



Statement by the Honourable Deputy Governor on Cayman Islands Government Summer Internship Programme

2025-2026 Session of Parliament – 01 May 2026

Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to express my sincere appreciation to you for the invitation you have extended to the Heads of both the Private and Public Sector organisations to attend today's sitting of this Honourable House. This is a meaningful and timely gesture, and one that appropriately recognises their invaluable support of the Cayman Islands Government 2026 Summer Internship Programme.

Mr. Speaker, before I proceed, I wish to highlight a recent occasion of national pride. On April 16th, the Civil Service hosted the Deputy Governor's Awards Ceremony, recognising the contributions of twelve outstanding individuals who have demonstrated excellence in customer service, leadership, talent development, communication, and governance. The afternoon culminated with the crowning of Mrs. Jovanna Wright, Principal of Sir John A. Cumber Primary School, as Employee of the Year.

I would like to share a summary of what her nominator stated:

Mrs. Wright exemplifies servant leadership through her unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and the well-being of her students, staff, and wider community. She inspires those around her by fostering a culture of trust, accountability, and collaboration, consistently motivating her team to deliver high-quality outcomes while embracing innovation and resilience. Guided by a strong moral compass, she leads with transparency and professionalism, ensuring that every decision reflects the highest ethical standards. She empowers colleagues to take risks while trusting them with autonomy and actively encourages students to develop leadership skills through structures such as Prefects, Sub-prefects, Eco-Councils, and Class monitors. Her visionary approach has strengthened both academic provision and inclusivity particularly through expanded support for students with autism spectrum disorder, while also enhancing the school's reputation and performance,

including achieving a “GOOD” inspection rating in 2025. Through effective communication, empowerment of staff and students, and a deep commitment to continuous improvement, Mrs. Wright has cultivated an environment where excellence thrives, opportunities expand, and all stakeholders feel valued and engaged.

I would like to ask Mrs. Wright to stand to be acknowledged in this honourable house and to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Wright for this fantastic achievement.

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Similarly to our Employee of the Year, Mrs Jovanna Wright, the Civil Service consistently aims for excellence in the service we give, innovation in our skills and services, and collaboration as we strive to be “world-class”. These attributes also embody and demonstrate the effectiveness of the Cayman Islands Government Summer Internship Programme. This strategic partnership celebrates a shared commitment to the development of our young people and the future of our Islands.

Mr. Speaker, by way of context, last year you extended an invitation to the interns themselves, welcoming them into this Honourable Parliament and recognising their contributions, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to take part in the Government’s internship programme. That moment was significant. It demonstrated to our young people that their efforts are seen, valued, and encouraged at the highest levels of national leadership.

This year, Mr. Speaker, we turn our attention to those who have helped make these opportunities possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands Government Summer Internship Programme continues to be one of the most impactful initiatives for youth development. It provides young Caymanians with more than just temporary employment, it offers exposure, mentorship, skills development, and a clearer understanding of the many career pathways available to them.

Through this programme, our young people are given the opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals, to contribute meaningfully to national development, and to begin building the confidence and competence required for long-term success in the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to report that this year we received the highest number of applications in the programme’s history, five hundred and three applications (503). This record level of interest speaks volumes. It reflects not only the ambition and drive of our young

people, but also their desire to contribute, to learn, and to be part of something larger than themselves.

However, Mr. Speaker, such demand also presents a challenge.

Without the support of our private sector partners, we would not be in a position to accommodate and assist so many of these young Caymanians. Quite simply, the scale of opportunity that we are able to provide today would not be possible without their collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to place on record our deep appreciation to the private sector organisations who have stepped forward when called upon. Many of these organisations already operate their own internship and training programmes, yet they made space to support the Cayman Islands Government's call. They rose to the challenge, recognising that investing in young people is not just a public responsibility, but a national one.

While our Civil Service entities have long been leaders in this area, Mr. Speaker, last year one particular private sector firm reached out with the intention of making a meaningful difference. They became our first formal partner, allowing us to create a pilot project that saw six (6) of our interns being offered opportunities both locally and within their London office. That first strategic alliance was Walkers Cayman "home grown, globally known." I extend sincere thanks to Walkers for opening the door. Because of that leadership, we now have sixteen (16) private sector partners supporting this initiative. Special mention must also be made of the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants who were instrumental in arranging meetings between their members and the Portfolio of the Civil Service.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands Government remains the largest employer in the country and offers one of the most diverse ranges of careers available anywhere in our Islands. From finance and law, to environmental management, healthcare, education, infrastructure, technology, and beyond, the opportunities within the public service are truly extensive.

For our young people, this means that the possibilities are virtually limitless.

The Summer Internship Programme serves as a gateway, an introduction to the breadth of careers that exist within the Civil Service, and a platform from which many will launch successful and fulfilling professional journeys.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to invest in our youth. We must continue to create pathways for them to gain experience, develop skills, and see themselves as active contributors to the growth and prosperity of our nation.

This programme is not just about summer employment, it is about building capacity, nurturing talent, and preparing the next generation to lead.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and name the organisations that have stepped forward to offer these invaluable opportunities to our young people. I would like to ask that the representatives of each organisation present here today please stand when their organisation name is called.

Private Sector Partners	Civil Service Entities
Walkers Cayman	Portfolio of Legal Affairs
Cayman Islands Credit Union	Ministry of Tourism & Trade Development
Grant Thornton Cayman	Sunrise Adult Training Centre
Fincor	Radio Cayman
Moore Cayman	Department of Communications
Maples Group	Children and Family Services
Deloitte Cayman	Public Transport Unit
BDO Cayman	Ministry of Youth Sports, Culture and Heritage
SteppingStones Recruitment Ltd	Cayman Islands Coast Guard
KPMG LLP	Internal Audit Service
JTC Special Situations	Office of the Deputy Governor
JTC Group	Civil Service College
PWC Cayman	Passport & Corporate Services Office
Ernst & Young	Portfolio of the Civil Service
Cayman National Bank	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Olive Consulting	Ministry of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure
Valaston International Limited	Public Works Department
	Computer Services Department
SAGCs	Customs & Border Control Service
Public Service Pension Board	Ministry of Caymanian Employment & Immigration
Civil Aviation Authority	Ministry of Financial Services & Commerce
Cayman Islands Airport Authority	Cabinet Office
	Public Library
Civil Service Entities	Sir John A Cumber Primary School
	Edna Moyle Primary School
Office of the Auditor General	Creek & Spot Bay Primary School, Cayman Brac
Ministry of Health, Environment & Sustainability	Office of the Commissioner of Police (OCP)
Lands and Survey Department	Office of the Ombudsman
Red Bay Primary School	Layman E. Scott Sr. High School

Civil Service Entities	Theoline McCoy Primary School
Cyber Security Unit	Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
eGovernment Services	Poinciana Rehabilitation
Ministry of District Administration & Home Affairs	Department of Counselling Services
Department of Agriculture	Cayman Islands Postal Service
Ministry of Social Development & Innovation	Ministry of Education & Training

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I once again thank you for your leadership in recognising the contributions of both our interns and our partners. I extend sincere gratitude to our private sector colleagues and SACGs as well as our leaders within the Civil Service for their unwavering support, and I commend all those who have worked diligently to make this year's programme a success.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the young people of these Islands. Their enthusiasm, their ambition, and their willingness to step forward give us every reason to be confident in the future of the Cayman Islands.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.