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A Quick Update from Parliament

01 May 2026 | Putting Cayman First

We would like to share an update on what happened in Parliament on Wednesday, 29 April 2026.

It was a full and important sitting. Six Acts were passed, a major housing policy was tabled, and several issues affecting Caymanians were raised, including housing, planning delays, flooding concerns, electricity costs, health care standards, and public accountability.

1. WHAT HAPPENED IN PARLIAMENT?

- Six pieces of legislation were passed
- A major housing policy and 10-Year Strategic Plan was tabled
- Questions were raised on planning delays and flooding affecting communities across Cayman
- Parliament also addressed electricity costs, health care standards and public accountability

2. HOUSING: A MAJOR POLICY MOMENT

The Cayman Islands Public and Affordable Housing Policy and 10-Year Strategic Plan was tabled. Cayman currently has a shortage of more than 3,000 homes, and over the next 15 years, the country will need around 5,000 additional units. The plan includes 98 recommendations, such as a new Housing Authority, faster planning timelines, pre-approved house plans, shared equity and lease-to-own options, mortgage guarantees, down payment support and area plans across districts.

> **"Housing is not just about building houses. It is about whether Caymanians can continue to live, raise families, and retire in their own country.**

3. PLANNING DELAYS: TEN MONTHS IS TOO LONG

Parliament was told that the average time from submitting a residential planning application to receiving a building permit is 311 days, just over ten months. Government has stated that the goal is to reduce that timeline to around three months.

4. FLOODING: A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUE

Flooding was raised as a concern affecting communities across Cayman. The government confirmed that 21 drain wells and culvert systems were installed between 2024 and 2026, and lift stations are also being considered for low-lying areas. Members also pointed to practical solutions such as swales and better drain maintenance.

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5. ELECTRICITY COSTS AND ENERGY REGULATION

The 2024 Annual Report of OfReg was laid before Parliament. One of the key points was that OfReg rejected proposed electricity rate increases because they were not considered to be in consumers' best interests. OfReg also approved a utility-scale battery energy storage project and issued a tender for a solar and battery project. These are important steps toward a more resilient and diversified energy system.

6. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY: DETENTION CENTRE INVESTIGATION

The Office of the Ombudsman laid an own-motion investigation report into the Cayman Islands Detention Centre. An own-motion investigation means the Ombudsman identified concerns serious enough to investigate without waiting for an individual complaint. The treatment of people in detention is a matter of public accountability and should not be ignored.

7. SIX ACTS PASSED

1. Airports Authority Amendment and Validation Act 2026
2. Airports Authority Amendment Act 2026
3. Auditors Oversight Amendment, Validation and Repeal Act 2026
4. Health Practice Amendment Act 2026
5. Parliament Management Amendment Act 2026
6. Proceeds of Crime Amendment Act 2026

Why this matters

Wednesday's sitting moved legislation forward while placing public concerns on the national record.

8. IN MEMORY

Members also extended condolences to the families of those recently lost, including John Franklin McField, Stanley Peter White, Benji Bodden, Lina Ryan, Oscar DaCosta, Hedley Robinson, and Fay Whittaker.

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KEY LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

1. AIRPORT FEES

One Bill closed a legal gap relating to air navigation service fees that had been collected for years but were not properly listed in law. It validates past collections and creates a clearer framework going forward.

2. AIRPORT SECURITY

Another Bill strengthens the legal framework for airport security officers to operate in designated airport security zones. The debate also highlighted the importance of safeguards, clear boundaries and appropriate training standards.

3. HEALTH CARE STANDARDS

The Health Practice Amendment Bill creates national standards of professional practice for registered health practitioners. This supports professionalism, patient safety and ethical conduct across the health care system.

4. PARLIAMENT MANAGEMENT

The Parliament Management Amendment Bill provides additional resources for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and constituency offices. Democracy works better when both Government and Opposition are properly supported.

5. PROCEEDS OF CRIME

The Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill strengthens Cayman's anti-money laundering framework ahead of the next FATF evaluation. Premier Ebanks will now chair the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Group.

6. AUDITORS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

The Auditors Oversight Authority is being wound down because it no longer serves the purpose for which it was created. Its specific oversight function will not continue, as the underlying need has fallen away. Ongoing oversight of the audit and accounting profession will continue under Cayman's existing regulatory framework, including the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants and the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.

WHAT THIS SITTING DEMONSTRATED

Wednesday's sitting demonstrated how Parliament continues to fulfil important work. Laws were passed. Questions were asked. The government was held to account. For TCCP, it was also a day of delivery. Important legislation moved forward, while members also pressed on housing, planning, flooding, electricity costs, and public accountability.

The sitting also made one thing clear: the work does not end when Parliament rises. Housing plans must become homes. Planning timelines must improve. Flood mitigation solutions must be funded and delivered. Public accountability must remain a priority.

Thank you for reading.We will continue to share Parliament updates and keep members informed.

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