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Commission for Standards in Public Life Hosts Good Governance Reception and Panel Discussion

As part of its ongoing **"Good Governance Begins with All of Us"** public engagement campaign, the Commission for Standards in Public Life (CSPL), in partnership with Her Excellency the Governor, Jane Owen, and the Honourable Premier, André Ebanks, hosted a reception and panel discussion on 11 November at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands.

The event brought together 65 guests, including elected officials, senior government officials, members of public boards and commissions, and representatives from the private sector, for an evening of discussion and engagement on strengthening good governance in the Cayman Islands.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring Her Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Premier and CSPL Chairman Woody Foster, moderated by Honourable Deputy Governor Gloria McField-Nixon. The discussion aimed to encourage an informed, constructive and forward-looking conversation about the importance of good governance and how ethical standards can be strengthened through practical reforms and a shared commitment across public institutions.

Panellists explored three key areas identified through the CSPL's public consultation: the Register of Interests, the processes for appointing and training members of public boards, and the development of a Parliamentary Code of Conduct. Guests were also invited to share their perspectives and contribute to an open dialogue about what good governance means in practice and how it can be advanced across the Cayman Islands.

Commenting on the event, Her Excellency the Governor, Jane Owen, said: "Good governance is fundamental to maintaining public trust and confidence in our institutions. This campaign provides an important opportunity to bring people together, exchange perspectives and consider how we can continue to strengthen governance across the Cayman Islands. I hope we can build on the constructive discussion at this event, maintain momentum and continue working together to strengthen standards in public life. I encourage everyone to take part in the consultation and contribute their views."

Honourable Premier, André Ebanks added:

“Good governance is central to this Government’s strategic priorities, but bolstering it requires more than policies and commitments. It requires ongoing dialogue, a willingness to examine existing practices and a shared commitment to the highest standards across our public institutions. This event provided a valuable opportunity to bring people together from across our community to exchange perspectives and discuss practical ways to strengthen governance. These conversations are important to translating our commitments to integrity, accountability and public participation into meaningful action. I welcome the Commission’s continued work and encourage organisations and members of the public to participate in the consultation and help shape the way forward”

In his remarks, CSPL Chairman Woody Foster highlighted the importance of public participation in shaping the future of good governance in the Cayman Islands and explained the Commission's objectives for the consultation:

“The Commission is currently seeking views on several areas for improvement. These include the accessibility of the Register of Interests, the development of a Parliamentary Code of Conduct, recruitment and governance training for public board members, and amendments to the Standards in Public Life Act.

These may sound like technical matters, but they have real consequences for our society. They shape how public responsibilities are exercised, how potential conflicts of interest are managed, and how confidence in our institutions is maintained.

As we continue this engagement, we are not here simply to present information or tell you what good governance should look like. We are here to listen, to encourage thoughtful discussion, and to learn from the experiences and perspectives of people across our islands.”

The CSPL's public consultation, being conducted under its **“Good Governance Begins with All of Us”** campaign, will continue through February 2027. The consultation will include further stakeholder engagement through surveys, events and workshops, providing opportunities for members of the public and organisations to contribute their views on strengthening standards in public life.

The Commission encourages organisations interested in participating in future discussions or hosting an engagement session to get in touch with the CSPL by emailing info@standardsinpubliclifecommission.ky or calling 244-3685.