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**Statement by
the Honourable Attorney General on behalf of the Portfolio of Legal
Affairs on
the Exceptional Circumstances that occurred during the 2016/17
Financial Period for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs**

**First Meeting of the 2018/2019 Session of the Legislative Assembly
– Commencing 5 September 2018**

Mister Speaker, pursuant to Section 11(6) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2018 Revision), I wish to make a statement to Members of this Honourable House regarding exceptional circumstances which were approved by the Cabinet for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs during the 18-month budget period ending 31 December 2017.

Mister Speaker, the exceptional circumstances required making changes to appropriations - which I will briefly explain.

\$75,000 for Office Fit Out

1. In order to expand its existing allocated accommodation within the Government Administration Building, in 2016 the Portfolio of Legal Affairs (POLA) requested the assistance of the Facilities Management Department (FM), Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure (PLAH&I), to create additional offices for improved functionality.
2. FM estimated that the necessary works would cost approximately CI\$75,000.00. FM and the Ministry of PLAH&I advised that they would not be in a position to absorb the cost of this project.
3. POLA, on review of its capital budget, identified savings within E134 in the amount of CI\$75,000 which could be utilised to fund the fit-out costs. A reallocation of funding in the amount of CI\$75,000 from appropriation E134 to appropriation EA78 (Government Accommodation Project 1 – Ministry of PLAH&I) was therefore required to enable FM to undertake the necessary works.

4. POLA therefore recommended that CI\$75,000 be reallocated to appropriation EA78 pursuant to section 11(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law 2017.
5. At the time of POLA's recommendation, the Ministry of Finance advised that the proposed reallocation of funds from E134 to EA78 would not impact the Government's forecast financial performance or compliance with the principles of responsible financial management for the 2016/17 financial year as the appropriate change was a reallocation of funds and did not increase planned expenditure or cash outflows.

Conclusion

Mister Speaker, the above exceptional circumstances which were approved by the Cabinet for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs during the 2016/17 financial period on 13 December 2016, along with the overall effect on the Government's compliance with the Principles of Responsible Financial Management, can be found in the 2016/17 Supplementary Plan and Estimates which was tabled in this Honourable House.

Thank you Mister Speaker.