Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 13/2016-2017

Child Sexual Abuse

WHEREAS there is a reported figure of over 100 cases of child abuse in the Cayman Islands in the year 2016;

AND WHEREAS it is widely believed that the number of child sexual abuse cases is largely underreported;

AND WHEREAS there are no compulsory national standards for preventing and reporting child sexual abuse for youth serving organizations in the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS the penalties for child sexual abuse are considered to be too lenient by the individuals who work with the victims of abuse;

AND WHEREAS the National Safeguarding Board setup to coordinate child protection matters has no real enforcement or administrative powers assigned to it via specific legislation;

AND WHEREAS the level and range of education on child sexual abuse prevention is inadequate across all of our educational institutions;

AND WHEREAS the time period between the reporting of an incident of child sexual abuse and the administration of justice can be several years;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government considers putting in place a form of sex offender registry that is compatible with the requirement to protect the identity and privacy of victims;

AND BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government considers completing a review of the sentencing guidelines with a view to introducing harsher penalties for cases of child sexual abuse;

AND BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government considers completing a review of the level of child sexual abuse education for students and training for personnel across all educational institutions in the Cayman Islands in order to ensure that there is a comprehensive, appropriate and continuing effort to identify, report or prevent incidents of child sexual abuse;

AND BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government considers implementing a national policy of mandatory standards for preventing and dealing with cases of child sexual abuse for all child serving organizations;

AND BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government considers creating legislation to transform the Child Safeguarding Board into a dedicated agency with legislated authority and the necessary punitive powers to deliver its mandate.

Moved by: _____
Mr. Alva H. Suckoo Jr, MLA
Fourth Elected Member for Bodden Town

Seconded by: _____
Mr. Anthony Eden, MLA
First Elected Member for Bodden Town

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 14th day of February, 2017.

Passed/Rejected by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly this day of , 2017.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly