



# Memorandum

**To:** Hon. Ezzard Miller, Speaker, House of Parliament

**From:** Hon. André Ebanks

**Date:** 5 March 2026

**Re:** **Report on the Cabinet's decision in response to Private Member's Motion No. 1 of 2025-2026**

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The Cabinet considered Private Member Motion No. 1 of 2025-2026 on 5 March 2026.

The proposal to decriminalise speeding in wake zones cannot be assessed in isolation for several reasons, namely –

- a. Safety Implications: Wake Zones are designated to mitigate navigational, environmental, and public safety risks in confined or high-activity waters. Any reclassification of offences must preserve deterrence and enforceability.
- b. Enforcement Architecture: Maritime enforcement is currently offence-based. Any shift from criminal to administrative treatment requires development of an alternative compliance framework (e.g., fixed penalties, graduated sanctions, or licensing consequences).
- c. Legislative Coherence: Amendments limited solely to wake zone speeding may create inconsistency within the broader maritime offence structure if not considered alongside related provisions.
- d. Regulatory Sequencing: As identified in the Maritime Vessel Management White Paper (under development), enforcement reform must be grounded in a structured vessel registration and operator licensing framework. Without a defined licensing architecture, administrative penalties lack an anchor for graduated consequences.

Accordingly, decriminalisation cannot be treated as a standalone amendment without potentially undermining broader maritime governance reform. The Cabinet had approved drafting instructions to amend the Port Authorities Act (2025 Revision) and the supporting regulations to strengthen maritime governance and safety in November 2025 and will consider this matter as part of that review and drafting process, to ensure safety, deterrence, and enforcement coherence are preserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'André Ebanks'.

Honourable André M. Ebanks, MP  
Premier