Tenth Meeting of Second Session of Thirteenth House

ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

25 AUGUST 2026

(House Meetings)

Hon. Speaker

Speaker

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House Meetings

PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYERS

Chaplin:

Down from on heaven. Let your Holy Spirit rest on our minds and our hearts and on our lips, that the words that come forth from our mouths will be words of encouragement, words of building, Father God, words that will stir good dialogue, good debate from either side of the house. I pray for unity this morning. I pray for all the points that come out, Father God, that everyone will walk together, Father God, in unison that your kingdom will be established in this country that we call Anguilla.

Mirror your will from heaven, Lord, and use us only as the conduits to have your will in the earth. In Jesus' precious name, amen and amen. God bless you.

OPENING OF SITTING

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Good morning, members. You may be seated.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Joash Proctor:

Confirmation of minutes. Minutes of proceedings of the 9th meeting of the 2nd session of the 13th Anguilla House of Assembly.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I ask that Members look through the minutes. If there are any amendments and/or corrections. If there are no amendments or corrections to the minutes, I move a motion to confirm the minutes as circulated.

Hon.Kyle Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the minutes be accepted as circulated.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The minutes—a motion has been moved to confirm that the minutes be accepted as circulated, and it was seconded. I put the question that the minutes be confirmed as circulated. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joash Proctor:

Oath of allegiance to new members? None. Announcements by the direction of the Speaker?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I would have received apologies from the Honourable Speaker of this Honourable House, as well as the Honourable Member for Valley North and the Honourable Deputy Governor.

CONDOLENCES AND COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For me, it's bittersweet that we lost Kimberly Fleming over the last week. Kimberly Fleming was my god sister and also my opponent in the 2020 general election. In West End politics, we try to do what is best for the people and not attack each other.

She has gone too soon, but while she was here, she made a contribution. She was not one to shout from the rooftops, but she would help those without seeking admiration. In West End, at Roger's Well, we lower the flag at half-mast for our dignitaries, and I have not had any criticism for this. It applies to everyone in West End, not just candidates.

I wish other districts would do the same. When Mr. Wilkin Smith passed in Island Harbour, it would have been great for the flag to be at half-mast there. In the past, the bell would toll at the Methodist Church, but now it's the flag that signals a loss in our community. That was the bitter.

The sweet is that on Sunday we celebrated 100 years for Leonie Richardson of Long Bay. Many ask how she has lived to be 100 when young people today struggle to reach 30, 40, or 50. The turnout was impressive, not just for her age but for the quality and influence of her life on Long Bay, West End, and Meads Bay. We thank God for her long life.

To Mr. Wilkin Smith, not many of us in this House remember 1967, but we respect what he and others have contributed to Anguilla. I wish we would respect not just those of the past but also those of today. To the family of Sandra Hodge, whom I coached in cricket, I offer condolences. On Sunday, Miss Anguilla, Miss Caribbean, brought back the crown from Guyana, which is very impressive.

My colleague, Honourable Cordell Richardson, was at Blowing Point to greet her, and I met her after the motorcade. We are very proud of her and all who represent us. The Member for Island Harbour mentioned the Commonwealth Games. I have been involved over the years, and we do produce top athletes, but we need to support them more ourselves.

We will do our best to take our athletes to the top. Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

PROCEDURAL RECOGNITION

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. I recognize Single Island Wide Member.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. Recognize the member for District 6.

CONDOLENCES, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND PUBLIC AMENITIES

Hon.Kyle Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, good morning, and thank you for this opportunity. I want to start by expressing condolences to all those who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Mr. Wilkin Smith, our revolutionary hero. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. I also extend condolences to my peer Mr. Larry Franklin on the passing of his mother. The next few days will be tough as they prepare to lay her to rest on the 5th of September. P.S.

Franklin has worked with many of us in this room, so I ask that our collective thoughts and prayers be with him and his family, as well as with the families of Sandra Hodge and Kimberly Fleming, whom I ran alongside in the 2020 election. Kimberly was a gentle spirit, and as I look back through our messages, she often asked about beach access for our people. I will continue as Minister of Lands to ensure public beach access is protected, regardless of development. The beaches are public and must always be accessible. I thank God for sparing us during this hurricane season, and as September approaches, we pray to be spared from storms.

I also acknowledge the arrival of new school buses for the upcoming term. I met a driver this morning who expressed gratitude for the high-standard, air-conditioned buses, which are much more comfortable for our children. I congratulate Miss Anguilla for representing us so well in Guyana and for bringing back the crown.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join my colleagues in congratulating Ms. Akima Carty on her resounding victory in the beauty intelligence competition held in Guyana. It's always difficult to win in another Caribbean country, as we see in debating competitions where the home country often wins. Congratulations to Akima, who follows a legacy of great Miss Anguillas.

I also congratulate Mr. Zarnell Hughes on his 2nd place finish in the British Championships 200m and his gold medal in the 4x100. He comes from a family of athletes, and the Hughes family's legacy continues on the global stage.

COMMUNITY CONDOLENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Congratulations also to Zarnell Hughes on his first child. I wish him many more in the future. Congratulations to Reynah Lico,

the 21st winner of the Anguilla Tennis Academy scholarship. The Academy, started by Mr. Mitchell Lake about 30 years ago, has provided many Anguillian students with opportunities for tertiary education.

Congratulations to Mitch Lake, the Academy, and Reynah Lico. I join Honourable Kyle Hodge in expressing condolences to my cousin Larry Franklin on the passing of Bae, and also to the family of Mary Richardson, mother of Sandra Richardson, and to the family of Miss Eudine Romney, who recently passed at age 90. We also extend condolences to Sandra Hodge. Many in Anguilla are suffering from cancer, and we have lost two young ladies recently, including Kimberly Fleming.

I also express condolences to the family of Wilkin Smith. My father, Hubert Benjamin Hughes, was once a candidate for Robert Llewellyn Bratcher in 1961, when Anguilla was one island-wide constituency. After I was born, we often visited the home of Rose Budd and Wilkin Smith, who called me her son. My deepest condolences to her family on the passing of Mr. Wilkin Smith.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGUILLIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

And also congratulations on his first child. Hopefully he'll have many more in the very near future, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to congratulate Reynah Lico for being the 21st winner of the Anguilla Tennis Academy scholarship. That is a tremendous feat by the Anguilla Tennis Academy, which was started by Mr. Mitchell Lake about 30 years ago, just after I opened my facility, which is now over 31 years old.

Over the years, he has provided many Anguillian students with the opportunity to study abroad and achieve tertiary education. Congratulations to Mitch Lake, the Anguilla Tennis Academy, and Reynah Lico. Reynah Lico is the daughter of Donnette Lico, formerly Bryan, from East End, who works in DITES. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to join the Honourable Kyle Hodge in expressing condolences to my cousin Larry Franklin on the passing of Bae, and to Miss Mary Richardson, mother of Sandra Richardson, who recently passed and was also a notary public from my constituency, Road South.

We also lost Miss Eudine Romney, mother of Mark Romney and Paul Romney, who recently passed at the age of 90. We extend condolences to Sandra Hodge and to all those in Anguilla suffering from cancer, including the recent loss of Kimberly Fleming. Mr. Connor and Mr. Hodge have already spoken to her legacy. I also wish to express condolences to the family of Wilkin Smith.

My father, Hubert Benjamin Hughes, was once a candidate for Robert Llewellyn Bratcher in 1961, when Anguilla was one island-wide constituency. After we came to Anguilla, my father continued to visit people across the island, including the home of Rose Budd and Wilkin Smith, whom we visited often. I express my deepest condolences to her, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on the passing of Mr. Wilkin Smith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member.

Hon.Jeison Jose Bryan:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everyone. I also stand to extend condolences to all the families mourning today, including those previously mentioned: Mr. Mark Romney and his family for the loss of his mom, the family of Wilkin Smith, Sandra Hodge, and Kimberly Fleming from Long Bay. Kimberly was recently contracted as the center manager for the West End Community Development Center. I recall visiting her during Easter, where she was enthusiastic about progressing the community center.

Her resignation was shocking, and her passing was heartbreaking, especially as she was from Long Bay. I extend my sincere condolences to her family. On a happier note, I congratulate Miss Anguilla, who was recently crowned Miss Caribbean Beauty and Intelligence Queen 2026 in Guyana. I wish her continued success on her journey.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. Recognize the Member for District Number 5, Mr. Richardson.

Hon.Merrick Richardson:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone listening and present in this Honourable House. I too rise to offer my condolences to all who mourn. Many names have been mentioned, and it seems that across the island, many communities are mourning. I offer condolences to every family at this time, especially to the family of Cresilda Cassie Baptiste, who will be laid to rest this Saturday, her children, grandchildren, siblings, and the Sandy Ground community.

I also give condolences to the family of Kimberly Fleming. She ran with us in the 2020 elections, and before that, I worked with her at Barclays Bank PLC. We developed a lasting friendship. I remember in the 2020 elections, when I spoke on her behalf, I opened with the scripture, 'let your light shine before men that they may see your good works,' which I felt described Kimberly.

She was not loud or boisterous, but very powerful in what she

stood for. She was strong, resolute, and health conscious. Her passing reminds us to appreciate life, as we see younger persons passing and families left to mourn. Even with disagreements, we should be more tolerable of each other in our community.

I offer condolences especially to her son JR, whom she loved dearly. She was passionate about her family and about Anguillians holding on to their lands. I also congratulate Miss Akima Carty, our Caribbean Queen, and Zonel, who continues to make Anguilla proud. I mention Mr. Jahmar Hamilton, a seasoned Anguillian athlete who continues to carry Anguilla cricket.

Congratulations to him for his achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member.

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGUILLIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be concise. I rise to stand in solidarity with my colleagues in offering condolences to all who mourn and suffer at this time. Miss Kimberly Fleming, while I did not know her in my early years, I interacted with her leading up to the 2020 general elections.

My mother knew her well from working at Barclays. Even though we contested elections on opposite sides, there was never animosity, which is a testament to her character. I extend condolences to her family and all impacted. Moments like these remind us that beyond politics, we are all Anguillians, and we should use such times to unite.

I also congratulate Miss Anguilla, who was crowned Miss Caribbean Beauty and Intelligence Queen 2026 in Guyana, overcoming the disadvantage of not being from the host country. Her success makes us proud, and we wish her continued success. My colleague mentioned the arrival of new school buses, which will soon be handed over to education for the new school term. I thank the Permanent Secretary at MICU, the ministry team, the Department of Infrastructure, the Superintendent of Vehicles, the Minister of Education, and her team for their efforts.

We also recently handed over four Ford Interceptors to the Royal Anguilla Police Force, boosting their service. Since then, new Broncos have arrived and will soon be handed over, further increasing their capacity to protect our society. I commend the police for a relatively incident-free Carnival.

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS, GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS, PAPERS, REPORTS, PETITIONS, GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Joash Proctor:

Questions? None. Government statements on recent developments? None. Papers? None. Reports from committees? None. Petitions? None. Government notices?

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Joash Proctor:

None.

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES AND MOTIONS

Joash Proctor:

Private members' notices? None. Motions? Motion 12 of 2026, 2/13 HOA, Road Safety Legislative Reform.

MOTIONS

MOTION 12/2026-2/13 HOA ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATIVE REFORM

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Mr. Speaker, good morning. I would like to lay before the House motion number 12/2026-2/13 HOA. Motion is road safety— sorry.

Hon.Ellis Lorenzo Webster:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to second.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you.

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The motion is shortly entitled Road Safety Legislative Reform Resolution. Whereas road safety is a matter of national importance affecting the

lives, health, and well-being of all residents and visitors to Anguilla, and whereas the amendments of the Vehicle and Road Traffic Act are listed on the 2026-2027 legislative program and whereas the review amendment and amendment process of the Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, which commenced in 2021, is substantially advanced following public development, stakeholder consultations, and drafting work, and is capable of being brought for legislative consideration. And whereas the proposed reforms include measures relating to the use of child seat restraint systems, mandatory seatbelt use, and the prevention of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and whereas the timely enactment of these measures would strengthen the protection of drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and other road users, particularly children, and contribute to the reduction of road traffic injuries and fatalities, be it resolved that this Honourable House urges the Government of Anguilla to accord priority to the completion of the legislative process and to bring forward for consideration by this House at the earliest opportunity amendments to the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act and any related legislation to: 1, provide for the mandatory use of appropriate child seat restraint systems and child safety seats; 2, strengthen requirements for the use of seat belts by drivers and passengers; 3, modernize and strengthen provisions relating to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and 4, implement such other road safety measures as may be necessary to enhance public safety and reflect contemporary standards and best practices.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The motion has been moved and seconded. Are there any contributions to this motion? I acknowledge Single Island Wide Member, Mr. Vanterpool.

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to see you in the chair this morning. I'd like to extend a pleasant good morning to all of my honorable colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the House of Assembly staff, those present with us in the gallery today, as well as— sorry, excuse me,

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Member, slight adjustment. We'll ask the mover of the motion to explain the merits and principles of this motion, and then we'll go into the debate.

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very happy to see the Single Island Wide Member, Mr. Joseph Vanterpool, get up to ensure—and I'm sure he's going to endorse this fully, and I believe that this is going to be something that is non-controversial and is universally accepted by both sides of the political divide. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say on the outset that this is not blaming anybody.

This is not blaming The Anguilla United Front, who holds the reins of political power at this point. This is not to blame the Attorney General's Chambers. This is not to lay blame on anybody, because as you can see from the introduction of this motion, the work on this motion actually started in 2020. We went to our Executive Council in 2020, and the drafting work relating to this legislation started in earnest in 2021.

Now, I would say this. There have been previous commissioners of police who have—not stumbling blocks or roadblocks, but have not been as cooperative as I would like. But somehow, some way, we were blessed with the opportunity to have Robert Clarke come to our shores. And immediately when I spoke to him about this and other matters as it relates to the Road Traffic Act, he was on board.

And immediately we started the process of drafting the legislation in the ministry, and we have one of the employees of the Attorney General's Chambers, Miss Serena Connor. I cannot say enough how much I can thank her for the work that she placed in this legislation, Mr. Speaker. Even on weekends and on her days off, she was working on this legislation back and forth. And we thought we had gotten to an advanced stage of this legislation after speaking to all of the stakeholders.

But there were snags along the way. And again, I'm saying this is not to lay blame on anybody, but there were a number of snags along the way. And anyone who can recall the press conferences that the Honourable Premier at the time, Dr. Ellis Lorenzo Webster, had, they will hear many a time where I stood there and promised that we would be bringing this Road Traffic Act amendment to the Parliament, that we were working assiduously on this. And we are very close to bringing it to this House, Mr. Speaker.

It's been almost a year and a half since we have departed office, and it has not come to the House yet. And again, I am not blaming the ruling Anguilla United Front administration, because the record will show, based on my original presentation from 2020-2021, we started to work on this legislation too. So we are now in 2026, Mr. Speaker.

Almost in 2027, and we have not yet brought this to the House. So it says that it goes beyond the political persuasion and the will of the politicians to bring something like this to the House of Assembly. And I can tell you that I am very confident that the members of government are in full support of this Vehicle and Road Traffic Amendment Act. Everyone in this House are in full support of this Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, Mr. Speaker. So it begs the question, why is it that it took so long, or is taking so long, to come to this Honourable Parliament?

And Mr. Speaker, I have gone on record to say that we have a tremendous amount of great public servants. But as you know,

even in the best apple tree, there are rotten apples. And the best apple tree, sometimes when the great apples fall on the floor of the apple tree, some rotten apples fall amongst them and contaminate the great apples. So I'm not blaming anyone, but what I'm saying is that it is long overdue that this comes to the Honourable Parliament.

But it goes beyond that. One of the things that we must ensure, Mr. Speaker, is once this legislation comes to this Honourable House within the next few weeks, and is passed unanimously, once that is done and the Honourable Speaker assents to it, and it goes down to Old Town, Governor Crouch assents to it, then the responsibility becomes Commissioner of Police Robert Clarke and his traffic department to ensure that enforcement of this legislation and associated regulations are done. Because too often, Mr. Speaker, too often— I must give Mr. Clarke some credit again for putting out the stats and doing a tremendous job in terms of the work that the Royal Anguilla Police Force is doing in terms of marketing and promoting and ensuring the people a softer side of policing and so forth but one of the things we must be cognizant of is the fact that the government of Anguilla through the taxpayers of Anguilla have to spend a tremendous amount of money flying people overseas because of the high number of vehicular accidents that we have in this country.

It is no way that a country of less than 12,000, 13,000 people should be having accidents every week. Mr. Speaker, I hate to go out on the road on a Friday and Saturday night. I'm afraid, to be honest with you. I have children. Two of them are adults today. And I even am afraid for them to walk across the street, Mr. Speaker, and I swear to God on this, because it's speeding and the reckless driving on our roads. And I know I'm not going to win any political points about this because when we set out to do the Valley Main Road, a number of persons came to me upset with the medians because they said they could do drag racing on the Valley Main Road on a Sunday afternoon. And Mr. Speaker, so I know I'm not winning any political points with this, but I am looking out for your safety.

You know, the thing is, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say this, when you're young, you don't have any fear. I look in the gallery and I see one of my former colleagues, and he can tell you how reckless I was when I was young. And Mr. Speaker, I have a motorcycle helmet at home. Just a token of a reminder of my reckless days, Mr. Speaker. I have the burns and the scars and the lost friends to prove how reckless I was.

But at that time, we didn't have much traffic, and I am very confident if I was reckless in my youth today, I wouldn't be standing here today. As Dr. Webster would say, there would be lost potential. Because whatever they say about me, I am sure I have contributed something positive to Anguilla. And Mr. Speaker, we see the speeding.

Don't talk about after 11 when the hospitality workers finish at work. And you see the bruises on the walls from the vehicles slamming into the walls. You see persons slamming into the backs of vehicles regularly because the person in the back could not slow down fast enough for the person in the front. You see roads being blocked because of all the vehicle and road traffic accidents because of the speeding.

And I say that to say this: so even after we approve and agree to this legislative amendment, the enforcement aspect—Anguilla doesn't have any shortage of laws, you know, Mr. Speaker. That is legislation on our books that prohibits you from cutting down a fruit tree in your yard without seeking permission from the relevant authorities. That is on our books. I'm not saying it's good or bad, but what I'm saying is that I'm sure it has never been enforced. So when it comes to road safety, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, we see the videos, we see the pictures, we see the injuries—we pay for the injuries.

I have a friend, Mr. Speaker, that owns a business in the vicinity of Rum Can, and she has some cameras on her business. And so often for the last five, six years, she's been showing me footage and begging for a speed bump. And I keep saying to her, we cannot place speed bumps all along our main roads. Because we also have to consider emergency services. We have to consider fire trucks. We have to consider ambulances and so forth.

We have to consider the police need to move quickly back and forth, Mr. Speaker. And if you have speed bumps along the main road, lives can also be lost. But I understand her pain. And it's not only her pain. The Honourable Premier, Dr. Ellis Lorenzo Webster, he can tell you that while we're in office, there was not a day from Island Harbour to West End that persons were not asking for speed bumps along the roads. The former Chief Engineer, Mr. Battick, cannot tell you enough how many times I have made requests for even pedestrian crossings, whether it be Sharkies in West End, because now you see the amount of business that they have. But vehicles care? Drivers care? They don't care. Or whether it's by Lymin in South Hill, by J&J's, or former J&J's Pizza, or whether it is in Island Harbour.

Just simple pedestrian crossing. Maybe it may not help, but at least it's there. But Mr. Speaker, enforcement. We also have legislation that prohibits truckers from driving on our roads with uncovered trucks. And I can tell you, as someone who has witnessed it, from the orange trucks to the yellow trucks, from the blue trucks to the purple trucks, debris flying off the back of the trucks while they're driving. I've seen it. And don't tell me if I have seen it, if Lance has seen it, if Granville has seen it, the Royal Anguilla Police Force has not seen it. So again, as I sit, I'm just urging that once we agree on this—because I believe again that this will be universally agreed—that we must get in the practice of strict enforcement.

Because once you start to enforce it, you will see that things will come to order. Mr. Speaker, this island is a small island. I left home at 20 minutes to 10. And I was here 5 minutes before, and if you do the calculation, I did not break the speed limit.

Anguilla is as small as they would say—the old people say a small 2x4 island. There's no need for speed. There's no need to put you and your family and your children's lives at risk with the unwanted and indiscriminate speeding that we see on our roads, Mr. Speaker. So hopefully Commissioner Clarke, you are hearing this today, and you will get your troops out on the road, not only to seek to quell the scourge of gun violence, but also the other violence that is taking the lives of our people, and that is speeding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ROAD SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT OF VEHICLE AND ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

You see the bruises on the walls from vehicles slamming into them. People regularly slam into the backs of vehicles because the person behind cannot slow down fast enough. Roads are blocked due to vehicle and road traffic accidents caused by speeding. Even after we approve this legislative amendment, enforcement is critical.

Anguilla does not have a shortage of laws—there is legislation prohibiting cutting down a fruit tree in your yard without permission, but it is never enforced. When it comes to road safety, we see the videos and pictures, we pay for the injuries. I have a friend with a business near Rum Can who has shown me footage for years, begging for a speed bump. I keep saying we cannot place speed bumps all along our main roads because we have to consider emergency services, fire trucks, ambulances, and the police who need to move quickly.

Speed bumps could cost lives, but I understand her pain, and many others have the same concerns. The Honourable Premier can attest that people from Island Harbour to West End constantly request speed bumps. The former Chief Engineer, Mr. Battick, knows how many times I have requested pedestrian crossings in busy areas. Drivers do not care.

Even a simple pedestrian crossing might help. We also have legislation prohibiting truckers from driving with uncovered trucks, yet debris still flies off trucks. If I have seen it, others have seen it, and the police must have seen it too. I urge that once we agree on this, we must practice strict enforcement.

Once you start enforcing, things will come to order. Anguilla is a small island—there is no need for speed or to put lives at risk with reckless driving. Commissioner Clarke, I hope you hear this and get your officers on the road to address not only gun violence but also the violence caused by speeding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there any contributions towards this motion? I recognize the Single Island Wide Member, Mr. Vanterpool.

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Good morning once again, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, those in the gallery, and all Anguillians listening. My colleague is correct; I rise in support of this motion. Any discussion to improve road safety and protect Anguillians deserves serious consideration. Road safety affects every family and household across Anguilla. We are all connected, so this should not be a partisan issue.

I believe we will have unanimous support for protecting Anguillian lives. Recent accidents remind us of the need for responsible driving and a modern legislative framework. This month alone, we have had over 40 road traffic incidents, with injuries and, sadly, lives lost. While I support this motion, it is important the public understands where we are in this process.

These issues did not emerge overnight. My colleague referenced work under his administration, and I agree with many of his points, including the need to advance this legislation. Once passed, we hope the police will enforce it to protect lives. I also want to highlight the work of Ms. Serena Connor and the Attorney General, Rachel Spearing, who have worked hard on this legislation.

However, I must clarify: work on this legislation started as early as 2017, not just in 2020 or 2021. In 2017, efforts began to modernize vehicle and road traffic legislation, focusing on transport governance, driver licensing, taxi regulation, and administration. In 2018, seat belts and child restraints were incorporated into the wider Criminal Justice Reform Bill, which included the Vehicle and Road Traffic Amendment Act. Successive governments have recognized the need to strengthen road safety legislation. Developing comprehensive legislation requires careful policy, consultation, operational planning, enforcement, and public education.

We are not just proposing new offenses; we are modernizing the entire framework. Good legislation requires more than words—it needs practical, enforceable, and fair measures. Implementation, exemptions, enforcement, and public education are all being considered. This is responsible governance. I welcome this motion, which aligns with ongoing government work. These reforms have been progressing, with recent meetings advancing the legislation. Today's debate reassures the public that government is committed to bringing important legislation before this House. The purpose is to save lives, and both sides agree this is a worthy objective.

Evidence shows seatbelt use and child restraints save lives. The nation was shaken by a recent incident where a two-year-old died; we pray for his family. These are facts that inform modern road safety legislation globally, and Anguilla must catch up. Government must provide modern legislation, police must enforce it, drivers and passengers must obey it, and parents must protect their children.

Each of us has a role. I also want to address chauffeur and taxi licenses. Many taxi drivers are concerned about people operating as chauffeurs without proper licenses. A C plate is for commercial or company vehicles, not necessarily for chauffeurs. Since taking office, no chauffeur licenses have been issued by the Transport Board. The last were issued in April 2024.

The issue persists and is being addressed in the reforms. The reforms go beyond seat belts, DUI, and child restraints—they are wide-ranging. In closing, I support the spirit and intent of

this motion. It reflects an objective embraced by this and previous governments, and is being advanced through substantive reform. This is not the beginning or end, but an important milestone. I look forward to bringing the completed legislation before this House and trust Members will unite in support to make our roads safer for all Anguillians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

VEHICLE AND ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT AND ROAD SAFETY MOTION

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Good morning once again, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all of my honorable colleagues, those in the gallery, and all Anguillians who may be listening via the various mediums. My honorable colleague is indeed correct because I rise in support today of the intent of this motion. Any discussion that aims to improve the safety of our roads and protect Anguillians and their families deserves serious consideration.

Road safety affects every family and household across Anguilla. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we are all cousins in one way or another, so it impacts every Anguillian. Issues such as this should never be a partisan issue. I agree with my colleague that today we will be walking out of here with unanimous support for protecting the lives of Anguillians going forward. Recent road traffic accidents have reminded us of the importance of road safety, responsible driving, and the need for a modern legislative framework. This month alone, we have unfortunately had over 40 road traffic incidents recorded, with injuries of varying degree and, in some cases, lives lost unnecessarily.

While I support the objective of this motion, it's important that the public understands where we are in this process. The issues before us today did not emerge overnight and did not originate with this motion. My honorable colleague across the aisle gave some history and context, and I agree with several of his points, including that every member of this administration cannot wait to see this legislation brought to the House and advanced. We also hope that, once advanced and passed, Commissioner Clarke and the Royal Anguilla Police Force will enforce and protect the lives of all Anguillians.

I also want to highlight the work of Ms. Serena Connor, who has worked hard under previous administrations and continues to advance this legislation, along with the Honourable Attorney General Rachel Spearing. It's been a Herculean effort, and we're almost at the finish line. There is one place where I disagree with my honorable colleague: he mentioned that the work on this legislation started in 2020 or 2021, but upon examining the records, this legislation goes back as early as 2017. In 2017, work had already commenced to modernize aspects of the vehicle and road traffic legislation, focusing on transport governance, driver licensing, taxi regulation, and administration of road transport. In 2018, proposals relating to seat belts and child restraints were incorporated into the wider Criminal Justice Reform Bill, which sought to amend several pieces of legislation, including the Vehicle and Road Traffic Amendment Act.

I say this for the record: successive governments, including previous AUF and APM administrations and our administration today, have recognized the importance of strengthening road safety legislation. I acknowledge all contributions, including those of my predecessor. It's important to clarify that the work started before. Seeing an issue and delivering comprehensive legislation are two separate things.

Legislation is not simply about identifying a worthy objective; it's about developing a framework that is practical, enforceable, fair, and capable of achieving the outcome we seek. That is the work our administration is currently undertaking. Since forming the government under the Honourable Premier, Mrs. Cora Richardson-Hodge, we have not simply continued earlier discussions but significantly expanded upon them. This matter forms part of government's current legislative program, and over the past several months, extensive work has been undertaken by stakeholders, including my ministry, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Royal Anguilla Police Force, taxi drivers, and others, to develop comprehensive reform of the Vehicle and Roads Traffic Amendment Act.

The legislation will address mandatory seatbelts, strengthen provisions related to child restraints, and address driving under the influence, but it goes beyond that. It modernizes the legislative framework governing road safety, including driver licensing, learning permits, visitor licensing, governance arrangements, the role of the Traffic Commissioner, enforcement mechanisms, regulatory oversight, mobile phone use while driving, penalties, public education, and systems for effective implementation. We are not simply proposing new offenses; we are modernizing the entire legislative framework. Good legislation requires careful policy development, consultation, operational planning, consideration of enforcement, and balancing public safety with practicality and fairness.

Questions such as implementation, exemptions, enforcement, public education, and compliance have required and continue to receive detailed consideration. That is responsible governance. I welcome the fact that the Honourable Member has brought forward a motion that aligns with work currently underway by this government. These reforms have been actively progressing for some time, with the most recent meeting to advance this legislation taking place last Friday.

Today's debate reassures the public that government remains fully committed to bringing important legislation such as this before this Honourable House. The purpose of this legislation is to save lives, and both sides of this House are aligned on that objective. Decades of evidence show that seatbelt use significantly reduces fatalities in serious injuries, and that properly secured child restraint systems dramatically improve survival chances for young passengers. The nation was shaken by a recent road incident in which a two-year-old passed away, and we continue to pray for his soul and for comfort for his family.

These are not just political opinions; these are well-established facts that have informed modern road safety legislation globally, and it is now Anguilla's time to catch up. Government has a responsibility to provide modern legislation,

the police to enforce it, drivers to obey it, passengers to protect themselves, and parents to protect their children. Each of us has a role to play. Before I close, I want to highlight another aspect of the Vehicle and Road Traffic Amendment Act: chauffeur licenses and taxi licenses.

Many taxi drivers are disgruntled because they see people operating as chauffeurs at the ports, but that does not necessarily mean they have a chauffeur license. How are they getting the C plates? How are they coming to the ports? If you get a taxi license, you drive a T plate and can have chauffeurs work under your establishment. But a chauffeur license does not mean just because you have a C plate you have a chauffeur license. Under the current regime, C stands for commercial or company plate.

For example, if I operate Airbnbs and need a vehicle for my business, I can register for a commercial plate and get a C plate. If I buy a black sedan and decide to go to the port and pretend to be a chauffeur, that's the issue. Since taking office in March 2025, the Transportation Board of the previous administration had not issued any taxi or chauffeur licenses since April 2024. The last time any taxi or chauffeur licenses were issued was April 2024.

Under our administration, we revitalized and reconstituted the Transportation Board, which first met in September last year. The board issued over 30 taxi licenses to bring it up to the limit. Taxi drivers still ask how people are getting chauffeur licenses. For the record, since taking office, no chauffeur licenses have been issued by the Transport Board.

The last time was April 2024. The problem continues, and that's one aspect being addressed under this comprehensive reform. The reforms go beyond seat belts, driving under the influence, and child restraints. They are wide-ranging and address many issues. In closing, I reiterate my support for the spirit and intent of this motion.

It reflects an objective embraced by this government and previous administrations, and has been actively advanced through substantive legislative reform. This is not the beginning nor the end, but another milestone in a process strengthened by successive administrations and now brought to its most advanced stage. I look forward to bringing the completed legislation before this House and trust that Members on both sides will unite in support of legislation that will make our roads safer, protect our families, and better serve the people of Anguilla. I thank the Honourable Member for bringing this motion and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak in support of it.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. Are there any— I recognize the Member for District 1.

ROAD SAFETY AND SEAT BELT LEGISLATION

MOTION

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. Are there any— I recognize the Member for District 1.

Hon.Ellis Lorenzo Webster:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Pleasure to be here. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the former Minister for Infrastructure, Member for Road South, for during our administration, pushing for this legislation. I want to thank Serena Connor and the AG Chambers for all the efforts made to get this completed so it could come to our cabinet, to the Executive Council, and then to the House.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that we will be burdened and bogged down by severe inertia if we wait for a complete bill to protect the lives of our people, especially our children. We are one of the few jurisdictions that have not enacted modern laws to protect our people on the road in terms of seat belts, child restraints, child seats. Mr. Speaker, after the former minister brought this to our attention and asked for legislation, there were public consultations. One issue raised was that Anguilla was not culturally ready for seat belts and child restraints because not all Anguillians have cars, there is no bus service, and people catch lifts.

If a lady is on the side of the road with a child and you want to give them a lift, can you stop and pick them up if you don't have a child seat? This became a big issue, that we were not culturally ready due to the kindness of our people and drivers. We wait until persons have died or become maimed before giving this the necessary consideration. I think this is ludicrous. I thank the Member for Road South for raising this motion because it's high time.

We do not have to miss the forest for the trees or feel we need a comprehensive bill before enacting legislation that will save lives. We spend most of our medical treatment overseas funds on persons injured in car accidents. We can't wait for more, whether you have a C plate or a T plate, or for licensing legislation or fee changes. We can't wait for comprehensive legislation that the Island-Wide Member, the current Minister of Infrastructure, is proposing.

Sometimes the people have elected us to make these hard decisions because government is there to do for us what we can't do for ourselves. Sometimes government has to take the heavy hand and make necessary decisions. We now have better roads, though some are still behind. That requires modern laws, Mr. Speaker.

In some jurisdictions, if you sit in the driver's seat without a seatbelt, even if parked with the engine running, you are in violation. St. Maarten and Antigua require seat belts. Why are we so indestructible that we don't enforce seat belt laws? I also want to address the scourge of driving under the influence.

We are hearing now, perhaps due to Carnival and underage

drinking, that we must clamp down. Commissioner Clark and his officers must clamp down, and we as citizens must point out that you can't have persons driving under the influence and putting themselves and others in jeopardy. We can't have persons driving with open containers of alcohol. This was once acceptable, but now it costs our communities, not only in lost potential but also in jeopardizing others.

Especially when controlling not only scooters or motorcycles, but also big trucks carrying concrete, making roads unsafe. Some drivers have open cans, whether Milwaukee or otherwise. I don't want to single out brands, but it is time. I am in full support of this motion, but I'd like to see legislation come in urgently.

I have sat with Serena Connor and know that the legislation is ready regarding seat belts, child restraints, and child seats. It can come now to the House of Assembly. It doesn't have to wait for other aspects. A comprehensive bill is essential and can come in time. This will otherwise suffer the fate of other legislation waiting for comprehensiveness. We started Senior Shield and Junior Shield, but waited for a comprehensive national health insurance, which took a while due to lack of an AG and other priorities, plus COVID. We cannot continue to fail our people because we weren't perfect. I appeal to the government side to get the legislation to the House for mandatory seat belts, child restraints, and child seats, with severe penalties for violations, and also address alcohol, open containers, and drugs affecting driving.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there any other contributions to this motion? If there are no other contributions, I ask the mover of the motion to respond.

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful to all members of the House for supporting this motion, and I believe we are all aligned. It shows there is more that unifies us than divides us, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, within the next few weeks, we will see this substantive legislation to change the Vehicle and Road Traffic Act tabled in this Honourable House for approval.

Thank you very much, members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. I put the question that Motion 12/2026-2/13 HOA becomes a resolution of this Honourable House. Those in favor? Those against? This motion, 12/2026-2/13 HOA, is now a resolution of this Honourable House.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Joash Proctor:

Personal explanations? None.

OTHER BUSINESS

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

Other business? Government business? A Bill for the Business Companies Amendment Act 2026, second reading.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I recognize the Member for District Number 2, Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you. Good morning to you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the Members of this Honourable House, members visiting us in the gallery, and viewers online and via social media. Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Business Companies Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time.

And Mr. Speaker, in terms of an explanation, if I may be granted leave to make a general statement.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Do we have a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to Provide for the Replacement of Criminal Offenses with civil penalties for certain breaches under the Business Companies Act and for related matters.

FINANCIAL SERVICES LEGISLATION PACKAGE - GENERAL STATEMENT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may be granted leave to make a general statement in terms of the 6 pieces of financial services legislation we have before the House today.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Permission granted.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a package of 6 bills which form part of government's continuing work to strengthen Anguilla's corporate regulatory and international tax transparency framework. While the Bills amend different pieces of legislation, they are connected by a common objective: to ensure that Anguilla has clear obligations, effective supervision, and practical enforcement mechanisms, and that our wider financial services legislation operates as a coherent framework. The package comprises the Business Companies Amendment Bill, the Limited Liability Company Amendment Bill, the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Bill, the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Bill, the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, and the Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Bill.

An important part of the context of these reforms is Anguilla's assessment by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes under the International Standard for Exchange of Information on Request, commonly referred to as EOIR. In 2020, Anguilla received an overall rating of non-compliant. The Global Forum identified two major areas of failure: the availability of accounting information on Anguillian entities and arrangements, and deficiencies in Anguilla's exchange of information experiences. That assessment arose during an exceptional review period in which Anguilla experienced a sharp and unusual increase in exchange of information requests, most linked to entities serviced through the same international corporate services network following a major global disclosure event.

The abrupt closure of that service provider created significant difficulties in accessing records required to respond to those requests. Those circumstances materially affected Anguilla's performance during that review period. Since then, our response times and effectiveness have improved significantly. The principal outstanding issue now is the availability of accounting information, and that is where much of the current reform effort is focused.

The international standard does not simply ask whether our laws say that an entity must keep accounts. It asks whether reliable accounting records and underlying documentation are actually maintained and can be obtained by the competent authority when required, including where records are kept outside Anguilla, where an entity has been struck off, dissolved, or liquidated, and where it redomiciles out of Anguilla, or where a service provider ceases to operate. In 2023, following a supplementary review, Anguilla's overall rating improved from non-compliant to partially compliant. The rating for the effectiveness and timeliness of our exchange of information processes improved, but the element dealing with the availability of accounting information remained rated non-compliant.

That remains one of the most significant outstanding weaknesses in our EOIR framework. The latest enhanced monitoring report adopted by the Global Forum in June 2026 does not assign Anguilla a new overall rating. Rather, it assesses the steps we have taken since the 2023 review. Of the 14 recommendations being monitored, two were considered provisionally addressed, seven were in the process of being addressed, and five had not yet been addressed.

There is a positive story in that report. During the 2023-2024 monitoring period, Anguilla received five requests for information from four international partners. Full and final responses were provided in every case within 90 days, and the peers that had exchange of information experience with Anguilla were generally satisfied. The recommendations dealing with the organization and timelines of our exchange processes are now therefore considered provisionally addressed, subject to detailed validation.

That improvement reflects deliberate work within government. The International Tax Cooperation Unit is fully staffed, an updated exchange of information manual is being implemented, staff training has continued, and case management and monitoring of response timelines have been strengthened. But the enhanced monitoring report is equally clear that the accounting information work is not finished. The two recommendations specifically dealing with the availability of accounting information, one concerning the legal framework and one concerning supervision and enforcement in practice, remain not addressed for the purposes of the monitoring exercise.

This is where the legislation before the House today becomes particularly relevant. First, the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Bill gives the Registrar a proper statutory framework to supervise and enforce compliance. It enables the Registrar to require information and documents, conduct inspections and site visits, obtain explanations, issue notices to comply, and impose civil penalties where obligations are not met. The bill is important because one of

the deficiencies identified through the EOIR process was that legal obligations existed without a sufficiently effective mechanism to monitor whether entities were actually keeping the required information and to enforce those obligations where they were not.

The Registrar's powers are accompanied by safeguards. Information must be reasonably required for the performance of the Registrar's statutory functions. Legal professional privilege is protected. Site visits are subject to reasonable cause and reasonable notice. Before substantive civil penalties are imposed, the affected person or entity has the right to be told the proposed penalty and the reasons for it, to make representations, and ultimately to appeal to the High Court. Second, the Business Companies, Limited Liability Company, and Anguilla Foundation Amendment Bills support that supervisory framework by replacing specified criminal sanctions for certain administrative and regulatory breaches with civil penalties that can be applied by the Registrar. This should not be misunderstood as weakening compliance. It is intended to make enforcement more effective.

Where a breach is administrative in nature— for example, a failure relating to corporate records, accounting records, or other statutory obligations— a regulator should be able to identify the breach, require correction, and impose a proportionate sanction without depending in every case on criminal prosecution. These bills address an important part of the accounting information problem, particularly the need for meaningful supervision and enforcement. They are not, however, the end of the EOIR reform program.

Further legislative work is being progressed to ensure that accounting records are available in all circumstances, including where records are maintained outside Anguilla and where an entity is struck off, liquidated, redomiciled, or otherwise ceases to exist. The objective must be that the competent authority can obtain reliable accounting information in a timely manner, regardless of what has happened to the entity or its service provider. There is also continuing work in other areas identified through the EOIR process. This includes strengthening the availability of legal and beneficial ownership information, including nominee shareholder arrangements, partnerships, and the identification of beneficial owners of bank account holders; improving oversight of trusts and non-professional trustees; and continuing to strengthen the practical use of our access and enforcement powers, including in relation to struck-off entities.

The wider reform program is therefore not simply about passing legislation. The global forum is looking for evidence that the framework works in practice. Inspections must occur, records must actually be available, breaches must be identified and addressed, and when a legitimate request for information is received from an international partner, Anguilla must be able to obtain information and provide it fully and promptly. Third, the two miscellaneous amendments bills complete important work arising from the financial services reforms enacted in 2024. The Trust and Corporate Services Providers Act 2024 replaced the former Company Management Act, and the Offshore Banking Act 2024 replaced the former Trust Companies and Offshore Banking Act.

The bills before us now update references and definitions across the wider statute book so that related acts, regulations, orders, and codes properly reflect those new frameworks. The Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Bill makes consequential changes across legislation dealing with foundations, companies, utility tokens, beneficial ownership, insurance, limited liability companies, partnerships, trusts, anti-money laundering requirements, and related regulatory matters. The Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Bill similarly updates the relevant company, partnership, money services, trusts, economic substance, and anti-money laundering provisions to reflect the Offshore Banking Act 2024. These amendments are principally technical but they matter. A modern regulatory framework cannot operate properly if repealed legislation and obsolete licensing references remain embedded across the statute book.

The direction of travel is clear. Anguilla moved from an overall non-compliant rating in 2020 to partially compliant in 2023. We have now demonstrated significant improvement in the quality and timeliness of our exchange of information processes. At the same time, the availability of accounting information remains a major area in which further action is required.

Government accepts that challenge. Our objective is to address the outstanding recommendations, demonstrate that the strengthened framework is working in practice, and position Anguilla for further improvement in its EOIR rating. But this is not simply about improving a rating for its own sake. For a small international financial center, credibility is an economic asset.

Strong regulation and a competitive financial services industry are not opposing objectives. A jurisdiction that is well regulated, responsive to international standards, and able to demonstrate effective compliance is a jurisdiction in which reputable business can have confidence. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Anguilla Financial Services Commission, including its Commercial Registry Department, the International Tax Cooperation Unit in the Ministry, the Attorney General's Chambers, and the officials who continue to advance this program of reform.

There is more work ahead. The legislation before the House today is an important step, and government will continue the wider program necessary to strengthen the availability of information, improve effective supervision and enforcement, and demonstrate Anguilla's commitment to the international standards expected of a responsible financial services jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CORPORATE REGULATORY AND TAX TRANSPARENCY REFORM BILLS INTRODUCTION

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a package of six bills which form part of government's continuing work to strengthen Anguilla's corporate regulatory and international tax transparency framework. While the bills amend different pieces of legislation, they are connected by a common

objective: to ensure that Anguilla has clear obligations, effective supervision, and practical enforcement mechanisms, and that our wider financial services legislation operates as a coherent framework. The package comprises the Business Companies Amendment Bill, the Limited Liability Company Amendment Bill, the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Bill, the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Bill, the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, and the Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Bill.

An important part of the context of these reforms is Anguilla's assessment by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes under the International Standard for Exchange of Information on Request, commonly referred to as EOIR. In 2020, Anguilla received an overall rating of non-compliant. The Global Forum identified two major areas of failure: the availability of accounting information on Anguillian entities and arrangements, and deficiencies in Anguilla's exchange of information experiences. That assessment arose during an exceptional review period in which Anguilla experienced a sharp and unusual increase in exchange of information requests, most of them linked to entities serviced through the same international corporate services network following a major global disclosure event.

The subsequent abrupt closure of that service provider created significant difficulties in accessing records required to respond to those requests. Those circumstances materially affected Anguilla's performance during that review period. Since then, our response times and effectiveness have improved significantly. The principal outstanding issue now is the availability of accounting information, and that is where much of the current reform effort is focused.

The international standard does not simply ask whether our laws say that an entity must keep accounts. It asks whether reliable accounting records and the underlying documentation are actually maintained and can be obtained by the competent authority when required, including where records are kept outside Anguilla, where an entity has been struck off, dissolved, or liquidated, and where it redomiciles out of Anguilla, or where a service provider ceases to operate. In 2023, following a supplementary review, Anguilla's overall rating improved from non-compliant to partially compliant. The rating for the effectiveness and timeliness of our exchange of information processes improved, but the element dealing with the availability of accounting information remained rated non-compliant.

That remains one of the most significant outstanding weaknesses in our EOIR framework. The latest enhanced monitoring report adopted by the Global Forum in June 2026 does not assign Anguilla a new overall rating. Rather, it assesses the steps we have taken since the 2023 review. Of the fourteen recommendations being monitored, two were considered provisionally addressed, seven were in the process of being addressed, and five had not yet been addressed.

There is a positive story in that report which we should recognize. During the 2023-2024 monitoring period, Anguilla received five requests for information from four international partners. Full and final responses were provided in every case within ninety days, and the peers that had exchange of information experience with Anguilla were generally satisfied. The recommendations dealing with the organization and timelines of our exchange processes are now therefore considered provisionally addressed, subject to detailed validation.

That improvement reflects deliberate work within government. The International Tax Cooperation Unit is fully staffed, an updated exchange of information manual is being implemented, staff training has continued, and case management and monitoring of response timelines have been strengthened. But the enhanced monitoring report is equally clear that the accounting information work is not finished. The two recommendations specifically dealing with the availability of accounting information, one concerning the legal framework and one concerning supervision and enforcement in practice, remain not addressed for the purposes of the monitoring exercise.

This is where the legislation before the House today becomes particularly relevant. First, the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Bill gives the Registrar a proper statutory framework to supervise and enforce compliance. It enables the Registrar to require information and documents, conduct inspections and site visits, obtain explanations, issue notices to comply, and impose civil penalties where obligations are not met. The bill is important because one of the deficiencies identified through the EOIR process was that legal obligations existed without a sufficiently effective mechanism to monitor whether entities were actually keeping the required information and to enforce those obligations where they were not.

The Registrar's powers are accompanied by safeguards. Information must be reasonably required for the performance of the Registrar's statutory functions. Legal professional privilege is protected. Site visits are subject to reasonable cause and reasonable notice. Before substantive civil penalties are imposed, the affected person or entity has the right to be told the proposed penalty and the reasons for it, to make representations, and ultimately to appeal to the High Court. Second, the Business Companies, Limited Liability Company, and Anguilla Foundation Amendment Bills support that supervisory framework by replacing specified criminal sanctions for certain administrative and regulatory breaches with civil penalties that can be applied by the Registrar. This is intended to make enforcement more effective. Where a breach is administrative in nature—for example, a failure relating to corporate records, accounting records, or other statutory obligations—a regulator should be able to identify the breach, require correction, and impose a proportionate sanction without depending in every case on criminal prosecution.

These bills address an important part of the accounting information problem, particularly the need for meaningful supervision and enforcement. They are not, however, the end of the EOIR reform program. Further legislative work is being progressed to ensure that accounting records are available in all circumstances, including where records are maintained

outside Anguilla and where an entity is struck off, liquidated, redomiciled, or otherwise ceases to exist. The objective must be that the competent authority can obtain reliable accounting information in a timely manner, regardless of what has happened to the entity or its service provider. There is also continuing work in other areas identified through the EOIR process. This includes strengthening the availability of legal and beneficial ownership information, including nominee shareholder arrangements, partnerships, and the identification of beneficial owners of bank account holders; improving oversight of trusts and non-professional trustees; and continuing to strengthen the practical use of our access and enforcement powers, including in relation to struck-off entities.

The wider reform program is therefore not simply about passing legislation. The global forum is looking for evidence that the framework works in practice. Inspections must occur, records must actually be available, breaches must be identified and addressed, and when a legitimate request for information is received from an international partner, Anguilla must be able to obtain information and provide it fully and promptly. Third, the two miscellaneous amendments bills complete important work arising from the financial services reforms enacted in 2024. The Trust and Corporate Services Providers Act 2024 replaced the former Company Management Act, and the Offshore Banking Act 2024 replaced the former Trust Companies and Offshore Banking Act.

The bills before us now update references and definitions across the wider statute book so that related acts, regulations, orders, and codes properly reflect those new frameworks. The Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Bill makes consequential changes across legislation dealing with foundations, companies, utility tokens, beneficial ownership, insurance, limited liability companies, partnerships, trusts, anti-money laundering requirements, and related regulatory matters. The Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Bill similarly updates the relevant company, partnership, money services, trusts, economic substance, and anti-money laundering provisions to reflect the Offshore Banking Act 2024. These amendments are principally technical but they matter. A modern regulatory framework cannot operate properly if repealed legislation and obsolete licensing references remain embedded across the statute book.

The direction of travel is clear. Anguilla moved from an overall non-compliant rating in 2020 to partially compliant in 2023. We have now demonstrated significant improvement in the quality and timeliness of our exchange of information processes. At the same time, the availability of accounting information remains a major area in which further action is required.

Government accepts that challenge. Our objective is to address the outstanding recommendations, demonstrate that the strengthened framework is working in practice, and position Anguilla for further improvement in its EOIR rating. But this is not simply about improving a rating for its own sake. For a small international financial center, credibility is an economic asset.

Strong regulation and a competitive financial services industry are not opposing objectives. A jurisdiction that is well regulated, responsive to international standards, and able to demonstrate effective compliance is a jurisdiction in which reputable business can have confidence. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Anguilla Financial Services Commission, including its Commercial Registry Department, the International Tax Cooperation Unit in the Ministry, the Attorney General's Chambers, and the officials who continue to advance this program of reform.

There is more work ahead. The legislation before the House today is an important step, and government will continue the wider program necessary to strengthen the availability of information, improve effective supervision and enforcement, and demonstrate Anguilla's commitment to the international standards expected of a responsible financial services jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - DEBATE INVITATION

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member, for that overall comprehensive explanation of the series of bills. I now invite debate on the merit and principles of the Bill, a Bill for the Business Companies Amendment Act 2026. I recognize the Member for District 1.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - DEBATE

Hon.Ellis Lorenzo Webster:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Premier has outlined the objects and reasons for these six amendments which are upcoming, and I certainly appreciate that there was one explanation given for all, because otherwise we'd be here until Friday if we had to go through the same thing on each one. The intent is there—this didn't just start, Mr. Speaker. When your boss and the former Premier signed the MOU for financial stability and COVID relief on June 11th, 2020, one of the conditions was that Anguilla should move towards a largely compliant status.

As the Premier mentioned, Anguilla was non-compliant with the OECD at that time. But this went back to 2017 with the Panama Papers, and when Mossack Fonseca left the shores of Anguilla, it was difficult to get records, and because of that non-compliance with being able to have records readily available, Anguilla was pushed to a non-compliant status and was blacklisted with the European Union. I remember when this happened, I reached out to the then Minister for Financial Services and Commerce of the Cayman Islands, now Premier Mr. Andre E Banks. They had experience with getting the Cayman Islands off these blacklists previously.

They have a much bigger financial services sector than we do or ever will have. Back in the early '90s, 20% of Anguilla's revenue came from financial services, and now we are a mere

drop in the bucket compared to where we were. For whatever reason that happened, we lost the ability to have financial services be a significant revenue stream, and the history books will bear that out. London came calling.

Another reason why we need to be able to float our own boat and raise our own flag, Mr. Speaker. I see the flag there on your left, which represents Anguilla in its own right. Because of this blacklisting, Anguilla was put in the crosshairs, and we know that then came the necessity for a public registry of interested parties, and that Act was just recently passed. We delayed that as much as possible because we felt that to improve our financial services there had to be somewhere where we followed international standards.

The EU had certain issues and court cases that did not require all entities to have access to the registry of beneficiaries in companies. That was debated among all the overseas territories, and I decided back then that we would follow the Cayman Islands, and they were pushing that down, and there were deadlines given that came and went, and I saw that it was recently passed here in the Anguilla House of Assembly. So I think MP Hodge got her wish.

That is MP in England, not here. So we are now looking to be more compliant, and I know that the Financial Services Commission has done a lot of work on this, and I want to thank the Director who is here in the gallery. The Business Companies Act, the modernized Act that came to this House and then was amended and now is being amended again to become compliant. Based on the conditions in the MOU of 2020, it said we had to move towards being largely compliant. If we're not there yet, that's where we are headed so that we can meet these international requirements, improve and enhance our financial services, and be able to stand up.

Even though we are a small jurisdiction, we have the same requirements as any other jurisdiction that does financial services. These amendments talk about fees and about civil penalties rather than having to wait for a criminal conviction. This is important because sometimes proving criminal intent can take a while and requires investigation, but civil penalties can be imposed, and if they were imposed unnecessarily, they can always be paid back. I am in total agreement here and will support these amendments as they come forward piece by piece.

This whole framework is necessary so that we can enhance, improve, and have more robust financial services, and Anguilla becomes more attractive to companies. As we go through, we'll see international businesses, LLCs, and then offshore banking. That's still on the books, even though we have a history there in terms of NBA, PB&T, and the CCB, CCIB. That comes up in part of the legislation later, but for now, I am in full support of these amendments. Thank you.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING DEBATE

Hon.Ellis Lorenzo Webster:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Premier has outlined the objects and reasons for these six upcoming amendments, and I appreciate that there was one explanation given for all, as otherwise we would be here until Friday if we had to go through each one individually. The intent is clear—this did not just start. When your boss and the former Premier signed the MOU for financial stability and COVID relief on June 11th, 2020, one of the conditions was that Anguilla should move towards a largely compliant status.

As the Premier mentioned, Anguilla was non-compliant with the OECD at that time, but this goes back to 2017 with the Panama Papers and Mossack Fonseca. When they left Anguilla, it was difficult to get records, and because of that non-compliance, Anguilla was pushed to a non-compliant status and eventually blacklisted by the European Union. I remember reaching out to the then Minister for Financial Services and Commerce of the Cayman Islands, now Premier Mr. Andre E Banks, who had experience getting the Cayman Islands off the blacklist. Their financial services sector is much larger than ours ever will be.

In the early '90s, 20% of Anguilla's revenue came from financial services, but now we are a mere drop in the bucket compared to then. The history books will explain why we lost that significant revenue stream. London came calling, another reason why we need to be able to float our own boat and raise our own flag. Because of blacklisting, Anguilla became a target, and we had to establish a public registry of interested parties, which was just recently passed.

We delayed as much as possible, but to improve our financial services, we had to follow international standards. The EU had issues and court cases that did not require all entities to have access to the registry of beneficiaries, and this was debated among all overseas territories. I decided to follow the Cayman Islands' approach, and deadlines came and went, but it was recently passed here in the House of Assembly. So I think MP Hodge in England got her wish.

We are now looking to be more compliant. The Financial Services Commission has done a lot of work, and I thank the Director in the gallery. The modernized Business Companies Act came to this House, was amended, and is now being amended again to become compliant, as required by the 2020 MOU. We must meet international requirements to enhance our financial services and stand up as a small jurisdiction with the same requirements as any other.

These amendments address fees and civil penalties rather than waiting for criminal convictions. This is important because proving criminal intent can take time, but civil penalties can be imposed and, if necessary, repaid. I am in total agreement and will support these amendments as they come forward. This framework is necessary to enhance and improve our financial services, making Anguilla more attractive to companies.

As we proceed, we will see international businesses, LLCs, and offshore banking addressed. I am in full support of these amendments. Thank you.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there other contributions to this Bill? If there are no other contributions, may I ask the mover of the motion to respond?

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Island Harbour for his contribution and for the full support of this Honourable House in relation to this Bill.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING VOTE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. I put the question that the Bill entitled A Bill For the Business Companies Act Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the Bill a second time.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this Bill to the committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

House now in committee—

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 14.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the clauses 1 through 14 form part of this Bill. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the schedule, the title, and enactment be accepted as is. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. This House now resumes its sitting. I ask the mover to report.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to report that the Bill entitled the Business Companies Amendment Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

BUSINESS COMPANIES AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Joash Proctor:

A bill for Business Companies Amendment Act 2026, third reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Speaker, I move that a Bill entitled A Bill for the Business Companies Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the Bill shortly entitled A Bill for The Business Companies Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed. Those in favor?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Aye.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the bill a third time.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

An act to provide for the replacement of criminal offenses with civil penalties for certain breaches under the Companies Act and for related matters. A Bill for Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026, second reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move the Bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the objects and reasons, I propose that the statement initially made be applied to this Bill for the Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to provide for the amendment to the Limited Liability Company Act to replace criminal offenses, create civil penalties for breach of certain obligations under the Act, and for related matters.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING DEBATE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. I now invite debate on the merit and principles of the Bill for Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026. Are there any contributions? If there are no contributions, I ask the mover to respond.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Members of this honorable house for their support. Mr. Speaker, it has been moved and seconded— oh, sorry, I think that's—

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING VOTE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the Bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the Clerk to read the bill a second time.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this Bill to a committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 4.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Clauses 1 through 4 be accepted as printed in the Bill. Those in favour?

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Aye.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the title and the enacting clause be accepted as printed in the Bill. Those in favour?

Hon.Jeison Jose Bryan:

Aye.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Those against? The ayes have it. This assembly will now resume its sitting, and I ask the mover to report.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to report that the Bill entitled the Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the Bill shortly entitled A Bill for Limited Liability Company Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the Bill a third time.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

An Act to Provide for the Amendment to the Limited Liability Company Act to replace criminal offenses, create civil penalties for breach of certain obligations under the Act, and for related matters. A Bill for Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026, second reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 be read a second time.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Yes, sir, I second, Mr. Speaker.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to confer powers on the Registrar of Companies to better provide for inspection of and compliance by certain entities that are registered in Anguilla and for connected purposes.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - SECOND READING DEBATE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The Bill has been moved and seconded. I now invite debate on the merit and principles of this Bill. Are there any contributions? If there are none, I will ask the Member to reply.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Members of this honorable House for their support of this Bill.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - SECOND READING VOTE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 be read a second time. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the Bill a second time.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this Bill to a committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 19.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I ask this honorable House if the clauses 1 through 19 do stand as part of this Bill. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The schedule.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Does the schedule of this Bill stand as part of this Bill? Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause—

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The title and the enacting clause of this Bill do stand as part of this bill before this Honourable House. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. The Assembly will now resume its sitting. I'll ask the mover to report.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to report that the Bill entitled the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to report that the Bill entitled the Bill for the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment, and it's ready for its third reading.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Joash Proctor:

A Bill for Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026, third reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr Speaker, I move that a Bill entitled A Bill for the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 be read a third time and passed.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder? I put the question that the Bill shortly entitled A bill for the Registrar of Companies Compliance Measures Act 2026 be read a third time and passed. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the Clerk to read the Bill a third time.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

This is seconded, Mr. Speaker.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACT 2026 - THIRD READING AND ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

An act to confer powers on the Registrar of Companies to better provide for inspection of and compliance by certain entities that are registered in Anguilla and for connected purposes. A Bill for Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026, second reading.

ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder? I now invite merit debate on merit and principles of this Bill. If there's no contribution or debate on this particular Bill, I now call upon the mover of the Bill to reply.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Yes, sir, I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Members of this honorable House for their support.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that this Bill, Bill for the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026, be read a second time. All those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the Bill a second time.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to provide for the replacement of criminal offences with civil penalties for certain breaches under the Anguilla Foundation Act.

ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this Bill to a committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 4.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Clauses 1 through 4. Are they accepted as printed in the Bill? Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause?

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The title and the enacting clause be accepted by this Honourable House as printed. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. This assembly will now resume its sitting, and I call upon the mover of the Bill to report.

ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to report that the Bill entitled A Bill for the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Joash Proctor:

A Bill for Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026, third reading.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder?

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill entitled A Bill for the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

It has been moved and seconded that a Bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Anguilla Foundation Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the bill a third time.

ANGUILLA FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2026 - THIRD READING AND TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

An Act to Provide for the Replacement of Criminal Offences With civil penalties for certain breaches under the Anguilla Foundation Act. A Bill for Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026, second reading.

TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 be read a second time.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The Bill has been moved and seconded. I now invite debate on the merits and principles of the Bill. If there's no debate, No contribution to this Bill. I now ask the mover to reply.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to thank the Members of this Honourable House for their full support on this Bill.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the Bill now entitled A Bill for the Trust and Cooperation Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2026 be read a second time. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the Clerk to read the bill a second time.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to amend various Acts and Regulations to give effect to and make consequential amendments arising from the enactment of the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Act 2024, and to provide for related and incidental matters.

TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this bill to a committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 31.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Clauses 1 through 31 be accepted as printed in this bill. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The title and the enacting clause be accepted by this Honourable House as printed. Those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. This Assembly now resumes its sitting, and I call upon the mover to report.

TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE REPORT

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to report that the bill entitled the Bill for the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Joash Proctor:

A Bill for Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026, third reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill entitled A Bill for the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 be read a third time and passed.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder? I put the question that the bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2026, be read a third time and passed. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I now call upon the clerk to read the bill a third time.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Sir I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

TRUST AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDERS MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - THIRD READING AND OFFSHORE BANKING MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Joash Proctor:

An Act to Amend Various Acts and Regulations to give effect to and make consequential amendments arising from the Enactment of the Trust and Corporate Services Providers Act 2024. And to provide for related and incidental matters. A Bill for Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026, second reading.

OFFSHORE BANKING MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - SECOND READING

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill shortly entitled A Bill for the Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 be read a second time.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

The bill has been read and seconded. I now invite debate on the merits and principles of this bill. Any contributions? I recognize the Member for District 6.

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give my support for this amendment. I believe this has been a glorious house. It's always fascinating when you sit on that chair, Mr. Speaker. Everyone seems to agree to be in one accord, so I'm very happy to be here today.

But Mr. Speaker, as I look on the order paper and see 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 amendments to this legislative legislation relating to the financial services sector. I often hearken to the good old days back in the 1970s and early 1980s, Mr. Speaker, when the Government of Anguilla, through the Ministry of Finance, had full control and jurisdiction over the offshore financial sector, and the money was flowing into the treasury more so than hospitality.

More so than tourism. And people were gaining jobs, employment. The legal professions start to grow in Anguilla because we in Anguilla, the people of Anguilla, the government of Anguilla, had full control over the financial services sector. But lo and behold, in the very early 1980s, somewhere in the region around 1981, we had some constitutional amendments, and then further on we had further constitutional amendments, Mr. Speaker, where the British government said, you know, the offshore financial services would be better under us, so I think that we should amend the Constitution so that it will become part of our remit.

And the Constitution was amended. And when that Constitution was amended, Mr. Speaker, it gave the British government, through the Governor, full control over the offshore financial sector, and so much so that the Constitution states that we can't even inquire into it. But here we are today making amendments to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 different aspects of the offshore financial sector. To satisfy who? Not Anguilla. To satisfy those first world countries that has Delaware, that has Liechtenstein, that has Switzerland, that has London, the world-leading money laundering center, Mr. Speaker. So what does that say to you?

The British government has never cared about us. The British government has never loved us. We must never forget how we got here. We must never forget how we use our own wit to develop these services. We must never forget the famines that killed our forebears. And when we cried out for help, they said in their parliament, not a single white man dwell among—and they said they would ship us all off to British Guiana. Another British colony. But our forebears said, no, no, no, we staying on this rock, we staying on this rock.

And whenever there's an opportunity that they can gain and earn from us, they do so. We must never forget it was the West India Company who went to Sombrero and signed the deal with the British—with the American government to take all

of the fertilizer, the caliguano. From San Bruno to refertilize the tobacco fields and the cotton fields of North and South Carolina and the U.S., Mr. Speaker, valued at millions of dollars in today's money. We must never forget it was not the British government who gave us an airport, but it was Americans during the Second World War who decided to have a strip here on our jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker. So what did they do?

They took away our financial services sector from us to the point where we—all we do is get a little trickle in every so often, and we have to comply to their mandates, Mr. Speaker. So we have to come to this House to ensure that we are not blacklisted.

And every so often there's another change, ever so often there's another amendment, not because we want to do so, but because they insist that we must do so. So while it is that we stand here in full solidarity for the amendments, the question is, what is the ROI?

What is the return on investment? What do we get out of it? I heard an interview by the governor recently talking about the millions of dollars that they have spent in Anguilla. That pays in comparison to the reparations that I seek. That pays in comparison to the reparations that you deserve. That pays in comparison to what they have taken.

And the fact of the matter is, is that only when we beg and plead on our hands, groveling, did they assist in the case of Hurricane Irma. And then what did they do? They gave us conditions. In the case of the COVID they said, well, we will give you $100 million EC dollars to take you over, but this is what you have to do. You have to implement GST.

You have to ensure that you don't give your people no help through duty-free concessions, because if every dollar that you gave your people in assistance, we will take it away from you. This is the legacy and the truth of the government of the United Kingdom, Mr. Speaker. So we must be cognizant of that.

We must understand what we are dealing with. So, Mr. Speaker, while it is that I am full support, I just wanted to lay on the record my views as it relates to the financial services sector and what we have to comply with to satisfy their misgivings. Because you know what they say? They say, well, we are responsible for your external affairs. We are responsible for your council affairs. We are responsible for your good governance. But if that is the case, then why don't you fight them when it comes to us being blacklisted? Why is it that we have to do it? Why is it that they, who have full constitutional authority over the financial services, don't have to ensure that when it comes to the OECD and those first world nations, that we are always on the whitelist.

Maybe you need to flip it around and say blacklist is good and whitelist is bad. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Mr. Haydn Hughes:

To satisfy those first world countries that have Delaware, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and London, the world-leading money laundering center, Mr. Speaker. So what does that say to you? The British government has never cared about us. The British government has never loved us. We must never forget how we got here. We must never forget how we used our own wit to develop these services.

We must never forget the famines that killed our forebears. And when we cried out for help, they said in their parliament, not a single white man dwells among— and they said they would ship us all off to British Guiana, another British colony. But our forebears said, no, no, no, we are staying on this rock. And whenever there's an opportunity that they can gain and earn from us, they do so.

We must never forget it was the West India Company who went to Sombrero and signed the deal with the American government to take all of the fertilizer, the caliguano, from San Bruno to refertilize the tobacco fields and the cotton fields of North and South Carolina and the U.S., Mr. Speaker, valued at millions of dollars in today's money. We must never forget it was not the British government who gave us an airport, but it was Americans during the Second World War who decided to have a strip here on our jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker. So what did they do?

They took away our financial services sector from us to the point where all we do is get a little trickle in every so often, and we have to comply to their mandates, Mr. Speaker. So we have to come to this House to ensure that we are not blacklisted.

And every so often there's another change, ever so often there's another amendment, not because we want to do so, but because they insist that we must do so. So while it is that we stand here in full solidarity for the amendments, the question is, what is the ROI?

What is the return on investment? What do we get out of it? I heard an interview by the governor recently talking about the millions of dollars that they have spent in Anguilla. That pales in comparison to the reparations that I seek. That pales in comparison to the reparations that you deserve. That pales in comparison to what they have taken.

And the fact of the matter is, only when we beg and plead on our hands, groveling, did they assist in the case of Hurricane Irma. And then what did they do? They gave us conditions. In the case of the COVID they said, well, we will give you $100 million EC dollars to take you over, but this is what you have to do. You have to implement GST.

You have to ensure that you don't give your people any help through duty-free concessions, because for every dollar that you gave your people in assistance, we will take it away from you. This is the legacy and the truth of the government of the United Kingdom, Mr. Speaker. So we must be cognizant of that.

We must understand what we are dealing with. So, Mr. Speaker, while I am in full support, I just wanted to lay on the record my views as it relates to the financial services sector

and what we have to comply with to satisfy their misgivings. Because you know what they say? They say, well, we are responsible for your external affairs. We are responsible for your council affairs. We are responsible for your good governance. But if that is the case, then why don't you fight them when it comes to us being blacklisted? Why is it that we have to do it? Why is it that they, who have full constitutional authority over the financial services, don't have to ensure that when it comes to the OECD and those first world nations, that we are always on the whitelist.

Maybe you need to flip it around and say blacklist is good and whitelist is bad. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there any other contributions to this Bill? If there aren't any, I'll ask the mover to reply.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Road South for his contributions, and I'm happy that he is actually a Member of the Constitutional Committee, which was established under this administration. I look forward to the report and the findings of that report, particularly as it relates to the financial services sector. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the Members of this Honourable House for their support on this Bill.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. I put the question that the bill, a Bill for Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026, be read a second time. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the clerk to read the bill a second time.

Joash Proctor:

An Act to amend various acts, regulations, orders, and codes to give effect to and make consequential amendments arising from the enactment of the Offshore Banking Act 2024, and to provide for related and incidental matters.

OFFSHORE BANKING MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - COMMITTEE STAGE

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I now refer this bill to a committee of the whole House to be considered clause by clause.

Joash Proctor:

Clauses 1 through 21.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that clauses 1 through 21 do stand part of this Bill. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it.

Joash Proctor:

The title and the enacting clause.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that the title and enacting clause do stand part of this Bill. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. This assembly will now resume its sitting. I ask the mover to report.

OFFSHORE BANKING MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS ACT 2026 - THIRD READING

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to report that the bill entitled A Bill for the Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 has passed through committee without amendment and is ready for its third reading.

Joash Proctor:

A Bill for Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026, third reading.

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Mr. Speaker, I move that a bill entitled A Bill for the Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendments Act 2026 be read a third time and passed.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that a bill shortly entitled A Bill for Offshore Banking Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2026 be read a third time and passed. Those in favor? Those against? The ayes have it. I call upon the Clerk to read the bill a third time.

TRANSITION TO OTHER BUSINESS

Joash Proctor:

An Act to Amend Various Acts, Regulations, Orders, and Codes to give effect to and make consequential amendments arising from the enactment of the Offshore Banking Act 2024 and to provide for related and incidental matters. Private members' Bills? None. Private Bills? None. Other orders of the day?

OTHER BUSINESS - TRIBUTES AND CONDOLENCES

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I recognize the Member for District Number 1.

Hon.Ellis Lorenzo Webster:

Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, sadly we recognize the passing of Mr. Wilkins Smith of Island Harbour, a revolutionary hero who was one of the brave souls who ventured to St. Kitts on June 10th, 1967, and became imprisoned trying to protect this, our little island, to ensure that Mr. Robert Bradshaw did not come to Anguilla to wreak the havoc which he had intended for our people. And so it is with heavy heart that we recognize his passing and his contribution this morning.

As I was in Island Harbour, someone said there are only two of those heroes left who endured prison in St. Kitts for Anguilla. We have lost three of the five, and that is sad that we are losing our revolutionary heroes. And I see on Anguilla Day, usually we are giving awards for more social development now. It just shows that those who sacrificed themselves for the country are reaching that stage where they're getting older.

I don't think that we have recognized them enough, Mr. Speaker. Their contribution is why we are here today in this House, being able to enact and pass legislation to continue to protect Anguilla as we make it inhabitable for generations to come. For his family, I'd like to thank them for their contribution and, as they mourn, give our condolences. Others who have passed: Miss Sandra Hodge from East End, who was an immigration officer, and she has passed.

I want to wish condolences to her family. And of course, Miss Kimberly Fleming, gone too soon, who stood with us in the 2020 election. Mr. Speaker, it's sometimes a burden that we carry when we can't do anything for those we see who are suffering. The scourge of cancer and NCDs. We want to do better and we have to do better, and whatever we can to make sure that better is done, we have to do, being in this position that we're in.

Also, Commonwealth athletes who represented Anguilla well in Scotland, want to say congratulations to them. And Zarnell Hughes, I know his cousin here to the left of me will have more to say about his accomplishments. I was reading recently about Anguillians who are not only representing Anguilla, but they are in other parts of the world, in politics and medicine and other areas, making us proud to know that we are small, but we continue to punch above our weight. I am proud, wherever I am in the world, to say that I'm Anguillian because Anguillians continue to make us feel good.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. We are under any other orders of the day, and I believe it is appropriate for Members to share their comments with any other orders that you may think about. I recognize the Member for District 7.

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For me, it's bittersweet the fact that we lost Kimberly Fleming over the last week. Kimberly Fleming was my god sister. She was also my opponent in 2020 at the general election. But for the most part of the politics in West End, we don't try to go into the gutter; we try our best to do what is best for the people, and it's not about attacking each other. Yes, she has gone too soon, but while she was here, she made a contribution. She was not one that would shout from the rooftops, but she was one that would help those without being given the admiration for it. West End, Mr. Speaker, at the Roger's Well.

There's some people from Stony Ground who try to claim fame to it. You've got a big flag, and we know that normally when the flag is at half-mast it is for those who are regarded as dignitaries. To date, I have not had any criticism of us in West End lowering the flag at half-mast when one of our dignitaries have passed. And not because Kimberly was a candidate in the general election.

It applies to everybody in West End. I almost wish, Mr. Speaker, that in other districts the same would happen, because when Mr. Wilkin Smith passed in Island Harbour, I think it would have been great for the flag in Island Harbour to be at half-mast. And why the flag? In the past, Mr. Speaker, the bell would toll at the Methodist Church. Times have moved

on.

The bell wasn't operating. So now it's the flag, and that's our way of telling our people in our community that someone has passed. That was the bitter. The sweet, Mr. Speaker, is that on Sunday we celebrated 100 years for a centenarian, Leonie Richardson of Long Bay.

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS; SCHOOL BUSES AND POLICE VEHICLES

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To not belabor the points, I will be concise. I rise to stand in solidarity with my colleagues in offering condolences to all those who mourn and suffer at this time. Miss Kimberly Fleming, while I may not have known her in my early years, my first interactions with her as an adult were leading up to the 2020 general elections.

My mother knew her well, as I was a Barclays baby at the time, and my mother worked closely with members across the aisle who were at Barclays. The member mentioned he used to babysit me, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the 2020 general election and beyond, even though we contested on opposite sides, there was never animosity or contention between Kimberley and myself, which is a testament to her character. She was truly a gentle soul, and I extend condolences to her family, the community, and all those impacted.

The fact that we can unite in times like these, despite political differences, shows that we are all Anguillians first. We should use moments like this to remind us to unite, as what brings us together is greater than what divides us. I also offer congratulations to Ms. Anguilla. We all know that when you travel, the home country often wins, so she was at a disadvantage, but bringing the crown home is a testament to her ability and success.

She made us all proud, and we wish her continued success. My colleague mentioned the new school buses are now on island, and soon the MICU team will hand them over to education so students can travel in comfort. I thank the Permanent Secretary at MICU, the ministry team, Department of Infrastructure, Superintendent of Vehicles, Minister of Education, and her team for their work. Our team went to Florida earlier this year to find the buses, and it's been a combined effort. In addition, we recently handed over four Ford Interceptors to the Royal Anguilla Police Force, boosting their complement and investing in their service. I commend them for a relatively incident-free Carnival.

Since the handover, we've received new Broncos that are being outfitted and will soon be handed over, further increasing their complement and enabling them to protect our society.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we approach a new school term, I wish the parents and students well and many successes to all who will be furthering their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIR RECOGNIZES NEXT SPEAKER

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you, Member. As member for District 2, Mrs. Richardson-Hodge.

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND YOUTH

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to add my voice to the sentiments already stated in this House by previous speakers. On behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of Anguilla, and my family, I extend deepest condolences to Miss Sandra Hodge, a former member of the Department of Immigration, and to others—Kimberly Fleming, Mr. Giovanni Brooks, and the revolutionary hero Mr. Wilkin Smith, also known as a singer. Island Harbour has produced many country and western singers, and growing up, my father played their music every Sunday morning, including Mr. Wilkin Smith. We extend condolences to his family and loved ones. A full account of his and other Rambler Warriors' experiences can be found in 'The Battle for Freedom, 1967 to 1969' by Colville Petty and Mr. Nathaniel Hodge.

I also extend condolences to the family and loved ones of Miss Kimberly Fleming. I have always remarked that campaigns in District 7 have been polite, focusing on issues, and I wish the same for my district. Eudene Romney, her children Mark and Paul Romney, and her family also have my condolences. Mary Richardson, as a young lawyer, was important to me, notarizing many documents and always uplifting and supportive.

I extend condolences to her family and loved ones. In terms of our tremendous win in Guyana, congratulations to Miss Akima Carty for her work as Miss Anguilla and for representing Anguilla regionally. Congratulations also to Zarnell Hughes and Jahmar Hamilton for representing Anguilla. Special congratulations to Miss Reynah Lico, my second cousin, who travels today, and to her brother Drayden, recently granted a scholarship.

Congratulations to their family. On the last occasion, we congratulated and wished well all our school leavers. We still have some about to depart, including a young lady going to St. Kitts for nursing. We wish her well. There is much good—opportunities, great stories, and experiences from our young people. I encourage each to continue to strive in their areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

CONDOLENCES, CONGRATULATIONS, AND

APOLOGY TO NATIONAL HEROES

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there any other contributions? If not, I would like to ask leave of this House to make a few remarks myself. Condolences to all the families mentioned; it's always difficult to include everyone, and some may be left out. You mentioned Member Giovanni Brooks, Nosromney. I also want to mention the Richardson family, particularly Gavin Richardson, who lost his 38-year-old son recently in Canada, and Mr. Ambrose Richardson, who I knew from the Agricultural Department, known as the plot in those days.

He was over 90 and has children who are civil servants, so condolences to them as well. I also congratulate those in sports, talent, and students going off to university. As the senior citizen in this House, I apologize to our national heroes. When the member for District 1 spoke about Wilkin Smith, our Ka-chik, it left a bitter taste because we have not treated our soldiers, our patriots, as they deserve. They risked their lives for Anguilla, and over the years, we have not honored them properly.

Honoring them on Anguilla Day is fine, but we should ensure they are cared for throughout their lives. I apologize publicly as past and present governments have not done enough, and I hope future parliamentarians will do better. Only two of those revolutionary heroes remain alive since Wilkin Smith's passing—Mr. Del Prado Harrigan and his brother Todville. It saddens me that future generations may not know their significance.

Again, congratulations to those who succeeded, condolences to those who lost loved ones, and apologies to our heroes who were not treated as they should have been. Thank you all.

CONDOLENCES AND RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HEROES

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Thank you very much, Member. Are there any other contributions? If there are no other contributions, I would like to ask leave of this Honourable House to make a few remarks myself. Condolences to all of the families that were mentioned; it's always difficult to include everyone, and some families would be left out. Member Giovanni Brooks mentioned the Nosromney family. I would also like to mention the Richardson family, particularly Gavin Richardson, who lost his 38-year-old son recently in Canada, laid to rest. Also, Mr. Ambrose Richardson, who I knew growing up in the Agricultural Department, known as the plot in those days.

He was more than 90 years of age and has a number of children who are civil servants and top civil servants. We extend condolences to them as well. I also want to congratulate all those folks, whether in sports, talent, or students going off to university. I apologize, as the senior citizen in this Honourable House, to our national heroes. When the member for District 1 spoke about Wilkin Smith, our Ka-chik, it left a bitter taste in my mouth, because we have not treated our soldiers, our patriots, with the respect they deserve. What they did—going to St. Kitts in an open boat, some of them held and imprisoned—was significant. Over the years, as a developing nation, we have not treated our heroes respectfully.

Honouring them on Anguilla Day is fine, but we must ensure they are taken care of, as they are the reason we are here today. I apologize publicly, as governments of the past and present, and I hope future parliamentarians will treat those who come after us better than we did for those before. Perhaps it is a lack of historical prominence or knowledge. I believe only two of those revolutionary heroes are now alive since the passing of Wilkin Smith: Mr. Del Prado Harrigan and his brother Todville, who were among those who went to St. Kitts.

It saddens me because generations after us may not know the significance of these individuals who put their lives on the line so we can call Anguilla our home. Again, I congratulate those who were successful in their endeavours, my condolences to those who lost loved ones, and my apologies to those heroes who were not treated as they should have been. Thank you all.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Joash Proctor:

Adjournment.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

I put the question that this Honourable House stands adjourned until September 8th at 10 AM. All those in favour? Those against? The ayes have it. This Honourable House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 8th at 10 AM in the morning.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Hon.Jose Vanterpool:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until its next scheduled sitting on September 8th.

Hon.Evans McNiel Rogers:

Is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second, Mr. Speaker.