



Cayman Islands
Government

Statement to Parliament

**Statement of Exceptional Circumstances for Section 11(5) of the Public
Management and Finance Act (2026 Revision)
Expenditure – Supplementary Funding for EI 94 (CAPEX)
- Minister for Health, Environment & Sustainability**

By

Hon. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS, MP

Minister for Health,
Environment & Sustainability

1 October 2026

Mister Speaker, in accordance with Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act (2026 Revision) (the “PMFA”), I rise to make this brief statement to Members of this Honourable House, with respect to an “exceptional circumstance” transaction that was approved by Cabinet during the 2026 Financial Year, for the Ministry of Health, Environment and Sustainability; for an increase in Appropriation EI 94 – (Ministry of Health, Environment and Sustainability **CAPEX**) in the amount of one million, eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000), by reducing the Infrastructure and Development Fund by the same amount.

Approved, pursuant to section 11(5) of the PMFA, Mister Speaker, this transaction relates to necessary, supplementary funding, for the Mosquito Research and Control Unit to procure an additional replacement aircraft concurrently with the one replacement aircraft already approved in the 2026–2027 budget.

Mister Speaker, MRCU currently operates two aging aircraft, both of which are experiencing increasing periods of downtime due to ongoing maintenance and repair requirements. Consequently, greater reliance is being placed on the aircraft that remain operational, reducing overall fleet availability and impacting the department's aerial spraying capability.

Mister Speaker, although both aircraft remain airworthy, the ongoing maintenance requirements associated with this aging fleet are creating challenges in sourcing the necessary parts, which is impacting MRCU's aerial spraying operations. Maintenance records for these aircraft show a clear inverse relationship between maintenance downtime and operational availability. In other words, Mister Speaker, the number of days the aircraft are out of service for required maintenance and repairs continues to increase, resulting in fewer days available to conduct aerial spraying.

Mister Speaker, while the 2026-2027 budget provides for the replacement of a single aircraft, supplementary funding is being sought to facilitate the simultaneous procurement of a second aircraft. Replacing both aircraft at the same time will give MRCU a modern, standardised fleet with common technical configurations and maintenance requirements. This approach will enhance operational redundancy, improve maintenance efficiency, reduce lifecycle management complexity, and ensure that the department can maintain a reliable and sustainable aerial spraying capability well into the future.

Mister Speaker, the MRCU's aerial fleet serves as a critical national asset, delivering large-scale vector control and suppression operations across thousands

of acres of terrain that are inaccessible to ground-based crews. By enabling the systematic treatment of mosquito breeding habitats, these aircraft provide an essential public health service that protects communities throughout the Islands from both the nuisance associated with mosquito activity and the potential health risks posed by mosquito-borne diseases. The fleet's ability to rapidly and efficiently treat expansive areas makes it a vital component of the department's integrated vector management strategy and a key contributor to safeguarding public health, supporting tourism, and enhancing overall quality of life, **thereby meeting the statutory definition of essential public infrastructure.**

Mister Speaker, the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) was established to provide funding for the “development of roads, affordable housing, and **other infrastructure** in the Islands”. Under regulation 37A (7) of the Development and Planning Regulations (2024 Revision), “**infrastructure**” is defined as public services and utilities used in common by the residents of the Islands.

It is worth repeating Mister Speaker that the decision to proceed with acquiring a second aircraft now is both prudent and necessary, as it will help ensure the uninterrupted delivery of this essential public health service.

Procuring both aircraft concurrently represents the most efficient and strategically sound approach to fleet renewal, enabling the immediate restoration

of full operational capability while reducing the risks associated with continued reliance on aging and increasingly unreliable equipment.

In addition, this approach provides measurable financial benefits through procurement efficiencies, fleet standardisation, and streamlined maintenance, while ensuring that the MRCU is strategically positioned to meet its operational requirements for years to come.

I therefore commend this statement to Honourable Members of this Parliament in accordance with section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Act.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.