



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 SESSION

First Sitting

Wednesday
5 November, 2025
(Pages 1-27)

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

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

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, MBE, Cert. Hon., JP	<i>Deputy Governor</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service
Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, KC, JP	<i>Attorney General</i> , ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter, JP, MP	Elected Member for West Bay West
Ms. Heather D. Bodden, OCl, Cert. Hon., JP, MP	Elected Member for Savannah

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP	<i>Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town North
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP	<i>Deputy Leader of the Opposition</i> , Elected Member for George Town Central
Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, MP	<i>Deputy Speaker</i> , Elected Member for George Town West
Mr. A. Roy Tatum, Cert. Hon., MP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	Elected Member for George Town East

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, CCl, JP, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town East
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town West

APOLOGIES

Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP	Elected Member for Newlands
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac East

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 SESSION
WEDNESDAY
5 NOVEMBER, 2025
2:00PM
First Sitting

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

The Speaker: Good afternoon, everyone.

I call on the Minister of Sustainability to read prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Good afternoon, everyone.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the 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.

The Speaker: Please be seated.

This Parliament is now in order.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

The Speaker: None.

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

The Speaker: I have [an] apology from the Member for Cayman Brac East who is unable to attend today's sitting but plans to join us on Tuesday. I also have an apology from the Member for Newlands and the Member for West Bay North for late arrival for today's sitting.

In keeping with the little tradition that I've started in honouring people and recognising people's contributions to the development of Cayman, I have invited the Board of the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) today. The purpose is to give them special recognition and thanks for their development of the University College of the Cayman Islands and their commitment to education in Cayman, especially now that they are celebrating 50 years.

Without having to tell you all how old I am, I was present in 1985 as a Member of Parliament when the Bill to create the University College of the Cayman Islands was moved by the honourable Mr. Benson Ebanks, OBE.

As I call your name, please stand so you can be recognised at the end. Ms. Nanalie Cover, Acting President and CEO; Dr. Livingston Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost; Mr. Gilbert McLean, Chairman; Mr. Jared Awe, Deputy Chairman; Mrs. Nichelle Scott; Dr. Steve McField; Dr. Gayle Woods; Mrs. Kathy Scott-Pombrol; Mrs. Linda Evans; Mr. John Thompson; Mr. Jerome McCoy, Minister of Education's Representative; Mr. Vinton Chinsee, Minister of Finance's Representative. Can we give them a round of applause, please?

[Desk thumping and applause]

The Speaker: I know that the Minister of Education is never at a loss for words, so while he's on his feet, I'll give him the opportunity to say a few words of thanks and congratulations to the Board of UCCI.

The Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Finance & Economic Development and Education & Training, Elected Member for West Bay North: Mr. Speaker, we rarely get a truly light moment in this Parliament, but I sat down and I found a white rag at my desk, so I'm not sure if I'm supposed to throw in the proverbial white towel or not.

An Hon. Member: Already?

[Laughter]

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

Mr. Speaker, in your continuing journey to incorporate more of our society and civic organisations into the life of the Parliament, I thank you. This is an important piece of work. Twenty-five years ago this was a cry and it's taken this long for us to really get to it and just do it. Thus, I thank you and congratulate you and the staff for continuing this effort. I know I speak on behalf of all Members to say that we truly appreciate it.

To the staff and board members of the Board of Governors of UCCI, I say thanks to all of you for all of your work and all of the diligence that you pay to the organisation, because as we all know, UCCI is a strategically important part of our further education, and formal tertiary education training systems; so thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Can we give them another round of applause?

[Desk thumping and applause]

The Speaker: Feel free to stay for the rest of the evening and enjoy the functioning of Parliament.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

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

I was hoping you would give a leeway for us on the official Opposition to also welcome and congratulate them and thank them for joining us, all those honourable members who I know contributed to the success, particularly that of Mr. Gilbert McLean in his time here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Next order of business.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

Ministry of Financial Services and Commerce – Annual Report 2024

The Speaker: Premier, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

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

I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report 2024 of the Ministry of Financial Services and Commerce.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: No, Mr. Speaker, other than to briefly say thank you to all of the staff, all of the HODs [Heads of Departments], all of management and all of the authorities that make up the Ministry of Financial Services. Thank you for your hard work and the production of this Report.

Cabinet Office – 2024 Annual Report

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the 2024 Annual Report of the Cabinet Office.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak to the Report?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Only to say thank you to the staff, ably led by Cabinet Secretary Samuel Rose, for producing the Report and the body of work that went into 2024.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Auditors Oversight Authority – Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce.

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

I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report for the Auditors Oversight Authority for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak to the Report?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: No, Mr. Speaker. The Report is self-explanatory, and I thank the Authority for their work.

**Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency –
2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements**

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

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

I wish to lay [on the Table] the 2024 Annual Report for the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency for the 2024 Financial Year.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 44 of the Public Management and Finance Act, this Report provides a comprehensive review of the performance, achievements and financial activities of the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency from 1st January to 31st December, 2024. The financial statements appended to the Report comply with the public sector accounting standards and provide explanations for variances between actual and budgeted performance.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of being responsible for this Ministry from November 2023 to October 2024. During such time, many of these achievements were delivered and it is my pleasure and privilege to be standing here today to present this Report as Minister of Health, Environment and Sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry's mission is to cultivate a lasting legacy of sustainability in the Cayman Islands by achieving environmental, social and economic balance, maximising benefits across all three areas of this triple bottom line for the benefit of current and future generations. This Report charts the Ministry's achievements and progress on that mission for the benefit and information of the public and also the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Ministry for the year ended 31st December, 2024. This means that the financial statements appended to the Report present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry as of 31st December, 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for that year.

Mr. Speaker, on page 43 [sic] of the Report, the Ministry's expenses for 2024 were CI\$10,142,000; and there was a surplus for the period of \$845,000.

I'll now turn to the activities and operations of the Ministry during this reporting period. The key high-

light from 2024 is that the Ministry successfully delivered policies and initiatives that made a notable difference in our environment and our people. In presenting the Report, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the Ministry's core achievements during that year.

In September 2024, the Cayman Islands Climate Change Policy 2024-2050 was approved by Cabinet. This historic policy outlines a 26-year strategic roadmap for climate resilience, low-carbon transition and equitable governance for the country. The policy identified measures to address Cayman's climate risk in a proactive and holistic way while seeking to reduce the country's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

The policy sets out six key focus areas each with a specific aim to help achieve the vision of a climate resilient Cayman Islands. Those areas are as follows:

1. A Robust Economy — diversifying economic sectors and providing access to financial and technical resources to foster sustainable livelihoods.
2. Liveable Built Environment — planning holistically and building climate resilient structures and sites to safeguard citizens, businesses and cultural heritage.
3. Healthy And Resilient Communities — improving the health and safety outcomes of our communities.
4. Resilient Infrastructure Networks — enhancing the capacity and functionality of critical infrastructure and its networks to withstand extreme weather events.
5. Harmony with Nature — safeguarding the integrity of nature and its ecosystem services to support a robust economy and healthy communities.
6. Integration and Coordination — developing government processes and capacity to take urgent climate action in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 13.

This is a mission and data-driven policy that provides a clear, strategic pathway to address and lower the most pressing risk posed by current and continued climate change factors that affect our livelihoods, our land and natural systems. In addition, it also affects our health and our economy.

Since this policy was approved, the Ministry has moved forward with implementation, working together with other ministries, departments, non-governmental organisations and external stakeholders. One such project that is supporting the investments in resiliency is the development of a National Resilience Scorecard — a decision tool that will shape and track progress on both resiliency indicators and public and private climate investments for decades to come.

Additionally, now that the Ministry includes health, we are working to progress our health-related

strategic actions under the Healthy and Resilient Communities focus area.

In April 2024, the updated National Energy Policy, along with its Implementation and Monitoring Plan, was approved. Following an extensive consultative process as well as constructive dialogues and stakeholder feedback, the updated National Energy Policy includes new definitions and strategies to ensure market fairness and consumer inclusion, and established revised high-level targets of:

- 100 per cent renewable energy penetration by 2045;
- 100 per cent new vehicle sales from electric vehicles by 2045; and
- 100 per cent emission reductions from electricity supply by 2045.

Looking ahead, with support from the UK Integrated Security Fund, we have embarked on the Green and Resilient Energy Transition Plan, through the Governor's Office and under the Climate Security Programme for Overseas Territories, which will help us to ensure energy security in alignment with the Climate Security Assessment for the Cayman Islands, and was also completed in 2024. This long-term plan will see the Ministry partner deliver a series of projects with the goal of adapting to our climate risks.

Mr. Speaker, these policies set us on a path to real progress and innovation in how we adapt to a changing climate, access climate funding, manage our energy resources and build environmental resilience into every aspect of society and government.

Effective policies, inform programmes and projects that make a difference. In 2024, the RESEMBID-funded [Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity programme] Energy Efficiency Programme concluded successfully. As part of that programme, ten National Housing Development Trust (NHDT) homes were retrofitted with energy-efficient insulation, solar panels, and appliances, with the majority of homeowners recording significant reductions in their household energy consumption, and their utility bills. This programme not only provided direct cost savings to participating households, but also armed these residents with practical education and awareness of the benefits of energy efficient habits and appliances.

Phase 1 of the CHEER (Cayman Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits) programme was completed with 12 homes retrofitted for energy efficient appliances such as foam insulation, air conditioning, and LED lighting. The CHEER programme specifically targeted Caymanian homeowners with a total household income of less than CI\$4,000 per month, and living in homes that are no more than 2,500 square feet gross floor space. The initiative was developed in response to the implementation of Strategy 3.3.9 of the National Energy Policy which refers to energy efficiency retrofits of existing buildings; and Phase 2 of this initiative is currently being explored for future implementation.

Engaging and educating the next generation about the environment is core to creating a climate-resilient future. With this in mind, the Ministry launched a Climate & Energy Social Media Challenge to increase public awareness of climate change issues in Cayman, particularly among youth. The campaign reached over 23,000 digital impressions and generated strong participation across all three Islands.

The National Tree Planting Programme also connected with our young people with 122 native and endemic trees planted across government schools and community spaces.

Furthermore, in Gender Affairs, which was part of the Ministry during this period, the Draft Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2024 was prepared, aiming to strengthen workplace protections and promote gender equity. This Bill was subsequently passed earlier this year, introducing fines for sexual harassment, providing legal definitions for what constitutes sexual harassment and allowing for a specialist tribunal to be set up.

Department of Environment (DoE)

Some of the standout activities and achievements across the Department of Environment's remit of conservation, coral restoration, enforcement and education include:

- Publishing the Setbacks for Sustainability map, highlighting the importance of coastal resilience following the February 2024 Nor'wester.
- Expanding the Turtle-Friendly Lighting Retrofit Programme to the Sister Islands, improving nesting conditions for marine turtles.
- Completing 871 consultations under section 41 of the National Conservation Act, supporting informed development decisions.
- Drafting and submitting Conservation Plans for:
 - [Colonial] nesting seabirds;
 - The endemic and endangered Grand Cayman False Foxglove; and
 - Cayman Sage— I won't try to use the scientific term.
- Securing a new parcel of land for Hemmington Forest National Park on Cayman Brac and preparing a Management Plan for public consultation.
- Achieving substantial progress in feral cat population management on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.
- Securing a second Darwin+ Main grant in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Wildlife (RSPB).

- Launching the Cayman Blue Belt Programme to improve marine resource management and deep-water fisheries oversight.

The DoE delivered successes on coral and marine ecosystem restoration, and in 2024:

- Treated over 3,000 corals affected by Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD).
- Achieved over 95 per cent fertilisation success and 90 per cent settlement in the Ministry's [ex-situ] coral spawning lab. If you haven't seen it, it's really cool. I encourage the public to reach out to see if you can arrange a visit.
- Reattached 75 large coral colonies at Eden Rock following hurricane damage.

In marine and wildlife conservation:

- DoE recorded 658 turtle nests during the 2024 nesting season across all three Islands; and
- The Darwin Main Project: Deep-sea Cayman, the first systematic deep-sea exploration in Cayman waters, was successfully concluded. I know many people have sighted their [vessel] that doesn't look like a boat but something foreign.

In enforcement and protection:

- DoE addressed multiple poaching and marine violations;
- Five Conservation Officers became certified drone pilots, enhancing DoE's enforcement capabilities;
- DoE conducted maintenance of dive site moorings and containment responses to oil and debris spills; and
- Supported the nomination of Little Cayman's Marine Protected Areas to the UK World Heritage Site short list — which we are hoping we will accomplish.

The Department also published several public education materials, including:

- *"The State of Turtle Friendly Lighting [in the Cayman Islands]"* Report; and
- Technical guidance on turtle fencing and beach grooming.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the preparation of the 2024 Annual Report, including the Ministry staff and our departmental teams. As you heard, they've been doing much work, so I want to thank them for their hard work.

Their commitment to excellence, their passion and expertise have ensured that statutory obligations

were met, and that the Cayman Islands continues to lead by example in environmental governance.

We are approaching the end of 2025, and I can say with confidence that this Ministry has maintained its momentum and mission-focus to cultivate a legacy of sustainability.

I also want to encourage Honourable Members of this House, and the public to visit the Ministry's website at www.gov.ky/sustainability.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to speak to all the hard work that the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency has done over the period of 2024.

Annual Report 2024 – National Drug Council

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

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

I would like to lay [on the Table] the Annual Report 2024 for the National Drug Council of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Yes, please.

The Speaker: Go ahead, Honourable Minister.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Report provides a comprehensive and accurate reflection of the Council's work over the reporting year. I wish to acknowledge the commitment and professionalism of the lean team of employees who were supported by a board of volunteers which include private citizens and ex officio public servants. They continue to deliver essential services with limited resources.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will recall that the National Drug Council is the Statutory Authority responsible for coordinating the national response to substance abuse. Its work spans prevention, public education, research and surveillance, as well as monitoring and evaluation of programmes to support treatment and rehabilitation services. The National Drug Council plays a central role in safeguarding public health, supporting safer communities and protecting our young people.

During the financial period, Mr. Speaker, the Council satisfied its mandate and obligations as stipulated in the purchase and ownership agreements operating under the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the first 10 months of 2024 and thereafter, under the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Heritage for the final two months of the year.

By the end of the period, the National Drug Council functioned with only five of its eight authorised full time positions. Despite this reduced staffing capacity, core functions continued to be delivered along with the advancement of several priorities, which include:

- The update to the Strategic Business Plan to guide substance use prevention and recovery efforts over the next five years;
- Support to the Ministry of Health with the redevelopment of the National Health Policy and Plan;
- Strengthening responsible alcohol service practices in collaboration with the Liquor Licensing Board;
- Delivering 418 prevention and education sessions across schools, workplaces, to parents, youth organisations and community groups;
- Coordinating national awareness campaigns including National Drug and Alcohol Fact Month, and Alcohol Awareness Month; and
- Leading critical national research efforts including the highly referenced 2024 Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Survey and the Student Drug Use Survey guardian survey, which provide essential evidence to inform policy, early intervention and school-based prevention planning.

While the Council continues to deliver strong outcomes, Mr. Speaker, priority areas that require ongoing national attention have been identified. My Ministry team will seek work with the director, board members and staff in an attempt to rectify those matters.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General issued an unqualified audit opinion on 8th April, 2025 confirming that the National Drug Council's financial statements present fairly in its financial position and performance for the reporting period in accordance with international public sector accounting standards.

The financial performance in 2024 reflects prudent management with total revenue of CI\$896,154, approximately \$3,713 above budget due to increases in donations and interest income. Operational expenditure was \$781,592, approximately \$110,000 below budget largely resulting from staffing vacancies, which contributed to personnel emoluments being \$94,000 under budget.

As of 31st December, 2024, the Council reported good financial position cash equivalents of \$722,000, an increase from \$599,000 in 2023, contributing to total current assets of \$917,677. Total assets stood at \$928,387. The Council's net worth at year end was approximately \$833,000, reflecting sustained financial stability and effective expenditure control.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the work of the National Drug Council is essential to the protection and wellbeing of our people, especially our young people.

I wish to thank the Council's 2024 Board which was chaired by Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield until her departure, [and] thereafter by Deputy Chair, Ms. Jeana Ebanks as Acting Chair. Special appreciation also to the Director, Ms. Brenda Watson, whose appointment was formalised during this period after she worked for years acting in this capacity. Mr. Speaker, I beg your indulgence to highlight the team, Ms. Angela Sealey, Programme Support Officer; Mr. Simon Miller, Prevention Specialist; Ms. Laila Shim, Research Analyst; and Mr. Ivan McLean, Prevention and Information Officer. I will continue to rely on their expert advice to drive policy development in this crucial area.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage Honourable Members and the wider public to review the Report and scrutinise the financial data in further detail.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

National Conservation Council – Annual Report 2024

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay [on the Table] the National Conservation Council's Annual Report for 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief statement on behalf of the team that did all the work to ensure that this Report was presented today. This is the 10th Annual Report of the National Conservation Council and covers the period from 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024.

In 2024, the NCC continued its efforts to improve the management of the Cayman Islands' natural environment across our beloved Islands. Mr. Speaker, the following are some highlights from 2024:

The Cayman Sage Species Conservation Plan was approved by the Council following public and Cabinet consultation, and went into force on 15th March, 2025. This plant, with a tiny purple flower, may very well be extinct in the wild, but has been saved through cultivation.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment continued the targeted removal of feral cats and rats to protect our critically endangered Brown Booby birds in the Brac, and our iconic Sister Islands Rock Iguana in Little Cayman. For both species, this work has been critical and has already shown evidence of improvements to their population numbers. This work, along

with other measures, remains essential if these species are to survive in the long-term.

The Green Iguana Culling Programme also continued throughout 2024, with data showing that green iguanas are, unfortunately, back on the rise in Grand Cayman. I am pleased to share that the Request for Proposal to procure project management services to continue this important programme is currently live on Bonfire Cayman, the Government's procurement portal. The Culling Programme has removed 1.6 million invasive and harmful green iguanas from Grand Cayman, and can be considered one of the most successful invasive reptile removal efforts in the world. Although numbers have been severely depleted, it is clear that culling efforts must continue.

Mr. Speaker, before I continue with the next points, I'd like to preface with the following. Prior to the unanimous passing of the National Conservation Act in 2013, there was no legal framework or means of operationalising the concepts of sustainable development in the Cayman Islands. The Act facilitates a holistic approach to decision-making that affects our environment and natural resources.

Under delegated authority from the National Conservation Council, the DoE responded to 877 consultation requests from various government and private sector entities in 2024. Through this process, the Council:

- i. Directed conditions for Planning applications that had the potential to adversely impact a Protected Area or Critical Habitat of a Protected Species, representing just 6.3 per cent of all applications; and
- ii. Recommended refusal or deferral for eight Planning applications, representing 1.1 per cent of all applications—I think that data is important to highlight.

I'd also like to highlight, Mr. Speaker, that the DoE, on behalf of the Council, did not direct refusal for any Planning applications in 2024. In addition, the Council did not find that an EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment] was required for any of the applications consulted on in 2024. Ensuring that the Council is properly consulted in accordance with the Act by relevant entities, and ensuring that those entities take the Council's recommendations into account is essential to ensuring the sustainable development of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I am now going to touch on finances. Sections 46 and 47 of the Act remained unimplemented in 2024. These sections detail the operation, management and reporting of activities financed from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). During 2024, \$1,200,295 was spent from the EPF by the Council and DoE on conservation management projects and activities, such as the Green Iguana Culling Programme, Coral Reef Restoration, and the Sister Island Rock Iguana Programme.

Funds from the EPF were also spent for the cost of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the East-West Arterial and for the remediation cost for the Kaibo Public Beach Park and the Morgan's Harbour Dock rebuild project. Mr. Speaker, additional acquisitions for the purchase of land by the Ministry totalled \$8,910,000.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to visit the Council's website, www.conservation.ky, where this Report is available for the public's review. You will also find Species Conservation Plans, Protected Areas, the status of Environmental Impact Assessments, and information relating to the Council and their work to safeguard the beauty and biodiversity of our beloved Cayman Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone who was involved in all the hard work I spoke of, and in preparing these Annual Reports and accounts. I ask that Members of this Parliament accept them accordingly.

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Cayman Islands Branch - 47th Regional CPA-CAA
Report – September 5 - 13, 2025 – Bahamas**

The Speaker: Minister of Health, Environment and Sustainability.

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

I would like to lay [on the Table] the 47th Regional CPA-CAA Report in accordance with Standing Order 26(4).

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Briefly, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Speaker was the head of delegation but because he's Speaker, I have the privilege to lay this Report as one of the delegates.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, this was a very successful conference and I attended, along with yourself; the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Member for George Town West; [the] Member for Savannah; Member for Red Bay; as well as our Assistant Clerk.

Mr. Speaker, what I found special about this trip was the engagement that took place at a regional level and the fact that out of this conference, a regional disaster response committee was established; we actually held our first meeting just last week, right after Hurricane Melissa. I'm pleased to report that the Cayman Islands was actually nominated as chair of that committee.

In addition to that, there was much engagement [between] the Deputy Speaker and myself with other women in the region. I just want to encourage all

of the Members, especially the new Members of Parliament, to capitalise on the true asset that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association offers, especially to our women.

To wrap up, Mr. Speaker, I want to publicly thank you for being a Speaker who supports women. You displayed that when we were in Bahamas lobbying for what potentially could have been an opportunity for the Cayman Islands to chair the international seat for the women, whilst the nomination— well, we won't get into all of the technical issues... What came from that meeting was that I had the privilege to then attend the— what's it called?

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: No, I know steering committee, but the following meeting in Barbados—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: The CPC [Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference], thank you, — where I had the privilege to sit amongst the women of each region, India and so forth, and really get to hear what everyone was doing as it relates to promoting women in Parliament.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for agreeing on behalf of all of the women who sit here in this House—those who are here, those who started and are doing something else, or who are no longer here on this earth but they paved the way, they've [all] been trailblazers for women— thank you, sir, for acknowledging the need to establish a Women's Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Cayman Islands Branch; and I will leave you to share more about that later.

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: With that Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to lay this Report.

Again, I thank you for being a Speaker who, as today, invites members of the public to come and participate, but you also remind us that this is a space for everyone.

Thank you, sir.

Cayman Islands Development Bank – Annual Report – For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Annual Report of the Cayman Islands Development Bank (CIDB) for the year ended December 31, 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, the Report is self-explanatory in the main. However, there are a couple of very quick housekeeping points that I think ought to be read into the record.

Those are: the institution received an unqualified or clean audit report; it relies solely on the Cayman Islands Government (CIG) for financial support; and the loan portfolio had a delinquency rate of some 13 per cent in 2024, which was down from 18 per cent in 2023, and 26 per cent in 2022—by any measure, that is an unusually and unacceptably high rate of delinquent loans.

Mr. Speaker, the institution has continued to move forward with what has become, for quite a long period of time, a very limited mandate, and there are a number of loan disbursements that have been made over the last few years, but those, again, have been in limited form and quantum due to limited resources allocated on an annual basis by CIG.

Mr. Speaker, it also administers the Government-guaranteed Loan and Scholarship Programme which attracts some \$605,000 in service revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I lay this Report and I thank the CIDB and the Board of Directors.

Ministry of District Administration & Lands – Annual Report 2024

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Ministry of District Administration and Lands – Annual Report 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to express my thanks to all of the team in the former Ministry and all of the departments under it.

However, it would be remiss of me, Mr. Speaker, not to recognise and express special thanks to three individuals, who, for the entire 2021-2025 term, stood up and rose to the occasion to lead this Ministry. They were: the Acting Chief Officer, Mr. Wilbur Welcome; the Acting Deputy Chief Officer, Ms. Nicola Anderson-Wildman; and the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Gary Robinson. All of whom, except for Mr. Welcome, have been retained in the new Ministry that has been formed up. Mr. Welcome has gone on to a

well-deserved position as the Director for the Department of Agriculture. Thus, to those three individuals, to him especially, I do express my thanks and best wishes to them all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sister Islands Affordable Housing Development Corporation – Annual Report 2024

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Sister Islands Affordable Housing Development Corporation Annual Report 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Very briefly once again, Mr. Speaker, to say thank you to the board of the Corporation, who, for all intents and purposes and in true likeness of the word, are volunteers on this board. I think it's one of the few boards in this country that is not remunerated but they continue to do good work for the people of the Sister Islands.

We currently have four houses under construction in Cayman Brac and I'm looking forward to continue working with the Corporation, the board and the staff to progress affordable housing and affordable living options for all people in the Sister Islands.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Office of the Commissioner of Police - 2023 Annual Report

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Governor, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Good afternoon Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable Parliament, the Annual Report of the Office of the Commissioner of Police representing the year 2023.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the Report?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Mr. Speaker, just briefly. I'm going to speak more about the excellent work of the RCIPS [Royal Cayman Islands Police Service] during my budget contribution, but I thought I would just highlight some of the figures that are in the 2023 Report, and to advise the Parliament that the 2024 Report should be tabled shortly.

Mr. Speaker, during the year of 2023 the RCIPS dealt with 37,866 incidents. They recorded 3,955 crimes and they made 2,177 arrests.

Mr. Speaker, 23 firearms were recovered; over \$900,000 worth of drugs were seized; 311 digital and cyber-related investigations; 2,001 domestic violence referrals; 1,799 child protection referrals; they investigated 1,469 acquisitive crimes; 770 violence against the person crimes; and 781 public order crimes.

Mr. Speaker, 423 persons were injured in motor vehicle accidents which is staggering; 3,196 motor vehicle accidents; and 4,654 speeding tickets. Unfortunately, there were 270 persons who were arrested for driving under the influence.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a snapshot of the work that's being done by our RCIPS. On behalf of all of us in this honourable House, I would like to pay a great tribute to Mr. Kurt Walton and his team at the RCIPS and all his officers for the work they do to keep us safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

2024 Annual Report – Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Speaker: Honourable Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs.

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

With your leave, I'd like to lay on the Table of the House the 2024 Annual Report of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the Report?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Speaker, no. The report itself is self-explanatory. It deals with matters such as the Director's overview, a mission statement, the role and function of the Office of the DPP, the human resource complement, the training and continuing education, as well as FOI [freedom of information], international matters and financial crime, and witness protection, among other things, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly commend the Report to honourable Members of this House and the public, and would like to thank the DPP and his staff for their usual hard work and professionalism.

I thank you, sir.

Anti-Corruption Commission – Annual Report - 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

The Speaker: Honourable Attorney General, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to lay on the Table of the House the Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission covering the period 1st July, 2024 to 30th June, 2025.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the Report?

The Attorney General, Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Mr. Speaker, the Report again is self-explanatory.

There is one slight observation of the report I would like to make. There is an observation by the outgoing chair, which was mentioned in the daily reports and news reports about the tardiness, if I might call it that, of enforcing some confiscation matter. The former chair clearly was unhappy about the pace at which this matter has been dealt with.

Suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, that first of all, there is really no timeline within which to conclude these matters and they usually, by their nature, tend to be protracted. Mr. Speaker, these are matters where not only is the person punished in most instances with a period of imprisonment but sometimes their asset, including their homes are being confiscated, so it is understandable that all efforts will be made by these people to resist the confiscation, including pursuing appeals where that is available and it's no different in this case. Having said that Mr. Speaker, it is true the matter is taking a while but, as we speak, the matter is still properly pending before the court, so it is not a lost cause.

The Cayman Islands, Mr. Speaker, is quite aware of its obligation to the FATF [Financial Action Task Force] as it relates to asset forfeiture and recovery. Indeed, just recently, as a matter of fact, just yesterday, the FATF published additional guidance dealing with asset recovery and it has been revising its relevant recommendations— I think Recommendations 4 and 38— since 2003, putting out various iterations. Cayman Islands has contributed to those guidelines, so we are fully aware of what is required. It is true that countries [are] required to have a framework in place that can restrain, confiscate, and where necessary repatriate assets so as to make restitution with their victims.

However, it is also equally true, Mr. Speaker, that the FATF recognises that in confiscating assets, it is important that there should be a framework in place that allows for taking account of fundamental rights and due process so that those who are affected have the opportunity to make appropriate representation, proper legal representation and so on.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, what we have in this case that is reported in the papers, [is] all of those scenarios playing out, but we are confident that at some stage there will be a resolution, maybe not as quickly as the former chair would have liked, but there will be a resolution to the matter, Mr. Speaker. I leave it at that at this stage because it is still properly pending before the court.

Thank you.

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Cayman Islands Branch – Report on the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference –
October 5 – 12, 2025 – Barbados**

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town Central.

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

I rise to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Cayman Islands Branch – Report on the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference – October 5 – 12, 2025 in Barbados.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the honourable Member wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to continue on the tone of the Minister of Environment, Honourable Katherine Ebanks-Wilks in her summation of our earlier conference in Bahamas. I also want to take note of your new improvements to our Parliament with our new Standing Orders, [particularly] Standing Order 26(4), mandating that a full report be done for Parliament, to inform the Members of this Parliament and the public of our proceedings when traveling.

With that being said, sir, I would ask all Members to take a brief look at the reports, both the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands, but also for the public to know that their money is spent appropriately.

The delegation was myself; the Honourable Leader of the Opposition; the Honourable Minister, Katherine Ebanks-Wilks; and our Assistant Clerk, Ms. Patricia Priestley.

Mr. Speaker, the conference was the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) which is an annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) — I merely say this out for our listening audience as well. It's the largest annual gathering of the Commonwealth parliamentarians across the world who come together to discuss global parliamentary and political issues. Each year, the conference is hosted by a different Commonwealth Parliament. The annual CPA Small Branches Conference which we are a main part of, and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentary Association Conference, which you heard my colleague, the Honourable Minister, speak to earlier, were also added in 1981 and in 2007, respectively. They are both held in the margins of the CPC. The Regional Champions of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities network also meets during the annual conference which is important as we embrace those within our borders who have disabilities.

The purpose of the conference, Mr. Speaker, is to promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary systems that govern us, foster co-operation and strengthen parliamentary development across the Commonwealth nations of which we are a part. The CPC allows for the sharing of ideas and the exchange of best practices helping to make parliamentarians, like all Members of this House, more effective, and fostering a greater sense of shared responsibility for addressing common issues that we face.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year was *'The Commonwealth – A Global Partner'*, and throughout the conference, we attended a number of different meetings and events. To list those that we attended:

- The CPA Small Branches Conference;
- The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference (which you heard my colleague speak about earlier);
- The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities network [meeting];
- The CPA General Meeting;
- The CPA CAA Regional Meeting;
- The Society of Clerks at the Table meeting;
- The Plenary, Small Branches and CWP workshops; and
- The receptions, opening and closing ceremonies, and so forth.

Mr. Speaker, the three main ones that I will elaborate on are: the Small Branches [Conference], the Women Parliamentarians [Conference], as well as the [Society of] Clerks [at the Table meeting] because those are the three areas of primary focus that I believe our delegation benefited from.

For the Small Branches, we attended a meeting [themed] *'Shaping the Future [for CPA] Small Branches: Strengthening Parliamentary Independence and Capacity in Small Jurisdictions'*; the opening session was about *'Shaping the future for Small Branches'* — like the Cayman Islands. Another workshop that we attended was [about] negotiating the challenges, exploring priorities and having a world of dialogue; as well as the workshop about Public Accounts Committee — what the roles are, what the challenges are and what are the solutions as we move forward. The next workshop we attended was [on] the work-life balance and the mental health of our parliamentarians amongst the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Small Branches; also, [about] human rights and the legacy of colonial [laws in] destinations like ours.

Mr. Speaker, as per the workshops with the CPC, we also attended two other workshops: about strengthening our institutions to support democracy, like PAC [and] outside committees that support our transparency; and also, about building trust and transparency in democracy — financial transparency, particularly when it comes to Parliaments and elections.

Mr. Speaker, I was well honoured to watch my good colleague and friend, the Honourable Minister Katherine Ebanks-Wilks in her presentation at the

Women's Parliamentary Conference and her support for the new chairman of the Women's Branch — I do believe you were one of the nominees to support her selection as chair — [though] I wish our colleague was the one selected, but due to circumstances, maybe in two years from now we can see one of our own being the chair, and I encourage her to continue on that path.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's also important that I highlight the fact that the CPA and these trips are not only about the Members who are elected, but also the supporting staff of this Parliament who allow our democracy to flourish. I want to congratulate our assistant clerk, Ms. Patricia Priestley who attended, not only in her own right, in her own learning at her conferences, but also there to support us — because, you know, politicians need babying most times. She dealt with all the headache while at the same time attending her own conferences where she, as with the other clerks across the Commonwealth, was there to learn about things to better shape the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I think my Honourable Leader, the Honourable Joseph Hew summed it up best — and I want to take this opportunity to thank him as he was the most senior person to be the delegate at the time we made the reservation, but in the spirit of succession planning and giving everyone an opportunity and all those other factors he allowed me to be the head of the delegation. I want to thank him for that opportunity now. He said, **"The conference was successful and informative, offering valuable perspectives on shared challenges among small branches. Despite attending as an observer, [allowing my deputy to be the head of the delegation] the experience was enriching and provided actionable insights for strengthening governance and parliamentary effectiveness."**

He also concluded, **"The 68th CPC highlighted the importance of collaboration among small Commonwealth branches in strengthening democratic governance and transparency [of our jurisdictions]. Continued engagement through the CPA network remains essential for exchanging best practices, fostering institutional resilience and promoting good governance across all jurisdictions."**

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that we spoke in respect to this area of CPA and the conference which offers us an opportunity to potentially expand the role of the CPA by including and reaching out past the [current] Members of Parliament to have them bring in and involve past Members of Parliament, those who may not even be included, as we have the honourable former Speaker here today who was a Member of Parliament, though not elected. We should embrace this spirit of continued learning and advancements and amendments to our democracy and I say we should not limit it only to those who are here today.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, I appreciate the opportunity to present this Report and ask the listening public to take a look at it to see that your Parliament continues to develop and foster in the right direction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

URGENT QUESTIONS

The Speaker: None.

PREMIER'S QUESTIONS

The Speaker: None.

QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Speaker: None.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Speaker: None.

OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

The Speaker: I have received notice from two Ministers who wish to recognise two persons.

I now call on the Minister of Planning.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, Elected Member for North Side: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Franklin R. Smith, Sr.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I want to join the entire agriculture tourism sector of the Cayman Islands mourning the passing of Mr. Franklin Smith, Sr., a man who lived, breathed and believed in the Cayman Islands agriculture. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Smith was not just a farmer, he was a cultivator of both soil and spirit. Year after year, he nurtured the land and inspired us all to value agriculture. He would probably tell everyone who would listen that agriculture is in his soul and in his pulse. He even gave up cooking and dedicated his life to agriculture. Agriculture ran deep in his roots. His father who grew up in North Side was also a full time farmer. Mr. Smith carried out the traditions with pride. He became

a local expert in everything agriculture; a true ambassador for CaymanKind.

He imported and grew mangoes, pioneering the several varieties that we still enjoy today. Mr. Smith's efforts helped to shape what we now know as our market system across the Cayman Islands. Mr. Speaker, when it came to marketing, no one did it quite like Mr. Franklin Smith, Sr. He sold mangoes at the public beach but it wasn't just selling, it was a show. He would cut the mango, twist it, pop it and take the seed out and serve it [as] the perfect mango, turning it into a story and a cultural experience at the same time. That was Mr. Franklin Smith.

Now, Mr. Speaker, anyone who knew Mr. Franklin will tell you, you always knew where he stood. He was a man with strong will and not afraid to say exactly what he thought, but that was part of his honesty, his passion and his love for what he believed in even if you didn't always agree with him, because he stood firm in his convictions— almost like you Mr. Speaker, I believe that's the same way it must be growing in the North Side men.

Mr. Franklin's influence reached every district. When he moved to East End, he worked with locals to farm the land helping transform the area into one of the most productive agricultural zones on the island today.

Back in 2009, Mr. Smith planted 10,000 holes of sweet potatoes in the Cayman Islands — 10,000. His passion and drive go even as far back as the 1980s, he was ahead of his time using the irrigation system from Israel.

In many ways, he helped to lay the foundation for what we now know as the Cayman Islands agriculture lease land policy long before it ever existed on paper. He was a man ahead of his time creating what he could call a farming community, a cluster driven by his vision of food security and Caymanians owning their land. Mr. Speaker, I could go on with so many success stories because innovation wasn't new to him, it was part of who he was.

As I stand here today reflecting on a well-lived life, I'm happy to note that we laid our flowers while he was alive. Mr. Franklin Smith, Sr. received the Pioneer Award for Agriculture at the National Heroes Day [ceremony] in January 2016, a well-deserved award.

Mr. Speaker, some people live quietly, others like Mr. Franklin Smith live boldly, taking the bull by the horns and standing firm for what they believe in. He lived a life of convictions, fairness and purpose; he lived a full life. To his family I say this: every time we plant a seed, every time Caymanian farmers harvest their crop, every time someone enjoys a Cayman mango, we are celebrating Mr. Franklin Smith's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, not only was Mr. Franklin Smith a farmer, but at one point in time he was a politician, a Member of the Legislative Assembly at that time—

An Hon. Member: Elected 1988.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: —1988. Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, if we could have a minute of silence.

The Speaker: We can do for both at the same time.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay.

I now call on the Minister of Social Development.

Pastor Glarman “Bobo” Grant

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Minister of Social Development & Innovation and Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage, Elected Member for East End: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today with deep sadness to inform this honourable House of the passing of a dear childhood friend and a beloved East Ender, Pastor Glarman Grant, affectionately known to all of us as Brother Bobo or just Bobo.

Mr. Speaker, Brother Bobo was a man of exceptional gifts and unwavering faith. He served our community as a devoted pastor, a talented musician, a civil servant and a long-time Sunday school teacher. Through his many roles, he demonstrated humility, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to serving others. His life’s work has left an indelible mark on East End, the Cayman Islands and indeed on many communities beyond our shores.

Growing up in East End, I was privileged to share many fond memories with Bobo—that is who I knew him as, I actually didn’t even know his real name until I was in my mid-teens, always Bobo. We shared many memories filled with laughter, music and had meaningful conversations as well. His joyful spirit and unshakable faith were evident in all that he did.

Mr. Speaker, his infectious smile and powerful voice were a source of comfort and inspiration to so many. Through song and prayer, he brought hope to the broken-hearted and peace to those in mourning. His beloved and deeply moving rendition of *Hallelujah Square* was known throughout these Islands. Today, we are left with the silence of his absence and the longing for that familiar voice which lifted so many souls in prayer. As a nation, we have lost a stalwart, a man of noble character and unwavering integrity whose devotion to God and community truly embodied the Caymanian spirit of faith and service.

To his family and loved ones, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of this honourable House and the entire district of East End. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Brother Bobo’s legacy will live on in the hearts he touched, the faith he strengthened, and the songs that will continue to echo through our churches and communities.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The Speaker: I invite Members to stand so we can observe one minute of silence to show respect and condolences to Mr. Franklin Smith, Sr. and Mr. Grant and their families, starting now.

[Minute of silence]

The Speaker: Thank you all very much.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Minister, I thought you were going to give us a rendition of *Hallelujah Square*.

[Laughter]

RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE

The Speaker: None.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

FIRST READINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL BILL, 2025

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

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2025

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

SECOND READINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL BILL, 2025

[Deferred]

The Speaker: Honourable Member responsible for Legal Affairs.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a Motion to defer the Second Reading of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Bill, 2025, to a later sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I gather colleagues might want some additional time to look at this Bill and the Honourable Premier has agreed that the Bill should be deferred to allow additional consultation with friends on the opposite side. Of course, we are quite amenable to that, so I move the Motion for it to be deferred.

The Speaker: Is it being deferred to another sitting of this Meeting or to the next Meeting?

[Inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Okay, to another sitting of this Meeting.

The Motion is that the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Bill, 2025 be deferred to another sitting of this Meeting.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Administrative Appeals Tribunal Bill, 2025 was deferred.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2025

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

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

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present the Bill on behalf of the Government. It is a Bill that seeks to amend the Beneficial Ownership Transparency Act, 2023 which I will refer to hereafter as the principal Act; to provide enhancements in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the beneficial ownership transparency legislative framework and compliance with evolving international standards.

Mr. Speaker, the principal Act was approved by this honourable House in December 2023. The principal Act consolidates the beneficial ownership legislative framework into a single Act and enhances the transparency provisions applicable to legal persons while addressing evolving international standards.

Mr. Speaker, once the principal Act was approved by Parliament, engagement continued during implementation with members of industry and other stakeholders on the principal Act's associated regulations and guidance. This led to amendments to the principal Act and associated regulations in early 2025, which were highlighted as being necessary in order to bring some clarity to certain aspects of the legislation

and also to ensure the continued effectiveness of beneficial ownership legislation in the long term. Since then, Mr. Speaker, engagement with industry members on the legislation has continued and throughout since we've moved towards full operationalisation of the framework as it has evolved. Thus, in a nutshell, the proposed amendments in the Bill are industry driven. They have essentially said, *we've been operating under the framework for a brief period of time and we can see where we need necessary clarifications and precision to make sure the intended outcomes work as we have conceived them.*

Mr. Speaker, additional amendments have also been identified as necessary to ensure the beneficial ownership transparency framework continues to work for all users, which also means the authorities and the Registrar, and complies with international standards. This includes ensuring that all legal persons that are not-for-profit organisations are exempt from the principal Act as they are sufficiently supervised under the Non-Profit Organisations Act, and also make it clear that beneficial ownership information relating to minors is not released under the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Legitimate Interest Access) Regulations, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, a legislative requirement has been included in the Bill for the name of a listed entity to be provided where the reporting legal person is a subsidiary. This was a requirement under the previous beneficial ownership legislative framework and is necessary to assist the competent authority with understanding the characteristics of a reporting legal person.

Also in the Bill, Mr. Speaker, a number of amendments that provide precision to certain provisions include an amendment to section 13 of the principal Act to make it abundantly clear that the information on beneficial ownership registers and the information deposited to a competent authority shall be "*adequate, accurate and current*" in line with international standards. That's the exact lingo from FATF standards.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, clarity is also brought to sections 14 and 19 of the principal Act with respect to how notices and restriction notices are to be issued to ensure compliance with obligations and the steps involved thereto.

Mr. Speaker, at section 22 of the principal Act, amendments have been made to the power in the legislation for competent authorities to provide beneficial ownership information to a foreign competent authority. This power was introduced following engagement with the UK and other foreign partners where greater emphasis was being placed on providing beneficial ownership with overseas authorities and following the introduction of Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Legitimate Interest Access) Regulations where a number of requests were received under that framework for competent authorities.

To freeze frame there for a moment, Mr. Speaker, the providing of information to foreign competent authorities—anti-money laundering (AML), law enforcement, [and] tax—is not new and has been part of Cayman’s regulatory framework for years, and this is the current difference in position that the Cayman Islands has with the UK. We see that as appropriate sharing of information where there’s suspicion of bad actors or illicit activity, not for general public consumption for any reason whatsoever. This just continues our existing framework and our original and continued stance on the matter.

Mr. Speaker, the last amendment in the Bill brings clarity to the administrative fine provisions in the principal Act at sections 26 and 29. The \$5,000 administrative fine penalty stated within the principal Act is a maximum fine, with an amendment to be made to allow the registrar to gazette rules that provide for the matters that are to be taken into account in determining the administrative fine and for aggravating and mitigating factors.

[Background music]

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Serje for the entertainment. Make sure that Members are still awake.

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: To get back to the point, Mr. Speaker. The point of this clarification is to signal to all public, in particular the users of the framework, that the fine is *up to* \$5,000 because there are different types of breaches. It could be innocent, inadvertent, could be a technological difficulty and that might attract a lower fine; whereas if it’s just complete noncompliance, it may attract the maximum, but it’s not flat across the board of all breaches.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the Bill is arranged into nine clauses.

Clause 1 provides the short title of the legislation.

Clause 2 amends section 10 of the principal Act to provide that a legal person may be exempt from the provisions of the Act, if the legal person is designated as a company to which section 80 of the Companies Act applies, or if the legal person is registered in accordance with section 7 of the Non-Profit Organisations Act.

Clause 3 amends section 12 of the principal Act to provide that where a legal person is a subsidiary of a listed entity, for the purposes of providing the competent authority with written confirmation of the legal person’s category, in addition to providing the name and the jurisdiction of the stock exchange, the legal person shall also provide the name of the listed entity.

The clause also amends section 12 of the principal Act to provide an additional required particular in

respect of an individual under section 2(2) of the principal Act. It is proposed that such individual shall also include the nature in which the individual owns or exercises control of the legal person.

Clause 4 amends section 13 of the principal Act to provide that the beneficial ownership register that is established and maintained by an ordinary resident company that does not engage a corporate services provider shall contain adequate, accurate and current beneficial ownership information.

The clause also amends section 13 of the principal Act to provide that beneficial ownership information that is regularly deposited by the corporate service provider shall be adequate, accurate and current.

Clause 5 amends section 14 of the principal Act to provide that a legal person is not required to give notice to a registrable beneficial owner requesting confirmation of a relevant change if the legal person has already been informed of the relevant change and has received the required particulars.

Clause 6 amends section 19 of the principal Act to, among other things, provide clarity regarding the process by which restrictions notices are issued. The amendment provides that the corporate services provider shall send a restrictions notice to the legal person concerning a relevant interest in that legal person if, by the end of thirty days after the receipt of the notice issued to the legal person under section 18(1), and requirements are set out thereto.

In relation to clause 7, this amends section 22 of the principal Act to provide, among other things, that the competent authority, in respect of the beneficial ownership register of a legal person, may provide information to —

(a) a foreign beneficial ownership authority that exercises similar functions and has similar responsibilities with respect to beneficial ownership as the local competent authority;

(b) a foreign authority with designated responsibility for combating money laundering or terrorist financing, following consultation with relevant bodies which are set out in section 22(2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) or (j)(i) of the principal Act; and

(c) a government, government department, or public authority of a country or territory or of a part of a country or territory in accordance with the legislation, where the information is being sought in the context of a potential or actual business relationship or transaction with the legal person about whom the information is sought.

The clause also amends section 22 of the principal Act to provide the details that members of the public may access in relation to the different categories of individuals, namely individuals referred to in section 2(2) of the principal Act, and individuals other than those referred to in the same section of the Act, except where such an individual is a minor.

Clause 8 amends section 26 of the principal Act by repealing subsections (2) and (3) and substituting proposed new subsections (2) and (3) and also a new (3A). Among other things, the clause clarifies that fines that may be imposed by the Registrar for prescribed breaches are maximum fines. The proposed new subsection (3A) provides that in determining the amount of an administrative fine to be imposed, the Registrar shall take into account the rules referred to in section 29.

Clause 9 then amends section 29 of the principal Act as a consequence of the amendment to section 26 of the principal Act. The clause stipulates that rules may be made by the Registrar to provide for taking matters into account in making an initial assessment of the amount of an administrative fine; and aggravating and mitigating factors that are to be taken into account in making a final assessment of the amount of an administrative fine to be imposed.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my presentation of the Bill. In closing, I wish to thank my Ministry staff and the legislative drafting department for their efforts with respect to the development of the Bill.

I also wish to convey sincere thanks to industry practitioners including members of the Compliance Association, the Directors' Association and regulatory lawyers who made significant contributions to improve this framework so that it achieves its intended outcome with greater clarity and a reduction of unnecessary administrative burdens. We know you don't get a chance to work on the "sexier transactions", but you're doing the guts of what makes it work and ensure that business is sound and legitimate, and we should thank you for it.

I therefore commend the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 to this honourable House for its second reading.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to briefly comment on the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025. I had a conversation with the Honourable Premier and accept and recognise that these amendments have been driven by the industry and it is really a tidying-up exercise for transactability. Also, to recognise that as we go into these uncharted waters, and very much in the sense that the Cayman Islands are leaders on the world stage when it comes to compliance in these matters, we will have to have amendments to this sort of legislation from time to time so the official Opposition has no issues with these amendments.

Thank you.

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

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

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

Very briefly to again thank all my colleagues in Caucus who helped move this forward to Cabinet for approval; and all of Cabinet for their support. I'd also like to extend thanks to the Leader of the Opposition and all other Opposition members for their either explicit or implicit support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 be given a second reading.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 was given a second reading.

The Speaker: The House will now go into Committee to consider the Bill.

House in Committee at 3:37 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON BILLS

The Chairman: Please be seated. The House is now in committee.

With the leave of the House, may I assume that as usual, we should authorise the Honourable Attorney general to correct minor errors and such in these Bills—everybody agrees to that?

[Crosstalk]

The Chairman: Okay. Would the Clerk please state the Bill and read the clauses.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2025

The Clerk:

Clause 1	Short title
Clause 2	Amendment of section 10 of the Beneficial Ownership Transparency Act, 2023 - exemption

- Clause 3 Amendment of section 12 - required particulars and written confirmation required for categories of legal persons
- Clause 4 Amendment of section 13 - duty to establish and maintain register
- Clause 5 Amendment of section 14 - duty to keep register current

The Chairman: Are there any questions on clauses 1 to 5? If not, I will put the question. The question is that clauses 1 to 5 do stand part of the Bill.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 1 to 5 passed.

The Clerk:

- Clause 6 Amendment of section 19 - issue of restrictions notice by corporate services provider

Amendment to Clause 6

The Chairman: I have received notice of an Amendment to Clause 6 of the Bill and I have given the Member leave to bring the Amendment.

Honourable Premier.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 70 (1) and (2) of the Parliament Standing Orders, 2025, I, the Honourable André M. Ebanks, Premier and Minister for Financial Services and Commerce, give notice to move the following amendments to the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

That the Bill be amended in clause 6, by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph —

“(a) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection —

“(1) The corporate services provider of a legal person to which this Act applies shall send a restrictions notice to the legal person concerning a relevant interest in that legal person if —

(a) by the end of the period of thirty days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice issued to the legal person under section 18(1) —

(i) a notice under section 8 or 14 was not served by the legal person and the legal person has not provided the corporate

services provider with a valid reason sufficient to justify the legal person's failure to serve the notice under section 8 or 14; or

(ii) the legal person has failed to provide a justification and a correction respecting any statement identified as being false or misleading in the notice under section 18(1); or

(b) a notice under section 8 or 14 was served by the legal person and the legal person has not received compliance with the notice served under section 8 or 14.”; and”.

The Chairman: The Amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: No, Mr. Chairman. When we do the next amendment, I'll be able to explain.

The Chairman: The question is that the Amendment stand part of the clause.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Amendment passed.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clause 6, as amended, passed.

The Clerk:

- Clause 7 Amendment of section 22 - Access to beneficial ownership information
- Clause 8 Amendment of section 26 - administrative fines
- Clause 9 Amendment of section 29 - Registrar's rule-making power

The Chairman: The question is that clauses 7 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

All those in favour say Aye, those against, no.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Clauses 7 through 9 passed.

New Clause 5A

The Chairman: Honourable Premier.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 70 (1) and (2) of the Parliamentary Standing Orders, 2025, I, the Honourable André M. Ebanks, Premier and Minister for Financial Services and Commerce, give notice to move the following Amendment to the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025.

That the Bill be amended by inserting after Clause 5, the following new clause 5A:

“Amendment of section 18 - consequences of failing to disclose beneficial ownership

5A. The principal Act is amended in section 18 as follows —

- (a) in subsection (2) as follows —
 - (i) in paragraph (a), by inserting after the word “owners” the words “, in the case where the notice refers to the matter set out in subsection (1)(a)”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (b), by inserting after the word “notice” the words “, in the case where the notice refers to the matter set out in subsection (1)(b)”;
- (b) by inserting after subsection (3) the following subsections —
 - “(4) If the legal person fails to provide the justification and correction referred to in subsection (2)(b) by the end of the period of thirty days beginning with the date of receipt of the notice, the corporate services provider shall —
 - (a) subject to section 19, issue a restrictions notice to the legal person; and
 - (b) send a copy of the restrictions notice to the competent authority within fourteen days of issuing it.
 - (5) If a legal person’s corporate services provider is of the opinion that —
 - (a) the notice under section 8 or 14 was served by the legal person; and
 - (b) the legal person has not received compliance with the notice served under section 8 or 14,
 the corporate services provider shall, subject to section 19, issue a restrictions notice to the legal person

concerning a relevant interest in that legal person, and shall send a copy of the restrictions notice to the competent authority within fourteen days of issuing it.”.

The Clerk:

New Clause 5A

Amendment of section 18 - consequences of failing to disclose beneficial ownership

The Chairman: The new Clause 5A has been read a first time. The question now is that the clause be read a second time.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it. The clause is deemed to have been read a second time.

Is there any debate on the new clause?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Mr. Chair, just briefly for the listening public and for Members.

The net effect of each of these Committee Stage Amendments is that industry practitioners, particularly those in compliance, noticed that there was a gap whereby if, as the corporate services provider, you file a notice asking for information and there is non-responsiveness or something misleading, there was no recourse. This now provides our licensed corporate services providers with an element of recourse to enforce compliance if there is an activity that's noncompliant with the Act.

The Chairman: Does any other Member wish to speak?

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Elected Member for Bodden Town East: Mr. Chairman, the question — through you to the Premier. Is there a distinct beneficial ownership committee of stakeholders?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: I thank the Member for the question. I think you mean in terms of a working group? Yes, there's a working group of industry practitioners that works with the Ministry.

The Chairman: Is there any other Member who wish to speak?

There's no further debate. The question is that this Clause be added to the Bill as Clause number 5A, and that the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.
Agreed: Clause 5A passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Beneficial Ownership Transparency Act, 2023 to provide for the submission of certain information where the legal person is a subsidiary of a listed entity; to empower the competent authority to provide information in respect of the beneficial ownership Register of a legal person to, among other entities, other governments; to clarify that the administrative fines under the Act are maximum fines; to ensure the continued effectiveness of the beneficial ownership legislative framework; and to provide for incidental and connected purposes.

The Chairman: The question is that the title stands part of the Bill.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.
Agreed: The title passed.

The Chairman: The question is that the Bill be reported to the House.

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

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.
Agreed: The Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 to be reported to the House.

The Chairman: The Committee's work is done.

House resumed at 3:53 p.m.

The Speaker: The House resumes.

REPORT ON BILL

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2025

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

I'm pleased to report that a Bill shortly entitled the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 was considered by a committee of the whole House and passed with amendments.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for a third reading.

I now invite the Premier to move the Suspension of Standing Order 65 to allow a third reading on this Bill.

Suspension of Standing Order 65

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

I move the Suspension of Standing Order 65 to allow the present Bill to be read a third time.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 65 be suspended to allow the Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 to be read a third time.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 65 suspended.

THIRD READING

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2025

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

I beg to move that a Bill shortly entitled The Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 be given a third reading and passed

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025 was given a third reading and passed.

MOTIONS

Government Motion No. 6 of 2025-2026 The Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) - Issuance of a Deed of Indemnity to the Members of the Development Plan Tribunal

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 6 of 2025-2026, The Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) - Issuance of a Deed of Indemnity to the Members of the Development Plan Tribunal.

WHEREAS the Government of the Cayman Islands (the "Government") is desirous of issuing a Deed of Indemnity to the Members of the Development Plan Tribunal (as per the attached Deed of Indemnity);

AND WHEREAS Section 8 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) provides that, as a general rule, no guarantee may be given by or on behalf of the Government unless it has been authorised by a resolution of the Parliament;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Parliament hereby authorises the issuance, to Members of the Development Plan Tribunal, of a Deed of Indemnity guarding against the potential liability of Members of the Development Plan Tribunal.

The Speaker: The Motion has been moved and is open for debate.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker? Yes,

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker I rise to move Government Motion No. 6 of 2025-2026, which seeks the Government's approval to issue a deed of indemnity to the members of the Development Plan Tribunal.

The Motion is brought under section 8 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision) which makes it clear that any indemnity given by Government must first be approved by the honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, the Development Plan Tribunal carries out an important role in our planning system. Its members are the ones who hear objections, appeals, and then make changes to the development plan. They are doing a public service by giving their time, professionalism, and experience to ensure planning decisions are fair and lawful; but that kind of work can attract legal challenges. The Deed of Indemnity gives these members proper protection when they act in good faith and in the best interest of the country. It means they are [not] sued simply for doing their job. The Government stands behind him.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker, this does not protect anyone acting in bad faith or doing wrong. It simply ensures that the people who step up to serve are not put at personal risk for doing the right thing. It's about fairness, accountability, and supporting those

who help our planning system function properly. I therefore commend Government Motion No. 6 to this honourable House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just rise to say that the official Opposition does not have an issue with this.

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

Does the Mover wish to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the House for their full support. That will be all.

The Speaker: The question is, BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Parliament hereby authorises the issuance to members of the Development Plan Tribunal of a Deed of Indemnity guarding against the potential liability of members of the Development Plan Tribunal.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 6 of 2025-2026 passed.

**Government Motion No. 7 of 2025-2026
Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 -
Proposed Rezoning:
Prospect, Block 23B Parcel 112**

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

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

I beg to move Government Motion No. 7 of 2025-2026, Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 - Proposed Rezoning: Prospect, Block 23B Parcel 112.

WHEREAS on the 31st of January, 2024 (reference CPA/04/24; item 3. I) The Central Planning Authority (CPA) originally considered the request to amend the Development Plan from 112 from Low Density Residential and unassigned zoning to Beach Resort Residential over Block 23B Parcel 112. It was resolved to forward the application for a 60-day public notification and consultation period

pursuant to Section 11 (2) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision);

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments were duly advertised in the *Caymanian Times* newspaper on the 24th and 26th of April and the 1st and 3rd of May 2024, in accordance with Section 11 (2) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), with public consultation closing on July 2nd 2024. No letters of objection were received on the proposed amendment;

AND WHEREAS on the 4th of December 2024 (reference CPA/31/24; item 3.1) the Central Planning Authority again considered the proposal and in light of receiving no objections it was resolved to forward the rezone application to the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Development for onward transmission to the House of Parliament, subject to Cabinet approval;

AND WHEREAS on the 13th of August 2025, Cabinet considered the rezoning proposal, and approved that the matter be submitted to Parliament for consideration.

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

a. Prospect, Block 23B Parcel 112, from Low Density Residential and unassigned zoning to Beach Resort Residential.

The Speaker: The Motion is duly moved. Does the Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Briefly, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to move Government Motion No. 7 of 2025-2026 seeking the Parliament's approval for rezoning of [Block] 23B [Parcel] 112 in Prospect, from Low Density Residential to Beach Resort Residential. This is a small piece of land, just under a tenth of an acre, located along the South Sound Road. The area around it has been zoned for beach resort use and this change simply brings the small parcel into line with the surrounding zoning and the actual boundaries of the road.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Planning Authority advertised this proposal and gave the public a full 60 days to comment, and no objections were received. The Authority reviewed the matter again in December 2024 and recommended that Cabinet approve it. Cabinet did so on August 25th 2025, and now we bring it before the honourable House. This is not a controversial or large-scale change, but a clean-up of a zoning map to make it accurate and consistent and ensure that

the plan reflects the reality of the ground and provides clarity for both developers and residents.

I therefore commend Government Motion No. 7 of 2025-2026 to this honourable House.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
Member for George Town East.

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, Elected Member for George Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I recognise it is just a small clean-up of the zoning for a 0.09 of an acre property to make it consistent with the zoning around it. On that basis, I can say that the Opposition has no problem at all with it.

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

If not, would the Mover like to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the Opposition for their full support. That's all.

The Speaker: The question is, BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of registration Section Prospect Block 23B Parcel 112 from Low Density Residential and Unassigned Zoning to Beach Resort Residential.

All those in favour please say aye, those against, no.

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 7 of 2025-2026 passed.

**Government Motion No. 8 of 2025-2026
Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 -
Proposed Rezoning: Crighton Drive,
West Bay South, Block 17A Parcel 383**

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

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 8 of 2025-2026 Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 - Proposed Rezoning: Crighton Drive, West Bay South, Block 17A Parcel 383.

WHEREAS on the 4th of March 2025 (reference CPA/05/25; item 3.1) the Central Planning Authority (CPA) originally considered the request to amend the Development Plan from Low Density Residential and Private Canal to Hotel/Tourism over Block 17A Parcel 383 (originally comprised of

4 parcels: 17A 145, 146, 327 and 376). It was resolved to forward the proposal for 60-day public notification and consultation period pursuant to Section 11(2) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision);

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments were duly advertised in the *Caymanian Times* newspaper on the 9th, 11th, 16th, and 17th of April 2025, in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision), with public consultation closing on June 16th 2025. Persons were invited to view the application at the Department of Planning for comment. During this public consultation period, no letters of objection were received;

AND WHEREAS on the 4th December, 2024 (CPA/31/24; item 3.1), the Central Planning Authority considered the rezone application again following the consultation period. It was resolved to forward the rezone application to the Ministry of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing, and Infrastructure for onward transmission to the House of Parliament, subject to Cabinet approval;

AND WHEREAS on the 22nd of August 2025, Cabinet considered the rezoning application that the matter be referred to Parliament for consideration;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision) the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

- a. Crighton Drive, West Bay South, Block 17A Parcel 383 from Low Density Residential and Private Canal to Hotel/Tourism.

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

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Briefly, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 8 of 2025-2026, proposed rezoning of Block 17A, Parcel 383, Crighton Drive, West Bay South from Low Density Residential and Private Canal to Hotel/Tourism. The Central Planning Authority looked at the proposal in March 2025, carried out the required public consultation and received no objections. The site is just over a third of an acre and sits along Crighton Drive next to land already zoned for tourism use.

Mr. Speaker, the rezoning will allow the land to be used in a way that fits the area's existing develop-

ment pattern and supports planning towards investment while still being consistent with the development plan and proper planning principles. It is a sensible and measured adjustment that keeps our planning system working smoothly, balancing growth and good order.

I commend Government Motion No. 8 [of 2025-2026] to this honourable House.

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

If not, does the Mover want to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the whole House again for its full support, sir.

The Speaker: The question is BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision) the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

- a. Crighton Drive, West Bay South, Block 17A Parcel 283 (sic), from Low Density Residential and Private Canal to Hotel/Tourism.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, just for clarity; I think you said 283, but it's 383.

The Speaker: Sorry, 383. Okay; as a former Governor would say, let's put some belts and braces on it and do it all over.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Section

- a. Crighton Drive, West Bay South, Block 17A Parcel 383, from Low Density Residential and Private Canal to Hotel/Tourism.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 8 of 2025-2026 passed.

**Government Motion No. 9 of 2025-2026
Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 -
Proposed Rezoning: Linford Pierson Highway,
George Town, Block 20E Parcel 171 (Now Block 20
Parcel D472), Linford Pierson Highway, George
Town, Block 20E Parcel 213REM3**

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

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

I beg to move Government Motion No. 9 of 2025-2026, Amendment to the Development Plan 1997 - Proposed Rezoning: Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 171 (Now Block 20 Parcel D472), Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 213REM3.

WHEREAS on the 3rd of February, 2021 (reference CPA/03/21; item 3.3). The Central Planning Authority (CPA) originally considered the request to amend the Development Plan from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential over Block 20E Parcel 171 (Now Block 20 Parcel D472) and Block 20E Parcel 213REM3. It was resolved to forward the proposal for 60-day public notification and consultation period pursuant to Section 11(2) of the then Development and Planning Act (2017 Revision);

AND WHEREAS the proposed amendments were duly advertised in the *Caymanian Times* newspaper on the 3rd, 5th, 10th, and 12th of March 2021, in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Development and Planning Law (2017 Revision), with public consultation closing on May 11th 2021. Persons were invited to view the application at the Department of Planning of Planning for comment. During this public consultation period, letters of objection were received on the 12th and 26th of March 2021;

AND WHEREAS on the 26th of May 2021 (CPA/11/21; item 3.1), the Central Planning Authority considered the rezone application again following the consultation period. It was resolved to forward the rezone application to the Development Plan Tribunal for their recommendation;

AND WHEREAS on the 22nd of November 2024, the Development Plan Tribunal considered the rezone request and the report of the Tribunal was received on the 6th of January 2025. The report indicates that, on the question of whether the rezoning should be allowed at this time, the Planning Appeals Tribunal Panel members are split three to two;

AND WHEREAS on the 22nd of January 2025, (reference CPA/02/25; item 3.1), The Central Planning Authority again considered the proposal and it was resolved to forward the rezone to the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Development for onward

transmission to the House of Parliament, subject to Cabinet approval;

AND WHEREAS on the 13th of August 2025, Cabinet considered the rezoning application that the matter be referred to Parliament for consideration;

AND WHEREAS in accordance in Section 10(2)(b) of the Development and Planning Law (2017 Revision, as amended), the Central Planning Authority hereby recommends and submits to the Parliament the following proposal for alteration to the Development Plan 1997, a summary and maps of which are attached hereto;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Sections:

- a. Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 171 (Now Block 20 Parcel D472) from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential; and
- b. Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 213REM3 from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential.

The Speaker: The Motion has been duly moved. Does the Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Very briefly, sir, since the "Whereas" were long.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to move Government Motion No. 9 of 2025-2026 which seeks to rezone two parcels of land along Linford Pierson Highway, namely, Block 20E Parcel 171 and Parcel 213REM3, from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential.

Mr. Speaker, these parcels sit in an area already transitioning to higher density use and a change will allow better land use, improve housing supply, and support our broader housing policy. In particular, it opens the doors for affordable and mixed-use residential options that our people badly need.

This proposal went through the full legal process — reviewed by the Central Planning Authority, referred to the Development Plan Tribunal, and approved by Cabinet, before coming here today. It represents responsible planning; planning that supports growth while keeping the needs of Caymanians at the front and centre.

Mr. Speaker, this is about practical progress. It's about ensuring that our people can live close to work and schools and have opportunities, and I therefore commend Government Motion No. 9 to this honourable House.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to give brief comments on Government Motion No. 9 of 2025-2026 - Amendment to the Development Plan 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for providing the details on the Motion. Let me first say that we the George Town representatives are very much encouraged by the opportunity for affordable housing in George Town.

Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, I just want to note that in the summary of rezoning proposal (I think it's called — I want to make sure this goes into the Hansards properly), at the end of paragraph two, it says **“It is intended to amend the zoning to allow for the potential development... [and it says, “if”. I assume that should be “of”] ...affordable housing”** because I don't think we want any more *ifs* about affordable housing. We would like to have affordable housing in George Town.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognise there were a couple of objections to it, and I am very much familiar with the concerns around the property; although, since the property was first purchased for the use of housing for George Town, there have been many developments along the Linford Pierson Highway since then. The private sector has benefited tremendously from developments along the Linford Pierson Highway.

Mr. Speaker, I assume that in each of those cases — which I assume and I would encourage will happen once any development is done in these parcels — there is flood risk assessment and mitigation put in place, as we know that it is a low-lying area and the surrounding areas could experience flooding from development that does not do a flood risk assessment and puts mitigation in place. I would expect that in protecting the surrounding areas, any development there would seek to have hydrological surveys or engineering done for flood control and drainage; in today's day and age, the technology is there for us to ensure that we can protect the surrounding areas with things such as spillways, culverts, and retention ponds with pumps, drains, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that there were concerns from way back when about the mangroves in the area, but I was surprised to learn while touring one of the projects just up the street, that when they reached out to the DoE and the government at the time to see whether they would want to acquire some of their property to preserve the mangroves, they were told those mangroves are not really endangered mangroves and were not worth investing in. I assume it is the same thing down the street, Mr. Speaker; but I would also encourage if we could design in some of those mangroves as green space and to help mitigate flooding issues. We do recognise that there are concerns, but I do have faith that we can mitigate those with today's technology.

I am heartened to know that perhaps we will finally get some affordable housing in George Town. As the Honourable Minister so rightly pointed out, Mr.

Speaker, 20, 30 years ago we talked about the Go East Initiative and we saw the growth of the population, in particular, in Bodden Town, which brought with it the traffic coming into George Town because the infrastructure did not follow the residential aspect of the Go East [Initiative]. The hotels didn't follow at the time; the government itself has not — we have not created government buildings, we have not created any industrial park areas in the eastern districts whereby we could see employment opportunity there.

Everyone is still coming to George Town to work, Mr. Speaker. We can develop responsibly more within the George Town Basin so that, along with the opportunity to own a home, persons may start to participate in a proper public transport system— all of these things can lead to less congestion on the roads coming into town and less congestion in town, if we plan them correctly.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I want to say that, whilst we support this rezoning and we're encouraged in the official Opposition that there may be affordable housing on the horizon for George Towners, we also want to ensure that everyone else around it is protected and development is done responsibly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?
The Member for George Town East.

Mr. Roy M. McTaggart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few comments too.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed rezoning falls squarely in my constituency and particularly in an area which is low-lying and part of the swamp that exists between the Linford Pierson Highway and South Sound. My concern really lies in what can continue to happen in terms of other low-lying developments off Linford Pierson Highway with regard to potential development without any storm water management plan in place.

I question in my own mind whether this is the appropriate thing to be doing at this time. Not that I'm opposed to the development at some point, no question; but I've spoken about it many times in this House with regard to the issues in places like Randyke, where they have been almost completely surrounded by development that has more elevation than they do, and every development that has taken place in that area has just exacerbated the problems they have, with the flooding that takes place every time it rains — and Mr. Speaker, I give the government credit. They have tried various things to try and help, from drilling wells to using pumps and deep wells to try and drain the water, but Mr. Speaker, nothing so far has really worked to truly give relief to the people in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, I recognise today that this will go forward and get approved, but what I do ask of the Minister and Planning is if they could ensure that whatever happens, when any applications for development do

come forward, that due consideration is given to potential solutions and what needs to happen in that South Sound Basin — either through the development plan itself that is in the works, or through the Planning Board application process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

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

The Member for George Town Central, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add a few comments to this rezoning debate.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for bringing this forward in his attempt to address the matter of affordable housing in George Town. I think it will be beneficial to increase the area to high-density residential in order to be able to get more square footage per dollar in its development, though I recognise and hear my colleague's concerns about flooding, which I support.

Obviously, I encourage the Minister to try his endeavour best to address this very problematic concern of flooding, which brings up the idea of the culvert systems in the South Sound area which was a key component to relieving pressures in that area; but recognising that George Town does need residential property, we still cannot just say we're not going to do housing. I'm glad he's moving forward with it and I would like to hear a timeline, in light of this rezoning now being approved in this honourable House in short order. Maybe now the Minister can also say what he intends to do thus after by way of timeline, so that maybe before this administration is completed, before the next election, the good people of George Town can have some low, affordable housing — not low as in height, but affordable; low as in cost, and hopefully very high above the water levels.

Mr. Speaker, since we are opening this scope of discussion in the debate, I would also talk about some rezoning options the Minister can consider.

From a planning perspective, developers are obligated to have free public open space on certain-sized developments; it's a matter about which I spoke with the Minister many times. He was trying his best to figure out a way to resolve what is in law now, whereby there are many lots where developers have met the Planning Law requirements to leave them open, but as the lots are still registered under the company the development was done by and there is no obligation to have them developed for a park or other public open space, so they're just sitting there, empty. There is significant acreage across the country which is sitting there for such a purpose that could be considered — transitioned into something for affordable housing, or even for the government to acquire and potentially sell and accumulate that money for a larger housing option.

It seems impractical that they sit there doing nothing after the intention was to create these free open spaces yet they're never used.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, while he considers the current rezoning of properties that we have across the country, that he continues to put his efforts into that. Hopefully, within a short period of time we can have an answer to it, particularly when we talk about the housing issue within the George Town area. That could be a solution because I know there are easily 50 to 100 house lots within the George Town area that could potentially be either amalgamated to another location, or sold and developed into low-income affordable housing in each particular spot.

I want to continue to thank the Honourable Minister who will obviously put his full efforts into ensuring that the good people of George Town will get affordable housing so that they do not lose the cultural component of being called a George Towner. I know the Member for East End wants to take them and carry them there, but I need them to stay in George Town — a little funny joke there.

With that being said, I thank the Minister for this step which I believe will be the first of many, so we can have an announcement at some time, [maybe] even before the end of this year or early next year, about that affordable housing development at this rezoned location he just highlighted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member for Bodden Town East.

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

I want to briefly say that I support this initiative. I actually want to thank the former Minister of Finance; I think it was George Town East, who found the funds. I was the Minister who bought the property at the time — some 25 acres.

This is long overdue with houses being built on this property, but I did have a little vision — of professional, young Caymanians, carving out 10 acres or so and trying to build something special for them because many of them are young and they only need a 1.5 bedroom [apartment] as young, single professionals, you know. I thought we could do something special, particularly in the George Town area. That was part of the intention at the time I was a Minister, but I have every confidence that the NRA [National Roads Authority] and the Minister himself will do proper storm water management. A bit of that property could be dug out as a holding pond and solve Randyke's problem, too.

This is very welcome. You have my full support in bringing this forward. I thank you. This property has been sitting there for too long while Caymanians stay on the waiting list for far too long. I will just rest with these comments, not to toot my horn but to say that I

always believed that we should continue buying property. I also bought property in North Side, in East End and West Bay and George Town, Bodden Town, to ensure that we had a place. I recognise that within 10 years even the young professionals are going to have trouble trying to afford property and we have to do our job. Mr. Minister: just continue buying more. Thank you.

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

If not, does the Mover of the Motion want to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, just briefly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the Opposition for everything they said and the independent Members over there who mentioned that they don't like to toot their own horn, but went on and said they bought all the property around.

[Laughter]

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: That's a good way. I had a little jiggle about that one but, again, I have to thank the Member for Bodden Town East too; because of his vision at the time, he went around and he made sure he secured properties throughout the whole island so from the National Housing side we thank you for that, Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Speaker, I have said several times in this House that this property has to be developed very carefully because we realise, we've known, what would happen to Randyke if this property is developed in the wrong way and I've said that several — several times; every time anybody asked me about it. It is a property that I thought that we should have preserved as much [as possible] but again, I understand, too, that we need property in George Town, which is getting very scarce, for building homes.

As the Member for George Town Central rightfully said, there are people in George Town who want to reside in George Town and continue to be George Towners no matter what side of the constituency block they are on — and Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee you, the Member for East End said he does not want to fill East End with all the George Towners because he has East Enders who need homes too.

[Laughter]

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind individuals that this has been maybe the third rezoning on Linford Pierson Highway that we have brought to this honourable House during my term. We realise, we see that area is developing really fast; but we have to ensure that when it comes to getting proper storm water management done in that area, it is not just

looking for the individuals who could afford it with these newer development. We also have to remember those older developments that have been done for years, which, at that point in time, they did the best they could with what they had.

Of course, some of them built a little lower than they should have built at the time but, again, that was what they had to do to be able to get a roof over their head. New developments come in, and because of different rules and changes to the Planning Law, et cetera, that request they have to be a certain height, they build that and then now we get these low-lying areas which creates much more flooding for them.

I will — I know my team is listening; I jotted down several notes on it from everybody, but I can guarantee you that when we do look at this property, we will be keeping it in mind. Also, as the Member for Bodden Town East said — he must be listening somewhere or someone has given him some ideas from our side, but there are talks about creating some kind of retention pond in that area so the Randyke water could run into it, but then to actually have that water run out into some of the culverts there. Whoever is giving you the information, sir, they're spot on with what's happening in my Ministry.

The Member for George Town Central asked for timelines on this property, I'll tell him that my budget speech is just a couple of days away, sir. He'll be able to listen to it then and get all the timelines in that. I don't want to give him anything ahead of time because then I know he'll go—

[Laughter]

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: I know the Member; he will go behind and adjust his speech and say the timeline isn't fitting for him, so he'll get my timeline then.

Mr. Speaker, I know everybody in this House wants to see affordable housing for our people — wants to see our people in homes.

An Honourable Member: Amen!

[Desk thumping]

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, I know when we come to Parliament for money for homes, whether rooms or roads, et cetera, there's no separation of parties; Opposition, or anything and we're all one in here when we're voting on money for those.

I just want to thank everybody for their full support: my team, the Government, the Opposition, and all the people on the planning side who did all the hard work out there — continue to do it. The Central Planning Authority (CPA), the Planning Appeals Tribunal, because this was one rezone that kind of went through the whole gamut from the CPA to the tribunal and back to the CPA.

I just want to thank everybody for their support; I can tell you that we have taken note of everything that you all mentioned and we will ensure that we continue to put the necessary things in place when it comes to storm water management and how we protect our good people in that area.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The question is, BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED to alter the zoning area of Registration Sections:

- a. Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 171 (Now Block 20 Parcel D472) from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential; and
- b. Linford Pierson Highway, George Town, Block 20E Parcel 213REM3 from Low Density Residential to High Density Residential.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 9 of 2025-2026 passed.

The Speaker: That concludes the business on today's Order Paper but, before inviting the Premier to move the adjournment, I would like to draw Members' attention. We have a new staff member who's been spending much time developing the Parliament's social media — Instagram, Facebook, all that; so I want to invite members to visit the site and, if you feel free, leave comments, et cetera, so it becomes interactive.

Honourable Premier.

ADJOURNMENT

Suspension of Standing Order 14(1)

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

I move to suspend Standing Order 14(1) to allow the House to commence tomorrow, Thursday, 6th November at 10 a.m. instead of 2 p.m.

The Speaker: The Motion is that Standing Order 14(1) be suspended to allow the House to start tomorrow, Thursday, 6th November at 10 a.m.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 14(1) suspended.

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

With that, I move that the House do stand adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 6th November at 10 a.m.

The Speaker: The Motion is that this honourable House do stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 6th November.

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

AYES.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it. The House is therefore adjourned.

At 4:46 p.m. the House stood adjourned until 10 a.m. Thursday, 6th November, 2025.