

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
STATE OPENING AND BUDGET MEETING
FRIDAY
17 JUNE 2011
11.15 AM
Fifth Sitting

The Speaker: I call on the Honourable Deputy Speaker to say Prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: 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 Legislative Assembly 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 Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Charles, 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 Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Cabinet and Members of the Legislative Assembly, 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: Good morning everyone.
Please be seated.
Proceedings are resumed.

**READING BY THE HONOURABLE
SPEAKER OF MESSAGES
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Speaker: I have no messages or announcements.

**STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE
MEMBERS AND MINISTERS
OF THE CABINET**

The Speaker: I have one statement.
Honourable Premier.

Cayman Islands Oil Refinery

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, our Government has been working extremely hard over the past 24 months to attract new investments to the Cayman Islands in order to diversify our economic base.

We have signed several Ministerial Memorandums of Understanding across a number of different economic sectors which will assist in our economic diversification strategy. As part of this ongoing diversification strategy, as Minister, I will be entering into a Ministerial Memorandum of Understanding with Vintech Ltd., and a local Company Navitas Ltd., which seeks to develop and operate an environmentally sensitive oil refinery to provide the country with cheaper petroleum products which will result in lower fuel and electricity costs to the residents of the Cayman Islands.

These companies have already commenced a full Environmental Impact Assessment which will analyse all the potential issues related to the development. Madam Speaker, it is worth noting that these companies will be utilising modern technology that is very safe and does not employ the use of the refining technology of the past, which generated major pollutants.

Madam Speaker, if you would allow me, in being presented with a proposal of any kind for projects, in particular of a significant scale, I take it to caucus for their review and advice. Any Minister would do that. If agreed as a proposal, that is, on the first read, feasible, and should be researched before going to Cabinet. It is then entered a Ministerial MOU that sets a timeframe for both parties to work out terms of a substantive agreement that would be submitted to Cabinet for its approval.

It also allows the negotiations to be more transparent and published and gives the Ministry time for more research. This, I believe, is much more businesslike and well within the scope of my constitutional authority as a Minister of the Government.

Benefits of the Cayman Islands Refinery:

Vintech Ltd. and a local company Navitas Ltd. will make application, should they decide to go ahead, to install two (2) 6,000 barrel-per-day crude oil topping plants in a suitable industrial location in Grand Cayman, including all of the associated infrastructure, pipelines, storage tanks and transfer stations. Currently, 3,400 barren of refined product is consumed locally. With the additional refining capacity the excess amount of refined product will be exported, thereby creating a new revenue stream. That is, their plan.

Why could this project benefit every single citizen on the Cayman Islands?

- It would immediately reduce fuel surcharge on CUC monthly billings, which will lower the cost of the electricity to the residents of these Islands.
- By eliminating the cost associated with transportation of refined hydrocarbons, this will reduce the cost of gasoline at the fuel pumps.
- By installing a refinery here on the Islands, we are in command of our destiny and can participate in setting the ultimate cost of refined products such as Diesel (CUC), Gasoline and LPG.
- Finally, this plant will allow every citizen to realise reduced energy costs that will immediately better the quality of life and reduce the cost of living.
- Government will collect revenues and royalties which will be placed in a sovereign fund, those revenues will be shared directly with the citizens by way of an annual dividends or funding green energy projects. That is their proposal.

This Topping Plant will produce the following petroleum products:

- Aviation fuel
- Diesel fuel
- Fuel oil
- Kerosene
- Liquid Propane Gas
- Unleaded Gasoline

The Project will resolve a number of strategic issues for the Cayman Islands, including but not limited to the following:

- reduce our dependency on the overseas supply of refined petroleum products;
- lower the costs basis for refined products;
- lower the cost basis for power generation;
- lower the cost basis for liquid propane gas (LPG);
- lower the cost of living for every resident of the Cayman Islands;

- increase storage capacity for petroleum products on the Island;
- resolve issues regarding current location of petroleum storage tanks (which we know has been said that they should be moved from the neighbour they are and from the vicinity of the high school and the other schools there);
- produce aviation fuel locally to support long-haul non-stop flights from destinations beyond the US East Coast;
- allow Government to attract new industries to the Cayman Islands;
- will be expandable for future growths;
- increase Gross Domestic Product;
- reduce the trade imbalance;
- allow regional and global supply of crude;
- create sustainable long-term solutions;
- reduce direct and indirect costs;
- there will be an open market to competition;
- reduce reliance on the current supply chain;
- turn current profits into benefits for the Island;
- allow Government to help determine price of the petroleum products we use;
- new plant capacity which would be at 6,000 barrels per day (BPD);
- short horizon increase for new projects;
- long-term aviation/tourism/utilities costs;
- no Middle East crude required;
- create local jobs;
- available for instant installation, once decided upon or if decided upon;
- increase revenue streams from the importation of crude oil;
- direct involvement via petroleum cooperative in setting future pricing structure and public direct benefits;
- no reliance on Gulf Coast refineries or Middle Eastern crude supply (currently 70 per cent of Cayman crude is imported by USA via Middle East supply chain);
- major benefits to residents of Cayman Islands;
- reduced cost of living;
- reduced utility bills—by providing CUC cheaper diesel;
- lower retail gasoline price.

Madam Speaker, these are some of the benefits that could be, if this was given the go-ahead.

Madam Speaker, in these times of uncertainty it behooves the Government to pay careful attention to trends to ensure that we develop strategies to mitigate potential issues related to the supply of refined prod-

ucts which is integral to the economic wellbeing of these Islands.

Fuel in other countries is considered a resource of utmost national importance and is imperative that we start looking at it in this manner. We must create a system to ensure that the Cayman Islands develop a strategy to have a constant supply of affordable energy. This is one part of strategic policies for the Islands to ensure that we can become self-sufficient for future generations, again, if this was given the go ahead.

Madam Speaker, at an appropriate time I will encourage the proposers to come and inform all the Members of this honourable House of their proposal so that all will understand what the people are proposing and have a say on it at that time.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier.
Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Madam Speaker, with your permission I wonder if I can ask the Premier a couple of short questions.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER

Apology

The Speaker: I'm sorry, before you do, I did say I did not have any messages, but I did have notice from the First Elected Member for George Town that he would not be present this morning.

Please proceed.

Short Questions *[On Statement]* [Standing Order 30(2)]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Madam Speaker, the Premier has said that the advent of this oil refinery, in utilising modern technology, will lower the cost of the fuel in the country. Can the Premier tell us by what percentage the fuel cost retail and to CUC will be lowered?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I can't say for certain what the price cost or the price will be. For certain what we know is that it will be lower. Those things will have to be worked out by the owners and the various individuals connected to it.

They have not gotten that far; we are only entering a Memorandum to now do more research. The owners, of course, would be able to answer that when they come to make a presentation to Members.

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, currently the Government is heavily dependent upon duties on refined fuels and user fuels coming into the country; I think it is seventy-five cents per gallon, most of the refined fuels. Will the Government be exempting crude oil from duties?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I don't think that that has been part of the discussion, but I would think that they would be paying to bring any petroleum product in. And certainly, the revenue generated would be tremendously more than we are receiving now. And the benefits, I would think . . . and I say that . . . as I said, not discuss . . . I'm using my own ideas at this point in time. That has not been put to us, we have to wait and see. But I would think that the benefits, as in other territories, would be tremendous national savings.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, this is the last one.

Madam Speaker, in response to that I wonder if the Premier can think about that again, because if it is more than what we are getting now, then the cost is relative, and we may not see a reduction if we are going to tax crude more than we tax refined fuel. We will see how that works. But maybe he needs to think about that one.

Have the Government technocrats or Members of the elected arm of Government seen any of these oil refineries, as are being proposed here, that are so environmentally friendly and emission-less?

The Speaker: Mr. Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, there was one presentation made, and they have seen it from that perspective. But when we get to that point, I'm sure some Members of Government will visit and see how it is done. And if the Member perhaps behaves himself, we will carry him too.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: On the matter of price, Madam Speaker, as I said, the Member should not jump to conclusions. And that is why I . . . you know the difficulty here is if you are doing something, you get a proposal, nothing is said, nobody says anything publicly and you are just working feverishly to work at it. Some mischievousness is going to go on—take it send it out and they are going to blast it all over the place, nothing is said and then everybody starts to draw their own conclusions.

That is why I have taken to doing these Ministerial Memorandums of Understanding. As I said, it gives us the time between when something is proposed and something is to go to Cabinet to make it

public, to do more research and try to get answers, and, of course, get a proper proposal.

Right now it is discussion and that is why we are entering what is called a Ministerial Memorandum of Understanding.

On my part, I think I have said it. We have to plan strategically. Nobody can say that the need for fuel is going to decrease. We always hope for a greener environment. We hope! But the largest of countries, Madam Speaker, are having difficulties with it. Can we put up windmills? There are other things that people are trying and in a new energy policy I am sure that those things will come to the forefront. But if anybody believes that we are going to do without fuel for many years to come, they are making a big mistake.

We have, as a country, tried to prepare ourselves to meet the global challenges. If we are going to be sustainable and protect ourselves for the impacts of the international arena and what they do, then we have to do something. We can't sit down and worry about what people are going to say or what the news media is going to say, or whatever negative aspect, Madam Speaker, that people are going to try to put to something.

My policy has always been, if I am trying to do something, put it out. Let them beat-up on me if they want to. But as Premier, and as the Minister of Development, I have a responsibility to do things to safeguard the future of this country, to explore matters. Now I will get cussed for it as I usually do. I'll get accused; I'll get investigated; I'll get reviewed. I've been through all of that, Madam Speaker, and probably more to be.

But as an elected politician and one who holds responsibility, it is my duty. I'm not on the Backbench where I can sit back and do nothing. Or I am not on the Opposition, to sit back and do nothing but criticise. And the Backbench in any country can probe Government; that's their job, both sides; that's their job. But my job—understand this: I have a duty, not only a constitutional duty, but a moral duty and an ethical one, to do something that safeguards the future and puts plans in place to safeguard the future, and that is what I am attempting to do.

Thank you.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, just to say that—

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Ma'am.

Madam Speaker, just to say that this was not speculation or me trying to be sarcastic about this or anything else.

The Premier is emphatic in his position that these are the benefits that the country will derive. He is not saying that these are what some of the things

that *may* be derived; he is saying that this is what is going to be derived as a result of putting this in. So, it wasn't—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, can the Member point to where he is talking about, and on what page?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: “The project will resolve a number of strategic issues for the Cayman Islands including”—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Where?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Two! I got the wrong one?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Okay, yeah, okay.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I have it—

Mr. V. Arden McLean: —“but not limited to the following:” And one of them is “lower cost basis for refined products; lower cost basis for power generation”. So, all I am doing is asking the question on that basis—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: What are you asking?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: —which would mean that there has been some definitive research done and completed which points, and definitively says that's what is going to happen. So, I don't think the Premier is fair when he now tries to say that I am being critical.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, as I said, as Minister, there has been a proposal made, and from what I see from my position, these are benefits that could come, and that is what I am saying. Okay?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, that's what I said.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: You didn't say it there.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: What did I say there?

Madam Speaker, the Member is looking for a fight. Although he claims he wants to support, he is trying to nit-pick here to find something to fight about.

“The project will resolve a number of strategic issues for the Cayman Islands including, but

not limited to the following:” And probably I could say “if it gets the full go ahead, it would . . .”

But these are things that I saw, what I am told can work. And you should be glad, rather than trying to throw cold water on it you should be glad that somebody is thinking about this. You are supposed to know, you work for CUC.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: Ah, I think

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Can I just say—

The Speaker: —we’ve kind of aired this already. Go ahead.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, there was this question, and I think the Member raised it a while ago about the cost, but there are matters in the importation. If we import more crude than refined product, the Government will get more money from that because we used 34,000 and we will be putting out 6,000 barrels. And there will be, from recollection, as I said, I would have to go back and check every little piece of paper . . . but the company is not seeking exemption. Actually, they are not seeking exemptions on duty.

A Memorandum of Understanding is a discussion, Madam Speaker, to take the project further. And, as I said, I am going to ask the proposers to, when they are ready at an appropriate time, to come and make a presentation to all Members of this House. And the Member—who is on his feet most of the time, more than me—can ask all of those questions at that time.

When the time comes, as I said, if he can behave himself, we will invite him and he will be part of that bipartisan trip to view it; that is if he can behave.

[inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Wait until I am not in the Chair.

[inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Madam Clerk, please continue.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

SECOND READING

Appropriation (July 2011 to June 2012) Bill, 2011

Debate on the Throne Speech and Budget Address

[Continuation thereon]

The Speaker: Third Elected Member for Bodden Town continuing his debate, which he began yesterday.

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

Madam Speaker, as I continue my contribution to this Budget and offer my contribution in terms of national and district-wise, as I mentioned earlier in my speech from last night, one of the things that we intend to do later on this year for the district of Bodden Town, and we have been talking about it now for a couple of months in conjunction with the Bodden Town District Council, is a Bodden Town community award.

Madam Speaker, far too many times we do not recognise our own people and lift them up. This award will be for anyone from the district of Bodden Town who achieves a certain status, or makes a certain contribution to the district of Bodden Town or to the Island. We will learn more about that later on this year, but these are some of the initiatives that we are trying to undertake as representatives of Bodden Town.

Madam Speaker, as we go about trying to do the works of this country, we sometimes . . . I can remember, Madam Speaker, as a young man I started working from eight years old as a baggage boy at By-Rite and I have not stopped since. We got opportunities every summer and at Christmas time to participate in summer or school vacation-time employment.

One of the undertakings of this Government for this year is to employ approximately 100 students for summer employment programmes. Madam Speaker, this is something that has been lacking for a number of years now, and initiative has not really been put into this programme. This has helped carve many Caymanians who are in some very important positions today.

I myself also got the opportunity to get a summer job on the dock and at Public Works to assist my family and myself in terms of being able to afford my own school products and to assist my brother and sister in getting their books and uniforms at the time, and everything else. So I know the importance of such a good programme. And, Madam Speaker, we are going to undertake that this year by trying to employ some students.

We all know what happens, Madam Speaker, when children are idle—there’s nothing to do. And this is our contribution to let the children and students of this country realise that we care about them and we

are thinking about them, and even on the tightest of budgets we have still found a way to ensure that they have not been forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I have been approached by some farmers. As you know, Bodden Town has a lot of farmers. And you know sometimes people just see you at the gas station or at the store or a restaurant, or supermarket, and our meetings are all day long and at some places that we had not thought we would be meeting. But sometimes it is right into your car. The people know that we are busy trying to do the work of the country and wherever they see us they try to get a word in and we need to try and listen and adhere to their thoughts.

We have a situation within the farming community that I think needs to be corrected, after speaking to some of the farmers. There is a fundamental problem with the fee structure in terms of . . . let me give you an example, Madam Speaker. If you have a landscape company, you can hire a farmer [and] the fee is far less than an actual farmer who wants to hire a farmer. Madam Speaker, it is some \$250 more for a registered farmer to hire a farmer than [it is for] a landscaping company. Madam Speaker, there is something fundamentally wrong with this fee structure, and I ask my Government to examine this complaint from our farmers and try to remedy this situation.

We have some good farmers out there. There are not a lot. Sometimes we may say they can't supply the whole country with its needs, but we need to appreciate the farmers that we have. I myself like farming. In fact, my grandmother taught me as a young man how to farm, how to plant, and to have appreciation for farming. I can still remember her digging those cassavas out of the ground at Christmas time to bake those cakes. So, farming is very important to Cayman, and our farmers should have no unfair advantage when it comes to making their living.

So, I beg my Government to examine this with the relative departments and authorities and try to remedy this situation that is affecting our farmers.

Madam Speaker, as I try to wrap up my contribution, I would like to also note one of the things we are doing in the district of Bodden Town in working with the new developer who has bought the White House in Bodden Town. He is actively trying to redevelop the place to bring needed tourist activity to the district of Bodden Town. This is one of the things being encouraged by the citizens of Bodden Town.

So, Madam Speaker, again, if we continue on this pace we will have a very lively Bodden Town with lots of opportunities for our people; something that they have asked for and have been asking for, for quite awhile now.

Madam Speaker, one of the other things I would like to discuss is that we are all going to get older and come into that bracket of what is called 'the elderly.' I have been discussing this with the Minister

of Community Affairs, and he agrees that every district should have a centre where elderly people can go and congregate and do their crochet and knitting, and play games and interact with each other and tell stories and catch up with each other.

I would like to ensure something like this is done in the district of Bodden Town, so that when I get older there is a place for me and that I am not bored by all the newness of the world. So, this is also one of our initiatives, to try and achieve a place for this to happen in the district of Bodden Town through support of the Ministry.

Madam Speaker, as you know, everyone from every district has a lot of ambition for what they want for their district and what they desire, and the information they have gathered from their constituents. But, Madam Speaker, we know that there is only so much that we can do. I encourage Members to continuously seek private partnership with persons who are very near and dear to the subjects that we speak about.

Madam Speaker, as I try to get to the end of my very conservative speech, whether it be the roads that we are working on in Bodden Town, or whether it be the CoeWood Beach project, boat ramp, market stalls, parking areas; whether it be the cleaning of the holding ponds in the Cumber Avenue Gully; whether it be the Belford drainage system, that we are currently working on (the works have started); whether it be the cemetery wall that will be completed later this year; whether it be the expansion of the Savannah School and the Bodden Town Primary School that we are currently working on, Madam Speaker, we are trying our best with very little to navigate a better way forward for the people in the district of Bodden Town.

Madam Speaker, one of the things that we heard while we were campaigning was that we needed an inter-secondary sports day. When we spoke to some of the sports coaches they were in agreement that this was lacking and that we were losing some great talent at the high school level because there were no meets. Madam Speaker, thanks to the Minister of Sports, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, we have achieved that and this is now ongoing. I think it is the second annual year. And we have only been in office two years now.

Madam Speaker, I am so thankful to the people of Bodden Town that they chose as one of their representatives to come here and to be that bridge for them, to be that listening ear they feel I am the person that they could communicate with in terms of getting their points across. And I want to still remind the people who elected me that I am that listening ear, I am that bridge, I am that person that would not have probably otherwise gotten elected if they did not believe in me.

I thank God for choosing me as one of his servants throughout this four-year period, for giving me the strength and the courage to continue as, Madam Speaker, some days are very frustrating and only

a good prayer sometimes gives you the energy to continue going.

Madam Speaker, as you know, I am big on family. I have family in every district; direct family. I have family in North Side, two big families. I have family in East End, two big families. I have family in West Bay, George Town and all over Bodden Town, and an adopted one in Cayman Brac. I also have family in Cayman Brac. I just attended my aunt's funeral two months ago.

So, I think that the more we can do to build our communities, to create those social spaces, to bring our families together, the more legislation that we can pass, [helps] to ensure that families have the opportunity to get home to their children and spend time with them. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a family only needs one good parent for a child to succeed. Madam Speaker, we as a Government need to understand our responsibility as representatives to encourage our people, to give hope so that they can go on and continue providing for their children and help to build strong communities and become a part of those community clubs. We have a big responsibility, Madam Speaker.

I know definitely, as I go about my day, whether it is in a supermarket or by the gas station. I understand, I'm starting to understand, it is getting scary, the responsibility that I have. I am talking about the responsibility that I have, the way that I grew, the way that my career has been developed, the way that I have self-need myself, there is hope and everybody can know that there is no reason to not think that they can achieve.

Madam Speaker, I remember waiting for the rain to fall so that the rain could unearth ten cents and twenty-five cents, and I would pick it up and save it. I understand the pains of our people; they come and talk to me, Madam Speaker. I go quietly to their houses. I'm not big on rattling off and letting everybody know what I am doing. I have a different responsibility, Madam Speaker. That's the reason why they elected me. I listen well. I've been a good listener. It took me long to walk, Madam Speaker, and they say those who take long to walk notice more.

Madam Speaker, I am just a humble Caymanian who wants the best for my Caymanians. I can be that bridge in trying to encourage our young men because I believe that there is good in everybody. And anyone out there, or even if you are in this House, that believes that there is no good in our young people, and because they wear their pants low they are no good, or if they comb their hair or don't comb their hair, that they are no good, you are wrong! There's good in everyone. I don't care how bad they are. And I have met some of the baddest and there is good in all of them.

All they need, Madam Speaker, is an opportunity. They say to me, *John-John, all I want to do is work, help feed my family. Some people come and*

say they're going to put me in jail because I haven't paid my maintenance. I want a job. It hurts my heart, Madam Speaker. It breaks my heart! But we prod on and try to create these opportunities, whether it be with the Dart partnership or any other partnership that we can get, whether it is inward investment or otherwise to ensure that our people can take home their own pay and pay their own bills and can get that opportunity to use their pensions to buy a house.

Madam Speaker, I am so honoured to be here to represent my people, the people of the Cayman Islands.

I am slowly recognising, by many people coming to me on a daily basis, how people have such great hope that I do well in here. And yes, there have been some stumbles along the way, Madam Speaker. But Jesus didn't even do any wrong when they killed him, crucified him, Madam Speaker. Never did wrong. Me? I am slow to anger and quick to defend my country. I have made a man out of myself with very little resources, and I intend to continue striving. Even if I fall, I will diversity and try another way.

I can tell you, I know all 15 of these Members in here. [I knew them] even before I came in here. And I respect all of them. And, Madam Speaker, I think that we all want [what's good] for this country. Madam Speaker, it is the route you take to get to that.

Madam Speaker, I will end my contribution by saying to the people of these Cayman Islands and the people of Bodden Town—"don't give up." Things may seem hard now. You have not had a job, you are unable to be that strong pillar in your family, but that day is coming again; trust me! Sometimes the Lord puts stumbles in our way for us to realise that He is God, and it is He who has made us, not we ourselves! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. So, when something happens in your life, just take note, sit back, think about why it is happening and try to take a different route.

Madam Speaker, God bless the people of this Cayman Islands. God bless the people of Bodden Town. I am going to try to do my endeavour best to ensure that Bodden Towners get their desire in a new and renewed district. God bless you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
Minister of Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I rise to offer my contribution to the debate on the 2011/12 Budget and Throne Speech, it is certainly with a deep and tremendous honour having had the opportunity now for the past, just over, two years to represent the district of Bodden Town in this honourable House. And, Madam Speaker, I consider it a

distinct privilege, one which grows, in my opinion, every day to have been elected by the people of Bodden Town to represent Bodden Town and indeed the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, I heard the passion and the emotion with which my colleague, Dwayne Seymour, just spoke, and, Madam Speaker, I assure, he and I share that same passion for the district of Bodden Town, and indeed all of our colleagues for their districts as well. He and I work together, not only as representatives for the district of Bodden Town, but like brothers in advocating for young people, for the elderly, and indeed for anyone in the community who needs that extra help, that assistance in some way.

Madam Speaker, I would not want to miss the opportunity to say on the floor of this honourable House, but I believe that the district of Bodden Town has, in my colleague, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, an excellent representative. He talked about his past; of his hard life growing up, where he came from. He is a self-made business man, and I can't help but say that the district of Bodden Town has an excellent representative in Mr. Dwayne Seymour. Indeed, the team that we make together is a strong team for the district of Bodden Town.

I also have to say at this point too that we do work extremely well with Mr. Anthony Eden, the Second Elected Member. Though not on the same party as us, we work extremely well with him as well for the district of Bodden Town.

Madam Speaker, as I turn now to my contribution . . .

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: [laughter]

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: *[addressing interjector]* He got the time that you didn't get

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, for the past two years we have been working tirelessly, assiduously (and all of my colleagues spoke about it), where we have been trying to bring Government finances back to a sustainable track. It has been talked about repeatedly in various forums, Madam Speaker. Some are probably saying, and some have said—including the Opposition—that we should stop talking about this now, that two years have already passed and now it is the problem of this Government. But, Madam Speaker, I personally do not think it can be repeated enough times, because the state of public finances left behind by the previous Government, the PPM, was deplorable.

Madam Speaker, the PPM Government operated four consecutive deficit budgets. They boasted that they were undertaking an unprecedented programme of capital expenditure, tripled the country's national debt in four years—

Mr. V. Arden McLean: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, Member for East End.

Point of Order

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Health has just said that the previous Administration, which I was a part of, the PPM, operated four consecutive deficit years. That is not true, Madam Speaker, and I would respectfully ask that the Minister correct that statement.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: Minister for Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: If it was not four years consecutive, then I will stand to be corrected if the Member for East End can correct me.

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: What?

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Oh no!

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: [inaudible]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Three years we had surpluses.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: [inaudible]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, we—

The Speaker: We're going back and forth. We are going back and forth across the hall.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Member for West Bay, you can correct the issue when you stand.

The Speaker: Minister for Health, please continue.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, if the Member for East End can correct me, then I stand to be corrected, but it is my information that the PPM

Government operated four consecutive deficit budgets.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Yes.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: That's right.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: And our first two were deficit, as well, but we are coming out of that, this being our third year.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: [inaudible]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Anyway, Madam Speaker, as I said, the Government operated expenditure increased by over \$100 million—

The Speaker: Order please. I want to hear the Minister of Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: —and the Civil Service numbers grew by over 600, Madam Speaker. So, Madam Speaker, as I was saying, this is what we discovered when we took Office in 2009, but we have worked diligently with the Civil Service and we have reversed this unsustainable trend of increasing expenditure, and are slowly moving back towards a surplus budget.

Madam Speaker, we reduced the deficit (we have all heard the number now) from a figure of \$81 million, which we found in 2008/09 to this year, and we are going to produce at the end of June a small surplus of around \$4 million. Madam Speaker, a remarkable achievement, I think, in just three years.

Madam Speaker, for the first time, in the next financial year, 2011/12, there will be no borrowing. And, Madam Speaker, as my colleagues have noted as well, we know that one of the reasons for the huge deficits was the colossal spending on these grandiose projects, the school projects, of course, and the Government Administration Building recently completed.

So, Madam Speaker, we are exercising a fiscal prudence which was definitely not known to the PPM because, as we know, anyone can spend a lot of money to do something, but the challenge is to get your projects completed and implement policies in a fiscally prudent way, a sustainable way. Obviously, the PPM did not know what fiscal prudence meant, Madam Speaker.

My colleague, Mr. Ellio Solomon, speaks about it when he talks about the household that is spending \$5,000 on their expenses every month, but earning only \$4,000. You may do that one month or two months, but by the third month in a row something is going to happen.

So, Madam Speaker, having found ourselves in the unfortunate position left behind by the PPM, we have started the road to recovery and, as the Prem-

ier's Budget Address theme spoke to, we are now navigating ourselves towards prosperity.

Madam Speaker, the road to becoming fully compliant with the principles of Responsible Financial Management in the PMFL (Public Management and Finance Law) is indeed a difficult one, but made much more difficult by the fact that competition in the world economy now is extremely stiff, particularly for those industries that we call the pillars of our economy.

Madam Speaker, no longer is the Cayman Islands the only jurisdiction of choice for the financial industry. We know that. Many other jurisdictions now compete for the same business that we compete for. And, along with the pressure to comply with the various regulatory requirements and other initiatives, growth in the financial industry, as we know, is not anywhere near the rapid pace of growth that it used to be. In tourism we have a similar situation. Many other destinations now compete for the same market share that we used to have.

Madam Speaker, the Premier often says that the Cayman Islands is no longer the only girl on the block. Unfortunately, many of us here still do not understand that. And for an economy that is purely service-based and dependent on foreign direct investment, we certainly have to compete for every bit of new business that we want to attract here, not only for new business, but also for business developers and investors that are already here to continue doing business, to continue developing.

And so, Madam Speaker, we must continue to find ways to grow, to stimulate, to diversify our economy [in] ways which are sustainable, such as, the Medical Tourism project that we are encouraging; ways, such as, the special economic zone. And we need to continue to explore other ways that will create jobs and create opportunities well into the future, continue to bring in government revenue so that government can continue to provide the essential services such as national security and education and health.

Madam Speaker, one of those ways that this Government is encouraging economic growth is the For Cayman Alliance with the Dart Group which we announced this week. In that partnership the Dart Group, which is a long-established Caymanian developer, has proven their commitment to this country over the past 15 years spending almost \$1 billion in development already, have been very active in the community [through] social programmes, parks; they have proven their commitment to a high standard of environmentally friendly sustainable development. We can all see Camana Bay and other developments they have done. They have already invested considerable time and finances here, and through this agreement they have made commitments now to fund infrastructure, some education projects, community projects, parks, as well, and importantly, to provide a much needed comprehensive waste management solution for the country in partnership with the Government.

In return for this investment they will be incentivised by the Government, by the Government providing them with some concessions. This will incentivise into continued developing, Madam Speaker, and will in turn provide a much needed economic stimulus; jobs and opportunities here in Cayman.

Madam Speaker, I want to note here as well and emphasise that the only way that the Dart Group will access these concessions is for them to continue developing. The concessions which are being offered to them are capped in the initial stages at \$45 million. But to access that concession they have to develop to the tune of over \$1 billion, which obviously means some time into the future of developing, as well as significant benefit and job opportunities and business opportunities here in Cayman.

Madam Speaker, this Alliance is good for the Cayman Islands. It is good for the Cayman Islands because it is not only going to be a stimulus itself, but it is also going to instill a degree of confidence in the economy from other developers that are not there now. And we look forward to finalising the agreement and moving ahead with the works that the developer is going to do.

Madam Speaker, one of the big components of that is to remediate the landfill, as we heard, the existing landfill site, and to secure and construct the first phase of an eco-park, the new waste management development. It is going to go to the district of Bodden Town. And I am going to speak to that in a second, Madam Speaker. But just to say that this is something that the country has been trying to do for the past ten years, at least.

The Member for East End was once the Minister for Works, and I have heard him say on numerous occasions that the most disappointing aspect was his ministry not being able to arrive at that solution. And, Madam Speaker, the reason we did not arrive at that solution was because of the cost involved to do that. Madam Speaker, the cost to remediate an existing landfill is tremendous. We have two situations which we are trying to correct. One is to remediate the existing landfill, and the other is to carry on with management of the day-to-day waste which goes into the landfill now, which we know is around 450 tons, I believe.

So, it is an enormous task to accomplish, which was, as I said, to deal with the existing landfill site which is a 30- or 40-year-old site that was not properly managed and so over the years the ideas of waste to energy and other ideas to manage that existing landfill all came out and there were some good solutions, but, Madam Speaker, the one key element of that which had to be addressed was the cost. And this arrangement, the Alliance which has been entered into addresses that.

As we all know, the Dart Group will remediate the landfill to the tune of the sum of over \$30 million, make it into a green area, have spaces for public open

space and parks on it, and provide an alternate site in the district of Bodden Town which will be a properly engineered, properly managed, lined landfill built-in cells, in small cells, one at a time, to minimise any impact. It is going to be a small landfill, smaller than the existing site now but on a 140 acre site, well buffered so that any residents in the area who are actually not very close to the site in any case, will not be affected.

Landfills, like this one being planned and designed now, exist in many, many countries, including the United States, very near to residential areas and they do not have any negative effect in those areas at all. The site will be properly managed. The waste going in there on a daily basis can be sorted, can be prepared for recycling so that the actual material that is put into the landfill or is landfilled will be minimal. There will be opportunities, Madam Speaker, as the site grows, as the time goes on and the amount of waste will increase, to make the site also have a waste to energy facility on it as well.

So, Madam Speaker, the decision for the site to go in Bodden Town was not an arbitrary one. There was a review of several sites throughout the Island and this was deemed to be the most suitable site for the landfill for the new eco-park, at this time, for several various reasons. And, Madam Speaker, you know if I am asked if I am bringing a landfill to Bodden Town, my answer would be that first, and foremost, we are securing a comprehensive waste management solution for the Cayman Islands.

Yes, the site is going to be in Bodden Town but it is going to be managed in such a way that it will not have a negative effect and, most importantly, the cost associated with it will be minimal to the country, and that is the bottom line. That is the basis on which one of the main reasons on which we made our decision to carry out the project this way.

So, Madam Speaker, I wanted to speak to that a little bit, but I will move on now.

Madam Speaker, the Government has made some strides in the past two years. And this is not just by stroke of luck by any means. It is because our Government—and we have all spoken about it, my colleagues spoke already about the close united team that we are. We are very positioned, Madam Speaker. The nine elected Members from the UDP share a very common goal, that is, we want to see a better way forward. And that was our theme that we ran on.

We have worked together for the past two years to chart the course and get the country moving in that direction. And there have been significant achievements, Madam Speaker. The achievements may not be the hot topics that come out on the blogs, and the Opposition might not acknowledge it. In fact, Madam Speaker, we ourselves do not do a good job in publicising our accomplishments. But, Madam Speaker, I suppose that I would say that our first priority is to get the things done and not to pat ourselves

on the back. And that is what we have been doing, Madam Speaker, working hard to move the country forward.

Madam Speaker, like I said, we have been working hard to try to get jobs created, try to put money into the pocket of those persons in the community who are not doing as well as they should be at this time because of the slow economy, and that what we focus our efforts on, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker, even with the budgetary cuts, especially in the expenditure, we have ensured that Government is also able to continue to deliver high quality services as well as improve on the services in key areas, such as education and security, and still work to reduce expenditure.

Madam Speaker, my colleague spoke at length on district project initiatives that we are working on in the districts. And I will touch on it a bit later on in my contribution, but I will focus a bit now and turn to my Ministry, the Ministry for which I am given constitutional responsibility, and hold that in the highest regard as well, Madam Speaker—the Ministry of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture. And I will speak of some of the accomplishments in the past year and plans for the coming year, Madam Speaker, all plans which complement and fit into the UDP plans for a better way forward for our country.

Madam Speaker, against a backdrop of difficult circumstances and the need to achieve more with less, my Ministry has been working very hard to deliver, with the resources which were allocated. As my colleagues on this side of the House can attest to, we have been very constant in our pursuit of savings and efficiencies. It has not been easy but [DIGITAL SKIP] I will say that the Ministry's departments and agencies have been very diligent in monitoring their expenditure and will continue to find ways to ensure the usual outstanding level of service, even with the financial constraints.

It has been a very trying year, we all know. And I would not want to forget to take the opportunity now, Madam Speaker, to thank all of my heads of departments in the Ministry, indeed, my Chief Officer, ministry staff, agency staff, for all of their continued efforts in this regard, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, turning specifically to areas of the Ministry, I want to talk now about some of the achievements in the area of health. In the health regulation and policy, we have made some progress on several fronts. Of course, we know in October last year the House approved the amendments to the Health Insurance Law. The amendments are the first step in bringing our Health Insurance framework in line with current needs, and they help to address several areas of concern that were identified since the last update to the Law, which was in 2005. Some sections of the Law are not yet enacted as we are still working to finalise the amendments to the Health Insurance Regulations.

Madam Speaker, we have been consulting with the Health Insurance Standing Committee, as well as other stakeholders, on the proposed enhancements to the Standard Health Insurance Contract. Madam Speaker, we recognised that we need, especially at this time, to reach a balance between the enhanced benefits under the plan and the increased premium rates, which can be absorbed at present by employers and employees. We know that in the difficult economic times, while the primary goal—and much needed goal—is to enhance that plan of benefits under the standard plan, given the difficult economic times at present, we also have to be cognisant, if there is going to be increase in the premium rates—and there will be an increase in the premium rates from the enhanced plan. So, it is about balancing that, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, Members of the House will also recall that in the past year we tabled the amendments to the Health Practice Law, and those were passed. And they create provisions for the oversight and regulation of the Medical Tourism Industry we are encouraging to emerge at present, primarily with the Dr. Shetty Hospital. But even with the passage of that legislation, Madam Speaker, there has been an increased interest for the small scale medical tourism which we also hope will happen. In just the past few weeks alone we have been meeting with several entities that want to establish small scale medical tourism in the Cayman Islands, and we are also supporting and encouraging that, Madam Speaker.

So, Madam Speaker, the legislation created a new category to allow for registration and practitioners through the relevant councils, practitioners which may be from jurisdictions from outside—there are seven that we currently recognise.

And most recently, Madam Speaker, in March, we brought to the House, and got passed, the Medical Negligence Law which implemented caps on the non-economic damages in medical negligence cases.

So, for the past year, Madam Speaker, much work has been done in preparation for other important legislative measures in the area of health. Some of these include work, such as, the Mental Health Task Force, which I appointed after recognising the need to draft a National Mental Health Policy and to review the current Mental Health legislation. Madam Speaker, concerns have gone back for many, many years in the Cayman Islands about the lack of adequate mental health care to treat those with mental illness. Madam Speaker, I am really grateful to all the members of the Task Force for their efforts and the commitment to this task.

The Committee has reported to Cabinet on the recommendations for amendments to the legislation, which is from 1979, and they are currently working on recommendations for the regulations. Madam Speaker, I cannot stress enough the importance of the

work of this committee. On average it is estimated that one in five people in the population will need mental health care during their lifetime. And so, Madam Speaker, updating this legislation to be able to treat those people fairly and adequately is important.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Three on that side.

Madam Speaker, we are also working on the policy and legislative framework to facilitate organ and tissue donation and transplants in the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, we can remember the motion tabled by the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, a very capable colleague.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: His committee was appointed, and they have considered many policy issues, done a tremendous amount of work, Madam Speaker. They have prepared a report which has been finalised, and anticipate that in the very near future it will be taken to Cabinet, following which we will have drafting instructions to create that piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, while we already made some amendments to the Health Practice Law, there are still many, many other areas of legislation which requires review and updates. And we currently have a comprehensive review of the Health Practice Law being undertaken right now by a committee comprised primarily of the chairs of all of the Medical . . . Dental and other councils.

Madam Speaker I expect to receive the report in the near future. Again, following that, it will be taken to Cabinet for approval for drafting instructions for those amendments.

Also, Madam Speaker, we are reviewing the Pharmacy Law. The Pharmacy Law has been enforced from 1979. And, while at one point there was an updated draft approved in 1991, it was never commenced. So we are continuing this review again, because, obviously, we considered changes would need to be made even from the 1991 version or draft. So, we will produce an update law, and again, table those for changes, Madam Speaker.

Again, Madam Speaker, still on regulatory matters, under the Department of Health and Regulatory Services (DHRS), we implemented in the past year the Healthcare Facilities Standards and had a full first year of inspection of healthcare facilities. And, Madam Speaker, that was a proud moment for myself and the Ministry to put that in place. Because, obviously, while we have a high standard of care and high standard of facilities, it is always good to put in place the actual mechanism by which we can inspect those facilities and ensure that that has taken place.

And so, over the first year, there were more than 80 healthcare facility inspections to review the compliance with the standards. And I can gladly report that all of the inspections have generally found that our facilities, as I said, are compliant, which, as I said just now, reinforces my belief that Cayman Islands are served by healthcare facilities and practitioners of a high standard.

And, again, the Medical Practitioners are continually reviewed, as every year they have to meet the required registration with the relevant council. And over the past year . . . those medical councils do a tremendous amount of work, because in the past year alone they reviewed and approved over 870 applications to registered practitioners in the area of medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, and other professions allied with medicine. So, we have a large number of practitioners here in the Islands and the councils do a tremendous in ensuring that their registration, they maintain the highest standards, be they continuing medical education modules every year, and stay registered.

DHRS also supports the Health Insurance Commission. This year the Commission received an average of 96 complaints per month; mainly complaints about employers not providing health insurance for their employees. These complaints are reviewed and actioned by the Health Insurance Inspectors in the Department of Health Regulatory Services. Most of them are easily solved by just a call to the person who the complaint is being made about. Some of them result in full investigations, and with some those investigations then lead to cases being submitted all the way to the court for resolution.

Madam Speaker, DHRS also administers a segregated insurance fund. They commissioned an important review of the Standard Health Insurance fees which insurance providers will reimburse healthcare providers. That review is ongoing now. And, Madam Speaker, the DHRS also continues to provide administrative support to the Health Insurance Commission and the Health Practice Councils.

Madam Speaker, I turn now to the area of healthcare itself with the Health Services Authority. As we all know, the Health Services Authority is a major healthcare provider for the country, and they have been working this year on the implementation of their strategic plan, which they completed last year. They are bringing improvements to the healthcare delivery, increased efficiencies and cost-effectiveness.

Madam Speaker, some of their highlights for the last year: We sort of launched our digital radiology system at the Cayman Brac Faith Hospital. Madam Speaker, with this system images taken at the Faith Hospital can be seen and read instantly by the radiologist in Grand Cayman, resulting in enhanced patient safety, and much faster radiology reporting. Madam Speaker, in the past it would take two days for an x-ray to be transferred to Grand Cayman, depending on

flight time or the package getting on the plane and so on. And can you imagine, Madam Speaker, with an illness or a condition requiring a doctor to read an x-ray, and it took two days to get to see that x-ray? So, with this, obviously we have enhanced medical care available on the Sister Islands.

Madam Speaker, I have to say that my colleague, the Deputy Premier, is a continuous advocate for those improvements. So she was very pleased when we were able to bring this enhancement to the Brac as well. And, Madam Speaker, of course, this also brings about some cost savings, because obviously, whenever we talk about healthcare and improvements it is not always that the first and foremost objective is cost savings. The first and foremost is to enhance and improve healthcare available, but there is a consideration for cost savings, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, here in Cayman the HSA opened a new pharmacy in the George Town General Practice Clinic in October 2010. This has resulted in reducing wait time for prescriptions significantly, as well as to create a convenient one-stop service for patients' needs. The pharmacy at the HSA has implemented a new management process and reporting system to track the utilisation of high cost medications so that patients can be updated regularly regarding their cost, and, therefore, be able to assess how much of their insurance benefits remain.

Madam Speaker, the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification System has been upgraded in the Dialysis Unit. And again, this is an important step in improving quality patient care and efficiencies at the hospital. The new treatment plant is designed to specifically treat and remove impurities in the water that would otherwise pose risks to patients requiring haemodialysis, in particular, renal failure patients, Madam Speaker. In addition to that, the system also uses less water and results in less wastage and a reduction in cost.

Madam Speaker, the HSA has been able to expand their access to specialist services and, based on a demand, the HSA has added a neurologist with staff that has greatly improved the treatment available to our local population. Madam Speaker, the neurologist has only been on staff since the beginning of May, and already they are carrying out some life-saving procedures at least on two occasions, as I understand, but, more importantly, making the service available on a more regular basis to our population. And this reduces the need for overseas referral, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, one of the challenges faced by the HSA has been to strike a balance between their mandate to provide care to all who need it and all who go to the HSA, and to get that balance with the necessary collection of revenue for the care they provide. That revenue is what ensures their financial viability.

Madam Speaker, with the advent of mandatory health insurance and the creation of the Health

Services Authority, the main challenge, as we all know, since that time, has been to maintain its financial viability. That is directly affected, Madam Speaker, by the current policies where we mandate that no one in need of medical attention is turned away from the HSA. Now, Madam Speaker, there is no consideration of revising that policy in any way because, being the only public hospital in the country, we could never ever have any consideration to do that. But, Madam Speaker, what we struggle with is how to ensure that there are less people who show up there who do not pay for the services they receive.

The HSA struggles with this on a continual basis, as we still have a number of patients who present at the HSA for care who are either uninsured, even with the advent of mandatory health insurance, or patients who are underinsured. And those are of a larger number. And then those who are what they call "self-pay," who show up at the hospital, commit to pay for the services after they receive them, but they default on those payments.

Madam Speaker, we have been working to improve that. The HSA adopted a payment policy approved by the Cabinet to help to deal with this. And they must be congratulated for their efforts in trying to reduce the unpaid debt. And they have reduced it significantly. But, Madam Speaker, as an example, just in this current financial year, the HSA is going to book over \$5 million of bad debt for the services which they have provided and not been paid for. This not only impacts the bottom line, Madam Speaker, for the HSA, but it also affects all of us. If these funds could be collected they could be used elsewhere to help to improve healthcare, for preventative healthcare measures, or even for much needed capital improvements.

We hear people complain about some of the equipment at the hospital, we hear people complain about the beds, people talking about the pillows and so on. And, Madam Speaker, one of the problems is not having those funds to make those capital improvements. I will talk more about those improvements that are planned for the current year, and I will also talk about healthcare cost and expenditure and how we plan to address some of this later on, Madam Speaker.

So, Madam Speaker, in these difficult times it has become important for us to pursue strategic partnerships with other stakeholders in order to deliver and find ways to improve government services, and especially we have been working with that in the area of health as well.

Madam Speaker, the HSA—and I work to assist them on that as well—made an application to the International Hedge Funds Care Group for financial assistance to assist in the fight against child sexual abuse. They were awarded a grant which was used to secure the services of a child psychologist. And I say here again, Madam Speaker, that this child psycholo-

gist not only works out of the HSA but works closely with the Ministry of Community Affairs and the Ministry of Education in identifying, assessing, reviewing children who are, unfortunately, victims of sexual abuse. And this is a very important tool for us in the fight against that, Madam Speaker. And so, like I said, the HSA was awarded a grant and they continue to provide that service.

Madam Speaker, we also recognise the need to expand local access to cardiology care. That has been contemplated for many years, but, despite the number of persons suffering from heart disease and succumbing to heart attacks and other heart problems, in order to justify a new service it always comes down to the demand for that service. And in order to address that need, Madam Speaker, as Members might be aware, the HSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Narayana Cayman University Medical Centre late last year, which will provide a cardiac catheterisation lab at HSA. When that is implemented, Madam Speaker, it will reduce the need for many of the overseas referrals and it will significantly improve patient care, and, again, result in cost savings. But mostly, again as I said, improve patient care.

Another very important partnership at the HSA is the one with the Cayman Islands Cancer Society. Madam Speaker, it has been a very long longstanding partnership which has resulted in a lot of benefits for the residents in the Cayman Islands. But the most recent has been the creation of a national cancer registry. Madam Speaker, we have a young Caymanian lady, Miss Milena Connolly, who is the registrar for the Cancer Registry. It has been established now for some time.

It is basically the national database for the collection of data on the incidence of cancer in the Cayman Islands. And certainly it will go a long way, Madam Speaker, to inform and guide clinicians and us as policymakers in the direction for the provision of treatment for cancer patients, and, again, to be able to target our resources in appropriate ways to prevent cancer as well as prevention education, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in order for this registry to bring all the benefits that it is intended, it is important that we collect as much data as possible. I would like to note that the registry is not only dealing with cancer patients or information on patients that come through HSA, but it is a national register, Madam Speaker, basically to establish the local incidence of cancer here in the Cayman Islands. And, you know I would like to encourage everyone, Madam Speaker, to help us make this registry complete with data. If anyone has family members or friends who may, unfortunately, have or have had cancer, ask your healthcare providers who are either here or overseas, to submit their data to the registry so we can come up with a complete cancer register for the Cayman Islands. As I

said, we can use that information to benefit treatment or to come up with better treatment measures and to educate the public better in the future, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as you all would be aware as well, provision of health care requires continual maintenance and upgrades of physical plant in capital equipment. In November last year, the Caring for Life Foundation was officially launched to help meet these needs.

The Speaker: Minister for Health, would this be a good time, before you begin a new topic, to take the lunch break?

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Yes, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: We will suspend proceedings for one hour. We have a lot of work to get through today. Please be back in the chamber by two o'clock, anyone who wants to continue debate or to debate.

Proceedings suspended at 12.58 pm

Proceedings resumed at 2.09 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed.

Please be seated.

Minister for Health continuing his debate on the Throne Speech and Budget Address.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

When we broke for lunch I believe the Clerk said I had about an hour and fifteen minutes left. I just wanted to confirm that.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: *[addressing inaudible interjection]* Remaining? I don't plan to use all of it.

I was talking about the achievements in the 2010/11 year, this current year, at the HSA, and speaking about the Caring for Life Foundation which was launched to meet some of those needs.

Madam Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of the members of the Caring for Life Foundation Board, in particular, Mr. Bruce John, who spearheaded that whole exercise in creating the foundation. Although Mr. John is no longer here, we do appreciate his efforts in that regard.

I also want to publicly thank all the corporate donors and individual donors. I can recall the Foster Family, the family of the late David Foster being one of those families, for instance, one of the first donors for the Caring for Life Foundation. Madam Speaker, this Foundation is established to accept donations on behalf of the HSA for equipment and otherwise that will assist at the HSA. Already one important piece of

equipment has been acquired through this Foundation for neurosurgery.

So, Madam Speaker, other collaborations such as CINICO and HSA . . . Madam Speaker, it is a very exciting partnership which will result in the provision of electronic claims verification and an adjudication system. The project will develop a billing system and claims adjudication process and, when it is fully implemented, will establish the Cayman Islands as a role model in healthcare. Patients will be able to understand and pay their healthcare bill at the time of care, just like the normal billing process at a restaurant. Patient's bills will be adjudicated in time of their care and they will not have to wait for days or weeks as is normally the case. They will leave the hospital or wherever they went for treatment with the billing process completely resolved.

Madam Speaker, just a bit of background on that: The HSA processes over 400,000 healthcare claims per year (that's just the HSA). Two hundred and forty thousand of those are through CINICO. So, CINICO and HSA are partnering on this arrangement. Bills are not normally resolved at the time that the individual receives care, so it becomes a very inefficient process to manage and resolve the bills, and contributes significantly to overhead costs—as much as 25 per cent of overhead costs in healthcare associated with the inefficiencies of billing.

It takes an average of over 60 days for HSA to receive a payment sometimes for services they render, making the cash flow a major challenge. Sometimes physicians and patients are confused by the process as well. With this new system, patients will carry a healthcare eligibility and payment card, basically like a debit card, that will be used as their identification, and used for payment at the point of care.

Madam Speaker, as you can imagine, this will revolutionise the way that healthcare is delivered in terms of how it is paid for. As it stands now, individuals go through their entire life sometimes not recognising . . . while now each and every one of us may have a health insurance card, or should have a health insurance card, we are not aware from that card what our benefits are or how we use them through the course of any particular year. So, we may have a card that says we are on Plan A or Plan B but we do not readily recall that we have been to see the doctor once or twice and we have already used X dollars of this part of the benefit or Y dollars of the dental benefit or the vision benefit, or even the hospitalisation part of it. And so we may end up doing a doctor visit at some point and not know if we have some benefit remaining on our Plan.

This system helps tremendously in terms of individuals taking more responsibility for their healthcare. But it more importantly helps to make more efficient the whole process of dealing with claims, verifying the eligibility of persons who are insured and then processing those claims and the service providers

getting paid more regularly. The whole verification and adjudication is instantaneous.

Madam Speaker, phase 1 of that will start in August. CINICO patients will get their new cards which will verify their identity and eligibility under the CINICO Plan. So, as I said, the first phase is being rolled out between CINICO and HSA. Subsequent phases of that will be rolled out to the private health insurers and the private health care practitioners and providers, and that will happen early or in the coming year as well, Madam Speaker.

That is being funded in the capital budget to bring that system into play. And, Madam Speaker, just to say that this whole thing is intended to be . . . the real justification behind it eventually is to provide tremendous savings in terms of the bad debt I spoke to earlier, particularly the HSA. A lot of the bad debt at the HSA is because of persons who are underinsured, persons who present there, the HSA may take a card for treatment and not get any payment because the person is not covered any longer, or their benefits have expired.

So, the electronic verification and adjudication system is intended to be a system which makes the whole claims process much smoother, but primarily a cost savings as time goes on. In the next ten years or more it could be expected to save the country multi-million dollars, Madam Speaker.

So, patient satisfaction can increase, physician frustration will go down, the healthcare system will be internationally recognised for being a leader in the adoption of this new technology. Recently, I was reading an article, Madam Speaker, where a similar system has been implemented in the Bahamas. In fact, this system is being implemented in several other Caribbean countries at present. And the National Insurance Board in the Bahamas, which I think is equivalent to our CINICO, recently received international recognition for their implementation of this system, and for automating the whole claims process.

So, the implementation of this system will bring tremendous efficiency gains and cost-savings, as well as provide a tool to educate patients about the real cost of their healthcare, as I was saying earlier.

Over the past year CINICO and the HSA have been working hard to ensure that the system will come on line and that there will be a smooth transition in the coming when it is implemented.

Other achievements for CINICO during the last year, this past year: Madam Speaker, we have filled the post of CEO after two years of that post being vacant, and this has already led to improvement of staff morale, increased operation efficiency and enhanced relations with our industry partners. And, Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that we filled the post with a Caymanian, Mr. Lonnie Tibbetts. We congratulate him on his appointment.

Madam Speaker, CINICO did a benchmarking exercise on their administrative expenses as a per-

centage of premiums and found that CINICO as a company operates well below the industry standard. The administrative expenses in the industry usually come in around 15 per cent of premiums. For CINICO, that figure, is 8 per cent, which is well below industry standard, almost half of it. And even with that, Madam Speaker, CINICO does continue to provide health insurance cover for some of the most vulnerable of our population.

In fact, a number of persons are covered by CINICO. CINICO has the largest group in the country at around 8,000 individuals which includes civil servants, the low-income, the elderly, the health impaired, pensioners, seafarers and veterans.

Madam Speaker, turning to the National Drug Council (NDC), they had a very active year in 2010/11, continuing their work on substance abuse prevention. Despite the financial constraints NDC was still able to launch and continue a number of their initiatives. Included were the development of early elementary drug awareness prevention workbook; a parent as preventers training module; a learning mentors educational presentation; a teachers as preventers workshop and a workplace training workshop.

Madam Speaker, NDC also released a number of reports, as we all know, on the Student Drug Use Survey, which was conducted in 2010. Madam Speaker, we know this drug use survey is an important tool used by NDC to plan their programmes and interventions. The survey had a participation rate of 88 per cent of students enrolled in middle and high schools. Students who participated were anonymous and it was also voluntary. So, even with a voluntary survey there was a high participation rate of 88 per cent.

The survey report shows that 54 per cent of survey participants had not used any substance in the year prior to the survey. Alcohol use was reported by 39 per cent of students; tobacco by 14 per cent; ganja use by 12 per cent of students, and, Madam Speaker, the use of something called donkey weed [was used] by 3 per cent of students. Almost two-thirds of all students had used alcohol at some point in their lifetime, Madam Speaker. And some of these statistics are alarming, and (not to make a pun, but) sobering, Madam Speaker.

More than 6 out of every 10 students said alcohol was easy or very easy to obtain. Nineteen per cent of these students using alcohol said they usually get it from friends. Eight per cent said they alcohol from their parents or relatives, Madam Speaker. These are school students. Rates of drinking increased by grade with 10 per cent of year 7 students reporting alcohol use and up to 65 per cent of year 12 students. These are students who are not 18 years old yet, Madam Speaker, reporting alcohol use.

Encouraging though, was that the earlier onset of drinking has decreased a bit. About 37 per cent of students who drink reported that they had their first

drink between the age of 6 and 11 years old, Madam Speaker—6 and 11 years old.

Alcohol was also seen as readily available by over 60 per cent of students. Availability increases with age, with 27 per cent of seventh graders having easy access to alcohol as compared to 85 per cent of twelfth graders having easy access.

Madam Speaker, these reports and statistics show the need to continue substance abuse prevention education in the student population and how urgent that is. And I am very pleased, Madam Speaker, to report the collaboration between the NDC and the Ministry of Education in developing drug education tool kits for implementation to the National Curriculum. The Minister of Education and myself have met on this several times, we have discussed it over the past few years, and I have been adamant, and I am very encouraged that he is supporting it as well, to implement drug education into our National Curriculum—not as occasional drug workshops, such as what we have now, which are useful; but if you only get the D.A.R.E. Program when you are in primary school once and maybe once in high school, that is not going to be effective for your school career when you can see the alarming statistics that I just reported, Madam Speaker.

So, I would like to commend the Minister of Education and his Chief Officer for supporting this. We have to work to improve the statistics. When I say “improve,” I mean to make them lower and reduce drug abuse by our children. And so the data that was gathered is to be used to develop these tool kits, and we are initially going to be targeting students in grade seven to twelve. And, as I said, we are hoping that it is as early as in this coming school year we will see that programme being implemented in our schools as part of the curriculum, and, again, I thank the Ministry of Education for that.

Madam Speaker, moving on to the environment, all may recall the hotly discussed National Conservation Law. We took it out for a series of public consultation, as it had not been done previously. Madam Speaker, we did receive considerable feedback on both sides of the spectrum, and that feedback is being reviewed now between my caucus and me. It is taking considerable time, Madam Speaker, simply because of the tremendous amount of work that we have in other areas as well. But we are committed that we are going to review it and come back with legislation which is appropriate in terms of our terrestrial environment and protection.

Madam Speaker, in 2010/11 the DoE (Department of Environment) launched the Darling Initiative to conduct assessment of the marine park system. The partners in this project were the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University, as well as the Nature Conservancy. This project will last for three years and coincides with the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the marine parks which we celebrat-

ed just recently, Madam Speaker. Again, I commend the crafters of that legislation 25 years ago for what is produced now, and also all the work with DoE, Gina Ebanks and her team, over the years with that, as far as the legislation.

Madam Speaker, as many Members of this honourable House will be aware, the Nassau Grouper population has been under significant threat, and the fishing from the spawning aggregations has been prohibited for the past eight years. Madam Speaker, over the past year DoE has been taking efforts to assess the spawning stocks of the Nassau Grouper and also to accurately delineate the spawning areas.

They have held public meetings in all districts in an effort to update the community on the current results and the status of the populations of spawning groupers. And, Madam Speaker, I know that in the coming months this is going to be a controversial issue, but I honestly believe that we would have to do what is necessary to protect the grouper spawning aggregates if we want to preserve the Nassau Grouper for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to watch a small video produced by Guy Harvey and a group on the spawning aggregation in Little Cayman and saw the numbers of groupers on that aggregation. And if Members or the public have the opportunity to look at that video they should. It does explain in quite a bit of detail the situation that exists at present.

Madam Speaker, in sharp contrast to the grouper population we have one species that is very prolific, and that is the invasive Lionfish. It has been increasingly prolific in our waters in all three Islands now. The Department of Environment has received a grant from the Joint Nature Conservation Council to continue work with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation to develop more effective methods to control this population, and they will continue to work with the dive community to cull the numbers of Lionfish on the reefs.

Madam Speaker, I note that the Second Elected Member [*sic*] for the Sister Islands spoke about the problem in his contribution, and in fact tabled a letter which he has submitted to me as well. I can—

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Sorry. The First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: I was going to say that the Deputy Premier, the Second Elected Member has been speaking to us on this problem for many, many months and has been encouraging us to work with DoE to address it as well.

In addition, our caucus had a detailed presentation from DoE here in Cayman which gave us a very explicit explanation of the problem. It gives us a great reason for concern. We can see in other jurisdictions where this invasive species has wiped out much of the reef life in some other islands. And knowing that it has no natural predator here in the Atlantic, in the Caribbean, or on this side of the world for now, it gives us great reason for concern and we will continue to work with DoE and the dive operations to identify ways we can cull this very invasive species.

Madam Speaker, part two of the shark citation project was initiated in the past year and is progressing well. Over 50 sharks have been tagged, including three Tiger Sharks which have been satellite tagged, and are now tracked by satellite.

Madam Speaker, another significant achievement by DoE has been the climate change policy. Under the auspices of DFID (Department for International Development) a final issues paper was completed and that has formed following the basis of a draft climate change policy, and this policy is currently out for review.

Madam Speaker, I move on now to the area of Youth under my Ministry. The review of the National Youth Policy has been one of the major initiatives in the past few years. Led by the Youth Commission, this policy has been reviewed, and proposed amendments have been made to bring it in line with the current situation that exists in the Cayman Islands. The revised policy has been submitted to me. The Ministry and is currently reviewing that now, Madam Speaker. Following that it will go to my caucus in Cabinet and subsequently on to this House.

Madam Speaker, the Youth Services Unit has been very busy this year with their programmes and initiatives for Cayman's use. I have already mentioned the importance of partnerships, but the Youth Services also engages in significant partnerships, such as one with the University College, Sunrise Rotary Club, in which they are delivering a Module 3 of the Principles and Practice of Youth Development Work, which is a module of the Commonwealth Youth Programmes Diploma Course. Sixteen youth workers and volunteers have successfully completed each course, and that enhances the numbers of persons who have the capacity to work with our local youth, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in the past year, at the Third [Annual] Youth Forum in the Cayman Islands, Minister Anglin, myself, and Minister Adam, as well, was there. We had a very interesting lively dialogue with almost 300 young people and youth workers. I recall the Leader of the Opposition was there as well.

I would like to congratulate the Youth Services Unit and the National Youth Assembly on the success of that event. I believed it was enjoyed by all who were in attendance and we look forward, Madam Speaker, to having similar meetings throughout the

districts in this coming year, including the Sister Islands. I always look forward to any opportunity I have to network with young people, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Cadet Corps continues to provide their programmes. They follow the Star-4 Cadet programme. It provides a wide variety of training, as we know. They also assist in various official functions, like the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Agricultural Show. The Cadets provide the BTEC (Bachelor of Technology) vocational and technical training programme in public services. And this programme is very useful, Madam Speaker. It is a very useful programme which results in successful cadets who pass that programme earning the equivalent of four O Levels.

They also offer a very good BTEC programme in music. Many cadets who go through these programmes have experienced greater success in obtaining employment and their employers report that they are disciplined, task-oriented and function well in the workplace. Madam Speaker, this shows the discipline in the Cadet Corps, and we wish we could expand those programmes, Madam Speaker. Combined with the excellent BTECH programme, it does have a tremendous positive impact on our youth.

Madam Speaker, I turn now to Sports and speak about achievements in the area of sports. Madam Speaker, I believe it is no secret in this House or anywhere that I am a believer in the power of sports and the catalyst that that can be for young people and all athletes. Sports can build community spirit, open doors to higher education, help us to live long, healthy lives and provide a sense of achievement and pride when we master that sport.

Madam Speaker, I am a strong advocate that every resident, regardless of their age, should involve themselves in sports, and through our Ministry we continue to provide community level programmes, as well as programmes for talent identification of our elite athletes.

Madam Speaker, one of the benefits of sports that we have explored more in recent years, is in Sports Tourism. While we know that Sports Tourism primarily falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, the Premier, there is obviously overlap with my Ministry being responsible for sports. Over the past few years we have seen Cayman host some very successful Sports Tourism events that brought many athletes and visitors to the Islands. And we continue to encourage the development of these events, as Sports Tourism is a growing area of tourism.

We know we had events like the Norceca Volleyball, the Squash Open, the Power Lifting Competition recently, the Flowers One-mile Sea Swim, which is actually tomorrow. The annual one is tomorrow. These events have given, not only the opportunity for visitors to come and compete, but our local residents have the opportunity to compete against each other as well as the visiting athletes.

Madam Speaker, I note here the courageous record-breaking open-water swim by Mrs. Penny Palfrey had. She was honoured by the Premier earlier this week. This has put not only Mrs. Palfrey, but the Cayman Islands, in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. And that is just another example of how sporting events can raise the profile of the Cayman Islands and translate into increasing revenue for tourism, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, our own elite athletes in the past year achieved tremendous success. Again, we can recall with great pride our own Gold Medalist in the Commonwealth Games, Cydonnie Mothersill, again—

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: —in the past year, our Gold Medalist from the Commonwealth Game, Cydonnie Mothersill, and how proud we were of her and continue to be.

We had some other achievements in sports as well this year. In CARIFTA, we had seven swimming medals and one in track and field. Our elite athletes have also continued to achieve academically.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say Brett Fraser, who is going to be our newest elite athlete come July this year (who is the brother, as we all know, of Shaune Fraser), was recently named an Academic All-American for his achievements in the classroom, as well as the pool. And this is a proud achievement, Madam Speaker, because we want our young athletes here in Cayman to look up to those elite athletes that we have who represent us overseas. And when we have athletes that particularly excel, not only on the field of play, but academically, it makes them even greater role models for the younger ones here.

Madam Speaker, we can't forget just this past weekend also when we witnessed that fearless champion Boxer, Mr. Charles Whittaker, as he made us proud again when he won the WBC Continental Junior Middleweight and the USBA Junior Middleweight Championship, and we congratulate Charles for that as well.

But, Madam Speaker, not everybody is going to be an elite athlete. And that is why the Ministry still supports community level programmes. The primary focus of those is to encourage broad-based participation and increased participation in sports throughout the Island. In partnership with the national associations we have seen increasing participation in community sport programmes. The Department of Sports reports that over the past year they assisted with 39 community programmes in six focus sports, as well as provided 15 summer camps in focus sports where over 1,100 children participated, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, these are important summer camps to keep children active during the summer va-

cation, and the Ministry and Department of Sports will continue to support and organise them. It is much needed, particularly in these economic times.

Madam Speaker, I touch briefly on some of the highlights in the area of culture. Madam Speaker, as you know the areas of culture that fall under the Ministry are the National Gallery, the Museum, and the Cultural Foundation (CNCF). The National Gallery proudly broke ground on the construction of their long-awaited home, which is going to be just off the Harquail Bypass. It is planned to be completed later this year and opened in February next year, and will provide a full state-of-the-art education centre with a studio, library and lecture theatre. Madam Speaker, it will go a long way in increasing our art appreciation here, providing a permanent home for the National Art Gallery. It has been long awaited, Madam Speaker.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate, at this time, the Director of the National Art Gallery, Ms. Natalie Urquhart, on achieving their goal of fundraising, but more importantly to congratulate Ms. Urquhart on being the recipient of the Young Caymanian Leadership Award for this coming year.

Just to mention also, Madam Speaker, that Ms. Urquhart succeeds another member of the Ministry of Sports staff, Mr. Colin Anglin, who was the recipient in the previous year. So, we are very proud to have the recipients of the YCL Awards right in my Ministry. Madam Speaker, I am proud of these young Caymanians and the work that they are doing in their areas of expertise.

Madam Speaker, the Museum just enjoyed its first year in its newly renovated and refurbished facility. It spent several years with the refurbishment and now they have moved back in. And I encourage Members, if they have not visited the Museum, to do so. They have interactive exhibits and programmes which promote awareness. They are thought provoking and engage and entertain audiences while providing education about our history and heritage. It is very well worth a visit for anyone who has not been there yet, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the National Cultural Foundation had another successful year with their annual events, such as Cayfest, Rundown, Gimme Story. Each of these events was very well attended, everyone enjoyed them and CNCF continues to be in the forefront of promoting and preserving our culture, Madam Speaker.

One of the big projects that they are working on continues to be the restoration of Miss Lassie's House, the 'Mind's Eye' Cultural Heritage site, as well as the commission of a replica of Aunt Julia Hydes' drum for use by the Cayman Islands Folk Singers. Madam Speaker, that group has also been very well received. I am proud to see that that group, which was formed about a year ago as well. And I had the pleasure of seeing them perform, Madam Speaker, and I must say I thoroughly enjoyed their performances.

Madam Speaker, from the contribution so far, I am sure everyone will agree that my Ministry has been very busy in the past year. Although we cover a very broad range of subject areas, I do believe there are natural synergies between them—health, environment, youth and sports and culture—very natural synergies between them, Madam Speaker. But most of all I want to say, Madam Speaker, I am very fortunate to have a tremendous wonderful team of professionals in the Ministry, the departments and agencies, the heads of departments, as well as everyone who works in the agencies, Madam Speaker. It is a very cohesive hardworking team committed to working together to help our Ministry achieve the goals. I am proud to be a part of that, Madam Speaker.

Although we are one of the smaller Ministries in terms of numbers, we certainly have been able to achieve quite a great deal, Madam Speaker, as you have heard in the past few minutes in my contribution. So, while we have some challenges we are confident that we will overcome them and continue to be committed to achieving the goals for the coming year.

Madam Speaker, I want to turn now to look ahead a bit for the coming year. Like I said, while much has been achieved through the Ministry, departments and agencies, I would be remiss if I overlooked and said that the support of the Premier and my other elected colleagues in the UDP did not contribute to that as well. As I said earlier, we work as a very close-knit team, Madam Speaker, that in order to achieve the goals and objectives for our country, and not only as individual ministries. I believe one of my colleagues said yesterday that our Government is not operating as five separate ministries, but as one cohesive government, one cohesive unit, Madam Speaker. And that is true.

Madam Speaker, we have some significant goals that we want to achieve in this coming year. We plan to bring a number of pieces of legislation to the House for debate and approval, such as the health insurance regulations that we spoke about earlier, the amendments to the Health Practice Law, the National Conservation Law. And, Madam Speaker, we have continued the fiscal prudence I spoke about, and the general trajectory that we established of reducing expenditure. But we still have managed to maintain the high level of services provided by Government. We just get to do it a bit more efficiently.

Madam Speaker, in my Ministry, particularly with our appropriations, we continue to ensure access to high quality health care for Caymanians and residents, medical care for those less fortunate, and for seafarers and veterans; health insurance for pensioners, mental health services at HSA, sports and youth development programmes for young children and the population, drug abuse preventions programmes that we spoke about, artistic and cultural programmes, support for elite athletes, environmental services and research. And so, Madam Speaker, while it has been

a somewhat painful process to reduce expenditure, we have managed to do so without compromising the services delivered, and I want to commend not only my Ministry, but the Civil Service that worked with us to achieve that.

Madam Speaker, I turn now to some other pieces of legislation. As I said, we want to bring the amendments to the Mental Health Law, the Pharmacy Law; legislation which will support the creation of organ tissue donation and transplant programme, as I said, for the Cayman Islands. Madam Speaker, we plan to bring amendments to the Cayman National Cultural Foundation Law, which will update it and more clearly outline the rolls and functions of this NCF governing body. In addition, Madam Speaker, we hope to table the updated National Youth Policy, as well as the National Sports Policy and begin work on a National Cultural Policy.

I know this might sound [like an] ambitious agenda for the coming year, Madam Speaker. I do believe it is achievable, as much as the required groundwork for much of this has been commenced already in this past year.

Madam Speaker, importantly, in the area of health, we are also going to commence work on a National Health Policy for the country. This currently does not exist and really leaves major gaps in the planning of health care for the future. This health policy will help to lay the foundation to make health care more accessible, improve the quality and make it more affordable. It will establish core values for our health system, and will look to build on the strengths of our current system while we strengthen the weaknesses.

The process will include public consultation to solicit input. And I would also like to note here that we will also do some reorganisation in the Department of Health Regulatory Services where the Chief Medical Officer position will be shifted to that agency where the role will become more a regulatory one, and also be able to provide advice to the Ministry, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, another significant exercise which the Ministry will undertake (I spoke about earlier in my contribution) . . . we will start the exercise in a few weeks. We had hoped to commenced today actually, but because we are in the House with the Budget we had to put it off for a couple of weeks. But this is going to be a major review of all the health care costs incurred by government. Madam Speaker, this will include review with health care costs for indigents, both local and overseas costs, our seafarers and veterans, Civil Service pensioners, the cost for overseas referrals, civil servants costs and advanced patients.

Madam Speaker, there is a current trend of increasing expenditure, and this is not sustainable. Just in this year's Budget, the existing year 2010/11, in excess of \$85 million was budgeted, and expenditure is actually higher. Madam Speaker, \$85 million of

our Budget, somewhere in the region of 14 per cent or 15 per cent of operation expenditure being spend on health care. Compared to some other countries, this is excessive, Madam Speaker, and certainly not sustainable.

So, we are going to review our health care costs. We are going to focus on a number of studies and reviews that have been carried out previously and produce a number of recommendations which may be for policy or legislative changes, and which will lead to containing or reducing expenditure. We will review the policy on how we refer overseas. We have already had discussions with the Cayman Islands Civil Service Association (CICSA), maybe the possibility of infusing co-payment of healthcare for civil servants, as well as reviewing the plan of benefits, which the current civil servants and future civil servants would fall under. We also take a look at the means assessment for accessing free healthcare.

This is an important exercise, Madam Speaker, but hopefully it will produce some outcomes which will put us in the right track to reducing healthcare costs, which, like I said, the current healthcare cost as well as the outstanding liability for healthcare coming up in the future is tremendous and we need to contain that.

Another initiative that I am pleased I have championed, as well as the Ministry, that we have now commenced, is a Chronic Non-communicable Disease Risk Factor Survey. Madam Speaker, HSA will assist the Ministry in conducting this survey in partnership with the Economic and Statistics Office, as well as PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation) and Carrick [PHONETIC].

Madam Speaker, we know that today non-communicable diseases, mainly cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, represent the leading threat to human health. These four diseases are the world's biggest killers causing an estimated 35 million deaths every year—60 per cent of all deaths globally.

So, by carrying out this survey, Madam Speaker, we will collect the data and statistics associated with non-communicable diseases and the risk factors associated with the occurrence of these diseases in the Cayman Islands. This is an area where has been traditionally weak in collecting data and statistics and having this information will provide us the crucial information to be used in how we prevent and control non-communicable diseases, Madam Speaker. I am looking forward to the results in the survey, and I know that they will play an important role in helping us to target our resources for the maximum benefits in this area.

Madam Speaker, some other plans for the agencies (and I will go through these very briefly, Madam Speaker): The Health Services Authority will continue to implement their strategic plan with the aims of continuing to improve the quality of patient care, em-

powering staff and improving their financial sustainability.

There will be an expansion in the current services at A&E (Accident and Emergency) and the GP (General Practice) Clinic which will help to reduce waiting times, improve customer service, and enhance revenue, again, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we will continue to implement evidence-based guidelines for selected areas of clinical care in the Cayman Islands at the Health Services Authority. We will design and implement a system that analyses data to support the implementation and outcomes of chosen evidence-based guidelines for treatment and evaluation.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Order.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: The HSA will use—

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: *[addressing the interjection]* Speak quieter.

The HSA will use the British Medical Journal protocols and this tool will put the power of the world's evidence-based literature at the physicians' fingertips. The initiative will be rolled out on an incremental basis and, Madam Speaker, will also lead to improving patient outcomes and increase quality of care.

Madam Speaker, the HSA will update the service need model and produce an appropriate master plan to engage an architectural firm to produce an appropriate master plan for the HSA. Energy conservation will be improved to reduce utility cost as well.

It will establish a surveillance mechanism to collect, process, and analyse and monitor data on the prevalence of risk factors for developing specific chronic diseases themselves and the morbidity mortality rates.

They will implement an automated inventory management system to improve operation efficiencies and put in place effective inventory finance controls; improve effectiveness and efficiency of procurement materials management system by reviewing and improving policies and processes.

And, Madam Speaker, the HSA is also reviewing a fee schedule in consultation with the Ministry of Health. Some fees at the HSA have not been updated in many, many years. In fact, there is a situation now where the actual cost of providing many of the services, procedures and services at the HSA, cost more than the fee they are charging. Not many businesspeople will survive with that.

The Department of Health Regulatory Services (DHRS) for the coming year will importantly provide a comprehensive public education programme about the health insurance legislation and the use of health

insurance. And as we complete our review on the legislation and regulations of the Standard Health Insurance Contract, DHRS will introduce the enhanced benefits of that contract, Madam Speaker.

[It will] instigate the feasibility of the implementation of our online registration system and streamline the processes for health practitioners' registration and renewal of registration. Madam Speaker, as I said, [there are] up to almost 900 practitioners now, and a very onerous process of renewing those registrations every year. So, moving to an online system would certainly enhance and make it more efficient.

They will continue to receive and investigate and resolve complaints relating to the provision of health insurance.

Madam Speaker, CINICO in 2011/12, as I said earlier, will complete the electronic verification and adjudication system project in partnership with HSA, and this will result in increased efficiency and cost savings.

CINICO will continue to create the overseas provider network and also enter contracts with physicians in order to achieve more savings while ensuring that CINICO clients continue to receive the best possible care.

CINICO also proposes this year to introduce a case management system for local healthcare claims which will also save approximately \$400,000 this year, Madam Speaker. They will look at the feasibility of introducing in-house case management for overseas care. If they are able to successfully implement this, it would mean potential savings of millions of dollars annually, Madam Speaker, in recurrent costs.

Madam Speaker, the National Drug Council this year will continue to focus on substance abuse prevention and, very importantly, continue to work with the Ministry of Education to implement drug education and a National Curriculum, hopefully, as early as September 2011. And we are looking forward to that.

Assist in the review and the development of the following areas of legislation: the Misuse of Drugs, the Pharmacy Law (these are areas that the NDC has been very active in); liaise with the policymakers to address the issue of the gap in the policy related to precursor legislation in an effort to ensure we can properly manage legal drugs which are used to make drugs such as methamphetamine, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the National Drug Council will develop the national drug information network in an effort to collect consistent and reliable data. They propose to conduct the prison survey for a second year; conduct a primary school survey, because as said, the student drug use survey focused on high school and middle school students, but they plan to conduct a primary school survey to begin looking at issues related to drugs and drug use at an earlier age.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Environment . . . we spoke about the Conservation Law we continue to review the feedback that we received on that as a caucus. The Department of Environment also will assist in the implementation of updating legislation for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species on Flora and Fauna (better known as CITES). Madam Speaker, it is known as an Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law.

Madam Speaker, the DoE will facilitate the review and adoption of the National Climate policy which, once approved by Cabinet, will identify and prioritise the various adaptation and mitigation measures. This will represent the completion of the DFID funded enhancing capacity for the adaptation to climate change project.

Madam Speaker, the DoE continues to assist the Government in the development of a national sustainable development framework. Sustainable development comprises three elements, Madam Speaker: economic, social and environmental, which must be considered in equal measure in national decision making. A national sustainable development framework would serve as a much-needed overarching coordinating mechanism for sectoral policies and plans in forming activities and decisions of the Government, the Legislative Assembly and the broader community.

Madam Speaker, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the marine parks, during the next year DoE will continue their comprehensive assessment of the Islands' marine protected areas in partnership with Bangor University and the Nature Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, the policy area of youth is an important one for the country, and this importance is underscored by the ministerial collaboration that we have pursued with my colleagues, in particular, in this area, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Affairs. We recognise that our ministerial responsibilities overlap in this area and we have collaborated successfully over the past two years in this area.

Madam Speaker, from my Ministry's perspective, we intend to formalise the process with a formalised Inter-ministerial Committee for Youth. The updated youth policy will be a valuable guiding document for this important committee. And just yesterday, Madam Speaker, there was a major collaboration between ministries when the Minister of Education launched the BEST Programme (Behaviour and Educational Support Team) with a press conference over at the Library. We cannot underscore the importance of that programme in addressing our at-risk youth here in the Cayman Islands, and I commend the Minister of Education, again, for that initiative, and all the other agencies involved, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in 2011/12, once the updated National Youth policy has been through Cabinet

and tabled in the House, the Youth Services Unit will work with the National Youth Commission to implement that.

Madam Speaker, in the area of sports, the Department of Sports has some exciting initiatives planned for the upcoming year. They have planned to establish community sports committees in each district that will foster community cohesion, increase family involvement, increase physical activity rates amongst residents and use sports more as a tool to positively develop character.

Madam Speaker, the Sports Department proposes to establish an inter-school sports system for the six focus sports, including primary and secondary schools. This will provide more positive afterschool initiatives and activities for students through the week; importantly, help to tackle childhood obesity through more opportunities to be active; contribute to reduction in youth crime by providing positive engagement during the critical afterschool hours between three and six; foster student athletic growth; improve academic performances; and, importantly, build school patriotism.

Madam Speaker, we propose in this coming year to carry out some improvements to the current Clifton Hunter (or old George Hicks site) field which will make that field more useable as a community field, as well as to build a small walking track (not a full size track but a small walking track) for the community, which, again, will facilitate . . . there have many causes for the use of the Truman Bodden Sports complex as a walking facility during hours when it may not normally be open. But by building a small walking track at the George Hicks, or the existing Clifton Hunter site, it will be accessible to the community to encourage active living and healthy lifestyles, provide a safe environment for families to walk and engage in active living.

Madam Speaker, the National Gallery has many plans for the upcoming year. As I mentioned, by February 2012 they will be in their new purpose-built home and continue to promote their vibrant far-reaching educational programmes. And they plan to have four exhibits in 2011/12.

The Museum, Madam Speaker, is planning to achieve a number of milestones in the coming year as well, exploring partnerships in regard to research and development of a selected archaeological site, support academic publications on historical topics, developing new educational programmes to include historic preservation lectures, create two major temporary exhibitions to interpret Cayman's history with war and sports (not wars that we had in Cayman, of course, Madam Speaker), establish new revenue streams in support of the Museum as well.

Madam Speaker, the Cultural Foundation plans to continue to deliver their cultural programming with such events as Gimme Story, Cayfest, Young at Hearts, Youth Performing Arts Company. And they

also plan to publish a book in the coming year, Madam Speaker, of three Caymanian plays. They will continue to provide support grants to artists and provide monthly cultural events such as film screenings and live performances at the Harquail Theatre.

Madam Speaker, with that brief overview it is quite clear that this Government is working very hard—has worked hard in the past two years—and has many plans to continue to work extremely hard in the coming year.

Before I close I want to speak briefly on some district matters, Madam Speaker, because at the beginning of my contribution I mentioned how proud I was to be a representative of the district of Bodden Town.

Of course, first and foremost, that is what I am—the First Elected Member for Bodden Town. And in that capacity I do have to advocate for and work to accomplish much needed projects for the district, Madam Speaker. I do that, as I said, in collaboration with my colleague, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, but with great support from my Cabinet colleagues, as well as my other elected colleagues. We also work very closely, as I said earlier, with the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town to ensure that Bodden Town gets its fair share, and indeed more if we can!

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: In the past two years, Madam Speaker, we have seen it fit to allocate some funds to carry out some projects. My colleague mentioned some of those, but I will go through them again briefly.

The CoeWood Beach project, which will see in the next few months a long awaited boat ramp constructed. There has been some work carried out there already on the cabanas and some other minor works.

Madam Speaker, he spoke about the housing project that is ongoing throughout the Island, and Bodden Town being the next area following some work in George Town. So, the Bodden Town site will be the next site where they move to provide housing.

Madam Speaker, a very significant drainage improvement project is taking place in the community of Belford. Again, that was a community where roads were built extremely low from the onset, and Government, even in my time of working with Government, Madam Speaker, has been in there on numerous occasions trying to improve it. While the improvements worked from some time, as the area became more developed the problem became more severe.

In the past few weeks, actually, a major drainage project, somewhere to the tune of \$700,000, has been commenced which will see a number of drainage wells installed and some piping to help with the storage of water runoff and bring about a major improvement to that community. And again, we thank

the Ministry of Works and the Minister for supporting that project in Bodden Town.

My colleague spoke about the Bodden Town cemetery wall. That wall was destroyed in hurricane Ivan in 2004 and has never been built back. That will hopefully commence in a couple of months, Madam Speaker.

The primary school projects are a huge accomplishment for the district. We spoke about the fastest growing district being Bodden Town. As an example, the Savannah Primary School (as I know, because of my close involvement there) has doubled in its numbers in six or seven years, Madam Speaker, going from a school that had less than about 175 students to now having almost 350 students at that school. So, again, I want to commend the Minister of Education for recognising the need to bring about a much-needed infrastructure there, and as well as for his focus on the Early Childhood Education at present.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I do want to mention one significant project in Bodden Town, one that you are very familiar with, Madam Speaker, which is the Nurse Jose Solomon Senior Citizens Centre. That Centre was developed over the past few years and much of the credit for that has to be given to you, Madam Speaker, for driving that project; you along with the Heritage Committee in Bodden Town. And I know that I have supported it for many years, my colleague, Mr. Anthony Eden, as well as my colleague, Mr. Dwayne Seymour.

For those Members who may not have been there to visit that Centre, I encourage you to do so as well. It is culturally rich in heritage, the artifacts and the things on display there, Madam Speaker. I would welcome anyone to go. And it is also something, Madam Speaker, that we are working on, not only for our local residents to see, but we continue to have discussions with you as well as some of the tourism and cruise operators in an attempt to be able to get small numbers of tourists—not large numbers, but small numbers—to be able to go there to see what they have on display there, to see what is at that Centre, Madam Speaker.

One of the things we are trying to do as well, is to try and assist with funding for you to have someone there, not necessarily fulltime, but at least someone who could be there as a caretaker to be able to show and also to be able to give people tours and show people what is on display there.

So, Madam Speaker, I encourage persons who may not have been out there to go to the Nurse Jose Solomon Centre and see the treasure that is there in Bodden Town behind Cumber Avenue.

Madam Speaker, in closing, as I said in the beginning, the past two years have been tumultuous. But as a Government we remain steadfast in our efforts to get government finances back on track and to revitalise the economy. And, Madam Speaker, I can say that some of our plans and projects are either

coming to fruition or will soon be coming to fruition. I look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and optimism. And, Madam Speaker, with that enthusiasm and optimism is coupled with hard work and dedication and commitment by the current Government we can only expect to see that we will continue to chart a better way forward for our beloved Islands, Madam Speaker.

Before I close, again I want to say a heartfelt thanks, Madam Speaker, particularly to my Chief Officer, Mrs. Jennifer Ahearn, who is here in the Chamber today, and all the rest of the Ministry staff, all the HODs, staff and other agencies and departments, the chairs and members of our boards and committees for the work they do as well. And, indeed, to thank the entire Civil Service for all the work they have been doing.

I know they get a lot of criticism over the years. Sometimes people say they are not doing anything and it is costing the Government a lot of money and so on. But, Madam Speaker, for the most part we have an excellent civil service that works very hard to provide the services that the community looks forward to receiving on a day-in and day-out basis, Madam Speaker.

And so, Madam Speaker, with that, I draw my contributions to the 2011/12 Throne Speech and Budget debate to a close. Thank you for the opportunity, Madam Speaker, and, may God continue to bless these beloved Cayman Islands. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister for Health.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?
Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, let me say that thus far, in general terms, much of the debate has been at a fairly high level. I think it is fair to say that there have been some notable exceptions.

Let me thank my colleague Minister who just spoke, the Honourable Minister of Health, for his contribution. As you heard, Madam Speaker, one of the things that we are working diligently to do is to really ensure that this whole business of cross-ministry collaboration does not continue to be a catch-phrase where people do it whenever they want to and however they want to; but want to ensure that people are truly working together for the benefit of our students and our young people.

I thank my colleague also, the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, for his contribution thus far on the debate on the Throne Speech and Budget Address, and certainly congratulate them for all of their work.

I always love having an audience to speak to.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I can assure the Members who just entered the Chamber, that anything that I am going to say that they might be particularly interested in will come in the second half of my speech. So, if they have other pressing matters they can deal with those now and check me in about one hour's time.

[laughter]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I'm just being helpful, Madam Speaker, as I am always. Members know that. Those who have been around here 11 years with me will know that, if they are fair in their assessment.

Madam Speaker, as Minister with constitutional responsibility for Education, Training and Employment, it certainly is my pleasure to add my contribution to the debate on the Budget Address and Throng Speech for 2012. Certainly, Madam Speaker, I want to elaborate on some of the key areas in the Ministry, and some of the key strategies and programmes in the upcoming year, but also to take a quick look back and reflect on some of the achievements thus far in the Ministry.

Madam Speaker, in his Budget Address the Honourable Premier emphasised the urgency for innovative strategies, and emphasised some of our innovative approaches as a Government to not only stabilise the finances of the country, but to kick-start the economy and create jobs for our people. Madam Speaker, for the Government this is not optional; this is, indeed, a matter of survival.

At the same time, Madam Speaker, the UDP Government recognises that education and training policies must go hand-in-hand with our economic and employment policies. In short, our challenge within the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment is to build, implement and support an education system, training and development opportunities and a labour environment that develops citizens that can contribute to and benefit from the economic and social growth and development within our country. That is why, Madam Speaker, this Government has made funding for education, scholarships for our young people, and enhancements to our education system, our number one priority.

That is why, Madam Speaker, as Minister, I have undertaken the single biggest reform within labour and pensions since the introduction of the National Pensions Law and the Labour Law. Madam Speaker, for too long we have talked about the fact that our system is not doing what it needs to do to adequately provide protection for the employees within our country.

In these turbulent times my Ministry, and, indeed, all Ministries have had to acknowledge and re-

spond to what a lot of us like to call 'the new normal,' where budgets have not grown, funding is tight and resources have had to be used extremely wisely. However, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be able to report that despite these significant challenges over the past two years, my Ministry has made significant and strategic progress in all areas within our remit. This Ministry, Madam Speaker, is also well poised to continue to deliver programmes and initiatives in the 2012 financial year, and beyond, that will continue to improve opportunities and life chances for our Caymanian people.

Madam Speaker, just to give a brief synopsis of some of our achievements to date, and for the most part, Madam Speaker, at a very high level because I will be delivering two important statements during this Meeting of the House that will drill into some of this a bit more. But I thought it wise and prudent to not dwell on those matters during my contribution to the actual debate.

Madam Speaker, in January of this year we delivered our Education Stabilisation Plan, which is a strategic plan for the education system which documents policy priorities and commitments being made to achieve them with regular progress reports. And that is one of the statements that I referred to a little earlier, Madam Speaker, which will be a progress report.

Madam Speaker, there has been significant work done in the way of formally documenting certain national priorities and school level policies in some very critical areas of our education system, including things like behaviour for learning, appropriate use of ICT within our schools; a Ministry and Department of Education Services restructured and refocused to work effectively and appropriately together to support the Ministry's drive towards a world class education system.

Madam Speaker, there have been varying restructuring exercises over the years. However, what I observed in 2009, upon taking office, was that if you looked at the education system . . . all I could describe the Department of Education Services as, was basically the body of a dog that not only controlled the head, told it when to bark, how to bark, how loud to bark—and that was the Ministry—but it also wagged the tail, which would have been our schools.

So, Madam Speaker, if I, for example, wanted to have a discussion around special education needs, at the Ministry resided a person who was not only responsible for key policy advice surrounding that area, but also was de facto in charge of its implementation. So ultimately, you would go to the same person in regard to strategic advice and policy direction, and that would be the same person to whom all of the persons who were on the operational side also had to report. Madam Speaker, to my mind such a relationship could never be one that was healthy.

So, the restructuring exercise has been focused on ensuring that whoever sits as Minister of Education has, at Ministry level, the persons who can deliver the key policy advice in all of the critical areas within our education system. And, Madam Speaker, the department is now refocused on ensuring that they support schools, but also hold them accountable for the implementation of policies that are developed by the Ministry. So, in this upcoming year, Madam Speaker, we will be recruiting for our senior school improvement officers who are going to have direct responsibility for line managing principals, monitoring what is happening at school level and, ultimately, all of them will be accountable to the Chief Education Officer.

Madam Speaker, the last thing I will mention at this stage on the development of policies is the fact that we have taken the approach to ensure that we not only say that we have consulted people, but we actually document it. During my first visits to the schools, one of the things reported to me time and time again was a claim that people were not adequately consulted. And, of course, as with most stories, you get different versions when you talk to different people, depending on where they resided within the overall education system.

And so, Madam Speaker, one of the things that we have been doing very carefully is to ensure that we properly document every single policy and how it is being developed; who is the principal sponsor and driver, who they have consulted, and get ultimate signoff for every single person who has been involved with the consultation process, so that the final product accurately reflects their agreement.

Madam Speaker, indeed, I will be taking to my caucus very shortly a proposed new set of criteria as it relates to graduation . . . and this is a classic example of that new approach. I was given a briefing just yesterday on the results of the Review Committee, and, Madam Speaker, every person that was on the committee is clearly documented in the Policy Proposal document that has been provided to me, and I have ensured that the chief officer clearly understands that I expect that at the back of it will be a signature page. So, that, Madam Speaker, for historical purposes anyone who comes along and asks where this policy came from, there can be no running, no hiding, no ducking. That is crucially important.

One of the things that a seasoned politician taught me in my first twelve months in this Legislative Assembly just over a decade ago, was that Government is a system of records—if it is not in writing it does not exist.

Madam Speaker, we have also undergone the largest reform at secondary level for many, many years. Two new high schools have been successfully established in Grand Cayman, and that replaced, of course, the system that was introduced, I believe it

was in 1979, when the Middle School was introduced into our education system.

Madam Speaker, the new mandatory Year 12 programme has been launched successfully at the newly established Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC) where a range of new educational opportunities for students of all abilities exists, and it includes opportunities for re-sits, it includes the advanced replacement programme and a wide range of new externally accredited technical and vocational subjects—all externally accredited through the British Technical Education Council or B-Tech as it is commonly known. The one exception would be the auto mechanic's course which is still an IMI product.

Madam Speaker, this wide range of initiatives and programmes within education in all areas of the system span from early years, special education needs, at-risk youth, and it is all underpinned by teacher training and development. There have been significant advances in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

As I mentioned earlier, Madam Speaker, we have our externally accredited B-Tech vocation programmes in the areas of creative media production, business, information technology, sports and leisure, hospitality. And, Madam Speaker, we are also developing a new medical technician programme in partnership with the Health Services Authority; a home grown programme that will go a long way to serve our needs. I think all of us clearly recognise that one of the most recession-proof industries is healthcare. And certainly, anything that we can do to support the Minister of Health in his mission to get more Caymanians involved in the health sector and have ourselves prepared for new medical health tourism opportunities, will be a key strategic way forward for the country.

Madam Speaker, we have also had to ensure that we had some key strategic interventions at UCCI, our national tertiary institution, including the appointment of a new president that has helped to recover the dignity and integrity of this institution, redress issues with financial management, enhance the safety of our students, and to set it well on its way to improved performance and standards.

Madam Speaker, we have already introduced a number of operational enhancements for the National Pensions Office and the Department of Employment Relations. However, we are at advanced stages of the massive legislative overhaul that is going to underpin the creation of a new department of labour and pensions, and I will speak to that in a little while.

Madam Speaker, we launched our highly successful youth unemployment initiative "Passport2Success."

The planning and legislative reform to underpin the largest perform in pensions and labour since the introduction of the laws governing these two

agencies, which will result in the launch of a new Human Capital Development Agency and a new Labour and Pensions Department. When these two agencies are launched later this year, and fully operational, we would have created the strategic means to:

1) Prepare our people and our human capital with our career assessment counseling guidance services, enhance job placement services and enhance training and development opportunities that will maximise their potential for productive and meaningful employment.

2) We will provide effective supervision for the labour market to facilitate conditions in which the economy can grow, while at the same time, according our workers every due respect.

Madam Speaker, I can say that we are very close to being able to announce a number of new training initiatives. We will indeed be launching an additional unemployment initiative that will mirror the concept of Passport2Success to target young men who are in their 20s. We will also be launching another programme that is going to target females who are unemployed, as we have looked at our statistics, and those are two discreet areas that we need to focus on.

But more widely, Madam Speaker, we will be introducing next month our new assessment tool and, more importantly, the programme that will underpin how we assist people once any gaps are recognised in their skill set. Madam Speaker, the risk of having an assessment tool without the requisite programme to assist people would be that all you do would be to identify certain gaps, but not be able to move people forward—and we must be able to assist in moving our people forward. That is the way we are going to build stronger families, build a more productive economy, a more efficient and skilled labour market.

Madam Speaker, we will also remove the burden of having to monitor pension plans from the Ministry. The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) will assume that specific role. And, Madam Speaker, that again makes a lot of strategic sense for, indeed, CIMA is much better placed to be able to monitor investment plans than any other agency in government. They already have a robust insurance group, they already have a strong investment companies group or hedge fund group (as some people call it), mutual fund group. And so, Madam Speaker, having those skill sets in-house, they will be much better placed to review and monitor the actual plans that underpin all of our pension plans, to be able to ensure that there is compliance, and, indeed, Madam Speaker, to ensure that the registration of any new plans is done in a very thorough and professional manner.

If I had any doubts, Madam Speaker, as to whether or not this was the right way to go, the recent BAICO (British American Insurance Company) exercise would have more than convinced me, when indeed, Madam Speaker, there was much . . . I guess the word is "overlap," between the work of the NPO

and CIMA as it sought to deal with the actual plan; nothing to do at the time with the compliance of employers, but the actual plan itself. And when CIMA took the action it did, and had the authority to do, it was clear that certainly we needed to have a different model to ensure that we protect our pensioners.

Madam Speaker, I will move on to some of the plans and programmes for the 2012 fiscal year. Let me, though, for a minute share some statistics in the area of scholarships.

Obviously, Madam Speaker, this Government continues the firm commitment that has been in place for many years, of ensuring that our young people—all of them who meet the criteria—are provided access to further education and tertiary level study through our very robust scholarship programme. In the year 2011 (which ends in 13 short days) 563 different individuals received financial support at local institutions, which included UCCI, ICCI, the Cayman Islands Law School, and the two A Level colleges at St. Ignatius Catholic School and Cayman Prep and High School. Three hundred and twenty-seven students have received overseas scholarships and completed certificate, associates and bachelors programmes. Another 36 are completing either their professional masters or PHD programmes.

Madam Speaker, this continues a strong commitment to real investment in the lives of our people and our youth.

Madam Speaker, we have ensured that one of the weak areas in the Ministry received attention. Indeed, Madam Speaker, we had a Scholarship Secretariat that was manned by one single person. [We] now have a manager for the Scholarship Secretariat, a research analyst and an executive officer. Madam Speaker, I can say that in the months of June and July 2009 and 2010, the amount of texts, emails and phone calls that I received and my PA received from irate, frustrated students and parents—and every year that would continue through July and especially into August—simply because, Madam Speaker, we were not able to deal adequately with the workload that a system with over 900 students in it at any one time demands.

We are poised now, Madam Speaker, to introduce an online application process. That is a crucial new initiative to better serve our students. We are poised, Madam Speaker, to develop what I am terming our “Student Exchange” where we now enhance and populate our scholarship database. At present, Madam Speaker, our scholars’ information is still maintained in an excel spreadsheet, and that is simply not good enough. We will enhance the scholarship database and get it completely up-to-date. That is crucially important, Madam Speaker, for the Student Exchange to work because it is going to allow employers for the first time to have access to real live data.

And, Madam Speaker, we are going to take that a step further and hold a series of events along with the private sector to start to introduce our students to employers from the time they are in university. We cannot continue the system where our young people come home, 100 plus at a time between the months of May and June, depending on what school and country they go to, where they come home having graduated with their bachelor’s degree and start looking for a job; or, as many of them do, start sending out resumes during that last term.

We must be much more strategic than this. We are doing our young people a complete disservice with the current system that we have. And I believe, Madam Speaker, that Student Exchange will go a long way to remove those frustrations. But at the end of the day what I can say for those who might look on and say, *Well, employers sometimes use lack of information as an excuse*—that will be removed because the database is one that will be extremely robust and it will allow persons to access information.

For example, Madam Speaker, if a person has a firm and wants to find out who is graduating in the next twelve months, and let’s say it is in mechanical engineering and they want to see who has a GPA of 3.25 and above. They can have access to that data. That is crucially important for employers to be able to plan as well. But, as I said, beginning in August we are going a step further and try to get much more of our students. My aim is 100 per cent, but, certainly, a significant portion of our students at least aligned with an employer from the time they are in school.

Not every employer is going to be able to provide summer internships, et cetera, because some firms are simply too small. But if you are at least introducing our young people so that they have a real contact, businesses have a student that they can then track and know—*This student is going to be graduating next year. I’ve seen their most recent transcript, they are well on track, they are studying hard, they are diligent, they are the types of persons I want for my organisation.* They can plan.

We have to remove that aspect of this from the equation. We have to! Madam Speaker, that is crucially important to the way forward for us in this country.

Madam Speaker, as it relates to secondary education, let me begin by stating quite clearly this Government’s commitment to ensuring that the new high schools are completed as quickly as possible. However, Madam Speaker, what many in this House, and indeed in the community, either have not appreciated or are simply being mischievous about, is the fact that when you have two projects of that magnitude and complexity, and you have a general contractor who, in my opinion, simply was not capable of delivering the projects and they walk off five months after I took office . . . the interruption on the building programme would have been major.

Madam Speaker, I can report to this House that before I had even signed the Instrument of Appointment to Office as Minister, on the 27th of May 2009, right after the general elections, one of the first meetings I had down at the Westin Hotel was with the principal of Tom Jones International. And, Madam Speaker, what I know is that from the time I heard people coming and having a bag full of stories, I needed to be careful.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, I believe it was on May 22nd (if memory serves me correct) that that meeting took place. As I listened carefully and attentively to the bag full of stories I could not at that point, obviously, decipher all that was truth or fiction—some would call it lies. But what I did know was that based on my experience thus far on this earth, I was not getting 100 per cent truth.

So, Madam Speaker, it was to my surprise, upon formerly taking up office on May 27th, that already there were some \$15 million in claims. There were already loads of fingers pointing about what the previous Minister had not done, what the Ministry had not done, what this one had not done, by the former general contractor. Of course, Madam Speaker, nothing was said at that point about shoddy work; nothing was said about what they had not done as required by the contract.

As I and my chief officer, during the months of June and July, started to try to unpick what was a very tangled web, we were fortunate that one of the big local contractors put us in touch with a AIA Contract Dispute Resolution expert, and recommended to us as the Ministry, to utilise their services to at least give myself (so that I could report to the Cabinet) a real synopsis of what was happening as it related to the contract, as it related to these two projects.

So, Madam Speaker, it was a real shock to the former general contractor to have someone come on those sites who actually knew what they were doing, from a project management's standpoint, because, at that point, the former project manager (as I understood) had not been engaged for several months. Indeed two very complex and large projects were . . . I hesitate to use the words "project managed" because the fact of the matter was, that was very weak. And, no fault to the individuals involved, they simply did not have the experience and skills to do the job. They worked hard! In fact, one of them had to be given, I think in July, August or September of '09, some time off from work—stressed!

I think all of us that know anything about construction would know that any time you are talking about a massive project, the owner's project management team is vitally important to the equation. And because of the absence of strong project management we had two projects that were out of control. At the end of the day, the general contractor made certain claims about their rights under the contract that the Ministry disagreed with.

At all points the Ministry was thorough and the Ministry ensured that it protected the interest of the Cayman Islands Government by adhering to the contract that was in place. Sure, we could have authorised large payments that the former general contractor claimed they were due. But certainly, I was not going to come here and have to answer questions about why we did certain things and they were not in line with the contract.

So, Madam Speaker, the contractor revealed that they had already threatened to stop work a number of times before the May 2009 general elections. That is not something that you heard a whole lot about in this era of openness and transparency. And those same threats by way of stop work notices came, beginning in September. Once we brought on board the requisite project management skills and the Government asserted its position under the contract, the colours of Tom Jones International changed rather quickly, and it culminated in them abandoning the projects in November of 2009.

Any of us that are going to be fair would admit and tell this country that if you have abandonment it will cause significant disruption to a building programme, for the Government had to decide what was the way forward.

I say to you that all of the big contractors (and I met with them) told me as Minister that they would be unwilling to bid the jobs and try to take over as a general contractor. The risk involved, they said, was too high. And as I searched for strategic advice from our project management team, our legal team, and others knowledgeable in construction, the decision to go to construction manager route was taken.

That bid was eventually won by Cayman Construction Management Services Limited, which is a joint venture between McAlpine Limited, DECCO and Arch and Godfrey.

So, Madam Speaker, they are on board and have been on board for quite some time now. Eight months now. And they are charged under their contract to manage all of the sub-trades, to manage the roofing subcontractor, the windows subcontractor; the e-window and EIFS (Exterior Insulation Finish Systems) subcontractor, the MEP subcontractor; concrete subcontractors. And I feel very confident and comfortable knowing that at our disposal, as a Ministry in the Government, we have a joint venture of three very reputable and experienced construction companies.

Of course, we have a strong project management team in place as well, because, Madam Speaker, in this business, and at this stage of a project, we still have to ensure that the owner's interest is ultimately protected.

And, Madam Speaker, I can say that the recent claims that certain parties did not know about shoddy work and faulty work are not accurate, because they do know—and they knew it before they walked off and abandoned the job, too. In fact, Ma-

dam Speaker, it was a coming together of all the factors. The fact that you were ill-prepared to take on jobs of this complexity, the fact that you underbid the job which is borne out by the \$17 million claim, the amount of claims that are in place, and borne out by the fact [DIGITAL SKIP] Also, Madam Speaker, having someone on those sites of the stature and with the experience in terms of a project manager, to be able to look you and your personnel in the eye and tell you that *this is not to spec, that is not to spec, you need to ensure that this is done*, was not happening. That is why on all major contracts of this nature, whether it be government or private sector securing them, you always need to have those two sides of the equation.

Because, Madam Speaker, for reference let me make it clear, when you go out to build something significant, an office building, a school, a hospital, in terms of the actual delivery of the building you are either going to get a general contractor who, in their price, includes what would be their construction management services. They do not just send 500 men out like ants and say go and build; they have to have their site superintendents, all their managers, their procurement managers and experts, safety managers on site to manage their workers. So it is built-in.

Or, you go the CM route and just hire a construction manager who, along with you as owner, procures all of the sub-trades, manages them and delivers the product. But, as an owner, you still have to have your project management services secured because ultimately you still have to secure your interests as an owner, and ensure that everything that has happened is in line with your contract and in line with what you ultimately are paying for as an owner.

To double this up, in terms of delays, the former subcontractor of the former general contractor . . . in other words, Tom Jones International was the general contractor. Once we were about to embark and get our CM on board, the MEP subcontractor that they had came to the Government and requested that, whilst we had assumed some of their services to continue the work between the months of January 2010 and August 2010 (when we eventually got our CM in place, because we knew we needed to try to continue the works programme), they wanted to part mutually, and no longer be associated with the project. And so that delayed us again because we then had to tender for an MEP subcontractor.

All along we had planned to complete the project with the subcontractor of Tom Jones. In fact, Madam Speaker, we were very prudent because there were a number of subcontractors of the former general contractor who government, because of the amounts of monies that had already been spent from a financial and strategic standpoint, then entered into a separate subcontract with because it only made sense to.

For example, Madam Speaker, in certain payments that were made before the general contrac-

tor walked off the job, there would have been things for fabrication of windows, et cetera, that if we as Government had not gone to that same subcontractor we potentially would have lost the value.

Let's use a round number. Let's say, for example, that we had already paid three quarters of one million dollars to start the fabrication on windows, if we did not secure that subcontractor, they would have had no interest in assisting the Cayman Islands Government, and so all we would have had would have been a circle of lawsuits. So, for the largest subcontractors with whom we had significant dollars in, as I call it (that would have been the MEP, the roofing, the windows and EIFS subcontractor, we ensured that we tried to secure their services.

As I said, for a time we had the MEP but we had to eventually get another one but we still have the same roofing, same windows; all in an effort, Madam Speaker, to ensure that we save government as much money, to secure the value for monies that we had already paid out to Tom Jones and Tom Jones had already paid over to their own subcontractors.

I'll give you another example, Madam Speaker: Much of the mill work, cabinetry, much to my surprise (I think that was in September of 2009 as well), I got an email from one of the freight forwarders saying that there were certain items in Miami in the name of the Ministry of Education/Tom Jones International. And, again to our surprise, there was when we sent someone to actually inspect the warehouse; much millwork had already been done.

As you can imagine and appreciate, Madam Speaker, as the general contractor was trying to complete the project, there would have been certain things that they would have been billing the Ministry for and paying subcontractors to secure the items. And you do not wait until you need cabinets, for example, to order them. You do that and you time everything and you try to phase and get everything just right so that as soon as you are ready for it, it is ready to be installed.

So, Madam Speaker, we tried our very best to secure every single thing that we could and assume as much dollar value as we could. And that, Madam Speaker, has been something that has taken a lot of time and effort by people, and they have done a very good job at ensuring that that is the case.

So, Madam Speaker, this myth . . . I understand that there has been some mention raised in this House during this Meeting, a call on me to restart the high school projects. Madam Speaker, the Clifton Hunter High School and a lot of the buildings are complete in the sense of the shell. We invited the press early last month—in fact, I think it was on the 5th May—and we distributed to the press a photo that showed over 200 men who are on that site. And so wherever this fallacy is that work is not being done to ensure that the Clifton Hunter High School is delivered as swiftly as possible, I want to [assure] anyone who

is under that false impression that that is not the case . . . in fact, any Member of this House who wants to go up there and see what is going on, I will be more than happy to arrange a tour. More than happy!

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, the other thing that I am happy to report is that going the sub-trades route managed by a CM we have managed to have, I can report to this House, tens of small- to medium-size contractors who have won a lot of work on these projects and are delivering high quality work. And the reports I get, Madam Speaker, are very encouraging about the Caymanian to non-Caymanian ratios.

Many Caymanians are back to work on these projects because we have gone this route. What I can say is that the two subcontractors who have the highest ratio of non-Caymanians are two of the subcontractors that we have inherited, namely, the roofing and the EIFS and windows subcontractor. The EIFS subcontractor that was selected was selected before May 2009, whilst we have demanded of them to try to bring on Caymanians to learn how to install this EIFS system—and EIFS, Madam Speaker, is simply a fancy word for the skin of the building. It's a product that goes over the actual outside of the building that seals the building and makes it watertight.

This EIFS subcontractor has, as I understand, a large number of Mexican workers. Several months ago, when the Member for North Side made certain charges about there being a large number of persons on the job that he could tell were not Caymanians (that was when, as he said, he drives across those every day, they were doing the outside of a number of buildings and he saw that) . . . but, Madam Speaker, as I said we were hundreds of thousands of dollars in, we had to maintain that particular subcontractor and certainly, I had very little opportunity, and the Ministry team had very little opportunity to influence how many Caymanians work with that person. As I said, that system is not widely used, has not been widely used in Cayman. So, it is like Marmoran, for example. There is not a lot of Caymanians who are skilled in that area out there in the workforce.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say that the desired outcome of spreading work around, ensuring the widest possible number of small contractors get work and that Caymanians get back to work has been achieved. In fact, Madam Speaker, I am going to be bringing a separate report in terms of a statement to the House, or, we might just deal with that in Finance Committee, depending on how the timing goes, to actually update this House on the details of how that has actually gone, because that is something that is very, very important for Members of the House to know, and also for the general public to know.

Madam Speaker, that is where we are on the high schools project.

Let me also say, Madam Speaker, that last year in the budget process, the Honourable Premier reported to this House that as part of the three-year plan in our negotiations with the UK we, the United Democratic Party Government, had successfully negotiated an agreement that we would be allowed to borrow an additional \$10 million for primary school plant improvements. And so this fallacy that is being spread by *CNS (Cayman News Service)* and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition about the fact that we have taken \$10 million from high school projects to fund primary school projects is just that!

We have announced this. We announced this last year in the budget. I brought a statement to this House, where I went through school by school what we were going to deliver. In that statement I also reiterated that it would allow us to reintroduce the reception [class]. In that same statement to this honourable House I also announced that we would get rid of modulars. This is a discreet \$10 million vote that has nothing to do with the high school projects. This is not money that we are simply using on something else—as *CNS* and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition continue to push in this country. These funds are for primary school and plant improvements.

The analogy I used today on the talk show, Madam Speaker, is that if you had four children and four were sick, are you going to give one medicine, get that one better; then, when he is better, you give the next child medicine, wait until that one is better; then, give the third child medicine, wait until that one is better, and then give the fourth child medicine and wait until that one is better? No, Madam Speaker! What every good parent is going to do is to give all four of their children the cold medicine they deserve to get them all better. Same concept here!

This Government has never denied . . . in fact, it was the previous Minister, Mr. Roy Bodden, that we broke ground in Frank Sound. So, we are well aware of the necessity for new plant at secondary education.

What I was shocked to find was the state of primary [school] plant and the fact that it was getting in the way of teaching and learning. And for me, any sensible Minister of Education is going to act when facilities are impeding the highest possible teaching and learning. And so I hope that that certainly clears up this misconception that is out there. And it is one, Madam Speaker, that has been dreamt up by people, because I have said it about three times on the radio and on TV on interviews. I have said it in a statement in this House; it was clear when the Honourable Premier brought the 2011 Budget, that these were funds that were for primary school only and was a specific arrangement that we went to Mr. Bellingham [with] and agreed—mind you, mind you, grudgingly.

And I say grudgingly, Madam Speaker, because the United Kingdom has put this Government

under much pressure to discontinue the high school projects, because they are of the view that they are simply not affordable.

Madam Speaker, what I have continued to criticise the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for, has been the lack of control that he displayed when he was the minister [in charge of] these projects, and they simply got out of hand. I wish just the construction contracts alone were \$61 million and \$59 million (\$120 million). I only wish I had \$120 million—just that. Forget about all the consultancy fees, forget about all the works; forget about all the other costs that are going to bring the total of this project somewhere in the region of \$200 million.

Let's just stick at the construction contract only. I wish I had a clean slate and someone was going to give me \$120 million. I would show this country what we could get in educational plant for \$120 million. And you would certainly get some brand new primary schools as well.

He has to admit . . . and he has to stop dodging this point. He has to admit he made the project get out of hand! That's one of the principal reasons why we are now in trouble, plain and simple!

Madam Speaker, the primary projects are all slated to be completed within the next school year. The most [recent] date of completion that I have been given (and this was just a week ago) was that Clifton Hunter would be complete by the end of February 2012. Madam Speaker, it has principally been because of the fact that we had to retender and rebid and get a new MEP contractor.

As you know, with any building, you are never going to complete it until you can do, what they say, "turn it on and fire it up." You have to have the building closed and be able to turn on the electricity to complete the entire building process. And so, at this stage—and this is to no fault of the newly appointed MEP subcontractor—they, and everyone, is told and it is quite clear that, as far as I and the Government are concerned, we need to do everything within our power to complete that high school as quickly as possible. There are no artificial delays on my part, as Minister, or this Government.

Madam Speaker, what I can say is that as it relates to secondary education, the new Year 12 programme has provided very clear second chances for our children to improve their examination results through re-sits. The new Advanced Placement programme, for most academically able students, also allows them to gain college credits. Madam Speaker, the access to the wide range of accredited technical and vocational courses that I outlined earlier, also, long-term, meets a demand that this country has placed on education for many years. Many years we had the cry, our young kids who are interested in the trades need to have access to technical and vocational subjects before they actually leave high school. And so, Madam Speaker, last September was just the

start. Big things are going to come in that area, and I am going to cover that in just a minute.

In this 2011/12 financial year, this work continues and we need to build on what we have achieved, the successes we have already achieved, and realise the benefits of our new secondary education structure.

Our main focus in this coming year, Madam Speaker, is going to be on further improving teaching and learning and our student outcomes, and improving the alignment between Key Stage 3 and 4 within our education system. That simply has not been as seamless as it needs to be for our students.

We need to increase the emphasis on practical and functional skills and literacy for all of our secondary school students. That, Madam Speaker, has been a key inhibiting factor for them achieving success at exams and further success in employment and in life.

Madam Speaker, what we have also been undertaking is the necessary and significant preparation to move into the new Clifton Hunter High School at the facility in Frank Sound, and to create learning opportunities and environments that will maximise the new facilities and improve our student outcomes.

The Clifton Hunter High School move will also create the opportunity to relocate the current John Gray High School from its present, cramped and challenging conditions. And, Madam Speaker, as the first phased completion of John Gray, we will utilise some of the current George Hicks Campus, the former George Hicks Campus, and also, Madam Speaker, deliver four buildings on the new John Gray site, which will include one academy.

Madam Speaker, in the next fiscal year we will be coming back to this House to vote for phase 2. So, Madam Speaker, we are committed to completing both high schools, but the fact of the matter is, if we cannot borrow the funds, we have to simply earn it, and this Government has given priority in the capital spend to these new high school projects.

We are all well aware, Madam Speaker, of the challenging circumstances that have been forced upon the staff and students of John Gray over these past three years as a result of the decision to build the new high school on its current site. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank publicly the teachers, students and parents of the John Gray High School for preserving through these very challenging circumstances.

I would also like to thank the acting Principal of John Gray High School, Miss Lynette Montieth for her leadership and contributions to the school. Following the recent update from Miss Montieth and her senior team, we have agreed to a number of areas for further support. Over the summer we will be undertaking some key strategic projects that we believe will enhance the safety and security of the current campus.

Madam Speaker, we will be closing the lane beside the school leading from Walkers Road to UC-CI. This is an area currently being used for questionable activities and truanting from the compound. Madam Speaker, we will be installing CCTV in some hot spots in the school to ensure that we are extra vigilant, and we will be enhancing the security presence on the school. That has been an area of complaint, and I will ensure that we address those areas swiftly.

Madam Speaker, at CIFEC (Cayman Islands Further Education Centre) we are going to focus on strengthening the organisational structures to build on the lessons that we have learnt in this challenging, but ultimately, very rewarding first year. We will enhance the services of our career advisory unit, which will be fully staffed with three full-time people by September of [2011].

Madam Speaker, this will triple our capacity for careers counseling and services that our students receive. For, Madam Speaker, what we have observed with the Education Council [is that] too many of our students are coming and, whilst they seem very clear at what they want to do, they are not making the connection between what they are majoring in and what they want to do and what the economy needs.

For example, Madam Speaker, one of the first key strategic moves we made in the way of scholarships this year, is that anyone who wants to major in marketing, we are requiring them to also double major in another business subject. Madam Speaker, we only need to look at the history and the current number of students who are majoring in that area, and look at our economy and know that there will be significant unemployment in that area if we do not act now.

And, Madam Speaker, one of the things that I can say is that I will be practical. People might complain, but at the end of the day I am not going to continue to set our young people up for failure, as has been the case for too many years in this country, and we simply get up and brag and say, *Oh we are giving scholarships*. We need to be strategic. We need to care about what is going to happen to our students after they have completed their education.

Madam Speaker, at CIFEC we are going to provide increasing support for students with challenges to successful learning, including more opportunities for them to achieve formal qualifications as well as life skills necessary to achieve at the workplace.

Madam Speaker, we will create a strong success-at-work programme for students who have experienced difficulties in school to achieve formal qualifications and skills necessary to achieve at work. The review programmes have been very positive in strengthening the organisational structures and building on the lessons of the challenging, but ultimately rewarding year.

Madam Speaker, I—

Moment of interruption—4.30 pm

The Speaker: We are at the hour of 4.30, are we going to continue beyond? If so, we need to raise Standing Orders.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, I move the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) to allow us to continue beyond the hour of 4.30.

And, Madam Speaker, I crave Members' indulgence. I know it is a Friday, but I do need to complete my debate tonight.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow this honourable House to continue its business after the hour of 4.30. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly: Madam Speaker, out of the abundance of caution, I would draw [to your] attention that there are seven Members in the House, and if the Member for East End came back we would have a quorum for the vote.

The Speaker: The Member for East End left so we would not have a quorum.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier has arrived.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Shall I put it to the vote again that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow the business of the House to continue after the hour of 4.30?

All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.
Shall we continue?

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I just want to apologise. The Honourable Minister of Community Affairs, Mr. Adams, and I were at a funeral from three o'clock.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I should have noted it because you did inform me of such.

Minister of Education, please continue.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank all Members who have assisted in ensuring that I can finish this evening. And certainly, I cannot include the fellow that calls himself my good friend, the Elected Member for East End, on that 'thank you' . . . anyway, I thank him for coming in now.

Madam Speaker, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—we continue to recognise the educational achievements of our students in the Sister Islands and the efforts of all of those who contribute to their success. For example, Katherine Lazzari, a student of the newly renamed Layman E. Scott Senior High School, was recognised by the Caribbean Examination Council (CEC) for achieving the highest grade in the Caribbean in the 2010 Integrated Science Examination. Katherine was part of a cohort of students that achieved a record 65 per cent A through C equivalent passes.

Madam Speaker, later in the 2012 financial year we are going to be hosting an Evening at the Governor's. I believe it is being planned for October, once we have received all of this year's exam results, and it is going to be dubbed the "Evening of the Stars."

Madam Speaker, for too long we continue to focus on the few young people who make inappropriate choices, or do not take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them in this country, and we do not do enough to highlight, celebrate our young people who have achieved great successes. And so, Madam Speaker, that is something that, obviously in due course, all Members of the House and yourself will be invited to. And certainly, on behalf of the Government this is something that is going to be exciting. It is a continuation of our valuing education campaign.

If we truly value education, then we must highlight our high achievers; highlight those who do well in our school system. We cannot continue to just play mum, give them a scholarship and just say, *Oh well, that's all you deserve*. No! We must highlight all of our students and those who excel, they deserve it.

The Ministry has been working with the Layman Scott High School to build on its successes by broadening its offerings to students to include additional technical and vocational courses. I am pleased to advise that in 2010 the school successfully implemented the internationally accredited B-Tech courses in music, engineering and hospitality. So, you see, Madam Speaker, Cayman Brac has not been left out in our reforms.

Next week we will be launching the first stage of a Needs Assessment on all stages of the education system in the Sister Islands. This will include a survey of all residents which can be completed online or in hard copy. The first of a series of focus group meet-

ings will also be held next week with a focus being on secondary education. For, Madam Speaker, as promised in the Education Stabilisation Plan, we will be having a strategic plan for education for the Sister Islands that will form part of an overarching national strategic plan for education.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Madam Speaker, many governments have promised to provide technical and vocational education. This Government delivered within one year in office—and during tough fiscal times. From September 2010 students in the mandatory Year 12 programme have a choice of internationally accredited B-Tech vocational programmes in the following areas: creative media production, business, information technology, sport and leisure, hospitality, and, as I said, Madam Speaker, we are working on a new one for the Health Services Authority.

I can also report, Madam Speaker, that we are in an advanced stages of offering a level one and level two construction B-Tech course. We will be working with the Cayman Institute of Technology as a strategic partner, and at this stage we are developing the curriculum which will be submitted to B-Tech for formal accreditation. So, Madam Speaker, this call on this country for years of ensuring that we can also start to prepare our young people who want to get into construction in a meaningful way, will also be met by this Government. I say that we are doing a lot within our first two years of being in office.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry and DES (Department of Education Services) to expand the list for the Year 12 school year by offering new vocational courses in early childhood care and education, and additional APs such as chemistry. We also have plans to improve the range of recent programmes and make it easier for students to access these if they are offered after school hours. Further expansion will greatly be facilitated by CIFEC having a permanent site once the high schools are completed.

Madam Speaker, I believe the strategic way forward for this country in relation to vocational and technical education is to continue to strengthen and expand our offerings at secondary and at UCCI, while creating incentives and a supporting environment for private sector organisations to come forward to provide training opportunities that will result in our people gaining internationally recognised qualifications. In other words, Madam Speaker, work-based programmes.

Therefore, I am happy and pleased to announce, Madam Speaker, that the Ministry is exploring a range of exciting public/private partnerships for the 2012 year to deliver apprenticeship and training programmes for students and members of the community. At present, we are looking at opportunities to work with local businesses and agencies to provide new opportunities in the areas of auto mechanics and cosmetology.

Madam Speaker, the auto mechanic programme will be through Heart Institute in Jamaica, the JAGAS (Jamaican-German Automatic School) auto mechanic programme, and it is going to be housed at Superior Auto.

I am going to be hosting in July a series of industry roundtable discussions where I am going to be going to all of the varying industries and inviting all the players to meet with the Ministry so that we not only ensure that people have a much clearer understanding of what is already happening at Year 12, but to explore new opportunities for new homegrown B-Techs.

Madam Speaker, it is clear to me that what we need are solid internationally accredited technical and vocational programmes that are work based. Madam Speaker, we need to have our people on the job. We do not want to go down this model where we believe somehow that we can build this big magical technical school, put people in to get all these skills and then they go out. No, Madam Speaker, that is not the model this Government believes in.

This Government believes that work-based technical vocational and educational programmes are the way to go, because what that does is that you already have the young person at work. They are getting practical experience. Not only that, Madam Speaker, you are actually meeting the demands of the private sector. Too many times in this country and other countries, those in academia come up with programmes, they say they have consulted the industry, people go through the programmes and get some certificate and then people get in the workforce and the employer say that they do not have the skills that they really, really need. And so that is not the approach of this Government.

We understand clearly that there will be some programmes that will have to be run out of institutions like Cayman Islands Institute of Technology or UCCI for the [theoretical]. But, for the practical bit, they have to be work-based, Madam Speaker. They have to be work-based. We need to ensure that we are working intimately with the private sector.

Madam Speaker, at-risk students and behaviour and discipline: It is not unique to the Cayman Islands that behaviour is and does get in the way of quality teaching and learning and is a barrier to achievement for many students. Our Safer Schools Initiative that we will be rolling out in the 2012 year is underpinned by our Best Model approach to which we had the signing of our MOUs yesterday at the George Town Public Library.

Madam Speaker, for a long time we have continued in Cayman and many other countries, to talk about having a child-centered education system. Madam Speaker, in my humble opinion, every child's success depends on a very integral tripartite arrangement between teachers, or the school, the student and the parents. We must have a family-centered

education system—one that supports our families; one that ensures that we can meet the needs of our students in the context of their family and home life. In doing that, I am convinced, Madam Speaker, that we will stem the tide of the number of students that continue to be failed by our system; the number of students that wind up going to a broken alternative education system; a system, Madam Speaker, that when we did a study recently of the number of students who have gone through, we could barely get up to handful of successes—a large portion, 52 per cent currently incarcerated, another 20 per cent dead. Madam Speaker, we have to acknowledge in this country that that is not the way to go. It is simply not working.

And so, Madam Speaker, in this fiscal year we have already put in place the plans to completely revamp our Alternative Educational System whilst not compromising our students or our current cohort in schools. And so, Madam Speaker, we are putting in place in both of our secondary schools, our Suspension and Behaviour Units. We are training up our teachers, and in this fiscal year we are hiring additional behaviour specialists, because, Madam Speaker, that is a significant weakness in our cohort of teachers and the skill sets. And so that is a part of . . .

I heard that Mr. Miller went through the Budget and talked about the areas that he has seen new hires. Yes, he has seen new hires. And I can say that the vast majority of new hires this year are allocated to the Ministry of Education. Five per cent I think is the number of all new hires are going to my Ministry because the Government has education as a strategic priority. I think another 20 per cent or so of the new hires that are going to be going to the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs to meet security requirements that the country needs.

So, those have been the two key areas that this Government has focused on in this upcoming fiscal year. Madam Speaker, we are confident that we will be able to adequately deal with a vast majority of our most challenging students within the context of their original school.

As you know, Madam Speaker, Minister Adams, the Minister responsible for Community Affairs, is doing significant work in the way of being able to have a therapeutic community put in place to be able to deal with our very most challenged students. And so, Madam Speaker, we have already worked collaboratively and have assisted him and his Ministry in regards to hiring of the teachers who are going to be at his new facility to ensure that, whilst it will be a restricted curriculum—and I think all of us know that once students go to a therapeutic community, naturally, you do not get exposed to the entire full national curriculum. It will be restricted curriculum. But, Madam Speaker, nonetheless, it will be a robust curriculum that allows a student to be able to have success, to be able to gain skills, functional literacy and numeracy; introductory vocational and technical studies.

Madam Speaker, good things are going to be in store, and opportunities for even our most challenged students. Even those who are having a difficult time in life, for whatever reason, whether through poor choices, their home environment or what have you.

So, Madam Speaker, when we combine those two we will be left with but a small handful of students that will necessitate us continuing the Alternative Education Programme for but one more school year. After that, Madam Speaker, that programme will no longer exist in our education system. And, as far as I am concerned, as Minister, good riddance! We need to give our students opportunities for success. If we do not do that we have failed them as a system.

Madam Speaker, for the first time we have had a National Behaviour and Disciplined Policy that has been written and implemented. This policy requires behaviour for learning units in schools and has involved De-escalation Training for school staff. This work has already had a significant impact in our school system.

Let me share some statistics: Suspensions, Madam Speaker, have been significantly reduced without compromising on ensuring that we demand good behaviour. So, Madam Speaker, from September to December 2008, we saw a record of 277 suspensions throughout the high school system, 257 for the same period in 2009. And, Madam Speaker, following the implementation of the new approaches, the 2010 figure was 93 per cent—a 63 per cent overall reduction.

No, we have not gone soft on discipline. What we have done is that we are more effectively dealing with our students and having their behaviour corrected so that they can still receive valid instruction and can return to normal classes once their behaviour has improved to the point that they are able to be put back with all of their classmates.

Madam Speaker, that is crucially important. For too long, too many times the approach has been to suspend children. And we know what happens when they are out of our hands—they continue to get further and further behind, come back less prepared than ever and more of a problem, and, ultimately, expelled from the system; ultimately, AEC (Alternative Education Centre); ultimately, Northward. That cycle, Madam Speaker, has got to be broken. We cannot continue going down that road.

Madam Speaker, what I can say is that our ministerial MOUs and the agreements with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), in particular the Family Support Unit (FSU), and the Department of Counseling Services (DCS), holds real opportunity for us to discontinue working in silos and ensure that our families are at the core of everything we do, and in the improvements that we make.

Madam Speaker, anyone who listened to that press conference yesterday and continues to hear

about the work of Mr. Michael Myles and Sean Cahill, has to be impressed and has to have real hope for students with special needs in the future.

Madam Speaker, Special Education needs: We have not overlooked other aspects of special education needs. What we now have are a number of new programmes and services that have been introduced since taking office. The Music Therapy services at the Lighthouse School, the Early Intervention programme, and the Sunrise Adult Centre, have had a tremendous impact on the lives of all of those clients.

Madam Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago I was so proud, when I went up to Mary Miller Hall and they held their first ever concert, to hear a young lady who a year ago with limited communication, could get up before about 100 parents, well-wishers, and all of her fellow clients from Sunrise, and sing a solo. Madam Speaker, yes, we could not understand every single word she said. But I tell you, my heart was so touched when I saw that.

And, Madam Speaker, internationally Music Therapy is one of the key areas for dealing with people with special needs. And I tell you the work that has been done in that area in the last 12 months has been tremendous, and it has just completely revolutionised their lives—to hear some of them playing the drum, to hear them doing their group pieces.

New counseling services for students who are victims of sexual abuse, a new autism diagnosis services and training for teachers has also had a tremendous impact. And I just want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the Wellness Centre for the work that they have done in this regard.

Madam Speaker, I think that speaks volumes to some of the way forward that we have to go in this country. We cannot continue to believe that for every issue we face that we are going to staff-up. We have to understand that there are going to be pieces of our service that we can outsource so that we can buy in the level of service that we need depending on demand. Because, we know that once you start hiring people and get them into the civil service . . . getting rid of them is a completely different story. And so that approach has really, really been beneficial to us, and has delivered the quality service.

Greater emphasis is now being placed on earlier interventions for children being provided by our speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and specialist teachers within the Early Intervention Programme. Therefore, the treatment outcomes for our children with the most severe and complex developmental, including autism, are maximised and sometimes have even been eliminated before they start their formal school experience.

We are off to a good start as a government, but we admit in this area, Madam Speaker, there is much work to be done. And one of the key areas, of course, is surrounding early childhood care and education.

My Ministry has worked hard to address the neglected area of early childhood care and education. While the rest of the world has recognised the critical importance of quality care and education for our youngest children, here in the Cayman Islands it has fallen to us to take some real action to make this a reality for our children.

Our newly staffed Early Childhood Care and Education Unit will develop and implement a new curriculum and implement systems that will ensure access to quality early childhood care and education for all the children in the Cayman Islands. The unit is staffed by highly qualified staff with a wealth of experience, as well as knowledge of international trends and research. By closely working with the Earl Childhood Care and Education Centre and schools, the team will set and maintain national standards that are in line with International Best Practice in early years care and education.

Madam Speaker, last July when I met with the Early Years Association, which I must say at that point, Madam Speaker, was not really functional and we invited operators. It was at a meeting in July of last year over at the George Town Public Library. I can say that when we rolled out our plans of what we were going to do, we were met with a rousing round of applause.

One of my greatest complaints during my first tours of schools was of students at the primary level coming to school unprepared. And so, Madam Speaker, that task force has already done great work. I don't know how many of you have seen the posters. They distributed over 3,000 at a fair at Camana Bay; 12 tips for all parents with young children. Over 3,000 posters distributed.

Just last month we held our first annual Parent Information and Education Fair at the arc at Camana Bay. That too, Madam Speaker, was a rousing success with hundreds of parents coming through receiving information that ranged from what to look for in a pre-school, what we should be doing health-wise for our children, right up to what the Ministry was doing, and giving updates and ensuring that people knew what was coming and how they could get involved.

Madam Speaker, that is going to be a feature in the Month of the Young Child Calendar. The Ministry is going to sponsor that fair every year from now on. And, Madam Speaker, we cannot underestimate the power of giving parents information. Many parents are out there thirsty for information to be able to help their children, but simply, to date, have not had access to as much information as they need and deserve.

Madam Speaker, we are also going to be entering a new strategic arrangement with the Ministry of Health and other private providers of paediatric care. We know, Madam Speaker, that before we ever see a child in our school system, public or private, a doctor sees them first. Health practitioners are the first pro-

fessional people to interact with our children. And so, we need to arm them with the types of information of what they need to look for and develop a very simple streamline reporting system so that if certain things are delayed, that a parent might overlook, that it can get reported on to our Early Intervention Programme.

Madam Speaker, we still see too many children coming to us with serious developmental delays that if they had been addressed a year, two years earlier, that child could have been on the road to success. Yet we are trying to assist them in primary one.

In fact, Madam Speaker, at the George Town Primary School just last September, when we reintroduced the reception year, we had a few cases like that and so we need to work closely with the health professionals to ensure that we can continue to identify and refer these issues on to our Early Intervention Programme, for, Madam Speaker, the work of that programme has been very instrumental in setting a lot of our children up for success. And we need to ensure that that continues to be the case.

Madam Speaker, I covered a little earlier the whole matter of our primary schools projects, and I hope that that is now clear to all in the House. But I also want to acknowledge the fact that we have already opened our first facility, which was the new school hall and canteen up at the East End Primary School. That, Madam Speaker, was something that was greatly needed for East End Primary, and the Government was only too glad to ensure that we delivered that to the East End Primary School and its children.

Madam Speaker, improving standards: Underpinning all of these changes in education is an unwavering commitment to improve standards to education for all. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education recognises that effective professional development is vital to school success and teacher profession. Professional development activities in which teachers' regularly engage and collaborate, contributes to the ongoing learning and development skills and competencies.

Throughout the 2010/11 year the Education Ministry has provided opportunities for teachers' professional learning in areas such as, education instruction, classroom management, special needs provision, content knowledge, assessment, technology integration, and leadership skills. I also want to highlight the Behaviour for Learning PD (Professional Development) and the impact that that has had on success in the classroom.

In the coming year, Madam Speaker, we are going to continue and expand our national conference to open the school year. A programme of professional learning for our support assistants: There have been many complaints about not giving them enough opportunity to up-skill support assistants even more so that their impact in the classroom can be that much greater and really augment what is happening with

them in the classroom and the teacher. So, that is going to be a clear focus for us this year.

Madam Speaker, parental support training: We have already started parental support training at John Gray High School as it relates to drugs education and identification within our youth. We are going to be working with our HSAs (Home School Associations) and PTAs (Parent Teachers Associations) across the country to come up with specific and targeted programmes to assist parents and up-skill our parents in areas so that they can support their children even better. That, Madam Speaker, has come as a cry.

When I held my first meeting with all the PTA presidents from across Grand Cayman, that was one of the first things they echoed to me, saying that if they had one wish and desire, it is that the Ministry could indeed engage and collaborate with them more because a lot of times their parental body feels frustrated and not able to really engage properly and really be much more seamless in how they assist what is happening in schools.

Dyslexia training will be also enhanced this year, for we understand the impact that that can have on our children.

Madam Speaker, let me turn very quickly to the whole area of some of the issues that were raised during the debate thus far on this Budget. And, Madam Speaker, the Elected Member for North Side went to great pains to make a very, very serious accusation to say that somehow he believes that the Government . . . and I don't know how we would have done this. But anyway, he claims that we have projected revenue on the accruals basis and our expenses under cash basis.

Madam Speaker, basically, what he tried to say, in a roundabout fashion, was that we are overstating our projected revenue in our Budget and understating our expenses. Well, Madam Speaker, if the Elected Member for North Side truly understood accounting, what he would recognise . . . and he charged that of us last year as well. What he would clearly recognise is that if we had done it last year I would be the first to admit that in that first year you could potentially have a misleading budget. But, Madam Speaker, if you do it consistently—so if we had done that again this year, there would have been no impact on the Budget, because, Madam Speaker, it would have been simply a year on year carry-over error.

And so, if we were doing it simply on cash, any of the unreported expenses from 2011 would naturally be caught in the 2012 year and paid, and more than compensate, because, if you look at the difference in accounts payables they are negligible in this current fiscal year.

However, Madam Speaker, the proof of the matter is that if you look at the Budget documents you will see the Government is projecting to have ac-

counts payable. If we have accounts payable, Madam Speaker, we cannot cash accounting. Accounts payable is reporting expenses for which you have not paid the cash; they are payable.

So, Madam Speaker, where these wild ideas come from, from the Elected Member for North Side, when I listened to him, I really don't know.

Madam Speaker, much has been said about the fact that the Premier has spoken about the overall cash deficit of the Cayman Islands Government. And there has been charges laid that he does not know what he is talking about.

Madam Speaker, let me break this down very simply: If you are an accountant you can take your income statement, your balance sheet and your statement of cash flows and be able to take those three statements and interpret what the cash impact is to the Cayman Islands Government. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, that is purely dealing with accounting rules and how you account.

What most modern countries with an accrual system do is to also produce something called the "public sector borrowing requirement statement." That takes all of the elements of Government's funding and revenue, and produces one comprehensive statement that shows that you either have a positive or a negative public sector borrowing requirement.

That is the reason why the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) can tell us when we visit, and whenever we are on the conference calls, that this country has had a net deficit for six consecutive years. They are talking about a deficit on cash—the fact that you are spending more than you are making. And so you then have to fund it. And, Madam Speaker, that ultimately is the true measure of sustainability.

Let's draw it to our households. You make money, you buy operating things, like your groceries, et cetera, but then you might want to buy a television. You might want to buy something that is a fixed asset that is a capital item. Madam Speaker, when you go to the bank for a loan, the bank concentrates on how much you make versus how much you spend; it does not differentiate between whether it is operating family expenses or capital family expenses.

That is what the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) Reporting Standards do. And, Madam Speaker, that is what we are going to be reporting to the country, because what that statement does, is basically take elements of your balance sheet, your profit and loss, and your cash flow statement and combines them into one very neat statement that is internationally produced by most modern governments. That statement is the real measure of sustainability for your country and your finances and for projected financing.

That is the deficit that the Honourable Premier has spoken to. And, in that statement, Madam Speaker, what you do is, you take your revenues and extract all of your expenses. Then you deal with debt financ-

ing, borrowing, and what ultimately becomes your public sector borrowing requirement or what is commonly known as your PSBR. Your Public Sector Borrowing Requirement is what drives sustainability for you fiscally. Just because we have not reported it before does not mean we should not report it now and talk about it.

Madam Speaker, for the year 2006 the PSBR for the country was \$39.9 million. In 2007, \$11.4 million; 2008, \$91.6 million; 2009, \$203.5 million 2010, \$107.2 million; 2011, \$168.6; 2012, we are projecting \$29.8 million; and 2013, \$223.3 million [SOUNDS LIKE].

Madam Speaker, one of the things that we as a legislative assembly need to do, is to look very carefully about what other reporting requirements we are going to put in the Public Finance and Management Law (PMFL). I have suggested to the Honourable Premier and the Financial Secretary, that we meet with Members to explain carefully what the PSBR is, what it means, and to include it in our new reporting requirement. It is crucially important for us, Madam Speaker, because this is the type of bird's eye snapshot that Members of this House and Finance Committee need, and the country needs, so that we can truly understand from a holistic fiscal standpoint where the country is and where it is heading.

Madam Speaker, for any of those who might want to say that this is not required, I can tell you, certainly as long as the UK Government remains as is, this is going to be the standard that we measured on. This is the standard. I have sat across the table with Mr. Bellingham, and across the telephone on conference calls that he and Mr. Patterson, the economist from the FCO, have been talking about and measures CIG on.

So, Madam Speaker, I certainly hope that Members clearly recognise that we ultimately need to ensure that we secure the way forward. I believe that the agreement with the Dart Group of companies, the ForCayman Investment Alliance, is good. I believe that all of us, whilst we might want to nitpick and have arguments over small pieces, need for a change to show this country, some positive and cohesive resolve; resolve that is going to move this economy forward because it is for all of our best interests.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this Budget goes a long way to continuing the path to fiscal sustainability. But most importantly, Madam Speaker, in tough times it is still bringing to this country more services, strategically important services, enhanced spending on education, and, Madam Speaker, ultimately, the services that this country needs for all of our people.

I congratulate the Premier for his resolve, his determination. The fact is, that he does push all of us as Ministers hard when it comes to finances, and that is the way it should be. You cannot have a finance minister who is just going to give in to the whim and

fancy of everyone. Someone has to be the tough guy. Even in important areas you've got to get value for money. For every dollar we spend we must get value.

So, Madam Speaker, I can say that this Budget, while produced with some serious pushing and to-ing and fro-ing with the FCO, is one that is sustainable, is one that is good for the Cayman Islands, good for its people. I look forward, Madam Speaker, to the questioning—I look forward to it—in Finance Committee, as Members can drill down, certainly in all areas of my Ministry, because I have nothing to hide in here.

I believe that the services and the programmes are good. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Education.

I think this is a good time to call for the motion for adjournment for the evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, we propose to adjourn the House now until 10 am on Monday, God willing.

The Speaker: The question is that the House do stand adjourned until 10 am Monday. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 5.14 pm the House stood adjourned until 10.00 am, Monday, 20 July 2011.