



**Parliament of the Cayman Islands**

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. /2023-2024**

**Motion on**

**Cost of Living Adjustment For Those Receiving**

**The Ex-Gratia Financial Assistance & The Civil Service Pensions Uplift**

WHEREAS between 2017 and 2021, the Recipients of Long-Term Financial Assistance (formerly known as Permanent Financial Assistance) and the Seafarers and Veterans Ex-Gratia Benefit received a 90% increase in benefits, from \$500 per month to \$950 per month, in recognition of the public duty to ensure that the service to the nation of these beneficiaries is adequately recognised.

AND WHEREAS between 2017 and 2021, qualifying civil service pensioners on meagre pensions were guaranteed an uplift in their pension, such that they would not receive less in total pension than what is provided to those receiving financial assistance from the Government.

AND WHEREAS the value of the assistance provided to those on Long-Term Financial Assistance, the Seafarers & Veteran's Grants, and the Civil Servants receiving a pension uplift has been severely eroded by inflation over the last three years, the Opposition has been calling for the Government to increase the payment to \$1,500 monthly.

AND WHEREAS the Opposition has consistently argued that a priority for Government spending needs to be support for Caymanians facing the cost-of-living crisis.

AND WHEREAS the Government, in August 2023, agreed to increase the stipend payment from \$950 to \$1,250 in recognition of the need for an increase given the high cost of living. However, Civil Service Pensioners on low pensions did not receive a comparable uplift as done in previous years.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government consider further increasing the monthly ex-gratia stipend paid to older persons and adults living with permanent disabilities who

receive financial assistance, retired seafarers and veterans and their surviving spouses to at least \$1,500 effective January 1, 2024.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government consider amending the *The Public Service Pensions (Ex-Gratia Uplift Payments) Regulations* so that the "Minimum Cumulative Pension" is increased to \$1,250 effective August 1, 2023, and to at least \$1,500 effective January 1, 2024, to ensure that all civil service pensioners receive a pension of at least that paid to older persons receiving permanent financial assistance from the Government.

Moved By:



Elected Member for Red Bay

Seconded By:



Elected Member for George Town East