



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



Nineteenth Youth Parliament Debate *Programme*

Commonwealth Day

**MONDAY, 9TH MARCH 2026
10:00 A.M.**



COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION

Cayman Islands Branch



CAYMAN
ISLANDS
YOUTH
PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
33 FORT STREET | GEORGE TOWN

Commonwealth Day 2026

Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2026 is “**Unlocking Opportunities together for a Prosperous Commonwealth**”. This theme highlights the Secretary General’s commitment to facilitate the development of transformative, equitable and high-impact opportunities across the Commonwealth.

This year’s theme ‘Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth,’ highlights how the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth can rally together to face today’s challenges and unlock opportunities that can deliver shared and lasting prosperity for all who live in the Commonwealth — from the smallest, most remote communities to the biggest cities.



ORDER OF PROGRAMME

9:35 a.m. Members of Parliament and Persons seated in the Chamber

Members of the Public to be seated in the Public Gallery

9:55 a.m.

Seated on the platform:

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP

Chairman of the CPA Youth Parliament

Organising Committee

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller

Speaker of Parliament

President of the CPA Cayman Islands Branch

Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP

Premier, Minister of Financial Services & Commerce

Joint Vice-President of the CPA Cayman Islands Branch

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MP

Leader of the Opposition

Joint Vice-President of the CPA Cayman Islands Branch

10:00 a.m.

Youth Parliamentarians (YP) seated

10:01 -

10:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP

Welcome Address

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller

Remarks

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MP

Opening of the Nineteenth Youth Parliament

Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP

SPEAKER'S PROCESSION

All Rise

PRAYER

Hon. Youth Parliament Premier, Minister of Financial Services & Commerce

READING OF MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER

Statement by the Honourable Speaker of the Nineteenth Youth Parliament

OTHER BUSINESS

Private Members' Motions:

Private Member's Motion No. 1 of 2026: ***A Comprehensive Framework for Mental Health Support and Youth Rehabilitation in the Cayman Islands***

To be moved by Mr. Rayne Harding, Elected Member for George Town South and seconded by Miss LeJae McLean, Elected Member for West Bay Central.

Private Member's Motion No. 2 of 2026: ***Establishment of a National Job Criteria Joint Committee***

To be moved by the Hon. Johanah O'Connor, Elected Member for Bodden Town West and seconded by Mr. Dominic Anderson, Elected Member for Savannah.

ADJOURNMENT

This Honourable Nineteenth Youth Parliament stands adjourned siné die.

SPEAKER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2026

Hon. De-Andre Beckford

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Raniah Berry, MP

*Premier, Minister of Financial Services & Commerce
Elected Member for Bodden Town East*

Hon. Jacob Hew, MP

*Deputy Premier, Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage
Elected Member for George Town North*

Hon. Elvin Powell, MP

*Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing &
Infrastructure and Social Development & Innovation
Elected Member for North Side*

Hon. Zachary Watler, MP

*Minister of Finance & Economic Development and District
Administration & Home Affairs and Education & Training
Elected Member for East End*

Hon. Zaina Doctor, MP

*Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability
Elected Member for Prospect*

Hon. Alison Hernandez-Pavon, MP

*Minister of Tourism & Trade Development
Elected Member for West Bay West*

Hon. Khalia Dawkins, MP

*Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration
Elected Member for Newlands*

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Isabell Akagac

Deputy Governor, Ex Officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service

Hon. Tashyla Thompson-Brown

Attorney General, Ex Officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCH

Mr. Rayne Harding, MP

Elected Member for George Town South

Mr. Taygan McFarlane, MP

Elected Member for Cayman Brac West & Little Cayman

Miss LeJae McLean, MP

Elected Member for West Bay Central

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Johanah O'Connor, MP

Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for Bodden Town West

Hon. Leah Warren, MP

Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town West

Miss Sienna Bryan, MP

Elected Member for George Town Central

Miss Olivia Cain, MP

Elected Member for West Bay South

Miss Reeci-Lee Dewar, MP

Elected Member for George Town East

Miss Antoniel McDonald, MP

Elected Member for Cayman Brac East

Miss Shantel Robinson, MP

Elected Member for Red Bay

Mr. Jerrin Reynolds-Velasquez, MP

Elected Member for West Bay North

Mr. Dominic Anderson, MP

Elected Member for Savannah

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Miss Ariana Mohammed

Clerk

Miss Jelitza Ebanks

Serjeant-at-Arms

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 1 OF 2026:

A Comprehensive Framework for Mental Health Support and Youth Rehabilitation in the Cayman Islands

WHEREAS a study conducted by the Alex Panton Foundation shows that the depression rate in the Cayman Islands is 4.6%, which is more than four times the global average of 1.1%, underscoring a growing mental health challenge that requires urgent attention;

AND WHEREAS unmet mental health needs among young people place significant strain on families, schools, and our communities, contributing to behavioural issues and involvement in criminal activities;

AND WHEREAS other Caribbean countries have been successful in implementing mental health hotlines and have reported significant usage;

AND WHEREAS many young people lack consistent access to structured mentorship, safe recreational opportunities, and early-intervention support services, thereby increasing vulnerability during after-school hours and weekends;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers implementing a Community Mental Health Crisis Hotline, which will be established as an essential emergency support service, staffed by trained mental health professionals, to provide immediate emotional support, guidance, and referrals for young people and families in distress;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers implementing a nationwide Youth Engagement and Support Programme that utilises existing facilities to deliver supervised activities, mentorship, counselling, and skill-building opportunities during after-school hours and weekends, therefore ensuring a sustainable, cost-effective, and inclusive approach to youth support across the Cayman Islands.

Moved By: Mr. Rayne Harding
Elected Member for George Town South

Seconded By: Miss LeJae McLean
Elected Member for West Bay Central

Received in the Clerk's Office on **20th** day of **January 2026**

Passed/Rejected by the CPA Youth Parliament this **9th** day of **March 2026**

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 2 OF 2026:

Establishment of a National Job Criteria Joint Committee

WHEREAS many Caymanians face barriers to employment due to subjective and inconsistent definitions of what constitutes a "qualified" candidate, particularly within the private sector;

AND WHEREAS the absence of standardised job criteria increases the risk of bias and diminishes public confidence in national workforce and labour policies;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no formal framework through which the Government and the private sector may collaboratively create a list of jobs and job descriptions, defining industry-specific competencies, qualifications, and professional standards;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers establishing a National Job Criteria Joint Committee which would be tasked with establishing a National Job Criteria List (*which include a list of job criteria and job descriptions*) that would ensure transparency and equal qualification standards across both public and private sectors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers the Committee be comprised of the following members:

- a. One representative each from Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman (WORC), Portfolio of the Civil Service (PoCS), Cayman Islands Society for Human Resources Professionals (CISHRP), Chamber of Commerce, Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association (CILPA), Cayman Islands Tourism Association (CITA), Labour & Pensions, and Cayman Finance;
- b. One layperson appointed by the Government and one by the Official Opposition;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers that the Committee shall:

1. Be formally established within three (3) months of the passage of this motion;
2. Establish the initial National Job Criteria List and submit its recommendations to Cabinet within twelve (12) months of its establishment;
3. Be mandated to update, biennially, a national list of job descriptions, skill levels, and industry-recognised standards; and
4. Report to the Ministry of Caymanian Employment and Immigration;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers that the National Job Criteria List be formally adopted by WORC as the primary regulatory benchmark for determining whether a Caymanian applicant is "suitably qualified" for a position;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers that the Director of WORC be mandated to refuse the grant or renewal of any work permit where a Caymanian applicant meets the established National Job Criteria for that role, unless the employer can provide documented, exceptional evidence for refusal that exceeds the standardised requirements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Youth Parliament Government considers that the Ministry of Caymanian Employment and Immigration and the Department of Labour and Pensions ensure the National Job Criteria List is maintained as a public digital document on the JobsCayman portal, providing total transparency for job seekers, students, and employers regarding the minimum competencies required for every role in the Cayman Islands economy.

Moved By:

Hon. Johanah O'Connor

Leader of the Opposition

Elected Member for Bodden Town West

Seconded By:

Mr. Dominic Anderson

Elected Member for Savannah

Received in the Clerk's Office on **20th** day of **January 2026**

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Mr. De-Andre Beckford



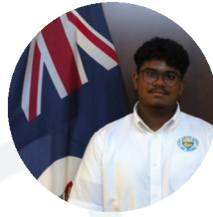
Miss Raniah Berry



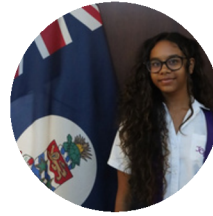
Mr. Jacob Hew



Mr. Elvin Powell



Mr. Zachary Watler



Miss Zaina Doctor



**Miss Alison
Hernandez-Pavon**



Miss Khalia Dawkins



Miss Isabell Akagac



**Miss Tashyla
Thompson-Brown**



Mr. Rayne Harding



Mr. Taygan McFarlane



Miss LeJae McLean



Miss Johanah O'Connor



Miss Leah Warren



Miss Sienna Bryan



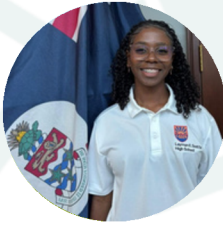
Miss Olivia Cain



Miss Reeci-Lee Dewar



Mr. Jerrin Reynolds-Velasquez



Miss Antoniel McDonald



Miss Shantel Robinson



Mr. Dominic Anderson



Miss Ariana Mohammed



Miss Jelitza Ebanks

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Youth Parliament Organising Committee comprised of Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff who support and guide the students as they learn about the Legislature and develop their arguments.

- Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP | Chair
- Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, JP, MP
- Mr. Roy Tatum, JP, MP
- Mr. Dwayne Seymour, JP, MP
- Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin, BSc, LLB | Clerk
- Ms. Nordra Walcott, LLB (Hons) | Asst. Clerk
- Mrs. Patricia Priestley, BSc., LLB (Hons) | Asst. Clerk
- Ms. Twila Escalante, LLB | Deputy Clerk

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Dedicating time and expertise to educate and assist the Youth Parliamentarians as they learn about the Legislature, the Government, and gain skills in effective speaking and research.

Thank you to all who supported the training sessions, including:

- Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan
- Hon. Pearlina McGaw-Lumsden
- Mr. Roy Tatum
- Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks
- Deputy Governor - Hon. Franz Manderson
- Attorney General - Hon. Samuel Bulgin
- Mr. Keith Boyle
- Mr. Jason Dunkley
- Ms. Rousin Petticrew
- Mr. Wil Pineau
- Ms. Hannah Foreman
- Mr. Mahipal Persaud
- Dr. Marc Lockhart
- Mrs. Mullings-Thompson
- Ms. Yentel McGaw
- Ms. Jeniecia Connolly
- Mr. Wesley Howell
- Ms. Jhenelle Colquhoun

CPA CAYMAN ISLANDS BRANCH

The Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) works to support good governance and democratic principles through the development of programmes for future parliamentarians, and by enhancing the public's knowledge and understanding of parliamentary procedures and best practices.

The Cayman Islands Branch is administered by an Executive Committee and the Branch is governed by its own Rules. The Branch works closely with other branches across the Commonwealth and the Overseas Territories, providing Members of Parliament and Parliament staff with a rich tapestry of resources and networks to develop their skills and understanding of issues impacting our region and Parliamentary legislatures as a whole.

The Cayman Islands became a full member of the CPA in 1977, and its branch is led by an Executive Committee chaired by the Hon. Speaker of Parliament, as President.



**COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION**

Cayman Islands Branch

OUR VALUED SPONSORS

The CPA Youth Parliament Organising Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sponsors who contributed their time and service in supporting and training the participants:



**Ministry of Tourism
& Trade Development**

Cayman Islands Government





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Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
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