



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

**Fourth Meeting of the 2017/2018 Session of the Legislative
Assembly – Commenced 12th 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 Judicial Administration 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.

\$335,000 for Legal Aid Fit Out

1. Judicial Administration was granted funding in 2016/17 to hire personnel for the newly established Legal Aid Office, headed by the Legal Aid Director. In order to establish the Legal Aid Office, suitable accommodation had to be identified. Funding for new accommodation did not form part of the 2016/2017 budget. In order to address this issue, monies allocated for the hiring of new legal aid staff were used to secure a lease and these monies have been 'ring fenced' to allow for fit out, subject to Cabinet's approval. Permission was granted by Cabinet in 2017 to lease 2 units at Town Plaza, for the purpose of establishing a Legal Aid Office and a Legal Aid Clinic.
2. The Public Works Department costed the project to be approximately CI\$335,000.00. This total cost comprised the following:
 - i. \$250,000.00 – pre tender estimate for construction;
 - ii. \$75,000.00 – furniture and fittings; and
 - iii. \$10,000 – contingency

3. Judicial Administration identified savings within JAD 2 – Support for Court Proceedings that could be utilized to cover the fit out costs. A reallocation of funding totalling \$335,000 from JAD 2 to EI 21 was therefore required to complete the fit out.
4. Judicial Administration recommended that \$335,000 be reallocated to appropriation EI 21 under section 11(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law 2017.
5. At the time, the Ministry of Finance advised that the proposed reallocation of funds from JAD 2 (an operating expense appropriation) to EI 21 (a capital expenditure appropriation) would decrease the Government's forecast operating expenses to 31 December 2017 by CI\$335,000 and increase the forecast capital expenditure by the same amount. At the time the Ministry advised that the Government remained in compliance with the principles of responsible financial management as, prior to this proposed reallocation of funds, Core Government is forecast to incur CI\$879.8 million in operating expenses for the 18 month period ending 31 December 2017, CI\$55.0 million in Net Surplus and CI\$60.6 million in capital expenditure.

Conclusion

Mister Speaker, the above exceptional circumstances which were approved by the Cabinet for Judicial Administration during the 2016/17 financial period (Cabinet Extract dated December 14, 2017) – 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 on 12th September, 2018.

Thank you Mister Speaker.