

Re: Opposition Motion PM9

To the Premier, Members of Cabinet, and the Opposition,

I write on behalf of the RICS Cayman Islands Chapter in response to Private Member's Motion PM9, and I want to begin from a point of agreement. Everyone in these Islands wants a built environment that is safe, well-built, serves Caymanians, and that consumers can trust. That ambition is, quite literally, the reason the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors exists.

The Chapter welcomes Government's willingness to consider how professional standards, consumer protection and opportunities for Caymanians can be further strengthened. These are legitimate objectives we fully support. Our purpose here is simply to set out the framework already in place, and to explain why we believe many of the Motion's aims are already being met through internationally recognised standards operating alongside Cayman Islands law.

On accountability: RICS chartered surveyors are held to globally recognised professional and ethical standards, supported by an independent complaints and disciplinary process that applies equally whether the client sits in George Town or on Fifth Avenue. A breach is not merely a matter of local concern; it forms part of an international professional record that may affect an individual's ability to practise across multiple jurisdictions. The complaints procedure is publicly available and readily accessible, and the Chapter would be pleased to demonstrate how it works and provide the web link through which any member of the public may begin the process.

On consumer recourse: Surveyors remain subject to the laws of these Islands, as does every other business operating here. For RICS-regulated members, those protections are reinforced by independent professional oversight, mandatory professional indemnity insurance, continuing professional development, regular audits and formal disciplinary procedures together providing multiple layers of accountability.

On Caymanian employment: We fully support the Motion's aim of creating more opportunities for Caymanians to enter and progress within the profession and have discussed this in previous Chapter meetings. Local firms have every commercial incentive to recruit and develop qualified Caymanians, who bring invaluable local knowledge and long-term continuity. The challenge has never been willingness, but the pipeline. To help address it, RICS has worked alongside DART to establish a surveying pathway guiding more young Caymanians into the profession, and we would welcome further collaboration with Government and educational institutions to expand these initiatives.

The Motion also raises broader questions of registration, licensing and professional oversight. These are appropriate matters to consider, and we respectfully suggest that any review first evaluate the effectiveness of the substantial framework already governing chartered surveyors before determining whether additional statutory regulation is necessary. There is significant value in building upon systems that are already well established, internationally recognised and operating successfully within the Cayman Islands.

None of this is intended to diminish the intent behind the Motion. We share its objectives of strengthening consumer protection, maintaining high professional standards and encouraging

greater Caymanian participation - principles to which RICS has been committed in these Islands for decades.

The RICS Cayman Islands Chapter would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Premier, Members of Cabinet, the Opposition and relevant officials to discuss the Motion in greater detail, to address the questions it raises, and to explore collaboratively how Government's objectives may best be achieved in the public interest. We look forward to continuing our constructive engagement with Government as these matters are considered.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gilbert', with a horizontal line underneath.

Andrew Gilbert MRICS
Chair, RICS Cayman Islands Chapter