PARLIAMENT
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MEDIA RELEASE
House of Parliament
33 Fort Street, PO Box 890
George Town, Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands, KY1-1103

Media Release

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

18th Youth Parliament Debate Showcases Passionate Discourse on Key National Issues

GEORGE TOWN, 13th March 2025

The 18th Youth Parliament Debate took place on Commonwealth Day this past Monday, 10th March 2025, at the House of Parliament in George Town, where young leaders engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing national matters.

The event, a highlight of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Youth Parliament Programme, provided an invaluable opportunity for students to experience parliamentary debate firsthand.

Debate Motions
Two Private Members' Motions were debated:

- PMM #1 – A Multi-Faceted Approach to Reducing the Cost of Living and Ensuring Economic Relief for Caymanians, moved by the Opposition (*Failed*)
- PMM #2 – Implementation of a Sex Offender Registry and Enhanced Victim Protection Measures, moved by the Government (*Passed*)

Opening Remarks & Attendance
In her opening remarks as Chair of the Youth Parliament Organising Committee, Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks commended the participants for their dedication to the democratic process. "The Youth Parliament is a testament to the passion, intellect, and commitment of young Caymanians to shaping their future. Their dedication to learning the intricacies of parliamentary procedure and engaging in thoughtful, solution-driven debate is truly inspiring."

Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin and Hon. Joseph Hew also addressed the students, encouraging them to use their voices and critically engage in developing ideas and solutions for the nation's future.

Reception and Awards Ceremony
A reception and awards ceremony was held at the Governor's Residence, hosted by Acting Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson. Attendees included Sir Alden McLaughlin and Mr. Roy

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McTaggart, who congratulated the participants on their dedication and exemplary performance. Outstanding participants were recognized at the reception through an awards ceremony.

Award Winners

- Best Debater – Government: Jordan McDonald
- Best Debater – Opposition: Raldayne Thomas
- 1st Runner-Up (Government): Jhenelle Colquhoon
- 1st Runner-Up (Opposition): Rayne Harding
- 2nd Runner-Up (Government): Zara Majid
- 2nd Runner-Up (Opposition): Chloé Reid

The Youth Parliament Programme, under the guidance of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Cayman Islands Branch, continues to empower young people by providing them with an authentic experience of legislative debate, policy analysis, and democratic engagement. For more information on the Youth Parliament Programme, visit Parliament's website.

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END OF ADVISORY

Notes:

- The YP motions can be found at the bottom of the 2024-2025 Youth Parliament page: https://parliament.ky/commonwealth-parliamentary-association/youth-parliament-programme/youth-parliament-program-2024-2025/
- For more information about the Commonwealth, visit www.thecommonwealth.org.

Images:

- 18th Youth Parliament group photo (credit: Parliament of the Cayman Islands/Naomi Johnatty).
- For more photos of the 18th Youth Parliament, please visit https://flickr.com/photos/caymanparliament/albums/72177720321482787/ with **attribution** to "The Parliament of the Cayman Islands".

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