



**Statement to House of Parliament  
Queen's Birthday Honours 2022  
By Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP  
10 June 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker,

Our Beloved Cayman Islands have had much to celebrate in 2022, this most special year of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So much so that as the finishing touches were being made on the preparations for our local festivities, we received the delightfully surprising news that four exceptional individuals who have faithfully served our community, had been named amongst the Queen's Birthday Honours for this year of Jubilee.

Therefore, on behalf of the Government and with a great sense of pride and elation, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Chief Justice, the Hon. Anthony Smellie, QC on receiving the honour of a Knighthood, as well as to the Managing Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, Mrs. Cindy Scotland on receiving an OBE, to Mr. Steven Barrett our former Prisons Director on receiving an OBE, and to Mrs. Jondo Obi of the Cayman Islands Red Cross on receiving the BEM.

Mr. Speaker, His Lordship the Hon. Chief Justice, Sir Anthony Smellie's appointment as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George adds a well-deserved exclamation point on a very distinguished legal and judicial career. Having joined the Cayman Islands Civil Service in 1983 as Principal Crown Counsel, he was subsequently appointed to the post of Solicitor General in 1987 and after several periods of acting as Attorney General, he accepted appointment as a Judge of the Grand Court in February 1993, becoming Chief Justice in June 1998.

His dedication to development of jurisprudence and to the rule of law has helped to solidify the global reputation of the Cayman Islands' judiciary, earning us worldwide respect and recognition for impartiality, independence and the robustness of our legal system. In any

organisation, the tone is indeed set from the top, and while the Courts are steeped in important time honoured traditions, Sir Anthony has embraced innovation and the expansion of the services provided by the courts, offering online services and video-conferencing, but also mediation and specialist courts such as the Drug Court and Financial Services Division.

Mr. Speaker, the Cayman Islands' position as a global leader in Financial Services would not be possible without the confidence of our stakeholders, investors and clients in our legal system serving as the foundation of all transactions and interactions. For this we must once again acknowledge the guiding hand of the Chief Justice through the years.

It is important to note that the Chief Justice's impact has not merely been felt within in the Cayman Islands but in other Overseas Territories. In March 2018 he was appointed to the Court of Appeal of Bermuda, which is a testament to the high esteem in which he is held regionally.

Mr. Speaker, I too have reflected upon my own relationship with the Chief Justice and while I will not reveal the results of our regular tennis matches

many, many years ago, I can say that he is a person for whom I have the deepest respect...

It would be remiss of me not to also offer congratulations to his dear wife Jackie, now Lady Smellie, and to Sir Anthony's children. There is no doubt that their beloved husband and father has sacrificed much of himself, his time and his effort in faithful service to his adopted home, the Cayman Islands. Given their shared sacrifices over the years, it is most fitting that they too embrace and enjoy this wonderful achievement.

Mr. Speaker, having only received our first Knighthood in 1994 when Her Majesty the Queen bestowed this great honour upon Sir Vassel Johnson, the Cayman Islands had to wait again for almost 28 years for this great honour to be bestowed on our colleague and my friend the Hon., Sir Alden McLaughlin. So I trust I will be forgiven if I sound pleasantly surprised that within 6 months of our second Knighthood that a third Caymanian Hon Sir Anthony Smellie, KCMG, QC, has now been knighted. Her Majesty the Queen certainly has a very special way of making her presence felt!

Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to express how pleased I am that Mrs. Cindy Scotland, has recognised as an Officer of the Most Excellent order of the British Empire or OBE. As I carefully recounted the importance of the

judiciary to the strength and global reputation of our financial services industry, the role of our regulator, the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority has been a window to the world, guarding the reputation of the Cayman Islands, supporting strong governance and best practice within our industry, and standing firmly to ensure a level playing field as stakeholders compete in our jurisdiction.

Having joined the Monetary Authority at its inception in January 1997, as the Head of Currency Operations, Mrs. Scotland was promoted to the post of General Manager in June of that year. Prior to CIMA, she spent six years with one of its predecessor organizations, the Cayman Islands Currency Board, even serving as the Board's Manager. In June 2000 she was appointed as Managing Director of the Authority and has served the Cayman Islands with distinction in this role for 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune of knowing and observing Mrs. Scotland in various capacities. When I was a practicing attorney, I had the privilege on many occasions of observing Mrs. Scotland, and developed a deep admiration and respect for the impact of her advocacy for the Cayman Islands and her very clear mandate on protecting and defending the global reputation of the Cayman Islands Government and our financial Services Industry.

During my first term from 2013-2017, I had the great privilege of working directly with her as the Minister for Financial Services. This gave me an even greater sense of respect for this dedicated, hard-working Caymanian. Let us also not pretend that maintaining a leadership role, any leadership role for 22 years, especially in an industry that has been so male dominated. But Mrs. Scotland, with diplomacy, tact and a clear mission to protect the reputation of the Cayman Islands has done her job and done it well. While Mr. Speaker I didn't think it possible for Mrs. Scotland to go any higher in my personal regard, I fondly recall my period of serving as the Chair of CIMA's Board of directors which gave me an even greater insight into her vision, leadership and reverence for the critical, and sometimes not so popular role CIMA plays. It is fair to say that she is uncompromising when it comes to the reputation of the Cayman Islands, and that is what we should expect from our regulator.

Again, it should be noted that as the head of our main financial services regulator, her influence and impact extend far beyond our shores. Her role requires her to represent Cayman on various regulatory and cooperation matters. This includes serving as the deputy chairman of the Group of International Financial Centre Supervisor and co-chair of the Financial Stability Board's Regional Consultative Group for the Americas.

Additionally, there is regular interaction with key bodies including the International Organization of Securities Commissions, the International Monetary Fund and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, as well as with jurisdictional regulators, such as: the UK Financial Services Authority, the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the European Securities and Markets Authority.

Mr. Speaker it is my sincere hope that Mrs. Cindy Scotland OBE, a most deserving honours recipient, takes more than a passing moment to reflect on her many outstanding achievements and exceptional stewardship. I therefore wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Scotland, as well as to her husband Mark and their three children and indeed to her dedicated team at CIMA- which is coincidentally celebrating 25 years of service to the Cayman Islands! Well done Cindy!

Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Mr. Steven Barrett on receiving the Officer of the Most Excellent order of the British Empire or OBE. Mr Speaker, the Cayman Islands Government was fortunate to recruit Mr. Barrett as Interim Director of Prisons in 2018 after very successfully tenures in prison leadership in our sister Overseas Territory, the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as in his native Scotland. He was confirmed to the post after a competitive recruitment process later that

year and quickly set himself apart with his unparalleled enthusiasm and energy, demonstrating a real passion for his work, which he was often heard describing as “the best job in the world”.

Mr. Speaker, in particular what Mr. Barrett believed in and was deeply committed to was rehabilitation of offenders. The programmes and enhancements which he drove were evidence of his own value system of respecting the humanity of everyone including offenders and creating pathways for change. While Mr. Barrett is no longer with the Cayman Islands Government, his honour is in acknowledgement of a distinguished career dedicated to working with offenders in three jurisdictions. We continue to wish him the very best and offer our congratulations today to him and indeed his family.

Finally Mr. Speaker, the fourth honoree was none other than Mrs. Jondo Obi, the Director of the Cayman Islands Red Cross, who has received the British Empire Medal or BEM for services to the community. We are all aware of the important role the Red Cross plays in the Cayman Islands. From supporting natural disasters to coordinating first aid training, assisting with the COVID response, or leading awareness and training on child sexual abuse, the Cayman Islands Red Cross along with its band of volunteers have made its impact felt throughout the Cayman Islands. Mrs.

Obi has been leading this important organisation for almost 19 years and does so with great vigor and energy.

Mr Speaker the Jubilee events of the weekend past, have given us an opportunity to carefully reflect on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's life of service. Throughout the United Kingdom, its Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth, Her Majesty's sacrifices, commitment and dedication through the years of her incredible reign have been examined. Any fair assessment of her execution of her duties and conduct in public life, results in admiration and acceptance that she is an unparalleled example of service above self. So Mr. Speaker, regardless of how people view the monarchy, or the system of honours for which we as Overseas Territory citizens are eligible, there is no doubt that these four individuals who have been named in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours, are in their own way, worthy examples of selfless service to our community and the wider British family. 2022 will be a year which we will never forget in the Cayman Islands, a year to celebrate, a year to commemorate and a year to honour, not only our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, but a special number of our own exemplars.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to end by remarks by thanking Her Majesty the Queen for generously including recipients from the Cayman Islands in the highest

honours bestowed in this year of the Jubilee. I also wish to thank His Excellency the Governor for personally advocating for nominations of recipients. And to those individuals who took time to prepare nominations, I must express heartfelt gratitude for putting forward these most worthy nominees. In closing, I once again thank and congratulate the Hon. Sir Anthony Smellie, KCMG, QC; Mrs. Cindy Scotland, OBE; Mr. Steven Barrett, OBE; and Mrs. Jondo Obi, BEM for all that you have done individually and collectively for our Beloved Isles Cayman.