



**FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET PRESENTATION  
BY HON. JOHANY “JAY” EBANKS, JP, MP  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING, LANDS, AGRICULTURE, HOUSING &  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr. Chair,**

The Ministry of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, and Transport touches the life of every Caymanian — where they live, how they move, how their communities grow, and how their future is secured. Since the start of this term, we have completed forty-eight Cabinet Papers, with forty-five more underway — more than three per week. That is not paperwork; that is progress.

Each Cabinet Paper is a commitment — the who, what, when, where, and why behind the projects that shape our country. Today, I will speak clearly about what those decisions mean: the outcomes, the milestones, and the impact on Caymanian families.

Behind this momentum are 1,094 civil servants across this Ministry — planners, surveyors, engineers, mechanics, administrators, inspectors, and labourers — who turn decisions into action. With over one hundred and fifty active initiatives, we are shaping the Cayman our children will inherit.

This work is not theory. It is real life in these Islands.

**Cayman Islands Airports Authority — Safety, Capacity, and Caymanian Opportunity**

**Mr. Chair,** our airports are the front door of our nation. That is why the Air Traffic Management System Upgrade and the Runway Extension Project are critical — increasing capacity, improving safety, and elevating the customer experience from touchdown to take-off.

We are strengthening Caymanian employment across operations, security, and customer service so that visitors experience CaymanKind from the moment they arrive.

The Little Cayman Air and Sea Access Policy is under final review, balancing connectivity with environmental protection.

We are modernising the Airports Authority Act and related regulations — consolidating outdated and overlapping rules, clarifying statutory responsibilities, and aligning with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirements.

Amendments will update airport boundaries, strengthen wildlife and environmental protections, and expand authorised officers' powers across landside and airside operations.

The more than thirty-million-dollar Air Traffic Management and Infrastructure Upgrade, funded through CIAA operational budgets, is well underway through 2026 — installing modern navigation systems, increasing handling capacity, and enhancing safety across all three Islands.

Most importantly, we are placing Caymanians at the centre of airport careers — through training, advancement, and targeted development.

When a visitor steps into Owen Roberts International Airport or Charles Kirkconnell International Airport, they should see Cayman at its best.

### **Port Authority — Modernisation, Safety, and Efficiency**

**Mr. Chair**, our ports are the lifeline of our economy. We are modernising cargo operations, streamlining cruise processes, and improving logistics for workers and passengers.

At Royal Watler and the North Terminal, we are implementing shore-based pre-checks for immigration and customs — allowing passengers to clear on land instead of on the ship, speeding up disembarkation and increasing time spent on-Island.

We are expanding tender capacity and exploring opportunities for broader participation in tender operations to improve efficiency.

A new cargo crane, purchased in October and arriving in December, will accelerate unloading and improve supply-chain reliability. This investment strengthens safety, efficiency, and the productivity of port staff.

We are modernising the Port Authority Act, resolving audit findings, and aligning with international maritime conventions and the Triple I Code.

Our goal is simple: the most efficient, safest, and trusted ports in the region.

### **Planning — Building Strong, Building Right**

**Mr. Chair**, planning is where vision meets responsibility. We are bringing forward the Development and Planning (Amendment) Bill to simplify approvals, strengthen compliance, and increase transparency.

Our most significant reform is the adoption of the ICC 2021 building codes. We will not lower our standards.

We continue to carefully manage re-zonings, ensuring responsible growth that balances development, heritage, and environmental stewardship.

The National Development Plan is progressing through structured consultation, giving Caymanians a real voice in shaping their communities.

The Planning Appeals Tribunal is operational, providing timely and transparent resolution of matters and strengthening public confidence in the system.

## **Lands and Survey — Professionalism, Transparency, and Strategic Acquisition**

**Mr. Chair**, our Lands and Survey teams are clearing historic backlogs, improving title accuracy, digitising mapping systems, and modernising land transactions.

A new Lands Bill will streamline compulsory acquisition and compensation — ensuring fairness, clarity, and efficiency for families contributing property to national projects.

Land purchases under this Administration include:

- 2.3 acres in West Bay for a new Police Station and Emergency Centre
- 125 acres on the Brac Bluff near the Lighthouse for long-term public use
- 14 acres in North Side for agriculture and food security
- 2.4 acres in Red Bay for transport infrastructure

Land is not a commodity, it is heritage, identity, and national security. This Ministry will continue to protect it.

## **Public Lands Commission — Guardians of Public Access**

**Mr. Chair**, public access is not a privilege — it is a right. The Public Lands Commission safeguards beaches, parks, and open spaces, ensuring Caymanians always have access to the sea that sustained our ancestors.

We are modernising inventories, signage, and digital mapping so that no access is ever lost to neglect or confusion.

Public land is the people's land — and this Ministry will protect it.

## **Agriculture — Food Security and National Resilience**

**Mr. Chair**, a nation that relies entirely on imports stands on borrowed ground. Agriculture is not a pastime — it is a pillar of national resilience.

We continue implementing the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, strengthening production, lowering costs, and supporting farmers.

Key actions include:

- Expanding farm roads
- Strengthened biosecurity
- Establishing Agro-Parks and Aggregation Centres
- Training farmers through extension services
- Developing a Feed and Inputs Strategy
- Supporting disaster-resilient production

Market access is increasing through direct links with hotels, grocers, and schools. Caymanian agriculture is also gaining international visibility — with Cayman Cookout showcasing local eggs, herbs, greens, and meats.

The Nest Programme has forged powerful partnerships with the hospitality sector, including supply of sixty dozen eggs weekly to the Ritz-Carlton.

This is transformation, Caymanian farmers proving our produce can stand proudly on the world stage. Food security is sovereignty. When we grow our own food, we grow our independence.

## **Housing — The Caymanian Dream Made Real**

**Mr. Chair**, every Caymanian deserves a safe roof, a strong foundation, and a piece of these Islands to call their own.

Later this year, we will table the National Housing Policy and Ten-Year Strategic Plan — a roadmap for affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing.

Key features include:

- Transparent allocation criteria
- Shared-equity, rent-to-own, and deposit-assistance options
- Mixed-use and community-oriented developments
- Energy-efficient, hurricane-resilient construction
- Homes that are affordable to buy and affordable to maintain

The HOME Programme supports first-time Caymanian buyers. Through the National Housing Development Trust, we continue to build new homes, refurbish existing stock, and open serviced lots.

NHDT has 1,152 applications under active review. Since 1 May, six families at Flamingo Point have received keys to their new homes.

Housing is not just construction — it is legacy, equity, and generational wealth.

To achieve the Strategic Policy Statement’s vision for sustainable development and infrastructure, this Ministry requires responsible and adequate funding. Housing gives shelter. Infrastructure gives communities life.

## **Public Works Department — Building for Community**

Mr. Chair, the Public Works Department is where vision becomes concrete reality. Major achievements include the Scranton Park and Youth Centre, opening in January; and the Northward Community Centre, with the business case and designs completed and awaiting funding.

PWD also trains the next generation through apprenticeships in carpentry, masonry, engineering, and sustainable construction. There are currently thirty-six students enrolled.

These projects are more than buildings — they are foundations of belonging.

## **National Roads Authority — Safer Roads, Shorter Commutes**

**Mr. Chair**, the NRA’s work is seen daily — paving, fixing, widening, and building better roads across the Islands.

Priority projects include:

- East–West Arterial
- Linford Pierson Highway
- Godfrey Nixon Way Extension
- Kings Bypass and Roundabout
- Spotts Straight
- Corridor declarations
- National Stormwater Management Strategy

- Agnes Way Connector
- New lighted crosswalks
- Integrated Traffic Management System
- EVR gantries and speed cameras

These investments save time, money, and lives. To finish these projects, we require adequate funding. Half-built roads do not move people.

## **DVDL — Safety and Service**

**Mr. Chair,** DVDL is a central partner in road safety.

Reforms include:

- The Road Code 2025
- Updated Traffic Regulations
- Electronic Vehicle Registration
- Strengthened penalties and the demerit-point system
- Data-sharing between DVDL, RCIPS, the NRA, and the Courts

These measures modernise enforcement, streamline services, and protect lives.

## **Public Transport Unit**

Mr. Chair, we are modernising public transport through:

- Expansion of the CI:GO Taxi App
- The Public Transport Board Policy Framework
- New enforcement powers
- A Public Passenger Vehicle Code of Conduct
- Launch of the Appeals Tribunal
- A new PTU website
- A Bus Tracking App
- School-traffic-management initiatives
- The Eastern Districts Shuttle Pilot

A modern Cayman deserves a professional transport system.

## **DVES — Modern Mobility**

**Mr. Chair,** DVES is modernising the Government fleet — replacing old vehicles, expanding electric vehicles, installing charging infrastructure, and improving fleet-management systems. Training and certification ensure Caymanians lead this transition.

DVES also supports the planning of the National Bus Depot and Maintenance Facility.

## **Facilities Management — The Foundations of Government**

Facilities Management ensures every government office and public building remains safe and functional. Modernisation includes solar integration, smarter cooling, and cost-saving upgrades.

FM's quiet work keeps Government running.

## **George Town Revitalisation — Restoring the Capital**

This project is entering its final phase. Streets are safer and more walkable, public spaces are upgraded, and more than fifty years of underground infrastructure have been replaced in partnership with CUC, the Water Authority, and telecommunications providers.

George Town is once again becoming a vibrant destination.

## **Subsea Cable — Securing Our Digital Lifeline**

The Submarine Cable Modernisation Project, coming to Parliament on 10 December, will deliver a new state-of-the-art fibre system, strengthening bandwidth, reliability, and national resilience.

This is not optional — it is essential for financial services, healthcare, education, aviation, and national security.

## **NiCE Programme — Empowerment in Action**

The National Community Enhancement Programme provides temporary employment, community pride, and skills development. We are adding training and pathways to full-time opportunities. The winter programme takes place from 1 to 12 December.

This is empowerment — not charity.

## **Parks, the Environmental Centre, and Community Centres**

Pease Bay Park and Kaibo Public Beach are moving forward.

The Youth Centre in Scranton opens mid-December.

The Northward Community Centre awaits funding.

These spaces strengthen families, communities, and national pride.

## **Our Standards — Our Duty to the Future**

Under my watch, we will not lower our standards. They protect our people and our reputation. Cayman will always build strong, enforce properly, and plan wisely.

## **A Nation of Builders — Caymanians at the Heart**

The 1,094 staff across this Ministry — the backbone of our operations — serve with dedication, pride, and skill. They are Cayman's nation-builders.

## **Closing — We Are Building the Future Now**

Funding is not expense — it is investment.

Every home built anchors a family.

Every road built connects opportunity.

Every seed planted strengthens sovereignty.

Every project completed builds Cayman's future.

We are not waiting for tomorrow — we are building it today.  
With vision. With integrity. With heart.

One people. One purpose. One Cayman — building the future together.