



**Ministry of
District Administration
& Home Affairs**

Cayman Islands Government

**Statement in relation to an Exceptional Circumstance Appropriation:
*Services for Irregular Migrants***

**By the Honourable Nickolas DaCosta, JP, MP
Minister for District Administration and Home Affairs**

**Fourth Meeting of the 2025–2026 Session
of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands**

4-6 March 2026

STATEMENT

Mister Speaker,

I wish to make a statement to this Honourable House regarding an exceptional circumstance appropriation approved by Cabinet pursuant to sections 11(5) and 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision).

Mister Speaker, the Department of Customs and Border Control is responsible for the management of irregular migrants who arrive in the Cayman Islands, including their detention, triage, assessment, processing, accommodation, care, custody, and where applicable – repatriation.

For the 2025 financial year, the sum of CI\$668,000 was appropriated under NGS 38 – Services for Irregular Migrants. Due to the inherently unpredictable nature of irregular migrant arrivals and the associated operational costs, this appropriation proved insufficient during the financial year.

The resulting expenditure pressures arose from circumstances beyond the control of the Government, could not reasonably have been anticipated when the Appropriation Law was enacted, and required additional expenditure in order for the Government to meet its legal and operational obligations in managing irregular migrants.

Mister Speaker, on 3 September 2025 Cabinet approved, pursuant to section 11(5) of the Act, the reallocation of appropriations as follows —

1. A reduction of OE 144 – Depreciation of Executive Assets by CI\$2,000,000;
and
2. An increase of NGS 38 – Services for Irregular Migrants by CI\$2,000,000.

Mister Speaker, the Ministry of Finance confirmed at the time that this appropriation change would not result in any non-compliance with the Principles of Responsible Financial Management.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.