



## SECTION 11(5) STATEMENT

Hon. Johany “Jay” Ebanks, JP, MP.

Minister for Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure

AND

Chair of the Oversight Committee for the Office of the Ombudsman on  
the “Exceptional Circumstance” Transaction Incurred During the 2025 Financial Year

30 April, 2026

**Mr. Speaker,**

In accordance with Section 11(6) of the **Public Management and Finance Act (2026 Revision)**, I rise to make a statement on behalf of Cabinet regarding an exceptional circumstance appropriation change approved under Section 11(5) of the Act.

Cabinet approved an increase to **OBM 1 – Independent Public Complaints and Information Rights** in the amount of **CI\$150,000**.

This funding is required to address excess legal costs incurred by the Office of the Ombudsman in the 2025 appropriation year.

Mr. Speaker, the legal costs arose from two substantial litigation matters which could not reasonably have been anticipated when the budget was enacted. These matters are of public importance and relate to the Office’s statutory responsibilities.

Cabinet determined that this matter met the requirements of an exceptional circumstance under the Act, including that it could not have been reasonably anticipated, has significant public and institutional implications, and required action within a timeframe that made the ordinary appropriation process impractical.

This appropriation change will be addressed through a **2025 Supplementary Appropriation Bill**, to be prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for Parliament's approval.

Mr. Speaker, the expenditure has already been incurred and recorded in the Office of the Ombudsman's 2025 accounts. The adjustment therefore regularises the appropriation position and supports continued compliance with the principles of responsible financial management.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.