PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 SESSION

First Sitting

Wednesday
15 October, 2025
(Pages 1-21)

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

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PRESENT WERE:

Hon. D. Ezzard Miller
Speaker

MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. André M. Ebanks, MP	*Premier*, Minister of Financial Services & Commerce
Hon. Gary B. Rutty, MP	*Deputy Premier*, Minister of Tourism & Trade Development
Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, MP	Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, JP, MP	Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training
Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, MP	Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure
Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, JP, MP	Minister of Social Development & Innovation *and* Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage
Hon. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, JP, MP	Minister of District Administration & Home Affairs
Hon. Michael S. Myles, MP	Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Hon. Franz I. Manderson, JP	*Deputy Governor*, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil Service
Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, KC, JP	*Attorney General*, ex officio Member responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs

ELECTED MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS

Mrs. Julie J. T. Hunter, JP, MP	Elected Member for West Bay West
Ms. Heather D. Bodden, OCI, Cert. Hon., JP, MP	Elected Member for Savannah
Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP	Elected Member for Newlands

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, MP	*Leader of the Opposition*, Elected Member for George Town North
Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, JP, MP	*Deputy Leader of the Opposition*, Elected Member for George Town Central
Hon. Pearlina L. McGaw-Lumsden, MP	*Deputy Speaker*, Elected Member for George Town West
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP	Elected Member for Cayman Brac East
Mr. A. Roy Tatum, Cert. Hon., MP	Elected Member for Red Bay
Mr. Roy M. McTaggart, JP, MP	Elected Member for George Town East

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, CCI, JP, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town East
Mr. Christopher S. Saunders, MP	Elected Member for Bodden Town West

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
SECOND MEETING OF THE 2025-2026 SESSION
WEDNESDAY
15 OCTOBER, 2025
2:00PM

First Sitting

[Hon. D. Ezzard Miller, Speaker, presiding]

The Speaker: I call on the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition to read prayer.

PRAYERS

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town Central: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived, we beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Parliament now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name, and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign, King Charles III; William, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness; truth and justice; religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Premier, the Speaker of Parliament, the Leader of Opposition, Ministers of the Cabinet, ex officio Members and Members of the Parliament, the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer together: *Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord, make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace, now and always. Amen.*

The Speaker: Honourable Parliament is now in session. You may be seated.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

The Speaker: I have not received any notice of any administration of oaths or affirmations.

READING BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognition of Top Students

The Speaker: Good afternoon, everyone. Today, in keeping with my desire and that of this honourable House and the current Members of Parliament to use this space on the Order Paper to recognise and honour Caymanians, I have invited each of the nine high schools to nominate their top students and I want to thank each school for their cooperation and support. I need to apologise for Grace Christian Academy who happened to be on vacation at this time and is therefore unable to participate.

October 5th was World Teachers' Day and today, Clifton Hunter High School is celebrating Teachers' Appreciation Day, so I think we all should take the opportunity to thank our teachers for their dedication and hard work in preparing our children for life.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: I will start with John Gray High School. I believe any of us who were privileged to attend John Gray's graduation ceremony last night went home with a significant level of comfort that Cayman is in a good place and we have a generation coming up that will be able to manage this country and take it forward for many years to come.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: The first student—and because I speak North Side-ese, if I happen to mispronounce any of these names, I apologise beforehand.

Ikenna Eleweanya — Could you stand please? Ikenna was born on August 2nd, 2010. As a small child, he was as hungry for knowledge as he was for sweets. Learning to read at a very early age, he did [voraciously], and still does. After his first taste of excellence in Year 3, he transferred from Cayman Academy to Red Bay, becoming a Prefect and later the Head Boy of the primary school. Now in year 11 with 9 passes (7 of which are at Level 1), he aims for

a final total of 15 before heading to either UCCI [University College of the Cayman Islands] or Cayman Prep for his next steps in the path towards becoming an engineer. Please remain standing, sir.

The second student representing John Gray High School is Summer McLaughlin. Summer shares her academic achievements in the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) exams; her motivation, work ethic, and gratitude to her teachers and parents, and her future goal is to complete at least 15 subjects across CXC and CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination) exams, emphasising her commitment to continued growth and excellence.

Can we have a round of applause for the John Gray High School students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Thank you.

From Clifton Hunter High School, we have Chloe Reid. Chloe is currently studying her A-levels at Cayman Prep & High School where she is head of Christian ethos and excelling in mathematics, physics, and economics. She aspires to pursue actuarial science at the University of Southampton, combining her strong passion for mathematics and a commitment to social impact and community service. Chloe has demonstrated remarkable leadership, both academically and socially. She has served prominently in the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament, holding several ministerial roles, including Minister of Financial Services; Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure; and most recently, as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. She has also represented the Cayman Islands as a cultural and youth ambassador at CARIFESTA 2025.

Chloe holds various leadership positions within her school community. She is the Student Council President, Key Club President, and Youth Ministry President, embodying a spirit of service and dedication. Her previous academic record at Clifton Hunter High School shows excellence in subjects including mathematics, economics, and computer science. Chloe also gained valuable practical experience through an internship at KPMG, engaging in auditing assignments.

The second student from Clifton Hunter is Luke Isaac-Charles. Luke is a high-achieving Caymanian student and a former Head Boy of Clifton Hunter High School. During his time at Clifton Hunter, he consistently excelled academically, earning grades I and II in 14 CSEC (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate) subjects including Grade I passes in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and English.

In addition to his academic excellence, Luke represented Clifton Hunter in various areas participating in the Dart Minds Inspired Maths Competition, serving as a member of the KPMG Brain Bowl Team, an active Key Club member, and a leader within the Prefect body. A well-rounded student and athlete, Luke also represented his school in football, cricket, swimming, and track and field. Deeply devoted to his Christian faith, he is passionate about serving the community through volunteer work and leadership, striving always to honour God through excellence, integrity, and service to others.

The third student from Clifton Hunter is Ariella Bodden. Ariella's educational career began at Clifton Hunter High School, where she developed a growing appreciation for biology. Whether it's through a microscope or a research project, biology gave her a chance to discover something new.

Among her proudest achievements is serving as Co-Lead of the Inclusive, Diversity, and Well-being Club at her school, as well as her involvement with the Alex Panton Foundation. These experiences have empowered her to advocate for mental health awareness and contribute to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health in the Cayman Islands.

Currently, she is a student at St. Ignatius Catholic School, where she studies Biology, Psychology, and Business Studies. Her ambition is to further her education in England, pursuing a doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a specialisation in Neuropsychology.

Can I have a round of applause for the Clifton Hunter students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: From Layman Scott High School in Cayman Brac, we honour Aryan Champawat. He is not here because the school was recently moving locations and my letter got misplaced, but when I called them the day before yesterday, they were quite happy to make the recommendations. That's why we have not arranged to have him here.

Aryan is an outstanding student at Layman E. Scott Sr. High School who has consistently achieved excellent academic results over the past few years, excelling in all areas but particularly in the sciences. He has earned top marks in all subjects including Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Aryan has also been the top student in his class for the past two years and is actively involved in various extracurricular activities. A dedicated student leader, he has served as a prefect for several years, demonstrating strong leadership and responsibility.

The second student from Layman Scott High School is Ciara Simpson. Ciara is an exceptional student at Layman E. Scott Sr. High School who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. She earned high-level passes in 11 subjects in the June 2025 CXC examinations, reflecting her strong commitment to excellence. In addition to her academic success, Ciara actively participates in a range of extracurricular activities, contributing positively to

school life. Her dedication, discipline, and well-rounded involvement make her a remarkable role model among her peers. She's currently studying her A-levels in Grand Cayman.

Can I have a round of applause for the [Layman Scott High School students?]

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: From Cayman International School (CIS) we have Mateus Horner Rocco. Mateus is a senior-year student at CIS with an interest in aerospace engineering. He is passionate about debate, being a three-time winner of the Conyers Inter-School Debate Competition. Additionally, Mateus is an avid musician, participating in the national orchestra, the police band, and several musical groups at his school, including being the leader of the Steel Pan band.

Laia Swaminathan is a senior-year student at Cayman International School who aims to study medicine at university. She enjoys chess and is a Women Candidate Master after having participated in two FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs a.k.a. International Chess Federation) Olympiads. She is a member of the CIS debate club and has won the Conyers Inter-School Debate Competition thrice. Outside of school, her hobbies include playing the guitar and crocheting.

Rhea Swaminathan is a Grade 12 student at Cayman International School. She has been a member of CIS's debate team since middle school, which led to her interest in law as a career path. Rhea has a passion for service, and was the president of CIS's Student Library Ambassador, organising an extremely successful book drive for Jasmine Hospice and LIFE.

Can I have a round of applause for Cayman International School students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Cayman Prep High School (CPHS):

Stella Dean is a Cayman Prep High School student who attained 10 A+ and 1 A in her recent IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams plus a Distinction in her Further Maths qualification. She was a school House Captain last year, and won the prize for Sportswoman of the Year at her Year 11 graduation for her versatility across the sporting field. She is currently attending Sixth Form, where she is studying Economics, Physical Education, Biology, and Mathematics.

Alexandra Hendrikse is a CPHS student who attained 10 A+ and 1 A in her recent IGCSE exams, plus a Distinction in her Further Maths qualification. She participated in the Conyers Debate and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. At her year 11 graduation, she won the E&Y Award for the Top Academic Achiever and Outstanding Student. She is currently attending Sixth Form, where she is studying Religious Studies, English Literature, Drama, and Mathematics.

Harshita Yedla is a CPHS student who attained 10 A+ and 1 A in her recent IGCSE exams, plus a Distinction in her Further Maths qualification. She has participated in the Conyers Debate on multiple occasions and was recently part of the CPHS team for the KPMG Brain Bowl. She is currently attending Sixth Form, where she is studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics.

Can I have a round of applause for the Cayman Prep School students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Triple C High School:

Daniella Allen is in Grade 11 and an honour student. Daniella has an excellent work ethic and is part of a student team who is introducing and leading a new STEM club at school. Daniella is polite, friendly, and quiet.

Amiya Tahal is a senior this year; she is president of the Key Club and the Lieutenant Governor for the region. A keen STEM student as well, she has represented [the school] at the Robotics competition. Amiya recently won the Youth Pitch competition sponsored by The Small Business Expo. Amiya is polite, hard-working and always does her best to excel in all her endeavours.

Can I have a round of applause for the Triple C students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Cayman Academy:

Colleen Villanueva is a Year 9 student at Cayman Academy. Recognised for her diligence and strong work ethic, she demonstrates commendable leadership through her academic pursuits and peer interactions. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading and expressing her creativity through art and drawing. She aspires to become a lawyer or pursue a career in the field of business.

Hiro Delfosse is an intelligent, compassionate, and responsible Year 11 student leader who serves as Deputy Head Boy at Cayman Academy. He values family and friendships and is deeply passionate about justice, advocating for fairness and inclusion so that every voice is heard. Committed to academic excellence, he believes that every child deserves equal access to education and the tools necessary for success. Hiro aspires to become an Actuary.

Can I have a round of applause for the Cayman Academy students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: CF School:

Olivia Cain; since joining CF School in 2024, Olivia has become a leading member of her community. She is the current Head Girl and plays a role in all events and activities. Olivia is kind, thoughtful, and supportive of everyone; particularly, the younger members of the school look up to her. Olivia is always willing to accept a challenge, and I have no doubt she will be hugely successful in whatever she undertakes in her future.

Mya-Grace (Gracie) McMann. Gracie moved to the Cayman Islands in 2023 and since then has become a valuable asset to CF School. She is a Year 11 student and willingly takes a leadership role with the younger students. She always uses challenges to her advantage, and her determination is very impressive. Gracie is not only a key member of various school teams; she is also vocal and enthusiastic in her support of others. We are very proud of her.

Can I have a round of applause for CF School students?

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: St. Ignatius High School:

Drew Ewing-Chow has excelled academically throughout her time at St. Ignatius Catholic School. Having achieved 10 IGCSE A+ in 2024, she has gone on to achieve 4 A grades at AS level in Biology, Business, Chemistry, and English Literature. In addition to her academics, Drew is actively involved in volunteering through her participation in STEM mentoring and Key Club. Drew is hoping to study Biotechnology and Business at Massachusetts Institute of Technology next academic year.

Janelle Smith joined St. Ignatius Catholic School from John Gray High School in 2024, having achieved eight Grade 1s at the CSEC level, and three CAPE subjects with one Grade 1 and two Grade 2s. In addition, at John Gray she was the Head Girl and Vice President of the Leo's club. At St. Ignatius Catholic School she has continued to excel academically, achieving four A grades in her recent AS Level examinations in Biology, Chemistry, Marine Science and Geography. Janelle hopes to be accepted by Exeter University and intends to study Marine Biology.

Congratulations to all you students.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Keep up the good work; the country depends on you. A special thanks to all the teachers who found time to bring these students here today. It's very much appreciated. Thank you all very much.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

Office of the Ombudsman – Annual Report 2024

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks, Minister of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure, Member for North Side: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks: No, sir. It is self-explanatory.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ministry of Tourism & Ports – Cayman Islands Government - Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism & Trade Development, Elected Member for George Town South: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Ministry of Tourism and Ports, Cayman Islands Government Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier: Not at this time, Mr. Speaker. The report is self-explanatory and I invite honourable Members and the general public to review it, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ministry of Health & Wellness – Cayman Islands Government - The Mental Health Commission Annual Report 2023

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks, Minister of Health, Environment & Sustainability, Elected Member for West Bay Central: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Mental Health Commission Annual Report 2023.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Yes, sir.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 8(a) of the Mental Health Commission Act (2024 Revision), I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lay on the Table of this honourable Parliament, the Annual Report of the Mental Health Commission for Financial Year 2023.

Mr. Speaker, given that the Mental Health Commission does not have budgetary responsibilities, there are no accompanying financial statements to be tabled. I would like to go on record to thank the nine dedicated members who volunteer their expertise on this Commission as records indicate they have all carried out legislative functions admirably over the reporting period.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission was established through legislation in 2014 and the functions of the Commission include, but are not limited to:

- determining mental health appeals from or on behalf of persons who have been detained involuntarily;
- providing advice on scopes of practise and codes of ethics for practitioners;
- providing policy advice to relevant registering councils and the Ministry;
- advising on mental health facilities, research, and/or clinical trials;
- reviewing all cases for persons detained for more than six months, whether or not an appeal is submitted;
- complying and compiling statistics on mental health; and
- overseeing the functioning of the Mental Health Act and accompanying regulations.

Mr. Speaker, pointing to some of the highlights over the period of 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023, which, as Members would be aware, is before I was Minister; however, I feel it important to share this information.

In early 2023, there were changes to the composition of the Commission. After nine years, the inaugural Chair stepped down and the sitting member, Ms. Fiona McDougall, transitioned to the position of Chair. She continued to receive support from her colleagues, Deputy Chairs Mr. Cline Glidden, and the Honourable Alex Henderson, KC. A new secretary from the Ministry was internally appointed by the Chief Officer, replacing Ms. Janett Flynn, a long-serving Ministry representative; and for the first time Cabinet approved an appointed Board Member, Dr. Bernard.

Mr. Speaker, the Commission exceeded its requirements of quarterly sessions. In 2023, they hosted nine meetings, including one extraordinary meeting. The Commission conducted one training session for 16 new recruits of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. The training focused on sensitivity awareness and best practises for interacting with persons experiencing mental health illnesses.

The Commission processed 127 patient detention forms which showed a slight decrease in cases from the previous year of 2022, which had a reported 163 patient detention forms. Out of the 127 patient forms that were received, 76 of those persons were assessed by practitioners at Anthony S. Eden Hospital.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the Annual Report provides data on service providers with a comparison over previous reporting periods. It also offers an overview of our mental health system. This is the 10th Annual Report of the Mental Health Commission and I invite Members of this honourable Parliament and the public to review it in more detail. I wish to thank each member of the Commission for their hard work over this reporting period.

The report concludes with an important point that I wish to repeat, Mr. Speaker, which is: **"Mental health services are essential health services that must be continued and strengthened. The need to scale up mental health services and psychosocial support is an integral component of universal health coverage, through adequate financing and the implementation of a primary health care system."**

Mr. Speaker and colleagues of this honourable Parliament should all be aware, or I'd like them to be aware, of my passion for addressing the mental health concerns on our Island, particularly youth mental health. Since taking office, the Ministry team and I have engaged in strategic discussions on proactive ways in which we can build on policy development while capitalising on available resources; it is one of the primary reasons for the introduction of the Poinciana Mental-Health Advisory Council. I expect that the Mental Health Commission, in partnership with the Poinciana Mental-Health Advisory Council, will collaborate on the implementation of key decisions in this crucial area.

By extension, I will also rely on other Ministry partners from the Health Services Authority (HSA), the Counselling Centre and the National Drug Council (NCC), in addition to key private sector partners. In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I'm extending an invitation to colleagues and members of the public for an upcoming public mental health information session, planned for Thursday 13th November at 6:30 p.m. at Constitutional Hall in George Town.

If I could also take a few minutes just to thank all former members of the Commission for their contributions over the past decade. Special recognition and

appreciation to Dr. Marc Lockhart, the inaugural Chair, who coincidentally is now the Chair of the Poinciana Mental Health Advisory Council and Ms. Janett Flynn, the inaugural secretary — now a retired member of this Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Next item of business.

2023 Annual Report - Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority – *Safeguarding our National Treasures for future generations*

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the 2023 Annual Report, Cayman Islands National Attractions Authority - *Safeguarding Our National Treasures for Future Generations*.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Report?

Hon. Gary B. Rutty, Deputy Premier: Not at this time, Mr. Speaker. The Report is self-explanatory, and I invite honourable Members and the public to review it.

The Twenty-Seventh Report of the Commission for Standards in Public Life (CSPL) - 1 February 2024 – 31 July 2024

The Chairman: Honourable Deputy Governor.

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Commission for Standards in Public Life which covers the period 1st February, 2024 to the 31st July, 2024, in line with its constitutional mandate found in section 117(9)(g) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the honourable Member wish to speak to the Report?

The Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz I. Manderson: Yes, Mr. Speaker; just briefly.

Mr. Speaker, I shall offer a brief overview of the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Commission for Standards in Public Life, which relates to the period 1st February 2024 until the 31st July 2024.

This is the seventh report under the chairmanship of Dr. Sonia Bush. It covers the progress made and the key issues arising from the work completed by the Commission during the first half of the Chair's fourth year in office. During the reporting period, the members:

- continued to discuss the Standards in Public Life (Amendment) Bill and its regulations and agreed to their finalisation;
- continued to follow up on the Parliamentary Code of Conduct;
- improved the Register of Interest portal for the 2024 declaration period;
- considered the hiring practises of the Port Authority;
- established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Anti-Corruption Commission;
- executed the public relations and education initiative plan for 2024;
- approved the twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth CSPL Reports;
- discussed media articles on subjects relating to its remit; and
- discussed and issued various correspondence relating to complaints, inquiries, and other investigations.

Over the next reporting period the Commission will:

- continue to draft the next CSPL Report;
- prepare statistics of the 2024 Register of Interest declaration period to consider how to proceed with notifying non-compliant persons in public life;
- meet with the representatives of the Office of the Auditor General;
- consider establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Auditor General;
- continue to follow up on the status of the 2021 Elections Observers' Report recommendations and the Premier's campaign finance reform initiative;
- continue to execute the public relations and education initiatives planned for 2024;
- discuss media articles on subjects relating to its remit;
- continue to follow up on the Parliamentary Code of Conduct;
- continue to follow up on the draft Standards in Public Life (Amendment) Bill and its accompanying regulations; and
- discuss and issue correspondence relating to complaints, inquiries and other investigations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Members of the House and the public to familiarise themselves with the contents of the report which is available online at www.standardsinpubliclifecommission.ky.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Parliament of the Cayman Islands - Parliament Management Commission - 2024 Annual Report with Financial Statements

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks, Minister for Financial Services & Commerce, Elected Member for West Bay South: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Parliamentary Management Commission 2024 Annual Report with Financial Statements.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak to the Report?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Mr. Speaker, only very briefly to say thank you very much to the parliamentary staff that keep this honourable House on track; and to encourage all members of the public to read the report.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Cayman Islands Monetary Authority – Annual Report 2024

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) Annual Report 2024.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak to the report?

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Only to say thank you to the Monetary Authority, their CEO, staff, and Board for their amazing work as the top regulator of the country's number one industry, financial services. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to Be Caymanian) Order, 2025

The Speaker: Minister of Caymanian Employment and Immigration.

Hon. Michael S. Myles, Minister of Caymanian Employment & Immigration, Elected Member for Prospect: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Immigration (Transition) (Grant of Right to Be Caymanian) Order, 2025.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the Order?

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Mr. Speaker, I will be discussing it in the Motion later today.

The Speaker: Thank you.

2026 – 2028 Strategic Policy Statement – Cayman Islands Government

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Education and Training.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Finance & Economic Development *and* Education & Training: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the 2026 – 2028 Strategic Policy Statement.

The Speaker: So ordered. Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak to the report?

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government, I beg to lay on this honourable Parliament's Table the Strategic Policy Statement for the 2026 – 2028 Financial Years.

Mr. Speaker, the Government's 2026 – 2028 Strategic Policy Statement (SPS) outlines the Government's fiscal plans, policies, broad priorities, and outcomes for the next three years — that is 1st January 2026 to the 31st of December 2028. The SPS is not the detailed budget. It is a strategic document that will guide the development of the detailed budget for the next budget period, which will cover the financial years 2026 and 2027. That budget is well advanced and will be presented to this honourable Parliament in November of this year.

Mr. Speaker, this SPS is the first produced by the National Coalition for Caymanians (NCFC) Government. It sets out our policy goals and intentions to deliver a better future for our Caymanian people. The SPS has been prepared in compliance with the Public Management and Finance Act (PMFA) and forecasts that for the next three financial years, the government's finances will meet the principles of responsible financial management and the terms of the Framework for Fiscal Responsibility (FFR) set out in the Public Management and Finance Act.

Seven Broad Outcomes

Mr. Speaker, the NCFC Government has identified seven broad outcomes to guide public sector policy development. The broad outcomes are grounded in and reflect the NCFC'S core beliefs and desire to uplift and improve our society’s economy

and overall well-being, not just for today, but long-term. These broad outcomes are:

1. Education, immigration and workforce development. A strong education and immigration system that supports a highly-skilled and adaptable Caymanian population.
2. Housing, infrastructure and environment. Sustainable physical development that prioritises affordable housing, ensures resilient infrastructure, and protects nature.
3. The economy. A diversified, resilient economy that supports prosperity and innovation.
4. Health and social development. Healthy and empowered people with an improved quality of life for all ages.
5. Caymanian identity, culture, and heritage. A cohesive society that protects and institutionalises Caymanian identity and culture.
6. Public services. Efficient, effective, accountable, and people-centred public services; and finally
7. Good governance and public safety. A secure, well-governed country, demonstrated by transparent governance and robust public safety systems.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a rapidly changing and dynamic world with a seemingly never-ending barrage of obstacles and hurdles to overcome. Our little Islands have a long history of weathering such storms and have been successful at seeking out and leveraging opportunities that provide stability and give our people hope for a brighter future. The reality is, in a small island economy such as ours we are dependent on imports, and therefore completely exposed to the economic policy actions of large economies such as the USA, our largest trading partner.

Over the past several months, we have seen how uncertainties with the trade tariff regime put significant inflationary pressures on the cost of goods imported into our Islands. The current global and domestic economic landscape provides context for the plans set out in this SPS. The Economic and Statistics Office (ESO) forecasts that the Cayman economy will have expanded by 2.6 per cent in 2025 and it is expected to grow by 2.2 per cent in 2026, 2.5 per cent in 2027, and 2.2 per cent in 2028. During the 2025 to 2028 period, unemployment is expected to average 2.93 per cent per year, with inflation hovering at approximately 2.4 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, these key economic performance indicators all point to a well-performing Cayman economy with a stated growth outlook. The main contributors to our economic growth are our vibrant financial services, infrastructure, and resilient tourism sectors.

Financial Services encompasses a range of professional services that collectively continue to develop, adapt and innovate to meet ever-changing global regulatory requirements and to meet customer demand.

Our infrastructure sector recorded strong growth of 4 per cent in 2025 and is expected to grow by 2.2 per cent annually between 2026 and 2028. This sector continues to benefit from various public sector investments as well as tourism and commercial property development along with the increased demand for housing.

Mr. Speaker, the tourism sector remains strong with healthy growth in stay over arrivals and continued private sector investment in new hotels and tourism-related businesses. Notwithstanding the solid performance of these critical sectors, we must always keep scanning the horizon for economic diversification opportunities in order to broaden our economic base, build resiliency and, where possible, reduce our reliance on imports.

I will now highlight the financial forecasts contained in the SPS document.

Operating Revenue Forecasts

Mr. Speaker, revenues provide the financial resources necessary to fund the public sector operating expenditure, build reserves, and enable capital investments. As with any organisation, revenue is key to determining expenditure and investment plans. Operating revenues over the SPS period are forecast to total $3.864 billion broken down as follows:

$1.252 billion in 2026;
$1.296 billion in 2027; and
$1.316 billion in 2028.

The eight main sources of operating revenues are:

- Other import duty;
- Exempt company fees;
- Stamp duty on land transfers;
- Work permit fees;
- Partnership fees;
- Private fund fees;
- Mutual fund administrators fees; and
- Tourism accommodation charges.

Included in these numbers are revenue enhancement measures which are forecast to generate an additional $209.524 million in operating revenues over the SPS period. These are broken out as follows:

$67.142 million in 2026;
$70.999 million in 2027; and
$71.33 million in 2028.

Mr. Speaker, recognising the need to grow the government's revenues, the NCFC Government has taken the bold step to implement new revenue measures as part of this SPS. We have carefully selected a range of new revenue measures that are low-cost to implement and will have little to no impact on ordinary citizens while generating stable flows from growing economic sectors. The new revenue measures are expected to yield the following additional revenues in 2026.

Firstly, a range of financial services fees totalling $47.7 million made up of a range of fee increases, principally legal and accountant practitioners' fees, funds' annual return filing fees, exempted limited partnership and corporate service provider fees.

Domestic fees: $18.75 million made up mainly of stamp duty on high-end land transfers and immigration fees. For example, the reintroduction of a mandatory identification for all work permit holders. Various trader licence fees totalling $4.62 million made up mainly of special economic zone trade certificate fees and local company control licences (LCCL) fees.

Mr. Speaker, these are a mix of increased rates for existing measures and some brand-new measures, the specific details of which will be revealed in the coming weeks as the respective legislative amendments are brought to Parliament for consideration.

Operating Expenditure Forecasts

Mr. Speaker, the operating expenditure for the SPS period is forecast to be just under $3.834 billion in operating expenditures broken down as follows:

$1.246 billion in 2026;
$1.287 billion in 2027; and
$1.301 billion in 2028.

Mr. Speaker, in preparing this SPS, we have taken a very pragmatic approach that made the hard decision to budget at realistic levels for areas that have been chronically under-budgeted for several government administrations; for example, the previous government budgeted appropriations for health care costs and medically indigent persons for 2025 were $14.4 million for NGS 55, and $12 million for HEA 2. We have made provisions in this SPS to budget NGS 55 at $43 million and HEA 2 at $28.3 million. This is a massive 269 per cent increase, but it clearly demonstrates our commitment to realistic and transparent budgeting. In this case, it ensures that Caymanians who are in need will have services in health care when they need it and the government can get on with its business and not have to hold out hope that finances will improve in order to provide these services.

The operating expenditure forecasts include provisions to provide additional staff and resources to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) to strengthen policing and security. Increased funding has been provided across a range of entities to enable them to meet increased demand from our growing population and expanding economy.

Mr. Speaker, overall for the SPS period, our operating expenditure will be supporting the continued delivery of existing services along with a range of new activities aimed at improving operational efficiencies across the public sector.

Operating Surplus

The operating surplus is a key financial indicator and the PMFA requires the government to produce an operating surplus each year. Over this SPS period, core government is forecast to make annual surpluses of $6.56 million in 2026, $9.37 million in 2027, and $13.89 million in 2028.

Net Worth

Core government is required to maintain a positive net worth. For the SPS period, the net worth is forecast to be $2.5 billion at the end of each year.

Capital Investments

Mr. Speaker, the Government is focusing its Capital Investment Programme on investments designed to bring about long-term benefits, which improve quality of life and support economic development. Capital investments over the next three financial years are forecast to total $323.679 million broken down as follows:

$124.448 million in 2026;
$113.771 in 2027; and
$ 85.46 million in 2028.

Of these amounts, a total of $80.377 million broken down as follows is forecast to be invested in our statutory authorities and government companies:

$28.176 million in 2026;
$27.351 million in 2027; and
$24.85 million in 2028.

Capital Projects

Significant capital projects included in the SPS are: upgrades and expansion of education infrastructure including new and refurbished school buildings; a new submarine communications cable system to provide greater connectivity and resilience for our economy; continued investment in our road network infrastructure — key being the expansion of the East-West Arterial; and vital security equipment for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) and Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG).

Borrowings and Debt Balance

Mr. Speaker, the Government intends to undertake borrowings to fund the Capital Investment Programme that will result in forecast borrowings of up to $321 million over the three-year SPS period broken down as follows:

$124 million in 2026;
$112 million in 2027; and
$ 85 million in 2028.

Considering the planned new borrowings and principal repayments over the SPS period, core government's debt balances are forecast to be:

$578.859 million at the end of 2026;
$633.702 million in 2027; and
$654.634 million at the end of 2028.

Mr. Speaker, these borrowings are forecasts only; the government is committed to undertaking the borrowings only if it is absolutely necessary to do so.

The principles of the FFR require the Entire Public Sector (EPS) debt service costs to be no more than 10 per cent of core governments' revenue. Over the SPS period, core government is forecast to remain compliant with the debt service ratio averaging 7.3 per cent as follows:

6.6 per cent at the end of 2026;
7.6 per cent in 2027; and
7.6 per cent in 2028.

Mr. Speaker, this is comfortably below the legal limit.

Net Debt

The government is required to maintain a net debt ratio that is not greater than 80 per cent of core government's revenue in a year. Forecast to remain well below this limit over the SPS period, net debt is forecast to be:

22.6 per cent in 2026;
25.2 per cent in 2027; and
25.2 per cent in 2028.

Cash Reserves

The Government is required to achieve and maintain cash reserves or liquid assets equivalent to at least 90 days of day-to-day operating expenses. Capital investments are excluded from this calculation. For the purposes of the cash reserve days calculation, liquid assets are limited to unrestricted operating bank balances and General Reserves. This ratio is calculated at the point in a financial year when cash reserves are expected to be at their lowest. This usually occurs in December each year, given the current cycle for revenue inflows.

Over the SPS period, the unrestricted Cash Reserves are forecast to comply with this requirement averaging 94.9 days. Over the period, it is estimated that the Cash Reserves ratio will be:

94.8 days in 2026;
94.5 days in 2027; and
95.3 days in 2028.

Mr. Speaker, this SPS is built on a solid foundation of common sense and pragmatism. Government has taken a conservative approach to the management of public finances, which will bring about stability in resource planning and execution of policies. Being fiscally responsible isn't just about numbers; it's about protecting our future. It gives us the strength to face challenges whether it's a hurricane, a global downturn, or an unexpected crisis. It also builds trust — trust between the government and its people, and trust by investors who see Cayman as a stable, well managed country.

When our finances are strong, our people are strong and when our people are strong, our Islands thrive. As the saying goes, the best way to predict the future is to create it; by supporting responsible financial decisions today, we help create a future that is secure, stable, and full of opportunity for all Caymanians.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I want to thank the staff in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development led by the Financial Secretary. I want to thank all Finance Officers and Chief Officers across the entire government; and I want to thank my colleagues. Getting to this point is always challenging because everyone wants to spend. Everyone has plans, everyone wants to do good; but we have ensured that we have stayed the course of being disciplined in regard to the development of the Strategic Policy Statement.

Mr. Speaker, we also ensured that our budget will withstand the scrutiny of the Finance Committee when delivered in November of this year. We wanted to ensure that when we come to this Parliament with the final budget, we have numbers — especially on the expenditure end — that are realistic in regard to the prior experience in critically important areas.

Mr. Speaker, in the middle of the last century, American President Dwight D. Eisenhower said: **"As we peer into society's future, we must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking** *[sic]* **the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage.".** Eisenhower's words remind us that as parliamentarians we have a responsibility to manage our resources not just for today; but to do so in a way that we do not unduly burden future generations. This SPS sets us on a firm path to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, before I take my seat, I want to thank you for the invitation to the young people today. Certainly, on behalf of this entire Parliament, I want to congratulate all the outstanding young people you recognised and honoured.

Of course, Members would know what comes next, but for completeness' sake, whilst I have presented the SPS today, the Premier will move the Motion to debate it, God willing, on Friday. I commend the fiscal framework contained in the SPS document to all Members.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

URGENT QUESTIONS

The Speaker: None.

PREMIER'S QUESTIONS

No. 1
Urgent Steps to Strengthen Oversight and Accountability of the HSA Board

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask a question to the Premier in my name. Can the Honourable Premier say what urgent steps the Government has taken, or proposes to take, to strengthen the oversight and accountability of the HSA Board and its management?

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Good afternoon again, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the first ever Premier's question approved by the Speaker to be put to a Premier in Cayman Islands' history. For the benefit of the listening public, let me broadly state that Premier's question time is a new feature in our Cayman Islands parliamentary democracy, brought into effect via the Parliament Standing Orders 2025.

The aim is to provide another mechanism to enhance transparency and as such, Mr. Speaker, it should be applauded that between the Leader of the Opposition for putting the question, yourself, Mr. Speaker, assessing and allowing the question in accordance with Standing Order 32, and myself for providing an answer, the Parliament is making history today.

[Desk thumping]

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Now, Mr. Speaker, I turn directly to answer the question put to me.

The Ministry of Health Environment and Sustainability has initiated immediate governance reforms to strengthen oversight and responsibility of the HSA board and management. Such reforms initially include:

a. Transitioning Board remuneration from per meeting stipends to a flat-fee structure to discourage excessive payments and unnecessary meetings;
b. To improve financial accountability, the Ministry requested submission of the half-yearly report from the HSA for the period of 1 January 2025 to the 30th of June 2025 because to date, despite there being provisions for the production and presentation of a half-yearly report, this marks the first report being presented to Parliament since the commencement of the Health Services Act 2003 Revision. It is therefore being noted that the Minister for Health, Environment, and Sustainability will Table the said half-yearly report during this Meeting of Parliament and speak thereto. It is essential to recognise that this report serves as a crucial step in improving the financial accountability of the HSA — by submitting this report, the Ministry aims to foster a more structured approach to governance ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and engaged in our efforts to enhance public health services; and
c. Undertaking a review of the report recently received from the internal audit service on the HSA Board remuneration and activities with the intention to implement its recommendations of that report, for [which] the HSA has been requested to provide the Ministry with a proposed implementation plan and to submit regular progress updates.

In addition, accountability measures will be enhanced through the implementation of an annual performance evaluation for HSA Board members. The Ministry will also reinforce the distinction between strategic oversight and operational management to prevent board overreach.

Capacity-building initiatives have also commenced with all Board members required to undergo training in public sector governance, financial stewardship, and health-care ethics. New Board members have already been registered for an upcoming session. The Ministry is also considering equipping the Board with tools to monitor patient safety and care quality metrics in alignment with international standards.

Longer term, the Honourable Minister is determined to conduct a legislative and policy overhaul which will include, among other things, revisiting the HSA Act to ensure it adequately supports Board accountability; and, importantly, the Honourable Minister who is certainly no stranger to being assigned large complex tasks — a couple in the not-so-distant past, at extremely short notice — is committed to working tirelessly to improve transparency, communication and collaboration.

Minutes from all HSA Board and subcommittee meetings are now being provided to the Ministry on a regular basis. Meetings between the Minister, the recently appointed HSA Board Chair, the Ministry Chief-Officer, the HSA CEO, and relevant senior management team members are occurring for greater overall policy, operational cohesion, and a collaborative working culture.

As Peter Drucker famously said, **"Culture eats strategy"** every time. The significance of this quote cannot be understated; the Honourable Minister will therefore work firmly yet professionally, including reaching across the aisle of this honourable House in a collegial, bi-partisan manner, for several of the larger complicated legislative and policy matters in particular, as we all want and need to have a high-functioning, effective, prudent public health care system.

This has a far greater chance of success when we all pull together to harness our collective skills at the operational, management, board, ministerial, and legislative levels. I believe every soul who currently works at each of those levels is in the capacity to do so and shall do so for the benefit of the people of the Cayman Islands.

Thank you again for the question.

God Bless.

[Desk thumping]

The Speaker: Next item of business.

QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

NO. 21
Does the Government intend to amend the National Conservation Act, 2013 in relation to the National Conservation Council

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to ask question number 21 in the order paper standing in my name to the Honourable Minister. Can the Honourable Minister say whether the Government intends to amend the National Conservation Act? 2013 in relation to the National Conservation Council and if so, what changes and when?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The answer: The Government does not currently have plans to amend the National Conservation Act in relation to the National Conservation Council.

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Supplementaries

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister say whether there has been a collaboration of manifestos of both parties on the topic of the National Conservation Council, as it is publicly noted that there is a conflicting viewpoint from both sides on the topic of the National Conservation Council, whether it should be amended or not. Can the Minister say whether or not the Caucus has made a commitment to not making those changes?

The Speaker: I think she answered the question; there are no plans to make any changes. I think you are asking her for an opinion as to have the people come together, and I don't think I can allow that — unless you can frame it some other way, Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Yes, sir. The last part you said was "unless she can frame it—"

The Speaker: No; you. You can frame the question in a way that is more specific to the question before the house.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Oh. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of not delving too far, I will just leave it there.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to ask a question?

Next order of business.

NO. 22
Has Government examined the effects of the recent tariff policies by the Trump Administration

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to ask question number 22 on the order paper standing in my name to the Honourable Minister of District Administration and Home Affairs. Can the

Honourable Minister say if the Government has examined the effects of the recent tariff policies by the Trump Administration and if so, has it seen or examined any effects?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister,

Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta, Minister of District Administration & Home Affairs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the answer: The Government has been examining the potential effects of tariff measures introduced by the current United States administration, particularly those applied to steel, aluminium and a wide range of Chinese-origin goods; however, it's important to clarify that these tariffs are imposed only when such goods are imported to the United States.

Currently, the US does not impose tariffs on goods exported from its territory. Accordingly, the exposure to the Cayman Islands of these measures depends largely on the structure of our supply chains. For example, where local suppliers purchase goods through us, importers or distributors, those goods are likely to carry additional tariff costs, which may then be reflected in higher prices to local consumers. Where goods are purchased directly from US manufacturers and suppliers and shipped directly to the Cayman Islands, US tariffs currently do not apply. This represents the majority of imports into our jurisdiction.

Currently, where goods are purchased directly from foreign manufacturers and shipped to the Cayman Islands without entering US commerce, no US tariffs apply, but in cases where goods transit through US ports the outcome depends on whether the shipment fully entered into the US consumption market or kept in transit or bonded storage.

In summary, the Cayman Islands' potential exposure to the effects of the tariffs is determined more by the logistics of how goods are shipped than by the tariffs themselves. Thus far, government's monitoring suggests that the overall effect on the Cayman Islands economy has been limited with broader inflationary pressures arising mainly from global energy costs and supply chain constraints.

However, to properly identify and assess any ongoing or future effects, the government will continue to monitor and evaluate developments using local and regional data, and through collaboration with stakeholders such as the Minister of Financial Services and Commerce; the Economics and Statistics Office, and the Chamber of Commerce. This collaborative approach will allow us to highlight and address any potential negative impacts to the Cayman Islands economy in a timely and measured manner.

The government remains vigilant and committed to safeguarding consumers and businesses of these Islands from external shocks in the ever-changing global trading system.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Supplementaries

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say thank you so much to the Honourable Minister for a good explanation and clarity of how the transit works and coming into the country. Can the Minister say whether there are any detailed figures we can look at rather than broad comments?

I'm not sure if the Ministry has done this, but you would have a set of data on imports into the country and the origin it came from, and you can break it down into percentage of things that would be affected by the tariffs and those which wouldn't, because you know the origin through the port authorities. One could speculate that you could say 10, 15, or 20 per cent are being affected in this way, ultimately, potentially causing x amount of increase.

Does the Minister have any figures to support his position?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Ministry currently does not have figures as it pertains to the question, as asked. What the Ministry has, through CBC, is the amount of goods, the dollar value of goods being imported into the country, the levying of duty on those goods.

The Bill of Lading shows where the goods originated; however, we do not assess what other countries apply in transit to Cayman, so that's reflected on the shelves in the market. Hence, we can give you the total number, the total value of all goods coming into the country, the duties levied by our government, but anything in between, the data would be held in those countries.

The Speaker: Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you would hold me to task to make sure I ask questions but…

The Speaker: No, no, no — do not pre-judge my ruling now.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: I am a bit confused based on the Minister's answer because the Minister just confirmed what I know, being a former Minister of Ports and working in conjunction with the CBC — that

the government can identify the origin it came from; therefore, the Ministry should be able to tell the amount of goods coming into the country that would be affected by these tariffs. If the government hasn't done that assessment, that's fine — we can get the information during the debate on the budget. I will ask the questions then to your team, but if you don't have the information, I think it is something we should be mindful of because it is having, I think you recognise that, an inflationary effect.

I'll frame it best to say I encourage the government to see if they can get some numbers and figures so you could be more accurate on the effects because it is affecting the cost of living for Caymanians.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, I want to thank the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition for clarifying his second Supplementary question because the two questions were completely different. I said we have the numbers and origins of goods being imported, which was what I answered for your first Supplementary, but what you want is the total effects and the assessment in between before it reaches Cayman.

We don't have those figures. I did confirm that we have figures for all goods and the origins coming in, just not the effects in between; but Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to commit to meeting with the Member, the Ministry and CBC, to see how we can [obtain them] in cooperation with the jurisdictions outside of Cayman.

The Speaker: Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan: Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence.

One last question just came to my mind. Can the Minister say if there seems to be any negative effects on business owners and importers, whether the government would consider concessions for those particular kinds of goods coming from those origins that would attract the tariff increase cost as a way of alleviating the pressures on the community.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Mr. Speaker, I'll just say that at this time I cannot speak on behalf of the entire government. That is in the remit of the Ministry of Finance and indeed a decision that the entire government would have to make, but rest assured, [through you,] Mr. Speaker to all Members of this House: This Government is assiduously looking at the effects of all external pressures on the community and business owners, and whatever is within our power and resources to do to alleviate any pain, this Government will be there to help.

Thank you,

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew, Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for George Town North: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence. The Minister may not be able to answer this, but it's a topic I want to raise, and perhaps we can discuss it offline. It is in line with the tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Minister say if the Government has had discussions about the challenges being faced as we try to alleviate the cost of goods on-island by importing products directly from the source, namely, the electrical and mechanical certifications. Our planning department (typically) requires a US-based certification, and also the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) certification, in particular, on foods. Again, I'm not sure whether the Honourable Minister can answer, but if he could give an indication of whether the government is looking at these particular things to allow importers to import directly to the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Mr. Nickolas T. A. DaCosta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, while I cannot directly answer it under my area of responsibility, what I can say is that the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Trade Development has been working on this. It is something the Government is exploring, and I'm sure that the Ministry will bring further updates in the very near future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay, did you want to ask a question? Okay.

Next question.

NO. 23
Will the Pirates' Week 2025 event 2025 be a large-scale, district-driven event or a scaled-down festival

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Elected Member for Bodden Town East: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Honourable Minister please advise if the Pirates' Week event for 2025 will be a large-scale district-driven event or a scaled-down festival; and is the Minister aware that other regional and adjacent

Islands have launched a National Pirates' Week festival in like manner.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine, Minister of Social Development & Innovation and Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage: Mr. Speaker, the answer.

The 2025 Pirates' Week Festival will feature several events across the three Islands from the 7th to the 22nd of November 2025. This will include the district days. Each district day will feature local foods, artisans, stands, storytelling, traditional games and displays, local bands, heritage displays and fireworks.

To the second part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I am aware, and we are aware, that Jamaica is hosting a similar festival which we acknowledged during the 2025 Pirates' Week themed unveiling press conference on the 6th of August 2025.

The Speaker: Member for Bodden Town East.

Supplementaries

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for his response — proud of the work that he and his team are doing.

I wanted to add that obviously, the Pirates' Week event was a 1978 venture by the Cayman Islands' Government that created a gold mine for us, Mr. Speaker. Back then, the normal way of funding the Pirates' Week festival was through sponsorships from the private sector. I want to ask the Honourable Minister whether it is still the same case in the private sector sponsoring this event, or if it is a budgeted line item?

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine: Mr. Speaker, the Government is allocating funds towards this, but we are also actively seeking sponsorship from the private sector, some of which have already committed to come on board.

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Great move, Mr. Minister. We see what's going on now, regionally; we were really the only National Pirates' Week Festival in the region for many, many years, and now our colleagues in the region have now decided that Pirates Week is a venture they want to go after. I want to ensure that from here on out Pirates' Week is well funded and we try to invigorate some of the spirit we had back then, when everyone looked forward to this national event.

Before I sit, Mr. Speaker, I see another event is being held around the same time as our Pirates' Week. I want to find out from the Honourable Minister if he would be willing to bring forward a policy that no other event is held on known national event days unless connected to/in partnership with the Government.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Member for Bodden Town East for his question. Certainly, it was a discussion that we had because it's something that we had some concerns about. Going forward, we will be seeking ways to mitigate similar events from happening for our national events.

The Speaker: Next item of business.

NO. 24
INCREASING EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (ECAP) FUNDING CAP; AND LINKING SUPPORT TO HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND AVERAGE PRESCHOOL FEES

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum, Elected Member for Red Bay: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 24, standing in my name to the Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development and Education & Training: Can the Honourable Minister confirm whether Government will consider—

(a) increasing the Early Childhood Assistance Programme (ECAP) funding cap, given that the current CI$812 per month falls short of the fees charged by most licensed preschools; and
(b) linking support to household income and average preschool fees, to ensure assistance reflects both family circumstances and the real cost of care?

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the answer: Yes, the Government will consider both:

(a) increasing the Early Childhood Assistance Programme (ECAP) funding cap; and
(b) linking future support levels to household income and average preschool fees, to ensure that assistance more accurately reflects family circumstances and the real cost of early childhood care.

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Red Bay.

Supplementaries

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for that. That was the answer I was hoping to hear.

I'm just curious as to whether or not he is able or willing to give some indication as to what the increased cap might be and/or how the linking to family circumstances and income might be done.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, the ECAP funding model is presently under review.

We are looking to ensure that we not only increase the amount, but also look very carefully at the bands that are used for the qualification of families; but we're in the middle of the review, so I really can't give anything more specific. I've not had the formal feedback and the proposal from the unit as yet.

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: I thank the Member for that.

My final question: Do you have any indication of the timeline for when that might be completed?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, no; I wouldn't want to stand here and give a timeline and be bound to it. What I can say is it is being done as quickly as possible.

The Speaker: Next item of business.

NO. 25
THE 2014-2015 BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION STANDARDS (OES), AS KEY ELEMENTS IN MONITORING AND RAISING EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to ask question No. 25, standing in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development and Education & Training: Can the Honourable Minister confirm that the 2014-2015 baseline assessment of government schools conducted by the International Schools Inspectorate Consultancy and the work of the Office of Education Standards (OES), as an independent inspectorate, are key elements in monitoring and raising educational standards; and can he say whether Government intends to strengthen the OES's role to help more schools move more quickly from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good' and from 'Good' to 'Excellent'?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, the answer: Yes, both the 2014–2015 baseline assessment and the ongoing work of the Office of Education Standards (OES) are pivotal in monitoring and raising educational standards across schools in the Cayman Islands. The OES falls under the Portfolio of the Civil Service (PoCS) to ensure the Office's independence from the Ministry of Education, Department of Education Services (DES) and schools.

It is my opinion that as the "auditors" of schools, they make evidence-based judgments about schools. It is the job of the Ministry, DES, and individual school leadership to respond to OES and other internal findings by developing a school improvement plan to drive results that will lead to school improvement.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay.

Supplementaries

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It makes me happy to hear you say that, sir. That was certainly one of the first initiatives of the then PPM [Peoples Progressive Movement] government in terms of improvements to education.

Are you able to give more specifics in terms of how the OES will be looking at making schools move more swiftly from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'? Is there any meat you can put on that for me?

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, let us be clear: The OES' role is to go in, inspect, and report.

As the auditors or inspectorate of schools, the OES really can't drive the process. The process must be between the Ministry, the DES, and school leadership. What I can assure the Member is that, as Minister, I want every single school in the Cayman Islands to end up as 'Excellent'.

The Speaker: Next item of business.

NO. 26
NUMBER OF REGISTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES; COMBINED ENROLMENT CAPACITY; NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON WAITING LISTS; NUMBER OF CENTRES RATED 'SATISFACTORY' OR 'WEAK' BY GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Thank you sir.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask question No. 26, standing in my name, to the Honourable Minister of Finance & Economic Development and Education &

Training: Can the Honourable Minister specify, by geographic district:

(a) the number of registered early childhood centres;
(b) their combined enrolment capacity;
(c) the current number of children on waiting lists; and
(d) how many centres have received 'Satisfactory' or 'Weak' ratings through the Office of Education Standards' inspections?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer:

(a) As of October 2024, there are 46 registered early childhood centres across the Cayman Islands, comprising:
- 18 stand-alone Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centres;
- 18 private schools with ECCE settings; and
- 10 government schools with ECCE centres.

Additionally, Creek and Spot Bay Primary and East End Primary also have a nursery provision; the nursery at East End Primary School supports children from both the East End and North Side communities.

Number of ECCE Centres

District	
Bodden Town	4
East End	1
George Town	29
North Side	1
Sister Islands	3
West Bay	8

(b) Enrolment capacity: As of October 2024, there are 2,132 children enrolled in early childhood education settings:
- 1,028 are stand-alone ECCE settings;
- 809 are in private schools with ECCE settings; and
- 332 are in government schools with ECCE settings.

The data for 2025 are currently being collected and is due date is October 31st, 2025. As far as the district breakdown—

District	Number of Children in Private Settings	Number of Children in Government Settings	Total Number of Children
Cayman Brac & Little Cayman	0	24 (Nursery) + 18 (Reception)	42
North Side	0	11	11
East End	0	15 (Nursery) + 14 (Reception)	29
Bodden Town	71	73	144
George Town	1,629	128	1,757
West Bay	100	49	149
Total	**1,837**	**332**	**2,132**

(c) The current number of children on waiting lists. As of October 2024, a total of 890 children were reported on waitlists across various settings. Please note that there may be children on multiple waitlists at different ECCE settings and there is no requirement for parents to report once a space has been secured at one setting or another.

Additionally, after accepting a placement parents may choose to keep their child on a waitlist at an alternate setting if that was their preferred ECCE setting. In other words, Mr. Speaker, parents often put their children on waitlists for multiple centres hoping to get their ideal setting; then, once they get a space in one setting, they may leave their child's name on other centres' [waitlists] because:

1. there is no requirement for them to remove them and there would be no way for the centres themselves to know that the child is at another setting; and
2. oftentimes, a parent may want their child to ultimately attend a particular centre, and therefore they simply leave their child's name there until that centre has a space available.

This whole business of waitlists is very complex and getting our hand around it is going to take further work.

(d) The OES' reports are all available on its website and therefore this sub-question falls outside the scope of Standing Order 35(1)(k) which reads **"A question shall**

not seek information set forth in accessible official publications or ordinary works of reference."

For all Members' edification, all schools — 'Satisfactory', 'Weak' or otherwise, are listed on the OES's website.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay.

Supplementaries

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for that very comprehensive and very useful response.

If I heard him correctly, there are only two government schools that offer nursery provision. Given the importance of early childhood education, is the government looking at expanding from two nursery schools to perhaps nurseries across all the government primary schools?

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is yes; the slightly longer answer is that the Government is looking carefully at schools that, firstly, have space that would allow us to actually build and create additional space. However, we will not use that as a limiting factor; we will look carefully, but in the meantime, the key is to strengthen the centres that are already in existence.

We know there are a number of centres that are more like day-care centres. We need to continue to collaborate with those centres to try to lift the standards and ensure that the provision and quality that is provided to our children is the very best so when they do reach reception, they are prepared to learn.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Thank you, sir.

If I understood correctly, the Government is considering expanding within government schools — additional nurseries. I also heard that there's an intention to look at assisting the private sector schools. Putting the private sector ones aside, just in terms of the government schools, do you have a timeline or what are your thoughts in terms of the method of actually expanding the government schools' ability to offer nurseries?

The Speaker: Minister for Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Mr. Speaker that does call for quite a bit of future projection and thought.

What I can say is that in 2009–2013, when I was Minister responsible for Education, I reintroduced reception at a number of government primary schools. I think the Member will recall that I was the first Minister of Education in the modern history of this country to declare that ECCE was the number one priority. I was also the first Minister to establish a fully-fledged ECCE policy unit and rolled out the 'learn via play' curriculum, which was doubted originally, but has proven to be a very successful method often used by Montessori-type schools.

I say all of that to say the Government is committed to strengthening ECCE. You will hear much more detail in the upcoming budget about what the policy priorities are going to be, but I can say today that ECCE will remain the number one priority of this Government, because the first five years of a child's life often determines ultimately their chances as it relates to receiving proper instruction and maximising their potential as a human being. We are going to ensure that ECCE is the government's number one priority. We will work as swiftly as we can to bring more early years learning to as many government primary schools as we can and ensure that the ECAP provision is provided to as many families and as meaningfully as possible.

The Speaker: Member for Red Bay, this is the last supplementary.

Mr. A. Roy Tatum: Yes, sir, thank you.

I appreciate that response and I'll say to the Member, I recall very well his advocacy in this area; so my questions are coming by way of encouraging him to continue. I was very happy to hear what he said and I look forward to the upcoming budget and what more will be done in terms of early childhood education [because] as he said, those first five years are extremely important.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Next item of business.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Speaker: None.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Speaker: None.

OBITUARY AND OTHER CEREMONIAL SPEECHES

The Speaker: None.

RAISING OF MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE

The Speaker: None.

OTHER BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Government Motion No. 4 of 2025-2026 — The Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) - The Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order, 2025

The Speaker: Honourable Minister of Caymanian Employment and Immigration.

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker. I beg to move Government Motion No. 4 of 2025–2026 — The Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision), The Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order, 2025.

The Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Mr. Speaker, thank you again.

The Order laid today entitled Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order, 2025 is for Mr. Rowan Anthony Mullings.

Section 26(1)(e) of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) empowers Cabinet to grant the right to be Caymanian to up to four persons in any calendar year who are recommended for such grant by the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board. Any grant made by the Cabinet, however, is subject to ratification by Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2024, an application was made to the Cabinet with the support of the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board for the right to be Caymanian—

The Speaker: Excuse me, Minister, I think you need to read the Motion into the record before you start to speak to it; down to the resolve section. Thank you.

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Give me a second, Mr. Speaker.

"WHEREAS section 26(1)(e) of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) provides that the Cabinet, acting upon the recommendation of the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board, may grant the right to be Caymanian in accordance with the section;

AND WHEREAS at their meeting on 11 June 2025, Cabinet granted Mr. Rowan Anthony Mullings the right to be Caymanian, pursuant to section 26(1)(e);

AND WHEREAS section 26(1)(e) provides that such grant shall be subsequently ratified by the Cayman Islands Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order, 2025 was laid on the Table of the Parliament;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order, 2025 be ratified by the Parliament pursuant to the provisions of section 26(1)(e) of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision)."

The Speaker: So moved. Does the Minister wish to speak to the Motion?

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Mr. Speaker, thank you again. I apologise for that oversight.

The Order laid today entitled Immigration (Transition) (Grant of the Right to be Caymanian) Order 2025 is for Mr. Rowan Anthony Mullings. Section 26(1)(e) of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) empowers Cabinet to grant the right to be Caymanian to up to four persons in any calendar year who are recommended for such a grant by the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board. Any grant made by Cabinet is, however, subject to ratification by Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2024, an application was made to Cabinet with the support of the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board for the right to be Caymanian for Mr. Mullings. Cabinet thereafter approved the recommendation for Mr. Mullings to be granted the right to be Caymanian and requested that the decision be sent to the Parliament of the Cayman Islands for ratification.

Mr. Speaker, I will now set out why the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board and Cabinet were convinced that Mr. Mullings deserves the highest status that we grant non-nationals — the right to be Caymanian.

Mr. Speaker, Rowan Anthony Mullings is a 55 year old Jamaican national who initially came to the Islands with his mom prior to his second birthday. Mr. Mullings completed his education through secondary school in Grand Cayman, having attended and graduated from the Cayman Islands High School. Thereafter, Mr. Mullings was issued a student visa in order to continue his tertiary education by attending a building construction course at the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI). He is currently self-employed as a contractor in his own construction company. He's spent his entire life in the Islands having fostered many long-lasting and deep-rooted friendships and close-knit familial ties.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons outlined above and in part because Mr. Mullings has provided a series of noteworthy Caymanian references in support of his application — namely Ms. Barbara Conolly, JP; Mr. David Wight, JP; and Mr. Darvy Whittaker — the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board recommended Mr. Mullings as a suitable candidate to be considered for the Grant of the Right to be Caymanian under section 26(1)(e) of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision).

There's no doubt that Mr. Mullings is deserving of the consideration of being granted the right to be Caymanian in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak? Member for Bodden Town East.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. I want to give a short contribution and applaud the Minister and the Government for bringing this to Parliament. It has been a long time coming. I have been contacted numerous times. I was the Minister who brought it to Cabinet so that it could be sent to Parliament and I was proud to do so.

I've known the young man for many years. He has been here for over 50 years, as you heard, Mr. Speaker, and is well-deserving of this status. I don't think anyone would even know that he wasn't born here if he didn't say. He has been amongst our community and a well-known, well-deserving figure, and again, in Parliament, will get my support.

I just want to say thank you again to the Government. There are many cases like his, where the children had no choice when coming to the Cayman Islands and went through the school systems — primary, middle, high in the Cayman Islands; all they know is what they have learnt in the Cayman Islands and we need to find a way. There are many categories of persons who have been here a long time. Everyone knows that it's one of my pet peeves, and I am very sympathetic towards children who come here and spend all their lives here with their parents and then end up in that category of *"nowhere-ians"*.

There are many of them, and I hope the Ministry and the Minister and the Government find a way to help some of them in one fell swoop. It really affects their ability to study and get employment. I know of another young man, and many other young persons in a similar situation. I know the Government only has four per year, but if we could find some way to bring this to Parliament, bring a Motion or something, for us to capture as many as possible of these good contributing citizens who have been here all their life. They know nowhere else and no family anywhere else. All their friends are here.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough. I think we need to figure out this "ghost" Caymanian situation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister again.

The Chairman: The Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Joseph X. Hew: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of the official Opposition just to say that we have no issues with this— until I saw the paper, I actually thought Rowan was Caymanian; and agreeing with our colleague from Bodden Town East. There are many among us, who we've known to be our own, who find themselves in the same position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Gary B. Rutty: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this. As the Leader of the Opposition said, Rowan grew up with us. We played football together, went to nightclubs together and—

[Laughter]

Hon. Gary B. Rutty: It was a complete shock to me that Rowan Mullins wasn't one of us.

I go back a little bit, you know, his mom, Ms. Pauline is near and dear. She used to sell food and I remember that sometimes she came by Burger King and when I didn't have money in my pocket, that lady gave me a plate of food, so I just want to welcome Rowan, whom I always thought was Caymanian; and his mom, for their contributions to the country and fellow Caymanians as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Desk thumping]

The Chairman: Does any other Member wish to speak? *[Pause]* Does any other Member wish to speak? *[Pause]* Does any other Member wish to speak? *[Pause]* The question is, be it therefore resolved that the Immigration—

My apologies to the Minister. Do you wish to exercise your right of reply?

Hon. Michael S. Myles: I went to nightclubs with Rowan, too, by the way.

[Laughter]

Hon. Michael S. Myles: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

I appreciate Members supporting Rowan in this. I know it's been a very long haul for him. Like the Member for Bodden Town East, he's been calling or texting me at least once a week to ensure this is on the ballot. I'm happy to help him so he can get on with

life, so I thank my colleagues and certainly the Opposition and Independent Members for their support.

The Chairman: The question is, **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Immigration Transition Grant of the Right to be Caymanian Order 2025 be ratified by the Parliament, pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 (1) e of the Immigration Transition Act (2022 Revision).

All those in favour, please say Aye, all those against.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it. The Motion has been approved.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 4 of 2025-2026 passed.

The Chairman: I invite the Premier to move the Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to move the Suspension of Standing Order 14 (1) to allow tomorrow's Sitting to commence at 10 a.m. rather than 2 p.m.

The Chairman: The Motion is that Standing Order 14 (1) be suspended to allow Parliament to commence its Sitting tomorrow at 10 a.m.

All those in favour? Those against.

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 14 (1) suspended.

The Premier, Hon. André M. Ebanks: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Accordingly, I move that the House stand adjourned until tomorrow morning, the 16th of October, at 10 a.m.

The Chairman: The Motion is that the House stand adjourned until Thursday, the 16th of October at 10 a.m.

All those in favour, please say Aye? Those against?

AYES.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it. The House is adjourned.

At 4:04pm the House stood adjourned until 10:00am, Friday, 16h October, 2025.