Parliament
of the
Cayman Islands

AMENDED

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 10/2023-2024

Motion on

LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS having regard to the general conduct of the Government since it assumed office;

AND WHEREAS the Government, which the Premier announced would be known as "PACT", assumed office on 22nd April, 2021, comprised of twelve of the nineteen elected members of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS at the first meeting of Parliament one member of the PACT Government was elected as Speaker, leaving the Government with eleven members and with a parliamentary majority of four;

AND WHEREAS on 22 October, 2022, the then Minister of Finance, MP for Bodden Town West, Mr. Christopher Saunders, resigned from the PACT Government and joined the Opposition bench, thereby reducing the number of Government members to eleven and increasing the number of Opposition members to seven;

AND WHEREAS on 30 November, 2021, MP for Bodden Town East, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, left the Opposition bench and joined the PACT Government as a Minister, thus restoring the Government's parliamentary majority to four;

AND WHEREAS on 22 September, 2023, then Minister Dwayne Seymour made a speech in Parliament which was highly critical of the Premier and his leadership of the Government,and followed the speech with his resignation from the Government, thus again reducing the number of Government members to ten and increasing the number of members in the Opposition to eight;

AND WHEREAS on 9 November, 2023, MP for West Bay West, Hon. McKeeva Bush, issued a statement wherein he asserted, among other things, that the Government was leading the country in the wrong direction and announced his resignation from the PACT Government with immediate effect;

AND WHEREAS as a result of MP McKeeva Bush's resignation the PACT Government no longer holds a parliamentary majority as there are now equal numbers of members on both the Government and Opposition benches, nine each;

AND WHEREAS section 74 (2) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 (as amended) declares that the quorum for meetings of the Parliament "……***shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Parliament <u>in addition to the person presiding.</u>";*** (emphasis added)

AND WHEREAS in consequence of the foregoing the Government is without a parliamentary quorum and can only hold meetings of the Parliament and conduct the country's business if at least one member of the Opposition is in attendance;

AND WHEREAS Government's current authority to spend money to pay its bills, fund financial assistance to those receiving stipends, pay salaries of Civil Servants and pensions to pensioners will expire on 31 December 2023;

AND WHEREAS Parliament must meet shortly in order for Government to present the Throne Speech and the 2024/2025 Budget and pass the necessary Appropriation legislation to ensure that Government can meet its financial obligations;

AND WHEREAS there has not yet been any announcement regarding a date for the holding of the Budget Meeting of the Parliament and time is running out;

AND WHEREAS it is apparent from the statements made by the Members who have resigned from the PACT Government that there are major disagreements within the Caucus and the Cabinet of the PACT Government regarding the Budget and otherwise;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Parliament does declare a lack of confidence in the Government.

Moved By: Hon. Roy McTaggrt, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town East

Seconded By: Mr. Joseph Hew, MP
Elected Member for George Town North

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 10th day of November, 2023.

Passed/Rejected by the Cayman Islands Parliament this ___ day of November, 2023.

Clerk of Parliament