Parliament of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 13 of 2023-2024

Motion on

Temporarily Reducing To 0% The Duty Charged By Government On Imports Of (1) Fuels Purchased By Utility Providers, (2) Fuels For Cooking Gas, And (3) Automotive Fuels, Including Diesel.

WHEREAS, over the past two years, the cost of most imported goods has increased due to the impact of the pandemic and the Ukraine war;

AND WHEREAS although the March 2024 Consumer Price Index showed an increase of 1.5% in overall inflation over the year, higher increases are still seen in key segments—housing and utilities increased by 2.6%; Household Repairs increased by 3.5%; Health Costs increased by 2%; Communication Costs increased by 7.4%; Education Costs increased by 7.9%; and Rents increased by 11.1%.

AND WHEREAS since 2021, the cost of essentials like groceries, utilities and gasoline increased in the Cayman Islands by over 25%, helping create a severe cost-of-living crisis, significantly increasing the cost of living for families and the cost of doing business;

AND WHEREAS the increased cost of living has been exacerbated by the significantly increased cost of bank financing and mortgage payments, property insurance costs, and health insurance costs;

AND WHEREAS the increased fuel costs, including cooking fuels, have a broad impact, affecting a wide range of the average consumer's and business' monthly bills, including utility costs, cost of groceries, transportation costs, food preparation costs, and more;

AND WHEREAS the Cayman Islands Government has benefited from a windfall in additional import duty because of the significantly increased cost of goods and freight.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that to give some financial relief to the public, the Government consider temporarily reducing to 0%, for an initial 12-month period, the duty charged to recognised Fuel Importers on importation Of (1) Fuels Purchased By Utility Providers, (2) Fuels For Cooking Gas, and (3) Automotive Fuels, including Diesel.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Government obtain a commitment from these Fuel Importers to pass on the savings to their customers.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Government consider reintroducing an Electricity Relief Programme, similar to the one introduced in Summer 2023, to reduce electricity costs for families and small businesses during the sweltering summer months.

Moved By: Hon. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP
Leader of the Opposition and
Elected Member for George Town East

Seconded By: Ms. Barbara E. Conolly, JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town South

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 27th day of June, 2024

Passed/Rejected by the Cayman Islands Parliament this day of , 2024.

Clerk of Parliament