



COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION

Cayman Islands Branch

19th YOUTH PARLIAMENT

2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK



Name:

School:



CAYMAN
ISLANDS
YOUTH
PARLIAMENT



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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01 Key Contacts



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02 Message from the Chair



Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Chair of the Youth Parliament Organising Committee**



Dear Youth Parliamentarians,

I am pleased to welcome you to this 19th Youth Parliament programme.

Thank you for taking a step forward to making your voice, and that of your peers heard. Your participation reminds us that democracy thrives when the youth are engaged, informed and empowered to shape the future.

This handbook is designed to be your guide throughout the programme, providing you with the information, structure, and resources you need to fully participate in this important journey.

Throughout this programme, you will not only learn about parliamentary etiquette and practices, drafting Bills, Motions and Parliamentary Questions but it is my hope that you will also forge lasting and meaningful relationships.

During the course of youth parliament (and beyond), I encourage you to speak up with courage and confidence; listen with an open mind and be respectful to ideas that oppose your own.

We look forward to your active engagement, vibrant, yet respectful debates, and bold ideas. Let us make Youth Parliament a space of inspiration, collaboration, and lasting impact.

Best wishes for a meaningful and transformative experience.

03 Message from the Clerk

Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin, BSc, LLB

Clerk of the Parliament

Chief Officer of the Parliament Management Commission

Welcome to the 19th Cayman Islands Youth Parliament, a programme designed to provide you with the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures. The programme will commence in the last week of September 2025 and conclude with a debate on Commonwealth Day 2026. You will be expected to attend the meetings for five and a half months and fully participate. Each of you will have a role to play, which will be fundamental to the overall success of the programme.



The programme will consist of lectures by various parliamentarians and parliament staff, focusing on the various roles of Members of Parliament and how they represent their constituencies in the House.

A part of the learning experience will involve debate techniques, critical thinking on topical issues and drafting.

This experience will help you grow as a confident communicator, so we encourage you to engage with your peers and use this forum as a national platform to voice your opinions.

04 Introduction

WHAT IS THE CAYMAN ISLANDS YOUTH PARLIAMENT?

The Cayman Islands Youth Parliament (CIYP) is a programme that provides the opportunity for youth, ages 15-25, to obtain knowledge on the practices and procedures of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands and to use their voices to bring about social change through meaningful representation and debate. It is designed to demonstrate to future leaders and young parliamentarians the role and purpose of parliaments as institutions for democracy and good governance.

Members of Youth Parliament (YPs) are nominated by their respective schools or universities throughout the Cayman Islands. Once nominated, Youth Parliamentarians attend the House of Parliament and organise meetings, review motions, partake in writing Bills, and have the ability to influence decision makers on the issues that matter to young people.

Youth Parliament meetings are arranged and supported by the Clerk of Parliament, her staff, and Members of Parliament.

This Handbook provide information on:

- Parliamentary Questions
- Motions
- Elected Members of Parliament for the 2025-2029 Term
- The Path of a Bill
- Key Parts of the Standing Orders
- Parliamentary Definitions
- Parliamentary Etiquette
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

05 Aims & Objectives of Youth Parliament



Youth Parliament is a platform offered to youth (15-25), where they are given the opportunity to prepare for and debate topical issues of their choosing in a mock parliament set-up.

This programme is important/significant due to the following reasons:

- 1** One way to educate the public and youth on parliamentary procedures is to allow them to be in that environment.
- 2** It brings like-minded youth on the same platform and offers a chance for the creation of a community to discuss and come up with the possible solutions.
- 3** It is a platform to discuss topical/national issues.
- 4** It develops in students an insight into the working of Parliament.
- 5** Students get the opportunity to form opinions on various issues.
- 6** To teach students to be team players and train them in the technique of group discussion.
- 7** To develop respect and tolerance for the views of others.
- 8** To create in students the quality of leadership.
- 9** To enhance public speaking, listening and analytical skills.
- 10** To teach parliamentary etiquette and decorum.

06 Code of Conduct



As a member of the CIYP we ask you to comply with the following expectations of conduct while participating in the CIYP programme:

- 1** Youth Parliament is a completely drug and alcohol-free environment. No student is allowed to bring or consume any alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances while being a part of the Youth Parliament.
- 2** No student is allowed to represent any political party.
- 3** Students should respect and listen to the views of others, challenge discrimination and promote equal opportunities.
- 4** Students should share their views and perspectives, while always being tolerant and respectful of the views of others, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, culture, religion/belief, and/or physical appearance.
- 5** At all times students should act and communicate in a manner that does not damage the reputation of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands and by extension the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- 6** It is important to take the role and commitment seriously when representing the Youth Parliament, both in and outside of Youth Parliament meetings.
- 7** Students are required to always act in a respectful manner towards fellow participants, staff, Members of Parliament, guests, and any other person encountered on the premises or in meetings and related events.
- 8** Students are not allowed to leave the premises during meetings or sessions without permission from the Clerk of Parliament and their guardians.
- 9** As a member of the Youth Parliament, students are expected to provide contact information by which you may be reached.
- 10** Students agree to the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Student Commitment Policy.

07 Anti-Bullying Policy



The purpose of this policy is to communicate to all Youth Parliament attendees that the Parliament of the Cayman Islands will **not**, in any instance, tolerate bullying. Students found to be in violation of this policy will be disciplined, up to and including dismissal from the current and future Youth Parliament programmes and your guardians and school will be notified accordingly.

The Parliament of the Cayman Islands defines bullying as any health-harming mistreatment of one or more persons by one or more perpetrators. It is abusive conduct that includes:

- Threatening, humiliating or intimidating behaviours.
- Work sabotage that prevents work from getting done.
- Verbal abuse.
- Derogatory remarks regarding another participant's race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, culture, religion/belief, and or physical appearance.

Such behavior violates the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament's Code of Conduct, which clearly states that all attendees will be treated with dignity and respect.

Examples - The Cayman Islands Youth Parliament considers the following types of behaviour examples of bullying:

- **Verbal bullying.** Slandering, ridiculing or maligning a person or his or her family; persistent name-calling that is hurtful, insulting or humiliating; using a person as the butt of jokes; abusive and offensive remarks.
- **Physical bullying.** Pushing, shoving, kicking, poking, tripping, assault or threat of physical assault, damage to a person's work area or property.
- **Gesture bullying.** Nonverbal gestures that can convey threatening messages.
- **Exclusion.** Socially or physically excluding or disregarding a person in work-related activities.

Students who feel they have been bullied should report this to the Clerk or Committee member before the conduct worsens. All students are strongly encouraged to report any bullying they experience or see as soon as possible.

08 Dress Code



As a member of the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament (CIYP) we ask you to comply with the following expectations of dress code while participating in the CIYP programme.

No student is permitted to wear the following in the House of Parliament:

- spaghetti strap clothing
- halter neck clothing
- crop tops
- sleeveless clothing
- short dresses
- short skirts
- shorts
- tights/leggings
- sports shirts/ team jerseys
- shirts with offensive slogans or signs
- low waist pants
- baseball caps

Men are encouraged to keep accessories like watches subtle.

Women are encouraged to keep jewelry, make up and nails subtle.

Youth Parliamentarians' attire should always be consistent with the image of a professional working environment.

All Youth Parliamentarians are expected to dress in proper **Business Suits** for the Youth Parliament debate on **9th March, 2026**.



09 Student Commitment Policy



Below is a copy of the Student Commitment Policy, which students are asked to read and sign at the start of the 2025-2026 term.

Students are asked to commit to the following:

- Attend meetings at the House of Parliament **every Tuesday** from **3:30 to 5:00p.m.**, starting on **Tuesday, 30th September, 2025**, until **Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026**.
School holidays will be taken into consideration.
- Attend meetings on **Saturdays** from **31st January** to **7th March 2026**, from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- Attend the Youth Parliament debate on Monday, **9th March 2026**, from **10:00 a.m.** to approximately **3:00 p.m.**
- Prepare a 5 minute speech for the debate on **Monday, 9th March, 2026**.
- Prepare drafts of speeches in advance and provide copies to any instructor responsible for assisting in the CIYP.
- Conduct research, prepare and present brief debates as needed.
- Fully participate in discussions during meetings.
- Inform the Clerk and her staff if you are unable to attend any meeting, and only do so in circumstances in which there is a valid reason for your absence.
- Agree to the Code of Conduct, the Anti-Bullying Policy, and the Dress Code Policy.

10 CIYP Committee



The Committee provides guidance and advice for Youth Parliamentarians and assists in giving insight into practices and procedures in the legislative process.

The organising and leadership for the Cayman Islands 19th Annual Youth Parliament (CIYP) consists of a committee made up of the following members:



Hon. Kenneth Bryan, JP, MP
Chairperson



Mr. Roy Tatum, MP
Member



Hon. Pearlina McGaw-Lumsden
MP
Member



Mr. Dwayne Seymour
JP, MP
Member



Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin
Clerk



Mrs. Twila Escalante
Deputy Clerk



Mrs. Patricia Priestley
Assistant Clerk



Ms. Nordra Walcott
Assistant Clerk



YP CALENDAR YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Red represents a YP Meeting

Yellow represents Commonwealth Day, the day of the debate.

12 Did you know?



Did you know that the first Youth Parliament debate took place on 12 March 2001?
The following Motions were debated in 2001:

Government Motion No. 1

Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order 1972

Private Member's Motion No. 1

Teenage Pregnancy

Government Motion No. 1

Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order 1972

WHEREAS the Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order 1972 was last reviewed by a Select Committee of this Honourable House in 1990 and 1991 and a Report laid on the Table at a Special Meeting of the House on 28 October 1991;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Honourable House takes note that the United Kingdom White Paper "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity" (*presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by Command of Her Majesty in March 1999*) states that suggestions from Overseas Territory governments for specific proposals for constitutional change will be considered carefully.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House now considers whether there is a need for a Constitutional Review.

Moved by:

Received in the Office of the Clerk this day of , 2001.

Passed/Rejected by the Legislative Assembly this day of , 2001.

Private Member's Motion No. 1

Teenage Pregnancy

WHEREAS teenage pregnancy is on the rise throughout the Caribbean region;

AND WHEREAS social statistics suggest that crime, poverty, disease and many other social ills are directly related to teenage pregnancy;

AND WHEREAS national policies for economic growth are severely hampered by premature motherhood;

AND WHEREAS it is believed that current social trends in dress, entertainment, among other things coupled with a hands-off policy by parents contribute in a major way to this social problem;

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the wish of this honourable House that this government takes corrective steps to arrest these negative trends;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government empowers the relevant social institutions to enforce suitable standards of dress, entertainment, education and hours of leisure on all teenagers in these Islands.

Moved by: The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

Seconded by: The Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 1st day of March, 2001.

Passed/Rejected by the Legislative Assembly this day of , 2001.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT?

Parliament's primary functions are:

- to make and amend legislation
- to oversee and approve the Government's budget
- to debate important issues of the day
- to scrutinise the Government's spending and activities.

Meetings of the House bring together all Members from both the Government and the Opposition, and as such is the place where balance is obtained through debates, committees, motions, and questions.

POWER TO MAKE AND AMEND LAWS

Part IV of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 provides for a legislative branch with the power to make laws. The Parliament Standing Orders lays out the procedure and protocol for Members to debate and vote on new or amended laws. As societies, economies, and technologies evolve, our laws have to change to effectively serve the people. Parliament is where this evolution happens. Members have the opportunity to voice their support and concerns for any legislation, as well as to speak for their constituents.

APPROVING THE BUDGET

The Government's budgeting process includes five phases. The fourth phase is the review and approval of the Parliament. The strategic policy statement outlines the Government's key priorities for the next three budget cycles, and must be presented to the Parliament for review and approval. The Government must also submit its plan and estimates to the Parliament prior to the start of the coming financial year.

DEBATING THE ISSUES

Debating is an important aspect of democracy. Through debate, Members can explore nuanced aspects of proposed legislation, motions, or the budget. By speaking for or against a topic, Members better inform one another and help to influence whether a new law (or motion, etc.) is passed or rejected.

SCRUTINISING GOVERNMENT

The Government's finances are ultimately overseen and voted on by the Members of Parliament, in accordance with Part VII of the **Cayman Islands Constitution 2009 Order**, the **Parliament Standing Orders**, and the **Public Management and Finance Act**. Parliament has Standing Committees, such as the Finance Committee and Public Accounts Committee, which serve to further oversee and scrutinise public spending and performance.

16 Transition to Parliament



AN AUTONOMOUS PARLIAMENT

On the 2nd November, 2020, the Legislative Assembly sat for the last time as "Legislative Assembly" and the transition to a House of Parliament was celebrated at a historic ceremony with an Official State Opening on Friday, 4th December, 2020.

The renaming of the Legislative Assembly institution to Parliament was agreed between a delegation of Members of the House and the United Kingdom Government in a package of important enhancements to our Constitution. This amendment also brought about the transition from "Members of the Legislative Assembly" to "Members of Parliament" and established the positions of Parliamentary Secretaries.

The Cayman Islands' unicameral legislature is now only the third United Kingdom Overseas Territory (OT) to be designated as a Parliament, behind Bermuda and Gibraltar, and the second among Caribbean OTs.

In addition to the transitioning of the Legislative Assembly to that of a Parliament, the Parliament became autonomous with the passage of the Legislative Assembly (Management) Law, 2020 (now Parliament (Management) Act, 2020) on the 30 October, 2020.

Then-Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin stated that "the renaming of the Legislative Assembly to the House of Parliament is yet another significant milestone in the history of the Cayman Islands. There are indeed greater things to come; and we must never lose sight of why we are here, to not only serve those who elected us, but to also leave a strong foundation for those who follow us to build upon."

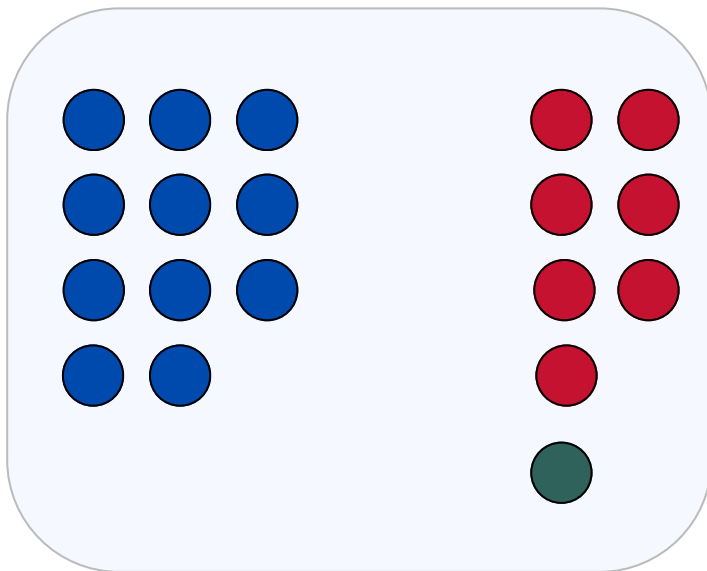
The independent Parliament is now governed by a Commission, which is managed by the Parliament Management Council. The Council, headed by the Speaker of the House, comprises nine Members as provided for by the Parliament Management Act, and the Clerk of Parliament, Mrs Zena Merren-Chin as the ex-officio, non-voting Member of the Council and was appointed as the Chief Officer of the Commission

17 Meet Your Members of Parliament



The Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands was renamed the **Parliament of the Cayman Islands** as part of a suite of changes included in the 2020 Constitutional Amendment. Overall, the Constitutional reform has been seen as a move towards increased parliamentary autonomy.

The Parliament is comprised of **21 Members** (19 elected Members for a four-year term, and two ex-officio Members: the Deputy Governor and the Attorney General). **The Speaker** can be elected from the membership of the Parliament and can be included in the 19 Members, however, the Speaker can also be elected from outside the Parliament.



19 seats

Government Members

People's Progressive Movement (Official Opposition)

Independent Members of the Opposition

Do you know who the MP for your constituency is?

Look at the next page to find out.

Current MPs



SPEAKER

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller

Elected Speaker of the House of Parliament

THE GOVERNMENT

The Cabinet is comprised of the Premier, seven other Ministers, one of whom is the Deputy Premier, and two non-voting ex-officio members. The Cabinet is responsible for formulating and directing the implementation of policy related to every aspect of government, with the exception of the Governor's special responsibilities.



Hon. André Ebanks, MP

PREMIER

Minister for Financial Services and Commerce

Elected Member for West Bay South



Hon. Gary Ruddy, MP

DEPUTY PREMIER

Minister for Tourism & Trade Development

Elected Member for George Town South



Hon. Johany Ebanks, JP, MP

Minister for Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure

Elected Member for North Side



Hon. Isaac Rankine, JP, MP

Minister for Social Development and Innovation *AND* Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage

Elected Member for East End



Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks MP

Minister for Health, Environment and Sustainability

Elected Member for West Bay Central



Hon. Nickolas DaCosta JP, MP

Minister for District Administration and Home Affairs

Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman



Hon. Rolston Anglin, JP, MP

Minister for Finance and Economic Development *AND* Education and Training

Elected Member for West Bay North



Hon. Michael Myles, MP

Minister for Caymanian Employment and Immigration

Elected Member for Prospect

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS



Hon. Samuel Bulgin KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ex-officio Member for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs



Hon. Franz Manderson MBE, Cert. Hon., JP

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Ex-officio Member for the Portfolio of the Civil Service

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Mrs. Julie Hunter, JP, MP

Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure; Education and Training; Culture and Heritage

Elected Member for West Bay West



Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP

Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Caymanian Employment and Immigration; Infrastructure; Health, Environment and Sustainability; Financial Services and Commerce

Elected Member for Newlands



Ms. Heather Bodden OCl, Cert. Hon., MP

Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Social Development; Education and Training; Tourism

Elected Member for Savannah



THE OPPOSITION

Hon. Joseph Hew MP

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Elected Member for George Town North



Hon. Kenneth Bryan JP, MP

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Elected Member for George Town Central



Hon. Pearlina McGaw-Lumsden MP

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Elected Member for George Town West



Mr. Roy McTaggart JP, MP

Elected Member for George Town East



Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly JP, MP

Elected Member for Cayman Brac East



Mr. Dwayne Seymour CCI, JP, MP

Elected Member for Bodden Town East



Mr. A. Royston Tatum Cert. Hon., MP

Elected Member for Red Bay



Mr. Christopher Saunders

Elected Member for Bodden Town West





GAVEL SCRAMBLE!

Unscramble each word related to the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament.

1. NTEIUTCSTN → _____

2. PRALIEMNTA → _____

3. EBTDAE → _____

4. LILB → _____

5. MECOIMTTE → _____

6. EEPRSAK → _____

7. NOMTIO → _____

8. RMUQUO → _____

9. EVGLA → _____

10. MTINEUS → _____

11. LCREK → _____

12. POPISOTION → _____

13. OTVING → _____



Hon. Sybil McLaughlin was the **first Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and first female Speaker of the Commonwealth.**

She became our first Speaker on 15th February 1991 and served as Speaker until she retired in 1996. In 1996 she received the country's highest honour of **National Hero** in recognition of her contribution to Cayman's parliamentary development as well as to community life.

Since 1991 we have had ten Speakers:

NAMES

Hon. Sybil I. **McLaughlin**, MBE, JP
 Hon. Capt. Mabry S. **Kirkconnell**, OBE, JP
 Hon. Juliana Y. **O'Connor-Connolly**, JP, MP
 Hon. Edna M. **Moyle**, OBE, JP
 Hon. Dr. Linford Ainsworth **Pierson**, OBE, JP, PhD. FCCA
 Hon. Mary J. **Lawrence**, MBE, JP
 Hon. Juliana Y. **O'Connor-Connolly**, JP, MP
 Hon. Dr. W. McKeeva **Bush**, JP, Hon MSc
 Hon. Katherine **Ebanks-Wilks**, MP
 Hon. Sir Alden **McLaughlin**, KCMG, MBE, KC, JP
 Hon. D. Ezzard **Miller**

TERMS

1991-1996
 1996-2001
 2002-2003
 2003-2005
 2005-2009
 2009-2013
 2013-2017
 2017-2022
 2022-2023
 2023-2025
 2025-present



All of the activities of the Parliament are under the regulations specified in the **Parliament Standing Orders, 2025**, in addition to the Constitution. The Standing Orders regulate the way that elected Members may conduct House business, among other roles and responsibilities of personnel in Parliament.

From the "Legislative Assembly" to the "Parliament"

Section 3 of *The Cayman Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020* substituted the word "Parliament" for any mention of the "Legislative Assembly" in the Constitution.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Section 59 of the Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order 2009 provides that "**there shall be a Legislature of the Cayman Islands which shall consist of [His] Majesty and a Parliament.**" The subsequent subsection allows for the Parliament to "**make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Cayman Islands.**"

Section 60.(1) outlines the makeup of the Parliament, which "**shall consist of -**

- (a) the Speaker;**
- (b) nineteen elected members, who shall be persons qualified for election [...];**
and
- (c) the Deputy Governor and the Attorney General, ex officio."**

Section 65 provides for the election of a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of the House. The Speaker presides at Meetings of the House of Parliament, and the Deputy Speaker acts as Speaker of the House in the event that the Speaker is absent.

At the first Meeting of the Legislature following a general election, eight Members are appointed to be Ministers of the Government. The Government (Cabinet), therefore, comprises the two ex-officio Members and the eight Ministers, making a total of ten. The Governor shall attend meetings of Cabinet.

DRESS CODE

All gentlemen of the Legislature are required to wear suits. Ladies may also wear dresses or pant suits. Shoes must be appropriate, and jackets are required. The Honourable Speaker is attired at all Sittings in his/her wig and gown. The Serjeant-at-Arms is attired in his coat tails, frills and sword. The Clerk is attired in wig and gown.

DECORUM

At the commencement of each Sitting of the House all Members must be seated in their chairs, in the Chamber, before 2:00 p.m.

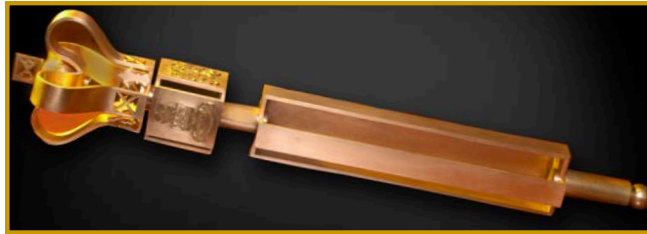
At 2:00 p.m. the Speaker will be brought into the Chamber by the Serjeant-at-Arms (who carries the Mace) followed by the Clerk. All Members must rise and remain standing until asked by the Chair (the Speaker) to be seated.

The Speaker will call upon a Member to read the Parliamentary Prayer and all Members will remain standing.

At any time when a Member leaves the Chamber he/she must bow to the Chair before doing so, and upon re-entering must again bow before taking his/her seat. No one is to leave or enter the Chamber when the Prayer is being read or an oath taken and all persons in the public gallery must stand still.

THE MACE

The Mace is an essential part of the regalia of Parliament. Without it the House is not constituted and no proceedings may take place.



Section 110 of the Standing Orders states that "during all times the Mace and the records and papers appertaining to the Mace shall remain in the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms."

The Mace is the symbol of the Royal Authority and, in consequence, of the authority of Parliament. In Parliament it further symbolises the authority of the Speaker.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will rest the Mace in the upper brackets of the Clerk's dais while the Speaker is in the Chair (the orb and cross surmounting it pointing towards the Government of the day). The Serjeant will rest the Mace on the lower brackets when the House is in Committee and the Speaker sits at the Clerk's dais to Chair the Committee.

QUORUM

The term "**quorum**" means the minimum number of Members required in order for a meeting to proceed. For the Cayman Islands, the quorum of the House consists of a majority of the Elected Members of the House of Parliament, which is (10), in addition to the Speaker. A Member may object that a quorum is not present and the Speaker shall direct that Members be summoned to the Chamber.

ARRANGEMENT / ORDER OF BUSINESS

The **Order Paper** (for practical reasons is the agenda) sets out the business of the House for the **Sitting** (day) and is governed by Parliament Standing Orders, 2025 No. 20, "Order of business at a sitting."

The Standing Order outlines what items can have precedence on the order paper, as well as which days of the week this is to take place.

The Standing Order also outlines the order in which items on the agenda are to appear, including prayer, petitions, bills, etc.

RULES OF DEBATE

TIME AND MANNER OF SPEAKING

Standing Order 49 specifies that **a Member desiring to speak shall rise in his or her place and if called upon by the Presiding Officer (Speaker) shall address the Chair [i.e. the Speaker]. No Member shall speak unless called upon by the Presiding Officer to do so.** When the Speaker rises, every Member shall be seated.

CONTENT OF SPEECHES

Standing Order 52.(5) specifies that **"Members shall be referred to by the names of the electoral districts for which they have been elected."** For example, "the Honourable Minister responsible for Education", or "The Elected Member for George Town East", and so on, would be used instead of the individual's name. The Honourable ex-officio Members shall be referred to as, for example, "The Honourable Deputy Governor, Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service."

POINTS OF ORDER - INTERRUPTIONS

Standing Order 51 specifies that a Member is entitled to interrupt a debate by rising and saying, 'On a point of order, Mister/Madam Speaker', and then proceed to mention in precise terms the point of order.

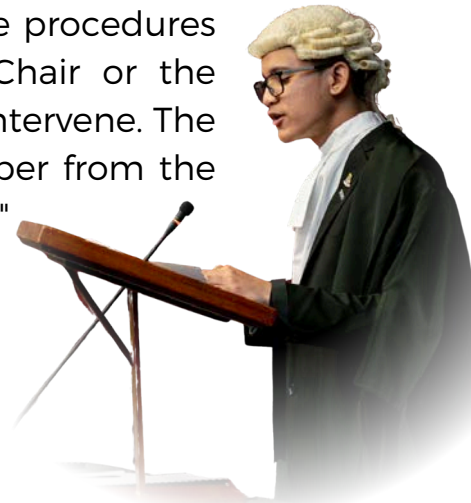
The Speaker will then make a ruling on the point of order. Members are to bring to the Speaker's notice any instance of what she or he considers a breach of order and she or he may also ask for guidance and assistance of the Chair regarding any obscurities in procedure.



PROCEDURE FOR WHEN THE SPEAKER RISES

Standing Order 59 outlines the breaches of order, and the procedures to follow when the Speaker (also referred to as the Chair or the Presiding Officer from time to time) rises in the House to intervene. The section grants the Speaker the authority to eject a Member from the Chamber if that Member's **conduct is grossly disorderly.**

(See Standing Orders 58 through 59 for Enforcement of Order)



MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Standing Orders 41 to 48 provide instruction on procedures to propose Motions, Amendments, and Amendments to Amendments.

Motions are proposals made in order to elicit a decision of the House. A Motion is the form in which debate on any subject must originate, and when a Motion has been moved, the Speaker will then propose the question to all Members of the House. The Speaker will read the Motion as the subject for debate.

Once the Speaker proposes the question, debate ensues with the mover of the Motion debating (or presenting his or her case) first. The mover of a Motion also has the right to reply before the Speaker puts the question on the Motion. Other Members will speak once to the Motion, so their response is officially on record.

The question is put from the Chair (the Speaker) at the conclusion of the debate in order to elicit the decision of the House.

METHODS OF VOTING

Standing Orders 60 and 61 instructs that the Members will make their votes known by responding with either **"Aye"** or **"No"**. No speech is permissible except to a question from the Chair and every speech must be confined to the terms of the question.

Any Member may ask the Speaker to take a division on the vote (voices), and the Speaker may call upon the Clerk to do so. Any Member who is not in his/her chair in the Chamber when the question is put by the Speaker, is not eligible to register his/her vote in the division.

A Motion being moved by a Government Backbench Member or an Opposition Member must be seconded. Government Motions do not require a seconder.

Motions are required to be received in the Office of the Clerk five business days before the commencement of a Meeting, per Standing Order 42. (**Also see Standing Order 3 for the definition of a Sitting, a Meeting and a Session.**)

In the case of the Youth Parliament, the Motions will be predated to comply with the Standing Orders.

A Member may not bring more than three motions to the House at any one Sitting (Standing Order 41(4)).

QUESTIONS TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS

Questions may be put to a Member or Minister of the Government seeking information or clarification that relates to any subject or department for which he/she is responsible, or with which he/she is officially connected. However, the right to ask a question is subject to general rules as set out in Standing Order 35.

When a Member is called upon to ask a question, he/she shall rise and direct his/her question to the Speaker, i.e. Mister/Madam Speaker, I beg to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, Training and Employment whether...? Once he/she has asked the question, the questioner shall sit down and await the reply.

Supplementary questions are permitted, but must be related to the answer given (i.e. arising out of the substantive answer). Members wishing to ask supplementary questions must catch the Speaker's eye. When several Members seek to ask supplementary questions, it is useful, to assist the Speaker by standing.

"The time allotted for answering questions on notice shall not exceed one hour." Standing Order 36(3). The Member of Government answering the question **shall not exceed five minutes** (Standing Order 36(5)).

Standing Order 34(1) provides that questions shall be handed to the Clerk no later than ten days prior to the commencement of the meeting of the House at which it is sought to ask the question. (Again, in the case of the Youth Parliament, the Questions will be pre-dated to comply with the Standing Orders).

There is no limitation on the number of questions a Member may bring to the House.

RESORT TO THE PRACTICES OF THE UK PARLIAMENT

Standing Order 2(2) notes that where any matter is not provided for in our own Standing Orders, "**resort shall be had to the usage and practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**", i.e. Erskine May Parliamentary Practice.

THE SPEAKER

The Speaker presides at Meetings of the House of Parliament. The Speaker regulates debates and enforces the observance of the Standing Orders. He/She gives guidance on procedure, decides on points of order and gives rulings when required to do so. An essential quality of a Speaker is strict impartiality. An important duty is to protect the rights of minorities and to ensure that their voices are heard. See also Standing Order 6.

PREMIER QUESTION TIME

Standing Order 32(1) provides that "***On every Wednesday during a meeting of the House there shall be Premier's Question Time at the time designated in the Order of Business.***"

Premier's question time shall not exceed thirty minutes and a question to the Premier shall not exceed fifteen seconds in length.

URGENT QUESTIONS

There shall be a fifteen-minute period for urgent questions at the appropriate stage in the Order of Business at each Sitting of the House. (*See Standing Order 33.*)

DUTIES OF THE CLERK AND SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

The Clerk of the House of Parliament sits in the **Chamber** at the **Table** during sittings, and calls the items of business. The Clerk prepares the **minutes** of proceedings in the House and Committees, signs official documents, reviews all business of the House and advises the Speaker on proper parliamentary procedure.



The Serjeant-at-Arms' ceremonial duties includes carrying the House Mace in the Speaker's procession. The Serjeant sits in the Chamber and is responsible for security for the duration of the sitting. The Serjeant-at-Arms wears a traditional uniform and a sword.

The Serjeant has the authority to remove disorderly people, by force if necessary, from the House or the public or press galleries on the instructions of the Speaker.



Write T for True or F for False.

1. The Parliament of the Cayman Islands has the constitutional power to enact laws without assent from the Governor. T F
2. The Speaker of Parliament can be elected from among the elected Members of Parliament. T F
3. The Premier must be a Member of Parliament who commands a majority in the House. T F
4. Parliament must meet at least once every six months according to the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009. T F
5. Motions can only be moved by Members of the Government. T F
6. A private member's bill can become law even if the Cabinet opposes it. T F
7. The Standing Orders are the official rules that govern the daily procedures of Parliament. T F
8. The Parliament of the Cayman Islands consists of 21 elected members. T F
9. All committee meetings of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands are automatically open to the public. T F
10. A bill passed by Parliament and assented to by the Governor comes into effect immediately unless the bill itself specifies a commencement date. T F



- **1831** **10th December:** First Elections held
31st December: First Assembly held at Pedro St James
- **1835** Proclamation at Pedro St James ending Slavery in the British Empire
- **1957** **3rd April:** Coat of Arms is adopted upon a resolution
- **1958** **8th December:** Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law passed
4th July: First written Constitution of the Cayman Islands came into effect
- **1961** First woman appointed to serve in the legislature, "Miss Annie" Huldah Bodden, by Commissioner Jack Rose
- **1962** **6th August:** Constitution Order came into effect, transferring power from the Governor of Jamaica to the Administrator of the Cayman Islands (then Mr. Jack Rose), and making Cayman a direct dependency of the British Crown
- **1968** Legislature sat for the first time in Cayman Brac
- **1972** **1st May:** Cayman Islands currency launched
31st July: Official opening of the new Legislative Assembly building; Mr. Thomas William Farrington reads the dedication of the new building to the people of the Cayman Islands. Governor Crook declares it a public holiday.
22nd August: Constitution Order 1972 came into effect
- **1983** HRH Queen Elizabeth II delivered the Throne Speech in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly on 16th February
- **2009** **6th October:** Constitution Order 2009 came into effect. Provided for a Premier to be appointed by the Governor, a Deputy Premier, a Deputy Governor, a Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition
6th November: Hon. McKeeva Bush sworn in as the first Premier of the Cayman Islands, with Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly as the first Deputy Premier.



1. The Governor
2. The Premier
3. President of Court of Appeals
4. The Chief Justice
5. The Speaker of the House of Parliament
6. The Deputy Governor
7. The Deputy Premier
8. Cabinet Ministers
9. The Attorney General
10. Ministerial Council Chairs
11. The Leader of the Opposition
12. The Deputy Speaker
13. Elected Members of the House of Parliament
14. Justices of the Court of Appeal
15. National Heroes
16. Puisne Judges
17. The Cabinet Secretary
18. The Financial Secretary
19. Chief Officers
20. Government Officers of Head of Department rank
21. Honorary Consuls

33 Parliamentary Prayer



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

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

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together:

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

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.
The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always.

Amen.



WHAT IS A BILL?

A **Bill** is a proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law that is presented for debate before Parliament. A Bill can be proposed by any Member of Parliament. Some Bills will reflect Government policy and these will be introduced by Ministers of Government. Other Bills, known as *Private Members' Bills* can be brought forward by the Opposition.

Acts (laws) are known as primary legislation. An Act may delegate certain powers to Government Ministers and these are referred to as secondary legislation. When a Bill goes through, and is passed at every stage it then becomes an Act.

DID YOU KNOW THAT A BILL GOES THROUGH SIX STAGES?

1st Reading

The Bill's short title is read. The First Reading is the first stage of a Bill's passage through the House. At this stage, the Clerk will read the short title of the Bill and there is no discussion by the Minister and no debate.

2nd Reading

The Bill is explained and debated on by MPs. A Government Minister will move the second reading, which opens the debate by setting out the case for the Bill and explaining its purpose. The Second Reading is the first opportunity for MPs to debate the key principles and main purpose of the Bill.

No amendments can be made to the text of the Bill at this stage, though Members may give an idea of the changes they may be proposing at Committee Stage.

Committee

The Bill is examined clause-by-clause and voted on. The Speaker steps down from the dais and becomes the Chairperson of the Committee. This is a clause-by-clause consideration and vote of the Bill, its amendments, and its title.

Report

No further amendments can be added at this stage in the process. The Minister reports to the Speaker that the Bill was considered by a Committee of the whole House, and that the title and clauses were voted on and passed with or without amendments.

3rd Reading

The Minister confirms completion and the Bill is passed. The Bill is given a third reading, without further debate or amendments.

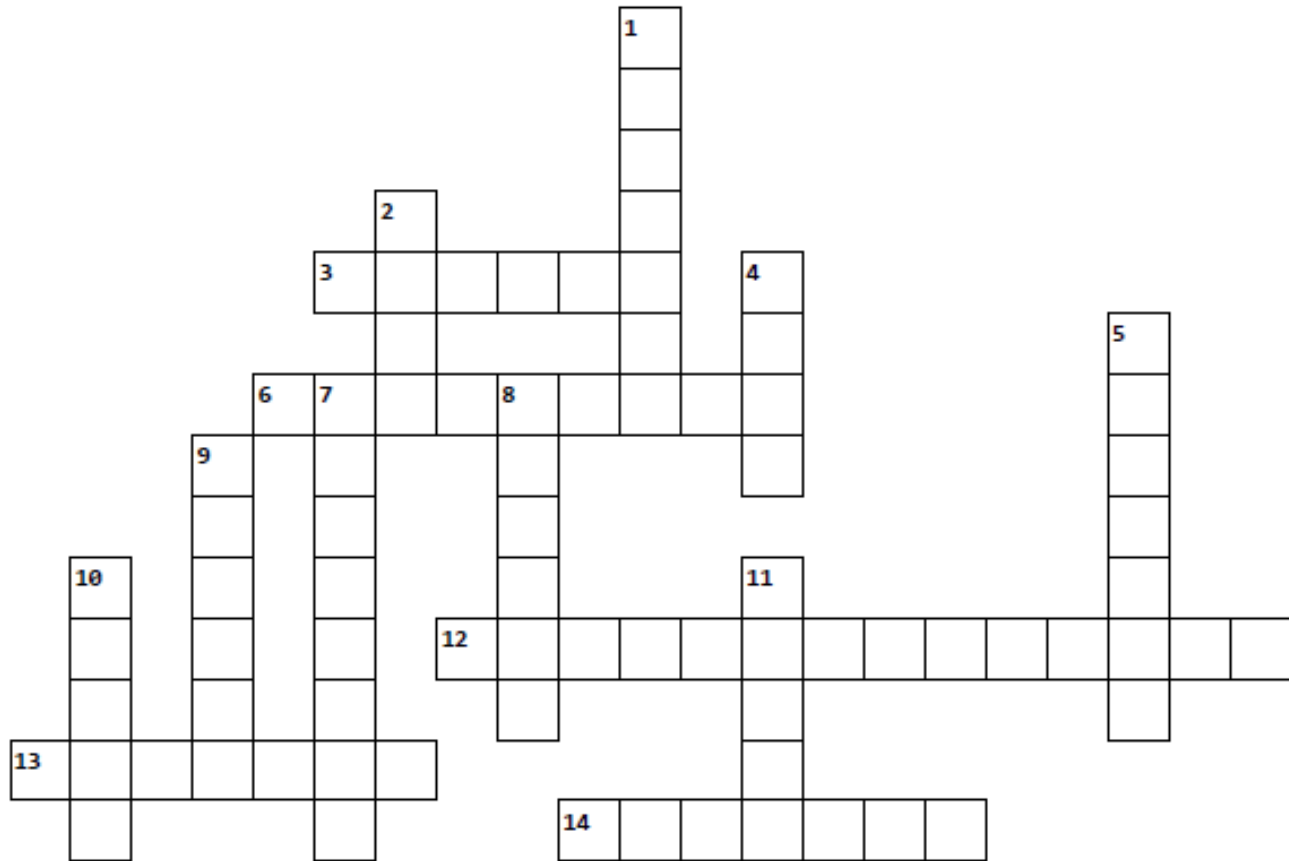
Royal Assent

The Governor approves the Bill and it becomes an Act. If the Bill passed all stages in the House, it is then signed by the Speaker and the Clerk as a Vellum. Following this, it is then submitted to H.E. the Governor for Royal Assent. Once it has been assented, the Bill is Gazetted and then becomes an Act of Parliament (i.e. a “law”).

All Bills and Acts can be found online at legislation.gov.ky



Youth Parliament 2025-2026



Across

- 3. A method of secret voting.
- 6. A change proposed to a motion or bill
- 12. The rules which govern the procedures for the Parliament.
- 13. The leader of the Government.
- 14. The official verbatim transcript of the debates in Parliament.

Down

- 1. The official Government's publication.
- 2. Symbol of Royal Authority.
- 4. Also known as Laws.
- 5. Composed of the Premier, seven other Ministers, one of whom is the Deputy Premier, and two non-voting ex-officio members.
- 7. A Member who has the responsibility of a government Ministry.
- 8. A formal discussion in the House on a particular proposal.
- 9. Required for a meeting to proceed.
- 10. Person(s) who provide procedural and administrative services to the Speaker and MPs.
- 11. Proposals for new Laws.

37 Did you know?



The first meeting of elected officials in the Cayman Islands famously took place at Pedro St. James on 31st December, 1831, only three short weeks after the country's first election, and after roughly two centuries under the control of the Governor of Jamaica. At this pivotal meeting, two representatives each were elected for the districts of Bodden Town, George Town, West Bay, South West Sound, and Prospect.



PEDRO ST. JAMES TODAY IN ITS RESTORED STATE. (WIKIPEDIA)

38 Parliamentary Etiquette



As in any other forum for debate, there are certain rules which each participant must follow in the House of Parliament. Every person who enters the Chamber is subjected to these rules:

- Address the Presiding Officer (Speaker or Deputy Speaker) when speaking.
- Refer to the Speaker by his/her correct title (i.e. Mister or Madam Speaker).
- Bow to the Speaker when entering or leaving the Chamber.
- Rise when the Speaker enters or leaves the Chamber.
- Sit or remain seated when the Speaker is speaking.
- Do not pass between the Speaker and the Member speaking when moving within the Chamber.
- Do not turn your back on the Speaker except when leaving the Chamber.
- Follow all directions given by the Speaker.
- Be respectful and behave appropriately in the Chamber at all times as the Speaker has the power to remove any disobedient Member.
- Refer to those holding leadership positions as the "Honourable Premier", the "Honourable Deputy Premier", the "Honourable Leader of the Opposition", or the "Honourable Minister for Finance", etc.
- Refer to all other Members by the name of their electorate (e.g. the Member for West Bay Central).
- Rather than clapping, it is customary for Members to thump on their desk, as applause is not permitted in the Chamber or Gallery.
- Remember that speeches and interjections must be made from Member's own seat.
- Use appropriate and respectful language, remembering that the use of words such as "lie" or "liar" is considered unparliamentary.
- Adhere to the Speaker's Rules, including not consuming in the Chamber or Public Gallery, and following the Dress Code. Appropriate attire must always be worn in Parliament, such as closed-toe shoes, suits and jackets (no bare-shoulders), and a high level of professional business attire.



ABOUT THE CPA

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) connects, develops, promotes and supports parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA collaborates with commonwealth parliaments and other organizations, including the intergovernmental community to achieve its statement of purpose.

It brings parliamentarians and parliamentary staff together to exchange ideas among themselves and with experts in various fields, to identify benchmarks of good practices and new policy options they can adopt or adapt in the governance of their societies.

The Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) is an opportunity for young people from the Commonwealth to experience aspects of parliamentary democracy and provides a platform for them to establish links with like-minded peers.

It also provides experience of a 'real-life' working parliament or legislature. In the programme, formal parliamentary practice adapted from several Commonwealth countries is followed, and the proceedings are observed under the watchful eyes of experienced parliamentary officials.





A

Abstain: To abstain is to refuse to vote either for or against a motion.

Act (of Parliament): A law made by the Parliament (and is also called a statute). All Acts start as bills introduced in the Parliament. Acts are known as 'primary legislation' because they do not depend on other legislative authority.

Amendment: A change proposed to a motion, bill or committee report with the intention of improving it or providing an alternative.

Arrangement of Business: The agenda of business for each Sitting of the House as set out in Standing Order 20.

B

Backbench Member: An elected member who is neither a minister nor an opposition member.

Ballot: A method of secret voting.

Ballot Paper: A piece of paper used to secretly record a voter's choice.

Bill: A proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law that is presented for debate before the House.

Budget: The estimate of income and expenditure for the Government for a set period of time.

Business Committee: The committee which is tasked with approving all business to go before the House and with approving the items of business on the Order Paper for each Sitting.

Business of the House: All business (including motions, bills, statements, reports, etc.) which is to be dealt with by the Members during meetings of the House.

Business Paper: A brief overview of the further business of the House.

By-Election: An election to fill an empty constituency due to the death or resignation of the previous Member of Parliament who held that seat.

C

Cabinet: A group of officials consisting of the Premier and seven other Ministers, as well as the Deputy Governor and Attorney General.

Catching the Speaker's Eye: This describes the way in which MPs let the Speaker know that they want to speak during a debate or question time in the House. MPs may speak only if they are called to do so by the Speaker. MPs attract the attention of the Speaker by standing up briefly every time the next MP is about to be called.

Chair: The seat in which the presiding officer sits in the chamber; the member presiding in the Chamber or in a committee, a.k.a. the Speaker, the "Chairman" or "Chairperson".

Chamber: The room in the House of Parliament where the main business of the day takes place. It is where all Members meet to hear important announcements and to take decisions as a whole House

Clause: A part of a Bill. A Bill is made up of individual clauses which may be debated separately in Parliament. Any clause can be removed or amended - and new clauses may be added - before a Bill is passed. If a Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, its clauses become the sections of the Act.

Clerk: The Clerk of the Parliament is the senior administrative figure in the Parliament, and provides procedural and administrative services to the Speaker and MP's. He or She advises the Speaker and Members on parliamentary law and procedure, and signs official documents into law.

Commencement Order: A form of Statutory Instrument designed to bring into force the whole or part of an Act of Parliament which for some reason it is not desired to put into effect immediately upon Royal Assent

Committee: A group of MP's appointed after an election to deal with very defined aspects of government oversight, the terms of which are outlined in the Standing Orders.

Committee on Bills: The third stage of the process of a bill through the House.

Committee Stage Amendment: An amendment to a bill which is moved during the committee stage of the approval of a bill.

Constituency: An electoral district that votes for an MP who will represent that district.

Constitution: The Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order, 2009, and its amendments. The Constitution is the guiding document that gives citizens their rights and responsibilities, and outlines what can and cannot take place in virtually every aspect of life and administration, including who is eligible to vote and hold office.

Crossing the Floor: To change sides; to leave one political party and join another. The expression comes from the seating arrangements in the Chamber where the Government party sit together on the right and the Opposition sit together to the left. A change of party allegiance can literally mean crossing the floor of the House from one side of the Chamber to the other.

D

Debate: A formal discussion in the House on a particular proposal. Members of Parliament take turns to speak, to argue for or against the topic at hand. The way in which debates are conducted follows a number of rules and conventions.

Democracy: A system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

Dissolution: The official term for the end of a Parliament before a general election.

Divisions: Used for counting those in favour or against a motion when there is a vote in the House of Parliament.

E

Ex-officio Member: A non-elected Member who attends House proceedings and constitutes part of the Government. There are two ex-officio Members: the Attorney General and the Deputy Governor.

F

Finance Committee: The committee that consists of all Members of the House and which convenes to approve the Government's Budget and expenditures.

First Reading: The first time a bill is read by the Clerk in the House.

Floor of the House: The main Chamber in the House of Parliament.

G

Gazette: The official Government's publication.

Give way: A term used by MPs who want to interrupt another MP who is speaking in the House of Parliament. An MP cannot intervene when another MP is speaking to the House unless that MP allows it by giving way.

Government: Refers to the elected MP's who head the direction of the country and the numerous Ministries (such as Education, Tourism & Ports, and Home Affairs) and units (such as the Department of Environment, Customs & Border Control, and the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority). The Government has responsibility for developing and implementing policy and for drafting laws and their revisions.

Government Minute: The Government's written response to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as laid on the Table of the House under Standing Order 97 (6).

Government Motion: A motion moved by a Cabinet Member.

Green Bill: A bill which has been published in the gazette.

H

Hansard: An edited official verbatim of what was said in Parliament and produced by the Parliament which includes records of votes and written ministerial statements.

House: The Legislative Assembly (now House of Parliament) referred to in the Constitution.

House Business: Any business matter which is brought to the House to be dealt with by the Members.

L

Lay on the Table: Physically laying a document on the Clerk's dais (table) in the Chamber when ordered to by the Hon Speaker, which will officially record a document and its contents.

Legal Drafting Counsel: Attorneys who are tasked with the preparation of the draft legislations which will then be presented to MP's in the House.

Legal Report: The report from the Attorney General's Office to His/Her Excellency The Governor for assent to a bill.

Legislation: An Act or a set of Acts that have been passed by Parliament.

Legislative Assembly: The assembly which consist of the Speaker and MP's as set out in the Constitution. The Legislative Assembly is now the Parliament of the Cayman Islands (or simply "Parliament"), and MLA's are now MP's, per the 2020 amendment to the Constitution.

M

Mace (the): The symbol of Royal authority in Parliament. Without it the House cannot meet or pass laws. The Serjeant-at-Arms is the keeper of the Mace.

Manifesto: A set of aims and intentions by a political party and its plan to achieve these goals.

Meeting: The whole or any part of a session, irrespective of adjournments, in which the business set out in the Business Paper for the meeting is all disposed of.

Member: A Member of the House, including both the elected Members and the non-elected ex-officio Members.

Member of the Government: A Member of Cabinet.

Member of Parliament (MP): An MP is the person elected by the majority of voters who live in a particular area (constituency) to represent them in the House of Parliament.

Minister: A Member who has the responsibility of a government Ministry.

Monarch: A sovereign head of state; the King or Queen.

Move a Motion: To present a motion in the House.

Mover: Any Member who presents a bill or motion in the House.

O

Opposition Member: The Member who is not a member of the Government and includes the official opposition and independent members. The role of the Official Opposition is to question and scrutinize the work of the Government, to act as a check-and-balance to the Government.

Order of the Day: A stage of a Bill or other matter which the House has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day (including orders for the resumption of adjourned debates on Bills and motions).

Order Paper: The agenda of the items of business for each Sitting of the House.

P

Papers and Reports: Any report which is required by law to be presented to the Parliament and this includes rules, regulations & orders made by the Governor.

Parliament: The assembly of elected representatives. Parliament's main functions are to conduct debates, to make and change legislation (laws) and to progress and check the work of Government.

Parliamentary Precincts: The entire building in which the Parliament sits in session for the transaction of business, together with the car park, the front steps and all other areas within the curtilage of the building.

Parliamentary Question: Any inquiry by a Member to a Minister or to an ex-officio Member, relating to any subject or department for which he/she is responsible.

Personal Explanation: A statement by a Member (who is not a Minister) on any personal matter which is relevant to the business of the House.

Point of Order: A term of parliamentary law and procedure which refers to an interjection during a meeting by a Member, who does not have the floor, to call the attention of the Chair to an alleged violation or breach of the assembly's or meeting's rules of order.

Prayer: The parliamentary prayer is read by a Member except during a State Opening Meeting when it shall be delivered by a pastor.

Premier: The leader of the Government.

Premier Question: Questions put to the Premier relating to current matters of national importance or on the general performance of the Government and Government agencies.

Presiding Officer: a) the Speaker; or b) in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker; or c) any elected Member is elected by the Parliament to act as the Presiding Officer or as a chairperson.

Printing: Includes all mechanised and photographic methods of producing words in visible form.

Private Member Motion: A motion moved by a Member who is an Opposition or a Backbench Member that requests certain actions by the Government.

Prorogation: The formal end to the parliamentary year. When a parliamentary session comes to an end, the House is prorogued until the next session begins.

Public Accounts Committee: The overall purpose of the PAC is to review reports of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)

Public gallery: The seated area above the Chamber from which members of the public may watch the proceedings of the House.

Q

Quorum: The minimum number of MP's needed for a division (vote) to be valid or for the parliamentary function to take place. Committees also have quorum, where a majority of the committee members are required to be present in order for the business of the committee to continue. The House or Committees may not proceed if there is not a quorum.

R

Referendum: When a question is decided by putting it to a public vote. Referendums are an example of direct democracy.

Regulation: The rules of a law which are authorized by the legislation.

Resolutions: An official decision that is made after the members of the House have voted.

S

Second Reading: The second stage of the proceeding of a bill during which it is debated.

Secunder: Another Member other than the mover of a motion who supports the motion.

Select Committee: A small legislative committee of the House which is appointed to deal with a specific matter.

Session: The meetings of the House commencing when the House first meets after being constituted, or after its prorogation or dissolution at any time, and terminating when it is prorogued or dissolved.

Sitting: A period during which the House is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the House is in committee.

Speaker: The Speaker of the House as defined under the Constitution; formerly the Presiding Officer. Members elect the Speaker at the first sitting of the Parliament after a general election. The Speaker presides over all House meetings; in his or her absence, the Deputy Speaker presides.

Speaker's Notes: Notes for the Speaker used as guidance for the procedures and conduct of the House.

Speaker's Rules: Rules regarding the admission and conduct of members of the public and press.

Speaker's Ruling: A ruling by the Speaker in House proceedings on points of order or any relevant issues raised by the Members.

Standing Orders: The rules which govern the procedures for the Parliament.

Statement: Members of the Cabinet can give explanation on a public matter for which the Government is responsible through a formal Statement.

Strategic Policy Statement: A statement by the Minister of Finance on the strategic financial plans of the Government for a specific period of time.

Sub Judice: Prevents MPs from referring to a current or impending court case to avoid the House from debating a subject and possibly influencing the legal outcome of a case.

Supplementary Question: Any other question which Members are allowed to ask the Minister/ex-officio Members upon his answer to a Parliamentary Question.

U

Urgent Question: a fifteen-minute period for urgent questions at the appropriate stage in the Order of Business at each sitting of the House.

V

Vellum: Prepared animal skin or "membrane" used as a material for writing on and is also referred to as the 1,000-year-old practice of recording laws on goat and calf skin. (The term is still used even though the law is not printed on the 'vellum'.)

W

Well (The): The sunken space in the House that separates the Government from the Opposition, in which only the Serjeant-at-Arms is allowed to step or cross.



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