



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 7 of 2026-2027

Motion to modernise the definition of Small and Micro Businesses within the Regulatory Framework of the Department of Commerce & Investment

WHEREAS the development and sustainability of small and micro businesses are critical to the economic resilience, employment base, and social fabric of the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS the regulatory framework governing commerce in the Cayman Islands, including the Trade and Business Licensing Act (2026 Revision) and the Companies Act (2026 Revision), provides the legal structure within which businesses are established, licensed, and operated;

AND WHEREAS the current definition of small and micro business, as provided for within the legislative and/or regulatory framework governing the Department of Commerce & Investment, has not been substantively updated in line with the evolving economic realities of the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS the cost of doing business in the Cayman Islands has increased significantly over time, including but not limited to increases in rent, utilities, freight, insurance, and labour;

AND WHEREAS outdated thresholds for classification may result in the mischaracterisation of businesses, thereby limiting access to support programmes, concessions, financing opportunities, and policy initiatives intended to assist genuinely small and micro enterprises;

AND WHEREAS internationally recognised frameworks, including those utilised in the Caribbean, United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United States, provide structured and scalable approaches to defining small and medium-sized enterprises, while recognising the need for jurisdiction-specific adaptation;

AND WHEREAS Section 40 of the Trade and Business Licensing Act (2026 Revision) expressly empowers Cabinet to make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the Act, including the authority to amend the definition of the terms “micro business” and “small business”;

AND WHEREAS it is considered best practice to establish definitional thresholds within regulations, thereby allowing for periodic review and adjustment without requiring primary legislative amendment.

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that Government considers undertaking a comprehensive review of the definitions of “small business” and “micro business” as it applies to the Department of Commerce & Investment, with consideration to international best practices, including but not limited to employee count and annual turnover metrics, while being appropriately calibrated to reflect the economic conditions, cost structures, and market scale of the Cayman Islands;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government considers bringing forward regulations establishing updated and clearly defined thresholds for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, and that such regulations shall provide for a structured classification framework based on measurable criteria, including employee count and annual revenue, and may include sector-specific considerations where appropriate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government considers establishing a mechanism for the periodic review of such thresholds at intervals not exceeding five (5) years, or sooner where economic conditions warrant, and that consideration be given to the implementation of transitional provisions to prevent abrupt loss of eligibility for businesses that marginally exceed newly established thresholds.

Moved By: Hon. Joseph X. Hew, JP, MP
Leader of the Opposition
Elected Member for George Town North

Seconded By: Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town East

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 1st day of June, 2026.

Passed by the Parliament of the Cayman Islands this 24th day of June, 2026.

Clerk of the Parliament