Roy Bodden, to get an independent Speaker of our Legislative Assembly.

I will never forget, Honourable Colleagues that on the tally of the votes and the motion which seemed like no one thought would ever be passed in this House because we had done that at least three times before that, but on that tally, we could have struck with a striker and not a drop of blood, as the Governor in this Chair had to accede to the vote of 7 Ayes and 4 Noes thereabouts. We had won the day on our historical motion for an independent Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly. Well, was I happy? I was overjoyed that on our motion, history was made.

Down through the years for me it was not about the power of our Speaker. That was and is the point. Responsibility is the point and at the heart of responsibility, always are good moral choices. In what we do, in what we say and what we stand for, we must feel as did our ancestors that it is the examples of our Islands that matters.

Should the world see us as what? Willing to trample one another? Willing to destroy each other, cursing, lying, belittling, and damaging our own character? Then my friends, honourable colleagues, what are we then, but a game-stock for those who prefer to see us in the worst light; so, here we are at roughly seven days away from where our people utilised their franchise to elect a governing body of 19 Members of us to conduct the affairs of these Cayman Islands.

Friends, we have joined together, some of us, to come together with the People's Progressive Movement and the number of Independents to form a Government of National Unity. The negotiation to arrive at this position was very difficult. It took several diversions but, in the end, we believe there is a Government which will serve the interest of the people of the Cayman Islands. So, we therefore want to call all of our Members, our supporters, friends and well-wishers to support this new Government of National Unity in the interest of all Caymanians and these Cayman Islands. We are mindful that we have asked for several things which the Premier and his Cabinet and Executives will pay respect to.

The result of the elections has highlighted the need for greater political co-operation in order to meet the expectations and aspirations of the people of these Islands. And so, we have committed to immediately work together to resolve a number of matters of concern to the people of the Cayman Islands and we look forward to the Premier and his Cabinet working with us to resolve the many issues that strike at the heart of our people. No need to ask if it can be done

my friends, colleagues, it must be done. We have no time to play the politics of one-upmanship. Our people are depending on us, our people need help, and so, in our national life we do not need fanfare, we need less fanfare to speak the truth, to work harder and stay faithful to our fundamental beliefs. Someone said we are, each of us, responsible for our own actions, but we all know it has been bedrock in our own individual life, that without co-operation, without all of us working together pulling together, we cannot make it. And, honourable colleagues we need all of you; your gifts, your energy and your ideals. We are here to serve our people, not to make mountains out of molehills and destroy opportunities of goodwill and hope.

My role—I was in the Speaker's Office by myself and I said, *My God, what have I done? What a lonely place this is.* My role as Speaker is not only as the arbiter but I am also an interpreter of regulation. I am not a disciplinarian but, in a way, a judge inspired by fundamental principles and guided by a proven jurisprudence of the House. The latter is not, however, unchangeable, it is in fact, honourable Members, up to us to change or let it fall into abeyance if we feel it no longer corresponds to our present situations so, understand, please, my approach will be realistic and pragmatic. I will recognise that I must act in a humane environment where Members are called upon to make increasingly complex decisions. It is easy to criticise and find fault, and in so doing, to disrupt business in this honourable Chamber. Well, this is where, as Speaker, I can be political without being partisan but must take into account both the letter and spirit of our Standing Orders and regulations. And I stress if need be, the most natural rule, that of common sense.

Honourable Members, I say what I have said makes sense. It is this: Our Islands are at a cross-road. We have had our elections. The issues we face are great. Democracy must now work for our people—all of our people. I am sure that this Government which I have chosen to help form, a Government of National Unity, recognises that the same old—*same old*—will not suffice in this Twenty-first Century. I believe our Premier wants to move forward. I believe he wants to get the job done and we all want that as well. My job is not only to facilitate the rules of free speech and protect the minority, which I will do, if they will allow me to. But understand this: I am here in this time of our existence of the people, to help ensure that our Government is able to carry out their job and to carry out their responsibilities. And so, I will not tolerate efforts to stall or impede the Government's progress. We have had too much of that in our time. It is time to move forward of the problems we face, to fix those problems and allow our Caymanian people and all others who live and move and have their being with us, to succeed; our children and grandchildren, our prodigy to live content lives in these Cayman Islands. I know that is what the PPM [People's Progressive Movement] wants and that is what our Independent

Members want and by God that is published statement of what my CDP [Cayman Democratic Party] wants better for our people.

Mr. Premier and all Honourable Members, I am your Speaker. You have put me here. It does not change my persona. My desire is to see our systems work. I will not tolerate unnecessary holdups and the wasting of precious time for the sake of feeble attempts to weary our Government into frustration. I have been there my friends. I have been there. This is my ninth term. I know what an Opposition can do and I know what is expected of a government and we must now move forward (if I should say in simple West Bay parlance—*no time for rowing now!*). So, let us endeavour to do good; yes, to make a difference. I am of that good generation, raised on the idea that we as a people can do just about anything we set our minds to do. This is our Cayman Islands, “Founded Upon the Seas and Established Upon the Floods” and long may She reign in peace and prosperity.

Just one last word: This Legislative Assembly, as much as the public does not know, is probably at the bottom of the pile in the Civil Service. We do not have sufficient tools to do the job in this modern day when everybody is cursing Members and saying, *We want better from you*. Well, my dear Caymanians in this audience today, go and spread this word; we have to have all of the necessary tools, each and every Member of this Legislative Assembly. So, the Civil Service have to rethink their position. And this Legislative Assembly staff, some who have been here over 30 years, will be treated differently if I can muster the support to get it done. We are a modern Cayman, proud we must be. Let us take this Assembly and make it be what it can be and what it needs to be.

New Members I will only say to you how I ran with my family. My wife has never been on the political platform in 40 years. She has been a good door keeper and so she, in her own way helped. Keep your family out of politics, tend to your children and don't let them get involved. All of you, particularly the young ones will be tempted. You have done well to be elected and we are proud of you. Those who are not Members of my party, we are holding you in high esteem from where you have come to where you are.

God bless all of you. Treat me good. Treat me good.

[Laughter and applause]

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker: The Floor is now open for nominations of election of the Deputy Speaker.

I recognise the Elected Member for West Bay Central.

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate Mr. Bernie Alfredo Bush, Elected Member for West Bay North.

The Speaker: Mr. Bernie Alfredo Bush is nominated.
Is there a seconder?

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, Elected Member for George Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you very much.
The nomination is seconded.
Does the Elected Member for West Bay North wish to accept the nomination?

Mr. Bernie A. Bush, Elected Member for West Bay North: Yes, I accept the nomination, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Are there any further nominations? *[pause]* Are there any further nominations? *[pause]* Are there any further nominations for Deputy Speaker?

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I move that the nominations be closed.

The Speaker: The motion is moved that the nominations for Deputy Speaker be closed.
Is there a seconder?

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I beg to second the motion.

The Speaker: Oh, but you are a government.
The nomination has been seconded and is now closed.

The question is that the nominations for election of Deputy Speaker be closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations and election of Deputy Speaker has been passed.

The Speaker: Accordingly, Bernie Alfredo Bush, elected Member for West Bay North, has been chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly.

[Applause]

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PREMIER

The Speaker: Nominations are now open for the election of our Premier.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Mr. Speaker, I nominate the Honourable Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr. as Premier of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Elected Member for Prospect, George Town.

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr., Elected Member for Prospect: Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to second that nomination.

The Speaker: The Elected Member for Red Bay, George Town, Mr. Alden McLaughlin Jr., has been nominated and seconded.

Are there any other nominations (for the sake of the rules)?

Does the Member for Red Bay, George Town, accept the nomination as Premier of these Cayman Islands?

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I am humbled to accept the nomination, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Mr. Speaker, I move that the nominations be closed.

The Speaker: The motion has been moved that nominations be closed.

Is there a seconder?

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I second that motion.

The Speaker: It has been seconded that the nominations be closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations and election of the Premier has been passed.

The Speaker: Accordingly, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., elected Member for Red Bay, is the Premier of the Cayman Islands.

[Applause]

MOTION TO PRESENT INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a motion to invite Her Excellency the Governor, Helen Marjorie Kilpatrick, CB, to present the Instruments of Appointments to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Speaker: These are some of the nuances of parliamentary workings.

We do need a seconder for that motion. Is there a seconder?

I recognise the Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that motion.

The Speaker: Thank you.

That motion is moved and seconded.

The question is that Her Excellency the Governor be now invited to administer the Instruments of Appointment to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Governor to be invited to administer the Instruments of Appointments to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Speaker: [The Governor is now invited to administer the Instruments of Appointments to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.]

The Serjeant-at-Arms: Her Excellency the Governor. Please rise.

INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE PREMIER AND LEADER OF THE OP- POSITION

[Administered by Her Excellency the Governor, Ms. Helen Kilpatrick, CB, through the signing of the relevant documents]

[Governor departs]

The Speaker: At this time the House will suspend proceedings until 2.30 pm.

I would ask honourable Members to allow the public to leave and thereafter, you can follow to the

seats where Her Excellency the Governor will administer the Oath of Allegiance [or Affirmation] and Oath for Due Execution of Office to Ministers and Members of Cabinet outside the precincts of the Legislative Assembly. In other words, the Cabinet will be sworn in.

Thank you.

You may be seated, honourable Members, until the public leaves.

House Proceedings Suspended at 11:48 am

Outside Proceedings Commenced at 12:00 pm

PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[Recording inaudible for start of proceedings]

PRAYERS

Pastor Andrew Ebanks: [Beginning of prayer inaudible due to microphone not on or recording not picking up said prayer] . . . *today for the ability to elect Members to our Government. And we thank You Father God for Your continued blessings over our lives here in the Cayman Islands.*

We pray that You will continue to bless the proceedings here. We pray that it will continue to run smoothly and Your spirit and presence Father God will rest upon us. We ask that You would bless the Members of our Government; that You will bless the Queen, her heirs, her successors, the Governor, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of the other Elected Members of our Government. We pray Father God that You will continue to give them strength, that You will be their strength, that You will give them wisdom and guidance, that they will continue to seek You Father God, and that there will be continued unity in the Government and they will continue to strive forward for the best that these Islands need; that they will uphold the righteousness; that they will stand for truth and justice. And Father God we ask that in everything they do, that they will continue to seek You in every decision that they must make.

And so, Father God we thank You for these Cayman Islands. We pray that You will bless and prosper them for many more years to come. And we thank You that You have founded us upon the seas and established us upon these waters, according to Your great, precious and holy Name.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Ms. Kim Bullings, Clerk of the Cabinet: You may be seated.

We now invite Her Excellency the Governor to the podium to begin the Swearing-in Ceremony of the Ministers and Members of Cabinet, and the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Samuel Rose.

The Honourable Premier, Mr. Alden McNee McLaughlin, will now take his Oath.

OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS OF DUE EXECUTION OF OFFICE—MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Administered by Her Excellency the Governor,

Ms. Helen M. Kilpatrick, CB

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., MBE, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Red Bay

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I, Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, III, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I, Moses Ian Kirkconnell, III, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: I, Moses Ian Kirkconnell, III, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: The Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly.

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Cayman Brac East

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I, Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: I, Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Mr. Roy McTaggart

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

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: I, Roy Michael McTaggart, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: I, Roy Michael McTaggart, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet, so help me God.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Mr. Joseph Hew.

Mr. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MLA
Elected Member for George Town North

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Joseph X. Hew: I, Joseph Xavier Hew, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Joseph X. Hew: I, Joseph Xavier Hew, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet, so help me God.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Ms. Tara Rivers.

Ms. Tara A. Rivers, JP, MLA

Elected Member for West Bay South

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Tara A. Rivers: I, Tara Antoinette Rivers, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Ms. Tara A. Rivers: I, Tara Antoinette Rivers, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, JP, MLA
Elected Member for Bodden Town East

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I, Dwayne Stanley Seymour, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I, Dwayne Stanley Seymour, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet, so help me God.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr. Franz I. Manderson.

Deputy Governor

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, Cert. Hon., JP, MLA

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: I, Franz I. Manderson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: I, Franz I. Manderson, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet, so help me God.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: The Honourable Attorney General, Mr. Samuel W. Bulgin.

Attorney General
Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, QC, JP, MLA

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: I, Samuel Washington Bulgin do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: I, Samuel Washington Bulgin, do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and the people of the Cayman Islands, in the office of Member of the Cabinet, so help me God.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Ladies and Gentlemen, I now introduce Ms. Cayman Islands, Anika Connolly, who will sing a special song.

Ms. Anika Connolly: Good morning. Is it still morning? I don't have a watch on, but good afternoon.

What a great day to be in the Cayman Islands, and I have to say that I am so proud to be a Caymanian today.

[Song entitled "I'll Rise Up" was sung by Anika]

Ms. Kim Bullings: Ladies and Gentleman, please welcome our Honourable Premier, Alden McLaughlin, who will now present his address.

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PREMIER

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Thank you.

Your-Excellency, Ministers and Members of the Cabinet, my Elected Colleagues in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

Before I start my address I just want to note that for the first time in my political career and the five times I have been sworn in, my dear father was not able to attend and I know he is watching on television, so dad, I miss you.

I want to begin my address today with the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, former President of the United States. He said: **"Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation which is the thing we**

must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off."

It is in the spirit of cooperation that this new Government of National Unity has been formed; co-operation for the greater good of all our people of these Cayman Islands. In this regard, I am especially thankful to the Members of the Cayman Democratic Party and the Independent Members who put country before self or party to join with the Progressives to form the Government. I give the country the assurance that all Members of this Government are equal partners at the table.

Over the course of the past week things have at times felt chaotic but actually, this process of negotiation and testing the strength of various potential coalition has been a necessary one. I believe it has yielded a government that will deliver stability and advance the interest of the Cayman Islands and our people over the next four years. I can tell you that this has easily been the longest week of my political life. I thought in 2000 when I was first elected was bad but no brother, there were some days that even I scarcely knew what to expect from one hour to the next. Every time I blinked there was another proposal on the table.

There were also some light moments for us though, as my team met to consider the options and recounted the events of the campaign to help ease the tension. And one such story is so good that I thought I would share it with you today. It involved on election-day, one of our biggest supporters dragging her husband out of the shower to vote for one of our candidates and throwing him into the backseat of her car with only a half-shaven face at just ten minutes to six o'clock. He went to the polling booth with one side of his face shaved and the other with hair still on it.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I can report that he cast his vote within the time allowed by the law and was duly driven back home to continue shaving. The only regret is that his vote did not save our candidate. And through this all there have been, just today, some notably encouraging things.

I want to thank and pay due homage to the new Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable D. Ez-zard Miller, for having come to me this morning and essentially saying to me— "The battle is the battle but the battle is now over and we need to move this country forward". And then when I thought it could not get any better, somebody showed me the *Compass* editorial—*We are all in your corner, Mr. Premier.*

Thank you, Jesus!

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Forming a government is not about meeting a swearing-in deadline or settling old scores. It is about bringing to-

gether a team that can work together and stay together for a common purpose. I believe we have invited and have been joined by those most capable of meeting these essential requirements. The elections are now over. Thank God.

As in all elections, there are winners and losers, but as Roosevelt points out, we are now past the point of competition. There is undoubtedly still hurt and disappointment in some quarters. It is one of the unintended consequences of the democratic process that we hold so dear. However, in the same way that as a country we showed the world we could conduct free and fair elections, I am confident that as Caymanians, we will also demonstrate our maturity, duty and commitment to the national good by working together to move our country forward. I do not single out only those honourable Members who have been elected to represent the 19 Electoral Districts across these three Islands, but all of us, Government and governed, together as Caymanians. It is the only path that will guarantee national and individual success and prosperity.

There are some, both within and outside of this honourable House, who may wonder of even question whether political opponents can unite to direct the affairs of our country. The truth is that there is much common ground among us. Our common objectives to protect the vulnerable provide opportunities for our people to give them a better quality of life, ensure that our Islands remain safe and secure for both residents and visitors, to manage the continued growth and stability of our economy, our commitment to transparency and good governance and to responsive and inclusive representation, give us a mutual platform on which to integrate policy positions. There may be some differences in style but not in substance. As a new Government we respectfully ask for the public's trust and your confidence in us to do what is right by you. This is a Government of inclusion that is committed to representing all Caymanians.

The honourable Members who have chosen to unite for the common good are to be commended for their sense of duty and selflessness. I believe that each and every one of us recognise that the first requirement of political office is representation. It is on that basis that we were elected. Our next obligation is leadership. We can only fulfil this second duty as a cohesive unit working together for the common good. It is this to which we have all committed here today.

Government is not a prize to be won by smooth talkers and social media gurus; it requires earnest attention to the things that make a difference to the lives of our people. It demands the ability to discuss freely differences in opinion while resolving to work together towards a common goal. It imposes respect and abandonment of egos. It also requires loyalty to the people and to their welfare. I am able to offer these insights through personal experience as the leader of the previous coalition government. I do

not have any fears that this Government will be any different. Cooperation must be the core of our outlook if we all desire success as we embark on this new term of office. I also have enough experience to know that it will not all be smooth sailing. There are some genuine policy choices to be made about how growth is best supported and benefits shared about which the Progressives, the CDP and the Independent Members have traditionally differed. It will challenge us to work through those differences. But the process of doing so will, I believe, lead to potentially better decisions. I look forward to robust but ultimately fruitful debate within the context of a Government of National Unity.

Despite these differences, I have seen and heard most, if not all, of the policy positions espoused during the campaign by those who now form the Government. Each of us acknowledged that the efforts of the previous government to improve the prospects of our young people through education and training must be redoubled. We are at one with the need to provide better opportunities for Caymanians in the workforce. We know the importance of financial services in tourism to our economy. There is no division on the imperative of a prudent well-managed economy. We value both local and foreign investment in the economy. We recognise the advantages in moving to a green economy and protecting our environment. We are all committed to the growth of small business and fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship among Caymanians. We share the same desire to put people at the centre of the decision-making process and to represent the interest of our constituents. These are just some of the broad elements that define our mutual objectives for the country. I therefore wish to assure everyone that across the political spectrum the views of the electorate will be respected and represented by this new Government of National Unity.

At this point, I must reflect that the outcome of the elections was nearly very different. Had 15 voters in Newlands cast their ballots differently and 35 had done so in George Town Central, then, my former Government would have won 10 seats and an outright majority. By such slim margins are things decided in a democracy and, certainly, I have no intention of dwelling on the 'might-have-been'. Rather, as Premier, I will embrace the opportunity that the voters have given us for a different approach to governance. Before doing so, I hope you will forgive me if I reflect for a moment on some of those who will not be part of the new Government. For a variety of reasons, three of my former Ministers have not been returned at this election. I want to thank them for their service and put on record my appreciation for their contribution made during the last term.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: It is significant that although they will not be part of the

new Government, their influence will still be important as we build on the legacy they have left. On behalf of the Progressives that are a part of this new Government, I say without hesitation, that our duty is to country first, from East End to West Bay and all points in between; Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. No one who means the country well will be left behind.

I also take this opportunity to publicly thank my colleagues for their unwavering support in the face of all sorts of external pressure and inducements over the last few days. This Government has a lot of work to do if we are to address the key issues facing our people. We will not shirk from that and in joining me, each of my 12 colleagues has committed to working together to find and implement the solutions we need.

Given the nature of the coalition it will take us some time to develop our comprehensive four-year programme for government. As I said before, I am sure there will be some robust discussions along the way and I am looking forward to that process. I guarantee it will be an inclusive one.

While this is a Progressives-led Government, it is a genuine coalition that will respect the contribution that each partner can make.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I am hopeful that we will be able to present a programme to the country by the end of July. If it takes a little longer, then so be it. We will get it right rather than just meet an arbitrary deadline. The crucial point is that the programme will shape the budget decisions we need to make by December so that we can allocate the resources available to meet the priorities of the Government.

As the new Government settles in and agrees on its priorities to continue to build on previous successes, I ask for the prayers of the nation and God's guidance to ensure that the transition period will be smooth, short and reflective of the will of the people.

Cayman now has a new electoral system. I invite all Caymanians to become part of this new dispensation. I urge them to reach out to their representatives and get involved in their communities and their districts. Make democracy more than just casting your ballot every four years. The success of a country does not lie in the hands of the Government alone, but in the participation of its people.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: We are a strong resilient people and we are CaymanKind. Hand in hand we have the potential to make the Cayman Islands not just good but great. From a personal perspective I am once more honoured to have been given the responsibility of leading this Government of National Unity. I give the country my assurance that I

am first and foremost a loyal Caymanian and I will continue to be guided by the principle of country before self. As someone who has been involved in public service since the age of 14, through my membership in Interact and later in the Lions Club, and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to acknowledge all of the candidates who stood in this election. Whether or not they were successfully elected, they stood up when it mattered and for this they should be commended.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: At election time there are 25,000 experts out there. Whatever a person's personal or political motivation may be, it takes courage to be part of the process and I thank them all for participating.

I also wish to thank everyone who took part in the electoral process by voting; those who volunteered to work on elections day, and especially the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Wesley Howell and his hardworking staff.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I am proud to say that Cayman's electoral system and the way that we administer it, is regarded right across the region as the very best.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I offer Wes and his team our gratitude and congratulations on behalf of the country.

Before I take my seat, I must emphasise that this may be a coalition Government but it will not be a government of the lowest common denominator. We are a Government with ambition, determined to see Cayman make progress against the priorities and shared goals I have outlined. The nature of the coalition means I believe we have the right mixture of experience and fresh ideas needed to achieve our ambition. Regardless of our previous political labels, we are committed to working together to realise the potential that a Government for National Unity offers.

I thank the many people who offered prayers and have given the new Government words of support and encouragement. I thank the many pastors who have called or spoken to me or others, for your continued guidance, prayer and support.

On a personal note, my son, Daegan, is 25 today.

[Applause]

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Happy Birthday Daegan. This is for you and your generation and the generations of Caymanians yet unborn.

May God bless us all and continue to bless our beloved Cayman Islands.

[Applause]

Ms. Kim Bullings: We will now enjoy a musical performance by Mr. Devon Edie.

[Musical saxophone prelude – Mr. Devon Edie]

Ms. Kim Bullings: We now invite Pastor Lavonne Ryan to say a prayer for the Cayman Islands.

[Applause]

Pastor Lavonne Ryan: An awesome day. We serve an awesome God. And God has given us an awesome country and he has made us an awesome people by the grace of God. Isn't that wonderful? Praise the Lord. Let's have a good praise, a good thank you to God for all of his blessings and mercies toward us.

[Applause]

Pastor Lavonne Ryan: He is faithful and he has come and has been faithful once more to the Cayman Islands.

Congratulations to all who make up the Government and to all of you, the people, who made it possible. Give yourselves a good hand.

[Applause]

Pastor Lavonne Ryan: Praise God. I praise Him today. For the nation we love. In 1 Timothy 2 verse 1, He tells us: "**I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.**"

One latter part of a song says, "For we need Jesus now more than ever."

Don't we agree that we need him now more than ever?

I am going to ask you to just please stand at this time if you can, in reverence to God and we are going to do a prayer to him in thanksgiving and to ask him for his special help.

PRAYERS

Pastor Lavonne Ryan: *Oh King of Kings and Lord of Lords, at whose throne the weak shall be made strong and the unjust shall be judged. Pour out Your grace*

upon all those who have authority and power in our nation.

I pray for the Governor, the Premier of these Cayman Islands and all other leaders of the nation who have been given authority to govern. Grant that all, everyone, in Parliament and all others who may have a part, will be open to your leading Lord. Grant that they will seek ways to administer justly amongst the ethnic communities of our nation. Keep them from the arrogance of power and the blindness of nationalism. Help me to know what my role is as a citizen of this country and as a citizen of the world.

I pray today Lord that You would forgive us for getting so far away from You and seemingly, thank God, we are coming back to the Father's house.

Lord, in Your Name we pray for our Nation today. We ask dear God that You would help us, help the Word to be written indelibly in our hearts, that we might not stray so far that we cannot hear you anymore. Heal our Nation. We thank You for all that has been accomplished. We thank You dear God for giving us this opportunity and we pray Lord that You would help us as a people, that we would get together, band together and believe and trust God and pray some more because this is what will change things. Again Lord, we thank You for our beloved Cayman Islands and we ask for Your blessing upon everyone who stays here and comes here and enjoy the blessings of God and truly, we are a blessed people. Help us Lord that we never forget this and that we ask Lord for your guidance, your direction from here-on-out and forever more.

God bless the Cayman Islands. We thank You and praise Your Name. Amen.

Mr Samuel Rose, Cabinet Secretary: Thank you ladies and gentlemen. You are now dismissed.

Proceedings suspended at 1:12 pm

Proceedings resumed at 3:14 pm

CONTINUATION OF PROCEEDINGS INSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed.
Please be seated.

CONDOLENCES

The Speaker: There are two matters of housekeeping before I turn to other business here.

May I tender on behalf of all Members, condolences to Ms. Anita, one of our long-serving staff members, on the passing of her mother?

Also, for the record, we need to read the Instruments of Appointment for the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS

[Read by the Honourable Speaker]

PREMIER

The Speaker: The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, Appointment as Premier by Her Excellency, Helen Kilpatrick, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Cayman Islands, to the Honourable Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., MLA, MBE, JP: In Exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 49(1) and (2) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, and of all other powers in that regard enabling, I, Helen Kilpatrick, CB, Governor of the Cayman Islands, do hereby, by this instrument given under my hand and the public seal, appoint you, the Honourable Alden McNee McLaughlin, Jr., MBE, JP, to be the Premier with immediate effect from 31st day of May 2017.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Cayman Islands at George Town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, this 31st day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen, in the sixty-sixth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Speaker: The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, Appointment as Leader of the Opposition by Her Excellency, Helen Kilpatrick, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor of the Cayman Islands, to the Honourable Denniston Ezzard Miller: In Exercise of the powers conferred upon me by subsection (5) of section 68 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, and of all other powers in that regard enabling, I, Helen Kilpatrick, CB, Governor of the Cayman Islands, do hereby, by this instrument given under my hand and the public seal, appoint you, the Honourable Denniston Ezzard Miller, to be the Leader of Opposition with effect from the 31st day of May 2017.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Cayman Islands at George Town, in the Island of Grand Cayman, this 31st day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen in the sixty-sixth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Thank you, honourable Members for your indulgence.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Speaker: We now turn to other matters of nominations and election of Members of the Standing Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

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

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

Standing Order 77(1) reads:

77(1): There shall be a standing select committee, to be styled the Public Accounts Committee, to consider the reports of the Auditor General—

- (a) on the accounts of the Government;
- (b) on such other accounts required to be laid before the House as the committee may think fit; and
- (c) on any matters incidental to the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers as the committee may think fit.

(2) The Public Accounts Committee shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following the general election and consist of five elected members. The quorum shall be three members, including the chairman.

[(3) Upon its receipt by the Speaker, a report mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been referred by the House of the Public Accounts Committee for consideration and shall forthwith be distributed to all Members and shall become a public document.]

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

This is a Standing Committee that exists under Standing Order 77. Therefore, there is no need for a motion to establish the Committee.

I will now take nominations for the Standing Public Accounts Committee. The Committee shall be comprised of five members.

I recognise the Honourable Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker, I move the nomination of the following Members to be members of the Standing Public Accounts Committee:

- Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Chairman;
- Member for Bodden Town West;
- Member for George Town South;
- Member for Prospect; and
- Member for West Bay . . . oh, I'm struggling.

The Speaker: North.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: West Bay North. Just for the sake of clarity, Mr. Bernie Bush.

The Speaker: I crave your indulgence.

[Pause]

The Speaker: Thank you, Premier.

If there are no other nominations, I should ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition if he accepts the nomination.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for North Side: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination to the Standing Public Accounts Committee.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I will ask the Member for Bodden West if he accepts the nomination.

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, Elected Member for Bodden Town West: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Member for George Town South, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Barbara E. Connolly, Elected Member for George Town South: Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Member for Prospect, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr., Elected Member for Prospect: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to accept the nomination. Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for West Bay North accept the nomination?

Hon. Bernie A. Bush, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for West Bay North: I humbly accept the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Five Members have accepted the nomination. Do we need a motion to close the nomination?

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I move that the nominations be closed.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier.

Nominations are now closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations and election of Members to the Standing Public Accounts Committee has been passed.

The Speaker: I need to question whether the Leader of the Opposition will accept the appointment of Chairman.

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I will accept the appointment as Chairman.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Members of the Public Accounts Committee are as follows:

- Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Chairman
- Member for Bodden Town West
- Member for George Town South
- Member for Prospect, George Town
- Member for West Bay North

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING REGISTER OF INTERESTS COMMITTEE

The Speaker: The next order of business is the nomination of Members for the Standing Register of Interests Committee. This is a Standing Committee that exists under Standing Order 76. Therefore, there is no need for a motion to establish the said Committee.

Firstly, I would ask the Honourable Premier to read the terms of reference of the Standing Register of Interest Committee.

I recognise the Honourable Premier.

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

Standing Order 76(1):

76. (1) There shall be a standing select committee to be styled the Register of Interests Committee for the consideration of matters relating to the Register of Interests referred to it by the Registrar of Interests.

(2) The Committee shall consist of nine Members including the chairman, all of whom shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a General Election.

(3) The quorum of the committee shall be five Members including the chairman.

(4) There shall be a Registrar of Interests who shall keep a Register of Interests in accordance with the Register of Interests Law, 1996.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

I will now take nominations for the Standing Register of Interest Committee. The Committee comprises 9 Members.

I recognise the Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the following [Members]:

- The Minister for Cayman Brac East as Chairperson
- Member for West Bay Central
- Member for Prospect, George Town
- Member for George Town West
- Member for East End
- Member for Newlands
- Member for George Town Central
- Member for George Town South
- Member for George Town East

The Speaker: Thank you.

Recommendations have been made and the motion has been moved.

Does the Honourable Minister for Cayman Brac East accept the nomination and as the Chairman?

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

I accept the nomination and additionally, I accept the nomination as Chairperson.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Does the Member for West Bay Central accept the nomination?

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the honourable Member for Prospect accept the nomination?

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, it would be my honour to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for George Town West accept the nomination?

Mr. David C. Wight, Elected Member for George Town West: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for East End accept the nomination?

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for Newlands accept the nomination?

Mr. Alva S. Suckoo, Jr., Elected Member for Newlands: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for George Town Central accept the nomination?

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

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the Member for George Town South accept the nomination?

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Does the Member for George Town East accept the nomination?

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, Elected Member for George Town East: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any other nominations? *[pause]*.

If there are no other nominations, can we say that the nominations are closed?

Hon. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Mr. Speaker, I move that nominations be closed.

The Speaker: Thank you.

We need to vote on nominations being closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations and election of Members to the Standing Register of Interests Committee has been passed.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Nominations are now closed.

All of the 9 Members who were nominated have accepted.

This is becoming more tedious than when I sat there.

[I declare the following Members to be members of the Standing Register of Interests Committee:

- The Member for Cayman Brac East as Chairperson
- Member for West Bay Central
- Member for Prospect, George Town
- Member for George Town West
- Member for East End
- Member for Newlands
- Member for George Town Central
- Member for George Town South
- Member for George Town East]

We move now to the next item of business—
Government Motions.]

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 1—APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Speaker: I now recognise the Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to move Government Motion No. 1—Appointment of the Standing Business Committee. The Motion reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House and, in particular –

- (a) to consider the Business Papers of the House;
- (b) to decide and inform the Clerk the order in which Private Members' Motions are to be debated on;
- (c) to decide and to inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day the questions to be put down for reply on the Order Paper for that Question Day;
- (d) to provide a ready means of consultation between Members who are not Members of the Cabinet, and the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of the Opposition, the Presiding Officer and the Clerk;
- (e) to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of a Meeting of the House other than the State Opening Meeting;
- (f) to inform the Clerk the order in which Bills shall be set down upon the Order Paper;

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Motion has been duly moved and is now open for debate.

If there is no debate, I will put the question—

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, may I respectfully rise to nominate the following persons for the Standing Business Committee, as follows?

[No audible reply by the Speaker]

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly:

- Honourable Member for Red Bay as Chairman;
- Honourable Member for Cayman Brac West;
- Member for West Bay North;
- Honourable Leader of the Opposition
- Member for Savannah

The Speaker: Could you repeat that?

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Certainly.

I beg to nominate the following Members:

- Honourable Member for Red Bay, the Premier, [as Chairman]
- Honourable Member for Cayman Brac West;
- Member for West Bay North;
- Honourable Leader of the Opposition;
- Member for Savannah.

The Speaker: Thank you.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Mr. Speaker, if I could beg your indulgence. The name is actually Alva Suckoo and I am made to understand that it is Newlands.

The Speaker: Thank you for those nominations.
The question is: BE IT . . .

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: The question is:

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

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

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

The Speaker: Before putting the question, I shall ask Members to accept the nomination.

- Member for Red Bay, the Premier - nomination accepted
- Member for Cayman Brac West
- Member for West Bay North
- Honourable Leader of the Opposition
- Honourable Member for Newlands

Do we move that nominations be closed?

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

The Speaker: If there are no further nominations, the motion is that the nominations be closed.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

A further motion just for belts and braces, that all Members have accepted the nominations.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Agreed: Motion to close nominations of Members to the Standing Business Committee has been passed.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Perhaps we are getting ahead of ourselves and I just wanted to make sure that all Members to the Business Committee have accepted the nomination.

Do we need to take the Motion?

I think that we do need to take the question on the Motion.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, far be it for me to advise you on these matters but I believe that we need to deal with the Motion itself which sets out the terms of reference of the

Committee and vote on that before we move to the nomination stage.

The Speaker: Well, unfortunately for us, we have passed the last stage first and I don't propose we go back because that is already done, but we can move to the Motion itself.

[The question is:

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

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

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes Have it.

The Motion has been duly accepted. Members have agreed upon. Again, if you want belt and braces, we can accept that by motion but I don't see the need for it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 1 passed.

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 2—APPOINTMENT OF STANDING HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Speaker: I recognise the Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Government Motion No. 2—Appointment of the Standing House Committee. The Motion reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing House Committee charged with the duty to make recommendations to the House in respect of –

- (a) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for Members during Meetings of the House;
- (b) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for the Officers of the House;
- (c) the operation and maintenance of the library of the House and the provision of research facilities;

(d) the maintenance, upkeep, furnishing and equipment of the Legislative Assembly building and its precincts;

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

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

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

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Motion has been duly moved and is now open for debate. *[Pause]*

If there is no debate, I will put the question: **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Standing House Committee shall comprise five Elected Members, one of whom shall be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman and one as Deputy Chairman;

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

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 2 passed.

The Speaker: I will now call for nominations to the Standing House Committee. Five Members comprise the membership of this Committee.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I nominate the following Members as members of the Standing House Committee.

- Member for Newlands as Chairman
- Member for Prospect
- Member for George Town Central
- Member for West Bay North
- Member for George Town West

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does the honourable Member for Newlands accept the nomination?

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr.: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination and to confirm, I accept the chairmanship as well.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Member for Prospect, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr.: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Member for George Town Central, do you accept the nomination?

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

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Member for West Bay, North, do you accept the nomination?

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, West, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. David C Wight: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Thank you all for agreeing to serve on this Committee.

With there being no further nominations, I declare the following Members to be members of the Standing House Committee:

- Elected Member for Newlands as Chairman
- Member for Prospect, George Town
- Elected Member for George Town Central
- Member for West Bay North
- Member for George Town West

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 3—APPOINTMENT OF STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

The Speaker: I recognise the Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 3—Appointment of the Standing Select Committee on Privileges. The Motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS Standing Order 79 provides that this Honourable House may appoint other standing

select committees as required from among its Members;

AND WHEREAS on the 19th day of March 1998 this Honourable House established the Standing Select Committee on Privileges by way of Private Member's Motion No. 3/98;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee of Privileges to consider and report to the House on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;

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

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

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Governor.

The Motion has been duly moved and is open for debate. Does any Member wish to speak thereon?

If there is no debate, I will put the question.

The question is: **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT**, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Select Committee of Privileges to consider and report to the House on any matter affecting the privileges of this Honourable House;

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

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 3 passed.

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 4—APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER

The Speaker: I recognise the Honourable Deputy Governor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No.4—Appointment of the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner. The Motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS section 45 of the Public Management and Finance Law, (2012 Revision) states that the Complaints Commissioner shall be accountable to the Legislative Assembly for the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS Section 45 of the said Law provides that a Committee of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for overseeing the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner, or if no such Committee exists, the Speaker shall be responsible for same;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly appointed a Select Committee to be responsible for overseeing the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner on 14th September 2005 by way of Government Motion No. 3/2005;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

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

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Motion has been duly moved and is now open for debate. *[Pause]*

If there is no debate I will put the question.

The question is: **BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

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

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

AYES.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 4 passed.

The Speaker: I will now call for nominations for the Select Committee of five members to oversee the Performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner.

Honourable Premier.

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

I beg to nominate the following Members of the Standing Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner also known as the Financial Oversight Committee:

- Member for West Bay South, as Chairman
- Member for George Town, South
- Member for George Town, West
- Member for George Town, Central
- Member for West Bay, Central

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

Does the Member for West Bay South accept the nomination?

Hon. Tara A. Rivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I humbly accept the nomination, as well as to accept the nomination for Chairperson.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, South, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, West, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. David C. Wight: Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, Central, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept. Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay, Central, do you accept the nomination?

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker: All Members have agreed to serve.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: I did all, yes.

My understanding is that the Members are: West Bay South, George Town South, George Town West, George Town Central . . . Yes, we need to confirm his agreement.

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

All Members have now agreed.

I don't think there are any other nominations so we will declare the following Members to be the

members of the Select Committee to oversee the performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner.

- Member for West Bay, South
- Member for George Town, South
- Member for George Town, West
- Member for George Town, Central
- Member for West Bay, Central

Thank you all.

GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 5—APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

The Speaker: I recognise the Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 5—Appointment of Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner.

The Motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS section 45A of the Public Management and Finance Law (2012 Revision) states that the Information Commissioner shall be accountable to the Legislative Assembly for the performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS Section 45A of the said Law provides that a Committee of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for overseeing the performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner, or if no such Committee exists, the Speaker shall be responsible for same;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

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

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Motion has been duly moved and is now open for debate.

If there is no debate I will put the question. The question is:

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Committee shall comprise five Elected Members;

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

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 5 passed.

The Speaker: I will now call for nominations of the Members of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner. Five Members will comprise the membership of this Committee.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. Alden M McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Chairman, given the proposed transition of these responsibilities based on the legislation that was passed earlier in the year, I propose that the same five Members who have been elected to serve on the Standing Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Complaints Commissioner, comprise the membership of the Select Committee to Oversee the Performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Those five Members are:

- Member for West Bay, South
- Member for George Town, South
- Member for George Town, West
- Member for George Town, Central
- Member for West Bay, Central

The Speaker: Does the Member for West Bay South accept the nomination?

Hon. Tara A. Rivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I humbly accept the nomination, as well as to accept the nomination for Chairperson of this Committee.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, South, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Barbara E. Connolly: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, West, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. David C. Wight: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, Central, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay, Central, do you accept the nomination?

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I accept the nomination as a member.

The Speaker: There being no further nominations, I declare the following Members to be the members of the Select Committee to oversee the Performance of the Information Commissioner.

- Member for West Bay, South
- Member for George Town, South
- Member for George Town, West
- Member for George Town, Central
- Member for West Bay, Central

The Speaker: Don't worry, we will soon get used to these various names that you all have cut us into.

Thank you all for agreeing to serve.

Honorable Premier.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the adjournment of this honourable House sine die. But, Mr. Speaker, I should just like to say to all Honourable Members, particularly those who have been elected for the first time and sworn in today, that the custom is that on the adjournment, Members who wish to make a speech or a maiden speech in particular, are able to make a brief address to the House. Those of us who have been here for longer periods, perhaps can pass or forgo this opportunity.

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier.

Honourable Members, there are 18 of you. If you speak for 10 minutes we will have three hours in this House. I ask you to be, as the Premier has said, judicious with your time and ours.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

INAUGURATION SPEECHES BY ELECTED MEMBERS

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

Mr. Speaker, I come to this role as Leader of the Opposition with humility, honour, pride and gratitude to my Lord and Saviour for his many blessings, and with trust that he is always available for guidance and grace.

I thank my colleagues on this side of the House for their trust in asking me to lead this group of intelligent, articulate, knowledgeable mix of youthful, enthusiasm and experienced men. To them, I commit to leadership by example with a consultative and consensus based decision-making process.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevations to the august position of Speaker in this Legislative Assembly. I believe we can and will work well together.

Mr. Premier, I also congratulate you on your history-making achievement in being elected to your second term as Premier. I pledge to work with you and all Members to ensure we can deliver a good government of which all Caymanians can be justly proud; a government that will provide the services that Caymanians need and empower them to participate to their full potential in the Cayman economy. We will not always agree on what is best for Cayman and Caymanians, but I pledge to carry out my duty with due respect to every colleague in this honourable House. And when we do disagree, our Opposition will be respectful and constructive guided by the yardstick of what is best for Cayman and Caymanians. Our Opposition will not be a tail to wag but a strong rudder to keep the good-ship Cayman on the straight path to restore Caymanian participation and control of the economic and political forces.

There are many lessons coming out of this election and the aftermath of the vote on May 24th. All 19 of us should recognise that Caymanians are demanding something different. I am not so young that I cannot remember the days when Caymanians owned everything. It is time to recommit, to reaffirm and to restore our Christian values, ethics and morals that delivered the Cayman economic miracle. It is time to break the shackles of the mighty dollar, relieve our oppressed people of the heavy burdens and restore hope, justice and opportunity to Caymanians.

Let us all commit here today and not only the Members who have been privileged to serve, but all Caymanians to doing the right things for the right reasons at the right time.

Let me thank my Lord and Saviour for his many blessings, and may we remain ever conscious of his always available guidance and grace.

I would not be here today without the love and support of many persons. I want to thank the voters of North Side for electing me to a third consecutive term. To them I shall remain true to my mantra of participative democracy, always allowing them the opportunity to contribute and be a part of all decisions made on their behalf.

I must thank my dear and beautiful wife for her love and unwavering support. And also, my parents and siblings, they have been and shall remain my solid foundation. The last several weeks have been tough but with the grace of God we have endured.

Let me also thank my Committee for their hard work, especially my primary school teacher, Cynthia Whittaker, the Mayor of North Side, Mitzie Tomlinson (we call her Bonnie), Ms. Sharon Hurlston who walked Frank Sound several nights with me. They all worked extremely hard. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The Honourable Minister and Member for Bodden Town East.

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

As I return to the Hallowed Halls of this Legislative Assembly, I am humbled and honoured that the people of Bodden Town East have seen it fit to make me their representative. Let me congratulate the 19 successful candidates and encourage the 42 others to continue to work to build up our community.

I can only remember, Mr. Speaker, that on elections day when Members and agents of the Opposition, two other Opposition Members, were in my kitchen eating turtle stew. When I looked at it, I said, *what democracy*.

I want to say to the Elections Supervisor that turtle meat will never be seen as treating, but only as deal breaker and unity.

Let me first acknowledge Almighty God; without His blessings I would not be here. To my wife Tiffany, you are my rock and have been there for me every step. My mom, Carol Petals Stevens [PHONETIC], and my entire family, you have been my anchor and have molded and shaped me to get to this point, including my children (one of my many reasons to do this), Zachari, Tahiti, Dior, Taneiyah and Tasara [PHONETIC].

To my committee, where do I start? My committee is the most incredible group of people. You have worked tirelessly throughout this campaign. Without you, this journey could not have been possible. I owe you a debt of gratitude which I can never repay. You met, strategised, canvassed, went from door to door, advocated and organised meetings. The list could go on and on. The countless nights you sacrificed away from your families leave me humbled as it shows how much you believe in me and I will never let you down. This is our victory. I will not call names as you know that will get me into trouble, but you know who you are.

Mr. Speaker, the campaign was a hard-fought battle as I went up against a Progressive Minister, a CDP candidate and a fellow Independent. This very fact has made the victory even sweeter as my supporters never wavered. They believed and came out on elections day and placed their trust in me. But now, the campaign is over and it is time to govern and represent. I will represent all of the people of Bodden Town. To those who supported me I will do you proud and never let you down. To those who did not, I will work tirelessly to earn your trust and support.

Mr. Speaker, everyone now knows that there were five very long days and very stressful days which followed the general elections before a government was formed. During those days there were numerous

talks, meetings, phone calls, negotiations and yes, even horse-trading. They were many who said that these days were uncertain but, in my mind, they have proven that we have a strong and stable democracy in which we as Caymanians are able to manage our affairs and produce a unified Government. This last week has renewed my faith in democracy.

Mr. Speaker, this country went to the polls and elected a record number of Independents since 2001 when the party system reemerged in the Cayman Islands. No matter what happens, from today onwards this ought to be a clear indication to the 19 of us who are blessed to be elected, that the voting public has become dissatisfied with the system we have given them, and it is up to us to listen and change the way we do things to reflect the wishes of the people in our Islands.

To my fellow Independents, I want to say 'thank you' as we negotiated and tried to produce an administration which reflected the wishes of the people, but God had other plans and here we are today.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, as it started to emerge that we would have a Progressive and CDP Coalition and the Government would be Progressive led, I reserved myself to be the best representative I could be to the people of Bodden Town East and the wider Cayman Islands. I decided within my heart that I would do whatever it took to deliver a strong and stable Government of the Cayman Islands. I must say I was stunned by the public announcement by the Premier elect, offering me a seat in the Progressive led Cabinet. As I will always do on major decisions, I consulted my people in my constituency and on Monday night around 200 to 300 persons packed into the Bodden Town Civic Centre and gave me a clear mandate to accept this offer in fine style.

Mr. Speaker, me standing here is not political strategy, it is not pursuit of power, it is not promotion of self, and it is not the result of any negotiation. Dwayne Seymour standing here on the cusp of being appointed a Minister in the Cabinet of the Cayman Islands is a clear voice of the people of Bodden Town and the will of the Almighty God. Of reign supreme in the fears of man, the little boy raised by my late grandmother, Carol Lee, Stanley's son and Petals first son, raised by the village of Gun Square, Bodden Town, so many I have to thank.

And I say, Precious Lord you are the rock on which we stand. You are a God of Hope, Fill us Lord with your comforting spirit. Guide us today that we may not stray from your faith. Lord of host, we place before you our children, our families, our friends, our loved ones and our future. Use us accordingly to your will. Lord, grant us clarity of mind, wisdom to proceed and strength to overcome. Give us guidance and protection we pray—in Jesus' Mighty Name.

I want to encourage our entire country to now rally behind and support this Coalition of Unity. Let us, as Caymanians, now support this Progressive-led Co-

alition which will govern our beloved Islands for the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, we must have unity. We must have stability. The campaign is now over. It is now time to get down to the work for the people. As a government and elected representatives, we must assist our people in finding meaningful employment, revamp our immigration regime to benefit Caymanians while providing certainty for businesses, improve the outcomes in our public education system, in particular our "at risk" students, support our families, provide opportunities for house ownership so that all Caymanians, young and old, can own a piece of this special rock we call the Cayman Islands. Care more for our elderly, revamp the health insurance and pension regimes which are in crisis, stem the tide of foreclosures that are negatively affecting too many Caymanians, cut down on ill-conceived bureaucracy which is crippling small businesses and frustrating our people, improve our community policing to make our streets safer, provide and facilitate more meaningful pro-social programmes for our youth, enhance our tourism product to give our guests even more CaymanKind. Protect and grow our financial services industry.

Mr. Speaker, all Caymanians and residents, we have a lot of work to do, but in unity we can achieve anything.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and God bless these Cayman Islands, in particular, Bodden Town East.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.
Honourable Member for Prospect.

Mr. Austin O. Harris, Jr., Elected Member for Prospect: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was reminded early in this now career of politics that it is just beginning, first by the Member for East End and then thereafter by the Honourable Premier, that I am no longer in the talk show business, therefore I am encouraged to talk less and listen more and I hope to demonstrate that this afternoon. I shall be brief.

Mr. Speaker, I first give thanks and praise to Almighty God for getting me here and for watching over, not only me, but also the other 18 Members over the next four years. I humbly and gratefully accept this election by the people of Prospect and I pledge myself to be a true and faithful servant to them.

I acknowledge and thank those who got me here, not in any particular order but certainly starting with my better half Tina Ringrose; my son, Alexander Harris; my mother, Rubenice Harris; and my father of blessed memory, Austin "Bossie" Harris Sr.; my brother, Robert Harris; my campaign manager and committee chairperson, Mr. Kerry Lawrence and his faithful and dedicated team. I give special mention to my

friend, Mr. Bo Miller who despite his illness, still found time to guide and give me wise counsel.

Finally, I would like to thank both the PPM and the CDP for allowing me a place within this Government of National Unity. I pledge to work hard and diligently apply myself, complain little and learn everything I can in service to the people of the Cayman Islands in general and the people and constituents of Prospect in particular.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member.
Member for Savannah.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden, Elected Member for Savannah: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to offer congratulations to you in this auspicious House that you have taken over as Speaker.

I would like to firstly thank my Heavenly Father for once again allowing me to come here for the seventh consecutive term. I want to also thank my wife and family, the people of Savannah, my very small committee that walked for me, and the confidence that the people had in me, and as many will know, I was sent back here mainly, despite desiring to retire, by the Christian community to continue to defend Cayman's Christian heritage.

To expound on that briefly, Mr. Speaker, it is the Christian heritage and culture and the preservation of sanctity of marriage as allowed in the Marriage Law (2010 Revision) and section 14 of the Constitution, as was approved by a motion that led and was unanimously accepted by the last legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this may not be the place but I must set my parameters from early. I have great concern of people like [Dr.] Raznovich in his attempt to insight residence to go out against our Constitution and the Marriage Law (2010 Revision). And I cannot understand—and maybe someone will explain to me when the House so desires—how a person who is here as a dependent, can interfere in the functions of these Islands.

Once again, I will ask the Honourable Premier for the replacement of the Chair of the Human Rights Commission, Mr. James Austin Smith, if he is still there. It is beyond my comprehension, Mr. Speaker, how a person who is a confessed atheist can objectively deal with matters in a predominantly Christian nation.

Another topic that I touched on in the campaign was the early bringing of the return of the Legal Practitioners Bill (whichever Minister is responsible for that), that it comes back in the proper perspective that will be beneficial to our young Caymanians.

I would just like to leave these couple of verses with this honourable House: 1 Peter 2-13:17 – *"Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will*

that by doing good you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God, respect the government."

I would also like to say *ditto* to my colleague, the new Minister for Bodden Town East, in the remarks that he put forward of furthering the benefit of Cayman to our Caymanian people.

May God, bless us all.

The Speaker: The Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, today I took the Oath of Office for the fifth time; to serve the people of East End in the capacity of a representative in this honourable House.

Before proceeding to my remarks, I would like to thank God Almighty for his blessings upon me over these many years. I next want to thank the people of East End for returning me to this august body to represent them for the fifth time. I am humbled by the trust they have once again bestowed in me. I give them my solemn promise to continue to represent them with respect and to make every effort to ensure they get their due from this country.

I would also like to thank my family for their support over the many years of my public service. Only those who serve in these capacities know the sacrifices that families make in support.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my running mates, the Independents, for their support during the campaign process, and to congratulate those who were successful at the polls. For those who were unsuccessful, I urge them to continue their quest for the honour of representing the people of their constituencies.

Last but by no means least, I wish, through this medium, to extend my sincere appreciation to my committee for its unwavering and continued support.

This election, Mr. Speaker, was a historic one. For the very first time our elections process was conducted by way of the democratic universal method of one person, one vote. If that was not enough, we also placed candidates' pictures on the ballot for the first time. Contrary to the naysayers, our elections seemed to have gone without major hiccups. The voters returned 9 Independents, 7 PPM and 3 CDP. It is my understanding that in this election the lowest percentage of spoilt ballots, ever, were recorded. I believe that that can be directly attributable to the one person, one vote and the pictures on the ballots.

Despite claims of no major hiccups, Mr. Speaker, on elections day, there is more to be done to ensure other areas relating to voters and candidates are enfranchised or streamlined. We have been talking of amendments for too long. It is now time to re-

move much of the outdated qualifications for elected membership from our Constitution and Election Law.

Long overdue is the need to have our election management removed from the responsibility of the Governor also. I am yet to receive the observers report, but according to the newspaper reports, they seemed to have identified areas of weakness that many of us have been advocating for change for, for a very long time. My hope is that this Government, in its second term, will move with haste to have these addressed; the earlier, the better.

Another area that requires immediate attention which has been identified by the latest set of observers is that of election finance reform. Mr. Speaker, our elections have become a game of who can spend the most to get the government they want or need. This election, and by extension, post-election, in my opinion, was the worst. It was so bad that it was bordering on becoming nauseating and the people of this country should not settle for it. Special interest, and what appears like the American-style super PACs, were spending without regard for secrecy because they could do it. God forbid this continues.

In addition, our elections seem to have become controlled from overseas, for instance, this Government is now called a Unity Government as a nomenclature for the new formed friendship, which seems to have been styled from a document governed by the laws of Jamaica. However, the Government is now formed. We need to now ease the uncertainty that our country has endured over the last week. Our people were taken on a see-saw ride from anxiety to stunned, from happy to sad. My hope is that if this situation ever arises again, that we can resolve these matters with haste.

While I am reluctant to address my involvement in detail here, I can assure the public that my side of the story will be told as I have always done. Right now, there are other matters that I wish to address.

Mr. Speaker, this election has given our people the opportunity to reflect and take stock. The lack of attention by previous governments to the basic needs of our people has drawn sharp criticism from the masses. Coupled with that lack of attention, we also see an uneasy trend of a decline in societal and moral values, and a watering down of standards and principles we once held dear. This election, more than any other one, was crucial to the future of these Islands and our people, their children and grandchildren. The gap between the haves and the have-nots have widened over the last few years. Many of our people are falling or have fallen through the cracks because they do not occupy the environs of the middleclass of the one per cent group who are getting all the benefits from this country. If we do not correct the direction the country is going, we are going to be left with our hearts full and empty hands. The Government must put its back to the wheel and work immedi-

ately to correct this worrying trend. We are in the midst of a crisis that must be corrected now. Our country is at war against the system of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened for those at the bottom. That is from a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our politicians' failure to make hard choices and to prepare our people for a new age.

At the same time, our social services programmes are unfunded and understaffed. And many of those in need, especially our elderly, are not receiving the help they so badly need to live a basic life. Homes have been lost and jobs lost are beyond the reach of Caymanians. Businesses shattered. Our health care is too costly; insurance costs have gone through the roofs; our schools fail too many; our immigration and labour policies are in shambles; our roads infrastructure has been neglected; laws to protect Caymanians have been ignored or when proposed changes are made it is to benefit the few. We must immediately commit to the reviewing and changing the laws that are outdated and unconstitutional which do nothing to enhance the lives of our people; laws that do not float boats while drowning our people. This Government must—*must, as a matter of priority*—demonstrate that they have the necessary compassion to help our people. They must shed the label of being concerned with and catering to the fat cats only. The Government has to shed that and it is now.

I also implore the Government in their second term to seek a new way forward based on mutual interest and mutual respect for those who have not been elected on the PPM or CDP ticket, to respect the wishes of the peoples' choice and unclench the fists of the election campaign. We are no longer at war. It is over. The people have spoken and you are the Government. You now have the responsibility to manage the affairs of this country. You are responsible for the distribution of the resources of this country. Do not try to punish your opponents by withholding the needs of the people submitted to the Government, as has been done in the past. I hasten to remind you that a government is for the people, by all the people. Punishing your opponents will only affect the people. Know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you can destroy.

I commit to playing my role in the continued development of my country; a country that I am extremely proud of, where others come to and want to make their home. We need to ensure it remains that way but its resources are not out of the reach of our people. Mr. Speaker, they too have a dream, a dream that they feel is attainable in the country of their birth. Our job is to help them reach it. And instill in the generations to come, the pride of being Caymanian. Our goal must be to try to renew that spirit of endurance, the values of hard work and the understanding that hard work is always—*always*—rewarded. We must instill in a nation that has known the meaning of per-

severance still, since being inhabited. We are required now to create a new era of responsibility and lead our country in a new beginning of resolve where all boats rise and there is equality for our people.

Mr. Speaker, when I entered these Hallowed Halls on the 15th day of November, 2000, I closed with a quote from the Prophet Gabriel and it reads:

“May the strength of God pilot us;
May the wisdom of God instruct us;
May the hand of God protect us;
May the way of God direct us;
May internal power be our support; and
May internal wisdom scatter the darkness of our ignorance.” [UNVERIFIED QUOTE]
I thank you, sir.

[Thumping on desk]

Moment of interruption—4:30 pm

The Speaker: I recognise the Honourable Premier for the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) to enable the House to continue beyond the hour of 4:30 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 10(2)

The Premier, Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Mr. Speaker, I am weary, but I move the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) in order that the business of the House may continue beyond the hour of interruption.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended in order that the business of the House may continue beyond the hour of interruption.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

The Speaker: I ask you all to try to be judicious so that we can go home.

[Laughter and inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: I know I did not hear that.

Thank you all.

Honourable Member for Newlands.

Mr. Alva H. Suckoo, Jr., Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for Newlands: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I promise I will be brief.

I think we are all still very weary but I did not really want to give up the opportunity to just say a few words as this is the first time I have had the opportunity to speak publicly since elections day, and I could

not pass up the opportunity to first thank God Almighty for bringing me back to this honourable Chamber for a second term.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank my committee and the many persons who worked with me in Newlands to secure the election there, and to become the First Elected Member for the Constituency of Newlands. This is a historic moment for all of our constituencies, except for North Side and East End that remains the same. But we are all the First Elected Members of our various single member constituencies and that is a moment to feel proud.

I also want to thank the Supervisor of Elections for what I thought was a fair and transparent election. I did not encounter too many issues that would have given me concern and I really want to thank them for being so well organized and getting us through that process.

Of course, I want to say a special thanks to my friends and family who not only supported me in any way they could, but also put up with me. I've had many conversations with people who offered advice and quite a few people whom I have gotten into arguments with. But it all was for the greater good and I appreciate it all.

I especially want to thank the young people, not just in Newlands but also in Savannah. I think my committee consisted of the majority—and I mean the vast majority—of individuals were under the age of 30. And for individuals who were relatively new to politics, not too interested in politics, they certainly took on a life of politics and got me through, so I really could not miss the opportunity to thank all of those young people.

I would like to congratulate the Honourable Premier on his second term as Premier in this honourable House, and, of course, you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment as Speaker today. And, I must congratulate my colleague to my right, of his appointment as Leader of the Opposition. I will try to give him as much support as I can as his deputy, as we move forward together, being the official Opposition of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, we now have what is being called a Government of National Unity and it is ironic because I was actually having a discussion with a member who is on the committee of the elected Member for Savannah, about what we thought the best possible outcome for this country would have been. Surprisingly, that is what we came up with; a government consisting of all elements of candidates who were involved in this election. So, I was a bit surprised when that became the end result because I was obviously involved in much of that horse trading and negotiation that took place within the last week. And I must admit a lot of it is still a blur. I heard one Member comment on just how intense that was, and I really have to apologise to some of my constituents as I was not communicating, not answering the phone. But that

comes with that process when negotiating that intensely.

I had to say to a young man who criticised me: *You know, we are not selling fish, we are not running a fish shop* (as my colleague always says), *we are trying to form a government so have a little patience*. But I can understand the anxiety and the stress that the general public must have felt because they were not even involved in the discussions so they really had no idea what was going on.

Mr. Speaker, this country now needs healing and I could stand here and talk more about what went wrong with the negotiations, what I thought was wrong, what could have happened differently, but it is all behind us now. We need to move forward. Our country is still divided politically. I know, because I was in one of the toughest fights in this election race. And I know how divided Newlands became over this election of a single member in one single member constituency. I can only imagine what went on in other constituencies that I was not paying attention to. So, we do need now to focus on bringing our people back together. So, rather than to stand here or go on the radio through the talk shows and talk about what went wrong, I am going to ask all honourable Members of this House to put that behind us now and let us move forward. We are talking about a government of unity and the Opposition plays a role in that as well.

I am committed to treat my role as Deputy Leader of the Opposition with the dignity and respect that it deserves. I am not interested in opposing for opposition sake. I will continue to support the good things for this country that the Government brings, and I will also ensure that the Opposition puts forward good proposals for this country as well. And that is how I agree we need to move forward. We all work for what we consider to be in the best interest of this country. Sometimes what one person considers to be in the best interest of the country differs from what I think it is, but at the end of the day we are all motivated by the same thing.

So, we can agree to disagree, we can agree to argue, we can agree to put forward different viewpoints, but at the end of the day we all must be working towards the same goal and objective. We are all Caymanian. So, the time for campaigning is over. Thank God. The time for political differences is over. The time for all of that conflict and division is over and it is time for us to join together and do what is best for this country. And I just want to give my word to the people of the Cayman Islands, that that is what I am here to do.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Government not lose sight of what we were fighting for. We went out and it was very confrontational and emotional, but it was because we all believe so strongly in what we were fighting for. We still have issues with education and labour. Our middle class is still challenged and our young people are still facing a tremendous

amount of issues. I could go on and on but it is not time for that today. I simply ask the Government to not lose sight of those issues. You all campaigned on them. I campaigned on them. Let's work together wherever possible to fix those issues because the people of this country voted for hope. They voted for representatives who could bring hope to them and their families. Let's never forget that.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

The opportunity to say "Mr. Speaker" in these Hallowed Halls is an opportunity that I am so blessed to have. Firstly, I want to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on being the first Member of Parliament in the Cayman Islands to have covered every senior post in the Legislative Assembly which should be congratulated to the highest of heights.

I know I was told to be brief but there is so much to be said. Thankfully, my colleagues and those who are a part of the Government have covered most of it. So, I will go directly to giving public thanks to those who helped me to this place today.

The most important is that I would like to give thanks to God. After so many prayers on my knees and prayers by others who supported me, God made a way for me to be standing here today.

I want to say thanks to my wife, my kids, my mother and father and extended family for supporting me through a very difficult time of times when I could not answer the phone, times when my patience was low, times when I was just not around missing on very important memories.

I want to especially say a special thanks to my committee members who also took time away from their families and time away from their own entertainment to support a vision that we had together for George Town Central to give those voters and residents a voice. And it would be remiss of me not to mention two particular names; that first one being Mr. Edlin Moore who was by my side throughout the process when many others doubted my ability, and who stayed up many, many nights discussing, strategising and analysing thoughts and ways to better my constituency. Secondly, thanks to Dr. Steve Tomlinson who, when many did not believe in me, he believed in me. And he not only believed in me, but allowed the ability by way of finance to put me in this position because being an independent candidate I did not have the luxury of being a part of a party that had the finance from many different fronts. So, I owe a great deal to that man and so I want to say publicly, *Thank you*.

Most importantly, I want to say thank you to the voters of George Town Central who followed me, listened to me and eventually gave me the chance to

be their voice. Fifty-two per cent of the people in George Town Central decided that Kenneth Vernon Bryan should be their voice for the next four years and as amazing as that sounded, a few night ago when I was elected, I must remember that there was 48 per cent of those people who did not think I was supposed to be the person standing here today. So, I know that my job and responsibilities have to be taken seriously because I intend for that percentage to increase between now and 2021.

I want to say thank you to my opponent, the honourable Marco Archer, who is a good man. I really prayed so many nights and hoped that it would not have been him but the past is the past, and I wish him well, no matter what the circumstances are.

I also want to say congratulations to the current Administration which is made up of the 3 CDP Members, 4 Independent Members and 7 Progressive Members. The campaign is over, as has been said by many others already.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Kenneth V. Bryan: Sorry, three Independent Members.

The campaign is over and like I have said throughout my campaign, my ultimate goal is to get whatever is in the best interest of the Cayman Islands and in particular for George Town Central. I promise this Administration to give the support when necessary and to the Opposition when necessary.

Thankfully to the wisdom of the Members of which I am with in the Opposition and the guidance, I understand the role of being an Opposition Member, and it is a very important one to the democratic process. But I can promise you I will not be opposing just for opposition sake. There will be many times that I will vote 'yes' in your favour; at least I hope so. But in the event that I do oppose, it is because it is the will of the people of George Town Central because I intend to keep good communication with them throughout these four years to act on their behalf, not my own.

I want to say to all of the young people of the Cayman Islands, that my colleague, Alva Suckoo, and I, promises to give you a voice in this Legislative Assembly and that that voice will never be turned down. I will continue to fight for you no matter what.

Thank you to all of the other candidates in this election who, unfortunately, were unsuccessful in becoming a part of the Legislative Assembly. You too, played a major role in a democratic process and if there is anything that I can do from my position to continue the success of any Caymanian who have put themselves up for Office, fell free in any way to contact me.

Again, I would like to say in regards to Mr. Speaker, that in respect to our relationship, many have suggested that I was a part of the CDP Party secretly but I am a wise person to see that where there is wisdom, never to be afraid to ask and learn,

just as much as I would ask our Honourable Premier, Mr. Alden McLaughlin. And though the journey to get where I am today has been a mighty fight, I learnt this morning that the fight was well worth it just to get one word from somebody who means something to me.

So, to the people of the Cayman Islands, I will do my endeavor best to represent you with knowledge and hopefully in due time, with experience and common sense and with heart because that is what you sent me here to do.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address you and the people of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Member.

I recognise the Member for Bodden Town West.

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

First and foremost, all praises to God. His son the Carpenter from Galilee taught us in Matthew chapter 6, verse 33: **"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and those things shall be added unto you."**

I have to say a special thank you to my family, particularly my wife who held the family together that gave me peace of mind to campaign. I have to also say a special thank you to my mother who went door to door with me and pushed me even when I was tired. I also have to say a special thank you to my big sister, Karlene [PHONETIC], who flew from the UK a total of three times in six weeks to help me campaign. There were times when it was late and we were tired and she would always say—*Just one more house*.

Mr. Speaker, I must say a big thank you to the voters in my home District of Bodden Town West who trusted me with their votes to make their lives better. Many of them lifted me up in prayers, invited me to their homes, and made me feel welcome. Of the votes that I received, one is also very special to me, as I had a constituent who lost her husband and in her time of grief she went out to vote. When I went to visit her house during the campaign she was not at home but I met the husband instead and was shocked of his untimely passing. I asked this House and everyone else to remember the family of the late Albert Seymour in their prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I also want my constituents of Bodden Town West to know that despite my unconventional campaign where I only had one meeting, no television ads, no radio ads, no donations, that they should not be troubled by where I chose to sit in this honourable House. As you can see, there were no games played here from this side of the House and we want all and sundry to know that we intend to represent the people of Bodden Town West with class. Not just Bodden Town East have class my friend, we have class in Bodden Town West too. So, it is with class, professionalism and integrity. I told my family

that I would never ever embarrass them and I pass that comment on down to my constituents also.

I would also like to thank on record Mr. Wayne Panton and Osbourne Bodden for their service to the Bodden Town community. They spent four years here and despite the results at the polls, I think at the end of the day once you have put service into this country, it is something that we should always be thankful and recognise whenever we can.

I must also say a special thank you to Mr. Gilbert McLean, one of my opponents who has served this country well and I am really sorry I had to go up against him having been a supporter in the past, but he is a good man and I really hope to—not just myself but others inside here—reach out to him and draw on his counsel.

Mr. Speaker, my wife insisted that I put this part in, so I have to apologise to you for my frankness during our discussions. I did not realise until I saw it on Facebook that it bothered you and I want you to know it was nothing personal. I consider you a friend. You are a great friend of the family and I would like to make sure our relationship continues in that regard, so, congratulations on your role as Speaker.

Mr. Premier, I also want to thank you for what you have done and how you have gone about to pull this country together. I can give the Government Bench my support and commitment that I will not just oppose for opposing sake, because at the end of the day every single one of us were elected here to make peoples' lives better and any other assistance I can offer technically or otherwise, please feel free to call on me. I give my commitment for that. I mean, after all, election is a competition of ideas and ideology. And this House was designed for us to have debate and through debate we find consensus.

Mr. Speaker, there is an old political story which you have probably heard of because you have been around a long time, where Napoleon was once asked to explain the absence of great statesmen in France, to which Napoleon replied that in order to obtain power, one has to show pettiness, and in order to exercise power, one has to show greatness. You cannot obtain power in a petty way and be great. Either you are petty or you are great. And I want to give everyone here, my commitment that I have no intention of being petty. So, I just wanted to put that out there.

Mr. Speaker, next year will be 80 years since my grandmother, the late Ms. Mc [PHONETIC] of Champion House first arrived in these Islands. She raised 10 children, one of whom is George McCarthy who is no stranger to this honourable House, having served this country as both the Financial Secretary and Chief Secretary, and I was really pleased to see him here this morning. I believe that I am probably the first second generation Caymanian to serve in this House and despite my last name not being traditional or my accent not being traditional, I just want everyone to know that this is my home. I have nowhere else

to go, nor would I wish to be anywhere else. If there is one thing that my travels and all of my overseas education have made me appreciate, is my home more than anything. And having seen what has happened in other countries I am determined to make sure it does not happen here. So, I just wanted to get that out there also.

My home District of Bodden Town West like many other places on Island, there are thousands of second-generation Caymanians and newer Caymanians. I believe that my election to this honourable House is a step forward in this country that despite whence we came, we are all now Caymanians. I have heard it said many times that Chris won because of the Jamaican vote. No, Mr. Speaker, Chris won because of the Caymanian vote. The only people who are allowed to vote in our elections are the Caymanians and if we are truly to move our Islands forward, everyone in this House must accept that whether your family came 200 years ago, 80 years ago or 20 years ago, we are all Caymanians.

I challenge the Government to work together, not just to create politicians for national unity, but a people of national unity. No matter what ideas or plans we have, it means nothing if the people are not united. This Government can therefore count on my support to do whatever is required for the people to be united, thus my campaign slogan "Forward together".

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that with God's help that I will live four more years and as such, I will have many opportunities to speak. I don't want to be remembered for having a long drawn out speech the first time I spoke in this House, so I would like to close with the following Bible verse as it is one of my mother's favourite. It comes from 2 Chronicles 7:14—**"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land."**

I therefore ask all Members of this honourable House to humble themselves, pray, seek God, so that our land can be healed.

Thank you all. God bless you all.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Member.

I recognise the Member for George Town South.

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, Elected Member for George Town South: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

I rise in this honourable Chamber for the very first time, with a full and thankful heart as the Member for George Town South. I wish from the outset to place on record my thanks to the electorate of George Town South for their trust in me as their representative. I shall always honour that trust.

I am the first person to be elected by the voters of George Town South in the new single member dispensation and I give my assurance to them and to this honourable House that I intend to set high standards of representation. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I will be guided by the example of my immediate predecessor, [the Honourable] D. Kurt Tibbetts, whose representation of George Town as a single district is legendary. I also take this opportunity to thank him for his sage advice, his support and his confidence in me.

George Town South is a diverse district, Mr. Speaker. My constituents encompass the demographic spectrum from CEOs to labourers, with a healthy middle class in between. They have one need in common, however, of honest, attentive representation. I intend to provide that representation irrespective of their social or economic circumstances. This is the Progressives way. I have been steeped in equality and justice for too long to change now. Although I have been involved in politics from the early days of the Progressives, it was not without some trepidation that I decided to offer myself as the Party's candidate for George Town South.

It was also not lost on me that I did not enter this contest as the favourite. Perseverance, a great support team and the confidence of the people have given me the privilege of taking my seat here today. It is an honour I intend to embrace with every fibre of my being. I know that expectations are great and I intend to live up to the best examples of leadership and parliamentary traditions that have gone before me in these Hallowed Halls. I commit myself before all assembled here, to observe the rulings of the Chair, to respect my fellow Members of this Legislative Assembly and to work diligently on behalf of the people of George Town South and the Cayman Islands.

In closing, I wish to join with the sentiments expressed by our Honourable Premier, that as a Member of this new Government of National Unity in working for the betterment of all Caymanians. I feel privileged to be in this Chamber to influence legislative changes that impact positively on the lives of Caymanians. I am equally honoured to do so as a woman, certainly, in the knowledge that we bring a different perspective to national life.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank my campaign team who gave up their own commitments to pound the pavements with me; knocked on doors, organised small gatherings, enlist to the support of their family, friends and co-workers, and generally give me the moral support needed for such an endeavor. The backing of my political organisation was also outstanding and I thank everyone, including my fellow candidates for their help, hard work and inspiration.

On a more personal note, I must also thank my children, grandchildren and siblings for being so generous with their time and understanding for what

promises to be an amazing new experience in my life. I look forward to healthy, respectful debate on the many matters that will require the attention of this Legislative Assembly over the next four years. And I thank you and the House for your indulgence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and, may God bless these Islands we call home.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Member.
Member for George Town West.

Mr. David C. Wight, Elected Member for George Town West: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this honourable House.

Firstly, I want to thank my Almighty God for His blessings, for nothing is possible without Him.

Today is without doubt the greatest day of my life but it is bitter/sweet because of the absence of my parents, Derek and Marguerite Wight. I take comfort in knowing they are looking down and smiling proudly.

I would like to acknowledge my daughter, Delecia [PHONETIC], who spent all day with me, and even though she has not said it, I think she is proud of me.

If someone had told me three months ago that I would be standing here in this most honourable House, giving an acceptance speech as an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would never have believed them. To be chosen as an elected Member of this Assembly by the voters in the constituency of George Town West is the greatest honour I can imagine. The last eight weeks has involved very hard work but the many friends who put themselves on the line for our country through me, made the work so much easier. I am truly grateful to the constituents of my District for placing their trust in me, especially those who put in at least as much work as I did.

I would also like to thank all of my family and my Progressive family from the Honourable Premier, Alden McLaughlin, right down, who had confidence in me and who supported my efforts and put in a lot of work during my campaign. I truly appreciate it.

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to three former elected Members of Government—Mr. Norman Bodden, who is the first person I ever voted for; Mr. Linford Pierson whom I supported from the beginning of his political career, and the Honourable D. Kurt Tibbetts whom I have supported since 1988 and who has been my mentor since 2001, but especially, one who has guided Barbara and I during this election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I am very aware that by choosing me, the voters have placed a great responsibility on me, one which I take very seriously. I will always remember that you have put your trust in me by electing me and I will always act in a manner which makes you proud to call me your representative.

One of the first tasks will address will be the formation of a District Council representing George Town West, giving me the ability to work with my constituents to address all of the issues of our district. This will give everyone an opportunity to have their say in important issues facing our district. Together we will work to make George Town West better for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to speak in this honourable House to address the people of Cayman for the first time as an elected Member. I look forward to working with everyone in this House and I make a special plea that all in this House put our hands together and work for the betterment of our beloved Cayman Islands.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Member.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Honourable Member for West Bay South.

Hon. Tara A. Rivers, Elected Member for West Bay South: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I first would also like to thank God for all of His blessings, His mercies, His grace and for giving me the opportunity to stand here (I certainly would not want to go as far as to say 'seasoned position') as a second-term elected representative, firstly, for the District of West Bay and now in the capacity as a representative for the District of West Bay South under this new dispensation.

I am so eternally grateful for all the persons who participated in this first ever elections under our new electoral system and I am eternally grateful for the resounding support shown to me by the constituents of West Bay South. And for that I would like to say publicly, a big thank you to all of those whom I may not have had the opportunity to say to in person thus far.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say a big thank you to my family that has been a tremendous support throughout all of this, and in particular, my mom who is here and who has been here every step of the way. She is my rock, she is my campaign manager extraordinaire, and, as I said on many occasions, it is a good thing she is family because I could never afford the services that she has rendered during this particular campaign. And although I did send him off to school eventually today, I want to acknowledge and recognise my precious son who also was second in command in campaign central for West Bay South.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, as many people have recognised, it is certainly not by our own efforts that we were successful in standing here as elected representatives for our distinct electoral districts. If it were not for the very hard work and commitment and determination of our committees—and I certainly want to echo my heartfelt gratitude and how humbled I am that so many people came out in the form of a com-

mittee, in the form of volunteers, in the form of supporters that took their time, energy and effort to see to it that I was successful once again to grace these Hallowed Halls on behalf of the constituents of West Bay South in particular, but on behalf of the people of the Cayman Islands as a whole. And so, I want to say a big thank you and I would not even attempt to name them by name because for fear of leaving out anyone in particular at this stage. But you know who you are. Some of them are still here today and have been here from morning and will be hearing the sound of my voice when they listen or view this rebroadcast.

I also want to take time to recognise a family, as we heard from the Member for Bodden Town West that lost a loved one during the thick of things. Actually, I think it was two or three days before (it may have been closer to a week) before the elections itself. It is the family of the late Phyllis Rudon [PHONETIC] who, even though they have grieved and I am sure are still grieving, came out and showed their support and was there every step of the way at the public meetings and up until this very day I got a call from Mr. Herald Rudon [PHONETIC] asking and inquiring how I was doing and if I was doing okay.

It really brought it home to me how many people are praying for us, have been praying for me and how many people believe in us that even during their time of grief they want to still know that the country is going to be all right and that we are going to do what we set out to do, and that is to represent the people of this country to the best of our ability.

Mr. Speaker, as a second-term MLA, certainly, there is still so much to learn but I am very grateful for the experiences that I have had during the previous term. I am not only a second-term MLA but I am also grateful for the opportunity to serve as a second-term Minister in this firmly established coalition Government.

Mr. Speaker, I gave a commitment to the people of West Bay in 2013 and to the country as a whole, to serve the people to the best of my ability and in the best interest of the country with whomever they wanted me to work with, to serve with. I campaigned as an Independent then and I campaigned as an Independent now. And I believe it is important that we recognise that being independent means that you have your own independent mind to decide where you think you are best placed to serve, given the mandate that you have been given. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve with the Government. I will do so with diligence, the tenacity, with the ability to stand and speak up when necessary for my people. And I will continue to fulfill the campaign promise of being able to represent all Caymanians, whether you are here by blood, birth or by status. We are one and West Bay South in particular, Mr. Speaker, is certainly one of those constituencies that have a wide variety of Caymanians represented as a part of that constituency. It is not only the

largest constituency by geography, it is certainly one of the largest by demography, by composition and it is a privilege for me to have been given the honour to serve the interest of the people of West Bay South, but as I said, the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, we have an unprecedented composition in this Government, in this Parliament, in this Legislative Assembly right now. We are the first legislators that have been returned as representatives of the single member constituencies; the 19 single member constituencies of which we are here today.

We also have an unprecedented composition of Members on the Government Bench. We have Members of the Progressive, we have Members of the CDP and we have Independent Members who were elected, as I said, to demonstrate their independence to choose and make the best choice that they think is right for the people of this country. So, Mr. Speaker, that representation of National Unity should not be lost of the significance of what we have achieved thus far and what the people are expecting us to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, we also have an unprecedented composition as it relates to the Cabinet. This is the first time, I believe, we have had and will have two women serving in Cabinet in the history of this country. And again, I think that should not be lost on the country as a whole. We are moving forward in so many ways, and I want to just again acknowledge and thank the people of West Bay South for giving me the opportunity to be one of them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say that we need to come together, not just as representatives in this symbolic way, but we need to continue to work together for the betterment of our people. We need to resist whatever temptations there may be to undermine one another. We need to be able to show the country that we really can put country first. Irrespective of how we got here, irrespective of what parties we represent or not, we are here to serve the people and I certainly will do my part as I have done in the past administration to make sure that all of the work and effort and achievements that we have been able to achieve thus far, will continue to progress going forward as the people expect us to do.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, when I call you I expect you to answer now since we are one.

[Laughter]

The Speaker: She is my cuz.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Elected Member for West Bay North.

Hon. Bernie A. Bush, Deputy Speaker, Elected Member for West Bay North: Mr. Speaker, I think I will demonstrate what the Premier asked for, a short [speech].

Everyone knows where I sit I am uncomfortable. Everyone knows why I am doing this, is because it has to be for my people.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to be the watchman for fairness and development of our people. I will not be a part or support of any group that turns a blind eye to allegations of impropriety against young people engaged in sporting activities or any other endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday I took some pictures of a classroom in West Bay Primary [School]. I did not go to the social media with it and I intend that as soon as the Premier announces the Members of Cabinet, to request two things for my West Bay Primary School; and one is that a new block be built because the present block is no good. I personally paid for an air test two years ago and it showed up pretty good. We then found it was under the floor and now we are finding it in the walls and now we have vermin in the roof.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the Deputy Governor said something like I can't say anything because I am on the Government side [INAUDIBLE]. Well, if the Deputy Governor thinks that debacles like the Fire Chief and such things will go unvoiced because I am sitting here—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Bernie A. Bush: This is not the day for it sir. The Premier wants it to be short.

It will be those types of things when I find them I will bring here regardless of where I sit, because, like I said, I intend for the next four years to be a voice for injustice and for fairness. Throughout this country if you want to call it racism or you want to call it anti-Caymanism, whatever you desire to call it, the people are screaming for it, that this is going on and no one is speaking about it. It will be spoken to a lot once the evidence is here.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, praise be to God. He saw fit to put us here. To the people of West Bay North, thank you. The work starts in a few weeks and we are going to do what we have to do.

To the newcomers, I am also a second-term Member. I looked at who came before me and I looked at some that left before me. One thing I will say is, stay humble, stay respectful, and do not be pompous. A lot of those who seem to come with such [attitudes] have gone by the wayside. When I first came here, the Member for East End said to all the new people “chart your own course”. I give the same advice. Whichever side you sit, there is a man with not much hair from Savannah on that side, he is a wealth of wisdom and calmness, use him.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

Elected Member for West Bay Central.

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Firstly, I would like to thank God Almighty for allowing me the privilege to come back to this honourable House.

I want to thank the people of West Bay, especially the people of West Bay Central for allowing me to serve them for a fifth consecutive term. I am forever indebted to them for their support. I thank my family and I know some of the Members have mentioned their committees but I can honestly say that there is no committee that is more dedicated than my committee. They are the best of the best.

I promise the people of West Bay Central to be as dedicated in serving them as best as I can, as I have done for the last 16 plus years. So, this term should be even more interesting since I only have less than 1,100 people to pay closer attention to. However, I represent the entire District of West Bay and the Island, but especially the West Bay Central people. I want to thank them once again. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve them, and I will continue to the best of my ability.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Member.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

If not, I call on the Premier to move the adjournment of the House.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: I should ask though, as when we go to prayer meetings; at least, years ago they used to ask, "Are all hearts clear?"

Honourable Members, allow me to thank my people for again their support of myself; the hard workers of the new constituency of West Bay West, all of them, especially, Mr. Ashton Ebanks, my Chairman, and his deputy, Mr. Jerry Ebanks, and others.

I do want to especially thank our young CDPs and other young people who worked so very hard in the elections. And, honourable Members, I am sure that you are happy as I am, to have seen so many young people get involved after so much discouragement by people who are saying that everything is bad, everything is going to pieces. The young people came out and were a part and I am very proud of that. My cousin, Eva, and others, were the backbone of my campaign. I did not have time to be much in my constituency but I do want to thank our district committee also for their hard work.

Indeed, I wish to thank my Party colleagues and the wider country for the trust they put in me. I am humbled to receive the top votes in these Islands of over 71 per cent of those who voted.

I am thankful to my loving wife of 42 years, my only son and my sisters and brothers and other family members.

I have one thing to say—we are a Unity Government and we strive for unity in this House, but I must say this, whether you take it politically or not, I don't think the Party systems that this country returned—*what?*—eleven of us. Well, some may say 10 but I say my cousin is part of us. She is one of us. Eleven of us and together our votes were stronger than the Independents. So, it shows that the country still has faith in organisation, and in the Party system. There is no question about that.

Having said that, we are happy for the Independent Members who worked hard and made their way forward. Some had very little meetings and we have to acknowledge that and say thanks to the people because it is our democracy. And so, I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, a very God. I trust him and I know he will make a way for our people in all of these issues and problems that we face. We can do it, honourable Members. I trust him and I know God will make a way for us.

I thank you for your kindness. The hour is still late.

Mr. Premier?

[No audible reply]

The Speaker: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that there is nothing else to be said or done.

The question is that this honourable Legislative Assembly do now adjourn sine die.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

This honourable House now stands adjourned sine die.

At 5:38 pm the House stood adjourned sine die.