## Caymanian



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#### LOCAL NEWS — page 7



CIG and Bodden Town Church of God **Celebrate New Multi-Purpose Hall** and Hurricane Shelter

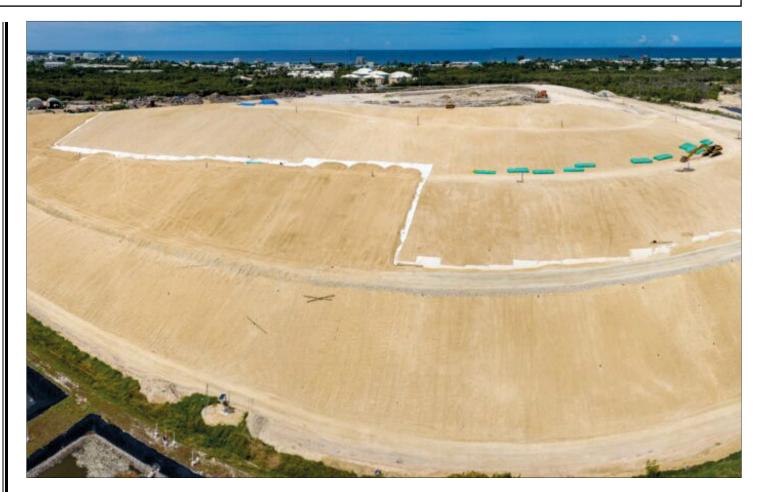
#### FLASHBACK — page 9



Flashback - September 2019: **Opposition Calls Cruise Berthing Referendum A Fight for Democracy** 



**ACT Leads Urgent Call for Cruise Berthing** 



## ISWMS Project contract termination deadline extended

Cabinet has approved a request from the Hon Dwayne Seymour, Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and termination of the Integrated Solid Waste

contract until 28 February 2025.

Cabinet granted the extension on 31 Wellness, to extend the deadline for the December 2024. The extension grants the Government and the Dart-led consortium

Management Systems (ISWMS) project additional time to complete the necessary legal requirements and negotiations to exit the project agreement.

**SEE TERMINATION DATE, PAGE 2** 



Walk-ins welcome for paediatric care

MONDAY - SATURDAY | 7AM TO 7PM



## Caucus Secretary Nickolas DaCosta Steps Down from Post

The Office of the Premier has announced that Nickolas DaCosta, JP has stepped down from his position as Caucus Secretary, effective 17 January 2025.

Mr DaCosta joined the Office of the Premier in 2021 as the Content and Communications Coordinator where he oversaw the development and management of digital content and channels, ensuring that the Office's communications were effectively disseminated across various media platforms.

In 2022, Mr DaCosta transitioned to the role of Caucus Secretary where he man-

aged weekly Caucus meetings and served as a liaison with various ministries and portfolios. In this capacity, Mr DaCosta played a key role in the coordination, development and implementation of policy, fostering collaboration among internal and external stakeholders.

Reflecting on his time in the role, Mr DaCosta said "It has been my honour to support the political process within the executive branch of government since 2021. I wish to express my gratitude to the Premier and Caucus for affording me

the opportunity to serve them in various capacities. It has also been a pleasure to compliment the work of the civil servants who dedicate their lives every day to supporting our democracy."

The Premier, Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, expressed her gratitude to Mr DaCosta stating, "Nickolas is to be commended for his dedication, excellence and contributions to initiatives that have positively impacted the people of the Cayman Islands. The Caucus wishes to thank him for his service."



▶ Nikolas DaCosta

## Cabinet Approves Extension of Termination Date for the Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems Project



#### CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The Hon Dwayne Seymour, Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Wellness, said: "Cabinet's decisions to grant the extension enables Government to ensure that the exit from this

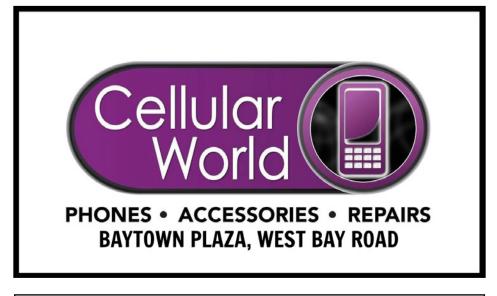
agreement will be efficiently executed. The Government is committed to ensuring that the termination of the contract is mutually agreeable and we have already made significant progress in our ongoing negotiations. I thank the Cabinet for their decision to approve the extension, and we

will work diligently to find solutions that deliver a timely and beneficial exit."

The original termination notice was set for 31 October 2024 and was first extend-

ed to 31 December 2024. This marks the second extension, highlighting the Government's commitment to achieving a comprehensive conclusion to the ISWMS project.







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## Q4 2024 Statistics Highlight Continued Growth in Cayman's Captive Insurance Sector for the Year

The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) has released its licensing statistics for Q4 2024, resulting in a strong overall performance in the captive insurance industry for the year 2024. The total number of new international insurers licenses for 2024, which includes one Class D open market reinsurer, stands at 40 - a continued record of the largest number of licenses issued in a single year in more than a decade. Between October and December, CIMA issued 12 new international insurer licenses—three B(i)s, eight B(iii)s, and one Class C. Additionally, 3 new insurance managers were licensed during 2024.

As of year-end 2024, Cayman is home to 697 Class B, C, and D insurance companies, writing \$41 billion in premiums and holding \$153 billion in total assets. As expected, the growth in new licenses throughout 2024 has been highly encour-



► Kieran Mehigan

aging, with strong activity anticipated to continue well into 2025.

IMAC Chair Kieran Mehigan commented, "Cayman continues to attract new licensees due to the strong and effective legislation and professional infrastructure. Thank you to the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) who has played a key role in this recent growth, through their positive engagement and responsiveness. It is also encouraging to note the licensing of new insurance managers, who will undoubtedly help to attract additional licensees to the jurisdiction."

Other 2024 statistics show that traditional single-parent captives licensed as B(i) from a variety of industries, also saw a growth of 13 new licenses issued, while third-party reinsurers licensed as B(iii) experienced significant expansion, with 24 new licenses. This momentum is expected to carry into 2025 and will be highlighted at the CIRCA ReConnect conference at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, from April 10-11, 2025.

IMAC invites those interested in learning more about Cayman's insurance industry to visit the Cayman Finance booth (#210) at the World Captive Forum in Orlando from February 5-7, 2025.

The Insurance Managers Association of Cayman (IMAC) represents the international insurance industry in the Cayman Islands. IMAC liaises with government and the regulator on the industry's behalf and promotes innovation and international competitiveness to maintain Cayman's advantageous market position. The Cayman Islands is the second largest domicile in the world for captives and a dominant jurisdiction for healthcare captives, group captives, catastrophe bonds and international reinsurance.

## Ministry Opens Public Consultation Channel for the National Conservation Amendment Bill 2024

The Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Wellness (the Ministry) has launched channels for the community to engage with the ongoing public consultation for the proposed amendments to the National Conservation Act 2013.

The Ministry is conducting a 28-day public consultation period for the proposed amendments to the National Conservation Act, 2013 (NCA) which began when the Bill was published on 31 December 2024, and will end at 11.59pm on Monday 27 January 2025.

During this period, members of the public have the opportunity to review the proposed amendments and share their comments and feedback.

The National Conservation (Amend-



► Hon Dwayne S Seymour

ment) Bill 2024, aims to amend the NCA for three key purposes:

- 1. To reform the powers and composition of the National Conservation Council
- 2. To provide for the establishment of a Conservation Appeals Tribunal, and
- 3. Incidental and connected purposes.

Honourable Dwayne Seymour, Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency and Wellness, stated: "We are introducing these proposed amendments for public consultation. This process is both a legal obligation and an essential aspect of fostering an inclusive and transparent governance framework. I encourage all members of the community to engage with the consultation process, review the Bill, and provide feedback through the

designated official channels."

#### How to have your say: Public Consultation Information

- You can download and review the Amendment Bill (Gazette listing LG51, S1) online at www.gov.ky/gazettes/
- Email your feedback on the proposed amendments directly to the Ministry at NCAmendmentBill2024@gov.ky

All comments and feedback received will be reviewed and presented to Cabinet for consideration. As a reminder, please send all comments and feedback on the proposed amendments to NCAmendmentBill2024@gov.ky If you require any assistance with this consultation process, please feel free to contact the Ministry by emailing sustainability@gov.ky

## Third Meeting of Parliament's 2024-2025 Session to Begin on 31st January, Key Bills to be Debated

The Third Meeting of the 2024-2025 Session of Parliament is set to begin on Friday, 31st January 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the House of Parliament, George Town. This decision was announced during the final Sitting of the Second Meeting on 16th December 2024 as the House adiourned.

During the upcoming Meeting, Members of Parliament (MPs) are expected to deliberate on significant legislative matters, including the following Bills being brought to the Parliament by the Government:

- 1. Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling, and Cannabis) Bill, 2024 (published 23rd December 2024)
- 2. Customs and Border Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (published 27th December 2024)
- 3. Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (published 27th December 2024)



▶ Parliament - Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly

- 4. National Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (published 31st December 2024)
- 5. Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill (published 8th January 2025)

In accordance with Parliament Standing Orders, the Meeting may also include Parliamentary Questions from Opposition Members directed to Government Ministers, Statements by Government Members, and Motions. (Members have until 20th January to submit Parliamentary Questions and until 23rd January to file Motions through the Clerk to the Honourable Speaker for consideration in the Meeting.)

The public is invited to follow the proceedings through the live broadcasts on the Government's YouTube channel, CIGTV cable network, and Radio Cavman. Members of the public are also welcome to attend in person at the House of Parliament after registering with Security. Relevant documents and updates will be posted on the Parliament's official website, www.parliament.ky, ahead of the Meeting.

## **Enhanced Safety Measures Along** the Spotts Straight Corridor



#### **Collaboration for Enhanced Road Safety**

In collaboration with the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport & Development (PAHITD), a comprehensive strategy has been adopted to enhance safety along the Spotts Straight corridor.

#### **Project Details**

One of the key safety enhancements

will be the installation of delineators along the centre of Spotts Straight, stretching from the Chrissie Tomlinson roundabout to Spotts Newlands Road. This project will begin on Saturday and Sunday, January 18th and 19th between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

The new barrier will eliminate overtaking - identified as a significant hazard on this road - and ensure safer travel for all motorists. To accommodate these changes while maintaining residential access, openings will be provided for all residents along the Spotts Straight corridor.

#### **Addressing Speeding** Concerns

Excessive speeding has been identified as a leading cause of accidents and fatalities in this area, with widespread noncompliance with the 40-mph speed limit. While reducing the speed limit to 25 mph was initially considered, the National Roads Safety Council (NRSC) determined that this measure alone would not sufficiently address reckless and habitual speeding.

Instead, a multi-faceted approach combining enforcement, engineering improvements and revised safety standards - has been developed to mitigate risks along this critical corridor.

#### **Minimizing Disruptions**

The NRA is committed to managing this project with minimal disruptions to residents and commuters. We thank the public for their exercised patience and caution as these critical safety improvements are implemented.

#### **Contact Information**

For more information or inquiries regarding the Spotts Straight Corridor safety enhancements, please contact the National Roads Authority at 946-7780 or email at nra@nra.ky.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT BILL, 2025

Sponsoring Ministry of Youth, Sports and Heritage invites feedback to the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2025. This Bill

seeks to provide for the prevention of sexual harassment and the introduction of remedies in circumstances where a per-

son makes a sexual harassment complaint. The bill can be viewed at https://www. gov.ky/publication-detail/anti-sexual-harassment-bill,-2025,-(lg1,-s1) and feedback can be sent directly to GenderEquality@gov.ky

#### POLICE NEWS

## Eastern Districts Road Policing Operation results in 40 Speeding Tickets issued in One Day

Guardian festive season campaign, the RCIPS Traffic and Road policing unit continues to focus on targeted traffic enforcement initiatives, into the new year.

Earlier this week, the RCIPS Eastern Districts Traffic Department conducted a targeted operation focused on driving offences including speeding, distracted driving, and vehicle road worthiness.

Traffic operations were conducted in areas known by police for high levels of infringement, including the Breakers area of Bodden Town, Rex Crighton Boulevard,

Point Road, North Side.

On conclusion of the single day operation, a total of forty-three tickets were issued for breaches of the Road Traffic Act, including 40 for speeding offences, one for expired registration and two for illegal

Superintendent for the Eastern Districts and Sister Islands, Richard Barrow, says that, "the Eastern Districts experiences some of the most extreme speeding, due to the long stretches of open road, and minimal traffic compared to other dis-

Following the annual RCIPS Winter Chime Street, North Side Road and Rum tricts. Even though a maximum 50 mile speed limit is in place on sections of the main arterial route, this is too often not adhered too. Drivers can become complacent when there is minimal traffic around, and some choose to treat the roadway like a racetrack. At night time in particular, it is vital that motorists obey the speed limits and drive with consideration of other road users. When speeding, drivers drastically minimize their ability to respond in time to avoid an obstacle or collision. To make our roadways a safe place for all, we must slow down".



The RCIPS Traffic and Road Policing Unit will maintain sustained presence across the islands roads over the coming

## Overwhelming Support Marks Inaugural Derek Larner Memorial Run





▶ 5K and 10K runners

► Marathon



► Laura Larner and friends



► Laura Larner and her daughter



Trevor Murphy, beloved friend of Derek and Race Caribbean's coordinator

17 January 2025 – More than 600 participants gathered on Sunday 12 January 2025, for the inaugural Derek Larner Memorial Run proudly sponsored by Artex Risk Solutions, a heartfelt tribute to the late athlete, coach, and mentor. The event, which drew twice the expected turnout, celebrated Larner's profound impact on the Cayman Islands' running community.

Derek Larner, who passed away on 5 January 2021 at the age of 56, was a passionate advocate for fitness, a gifted athlete, and a dedicated coach. His influence extended far beyond the sport, fostering determination, encouragement, and a strong sense of community.

Proceeds from the event, as per the wishes of Derek's wife, Laura, will benefit Jasmine's hospice and palliative care services, and the Cayman Islands Cancer

Society's programmes, which provide critical support to families navigating cancer treatment and were dearest to Derek's family.

Reflecting on the event, Laura Larner said, "Scarlett and I would like to thank the Cayman Islands' community for coming out to remember Derek and support two amazing local charities, CICS and Jasmine, on Sunday. We were blown away by the number of participants, demonstrating the strength of Derek's legacy, the affection with which he is still held by the community, and the reach of his positive influence on, and passion for, running.

"It was especially wonderful for us to see so many kids out there, both participating in the run and volunteering; learning the value of community, fitness, and supporting a cause. That really is a legacy to be proud of. Thank you again to all who participated, Trevor Murphy for being a Race Director to rival Derek himself, Race Caribbean and other volunteers, and our amazing sponsors. Together, we really did do Derek proud."

Trevor Murphy, a close friend of Derek's, and who is currently running operations at Race Caribbean, said "I'm truly overwhelmed by the incredible turnout on Sunday. To see over 600 participants come together to honour Derek's memory and support such meaningful causes was an emotional experience. Derek's impact on our community was profound, and it's amazing to witness my friend's legacy continue to inspire so many. A huge thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who made this day possible. We can't wait to do it all again in October 2025."

The event featured 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, and Half Marathon Relay categories, welcoming runners/walkers of all ages and skill levels. Among the participants were Laura Larner and her daughter, Scarlett, who joined the 5K to honour Derek's memory. Among the participants were many former members of 345 Athletics Club (now Vision Academy 345), the athletics club founded by Derek, and several athletes he previously trained. Notably, James Crooks, Leo Schilling, and Will Dyer, who each won prizes, were coached by Derek. Others, including Kerryann Simpson, Charlotte Kerr, and Victor Magalhaes, took part in the event, exemplifying Derek's enduring influence on Cayman's athletic community.

In the Half Marathon, Esmond Brown claimed victory with a time of 1:18:44.60, followed by Teddy Mercer-Mora in second, and Alfred Muge in third. Jalene Cruz was the first female finisher, with Oddy Grullon and Lauren Nelson completing the women's top three.

Tafari Khan won the 10K in 35:44.64, with Andrew Morrison and Leonardo Schilling finishing second and third, respectively.

The 5K included an emotional highlight, as two of Derek Larner's former trainees made the podium. Abraham Whittaker secured first place with a time of 17:38.83, followed by Mike McDonald, then Will Dyer.

The Half Marathon Relay showcased remarkable teamwork, with the BTR Stallions claiming first place, followed by the BTR Mustangs in second and the BTR Blazerz in third.

The event, organised by Race Caribbean and Tower Marketing, was brought to life with the support of sponsors including Artex Risk Solutions, Jacques Scott Group Ltd, McGrath Tonner, Mourant, Ogier, Claritas Legal & Regulatory Experts, BDO, Ocean Med & Mesa del Sol, Aon, DMS Broadcasting, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Heritage, and Powerade.

The next Derek Larner Memorial Run is set for October 2025, with organisers announcing that the event will now be held annually, every October.

To stay updated on future events, follow the Derek Larner Memorial Run on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at @dereklarnermemorialrun.



► Volunteers and staff

### Cayman Islands Government and Bodden Town Church of God Celebrate New Multi-Purpose Hall and Hurricane Shelter

The Honourable Johany Jay Ebanks, MP, Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport, and Development, is pleased to announce the official handover of the newly constructed Bodden Town Church of God Multi-Purpose Hall to the Bodden Town Church of God. This significant milestone marks a key step in enhancing community resilience in the rapidly growing district of Bodden Town

The state-of-the-art facility, which will serve as a vital hurricane shelter for residents, was officially handed over yesterday, 16 January 2025. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Premier the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP, Deputy Premier the Honourable Kenneth Bryan, MP, and Honourable Dwayne Seymour, Minister of Border Control, Labour and Culture, Honourable McKeeva Bush, Parliamentary Secretary, Honourable Heather Bodden, MP, Honourable Franz Manderson, Deputy Governor, officials from the Cayman Islands Government, project representatives from the private sector, Pastor Winston Rose and congregants of the Bodden Town Church of God. Prior to the completion of this facility, the Bodden Town Primary School served as the sole hurricane shelter in the area. This new multi-purpose hall provides a much needed and timely solution to the growing demand for safe and accessible shelters in the district.

"This building embodies our commitment to building a more resilient and safer future for the people of Bodden Town," said Minister Ebanks. "It is a crucial community asset that will provide vital support during times of crisis."

The successful completion of this project highlights the importance of strong partnerships between the government and community organizations. The Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Iin-



▶ Honourable Jay Ebanks, MP, thanks all stakeholders for making the completion of the Bodden Town Church of God Multi-Purpose Hall a reality.

frastructure, Transport and Development extends sincere gratitude to the Public Works Department, all project stakeholders, and the residents of Bodden Town for their patience and support throughout the construction process.

About the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport & Development (PAHITD):

Under the guidance of Hon. Minister Johany "Jay" Ebanks, The Ministry of PA-HITD is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Cayman Islands through comprehensive planning, sustainable agriculture, efficient housing solutions, and critical infrastructure development. Our mission is to create a resilient and thriving future for all residents and visitors.





▶ It was all smiles after the official handing over of the Bodden Town Church of God Multi-Purpose Hall was completed on Thursday, 16 January, 2025.

## Little Cayman biodiversity flourishes with invasive species controls



► Sister Islands Rock Iguana (endemic)



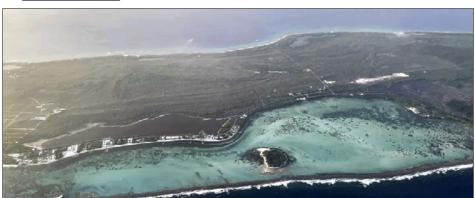








▶ Residents attended a public meeting at the Little Cayman Beach resort in November 2024



▶ Little Cayman's delicate ecosystems range from remote dry forests to brackish wetlands and coastal sand beaches



► Little Cayman Anole (endemic)



► Roaming cat with young Sister Islands Rock Iguana



► Curly-Tailed Lizard (native)

A previously untouched haven for native species and virgin habitat, Little Cayman has been exploring the potential benefits of invasive species controls for nearly two decades. As steep declines in annual populations of the Sister Islands Rock Iguana - found only in the Sister Islands and nowhere else in the world - were consistently recorded, cameras placed out in the wild, along with iguana remains showed clear evidence of cat predation, particularly on hatchling, young, and sub-adult segments of the population. In response, a partnership was formed between the Department of Environment, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, supported by UK Darwin Plus funding, with a mandate to control feral cat populations living in the wild, promote responsible pet ownership among the community and develop biosecurity protocols with local stakeholders to help secure the sister islands from invasive species arriving undetected in cargo.

Now, after just two years of control

work, it's estimated that approximately 87% of invasive feral (unowned) cats have been removed from the natural environment and many Little Cayman residents say they have noticed a significant increase in the number of young Sister Islands Rock Iguanas and other native wildlife including Curly-tailed lizards, birds, butterflies, and the Little Cayman anole, also endemic to the island and found nowhere else in the world.

In addition to the significant impacts feral cats pose to native wildlife, a DoE study of the health of feral cats removed from the environment between 2022 and 2024 revealed poor body conditions from starvation, pregnancies, injures and infections with many having mature parasites and trash matter within their digestive tracts.

In 2023, after the first year of control work showed signs of biodiversity recovery, a team of invasive species eradication experts from Australia were invited by the DoE to visit Little Cayman and conduct a preliminary study on the feasibility of eradicating feral cats entirely from the island. With its small

land mass and relatively low human population, the study showed it was indeed feasible, though experiences on other islands similar to Little Cayman indicate that a variety of methods are needed in order to ensure its success.

In late November 2024, a public meeting was held at the Little Cayman Beach Resort hosted by the DoE's Terrestrial Resources Unit (TRU), and led by TRU Manager Frederic Burton, to report the increasing Sister Islands Rock Iguana population data and gauge community interest in taking the project further. Many residents indicated support for the preservation of Little Cayman's native and endemic species, particularly the Sister Islands Rock Iguana, and confirmed that eradication of all feral, unowned cats living in the wild would be a massive step for biodiversity conservation in Little Cayman.

The Australian team has returned to Little Cayman this month to perform tests using humane, non-lethal, unarmed trap and non-toxic bait methods which have proven successful in other cat eradication projects, to help determine if non-target, native species might be impacted by them. A non-lethal, humane, soft-clamp leg-hold trap, and a suspended non-toxic bait lure will be tested in the environment over the next 4 weeks – but not actually armed or enabled, so leg traps will not close and baits will be non-toxic.

Motion cameras will record any species which interact with the setups so its safety

and efficacy can be determined before any decisions to move forward with the project are made. These deactivated, testing traps are solely for the purpose of studying how Little Cayman's native species will react to them and will help determine if iguanas, birds or land crabs, for example, are attracted to the non-toxic test bait to help inform adjustments if needed and ultimately, whether the techniques can work safely in Little Cayman's ecosystem, illuminating harm to non-target species. The testing traps will be clearly marked and pose absolutely no threat to humans or pets.

Eradication (or even extensive control over wide areas) is not currently being explored in Grand Cayman or Cayman Brac as these areas are much more densely populated and complex.

Depending on how the tests go, a new conversation with the community about the possibility of eradicating all feral cats from the delicate island ecosystem of Little Cayman will emerge. It is only with community support across the islands that our unique biodiversity might be preserved and protected from the impacts of invasive predators.

Learn more at www.conservation.ky/invasive-evidence

WATCH the videos to learn more about the Sister Islands Partnership project and protecting native wildlife in the Cayman Islands from the severe impacts of invasive predators.

## Flashback - September 2019: Opposition calls referendum on cruise ship berthing a fight for democracy

Opposition Leader Hon. V. Arden McLean J.P. on Wednesday offered congratulations to the members of Cruise Port Referendum Cayman and the many thousands who signed the petition calling for a People-Initiated Referendum and were then subjected to a signature verification process that the Opposition criticized as excessive and bordering on political interference. The Opposition advocated for a verification process based on a sampling of the signatories, however the Government decided to verify 100% of the required signatures.

The members of the Opposition also want to congratulate Elections Supervisor Mr. Wesley Howell and his team for conducting an efficient and timely verification, and for maintaining a high level of integrity and transparency.

In recognising this important democratic milestone Mr. McLean stated, "I am pleased to see that the verification process has been completed and we can now turn our attention to conducting the Referendum. There are a number of questions regarding how this process will be organized, how observers will be appointed, and of course what the actual question will be and when will the Referendum be held.

Mr. McLean added, "The triggering of the Cayman Islands' first People-Initiated Referendum is an event that we cannot take lightly. It shows that the Cayman Islands has a Democratic



► Former Opposition Leader Arden Mclean

framework, in the Constitution, which encourages and allows Participatory Democracy by our people. The Government needs to take heed of the lesson this experience is teaching us, which is, to never ignore the wishes of the people. Indeed, we must respect and revere the people's wishes if we wish to remain in the positions of trust that they have given us."

Mr. McLean went on to say that, "I

am deeply concerned with the Unity Government's lack of regard for various provisions contained within the Constitution, and their abject failure to implement some of the basic laws and institutions mandated by the Constitution such as the Advisory District Council Law, the Standards in Public Life Law and the Referendum Law. These failures make this Referendum much more than a disagreement with the Government over the Cruise Berthing Project. It has now become a fight for Democracy."

Mr. McLean stated that he is calling on the public to now get involved in the process, participate in any forthcoming consultations, pay attention to the meetings of the Legislative Assembly and to avail themselves of as much information as possible prior to the Ref-

"This is where the public needs to become more involved and ensure that they keep a watchful eye on how the Government proceeds with the Referendum. We have already seen questionable behaviour, and we certainly should expect much more. I will ensure that the Opposition does its part in helping to educate and engage with the public during this process and to provide any necessary assistance."

Long serving public servant and Savannah MLA, Mr. Anthony Eden, added that he was very pleased with the outcome, as never before have so few people done so much for democracy despite the obstacles placed by the Government.

Mr. Eden went on to say, "This goes to show that the Cavmanian spirit to persevere lives on and is able to overcome all challenges and challengers."

The Opposition plans to meet with H.E. The Governor in the coming days and will remain involved in the process moving forward.

## Resident Arrested by CBC Officers at **Charles Kirkconnell** Airport



► Captain Charles Kirkconnell Airport

On Thursday, 16 January 2025, Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) officers arrested a Cayman Islands resident upon his arrival at Charles Kirkconnell International Airport.

The arrest followed a baggage examination conducted by CBC officers utilising CBC X-ray equipment.

The matter is being formally investigated by the CBC.



## ACT Leads Urgent Call for Cruise Berthing at Heated West Bay Town Hall

The contentious debate over the future of cruise tourism in the Cayman Islands took center stage on Tuesday night at The Association of Cruise Tourism's (ACT) Town Hall Meeting at John Cumber Primary School Hall in West Bay, where the trade association and key industry officials presented urgent appeals for cruise berthing facilities amid rapidly declining passenger numbers.

Ellio Solomon, Executive Program Manager of ACT, delivered a fiery keynote, warning that the Cayman Islands is at risk of following the fate of once-thriving businesses such as Blockbuster, which failed to adapt to changing market realities. He emphasized that resistance to cruise piers could lead to a devastating collapse of the industry and the loss of thousands of jobs.

"The numbers are dwindling," Solomon said. "Cayman used to be in the top five destinations. Now we are down to 18. There are 3,000 families who depend on cruise tourism ... and if we fail to look out and be our brothers' keeper and let the cruise industry fail, we are going to have major problems."

Solomon also presented video footage illustrating the challenges faced by cruise



▶ ACT Executive Program Manager Ellio Solomon (right) with Deputy Premier

passengers in the Cayman Islands, highlighting long wait times and safety concerns, including a concerning clip of an elderly passenger boarding a tender in rough seas.

Joseph "Joey" Woods, former Acting Di-

rector of the Port Authority, reported that in 2023, cruise arrivals in the Cayman Islands were down by more than 650,000 passengers compared to 2018. By 2024, that gap widened to more than 838,000 fewer passengers than in 2018. At this

rate, many operators will be heading to the docks only to leave empty-handed. "We have to have a proper cruise berthing facility if this country and the people who depend on it are going to succeed. Simple as that," he declared.

#### Bryan: "We Are Running Out of Time"

Deputy Premier and Minister of Tourism Kenneth Bryan reinforced the urgent need for action and shared a video clip of an interview with a Carnival Corporation executive who confirmed that newer, larger ships will bypass Cayman due to a lack of berthing infrastructure. "This not a joke, this not a game. Your lives depend on it," Bryan told the audience, urging residents to demand accountability from their MPs ahead of the general election on April 30, 2025.

#### Bush: "We've Wasted Enough Time"

Former Premier and veteran legislator McKeeva Bush took the floor with a passionate plea, stressing the economic necessity of cruise ship berthing. He criticized opposition voices that have stalled progress for years and called for an end to wasted time and political inaction. "Our people are hurting," Bush said, adding that Caymanians must stop bashing investors who are interested in uplifting the society.

#### Public Reactions and Growing Frustration

The Town Hall Meeting, attended by industry stakeholders, business owners, and concerned citizens, also heard testimony from tour operators who described worsening conditions at the port, including chaotic passenger disembarkation, declining tour bookings, and logistical nightmares on high-traffic days.

One attendee, a local tour operator, issued a challenge to politicians, inviting them to come to the dock on a busy cruise day. "It's a mess ... action speaks louder than words."

Other speakers, such as local attorney Kattina Anglin, urged residents not to be swayed by misinformation and to educate themselves on the issue. "We all have that obligation to ourselves, to our families, to future generations to do all that we can do to uncover the truth ... and to the politicians in the room and watching wherever, we are going to build this port ... get to the table!"

#### Next Steps and Political Uncertainty

Despite the strong arguments made in favor of cruise ship berthing, the future remains uncertain. The government's ability to move forward hinges on the opposition's cooperation in approving the referendum, a prospect that remains in doubt given the current political landscape.

Solomon urged attendees to continue pushing for change: "Our story began with a ship," he said. "Let's fight hard to make sure that our story does not end with one."

The next Town Hall Meeting is slated for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at William Allen McLaughlin Civic Centre in East End.





## CDB Approves USD 7 Million Grant for Agricultural Initiative in Haiti's Northwest

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved a USD 7 million grant to launch a transformative agricultural project in Haiti's Northwest Department (NWD). Building on the successes of the Community-Based Agriculture and Rural Development Project (CBARDP), this new initiative aims to tackle ongoing challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and increased vulnerability caused by political instability and climate change.

Launched in 2016 with an USD 8 million grant co-financed by CDB and Welthungerhilfe, the CBARDP created over 19,000 short-term jobs in the NWD through improving water management infrastructure and systems. The project also provided training in climate smart agriculture and established Water User Associations to ensure the sustainability of these systems, achieving fee collection rates of 70 to 100% for fully operational schemes. At the time, nearly 46% of households in the NWD were facing severe food insecurity, well above the national average of 30%. Independent evaluations revealed that 75% of beneficiaries saw their incomes double or triple, while crop yields increased by up to 600%. Farmers shifted to cultivating higher-value, nutritious crops, improving access to urban markets, reducing child



malnutrition, and enhancing overall community well-being.

A further 3,000 people will benefit from the new project, which will build on these achievements by further improving water management and access to over 300 hectares of land for agriculture, with the aim of doubling the number of crop cycles per year and increasing productivity by 50%. Other plans include improving equitable access to agricultural resources, expand-

ing irrigation and drainage systems, enhancing farm roads, and implementing watershed protection measures such as reforestation and flood control. The project will also rehabilitate the Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Rural Development's Extension Unit Office in the region to better support local farmers.

The participatory approach that defined CBARDP will continue, ensuring active community involvement throughout all

stages, from needs assessment to implementation and operations.

Noting that Haiti's NWD continues to face challenges, including declining arable land, erratic rainfall, and prolonged droughts, CDB's Director of the Projects Department (Ag), Mr. L. O' Reilly Lewis, emphasised that CBARDP reviews highlighted the need for expanded investments in climate smart agricultural.

"Promoting climate-smart agriculture remains a high priority for the region's sustainable development. This project will scale up the successes of CBARDP and consolidate the gains already achieved. We will also focus on promoting gender equity by ensuring women's active participation in livelihoods, income generation, decision-making, and leadership roles," Mr. Lewis said.

CDB has previously provided grant funding for initiatives in Haiti, which included training on developing Geospatial Information System maps and creating mini-grid specifications for integration into future Requests for Proposals.

This new initiative will further strengthen CDB's commitment to supporting sustainable agricultural development, resilience, and economic stability in Haiti's Northwest Department.

### **CFU Next Generation Referee Course Class of 2025**

Jordan Chaibriant (GUA) Best Overall and Most Outstanding in the Fitness Check alongside Mozakie King (SVG) and. N'Neeka Harewood (TRI) and Guillaume Parkins (BVI), who tied for Most Outstanding in the Video Test

Fourth cohort of the CFU Next Generation Referee Course makes the grade



The members of the fourth CFU Next Generation Referee Course held in Barbados from January 17-19 completed the intensive training on Sunday, receiving certificates and a charge to remain disciplined.

Jordan Chaibriant (GUA) was the best overall among the 22 match officials. Chaibriant also tied with Mozakie King (SVG) for the most outstanding in the fitness check. N'Neeka Harewood (TRI) and Guillaume Parkins (BVI) shared honors for most outstanding in the video test.

Dave Meikle, Next Gen administrator and CFU Referee Committee Member;

SEE **CFU NEXT GENERATION REFEREE COURSE**, Page 12

The members of the CFU Next Gen class of 2025 are:								
#	NAME	MEMBER ASSOCIATION	ROLE	GENDER				
1	Kevahn Hawley	Anguilla	Referee	Male				
2	Shemroy Alie	Antigua and Barbuda	Referee	Male				
3	Portia Davis	Antigua and Barbuda	Referee	Female				
4	Kai Jacob	Barbados	Referee	Male				
5	Darren Scantlebury	Barbados	Referee	Male				
6	Guillaume Parkins	British Virgin Islands	Referee	Male				
7	Steven Wellington	Cayman Islands	Referee	Male				
8	Michaël Kirindongo	Curaçao	Referee	Male				
9	Vernent Joseph	Dominica	Referee	Male				
10	Jessica Pierre-Louis	Dominica	Referee	Female				
11	Leon Hazzard	Grenada	Referee	Male				
12	Jordan Chaibriant	Guadeloupe	Referee	Male				
13	Sherwin Alli	Guyana	Referee	Male				
14	Kesla Anderson	Jamaica	Referee	Male				
15	Shaquaine Baugh	Jamaica	Referee	Male				
16	Yusuf Saunders	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Referee	Male				
17	Jody Walters	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Referee	Male				
18	Mozakie King	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Referee	Male				
19	Rodney Blinker	Suriname	Referee	Male				
20	Rabia Blinker	Suriname	Referee	Female				
21	Akil Weekes	Trinidad and Tobago	Referee	Male				
22	N'neeka Harewood	Trinidad and Tobago	Referee	Female				

## CIIPA's Charity Golf Tournament raises \$5K for the CAYS Foundation



► CIIPA annual Charity Golf Tournament raised KYD \$5,000

The Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants is proud to have

recently donated KYD \$5,000 to the CAYS Foundation, proceeds from its annual

Charity Golf Tournament event.

More than 80 golfers across 22 teams participated in the tournament, which un-

derscores CIIPA's commitment to giving back to the Cayman Islands community and reflects its members' desire to do the same. The event was organised by CIIPA's Social Committee.

"We're pleased to be able to assist the CAYS Foundation through this donation," CIIPA Chief Executive Officer Sheree Ebanks said. "Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and our members for helping us support this worthy cause."

The CAYS Foundation is an organisation dedicated to empowering youth who are experiencing difficulties achieving their full potential as well as their families. It manages and operates the Bonaventure Boy's Home, the Frances Bodden Children's Home and Phoenix House, providing 24-hour residential care to youth.

"This is massively important. This is the lifeblood of the organisation," CAYS Foundation General Manager Keith Boyle said. "We have grand ambitions to really upgrade our living facilities for the young people. So this will go toward that."

PwC won the event, which was held at the North Sound Golf Club. Several golfers walked away with prizes made possible through the event sponsors, including Align Wellness Studio, USA Risk, EisnerAmper, BDO, Baker Tilly, PwC, RSM, North End Re:, KPMG, Deloitte, EY, Orchid Development, Trac Automotive, Wheaton Precious Metals, Kensington Management Group and Grant Thornton.



#### CFU Next Generation Referee Course

CONTINUED FROM **Page 1**1

Kelesha Antoine, FIFA Referee Fitness Instructor and CFU Referee Committee member; Dianne Ferreira-James, FIFA Technical Instructor; Rohan Thobourne, Concacaf Fitness Instructor; Ishan Philip, Concacaf Technical Instructor, Victor Stewart, Instructor, and Dwayne Simpson, Instructor-in-training, put the match officials through their paces.

Meikle called the group promising, noting that the class of 2025 is sound in its fitness and technical ability. "They must now retain all that they learned these past few days and put it into action. Once they commit to the regimen that we give them and to the program—since we now transition to the virtual space — we fully expect to see their growth and, ultimately, their progression to the ranks of FIFA."

The Concacaf-supported initiative develops Caribbean match officials with the prerequisites to matriculate to the FIFA Refereeing International Lists. The course equips participants with theoretical and practical skills, ultimately leading to nominations to the FIFA rank.

During the opening ceremony, CFU President Randolph Harris, also president of the Barbados Football Association (BFA), thanked the respective Member Association and Concacaf for their support,

noting that they, along with the match officials and the instructors, are the pillars of the program.

President Harris also hailed the tangible and intangible benefits of the program.

"In a few short years — 2022 until now — just under 100 Caribbean match officials have passed through Next Gen. Dozens are now on the FIFA list, others have moved on to the Concacaf Academy, where they shine, and others have received match appointments and continue to be part of the program," he remarked.

"Having said that, however, I must note that we consider this program important and successful, not just as a numbers game," Harris added. "Representation matters (and) what Next Gen does is it holds up examples from their backyard, with similar circumstances and challenges, for young and aspiring Caribbean match officials. It becomes conceivable to dream and believe in that dream when someone you know or someone in close proximity is clearing the path ahead of you. If you see it, you can believe it."

With regards to representation, the Next Gen 2025 match officials benefitted from the presence of FIFA referees Odette Hamilton and Crystal Sobers, who served as mentors. In sharing aspects of their refereeing journeys with the group, Sobers brought a theme of hope, while Hamilton's message was about perseverance. The duo, who are World Cup candidates, also used the opportunity to train.

Since inception. 93 match officials have benefited from Next Gen, and 54 of them have advanced to the FIFA Refereeing List.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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		9	5		3		
	3		7	6		1	
8							9
ifficu	lty Lev	el ★★	***	•			10/2

#### Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	5	2	8	6	7	1	3
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2	1	7	3	9	5	8	4	6
8	2	9	4	5	1	3	6	7
1	5	4	6	7	3	2	8	9
6	7	3	တ	2	8	1	5	4
5	8	1	7	6	9	4	3	2
7	3	2	5	1	4	6	9	8
9	4	6	8	3	2	5	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

#### Word Search

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Ε	N	0	R	K	U	D	W	٧	С	N	F	U	I	Ρ
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Ρ	M	Т	M	Ε	N	G	G	Р	R	Р	В	G	Т	Υ

Baht Obol Balboa Peso Dinar Piastre Rand Dirham Euro Rouble Rupee Franc Gourde Ryal Koruna Sucre Krone Yen Lira Yuan Markka **Zloty** 

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, back, up, down and diagonally

#### *CROSSWORD* By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Rough 38 Contact, in away 40 Give an

6 Saucer occupant

guesses

address 42 Charging weapon

11 Caravan transport 12 Juicy fruit

43 Frisco player

**DOWN** 

1 Defendant

of 1925

2 Steamed

13 Final letter 44 Display 14 One with

disdain a record 45 Each

15 Course number

**16** Opposite of oui

18 Fiction 19 Actor

Wallach **20** Flop

21 "Was los?"

22 Classified

**24** Hill workers

25 Broadcast time

**27** Slam sound

29 Anxious

32 Phone download

33 "Tamerlane" author

34 Chum

35 Mousse kin

36 Hurler's pride

**37** Dogpatch adjective

Α	D	0	Р	T		S	W	Α	S	Н
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#### Yesterday's answer

7 Indulgent 27 Doughy

8 Ramp, rings 28 Early e.g.

**9** Braggart, often 30 Spat

10 Tripled trios

snack 17 Alfresco **3** Sycamore 23 Equip tree

4 Implore

5 Libel's kin

6 Make better

26 Showy flower

**24** Had

supper

39 Injury soother 41 "6 Rms —

Vu"

bright

33 Less

primate

31 Queen of

mysteries

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#### 14

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The University College of the Cayman Islands ("UCCI") invites applications for the position of:

Post: Adjunct Lecturer Division: STEM

#### **About**

UCCI is a growing intellectual community of leaders and trailblazers including 1,200 students and 70 full-time faculty and staff members representing 30 nationalities and a kaleidoscope of expertise and experiences.

Applications are being accepted for adjunct lecturer in the areas of:

Mathematics – Developmental Level
Mathematics and Statistics – 100 and 200 level
Science – All Areas, 100 level

Computer Applications
Programming and other 100/200 level Computing Courses
Engineering – 100 and 200 level

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- A master's degree, or Doctoral degree in related field (or a closely related discipline) from an accredited university.
- At least three (3) years university lecturing/teaching experience.
- Relevant industry experience in areas of competence is an asset.
- Teaching experience at the tertiary level will be an asset.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Excel.

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- $\bullet$  Ability to proactively resolve problems and build strong team relationships.
- A high level of integrity in dealing with confidential and sensitive matters.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a commitment to collaborative and collegial processes.

#### Responsibilities include:

- Making a contribution to the University's teaching programmes which are consistent with the University's mission and core commitments;
- Designing, preparing and developing teaching materials;
- Preparing and delivering lectures, seminars and tutorials in accordance with the allocated teaching load;
- Assessing students' coursework;
- Responsibility for marking, assessing, recording and submitting results;
- Maintaining student records and monitoring student progress;
- Conducting tutorials and workshops and facilitates other learning experiences including 'video link' courses to Cayman Brac students;
- Working collaboratively with the Division Dean to maintain and develop effective and efficient programme delivery;
- Ensuring the quality of all department courses and programs in accordance with the guidelines of the UCCI Curriculum Committee;
- Developing and implementing new methods of teaching to reflect changes in research;

#### Compensation

KYD \$45.39 per contact hour

#### How to Apply

Submit a cover letter with description of experience relevant to the position and CV to  $\underline{\text{recruitment} @ ucci.edu.ky}$ 

Deadline: 10/Feb/2025

"Caymanians/Caymanian Status, persons married to Caymanians and those holding Permanent Residence are preferred".

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



The University College of the Cayman Islands ("UCCI") invites applications for the position of:

Post: Adjunct Lecturer
Division: BUSINESS AND FINANCE

#### **About**

UCCI is a growing intellectual community of leaders and trailblazers including 1,200 students and 70 full-time faculty and staff members representing 30 nationalities and a kaleidoscope of expertise and experiences.

#### **Research Methods in Business and Management**

Competent in teaching qualitative and quantitative methods
Ph.D. or equivalent qualification in the relevant discipline
Supports students in the development of and marking research proposals.

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- A master's degree, or Doctoral degree in Business (or a closely related discipline) from an accredited university.
- At least three (3) years university lecturing/teaching experience.
- Relevant industry experience in areas of competence is an asset.
- Teaching experience at the tertiary level will be an asset.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Excel.
- Proactively resolves problems and builds strong team relationships.
- High level of integrity in dealing with confidential and sensitive matters.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a commitment to collaborative and collegial processes.

#### Responsibilities include.

- Makes a contribution to the University's teaching programmes that are consistent with the University's mission and core commitments;
- Designs, prepares and develops teaching materials;
- Prepares and delivers lectures, seminars and tutorials in accordance with the allocated teaching load;
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1/2 page (Vertical)	450	4.9 x 13.5	700
1/3 page	350	4.9 x 8.37	400
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Alba Elevators provides innovative and eco-efficient solutions for elevators, escalators, and man/material hoists. We support our customers every step of the way — from design and installation to maintenance and modernization.

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The **Inventory Control Clerk** plays a key role in ensuring the timely availability of parts and materials essential for the installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators and related equipment. This position supports smooth operations by maintaining accurate inventory records, organizing stock, and coordinating procurement activities.

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- Stock Auditing: Conduct regular physical inventory counts and reconcile records to ensure accuracy. Address discrepancies promptly.
- Support Field Teams: Work closely with installation and maintenance technicians to provide the required materials and tools efficiently.
- Data Entry and Reporting: Keep detailed logs of inventory usage, incoming shipments, and damaged or defective items. Prepare inventory reports for management.
- Compliance and Safety: Ensure proper storage of parts, particularly items requiring specific conditions, and adhere to safety and regulatory guidelines.
- Tooling and Equipment Care: Maintain installation tools in safe, working condition and ensure proper site handling and storage of materials.

Skills, Education, and Experience:

- Prior experience in inventory management or a related role in the construction or elevator industry is an asset.
- Knowledge of inventory software and basic computer skills.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to multitask, prioritize workload, and meet deadlines.
- Be able to demonstrate an excellent working knowledge of Cayman Islands Construction Health & Safety Law and practices.
- Be an excellent communicator, with superior attention to detail, be able to multitask, manage multiple deadlines, problem solver and respond to changing priorities.
- Strong interpersonal skills and customer-service orientation.

The salary range for this role is CI\$14–CI\$18 per hour, commensurate with experience. The compensation package includes health insurance, pension, and vacation entitlement.

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#### NOTICES

## GOVERNOR (VESTING OF LANDS) ACT (2005 REVISION) NOTICE UNDER SECTION 10(1)(a) DISPOSITION OF CROWN LAND

Notice is hereby given that the Governor in Cabinet has approved the sale of the freehold interest of the Crown land specified in the Schedule below to Peter Jervis, Rose Ebanks and Maureen Jervis-Brooks for a consideration of CI\$ 57,500 (fifty seven thousand five hundred Cayman Islands dollars), with Stamp Duty not waived, subject to a Report to be laid on the Table of Parliament by the Minister responsible for Lands pursuant to Section 10(1) and (2) of the Governor (Vesting of Lands) Act (2005 Revision).

#### THE SCHEDULE

A 0.06-acre portion of Crown land on the southern boundary of undeveloped Block 25B Parcel 470, located on Mangrove Avenue by the junction with Almond Avenue, Prospect, Grand Cayman, more particularly described as:

REGISTRATION SECTIONBLOCKPARCELAREASpotts25B470 (part)0.06 acre

The location of the land may be inspected on a Registry Map at the Lands & Survey Dept public counter, Government Administration Building, 133 Elgin Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman, or at the Lands Office, Bight Road, Cayman Brac.

Approved by Cabinet on 14th January 2025.

UCHE OBI DIRECTOR, LANDS & SURVEY DEPT CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



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