



Fourth Youth Parliament
of the
Cayman Islands Branch
of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



Hansard Report

Verbatim transcript
of proceedings of the Fourth Youth Parliament
Held at the Legislative Assembly
Of the Cayman Islands
On Monday
14th March, 2011

**EDITED HANSARD
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE
FOURTH CPA YOUTH PARLIAMENT
MONDAY
14 MARCH 2011
9.27 AM**

OPENING REMARKS

by
**Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, MLA,
Chairman of the CPA Youth Parliament
Organising Sub-Committee**

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Honourable President of the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Vice President of the CPA Executive; Deputy Premier, Ms. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, [representing] the Premier, Honourable W. McKeeva Bush; Mr. V. Arden McLean, MLA, representing the Honourable Alden M. McLaughlin, Leader of the Opposition; Honourable Ministers and Members of the Cabinet; Members of the Legislative Assembly and of the CPA Executive; past Members of the honourable House; Youth Parliamentarians, parents, school principals, coaches, distinguished sponsors, invitees and guests, a very good morning to you all.

As Chairman of the Organising Committee, it is my earnest appreciation to the Executive Committee of the Branch for agreeing to hold a Fourth Youth Parliament in observance of Commonwealth Day. Both the Government and Opposition have recognised the educational benefits derived from such an event involving our youth. This is one of the only opportunities that our youth are afforded to experience the distinguished duties that Members of the Legislative Assembly carry out.

The overall goal of the Youth Parliament is to assist our young people in learning about and engaging in the democratic process, and to provide a forum for our young people to express their ideas, concerns and expectations with regard to the theme of "Democracy and Development."

The Youth Parliament was designed to provide an experience of the parliamentary process in the Commonwealth and to demonstrate how parliamentarians are able to make legislation to debate matters of national concern, to train them to become change agents in their communities and partners in development, and an opportunity to make their own opinions be felt whilst operating in a democratic framework.

As I reflect, I can remember when MLA, Ellio Solomon, the Honourable Cline Glidden and I first met with the Youth Parliament group last year at the Legislative Assembly. They expressed their thoughts to us about politics in general, and some of their comments

were respectfully crude. There were a lot of misunderstandings about politics itself and by the time we finished having our conversations, most had changed their opinions and had great respect for persons who surrender their lives to politics.

This is why the Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerritt, in 2010 hinted that a Youth Parliament may become a permanent occurrence in Dominica. Prime Minister Skerritt said that Youth Parliament should also be held outside of Commonwealth Day Celebrations, as this was also recommended and put forward at the Youth Summit in Surinam last year.

I want to publicly thank my Youth Parliament Organising Committee for their commitment to ensuring that this day was celebrated with this Youth Parliament exercise. Committee members, Captain Eugene Ebanks, MLA; Ellio Solomon, MLA; Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Cline Glidden; Mr. V. Arden McLean, MLA; and Mr. Ezzard Miller, MLA. It is much appreciated.

Twenty-two students will be participating in today's Youth Parliament, representing private and public schools. Ladies and Gentlemen they are to be highly commended for their hard work and commitment to this Youth Parliament project. They have spent many hours doing research and meeting with coaches and specialists in the topics they have chosen to debate. The students are very focused. They are taking this opportunity very seriously, and feel privileged with the opportunity which has been bestowed upon them in being selected by their schools and colleges to make part of history.

The positions and topics of the Youth Parliament today were selected by students in a democratic process which included Cayman Brac, by phone conference, to which still landed one of their students as a minister. Cayman Brac has also been provided with live interactive video stream while the Grand Cayman students practiced their debates. I think this is the first time this has ever happened, and was made possible by Mr. Locksley Gould from the Legislative Assembly's own valuable staff.

The Youth Parliament will debate two Motions dealing with "Waste-to-Energy", and amendments to the Penal Code in "Defilement and Incest." The voices and opinions of these Youth Parliamentarians must be taken very seriously as these are our future leaders and will be important in Cayman's history of youth development. Most of the students are experiencing this

for the first time and only Mr. Michaiah Bryan has been involved in a past Youth Parliament proceeding, and he will be recognised in that fashion later in the programme. But we must encourage past Youth Parliamentarians to participate to keep the continuity going.

I can remember speaking to Mr. Sidney Terry, who is a past member, reminiscing about his involvement in earlier Youth Parliaments and it was such a joy for him to serve.

Today's proceedings will witness the swearing-in of all Youth Parliament participants as Members. You will also see the process of appointment of a Speaker and the Cabinet ministerial roles being handed out.

We want to thank WestStar Television for recording this Youth Parliament. Although not live today, it will be rebroadcast. In addition, Radio Cayman will be broadcasting these proceedings.

The transcripts of these proceedings will, in the future, be on the website of the Legislative Assembly; www.cila.ky.

I want to thank all parents, principals, school coaches who have seen this as important to the development of our students, our sons and daughters.

I will take this time to say 'thank you' to the following persons for taking time out to assist me and the students with their debating skills, information, on parliamentary procedure and technical assistance with the topics chosen: The Speaker of the House, Honourable Mary J. Lawrence; the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin; the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Sharon Smith; Assistant Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Miss Nana Bothwell for helping to bring this together; Mr. Locksley Gould; UCCI President, Mr. Roy Bodden; Environmental Health Director, Mr. Roydell Carter, and his Assistant, Dr. Salam Crown Counsel Lawyer, Genecia Borsing; Mr. Hamarage, from the John Gray High School; Ms. Hyacinth Downer, Cayman Brac High School; Mrs. Bina Mani, Government Information Services (GIS); the Honourable Cline Glidden, Honourable Rolston Anglin, Honourable Mark Scotland, Mr. Ellio Solomon, MLA; Captain Eugene Ebanks, MLA; Mr. Arden McLean, MLA; Mr. Ezzard Miller, MLA; and Apex Video.

I want to thank our supporters, our sponsors, WestStar Television, Cayman Airways who graciously agreed to transport the students back and forth from Cayman Brac on Saturdays, Radio Cayman and the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in London.

Our gratitude also goes out to His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Duncan Taylor, and Mrs. Taylor, for hosting the reception this evening for the Youth Parliamentarians.

Over the last couple of months I have sat proud and listened to the young people of this country discuss and debate, and I have come to a conclusion

in my humble opinion that we have a bright future with the students coming behind to run this great nation. Whether it is the vivacious personality of Alexandra Franklin and Diana Tibbetts, the outspoken confidence of Kenvall Bryan, Alexandra McCrae and Justino Rodrigues; the brave heart of Soneil Gonez, the oratory confidence of [Julian] Solomon and Amber Calm; the thoughtfulness of Ann-Alecia Moore and Alexandra Anglin; the frank and honest opinion of Jasmine Ebanks; the keen concentration of Moya Williams, Joshua Dilbert, Alejandro Ossorio and Winston Williams; the investigative intelligence of Sydonie Barrett and Manuel Quintana; the overly respectful personality of Fraulein Whorms and Dushun Wilson; the reticent approach by Corey Christian and Joash Hyde; or the grandfathership of Michaiah Bryan, it has been a wonderful and insightful experience working with you.

I conclude my remarks by saying let history speak bold and proud of what we will achieve today at this honourable Youth Parliament today. I pray and hope that this and many Youth Parliaments in the future will continue to assist us in molding our leaders to come. God Bless these Cayman Islands.

I now invite the Honourable Speaker and President of the CPA to offer her welcoming remarks.

Thank you.

[Applause]

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

**Hon Mary J. Lawrence, MBE, JP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
and**

**President of the Cayman Islands Branch
of the CPA**

Hon. Mary J. Lawrence: Good morning everyone and welcome to the Cayman Islands Fourth CPA Youth Parliament. A very special welcome to parents, friends, teachers, and most importantly, our young participants who over the next several hours will give us a glimpse into how they view the roles and responsibilities of being a legislator.

Too often in our society we find this role negated and derided, in an age of multimedia and continual source of negative headlines. But I would remind you today that there is no higher or a more responsible role in our country than that of a legislator. For in the hands of those who fill those positions lie the destiny of a country and its people.

Today, briefly, I want to remind you of how we arrived at this moment in time and challenge you as young people to begin your preparation as movers and shakers in the future of these Islands.

The Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly had its genesis in a decision taken on December 5th, 1831, almost 180 years ago, to introduce representative government in these Islands.

The meeting made up of the Governor, appointed magistrates and the country's principal inhabitants, who had been responsible for good governance up until that point, would have far-reaching effect on the history of our country. Five days later, elections were held. They did not believe in long drawn out election processes. And a bicameral legislature was established. The Upper House consisting of the magistrates or Justices of the Peace, as they would come to be known, and the Lower House of elected Vestrymen.

These two bodies would later merge into one under the Commissioners who were later appointed to oversee the governance of the territory and become known as the Legislative Assembly of Vestry and Justices. That form of government would persist until 1959 when the country gained its first written Constitution which came into effect on July, 4, 1959, and which is celebrated annually on the first Monday in July as a public holiday.

But let's look at where we were then, just a short 52 years ago. Up until then there was no paper ballot. Many who were the age of 21 who had paid their taxes were allowed to vote by going to the Town Hall in each district and putting their X on a blackboard by the name of the candidate they were voting for. These candidates were invariably the merchants leaving one with little choice as to where they put their X.

Women did not have the right to vote or participate in the electoral process in any way before that Constitution. The agitation to change this fact began in 1947 with a small group of women in George Town, and it would spread Island-wide over the next decade resulting in the passage of legislation in 1958, and the inclusion of the right in the Constitution in 1959.

Having achieved that milestone, however, it is significant to note at this time that there have been only nine women over 50 years elected to serve in the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly. This is despite the fact that the voting age was lowered in 1972 to 18; that more than half of the electoral register is [comprised of] women; that women make up more than half of the workforce; that more than half of the professionals in the Cayman society are women. The political arena is still an uncharted territory for women who consistently continue to vote for men and then wonder why family and women and children issues—the underpinning of a stable society and thus a stable economy—are not priority items on the political agenda.

A case in point is the Children Law which was first passed in 1994 but never enacted; was again before the House in 2006 as new legislation but never

enacted; and was again before the House as new legislation in 2009 and still not enacted. In those 17 years dozens of young people have fallen by the wayside for which the provisions of that legislation might have proven to be a safety net. And today with all our talk of human rights and freedoms, buzzwords in our society, we house our young offenders in the same facility as the prime kings of our society.

That does not mean we have not had good, yes, even brilliant men as political leaders in that time. And I am sure this will continue to be so. Nor does this mean they do not care. They do care. It is just that these matters are not high on their priority list. Economically and developmentally the country has made astronomical strides in the past five decades, astounding the world as we emerge from the "Islands that time forgot." But the viewpoint of a woman has been missing in this great search forward, and today I believe our society is paying a high price for that omission.

Yes, we have made some progress in many areas. And in some areas we have exceeded the actions of developed countries like the USA and the UK. Our own National Hero, the Honourable Sybil McLaughlin, was the first woman in the Commonwealth to become the Clerk of the Legislature. She was the first woman in the Caribbean to become Speaker of a Legislature. Today I serve as a fourth woman Speaker, a milestone in our history, particularly when one considers that the United Kingdom with hundreds of years of parliamentary history has had only one woman Speaker, Mrs. Betty Boothroyd, and one woman Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, and that the United States which we tout as being the bastion of freedom and democracy has had only one woman Speaker in its history, Mrs. Nancy Pelosi, and has yet to elect its first woman president.

The theme of this Commonwealth Day is "women—Agents of Change." In today's perspective what does that mean to us? We have travelled to the moon as astronauts and explored outer space, but are terrified of the political arena where we could effect lasting change in our societies. I will tell you a little secret: The men are terrified too; for this is an area that for centuries—not just in the Cayman Islands, but worldwide—we have engineered only token admittance.

I look with pleasure today at the makeup of this Youth Parliament where so many young women are sitting beside our young men, where both the Speaker and the Governor hail from the fairer sex. Though I note the leadership roles on both sides of the House are still in the hands of the men. I hope this augurs well for our future. I hope that this exercise will inspire you as young men and young women to learn more about political and government processes with a view to greater participation as you arrive at the age of voting, as you consider career choices, as you pre-

pare to take up the responsible roles in the still largely uncharted waters of political leadership and development in the Cayman Islands.

Today you sit where dozens of men and nine women have sat before you, as elected representatives of the people. It is a singular honour, and it is only bestowed on those participants in the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament. No other person is allowed to occupy those chairs. Savior it, remember it and cherish it, and use it to help you move forward in your life.

I extend an invitation to you today and to your peers to visit this Legislative Assembly as often as possible and make it a part of your education. You are the leaders of tomorrow, but your preparation for that role begins today. May God bless you all. And I join with everyone in wishing you every success in your debates today.

Now I will read Her Majesty's Commonwealth Day Message which is entitled: "Women—Agents of Change".

A message from Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth:

Last week, on the 8th of March, we marked the hundredth anniversary of the first International Women's Day. The idea of having a women's day was first proposed against the backdrop of the rapid industrialisation of the early twentieth century. From small beginnings, this idea has grown to become a widely recognised way of celebrating women around the world. While some people use this day to acknowledge the love, admiration and respect for women, others use it to remember the great social and political strides made both by and for women in the last hundred years. There is no right or wrong approach.

In the Commonwealth, every year, 26 million girls are born; and this equates to one new baby girl arriving almost every second of every day. In the time it takes to hold the Commonwealth Observance Service at Westminster Abbey, nearly four thousand girls will have been born in Commonwealth lands. And every one of these births marks the start of a new life, a journey which begins with the hopes of parents, families and communities, and which is continued through the aspirations of those girls themselves.

This year, the Commonwealth celebrates the important role that women already play in every walk of life and in every Commonwealth country—from the richest to the poorest areas, across continents and oceans, from villages to places of international debate, in every culture and faith—recognising that women are 'agents of change' in so many ways: as mothers and sisters, teachers and doctors, artists and craftspeople, smallholders and entrepreneurs, and as leaders of our soci-

eties, unleashing the potential of those around them.

And also this year, the Commonwealth reflects on what more could be achieved if women were able to play an even larger role. For example, I am encouraged that last year the Commonwealth launched a global effort to train and support half a million more midwives worldwide.

In all this work the commendable goal is to create a greater opportunity for women as children and adults to pursue their hopes and dreams, to attain their goals, and to make best use of their talents and knowledge.

This year, and on Commonwealth Day especially, as governments continue to search for new ways to tackle these important challenges, let us all give a thought to the practical ways in which we, as individuals or as groups, can provide support to girls and women – so that everyone can have a chance of a fuller and more rewarding life wherever they happen to be born. Elizabeth R.

Thank you.

[Applause]

REMARKS ON THE FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

By

**Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP, MLA, on behalf
of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition,
the Third Elected Member for
George Town**

Mr. V. Arden McLean, Elected Member for East End: His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Taylor, and Mrs. Taylor; Deputy Premier, the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly; Speaker, the Honourable Mary Lawrence, MBE and President of the Cayman Islands Branch of the CPA; Mr. Dwayne Seymour, MLA and Chairman of the CPA Organising Youth Parliament Subcommittee; Ministers and Official Members of Cabinet, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Youth Parliamentarians, parents and family, former members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and spouses; teachers, well-wishers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

First let me thank the Speaker and Mr. Seymour for two very comprehensive deliveries. Thank you very much.

Youth Parliamentarians, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, who is unavoidably absent today, and the other Members of the Opposition, I would like to congratulate you on having been chosen to participate in this, the Fourth Youth Parliament of

the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

We are encouraged by the subjects you have chosen to discuss during this session of the Youth Parliament. Personally, I am very interested in hearing your views on the topical subject of waste management. Your choice of subjects, particularly that of waste management, says to those of us who currently have responsibility to protect the environment, that you are concerned about the role we play as residents of these Islands and citizens of the world—a world that, until recently, has paid little attention to our unbridled destruction of our environment that has sustained our existence for generations.

You recognise that if we do not cease the wanton disrespect of our environment, your generation will not be privileged to enjoy that which many of my generation experienced. We applaud you for bringing your thoughts and ideas to the fore.

Your Motion to increase penalties for watching and besetting defilement and incest cannot be overlooked or undervalued either. Many in our society are vulnerable to such acts and the penalties must reflect the seriousness of such behavior. Many times these offences are not remembered until they occur, and then we hasten to amend the laws after the fact. Once more, thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Some of you are veterans in this arena. For others, this is your very first time to be a part of a national stage to express your views on subjects that are dear to you and your peers. I encourage each of you to stay involved and become an agent of change in your country. It is very possible that many of you will one day sit in these very seats as representatives of the people if you remain connected to politics. Do not view this as just another debate. No country can survive with one generation. You are next in line to lead this great country.

Not many people in this world get this unique opportunity to be taught how Parliament works prior to becoming members. Embrace this opportunity.

To parents and teachers, I say congratulations on having such brilliant young adults in your care. And I implore you to keep them engaged. Together with you, we have a perfect opportunity to mould these young people into the citizens that John F. Kennedy challenged in his inaugural speech in 1961, when he called on all Americans to, “**Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.**”

What better way is there for parents and teachers to ensure that we know who we are turning this country over to, than for us to mould them? We have a responsibility to ensure that they understand the sacrifices every human being must make to repay his or her debt to society. We also have the responsibility to teach the values of humility, honesty and equality. Now is the time!

Personally, I have advocated for this Parliament to have Pages for some time, where students on their days off can come and spend a few hours running errands from inside the Chamber. This is just one way of ensuring that we keep them engaged. I will be relentless in my efforts, and today I invite my colleagues to join me in ensuring it becomes a reality.

Again, I warmly congratulate each and every one of you on your achievements thus far, and look forward to hearing your views expressed here today. I thank you and may God continue to bless us all.

Thank you.

[Applause]

OPENING OF THE FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

by

Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly, OBE, JP, Deputy Premier, Minister of District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture, on behalf of the Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development, Joint-Vice President of the CPA Cayman Islands Branch

The Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Connolly: Morning, Madam Speaker, Your Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Taylor, my fellow Parliamentarians, distinguished members of the public, press and in particular our youth this morning, but our Youth Parliamentarians.

I wish to give sincere apologies on behalf of our Honourable Premier who is off Island for medical reasons with his spouse, but who nonetheless wanted me to come to stand in his stead this morning, in particular against the background that he was the brainchild for the Youth Parliament here in Cayman back in 2001. He wishes very much to have been here this morning to see what we have as legitimate expectations for a very splendid and a very active and interesting and considered debate—adversarial though we expect it to be, because this is Parliament. But nonetheless, he sends his very, very sincere and best regards to you.

Democracy is a very fluid, very magnetic word, but it is not always easily achieved because at the central core of democracy is the art of negotiation and the need for consensus building. Because of our humanistic nature we are unique in our ideology, we are unique in our aspirations, we are unique in our genetic makeup. But the one thing that brings that element of commonality is the need to have a safe serene environment where all and sundry can survive, and where from a holistic approach democracy will

have the sustainable element of taking each nation through its journey of nation building.

What excites us as parliamentarians today, as Madam Speaker so eloquently articulated moments ago, is that you will have the opportunity, rare and unique though it be, to occupy what my good friend from East End refers to, “a piece of political real estate in the format of a chair.” And in this honourable Chamber here for this time and for this moment it is your opportunity to show the greater Cayman that not only as young people we have real hope for the future, but that you have been listening and perhaps up until this moment you have been a formidable part of what we in Cayman are cognisant of and often refer to as a “silent majority.”

It is therefore my challenge to you that in the next few minutes which are building up to the conclusion of you having the title of the “silent majority”, that you will remove the nervousness that I have detected in some of your eye moments, and some of your facial expressions. This is your time, your place to make history; your place to be an ambassador and an agent of change for you, the young people. What you say, how you debate, how you control your tempers and your demeanour, how you exhibit that rare quality of politicians past, current and perhaps future, of debating to the best of your ability, yet containing your composure, but just as important, to leave these hallowed Chambers and shake the hand of the person that you just intellectually whipped, takes a statesman and a stateswoman.

I believe that there is great optimism; there is great hope for our Cayman jurisdiction when we can see that evolving and maturing. Because, at the end of the day, though the numbers are restricted from a statutory perspective, and on the tenets of democracy, nonetheless you are here as mirrors, as representatives of your generation, and we therefore expect that when you leave here today that you would not have merely conformed to the rules and regulations and guidelines of debate and procedure within this Parliament, but that you will leave here metamorphosed into agents of change regardless of your gender.

And yes, the topic is “Women—Agents of Change.” But as Nancy Regan once said, “**You never really know the strength of a woman because she is like a tea bag; you have to place her in hot water.**” And the women have been placed in various different social stratifications throughout our evolution here in Cayman and elsewhere across the Commonwealth. But perhaps the hottest water is in this Parliament.

History has proven that we have not yet succeeded by having a majority in parliament, but women have a way of getting their own way. We are the child bearers. So, let’s do it where we know we have a hundred per cent return. Train up your boy child to respect the girl child. Train up the boy child to grow

into an outstanding male citizen here in Cayman and abroad.

Even if no woman gets elected (and I am not advocating that, by the way—I intend to run the next election) . . . but even if that were the case, you would have trained your boy child so good that as a woman you could travel the world, you could do your church work, you could do whatever made you happy with the great assurance that your son, your uncle would have done just as good a job as you would have done.

I say that from this perspective, for those of you who may find that statement strange—you see it does not really matter what your sex is. What matters is who you are as an individual because when you are the kind of individual that God wants you to be, you will look out for everybody to the best of your ability at all material times, which means that you will include women issues, girl issues, men issues, boy issues.

Having said that, it is still my heart’s desire before I pass from this stage to the other stage beyond this world, to see not only a female Speaker, but it would be the perfect utopia to see all females sitting here, if for no other reason than to prove that it would not be a gender revolution, and that Cayman could still continue in its financial, social and economic miracle, and we would have burst that glass ceiling.

Until then, young people, hold your heads up high, be proud to be Caymanian, be proud to be a Caymanian resident, be proud of your Parliament. And as you get a taste of what it means to sit in these seats, we are expecting you to go back to your respective communities and change the attitudes and change the minds so that more people would have an avid, a sincere interest in the matters of this country, because like Ruth of old, this is where we were born, this is where we chose as our domicile of choice. As a result, together, this is where we hope to be buried and for the seeds that we have planted from a democratic perspective, will only grow and mature for many years to come.

With that, on behalf of the Honourable Premier, it is my absolute distinct pleasure to declare this Youth Parliament open and to see the innovative, highly stimulating and intellectual adversarial debate.

May democracy rise high once again in these beloved Cayman Islands.

[Applause]

Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Chairman of the CPA Youth Parliament: Thank you all for those speeches.

I encourage everyone visiting here today to try to stay as long as possible to witness today’s proceedings.

Proceedings will now begin. Thank you very much.

**ARRIVAL OF
HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE CPA
FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

The Serjeant-at-Arms: Her Excellency the Governor of the honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.
All rise.

PRAYERS

Her Excellency the Governor of the Fourth Youth Parliament: Prayers to be delivered by Youth Pastor Felix Manzanares.

Youth Pastor Felix Manzanares: Let us Pray.

Dear Heavenly Father we gather in this honourable House today to welcome your presence, to welcome your peace here.

We thank you for these young women and men who have gathered here today Lord to do these proceedings Lord, on behalf of the young people of these Islands.

We thank you for our Government and the Members of this Parliament who believe in our youth and have given them the opportunity to serve in this manner. Lord I ask that you will continue to increase their wisdom and their abilities as they become trail blazers Lord for the future of the young people of these Islands.

Lord, I pray that you will continue to stir up a fire in them and a desire to serve their nation, in whatever capacity they can and that, Lord, they will be ambassadors for this Nation wherever they go to serve.

Lord, I pray this prayer in your Name.

I pray your blessings over 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 Youth Parliamentarians participating in this Youth Parliament that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

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 Clerk: Please be seated.

Administration of Oaths or Affirmations by Her Excellency the Governor, Miss Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

By Her Excellency, Miss Alexandra McRae, Governor of the Fourth CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

The Clerk: Oath of Allegiance, Mr. Soneil Gonez, Honourable First Official Member, Deputy Governor.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Soneil Gonez

First Official Member, Deputy Governor

Hon. Soneil Gonez: I, Soneil Gonez, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

The Clerk: Affirmation, Mr. Manuel Quintana, Honourable Second Official Member, Attorney General.

AFFIRMATION

Hon. Manuel Quintana

Second Official Member, Attorney General

Hon. Manuel Quintana: I, Manuel Quintana, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: I will now invite the two Official Members to take their seats.

**ELECTED MEMBERS
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Electoral District of West Bay

The Clerk: Elected Members of the Legislative Assembly—The Electoral District of West Bay.

Mr. Julian Solomon, Honourable Premier, the First Elected Member for West Bay.

AFFIRMATION

**Mr. Julian Solomon, Honourable Premier
First Elected Member for West Bay**

Mr. Julian Solomon: I, Julian Solomon, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Alexandra Anglin, the Second Elected Member for West Bay.

AFFIRMATION

**Miss Alexandra Anglin
Second Elected Member for West Bay**

Miss Alexandra Anglin: I, Alexandra Anglin, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Moya Williams, the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

AFFIRMATION

**Miss Moya Williams
Third Elected Member for West Bay**

Miss Moya Williams: I, Moya Williams, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Mr. Kenval Bryan, the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

AFFIRMATION

**Mr. Kenval Bryan
Fourth Elected Member for West Bay**

Mr. Kenval Bryan: I, Kenval Bryan, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Mr. Alejandro Ossorio, the Fifth Elected Member for West Bay.

AFFIRMATION

**Mr. Alejandro Ossorio
Fifth Elected Member for West Bay**

Mr. Alejandro Ossorio: I, Alejandro Ossorio, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

Electoral District Of George Town

The Clerk: Electoral District of George Town.

Miss Sydonie Barrett, the First Elected Member for George Town.

AFFIRMATION

**Miss Sydonie Barrett
First Elected Member for George Town**

Miss Sydonie Barrett: I, Sydonie Barrett, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Jasmine Ebanks, the Second Elected Member for George Town.

AFFIRMATION

**Miss Jasmin Ebanks
Second Elected Member for George Town**

Miss Jasmin Ebanks: I, Jasmin Ebanks, Jr., do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Mr. Michaiah Bryan, the Third Elected Member for George Town.

AFFIRMATION

**Mr. Michaiah Bryan
Third Elected Member for George Town**

Mr. Michaiah Bryan: I, Michaiah Bryan, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Alexandra Franklin, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

AFFIRMATION

**Miss Alexandra Franklin
Fourth Elected Member for George Town**

Miss Alexandra Franklin: I, Alexandra Franklin, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

Electoral District of Bodden Town

The Clerk: Electoral district of Bodden Town.

Mr. Justino Rodrigues, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
Mr. Justino Rodrigues
First Elected Member for Bodden Town

Mr. Justino Rodrigues: I, Justino Rodrigues, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Ann-Alecia Moore, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

AFFIRMATION
Miss Ann-Alecia Moore
Second Elected Member for Bodden Town

Miss Ann-Alecia Moore: I, Ann-Alecia Moore, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Mr. Dushun Wilson, the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

AFFIRMATION
Mr. Dushun Wilson
Third Elected Member for Bodden Town

Mr. Dushun Wilson: I, Dushun Wilson, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

Electoral District of
Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

The Clerk: Electoral District of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Mr. Joshua Dilbert, the First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

AFFIRMATION
Mr. Joshua Dilbert
First Elected Member for
Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

Mr. Joshua Dilbert: I, Joshua Dilbert, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: Miss Fraulein Whorms, Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
Miss Fraulein Whorms
Second Elected Member for
Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

Miss Fraulein Whorms: I, Fraulein Whorms, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law. So help me God.

Electoral District of East End

The Clerk: Electoral District of East End
 Mr. Joash Hyde, the Elected Member for East End.

AFFIRMATION
Mr. Joash Hyde
Elected Member for East End

Mr. Joash Hyde: I, Joash Hyde, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

Electoral District of North Side

The Clerk: Electoral District North Side.
 Mr. Winston Williams, the Elected Member for North Side.

AFFIRMATION
Mr. Winston Williams
Elected Member for North Side

Mr. Winston Williams: I, Winston Williams, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors, according to Law.

The Clerk: I invite the Government Bench and Opposition Bench to take their seats.
 Please be seated.

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR OF THE CPA FOURTH
YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Her Excellency the Governor: Honourable Premier, Honourable Members and Ministers of the Cabinet, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Government and Opposition Members of this honourable Youth Parliament, welcome to the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

I would like to begin by saying that I am honoured to take part in this important historic event. And I would like to congratulate my peers as they take their seats.

Education of the young people of the Cayman Islands and their participation in programmes such as these is of the utmost importance because our generation is the future of this country.

Our current political leaders are faced with many challenges ranging from ecological to economical, but one day we will be left with these problems and it will be our turn to create viable solutions.

I strongly encourage my peers, the youth of the Cayman Islands, to become more politically educated and aware. This will only serve them well from here on.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making this Youth Parliament a successful venture, and I hope that everything goes smoothly today.

I wish the Members of the Fourth Youth Parliament wisdom and encourage, not only for today's debates, but also for the future as you transition into the leaders of our Islands.

Thank you for your attention.

PROCLAMATION NO. 1/2011 CPA FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk: Reading of Proclamation No. 1 of 2011.

CPA Fourth Youth Parliament, Cayman Islands.

CPA Fourth Youth Proclamation No. 1/2011 by Her Excellency Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands:

WHEREAS the sessions of the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Youth Parliament shall be held at such places and begin at such times as the Governor of the CPA Youth Parliament from time to time by Proclamation shall appoint;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me, hereby proclaim that a session of the CPA Fourth Parliament of the Cayman Islands shall be held at the Legislative Assembly Building on the Island of Grand Cayman, beginning at 10 am on Monday, 14th March 2011.

NOMINATION OF THE MEMBER WITH THE LONGEST UNBROKEN SERVICE THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE TO PRESIDE OVER THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk: I now call for the Father of the House to preside over the election of the Speaker.

Mr. Winston Williams, Member for North Side: I beg to nominate Mr. Michaiiah Bryan, the Third Elected Member for George Town, being the Member who has the longest unbroken service in the Youth Parliament, to preside over the Fourth Youth Parliament for the election of the Speaker.

The Clerk: The Motion has been duly moved by the Elected Member for North Side. Is there a seconder?

Miss Moya Williams, Third Elected Member for West Bay: Madam Clerk, I beg to second the nomination.

The Clerk: The Motion has been duly moved and seconded. I will now put the question that Mr. Michaiiah Bryan do preside over the proceedings of the Fourth Youth Parliament for the election of Speaker.

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

Ayes.

The Clerk: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Mr. Michaiiah Bryan to preside over the proceedings of the Fourth Youth Parliament for the election of Speaker.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER OF THE CPA FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Chairman: I now call for nominations for the Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

I recognise the First Elected Member for George Town.

Miss Sydonie Barrett, First Elected Member for George Town: I beg to nominate Miss Diana Tibbetts to be the Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

The Chairman: Is there a seconder?

Miss Ann-Alecia Moore, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town: I beg to second the nomination.

The Chairman: Does Miss Tibbetts accept the nomination?

Miss Diana Tibbetts, Speaker Designate: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to accept the nomination.

The Chairman: Are there any further nominations? [pause] Are there any further nominations? [pause] Are there any further nominations? [pause]

If there are no further nominations, I declare Miss Diana Tibbetts to be the Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

I now invite the Speaker Designate to take the Oath of Office.

The Clerk: All rise.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Diana Tibbetts, Speaker Designate of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament

Administered by the Governor

Hon. Diana Tibbetts: I, Diana Tibbetts, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

PROCESSION

Serjeant-at-Arms

The Hon. Speaker

The Governor

The Clerk: Please be seated and remain in your seats.

SPEAKER'S PROCESSION

Serjeant-at-Arms [bearing the Mace]

Honourable Speaker

Clerk of the Legislative

The Speaker: This honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament is now in session.

Please be seated.

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE CPA FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk: Statement by the Honourable Speaker of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

The Speaker: Before I proceed to the Order of Business, I crave the indulgence of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament to say a few words.

Honourable Premier, Honourable Members of the Cabinet, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Members of this honourable Youth Parliament, family, friends, and audience in the Legislative Assembly, and lastly, viewers by radio and television, I greet you a good and blessed morning.

It has been an honour and a great pleasure for me to be selected as Speaker of the House for the Fourth Youth Parliament in our beloved Cayman Isle.

Today, Her Majesty the Queen addresses the issue, "Women—Agents of Change." In Her Address she lets all Commonwealth countries know that the 100th Anniversary for International Women's Day is the celebration for all people to acknowledge the social and political strides women have made within the last 100 years. This Message is conveyed all around the world in all Commonwealth countries to recognise the love, admiration, and respect for women in today's society.

In Cayman's society today, we are going through a difficult time. The economy is bad, crime rates are dramatically increasing, people are arguing about what changes we should make to the Islands. Everyone is focusing on these issues and are not realising that all of this is affecting the youth, the upcoming generation that will run this country one day, the youth of tomorrow, the youth who will make Cayman what it should be in the future. We, the youth, are looked down upon. No one has given us the opportunity to voice our opinions, our concerns, the knowledge and the solutions that we have to the current problems of Cayman.

Our beautiful Islands, once safe, loving communities are now going through a change of violence and hatred. What has happened? What has caused this change? We need to come to terms and accept different ideas and put them together and see if they can work and solve this terrible fact of the Cayman we have today, and work together to make Cayman be the loving and safe community that we are familiar with.

The Caymanian society needs to accept the fact that we, the youth, are growing up with this negative change which is greatly affecting us and, is causing a huge impact on our lives. We are becoming affected with all of these crimes; we are being victims of these crimes, and we want this to stop. We are willing to voice our opinions, facts and statements on what we know people are doing and why they are doing it.

Another issue affecting the Caymanian society is the landfill, which, to most Caymanians, is known as "Mount Trashmore." This is a huge problem and we have been ignoring it long enough. If this situation is not addressed it will affect the children of the future.

Cayman, the youth want you to know that we all need to come together and contribute different ideas to find a solution for this growing situation to make the Cayman Islands' environment a safer place for generations to come.

If you are listening to us, the youth, you will hear amazing things that we have to say, and the ideas we have for this country of ours, as we all know, we live in these wonderful Islands and want the best for the Cayman Islands. So, let us get together and listen to what we have to say and try to work as one to move the Cayman Islands [forward] instead of holding back whereby our Islands will suffer more.

Here, today, in this Fourth Youth Parliament, you will hear what we have concerns about and all the various solutions we have to solve the problems. Do not look at us as teenagers all dressed up nicely and ready to debate against each other; but look at us as the Cayman's future politicians, leaders or great people who want to make a change for Cayman. Listen to our opinions, for you may be astonished at what we have to say and how we present this.

Cayman, we are the youth of tomorrow, the next generation, and we want to make sure that our Islands will be the best Islands they can be for our children and the next generation to come.

To honourable Members of this [Fourth Youth] Parliament, I appreciate and congratulate the work and effort you have put into this Meeting, the Fourth Youth Parliament. I am proud of us all and the hard work we have put into this debate. I see you are truly concerned and passionate in what you are debating about, and the fact that we are picked from each of our schools to represent the Cayman's Fourth Youth Parliament, I am certain that you will represent the youth well. Since we have been chosen to do this job, people will see us as obtaining leadership qualities and as great politicians and debaters.

In closing, while we are proceeding through the formalities, I want you all to know that you should take your time, use it wisely to show Cayman what we the youth have to say. For this is a great opportunity for us to show our country that we so dearly love the opinions that we have are valid, and we know what we are talking about. We are not just teenagers debating for the fun, but are concerned citizens of Cayman who want to see a change for the betterment of our beloved Isle.

Thank you all for your time and I wish you the best of luck in this debate. I am looking forward to today's event.

We shall now proceed with the Order of Business.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE CPA FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Speaker: I now call for nominations for Deputy Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

I recognise the Honourable the Second Elected Member for West Bay.

Miss Alexandra Anglin, Second Elected Member for West Bay: Madam Speaker, I beg to nominate the Fourth Elected Member for George Town to be the Deputy Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder for the nomination of Deputy Speaker?

I recognise the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Dushun Wilson, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to second the nomination.

The Speaker: Does the Fourth Elected Member for George Town accept the nomination?

Miss Alexandra Franklin, Fourth Elected Member for George Town: Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to accept the nomination.

The Speaker: Are there any further nominations? [pause] Are there any further nominations? [pause] Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I declare the Fourth Elected Member for George Town to be the Deputy Speaker of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

We will now take a five minute suspension for the swearing-in of Cabinet.

Please remain in your seats.

I now invite Her Excellency the Governor into the Chamber to announce the assignment of responsibilities to the Honourable Minister of Cabinet of the honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTERS OF CABINET OF THE CPA FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

By Her Excellency the Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament

The Clerk: Announcement of assignment of responsibilities to the Honourable Ministers of Cabinet of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament by Her Excellency the Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

Her Excellency the Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament Miss Alexandra McRae: Honourable Members of this CPA Youth Parliament, I have charged the Elected Ministers of Cabinet with the following responsibilities:

- Mr. Julian Solomon—Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development.

- Miss Sydonie Barrett—Deputy Premier, Minister of District Administration, Works, lands and Agriculture.
- Miss Alexandra Anglin—Minister of Education, Training, and Employment.
- Mr. Joshua Dilbert—Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing.
- Mr. Justino Rodrigues—Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

PRESENTATION OF INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT OF PREMIER, DEPUTY PREMIER, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

By Her Excellency the Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament

The Clerk: Presentation of Instruments of Appointment of Leader of Government Business and Leader of the Opposition by His Excellency the Governor of the CPA Third Youth Parliament.

Appointment of the Premier of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

APPOINTMENT OF THE PREMIER

Her Excellency the Governor: To the Honourable Julian Solomon, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me I, Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands do hereby, by this instrument, appoint you, the Honourable Julian Solomon to be the Premier of this CPA Fourth Youth Parliament with effect from 14 March 2011.

The Clerk: Appointment of the Deputy Premier of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY PREMIER

Her Excellency the Governor: To the Honourable Sydonie Barrett, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me I, Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands do hereby, by this instrument, appoint you, the Honourable Sydonie Barrett, to be the Deputy Premier of this CPA Fourth Youth Parliament with effect from 14 March 2011.

The Clerk: Appointment of the Leader of the Opposition of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Her Excellency the Governor: To the Honourable Michaiah Bryan, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me I, Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands do hereby, by this instrument, appoint you, the Honourable Michaiah Bryan, to be the Leader of the Opposition of this CPA Fourth Youth Parliament with effect from 14 March 2011.

The Clerk: Appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Her Excellency the Governor: To the Honourable Kenval Bryan, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me I, Alexandra McRae, Governor of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament of the Cayman Islands do hereby, by this instrument, appoint you, the Honourable Kenval Bryan, to be the Deputy Leader of the Opposition of this CPA Fourth Youth Parliament with effect from 14 March 2011.

The Speaker: This honourable CPA Youth Parliament will be suspended for fifteen minutes.

Proceedings suspended at 11.03

Proceedings resumed at 11.25 am

The Speaker: Please be seated.
Proceedings are resumed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Government Motion No. 1—Establishment of a new Landfill and a Waste-to-Energy Facility

The Speaker: I call upon the Premier, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development to move the Motion.

The Premier, Hon. Julian Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to move Government Motion No, 1—Establishment of a new Landfill and a Waste-to-Energy Facility. The Motion reads:

WHEREAS there is much concern by Caymanians that there is not a viable solution to deal with ever increasing volume of waste;

AND WHEREAS there is much concern towards the environmental impacts of our current waste and management methods;

AND WHEREAS the current area of the landfill is unsatisfactory in regards to its size and its appearance;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Honourable CPA Youth Parliament cap the existing landfill before creating a new landfill and establish a functional waste-to-energy facility.

The Speaker: Government Motion No.1 has been duly moved. I call upon the Premier, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development to speak thereto.

The Premier, Hon. Julian Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is my distinct pleasure and honour to be standing here this morning moving the aforementioned Government Motion.

“And Man created a plastic bag and the tin, and aluminum can and the cellophane wrapper and the paper plate, and this was good because Man could then take his automobile and buy all his food in one place and He could save that which was good to eat in the refrigerator, and throw away that which had no further use. And soon the earth was covered with plastic bags and aluminum cans and paper plates and disposable bottles and there was nowhere to sit or walk and Man shook his head and cried, ‘Look at this Godawful mess’.”—Art Buchwald 1970.

We preach to children from the earliest days to make healthy choices when it comes to the body because they only have one. But what I think we fail to realise is that we have to take the same attitude when it comes to decisions we make about our country, because we only have one.

As expressed in the story by Art Buchwald, humans have made many great inventions that have made our lives easier. This generation lives easier. But we have failed to consider the consequences of our actions on further generations to come. At this very moment there is one monstrosity on this Island that embodies our lack of a viable solution to deal with our waste on this Island, Madam Speaker. And it is the current landfill which has been given the name “Mount Trashmore” by the locals.

If we continue to create waste at this rate of 320 to 350 tons a day, Madam Speaker, there may not be a drastic consequence for you or me to deal with, but there will be, without a shadow of a doubt, a mountain that our children and their children will have to climb. Instead of being able to use their generation’s talents to further Cayman and to further mankind as a society and as a whole, they will have to pay—pay, Madam Speaker—for the actions of the

ancestors. They will have to walk out of their homes every morning faced with the repulsive smell of inadequate landfills. They and their children will have to deal with not only the environmental issues that will arise, but will have to deal with the economic and societal issues.

It is easy enough, yes, to sit here and pick out the environmental issues that will undoubtedly incur. But we must look deeper than that.

The Cayman Islands, our “Rome” stands on two economic pillars: Those two pillars being finance and tourism. Two pillars, of which we are all aware, feed off of each other’s success. If our pristine oceans are to become contaminated with leachate then our economy will pay the price, because the tourists will no longer pay the price to come here. If tourists do not visit our Island we all know that there is a potential that we will lose thousands—thousands—of jobs in the tourism sector. And potentially, the wretched cold and unforgiving sheets will replace the roofs over their heads, the food on the table and the comfortable pillow beneath their heads.

This is why we as a Government and we as Caymanians have decided that enough is enough; that we must now build a waste-to-energy facility before it is too late. We must build a waste-to-energy facility for our prosperity and, more importantly, the prosperity of our children.

The benefits of a waste-to-energy facility accompanied with a sorting regiment are enormous. But the Honourable Opposition will attempt to point out the pitfalls and challenges with our plan. But as Premier of the honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament, I ask them to support and to believe in Cayman as we do, because together, we as a country are greater and stronger than any issue that stands in our way. Cayman has provided for us for generations. Now in the words that have already been said of the great President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy: **“Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”**

Now, Madam Speaker, allow me to clarify a few things: Firstly, the development of our new waste-to-energy facility will take place prior to the systematic shutdown and capping of the existing landfill. This new waste-to-energy facility will be created in the district of Bodden Town. And, another Member of the Government will state all the reasons we have as to why this location has been chosen. We will then convert the current landfill site into a public area as has been done in places like the United States of America, with examples being the Millennium Park in Massachusetts.

Furthermore, allow me, Madam Speaker, to discuss the financial side of this project. At this very moment the waste fees of the Cayman Islands are covered via tax which is placed on all imports. A minor increase to this current tax will help to cover the con-

struction cost of this new waste-to-energy facility. And in turn, it will help decrease any loans that will need to be acquired by the Government whilst simultaneously covering the cost of the current landfill.

Madam Speaker, this new waste facility will not be a financial burden on the Cayman Islands on its own. It is a valuable investment for a multitude of reasons. The electricity which is generated from this new waste-to-energy facility can be sold to local electricity suppliers. It can be sold at lower prices, and in turn, will aide in keeping electricity prices down for hardworking Caymanians. Furthermore, gases such as methane which will be captured in both the mining process and the incinerating process can be sold to countries such as the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I now urge the Opposition to think about the jobs that will be created by this new waste-to-energy facility. And the development of the Bodden Town area via the multiplier effect, Madam Speaker, which in layman's terms is the belief that a new business in the district will bring more money into that district, further allowing development of the area.

More jobs, the development of Bodden Town, the multiplier effect, a viable investment, the bettering of lives of Caymanians to come. We as a Government ask the Opposition and the Caymanian people to support this Motion and, in turn, believe in Cayman once again, and this, Madam Speaker, is what the people of our country want and need at this moment.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Michaiah Bryan, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would like to applaud the Government on their propositions to better the environment of our beautiful Cayman Islands, to improve the lives of our people and to create a future for the Cayman Islands that will be clean, that will be safe, that will be sanitary, that will be healthy and that will create a sustainable, viable future for our Islands. However, the Opposition sees some fundamental problems with the Government's point.

First being that with a waste-to-energy facility comes the need for food for that waste-to-energy facility. The problem is that if the Government proposes to cap the landfill, such food—even with 320 tons of waste created per day—will be a problem. The other problem is that even if they supposedly wanted to cap the landfill, the landfill cannot be capped, simply because what we have is in actuality not a landfill but a dump.

Our landfill cannot be capped, simply because in order for our landfill to be capable there must be suitable plastic liners underneath. We have no such plastic liners, and for capping you would need a plastic layer over the top of the landfill in order to cap it. We simply cannot do this. There needs to be two layers in order for it to be sealed and we simply cannot do this, Madam Speaker.

Yes, I understand the Honourable Premier's point, that we can lose tourism, but let us be sensible. Let us think this through properly. The Opposition wants to see a viable solution for Cayman. The Opposition wants to see a clean future for Cayman. But we ask the Government, Madam Speaker, to please think through this carefully, systematically and to not impose impossible tasks on the people of our Islands, on the Government of our Islands, and on our future.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Miss Ann-Alecia Moore, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as the Government, we propose that our first course of action be to relocate the current landfill, also known as Mount Trashmore, to the district of Bodden Town. This proposal may initially be perceived negatively. And one is likely to ask, *Why should our district be the designated location for this type of project?* However, Madam Speaker, I wish to dispel any kind of misconception and negativity and draw to your attention the vast advantages that this relocation and redevelopment of the landfill will bring.

The landfill currently located in the George Town district is no doubt an eyesore to not only the residents of the Island, but to the many tourists who visit our Island. Madam Speaker, not only is the site an issue but also the stench is intolerable.

Having the landfill in our capital, means that it is incredibly visible to the entire public. This includes the flight path of the planes when landing in George Town, and also to the many thousands of cruise ship visitors. Our capital is densely populated with residences, financial centres, businesses, tourist resorts and attractions. The current Mount Trashmore is indeed a hazard to this section of our Island, which invariably is affecting the majority of the Islands' population whose work or home-lives are centered in George Town.

Madam Speaker, should we allow this to continue and ruin our two major industries—tourism and finance? Is Mount Trashmore the first sight that we want our visitors to see when arriving to our Island? Is the morbid sight of Mount Trashmore supposed to

entice visitors to return to our Island? Madam Speaker, surely this sight and smell only seeks to deter tourists and visitors from returning to our shores.

As Second Elected Member of Bodden Town, I see my district to be the ideal location for the new landfill. The district of Bodden Town has the minority of residents in Grand Cayman, very few tourist attractions, no financial centres and very few small businesses, when compared to our capital. Madam Speaker, is it not better to redevelop the landfill in a less densely populated and a low commerce zone area, such as Bodden Town, than to keep it in the capital to interfere with commerce and tourism?

The landfill is not likely to be hazardous to residents of Bodden Town, as it will be structured so as to have very few environmental impacts on the residents of Bodden Town. These structures will include lining the landfill and the installation of a drainage system in order to prevent the current problem we have of leaching. Further, Bodden Town is the central point of our Island which would allow easier garbage disposal from all other surrounding districts. This should mean less distance to travel for garbage disposal, and pick up to and from all districts on Grand Cayman. Now, garbage from East End would not have to be routed all the way to George Town. This will no doubt enhance efficiency in picking up and disposing of waste, Madam Speaker.

The cost associated with garbage disposal will also be reduced for Bodden Town, and any savings here could be applied to further developing our district. In addition, Bodden Town has sufficient land space to accommodate this facility. The location is adequate as there is existing quarried land which is ideal for this venture. Due to the large size of the land, this landfill will be further away from residential homes and businesses, and will therefore have minimal effect on the people of Bodden Town.

More importantly, Madam Speaker, the creation of a new landfill on this land space will allow for the redevelopment of proper infrastructure to adequately accommodate garbage disposal and alleviate any negative environmental impact. The residents of Bodden Town will encounter very few disadvantages, with the advantages heavily outweighing them. Small businesses are likely to grow as the new facility will bring along number of workers and other downstream activity. Such workers are likely to utilise the restaurants, gas stations and shops in the Bodden Town area. Some workers may even consider purchasing or renting homes in Bodden Town to facilitate the move from George Town.

Madam Speaker, I wish to further point out that any energy saving methods derived through the establishment of this facility will no doubt provide job opportunities, not only for the people of Bodden Town, but also to the people of the entire Cayman Islands.

I am aware that the relocation of the waste management facility has caused controversy with no district welcoming the idea of a new, albeit modern, "dump" in its neighbourhood. However, Madam Speaker, I can assure you that as a resident and the elected Member of Bodden Town, I not only seek what is the best resolution for the entire Cayman Islands as a whole, but also for the residents of my district, Bodden Town.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Hon. Justino Rodrigues, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To begin I would like to respond to a point brought forward by the Opposition. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition stated that with the waste-to-energy facility we would not have enough garbage to produce a sufficient amount of energy if we were to cap the existing landfill. However, Madam Speaker, we produce over 300 tons of waste per day, as it stands.

The requirements for waste-to-energy systems are a minimum of 175 tons of waste per day. Now, it is fairly obvious that with the vast amount of garbage that we produce, and the possibility that that could increase, there is no feasible way to say that a waste-to-energy facility would not be able to produce a sufficient amount of energy.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues have already stated, the Government's objective is to cap the existing landfill in George Town and open a new site for an engineered landfill in Bodden Town. Madam Speaker, this is not simply a relocation of the existing landfill. This site will also host a new state-of-the-art waste-to-energy system.

Now, Madam Speaker, a waste-to-energy system is, in simple terms, a proven high-tech series of equipment that converts chemical energy contained in waste materials into useable electrical energy through the incineration of waste. It is already in use in several countries throughout the European Union, Russia, Singapore, the USA, and so on.

The process uses the gases produced from the incineration of waste, which are produced at high temperatures and pressure, and uses them to drive turbines and electrical motors that produce electricity. It is considered a clean energy generation system by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. It offers many benefits to the environment, such as the use of renewable energy source—the waste—and the

reduction of greenhouse gas submissions and the reduction on fossil fuel dependency.

Madam Speaker, a system such as the one we propose to construct will bring many important environmental and economic benefits to our country. Madam Speaker, it is sad to say that our current landfill is not adequate to support our present and future waste management requirements. Our current landfill was not adequately engineered to protect the surrounding area from the products of degrading waste, mainly leachate and noxious gases, such as methane and hydrogen sulfide.

As the situation stands, there is already leachate polluting the areas adjacent to the landfill, with the possibility to negatively affect the North Sound, which is a very important asset to our tourism industry. Leaving the situation unchecked could have devastating results to our economy and way of life in the not-too-distant future.

Madam Speaker, in creating a new and properly engineered landfill, we finally give ourselves a chance to rectify past mistakes, while simultaneously reducing the risk of polluting our environment; therefore maintaining the pristine appearance of our Islands, a quality that has made our Islands a world renown tourist destination.

Madam Speaker, if, as we proposed, this new system is complemented by an island wide sorting policy, the positive impact will be even greater. I would like the Honourable First Official Member to elaborate on this in due course.

Madam Speaker, there may be concerns as to whether the gas that is generated by the incineration of waste could be detrimental to the environment, and indeed the health of the people in the area. Madam Speaker, there is no cause for alarm. I would like to assure the Opposition and the listening public that the modern technology that we will use includes several safety systems which ensure that no toxic gases produced by the incineration of waste will be released into the atmosphere.

Madam Speaker, I am sure some people here today are concerned about the impact of relocating the proposed engineered landfill to Bodden Town. Please allow me to put their fears to rest. Our goal is not to deposit all of our waste in Bodden Town, allow it to grow into another monstrous mountain of garbage like our current landfill and leave the people of Bodden Town to deal with the consequences. Madam Speaker, our present lack of a means to process our waste has caused our current landfill to grow to gargantuan heights. However, with the proposed waste-to-energy system in our new landfill, a similar situation *cannot and will not* repeat itself, as we will be incinerating waste, therefore reducing its volume by approximately 90 per cent.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, this Government assures the people of Cayman and in particular, my

constituents in Bodden Town, that not only will we slay the beast that is Mount Trashmore, but that we will prevent its rebirth in Bodden Town.

In addition, Madam Speaker, we foresee several economic benefits to Bodden Town, as a result of the relocating the landfill. The new waste-to-energy system will create employment opportunities, both during its construction and afterwards, as workers will be needed to manage the new landfill. This will be a new industry in the area which will provide new employment opportunities for residents of the Bodden Town area, and, indeed, the Cayman Islands as a whole.

Madam Speaker, our young Caymanians can finally look forward to the new opportunities in several technical fields, as a direct result of a new waste-to-energy facility. Furthermore, as the Honourable Premier stated, as a result of the multiplier effect, existing businesses in the Bodden Town district will also benefit from the increased economic activity in the area. This means financial benefits for restaurants and services such as gas stations. As an elected Member of Bodden Town, I am excited about the many economic benefits that this new industry will no doubt bring to the people of my district.

Madam Speaker, there are even further economic benefits. As the name "waste-to-energy" suggests, this facility will provide energy which the Government intends to use not only supply the facility itself, but we also have the intention of selling any excess energy generated to CUC. This would provide the Government with funds to help reduce their debts and could result in cheaper electricity for Caymanians. Madam Speaker, who would argue against a lower electricity bill?

In summary, Madam Speaker, the Government's proposal for a new engineered landfill with a waste-to-energy facility is the best solution for the existing waste management problems in Grand Cayman. Not only will it reduce pollution, but it will bring several important economic benefits to our Islands.

Thank you, Madam Speaker,

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Hon. Alexandra Franklin, Fourth Elected Member for George Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, it truly saddens us as the Opposition, that the Second Elected Member of Bodden Town would so much as say that she would sell her district for ransom when she said that she thinks this would be [inaudible] She is basically stating that she thinks she knows the right way for her district. However, Madam Speaker, not everyone in that district would think so.

Also, as you know, Madam Speaker, preservation of culture is one of the growing problems in Cayman and, as most of us know, culture is observed more regularly in the eastern districts, including Bodden Town.

It was mentioned that Bodden Town does not have many tourist attractions. Yes that might be so, Madam Speaker, but even if there are not many tourist attractions, Bodden Town has a vast amount of nature reserves and natural beauty. To destroy, even though they say they have sufficient land, this natural beautiful land, although it may not be a complete tourist attraction, tourists still go there. They want to see the rougher more rugged side of Cayman, so to speak.

Also, Madam Speaker, since the majority of waste in these Islands is produced from Hurley's westward, in other words, the western districts, I am disheartened that the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town would seek to dump the rest of the Islands' problem on her own people to make another landfill or dump. It would cost more for transportation from the western districts, thus increasing cost. So, keeping the landfill operations and the waste-to-energy facility in George Town, though it be the capital, which most tourists see, it would reduce the cost for transportation.

It was mentioned also by the Minister of Health that yes we do produce more than 300 tons of waste a day. But, Madam Speaker, I would like to address that point and actually reveal that, yes, although it is an enormous amount of trash it is simply only enough to generate that facility in itself. This is because that facility is very high tech and requires a lot of equipment such that would be needed from overseas, again costing funds. All the energy it requires could only be sustained by the burning of the trash within that facility.

It was also mentioned that this waste-to-energy facility and the new landfill will create employment. However, Madam Speaker, as was stated by the Government, this waste-to-energy facility requires technologies not of the Cayman Islands but of other developed countries, such as the US. And the type of jobs that we would want our Caymanians, the higher level jobs, we simply are not able to do. We would need training which, again, we would have to put into practice, which again would cost more funds. And if the Government decides, *Oh well, let's not have the Caymanians do the higher jobs but there are still many jobs for them to do on the lower level*, this is not bringing Cayman forward and then only the Caymanians will just have the lower level jobs such as picking up trash, driving the trucks.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable First Official Member.

Hon. Soneil Gonez, First Official Member: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I begin my speech I would like to state a few words on what the Member of the Opposition just stated. She stated that Bodden Town is a current place where tourists go to, not only to see the few tourist attractions that are there, but to look at the land.

Madam Speaker, this new facility that is being created, which my honourable colleague has stated will prevent a monstrosity from ever happening again like the "Mount Trashmore" we have now. So, when tourists go to look at this they will not see a giant mountain and [smell] the stench like what we are experiencing now. Instead, they will go and witness the high technology that our world has to offer, Madam Speaker. This dump must not be considered as just a bad accessory. It must also be looked at as a milestone to state that Caymanians are now clean; to state that we are not going to continue our ravenous behavior in terms of disposing of our waste.

Madam Speaker, as my honourable colleague mentioned, it is wise to look at our prior mistakes and learn from them so as to ensure that the same mistakes are not made twice.

One problem we currently face, Madam Speaker, is that there is unsatisfactory organisation in the landfill adding to the necessity to create a new landfill. Madam Speaker, the solution to this problem is to put in place a policy, and this policy would require householders of the Cayman Islands to sort their waste in a sanitary fashion—meaning to separate their waste in categorical materials (namely, glass, paper, plastic and metals). For this policy to work we must have proper enforcement of this policy which was a problem faced by other countries that have attempted [to have] similar policies.

Madam Speaker, the solution to that problem is to charge a monetary fine to homeowners who refuse to comply with this policy after three prior warnings. However, Madam Speaker, the question of how to monitor homeowners so that we know when they are not following the policy is to have the waste collectors examine the homeowners' waste before collection. This has been done for some time in certain states of the USA and has proved successful so far.

Madam Speaker, we believe the best course of action is to provide large bins for categories of glass, paper, plastic and metals in central areas of the Cayman Islands, and make available separate bins for purchase by the homeowners for their personal use in replacement for their old bins. Madam Speaker, in the

event of providing bins to apartment complexes, each homeowner in that complex would be required to purchase their own individual bins to avoid the possible problem of sharing four large bins.

Madam Speaker, this policy will, of course, require more waste collecting vehicles. However, the cost of these trucks would be countered by all the methane gases from the new incineration factory. And more trucks means more employment for Caymanians.

To keep road safety under check, Madam Speaker, regarding the increase of waste collection trucks—as the safety of Cayman is a priority—there would be a schedule put in place for the collection times when the streets are least crowded.

Madam Speaker, I have the utmost confidence in this policy, mainly because it is straightforward and will play an important role in eliminating the national threat to health, otherwise known as “Mount Trashmore.”

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Elected Member for East End.

Mr. Joash Hyde, Elected Member for East End: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as my colleague mentioned, the waste-to-energy facility might not produce enough energy for itself. The Honourable Premier mentioned that it will produce energy, but just how much? The largest waste-to-energy facility in the United States only produces enough to sustain itself. It will not be able to produce enough to supply our homes.

Another thing which my colleague mentioned, is that the jobs it will [create] will be very high skilled. These jobs will require funds, of course, and a lot of training.

Also, Madam Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture failed to complete his research. The waste-to-energy facility does not use the gases that, when incinerated, it comes off. It uses the heat from the incinerator to boil water and create steam and this steam turns the turbines which produces electricity. Although these poisonous gases will be filtered out in the waste-to-energy facility, the high-tech stuff he mentioned is actually called scrubs. These scrubs will filter it but, again, these are extra funds that will be required.

Also, the fact that we incinerate the trash in a waste-to-energy facility means that we will need another location to put the ashes because the ashes will not be able to be used.

Madam Speaker, the Honourable First Official Member also mentioned that what the tourists will see in Bodden Town is a high tech facility. I do not believe the tourists come to Cayman to see high tech facili-

ties. They want to experience our culture and our heritage.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

I recognise the Honourable Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing.

Hon. Joshua Dilbert, Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

Madam Speaker, I rise to make my contribution on an issue of critical importance in our country—the “capping of Grand Cayman’s landfill.”

Before I begin I would like to compliment the Honourable Premier for bringing such an important piece of legislation before this honourable House. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of capping Grand Cayman’s landfill because of the benefits it will provide to our community and environment.

Capping refers to the creation of a barrier that will lie between the contaminated media of the landfill and the surface of the ground, thereby shielding humans and the environment from the harmful effects of its contents. The process of capping will involve using tarp underneath the landfill and then being capped. One of the contents of the landfill is leachate and this can be described as liquid derived from solid waste which has the potential to contaminate soil and groundwater.

Madam Speaker, I have been advised and can confirm that leachate from the current landfill is entering the North Sound area and may quite possibly reach the Seven Mile Beach area as a result of the improper or faulty lining of the landfill. I have also been advised and can confirm that there is no space left in George Town. *None!* It is crucial to this country that the landfill be properly lined to prevent this leachate from continuing to enter the North Sound area [which in turn will] remove the leachate threat to the Seven Mile Beach area.

We all are aware, Madam Speaker, that one of the pillars of our economy is Tourism. Seven Mile Beach is a major tourist attraction in our country and if it becomes polluted with leachate this could negatively affect the tourism trade of not only Grand Cayman, but the Cayman Islands as a whole. It may quite possibly affect the way of life for each and every member of our society.

Pollution is a growing problem in most countries of the world and the Cayman Islands, unfortunately, are not [immune] to this either. Pollution can be described as the introduction of contaminants that can cause harm, discomfort and/or damage to an ecosystem. The issues of our landfill regarding pollution have the potential to be a big turn-off to the tour-

ists, especially with the fact that our landfill is in the heart of the financial sector of the Cayman Islands—George Town.

One of the major issues of the landfill, “Mount Trashmore” (as it is so aptly named and has been mentioned in the newspaper editorials and articles), is that it can now be seen from cruise ships anchored near the area and is now the highest point in Grand Cayman. Is it not shocking to see that the highest point on this Island is a mountain of trash? But this can be changed if the landfill is capped. Grand Cayman can be rid of Mount Trashmore forever.

If we decide to both cap and line the landfill, then we will be able to turn it into something that can be beneficial to Grand Cayman, such as a park or sports complex, instead of a danger and an eyesore.

It is hoped that the American firm Wheelabrator that has been given the contract to cap the landfill, will carry out this process in a most thorough way possible. However, in the wake of rising unemployment within the country it should also be one of the duties of Wheelabrator to provide some employment for unemployed Caymanians in this project.

Regarding the new landfill, it is an investment—much like solar panels. It is a big start-up cost purchasing and getting it installed, but as the years go by it will pay for itself. And, our intention as a government is not to replace CUC but rather to supplement it.

Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer these comments. And once again, I commit to the vote and support of this Motion to cap to landfill.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Elected Member for North Side.

Mr. Winston Williams, Elected Member for North Side: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I must wonder if the Government neglected their senses and also the facts about this capping of the current dump. Madam Speaker, the dump cannot be capped for more than one reason: 1. The dump does not have the lining that is required to separate the percolation of the leachate that will then leach downwards into the underground water.

Madam Speaker, also, the size of the dump and its formation will not allow it to be capped. Landfills which are capped in the United States and elsewhere are flat. They have always been mined and maintained. What we have is not even a landfill, it is a dump—and that will not be able to be capped.

Also, Madam Speaker, when we talk about moving the dump to Bodden Town, the Elected Member for Bodden Town spoke as if the citizens of Bod-

den Town are welcoming this idea with open arms. I highly, highly doubt that they appreciate this Motion that the Government is putting forward. Has the Government visited the area and consulted the citizens or the residents of that particular area to hear their voices and opinions on moving the dump for where it is and putting it there?

Madam Speaker, as my fellow colleague said, the few hundred tons of waste created daily is created from Hurley’s downwards. And, a Member from the Government side said that it would cut the cost of transporting the waste from Bodden Town to the current dump. But, Madam Speaker, in all senses, if most of the waste is created from Hurley’s downwards, would it not be cheaper to move the waste from Bodden Town to the current dump and not most of the 300 tons which is created from [George] Town to Bodden Town?

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Minister of District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture.

Hon. Sydonnie Barrett, Deputy Premier, Minister of District Administration, Works, lands and Agriculture: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we have all benefitted from this landfill. We have all contributed to this environmental mayhem. We all now have to find solutions.

As Government, we have looked at both the environmental and social effects from which practical solutions have had to be found. The many benefits that can be derived from the process of capping the landfill have been looked at. But now the question remains: What can be done to this piece of land after it has been capped? Will it be left as a derelict burning trap with no purpose whatsoever? From the seat of Government, we have come up with a plan that will be feasible and one that will bring promise and social advancement to the Island.

As the First Elected Member for George Town, I believe that this site should function as a facility to be used by all—citizens and non-citizens alike.

After the landfill has been capped, the Government has found it in the best interest of Cayman to turn this lot into a public area. The location of this landfill near the Esterley Tibbetts Highway is in close proximity to a main artery used by tourists, which, as we all know, is West Bay Road. So, it clearly has economic potential.

In the interest of Tourism, we plan to create a place where tourists would be willing to spend time during their vacation to take part in our planned activities and admire the natural beauty that our Islands have

to offer. Our plan is to create a centre of attention for the Islands.

Our proposed plan is to turn this lot of 68 acres into two different areas with different purposes. The recreational facility, which includes an open trail, ideal for bike riding and running, would make use of 60 acres. The other 8 acres will be used as a major sporting resource for various sports, such as cricket, football and tennis. The first division, which includes the trail, will be a scenic pleasurable route of enclosed land in George Town. This land will have to be covered in dirt planted with flora and filled with ponds and lakes as we are accustomed to seeing on well-managed golf courses. Natural beautification scenes will also have to be put in place solely for the pleasure of users. Not only does this trail have to be used for recreation, but also for the use of training for professional sports.

This facility will be opened to the public and can be used as an avenue of practice for the Olympic sport of mountain biking. By installing this facility, the young people of Cayman will have a secure area to practice an additional sport, which Caymanians can compete in all over the world. This will open more opportunities in the athletic world and distinguish Cayman as a more diversified country in regard to its sports.

As the Government, we are interested in Cayman's environmental wellbeing. This recreational facility is Government's approach to a healthier environment. As we all know, trees are the oxygenators of our planet, so we can never have too many of them. We will undoubtedly improve the quality of the air in that location. The difference in the air quality from before will be immense and complaints will no longer transpire from the mouths of disgusted livid citizens who breathe in and loathe the wild smell of the current landfill.

Madam Speaker, we the Government have come to the realisation that the biking activities are already in the interests of the young adults and teens of this Island, as well as the outside world. That is why we have chosen to accommodate this activity. This gives proof that our initiative is not illogical.

The second division includes the football field, cricket field and the basketball courts. The size of these fields will be built to the standard professional size. Having the sporting resources constructed to this magnitude allows Caymanians to practice their sport adventures more so under professional conditions, which will improve their game preparedness.

Madam Speaker, we are well aware of the cost that will be incurred. But, Madam Speaker, we are also well aware of the sociological problem in the Cayman Islands concerning crime.

Being elected for and by the people of these Islands, we intend to work on this problem, and so, our action will combat a few of the reasons why crime

occurs. Our approach is to create for the young people of Cayman a resource that will provide an additional sporting facility. We believe that the more recreational facilities we have, the more successful we can be in our fight against crime, which, as we all know is spurned when too many people have too much idle time.

Young people will want to take part in these activities to witness the emotions of bike riding and running that an open scenic terrain can provide. Any money spent on the bettering of our Islands is money well spent. But I understand that there will still be concern amongst some sectors of the public and I would like to give assurance that after this project is completed, great use will be made of it and profits raised will pay for it.

Because of the aesthetics of our outdoor sporting facility it can become a premier venue for many industry events, and this would bring immense publicity to the Island. A large number of people will fly in for these events and it will be known that the small country of the Cayman Islands is home to many prestigious sporting facilities. This will put our Islands as a front runner in the athletic world in sporting industry against bigger countries.

Madam Speaker, there are some who may believe that as a small country our goal should never be to compete against bigger countries. These countries have more resources than us. These countries have more land space than us. And while I do agree with these facts, I would like everyone to take a look at the many accomplishments that Cayman has achieved as a small country.

As a small Island, Cayman has achieved the title of having one of the biggest offshore banking industries in the world. To say that this can't happen to our Islands, would be an indication of one's little faith in these Islands and the lack of confidence in the power of our nation.

These endeavours set out to be accomplished by the Government will afford the Cayman Islands an additional facility that will improve our diversity pertaining to the number of sports we provide on this Island.

The more diverse we are in the area of sports, the more opportunities we present our young people with to compete in national sporting events around the world. That being said, our facility will not only benefit those individuals, but also the country on a larger scale in Tourism, more specifically.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

I recognise the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Dushun Wilson, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

First of all I would like to applaud the Government for putting forward this Motion, as the environment is one of our many concerns as an island in the Caribbean.

Now, I would like first to address a point that the Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing made, that pollution causes discomfort. Yes, pollution does cause discomfort; but what causes discomfort is based on the opinion of the individual. What is to say that this new high-tech technological [facility], the energy management source, would not cause discomfort to the locals and the people who live in Bodden Town? As Honourable Speaker [Lawrence] said, Cayman is known as the "Island that time forgot." And preserving history is one of our major concerns as an Island. Would this high-tech facility not discourage people from preserving their heritage, Madam Speaker?

Allow me to be frank but effective, and state not the obvious, but the difficult—the obstacles that stand in the way of the Government. Capping the landfill as many people refer to "as easier said than done," the Government has thrown around the term "capping" without the consideration of what the process and cost of capping actually entails. Due to the fact that as previously stated, we would need to actually have a landfill, but what we do have is a dump. That statement does definitely prove that this should have been considered in the first place by the previous government.

Now, let me speak on Bodden Town. In Bodden Town there are many areas of tourism for the people of the Cayman Islands. In Bodden Town there is Pedro Castle. Bodden Town was the first Capital of the Cayman Islands. There are the bat caves. And another fact is that the majority of trash is produced from Prospect to West Bay. Now, we also have to consider the time it would take to format our current dump into a landfill and the cost that would come with that time.

Allow me not to act as a derider of the Government movement, but as an intercessor for the people of the Cayman Islands, and propose kindly that the Government reconsider their Motion and look into the finer details of their plan, and the domino effect of this relocating.

May it also be stated that the majority of expats also do live in the area where Mount Trashmore is located. It is stated by the Department of Tourism that the majority of expats live from Prospect to West Bay.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to

speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

I recognise the Fifth Elected Member for West Bay.

Mr. Alejandro Ossorio, Fifth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to add some constructive input regarding establishing a new landfill. I wish to inform the Government that we do not have the proper equipment to properly maintain a new landfill along with its creation. Without the important liners the landfill will continue to leach. To people who are not already familiar with the term "leaching", it is a process in which toxins are absorbed into the ground every time it rains and simply it is petrifying.

When creating a new landfill we will not and do not have the proper funds to enhance these efforts. We simply cannot take unnecessary risks when it comes to our expenses. This will eventually result in a burdensome task for the Caymanian Government to resume and support. I would also like to inform the Government that this leaching of toxins will poison the soil making it virtually impossible to produce crops and further agriculture for the Island in the future. Not to mention the toxins entering our water table and groundwater.

Madam Speaker, I strongly suggest that the Government reconsider their proposal on establishing a new landfill.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

If not, I will invite the mover of the Motion, The Premier, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Tourism . . .

I recognise the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. Kenval Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would like to start by reiterating to the Government a myriad of problems that will arise with this proposed plan; the first of which is, Madam Speaker, that we cannot get this plan off the ground for the simple fact that this plan is based on us capping the current landfill which cannot be capped. Not only can it not be capped because we do not have liners, it also cannot be capped at its current size. The size of the current landfill makes it impossible to cap.

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Premier of our Youth Parliament mentioned that currently we produce 350 tons of waste per day, and if we are to move the landfill to Bodden Town this would create

job opportunities with the multiplier effect. Madam Speaker, I find that to be almost laughable.

The first comment, Madam Speaker, is that the technologies required to run this new facility are foreign to Cayman. As such, if we are to erect such a facility, who will be employed, as the facility and the machinery are foreign to Cayman? Madam Speaker, I believe the answer is obvious. We will have to employ expatriates. We will have to bring in experts in this area. And, Madam Speaker, our Caymanian people will be confronted with a problem that we currently have.

In Cayman, we do not have an employment problem for Caymanians. We have a problem where employment is concerned, yes; but that is in finding suitable jobs that, it is popular opinion, that these suitable jobs are held by expatriates. Is the Government proposing that we perpetuate this problem? Perhaps the Premier could answer that question.

Madam Speaker, I recall a Member of the Government mentioning that we have 68 acres of land at the current landfill. Now, Madam Speaker, what I suggest to the Government is that we utilise this land effectively. If we have 68 acres I suggest that we build a new landfill there. We are in support of the waste-to-energy idea, however, why move it to Bodden Town?

Madam Speaker, a Member of the Government mentioned that we will grow trees. But, Madam Speaker, are we not defeating the purpose by cutting down trees in Bodden Town to make this new facility? We are defeating ourselves.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues mentioned, and I will reiterate—approximately 80 per cent of the waste in Grand Cayman is generated westward of Hurley's Supermarket. In actuality, only 20 per cent of our waste is generated northward. Now I say it makes more sense for us to keep the current landfill—*my correction*, the current dump—where it is. It will be more economical, and this is obvious. Not to mention, Madam Speaker, the new trucks that will be necessary to move the 80 per cent of waste to Bodden Town when we have the majority of our restaurants, hotels, condominiums, schools, churches, the majority of the waste being generated in George Town. I plead with the Government to reconsider this.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would just like to reiterate to the Government, to please consider utilising the 68 acres of land in George Town with more viable options than sports. We already have a boxing gym in George Town. A new football facility was recently built in Bodden Town. Again, is this not just a waste? I appeal to the Government on behalf of the Caymanian people to properly research this idea before bringing it forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: We will now suspend the House for lunch until 1.30.

Proceedings suspended at 12.36 pm

Proceedings resumed at 1.46 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

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

I recognise the Third Elected Member for West Bay,

Miss Moya Williams, Third Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Firstly, Madam Speaker, the Opposition continuously calls the landfill a dump. But if I may correct them, it is not a dump. According to International Regulations, it is a sanitary landfill, so maybe it is you who have not done your homework.

Secondly, we agree that we have to bring in expatriates to train Caymanians for the purpose of having Caymanians fill these highly paid jobs. Do you not believe in the Caymanians here? Do they not have that ability to be trained to attain these jobs?

Thirdly, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, "discomfort" is a personal thing and a high-tech facility may cause discomfort to some individuals. But it is unrealistic to believe that we can please all the members of a society, not to mention the entire population of the Cayman Islands.

Fourthly, after consulting with the Attorney General, we confirmed that the Planning Department demands us to give notice to certain people in that district. And we are proud to say, despite what the Opposition would want you to believe, residents of Bodden Town have agreed to this Motion, showing not only that the people of the Bodden Town area feel this necessity, but also the people of the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak?

If not, I invite the mover of the Motion, the Premier, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development, to exercise his right of reply.

The Premier, Hon Julian Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank the Opposition for the comments. But as the Premier, I would like to correct a few statements that were made.

Repeatedly—*repeatedly*—we heard that we cannot cap the existing landfill, we cannot put the tarp underneath it that is needed to catch leachate. Madam Speaker, can I say that we have already come to

an agreement with a waste management company by the name of Wheelabrator to do these such things—to do the mining, to put the tarp underneath and to cap the existing landfill. Those in the specialty [field] have said that this is doable and have expressed their interest to do this.

The Fourth Elected Member for George Town asked the Government Member (who is the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town) a question about the culture to do with Bodden Town and dumping our issues on Bodden Town, and how we are holding Bodden Town for ransom. Is it not clear now that if we do not fix this problem the entire culture and environment of our Island is threatened? So, let me ask the Opposition a question: Are you putting the whole Island at ransom for Bodden Town? Are you?

The Fourth Elected Member for George Town also talked about how Caymanians would not get the higher paying jobs and [that they] would do the lower paying jobs. And I agree that Caymanians need to have higher paying jobs. As my other [colleague] said, we intend to train them for these higher range jobs. But let me ask you a question: Is there an issue for a man who works for a low wage to feed his family on a daily basis? Is there something wrong with having a job to put a roof over someone's head and food on the table? I see nothing wrong with that and I guarantee you that the people of Cayman see nothing wrong with that, for the fact that that is what made us a great society; the fact that we were willing to do the nitty-gritty and not leave it for someone else.

It was mentioned by the Opposition that, yes, the tourists would not want to see this new high-tech facility landfill. If that was true, then why are you asking us to keep this landfill in George Town when your Deputy Leader said that this is the area with the most restaurants, hotels, schools and children going through, in and out every day? This is what they see when they dock on a cruise ship—contradictory? I believe so.

It was mentioned by the Deputy Premier that we would plant trees for the purpose of oxygenating. It was then mentioned that it would not really do anything because we would have destroyed all of this land. You see if the Opposition had done their homework and/or paid attention to what has been said, this land is already quarried, it is already destroyed, this is the way it is naturally. And if we replant 68 acres, even 20 acres of trees of flora and fauna have we not done good for the Cayman Islands? Are we not bettering them and our environment as a whole? I believe so.

It was talked about by the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town that this would discourage Caymanians, particularly in the Bodden Town area, to remember their heritage. How so? When does the construction of a building rid us of our heritage? Our heritage is something internal, not something material-

istic and artificial in the form of a building. Maybe yes, we have to ensure that we remember our heritage, but this building will not threaten our heritage.

I do care to mention that one Member stated that most of the garbage which is created in this Island is westward, not eastward, and then returned later to say that most of the garbage is westward and most of it is not northward, it's contradictory in the same thing that you just said.

To speak on behalf of the Government, we believe it is now clear, ladies and gentlemen, that this is not only possible but we have already begun to sow the seeds to make this possible. This will not threaten our heritage. This will be a viable investment; it will create jobs, low-paying jobs that allow people to put food on the table and high-paying jobs. This will not threaten our heritage but potentially ensure its safety and continuity for the generations to come.

We as a Government will not hold the country ransom for the district of Bodden Town. We do not believe that we are dumping our problems on Bodden Town, Madam Speaker, because we have decided as a country that this issue must be addressed. And as it has been said by my colleague, the people of Bodden Town have already decided to do their part.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Honourable CPA Youth Parliament cap the existing landfill before creating a new landfill and establish a functional waste-to energy facility. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Hon. Sydonnie Barrett: I call for a division.

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

The Clerk:

Division No. 1

Ayes: 9

Hon. Julian Solomon
Hon. Sydonnie Barrett
Hon. Alexandra Anglin
Hon. Joshua Dilbert
Hon. Justino Rodrigues
Miss Moya Williams
Miss Jasmine Ebanks
Miss Fraulein Whorms
Miss Ann-Alecia Moore

Noes: 7

Hon. Michaiiah Bryan
Hon. Kenvall Bryan
Hon. Alexandra Franklin
Mr. Alejandro Ossorio
Mr. Dushun Wilson
Mr. Winston Williams
Mr. Joash Hyde

Absentees: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Speaker: The result of the Division is 9 Ayes and 7 Noes.

Government Motion No. 1 has been duly passed.

Agreed by majority on division: Government Motion No. 1 passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Private Member's Motion No 1—Amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revisions)

The Speaker: I call upon the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Third Elected Member for George Town.

Hon. Michaiah Bryan, Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, I beg to move Private Member's Motion No. 1—Amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revision).

The Speaker: I call upon the [Deputy Leader of the Opposition], Fourth Elected Member for West Bay to second the Motion.

Hon. Kenvall Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

The Speaker: Private Member's Motion No. 1 has been duly moved and seconded. I call upon the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Third Elected Member for George Town to speak thereto.

Hon. Michaiah Bryan, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and with extreme caution, yet with extreme care, that I beg to present my case both to you, Madam Speaker, and to the Government, and to the people of these Islands.

Madam Speaker, the people of the Cayman Islands are a precious treasure. Our motto states that these Islands were "founded upon the seas." That is taken from the Psalms, meaning that we believe that God himself has placed us here, and for that we are grateful. We are a unique people, we are a special people. We are a people who have been founded on years of hardship, years of hard work, years of hard labour, years of hard toil, and we have yielded sweet returns economically and socially. But, Madam Speaker, even though we are a unique people, we share on global issues. We share on domestic crimes. We share on crimes against our women who are the

agents of change. We share in crimes against our men as well.

And, Madam Speaker, it would seem to me that even though our Islands have been strongly economically built, economics are not the only issue in Cayman. We have social issues that we must tackle. We have social issues that we must attend to. We have been used to being a close-knit society. We have been used to being a society that prides itself on (if I may use a colloquial expression)—"everyone knowing everyone." And while those days seem to be fast disappearing, Madam Speaker, we are still small enough to recognise that any social issue that affects one group of people in such a small space is bound to cause ripples across the whole tide and across the whole scope of these Islands founded upon the seas.

Madam Speaker, specifically what I speak of are the crimes of watching and besetting, defilement and incest. In this specific case, I start with watching and besetting, because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, and I quote: "**Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.**" And, Madam Speaker, these fundamental rights are violated when criminals who engage in the crime of watching and besetting essentially deny people, especially our country's women (as I will point out later), of their right to that security of person.

Madam Speaker, I specifically mention this because the Young Business and Professional Women's Club recently conducted a survey which showed that a large percentage of women in this country have experienced actions that they consider stalking, to the point where many of them consider interference with their day to day life a serious issue. Yes, many males experience this too; but our women—as the agents of change, as the heart and soul of our Cayman Islands, the women who their ancestors shaped families, gave life to both men and women, gave so much strength and support to children, the descendants of those strong women—are being beset by the problem of watching and besetting.

Madam Speaker, we as the Opposition ask the Government to raise the penalty of watching and besetting from a mere and paltry and almost appalling . . . no, not almost appalling, Madam Speaker, *gravely* appalling six months, Madam Speaker? Six months for watching and besetting? Interruption of day to day life. Showing up at a person's workplace; engaging them in public asking them to do acts; soliciting from the acts that interrupt their day to day freedoms; violating their liberties. Madam Speaker, this cannot be allowed to continue. The Government must show the people of the Cayman Islands that they are serious—*SERIOUS*—about protecting especially the women of this country, but also the men—*but also the men*.

Madam Speaker, to the issue of defilement: We have seen the penalties for defilement in both the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. And

while for specific sections the penalty for defilement is 20 years, Madam Speaker, we ask the Government to consider, even though this is 20 years, increasing these penalties, and if not, then consider instituting a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of defilement.

Consideration should be given at the Government's discretion to instituting a statutory minimum period of incarceration. Madam Speaker, as with the issue of watching and besetting, this will be a clear indication to perpetrators and to the general populace, the gems of this country, the people of these Islands, our true national treasure, that defilement is a growing problem and that the Government of these Islands takes it seriously, and not only wants to protect the general populace, but specifically, Madam Speaker, our young women.

Madam Speaker, on the issue of Incest: We have specifically pointed out [that] we the Opposition feel that in keeping with human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all are equal before the law, and that all are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. So, I ask, Madam Speaker, that even though we stand with our women and see them as agents of change, can we not offer equal protection before the law; equal protection under the law, and equate the penalties of the crime of incest by males and the crime of incest by females? I am asking the Government to consider the protection of our people, to especially consider the lives of the young men and women, for it has been reported through the UK stats that of the men who actually committed incest, 56 per cent of them—56 per cent of them—were victims of incest by females.

Madam Speaker, we must address these issues, we must deal with these issues. We ask the Government to graciously consider our proposition to speak up, to stand up, to join the Opposition in standing for the rights of the Caymanian people, to join the Opposition in standing for the good of the Caymanian people, to join the Opposition in promoting the wellbeing, the welfare, the security of our men, our women and our children. Because, Madam Speaker, yes, we are built on a strong economic foundation. But, Madam Speaker, a strong economy needs strong people, strong minds, and strong hearts. And, Madam Speaker, hearts that have been broken, hearts that have been torn, lives that have been decimated, men and women who have been traumatised, men and women who have been abused and have had their piece of mind disturbed . . . it is hard for them to build a secured society. It is hard for them to build a strong economic foundation.

Yes, we are not only thinking about the bottom line, we are thinking about hearts, we are thinking about people, we are thinking about the safety and security of our people. We want our people to be able to be a strong people, to be as safe as possible, Mad-

am Speaker, and to be as secured as possible. This is all the opposition asks. This is what we want.

My colleagues will expand further upon my points and will bring more of what I have been saying to light. So, thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak to this Motion.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Dushun Wilson, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to draw your attention to the penalty for watching and besetting, which is six months. Watching and besetting, also known as stalking, refers to a form of harassment generally comprised of repeated, persistent following with no legitimate reason and with the intention of harming or so as to arouse anxiety or fear of harm in the person being followed. This is defined by Webster's *New World Law Dictionary*. It also says here that stalking may also take the form of harassing [via] telephone calls, computer communications, letter writing et cetera.

As stated by the members of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), the rate of watching and besetting has increased greatly in the past decade. And with the availability of the Internet and modern technology, such as social networking, it is significantly much easier to execute.

Madam Speaker, perhaps you would consider this for a moment: Imagine yourself in a situation where you were being followed, virtually every moment of every hour, physically, wherever you go, and your business transactions are being taken into record and your personal life and information is being exploited. If you've considered the situation, think about the feeling of insecurity you would experience.

As stated by a psychologist in a recent survey, it is said that in cases where people are victims of watching and besetting they are often left without trust, traumatised or even paranoid after the experience.

Madam Speaker, I feel another thing I should mention about watching and besetting is what it leads to. And that watching and besetting may be done for various reasons. It is stated in a worldwide survey that for most instances of pre-meditated murder or rape, watching and besetting is the first criminal offence. This is done in order to scout necessary details allowing a person to be able to breach the security of the victim.

As stated by the Domestic Violence Centre, 76 per cent of female homicide victims were stalked prior to their death. If this is not the vast majority, what

is? If that is not a clear indication of the need for a higher penalty, may I ask, Madam Speaker, what is?

In most cases, watching and besetting involves many crimes compacted into one. Consider the following: Watching and besetting in most, if not all cases, follows hand-in-hand with the crimes of breaking and entering, trespassing and burglary. If all of these crimes have a higher penalty than watching and besetting, yet the same were even more, what is the point of the punishment for another crime of similar nature being less than any of the previously stated crimes?

In your statement you said that women are to be the agents of change. In a survey taken by the Young BPW [Business and Professional Women's Club] Sexual Harassment and Stalking Taskforce, it was stated that 61.58 per cent of women have been stalked. That is the majority of the women in Cayman. How does this help our Commonwealth theme of "Women as Agents of Change"? It does not.

Now, lastly, Madam Speaker, I would finally like to address that the period of time is far too short for the offender to realise the consequence or even to build up a feeling of remorse for what he has done. Six months is miniscule. It is an outrageously short period of time for the offender, and should be critically taken into consideration by the Government. My reason for this is as follows: With the resources available in the prison in Cayman, stalking is still able to happen or be virtually done by use or access of the Internet. In this case, the offender would be able to keep watch over his victim and go right back to where he started

Madam Speaker, although the reasons are terribly clear, allow me to refer to a pair of statistics from the young BPW—Sexual Harassment and Taskforce Survey. Once again, 60.8 [per cent of the] people overall said that their stalkers were Caymanian status holders. Is that something that we want to bring across as a Caymanian value, as a Caymanian virtue? Is that something that people want to say, that Caymanians are stalkers? What are the expats going to think of us?

Also, the majority which is 79.4 per cent of people said that the Cayman Islands should have legislation against stalking.

Madam Speaker, I hope I have made it clear that we are far too trivial about the issue of watching and besetting, and that it should be taken far more seriously; not only by the Government, but by the people of the Cayman Islands on a grand scale.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Fifth Elected Member for West Bay.

Mr. Alejandro Ossario, Fifth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would just like to further expand on statements by my colleagues. We the Opposition can define the term "watching and besetting" in many ways. First, it is unusual behavior repeatedly following one place to place and repeatedly communicating with, either directly or indirectly, and engaging in threatening conduct.

Now, in the Cayman Islands no person shall without unlawful authority, harass or engage in conduct referred to as subjection that causes that other person reasonably in all circumstances to fear for their safety or the safety of anyone known to them.

Now, according to the Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revision), a person who watches and besets any premises or approaches any premises with the view to preventing any person from an act which this person has a legal right to do, is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for up to six months.

A person who watches and besets a house or other place or any other person, resides or works or carries on business or happens to be, or approaches to such house with the view to preventing such persons from doing or compelling him to do any act which such person has the legal right to do, or abstain from doing, is guilty of an offence and liable up to imprisonment for up to six months.

Now, we of the Opposition have already stated these penalties are certainly inadequate and laughable. Ultimately, we in the Opposition find these penalties incredibly inadequate and inappropriate for the charges. This amount of time behind bars will simply not be enough to alter one's behavior to learn from their mistakes, psychologically. We ask for the Government to imply a penalty of five to six years, maximum, of proper penitentiary treatment for the legally accused.

For the good of the community and for the best interest of the populace, we ask for the Government to revise and revisit this section of the Criminal Procedure Code and amend it to correct standards.

Madam Speaker, we ask for the Government to consider this request and facilitate the right in amending this Law for the good of the community.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak" [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Premier, Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development.

The Premier, Hon. Julian Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Honourable Members of the Government, Honourable Members of the Opposition, Madam Speaker and Members of the public, it is with great

pride that I stand here today with this Private Member's Motion in front of us. On behalf of the Government, Madam Speaker, allow me to thank the Opposition for bringing this Private Member's Motion forward.

We, the Government, hold the belief that anything which is the concern of the people of these fair Islands should be just. And for that reason, we thank the Opposition.

Madam Speaker, there have been a lot statistics placed in front us in this House from the research of the Opposition, but allow me to elaborate on what statistics we, as the Government, have.

As Elected Representatives of the people of these Islands we would like to say that we feel there are more pressing issues at hand. As far as the crimes of watching and besetting go, along with incest by females, according to your art of research there were no reported cases of these crimes within 10 years of 2007. Ten years! And the Opposition will stand here this afternoon and ask this honourable House to consider increasing the penalties of crime—when? When, Madam Speaker?

There are people killing other people. They stated that watching and besetting seems to be the leading factor to crimes, such as murder. We ask you, if murder already has such a large penalty on it, what is it you believe increasing the penalty for watching and besetting will do? They already know they will have to face incarceration. What is it that increasing watching and besetting penalty will do?

Madam Speaker, there are issues where people and children no longer feel safe in their homes because people are continuously breaking in and out of them, when every day—*every day*—there is a teenager or a grown adult's life that is lost to drugs. And yet they stand here and say this is the concern of the people. Well, Madam Speaker, we represent the people and we say that this is not our primary concern. Our concern is, *am I safe at night within my own house? Are my children safe to wander the streets like they were 10 years ago? And, can I walk the streets and not fear of finding myself accidentally in the middle of a drug deal?*

Madam Speaker, to argue that the aforementioned crimes of murder, burglary and drugs are not the real crimes of which we are concerned is absence of logic and representational that maybe, just maybe, the Opposition does not understand the concerns of the people they represent.

Madam Speaker, I asked the mother of three young children what concerned her more; the crimes of watching and besetting, incest by females, or those of murder, drugs and people breaking into her home. She responded, and I quote: "For me personally, it is the crime of murder, drugs and people breaking into my home."

To show a range of demographics I then asked a young teenage man the same question, and I

quote as he responded: "I think that theft and murder are more crimes that should be addressed [rather] than incest." To him it is more of an emotional deal and would give more people a sense of security.

It is obvious now, Madam Speaker. What we are truly concerned about is crime, if the crime is drugs, murder and theft. We pose the question to the Opposition: How is it that increasing the maximum [penalty] on watching and besetting (just to target what has been said already) is supposed to decrease the amount of crimes that happen?

There are some countries that still enforce capital punishment for some crimes, yet people continue to do them. We are not seeing how this increase for watching and besetting will counteract this. It is obvious now, Madam Speaker, that the people of these Islands are truly concerned about the aforementioned drugs and theft, not incest and watching and besetting.

Madam Speaker, I do acknowledge that I did not speak greatly to defilement, but I assure you that Members of my team will address it.

Lastly, but with equal importance, I ask the Honourable Second Official Member, the Attorney General, to give his professional opinion to this topic.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Second Official Member.

Hon. Manuel Quintana, Second Official Member: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Premier.

I can understand the sentiments of the Honourable Opposition. It is true that the penalties for watching and besetting are inadequate, but it is my professional opinion that what the Honourable Opposition has brought forward, which is to increase the penalties increasing the jail time of these crimes, does not really contribute to the safety and general wellbeing of the Cayman public.

Madam Speaker, I say this because the penalties listed in the Criminal Procedure Code are really only maximums, so to speak, and also because of the research that was carried since the year 2000 on the history of the sentencing of these crimes.

As research has shown since the year 2000 (this is for defilement), there have been at least 30 identified persons who have committed the act of defilement. Of those 30, 17 were put on probation. The other 13 were incarcerated, but none of them were given the prescribed maximum. In fact, as far as the research shows, the closest penalty was 14 years of prison time, and even then it was run concurrently with another crime of 14 years.

Madam Speaker, I did not include information regarding cases of watching and besetting or incest by females simply because these two cases have not been reported as much as defilement has. And, as they have not been reported, there is not a large enough pool to draw information from. Incest for females, for instance, has not been reported in 10 years.

Madam Speaker, keeping this in mind, we must seriously ask these questions: What will penalties do for crimes that are not reported? If there are none reported, who will fall under that penalty? We cannot assume that they will hear about the increase in penalties and just stop these crimes. Even though they may happen, they are not being reported and if they are not being reported the penalty will do nothing to help the Cayman Islands' wellbeing or safety.

Keeping these results in mind, it must be asked logically: Why should there be an increase in penalties for crimes that have made no indication of the need for [penalties] to be increased or have ever reached the maximum of the prescribed penalties as they are now? Logically, why should they be increased if they are not reaching the maximums already?

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak?

I recognise the Honourable Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Hon. Justino Rodrigues, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As the Leader of the Opposition stated, our Caymanian people need to be protected, and we are serious about the protection of our people. Frankly, this is why we are disappointed that the Opposition has not addressed the more pressing issues plaguing our Islands. As the Honourable Premier stated, murder, gang violence, drug use, burglary is what we would have liked to have seen the Opposition focus on and not these crimes. While very important, watching and besetting, defilement and incest by females have not occurred for a substantial period of time. Again, it is saddening to see that the Opposition has not addressed the more pressing issues that our Islands are currently facing.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. Kenvall Bryan, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, on this occasion I seek to implore the Government to consider making certain necessary amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code regarding the offence of defilement, and in particular the sections dealing with punishment.

This matter is of such sensitivity to the community that it demands our immediate attention. We in the Opposition believe that if this matter is left without exigent intervention, we run the risk of ignoring the tragedies of our teenagers on the go.

The matter of defilement poses an immediate danger to the health and wellbeing of our people. It is a sexual assault on those who do not have a voice and those who are unable to defend themselves, our innocent youth and children. Whether or not that child has been misled into believing that she has the right to provide consent for such an act is immaterial, the pitfalls of such obscenity must not be ignored.

Madam Speaker, it must be first recognised that the children, both male and female, are the true and only victims where this matter is concerned. Madam Speaker, it is irrefutable that their victimisation is a product of their youth and lack of education and awareness which results in them being taken advantage of by older and more experienced predators looking to prey on their innocence.

Madam Speaker, I suggest to the Government that this is indeed a matter that causes the country great concern and should not be taken lightly.

Inasmuch as the deer is made prey by the advancing of the predatory lion is how victims of defilement are made victims by the conscious malevolent advance of deranged individuals. But make no mistake, Madam Speaker, these individuals who are perpetrating the offence are not mentally ill. They are conscious, decisive and deliberate in their actions. They target our under-aged because they believe they are easy prey due to their circumstances.

Madam Speaker, due to the social and ethical ramifications of defilement on the future generation of our community, we should do what we must to deter the very thought of victimising our underage. Madam Speaker, we see defilement as an attack on our children's inalienable right to their innocence.

Madam Speaker, just to address some of the comments of the Government, these matters that we are speaking of are of a social nature. There is a difference between reported crime and actual crime. And because of the society that we live in these crimes are not reported, but that does not mean they should not be addressed, or worse, taken seriously.

Madam Speaker, through study of the law I have discovered, and agree with the Government, that the penalties for defilement are indeed adequate.

However, the pitfalls in this are in the application of the law by the Judiciary. I have uncovered through research that a myriad of persons who contravene the law with such an obscene and malevolent act are oftentimes only subjected to probation. And even in cases of recidivism, these persons are handed meagre terms of incarceration. I suggest to the Government, as an advocate for the Caymanian people, they effect the law in such a way that offenders are given a minimum term of incarceration upon a conviction.

Madam Speaker, while we in the Opposition recognise that incarceration is not in and of itself the only means of addressing the injustice we feel it is a vital key. The problem we are facing in relation to defilement transcends the social economic spectrum and, as such, needs to be addressed. To properly effect change within our society, we cannot rely solely on enforcement of the law; we need to ensure the social structure and support necessary to effect changed behaviour.

Sociology tells us that group behavior is developing into individual behavior and this in turn is based on the knowledge and attitude of the individual. Any programme or course of action we need to take requires a combined effort of all agencies and individuals—teachers and schools, educating young people that this behaviour is wrong; Social Services providing support for victims and rehabilitation for offenders; churches condemning such behaviour; the criminal justice system prosecuting these crimes must act in concert.

An argument has been made relative to families being afraid to complain in these types of crimes, as normally the person responsible for the act is the majority income owner for the family. While I understand the plight to put food on the table and clothes on their backs, the Government must be responsible, not only to look after the welfare of our adult citizens, but also those who are unable to look after themselves. Too often we look at the short-term gains of having a father in the house versus the long-term harm we are causing the children and the reoccurring pattern that we now become a part of. As a Government, there is an obligation, a duty of care to protect those who cannot protect themselves. This is a task that must be accepted, and we cannot allow ourselves to fail.

Madam Speaker, the law and the purpose of the law is defeated if such a law does not adequately provide a deterrence to the perpetuation of crime. And at present, Madam Speaker, the law relative to defilement is not sufficient. We the Opposition recognise this inadequacy, and at the behest of the Caymanian people we beseech the Government to consider the necessary adjustments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code for the future of our people.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Elected Member for North Side.

Mr. Winston Williams: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I get into my speech I have one question for the Government, mainly the Premier: Why is it that he is before us and he is aware of other problems that Caymanians think are important and he is here arguing them with so much pride and wittiness and not bringing before us sensible motions that would affect or curve these crimes which he feels the Caymanians think are more important? With that said, I will proceed with my speech.

Madam Speaker, I came here today to bring forth to you a piercing problem which is affecting us as a society. This problem is a defilement of our youths. In these horrific instances our youths are being misled, abused both physically and mentally by unscrupulous persons, persons who care not about the future of the society; the future in this context being the youths.

Madam Speaker, we have noticed that in cases which have been reported the accused persons are arrested, charged, taken to court, tried, fined and convicted. And throughout that lengthy process they are given probation, free time. And, in that free time that same person ventures off and recommitting that same act on another innocent young girl, and then again, the law is practiced. He is taken into custody, arrested, charged and taken into court and convicted. And in and of his conviction, if he is lucky, again he will receive probation. If not, [he will receive] community service and in some instances a mediocre sentence, affirmably six months to a year.

Madam Speaker, this is where we as the Opposition are asking the Government to consider implementing a minimum sentence in regards to defilement. If this minimum sentence is implemented, then we could see a curve in the reoccurrence and occurrence of this horrific tragedy on our youths. Because, Madam Speaker, really and truly, in a nation its most important asset is its people. And within the people the most important asset is the youth, the future.

So, I leave this on the hearts of the Government, the Premier, the Leader of the Government, to think about the youths of our society, the future, the ones who sit in his chair and my chair. It is time to come and implement this strategy to help them protect themselves.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Minister of District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture.

Miss Sydonie Barrett, Minister of District Administration, Works, Lands and Agriculture: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, it was said by the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, that watching and besetting can still be done inside the prison by prisoners with access to the Internet. But why then are we focusing on lengthening the sentence of the prisoner? By doing this, prisoners will have more time to access the Internet and carry out the crime of watching and besetting, which, as you know, the Opposition is so fretful of. By giving criminals these privileges, we allow the crime of watching and besetting to continue, therefore our focus should be headed in a different direction, towards strengthening the prison system.

Madam Speaker, the Opposition also pointed out that crimes have occurred many times, but as the Attorney General said, these crimes are not reported much. There is a difference between these crimes taking place and these crimes being recorded. The mission link should be addressed. Therefore, our goal should not be to increase the time of incarceration for criminals, but to provide public awareness of these issues and strengthen the police force so that there is a trust between the police and the public for the public to be willing to report these crimes.

Thank you, madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Honourable Minister of Education, Training and Employment.

Miss Alexandra Anglin, Minister of Education, Training and Employment: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

An Opposition Member spoke about the difference between reported crimes and actual crimes. If a crime is not reported then we have no evidence of said crime occurring. Therefore, we must assume that the crime is not occurring. I reiterate the point: Why increase a penalty for a crime that we have no evidence of?

Madam Speaker, I would furthermore like to point out that I admire the Opposition for their concern towards our country's safety. The Opposition believes that what they are proposing is best for the people's safety and wellbeing, but I believe that we can find much better uses of our valuable time.

As mentioned by the Attorney General, increasing the penalty will do no more than give the judicial court a wider guideline for punishments which they are not currently meeting.

As a part of the Government, I believe that we need to focus on putting our time and effort towards a rehabilitation centre instead of increasing penalties—a rehabilitation centre, a place where the offenders can reform for the better. Punishing criminal offenders by

incarcerating them in jail does not do much to deter them from committing future offences, leaving the people of the Cayman Islands still in potential danger. So, I wish to propose this as an alternative to what the Opposition has brought forth.

One of the offences that the Opposition has asked to be amended is defilement. Madam Speaker, say there is a young 16- or 17-year-old boy who has had sexual relations with an underage girl. The penalty is already 20 years. During his many years in prison that young man is surrounded by many other dangerous criminals. That young man can be influenced by them for the worse so that when he comes out around the age of 37 years, he will come out a seasoned criminal. That young man had a bright future ahead of him; a future that was no longer able to be reached because of his many years of rotting away in jail. He could have been getting an education.

With a rehabilitation centre prisoners are given an opportunity to improve and reform themselves. This programme will give the criminal offenders a chance to learn a trade, obtain a college degree and find gainful employment. And, as the Minister of education I will ensure that young Caymanians convicted of crimes will have a chance to increase their knowledge base. This can ensure that when they are ready to be released they can enter society with the ability to give back to their country in a positive and productive manner. One of the most vital components that will be provided by the rehabilitation centre, is counseling; drug counseling and psychological counseling.

The offences that the Opposition mentioned, especially incest by females, can be seen as a psychological problem as well as a criminal offence. It is not normal human behavior for a woman to even want to have sexual relations with a brother, son or even father. And surely watching and besetting shows some sort of mental instability. Psychological counseling can be very beneficial to people who have committed such offences.

Criminals, no matter how much or how long they are punished, will still be criminals if they are not given any chance to change. Statistics show that only 35 per cent of released prisoners do not return to jail. That means that over 60 per cent of released prisoners end up being repeat offenders. This is a danger to our society, as well as a strain on the prison system. Rehabilitation has been proven to be one of the most effective methods when trying to rehabilitate a criminal. When worrying about the safety of our people, that should be considered before increasing penalties of set offences.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Miss Alexandra Franklin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I proceed into my speech I would like to address a few points that the Government has made.

We applaud the Government for recognising that, yes, there are other crimes happening, such as burglary, drugs, gun crimes and such. But, Madam Speaker, the Opposition is not only focusing on the crimes that make the news every day. We are looking at crimes that, although they are not reported, they still happen. They may not make the news but they affect the Caymanians who are victims of such crimes very deeply and that is what we are looking at today.

It was also mentioned (something along these lines) that we should be using our valuable time for discussing other crimes in other ways. But, Madam Speaker, is a crime not a crime? Any crime, is it not a crime? Should a crime still not be addressed even if it is not reported, even if it does not make the news every night? It is still a crime and is still important.

Madam Speaker, I will now be addressing what we feel is a ridiculously short and ridiculously prejudiced penalty of the three we have selected.

Incest committed by females: The current penalty for this act, according to the Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revision) is 10 years regardless of the age of the victim, in comparison to 20 years for any person over 13 years of age, to life for a child under 13 years of age, for the same act committed by a male. Madam Speaker, surely you will agree with me that sexual abuse is one of, if not the most heinous of acts. In the view of human rights, Madam Speaker, we are looking to increase the penalty for incest committed by females. Thus, Madam Speaker, would you not say that it would not matter who committed the act, whether male or female, that it would be just as heinous and just as destructive?

Madam Speaker, for our dear Government to oppose our Motion, one would think them to be swayed easily in favour of gender.

Incest is defined, Madam Speaker, as (and I quote): **“Sexual intercourse between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry; also the statutory crime of such relationship.”**—according to *Miriam Webster’s Dictionary*.

In the United Kingdom, a study was carried out in 2009 pertaining to incest cases during that year. From that report, Madam Speaker, it was noted that 56 per cent, as our Honourable Leader previously stated, of the men who committed incest were the victims of incest by women themselves. This clearly suggests that victims of incest by females tend to hold on to the trauma just as much, if not more, than those victims as a result of male incest cases.

According to the Department of Health National Assembly for Wales, Department of Health Social Services and public safety in Northern Islands, children and young people, child protection registers, 31 per cent (almost a third) of all children on the child protection registry were there as a result of sexual abuse such as incest. This shows us, Madam Speaker, clearly that sexual abuse is becoming a bigger and more dangerous problem in our growing world. So, why should we not address it?

Also from this study, Madam Speaker, some of the effects of incest on the victims were investigated. Some effects of incest are as follows: Deliberate self-harm, nightmares, sleep disorders, aggressive behaviour, withdrawal, paranoia, post-traumatic stress disorder, poor concentration, poor performance at school, depression, phobias, eating disorders, precocious sexual behavior with peers, and the list goes on and on, Madam Speaker. If I were to list all of the effects we would be here for days.

As was proven previously in my speech, along with the few I just mentioned, Madam Speaker, would you not say that incest is a form of abuse with the list of affects are [inaudible] morbid?

The current penalty for incest committed by females is 10 years—10, Madam Speaker. Ten years does not satisfy the incredible damages, both psychological and physical, caused by incest; especially seeing as studies suggest that the victims of incest by females are affected more dramatically.

I, as a female, Madam Speaker, think that this penalty being swayed by gender is absolutely disgraceful and narrow-minded. Yes, being a female, I am a true believer in women’s rights and I am a true believer in the empowerment of women, as is portrayed by our Commonwealth Day topic “Women—Agents of Change”. But, Madam Speaker, this penalty gives women the wrong power over men and gives women the wrong gender based sympathy.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Elected Member for East End.

Mr. Joash Hyde: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, before I begin I would like to address a comment that is being mentioned a lot on the Government side. It is the fact that these crimes are not being reported. But who would report such a crime with such mediocre sentencing, when a victim knows that if they report this crime, in the matter of months or weeks the abuser will be back out again?

Now I will proceed to my speech. Madam Speaker, as my colleague, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town mentioned, abuse towards chil-

dren in incest is becoming an increasing problem. And, Madam Speaker, as we look around us to the world today, we should agree with her and say that she is correct. Not only that, Madam Speaker, but the Government, the law is giving discriminatory penalties for this crime, which according to our statistics should not be so.

Now, Madam Speaker, I will expand and add on what my colleague mentioned. Firstly, I would like to give some of the reasons why people commit such an offence as incest. Research done by psychologists in the UK suggested that it is not because of pleasure, but power. Some of the factors involved may be the need to obey and trust adults, the wish to maintain family unity, and abuse of alcohol. Madam Speaker, these are only a few of the reasons why. And as for the effects, they have also been mentioned—nightmares, deliberate self-harm, sleeping disorders, poor performance in school; to name a few. Some of the nightmares or flashbacks come when the victim sees an item, a place, a person who simply reminds them of their abuser. Or they hear the voice similar to that of their abuser. These people live isolated lives in fear. Madam Speaker, can we just let people who cause others such harm walk around free?

According to research done by another group of psychologists, on a number of incest cases it shows that 54 per cent of the victims were between the ages of 12 and 16. As mentioned before, Madam Speaker, any male who commits incest with a girl under 13 will get life in prison, or else 20 years. But any woman regardless of the age of the victim gets only 10 years. Madam Speaker, if we match this with a sentencing, we can say that most men will spend 20 years-to-life in prison.

Madam Speaker, there is too much inequality in this Law. Such inequality goes against the United Nations Human Rights. Article No. 1 of this declaration tells us that all human beings are born free and equal. Madam Speaker, “equal” being our key word, which is defined by *Webster’s Dictionary* as “no one person superior or inferior to another, and by all the *Oxford Dictionary* as without discrimination on any grounds.” This Law, Madam Speaker, is clearly not equitable or impartial.

Also, Madam Speaker, Article No. 7 of this Declaration tells us that all are equal before the law. Again, Madam Speaker, our key word is “equal.” This Law is clearly not distributing equal justice.

Madam Speaker, we do not believe as the Opposition, that increasing these penalties in making them equal for both male and female will immediately fix all of Cayman’s problems, but it will be a start in the increasing amount of abusers we have within our population. Madam Speaker, this in turn could decrease the amount of offences committed. We only ask, Madam Speaker, that the Government put this into consideration for the good of the community.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: We will now suspend for 15 minutes.

Proceedings suspended at 3.02 pm

Proceedings resumed at 3.39

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

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

I recognise the Honourable First Official Member.

Hon. Soneil Gomez, Deputy Governor, First Official Member: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, let me start by saying that I would have expected from the Opposition to see a motion based on a more serious female-based crime rather than watching and besetting.

Picture a few weeks ago what happened in George Town. A few students who were on their way from an after-school activity were robbed. They could have been murdered, but they were robbed of a little over twelve dollars. Now, Madam Speaker, let me ask the question: Do you think that we should be focusing on this issue rather than an issue that has not been reported? According to the Opposition it has not been reported or broadcast on television. Not that publicity matters to the volume of the crime, madam Speaker, but the implication that the crime is more important and needs to be looked at more urgently than the other.

Madam Speaker, I ask the Opposition to face reality at hand. Look at the more serious crimes and revisit the garden of commonsense and determine if whether robbery or watching and besetting (which of those two) should be more urgently looked at.

Madam Speaker, there are statistics which show that this crime is apparently happening but our statistics show that people are not reporting it. How do we know that the punishments are inadequate? If no one is reporting them, as the Honourable Minister said, most criminals who are incarcerated relapse. We need to try something else instead of doing the same thing over and over again. We cannot just throw them in jail and expect them to come to their senses and relive the life that they had before they made the choice which ended them in jail.

Madam Speaker, the solution, if one should be appalled, is that instead of throwing them in jail, increasing the penalty, they should be a liable recreational facility that can council these people, because if you were to get up and find that someone for some time has been stalking you, then you would have the idea that there is something wrong with them.

Yes, Madam Speaker, there is something wrong with them. People do not just get up every day and say, *Oh, I am going to stalk someone*. People do not just get up every day and say, *I am going to go and look over that neighbour's yard and I am not going to care what she says about it*. Madam Speaker, this is a mental issue and it needs to be assessed properly. So, again, what we need to do is to have counseling sessions for these people.

Madam Speaker, according to the Second Official Member, Attorney-at-Law, and the information acquired, there has not been one case of incest by females for more than 10 years prior to today. Madam Speaker, again, I do not intend for any crime to be looked at as just a small crime. We will consider every single crime presented to us as a Government. But we have to consider the level of importance, Madam Speaker.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Miss Fraulein Whorms, Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what the Opposition would have you think, we the Government are not callous bigots. We do not advocate sexism of any kind.

Well, then, Madam Speaker, you may ask why the punishment for incest by males and incest by females is not the same. Madam Speaker, this too has a valid reason. Since incest by males was occurring more often than incest by females, the penalty was raised to be a deterrent. This is a reason for the difference in penalties for these two crimes.

Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to point out that the majority of the Government, six out of nine voting Members are female, and that we are all in agreement that the Opposition's Motion is not of any valid concern.

It has been brought to my attention that in the past 10 years there has not been one single reported incident of incest perpetrated by females. Madam Speaker, I think that this statistics speaks for itself, in saying that crimes of this nature hardly ever occur. Does this really therefore concern the safety and general wellbeing of our citizens? If the Opposition's Motion is about the concern of the people, then stick to what concerns our citizens.

Incest by males is far more recurrent than incest by females; therefore the difference in penalties for the two crimes is warranted. Although these crimes are just as serious an offence, the frequency is very opposite.

The crime of watching and besetting is also a crime that is not very common, therefore, Madam Speaker, it would be an atrocious misuse of this Government's resources to increase a penalty that is rarely, if at all used. Our resources should be used for more pressing matters, Madam Speaker, instead of putting the criminals into jail for more years we should focus on rehabilitating them.

Madam Speaker, why does the Opposition bring to motion, crimes such as incest by females and watching and besetting when there are people being murdered and burglarised on the streets? Why have they not brought a motion about those crimes that are actually being frequently committed which affect the safety and security of our people, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker, it is clearly evident that our most esteemed Opposition cares deeply about the safety our citizens and our Islands, but increasing the penalties for these seldom committed crimes is not the best way to go about showing it. What is it that makes these penalties inadequate? If these crimes are not being committed and the maximum number of years in prison is not being reached, then why increase the punishment? If these crimes have not been happening, does that not, in itself, proven that the penalties have done their job to deter people from committing them? Does that not show that the penalties are in fact sufficient? What makes people feel safer, Madam Speaker, the fact that the criminals are in jail, or that they are getting help to ensure that they do not commit an offence again?

As the Honourable Minister of Education stated, 65 per cent of release criminals return to jail. This means that the current prison system is not helping them and rehabilitation would.

Madam Speaker, thank you.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Second Elected Member for George Town.

Miss Jasmin Ebanks, Second Elected Member for George Town: Madam Speaker, allow me to comment by applauding the Elected Member for his informative speech. But with that said, allow me to say a few words on the topic of the Private Member's Motion. I wish to ask them the question as to why they believe the crimes in their Motion should be addressed, when according to the research I have conducted, there have been no reports of at least one of them in the last 10 years.

Furthermore, I also think that we should not increase the penalties for laws pertaining to defilement because people who have committed this crime before have not even received the maximum 20 years as prescribed by the Penal Code.

Madam Speaker, to further [elaborate] on the point made by the Honourable Premier, it is stated that the crimes mentioned in their Motion are of great concern to the people and communities of these fair Islands. But, Madam Speaker, not only have these crimes either not been recorded in 10 years, but the amount of occurrences may not be substantial. And as the Honourable Premier [elaborated] in his speech, these crimes are not the concern of the people. The concerns of the people are crimes such as drugs and murders.

Madam Speaker, let me say according to records and research that I was able to get [pertaining] to incest by females, it has happened less times than incest by males. Continuing, if we are to increase the penalties for incest by females to that [as the same] of incest by males let us do it for a logical reason. And if incest by males is occurring more, does the Opposition not feel that this should be addressed first? Is that not more likely to be a concern of the communities?

Madam Speaker, as an Elected Representative of the people of the Cayman Islands, I agree with addressing things that are of concern to our people. But, Madam Speaker, I feel it is clear that what really bothers the men, women, teenagers and our children—our society—is not crimes like watching and besetting; it is crimes such as theft and murders, which [inaudible] their thoughts.

For my last few words, I would like to say that I strongly believe that now is not the time to be discussing increasing the prescribed penalties of the following crimes—watching and besetting, laws pertaining to defilement, incest by females. Let us deal with real matters to Caymanians. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause].

I recognise the Third Elected Member for West Bay.

Miss Moya Williams, Third Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the Honourable Opposition, if these crimes are not being reported, how are we expected to fix the problem? And how could we possibly gain statistics on unreported crimes? Again, putting people in prison does not ensure a better society. It is for us as a society to come together and educate them as the Minister of Education has undoubtedly said.

Madam Speaker, in summary, the Opposition has brought up a topic which is very prevalent these days. The Government is very much concerned for the safety and general wellbeing of the people of the Cayman Islands. The Government will forever seek ways in which we can enhance the security of the Islands for the betterment of the people. However, the Opposition seeks to argue that the Penal Code and

Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revision) contain inadequate penalties for crimes of watching and besetting, laws pertaining to defilement and incest by females, and that the penalties should be increased for these offences.

But, Madam Speaker, I wish to enlighten them to the fact that there are no records of cases relating to watching and besetting. Even more, watching and besetting is a non-violent crime which would not require a long period of incarceration.

Firstly, with regard to increasing the penalties for incest by FEMALES, it is totally obscured. The last reported case of incest by FEMALES was 10 years ago, Madam Speaker. It is more to say that the stats show that more males commit incest than females. So, my question to the Opposition is: What exactly do you plan to achieve by increasing the penalty for a crime that has not happened in 10 years? And moreover, a crime that is mostly committed by males rather than females?

Madam Speaker, why would this be a pressing issue when it has not occurred in 10 YEARS, Madam Speaker? How could this possibly address the safety and general wellbeing of the people? Stats taken from outside of the Cayman Islands reveal that more men commit incest than women. So, if the Opposition would wish to increase the penalty for men, let it be, but let the penalty for females remain.

Secondly, defilement offences can be considered a growing epidemic in the Cayman Islands. But to address the issue being brought forward, stats show that it is usually committed by men more than women. So, again we stress to seek answers as to why you would wish to increase the penalties on a crime that is hardly carried out by women.

But to address the issue from a males' perspective, it still would not be logical to increase the penalties. Defilement is now common among males who are between the ages of 18 to 23 and females who are under 16. The penalty for defilement is currently 20 years. Do you really want to destroy a young man's life for that long? And more so, they will be incarcerated with inmates who have committed greater offences and we will run the risk of them becoming institutionalised and coming out of jail probably committing the worse offences than defilement. The penalty needs to be balanced with the defendant's life. We are not seeing that what the defendant has done is pardoned in any way. But it is unreasonable to be sending a young man of 16 years of age, for defilement, against a 15 year old girl to 20 years imprisonment and in these cases, the young girl's consent to having intercourse. We must also consider that we are dealing with human beings and not everyone is truthful in such cases. Females do have the potential of being mendacious towards the defendants.

Madam Speaker, I would like to further inform the Opposition that even though the current penalty

being issued for defilement is 20 years, there is no case since 2000 where the defendant was given the maximum. They are either given probation or less than half the years that the crime is worth. Once again we are left astounded as to why you would increase the penalty for a crime that an offender has never been given the maximum period of time.

Madam Speaker, we disagree with the Opposition. However, we would think it money better spent developing rehabilitation centres in which the defendants will be confined to, to seek mental health. It is not normal behavior, Madam Speaker, to lust after family members, nor is it considered socially acceptable for individuals over the age of 18 to have carnal knowledge of minors. Behaviour modification, anger management, stress reduction and relapse prevention are essential therapeutic strategies that these offenders need to undergo. These offenders will, at some point, be released back into society and we think that it would be money well spent in rehabilitating these offenders to ensure that they will not commit these offences again.

So, Madam Speaker, as the Honourable First Official Member said: I urge the Opposition to revisit the garden of commonsense and come to us with a better motion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]. Does any other Member wish to speak?

If not, I will invite the mover of the Motion, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Third Elected Member for George Town to exercise his right of reply.

Hon Michaiah Bryan, Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It concerns me that the Government chooses to ignore the needs of even certain members of its citizens when even though these crimes are not being reported per se, they are still occurring. The lack of reporting does not mean lack of occurrence. And it appalls me that the Government would seek to malign certain members of the population in saying that women can yes, twist defendants and all this other sorts of things. But, Madam Speaker, let me start again by saying that the Biblical Old Testament prophets often warned their listeners and warned their people to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; speak up for those who have no voice.

It saddens me that the Government, instead of doing what their constituents elected them to do is waiting for the Opposition to tell them what to do about crime. The fact that the Government even has to ask the Opposition about gun violence, burglary and gang violence shows two things: 1) that the Gov-

ernment is not doing its job about crime; and 2) that their consciences are bothering them about it.

Either the Government does the job they were elected to do or they can graciously move out of the way and allow the people of Cayman to see that they truly do not care.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of District Administration is worried about criminals having Internet access in jail. If she and her Government are so concerned with the inmates having Internet access in jail, why do they not take care of that? They make the laws, deny them the Internet access. If they are going to use Internet access for the purpose of watching and besetting, is it not the Government's job to make sure that this does not happen? I would believe so, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Education must be applauded for her concern for the mental wellbeing of our general populace. And I see no reason why the Government cannot both incarcerate and rehabilitate the perpetrators of crimes, and also educate the general populace. However, if she is concerned with the 17-year-old who is losing his future, I fail to see how she is not concerned with the 14-year-old girl who is enticed by the 30- or 40- or 50-year-old male who may also be a repeat offender because all he gets for the crime of defilement is probation.

As for the First Official Member, I would ask him: Are we going to wait until these crimes of watching and besetting and defilement and incest by females get out of hand like gang and drug violence? They may not be being reported but if we ignore them now, in the future should they happen, what will we do then? Will we wait and cry over the preverbal spilled milk? Or will we act now while we can, while the ocean is calm? Will we repair the ship while the ocean is calm or will we let the ship sink during the storms?

As for the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac, again, I repeat . . . as a matter of fact, to the entire Government, Madam Speaker: Why can we not rehabilitate these people in prison? If watching and besetting leads to other crimes, and if you say that these crimes are not being reported—and if you say that we should raise awareness—then after we have raised awareness and people do begin to come forward, what recourse will they have? Should we not provide recourse for them to get the justice they need when they do begin to come forward?

And to the Second Elected Member for George Town's point about logic; the logical thing to do would be to give men the equal protection under the Law that is their fundamental human rights.

And the Government dares—*dares*—to go as far as to say, yes, okay, the crime of incest by females has not been committed in 10 years. However, is that not 10 years of trauma? Ten years of pain? Ten years of psychological torture for the victim? Should we not again—again (I repeat Madam Speaker)—give men

the equal protection under the Law that is their human rights.

The frequency of the occurrence of these crimes may be an issue for the Government, but frequency of crime or no frequency, if it is happening it needs to be addressed. But I guess, Madam Speaker, that, just as the Government is waiting for the Opposition to tell them what to do about crime and gang violence, and drugs, we the Opposition will have to step up and say more to the Government about these crimes. But I think we have already said as much as we need to say.

I find it strange that the statistic, 56 per cent of the men—*of the men*—who commit incest, 56 per cent of them have been victims of incest by females. Madam Speaker, is this not something which needs to be addressed?

Madam Speaker, I rest my case and I plead with the Government—*plead with the Government*—to vote for this Motion; to do the right thing for the people of the Cayman Islands.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government considers amending the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code (2010 Revisions) to increase the penalties for these offences.

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

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: The Noes have it.

Mr. Dushun Wilson: Madam Speaker, may I request a division?

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

The Clerk:

Division No. 2

Ayes: 7

Hon. Michaiah Bryan
 Hon. Kernal Bryan
 Hon. Alexandra Franklin
 Mr. Alenjandro Ossorio
 Mr. Dushun Wilson
 Mr. Winston Williams
 Mr. Joash Hyde

Noes: 9

Hon. Julian Solomon
 Hon. Sydonnie Barrett
 Hon. Alexandra Anglin
 Hon. Joshua Dilbert
 Hon. Justino Rodrigues
 Miss Moya Williams
 Miss Jasmine Ebanks
 Miss Fraulein Whorms
 Miss Ann-Alecia Moore

Absentees: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Speaker: The result of the Division is 7 Ayes and 9 Noes. The Noes have it. Private Member's Motion No. 2 has failed.

Negatived by majority on division: Private Member's Motion failed.

The Speaker: Honourable Members that concludes the business on the Order Paper for today's sitting.

I will now call upon the Honourable Premier to move the adjournment of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. Julian Solomon: Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament sine die.

Vote of Thanks

The Premier, Hon. Julian Solomon: Having done that, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Government of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament, I wish to thank the ladies affectionately known as Ms. Zena, Ms. Sharon, Ms. Nana and the gentleman known as Mr. Gould; and MLA, Mr. Ellio Solomon; the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Mr. Cline Glidden; the Honourable Speaker, Mrs. Mary Lawrence; the Honourable Rolston Anglin, Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell, Mr. Roy Bodden, Mr. Arden McLean and Mr. Roydell.

We would also like to thank our parents, the representatives of our schools, all the volunteers who have helped us over the course of this, and our teachers for the nominations and the support of the youth for backing us.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

Hon. Machaiah Bryan, Leader of the Opposition: On behalf of the Opposition of the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament, we wish to thank Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin, Ms. Nana Bothwell, Ms. Sharon Smith, the honourable Mr. Dwayne Seymour, the Honourable Rolston Anglin, the Honourable Mr. Mark Scotland, the Honourable Mr. Alden McLaughlin, the honourable Mr. Ezzard Miller, Mrs. Tammy Ebanks-Bishop and the Honourable Speaker, Mrs. Mary Lawrence.

And a special thank you to Dr. Maysson Sallam who was the Chair earlier, I believe. She was a great help to us and she also gave us some great words of encouragement, and, by way of her, Mr. Roydell Carter; both of them who are in charge of the Department of Environmental Health.

We would also like to thank our parents, friends, teachers and all of those who encouraged us, and also, Mr. Roy Bodden.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable CPA Fourth Youth Parliament stands adjourned sine die. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

I now call on the Premier, Honourable McKeeva Bush, joint Vice-President of the CPA Cayman Islands, Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development, to make a few brief remarks.

PREMIER'S REMARKS ON THE FOURTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

By

**the Premier, Honourable W. McKeeva
Bush, OBE, JP, MLA,
Joint-Vice President of the CPA of the
Cayman Islands**

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam President, Honourable Deputy Premier, Honourable Deputy Speaker, other Members of the Legislative Assembly, distinguished members of the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament, staff, parents, after missing this morning's session, I am particularly pleased to be here for a short while with you all this afternoon.

I want to apologise for not being present. I had a family matter in Miami with my wife which I had to be at. I could not get back until this morning, although I must say that I was looking forward to delivering my own remarks to you. I have always found these Youth Parliaments very, very interesting from the day that I first became a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and attended Youth Parliaments and saw what they did in other countries.

That's back then when I first joined and became a member (26 years plus). And so Youth Parliaments around the commonwealth have evolved and become very active in the parliamentary affairs of various countries.

I would hope that our Islands can have Youth Parliament on a yearly basis. As I said, I find them very interesting. I like debate, so it is always good to hear good debate. I have no doubt in my mind that Cayman's democracy is in good standing after hearing some of you all this afternoon in how you put your points across, the research you had to do and the work you did. I want to thank you. As I said, our democracy stands in good position with young people like yourselves.

The Government of this country is well aware of the opportunity that it bears in helping to turn young people into informed citizens and active voters, in

whose hands the future of these Islands will be safe. We take very seriously our obligation to provide you, as well as citizens of all ages, with the information, competencies, and motivation that you need to take on empowered roles within our Islands.

Accordingly, I especially look forward to hearing some thoughts and impressions of today's proceedings, including what you will take away from your time with us. I do hope that you take some time to put on paper to let us know how you feel it went for you and what we can do to better this Youth Parliament and make it stronger.

The Youth Parliament programme aims to strengthen your skills in the areas of analysis, decision making, debate, consensus building, and even delegation. This is in addition to providing valuable exposure to the procedures that govern the actions of your elected representatives, in particular, and the public service as a whole. We believe these things will prove useful to you in every area of your life, whether in school, government, social activities or the world of work when you get to that point.

How you use these resources is entirely a matter of personal values and personal choices. Such freedom is the defining principle of democracy. The ability of persons within a democratic state to choose their own path according to the dictates of their individual values within the bounds of reason and always bearing in mind, of course, the common good. That is the driver that pushes democracy to constantly evolve and make itself relevant to the lives of the people who are its foundation. To ensure that this freedom remains always viable and functioning is to work equally of a country's elected leaders and their constituents.

From the MLAs' perspective—and I want to thank our MLAs who got together to make sure that this year's Youth Parliament took place and the work they did. And, of course, our staff here, our small staff in this Legislative Assembly.

We must make sure that our policies relate specifically and clearly to the wider community needs. Accordingly, it is important that constituents are provided with an easily accessible means of interaction and become knowledgeable about the various ways in which they can share with us their needs and visions. That is one of the reasons we pushed hard for district councils. I want to ask you to pay attention to the district councils. And I do hope that it is possible that in time to come you will serve on those district councils.

You will have that opportunity to serve. It is a new way of involving the citizens to say the direction they want to see their community. Bearing in mind, of course, that in those councils and in any forum, that it is democracy and if you lose by one vote, you lose.

In a truly democratic country there should be no socio-economic or political impediment to such an exchange.

From a public perspective, the population of the Cayman Islands in turn must prove itself ready and able to take advantage of opportunities to provide feedback or participate in policy development.

As an example, again, some of you here today may believe or have friends who believe that the views of the young or any other special interest group is always disregarded. This in turn affects the level of your group's participation in community. Particularly, it has been found that young people may disenfranchise themselves and sometimes in their growing alienation engage in antisocial behaviour.

Yet, let me tell you that far from adult disinterest, the opposite is true: Your age is your strongest advocate. Tell your friends, your parents, family members and everyone else that no matter what group you or they belong to, you can speak up and have a voice. But I ask you to think clearly before taking any kind of action. Active participation and communication are certainly the best remedy to any form of alienation. Some people just are willing to give up and say, *Well, I do not want to be part of that. I do not want to go where he goes or she goes.* But I say to you . . . and then some of those young people get involved in the wrong areas in the community.

The job of your elected representatives is to listen to what you tell us. Your job is to make sure that your voice is heard because you do have a voice. I believe that in general, Caymanians and residents are a people of sound character moral and judgment. And once we choose to take action, seek out the information relevant to a situation and apply the criteria of the common good, the odds are that we will have a positive outcome no matter what challenges we face.

With your collaboration young people, we can build a tolerant responsive democratic society that is continuously evolving to meet the needs of its population as a whole and as individuals. In this way, we can be certain that whether 50 or 150 years from now, this country is still somewhere that we all want to live and move and have our being.

May I thank you all again for your participation in this year's Youth Parliament. More than anything else that I may have said here; let me beseech you to be more than careful. You are young adults. Be more than careful with your own lives. You take charge of your life. Be careful who you listen to, who you take advice from, where you go, even who you are seen with. Things can impact your life forever. People around you can change your lives forever young people. Be careful where you go and when you go, what you do. Take charge of your life.

Last but not the least; take up the opportunities that exist in these Islands. Young people all over the world, far away in distant lands and some close to us in this region, would give anything to have the opportunities that you have. You have the world before you. Let no one preach to you that there is nothing

here for you. If I had time this evening I would take you on a little journey about my life and perhaps some of you have already heard too much that is not true, but I would just like to tell you how I had to go to school and the opportunities that did not exist.

I wanted to be a lawyer or a school teacher and my mother (because she was raising me by herself) could not do that. The education system at the Secondary Modern School (now the Annex) was deplorable. It did not work for us. Education was for a favoured few. We did not get that opportunity to go to a college, not even to finish high school much less. They put us out to make space for others. But we had to take what was given to us and make the best of it, and to grow up without a life of crime, without the kind of problems that young people get into today.

Mind you, we got into problems, but no guns, no knives. Sometimes a very good fight but nobody got killed from it. And we had to make ourselves into adults. We had good guidance. We listened to our elders because some of the best advice you will get will be from some of your older family. I am sure you have families who are much older than you; grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins who are not going to lead you in the wrong way or to tell you to go down the wrong road. And so we had to take that and build a life.

Opportunity today exists which did not exist for me 40 years ago. It exists today. Make sure that you take up that opportunity. Go to school, do not miss out. Do not miss out or you will regret it. And make sure that you want to go to further your education. Government is spending millions of dollars to educate you, from primary to high school, and to offer scholarships where we can. And we will continue to do that. But young people, your life is in your hands. Let no one fool with it and lead you the wrong road. It is easy, easy, to make mistakes and get into problem that will impact your life forever, even when you did not think that it was so easy to happen. Get involved but take charge of your life.

I was glad to be here this evening and I am sorry that I was not here this morning. My remarks passed around to you. I thank the Deputy Premier for coming and opening this Fourth Youth Parliament. And I want to again thank the Honourable Speaker, Mrs. Lawrence, and the staff here at the Legislative Assembly for assisting in getting today's Youth Parliament. I do hope that you will enjoy the reception this evening that His Excellency the Governor will host for you. Study hard—study hard.

God bless you and may the Good Lord direct your being. Thank you.

[applause]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: What a wonderful day it has been. I enjoyed it. It is actually my first Youth Par-

liament that I have attended. I have always read about it in the *[Caymanian] Compass*.

I would like you all to give yourself a round of applause. And I want to thank the parents, visitors for staying all day. I am sure that your sons and daughters are so proud that you are up there looking down at them demonstrate. You've probably never seen them so vocal and vociferous before. You probably just know them as that quiet person at home.

I want to remind everyone, parents and all about the reception this afternoon at the Governor's House on West Bay Road. I am sure everyone knows where that is. And I think you can drop the tie but keep the jackets. And ladies similar dress code.

I want to thank all of you for doing all of this hard work, and all the staff at the LA again, for sticking with you all; Ms. Zena, Ms. Nana, Ms. Sharon, Mr. Locksley. It definitely was a pleasure, and I hope that next year, if we decide to do this again, that you will be encouraged to come and be grandfathers of the House and keep some continuity going for the other students to come onwards. I pray that some of you will become politicians. The country would be in good hands.

Thank you very much. God bless.

[applause]

The Speaker: Thank you.

[applause]

At 4.35 pm the CPA Fourth Youth Parliament stood adjourned sine die.