

Ministry of Home Affairs Frontline Employee Event 2024: Celebrating Excellence and Leadership

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands – 10th December 2024 – The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently hosted its inaugural Frontline Employee Event, which took place on Friday, the 29th of November, 2024. This remarkable event brought together frontline employees from across various sectors to celebrate their invaluable contributions and set a new standard for collaboration and excellence in public service delivery.

Frontline employees within MHA play a critical role in safeguarding communities, ensuring public safety, and providing vital services. These dedicated individuals face significant challenges each day, yet their commitment has a lasting impact on the well-being of the public. The MHA Frontline Event offered an opportunity to recognize their tireless efforts while fostering greater cross-sector collaboration.

The event, held under the theme “One Mission, One Team: Protecting, Serving, and Leading with Excellence,” emphasized the unity shared by frontline workers, regardless of their specific roles, all driven by a common mission of excellence and service to the community. Employees from key departments and the Core Ministry were celebrated, including; the Cayman Islands Fire Service (CIFS), the Cayman Islands Regiment (CIR), His Majesty’s Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS), the Department of Community Rehabilitation (DCR), the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps (CICC), and the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC).

The event featured insightful discussions, engaging activities, and inspiring speeches that motivated attendees to continue their work with renewed passion. Deputy Governor and Head of the Civil Service, Franz Manderson, kicked off the event with a powerful speech highlighting the theme of “One Mission, One Team” and underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration. He emphasized the collective responsibility of all public servants in achieving the highest standards of service.

The Honourable Minister, Isaac Rankine, MP, Minister of Youth, Sports, Heritage, and Home Affairs, expressed his pride in the Ministry's workforce during his remarks at the event:

"Our frontline employees are the backbone of our communities, demonstrating courage, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence every day. This event is a testament to your vital role, and it reflects our deep gratitude for your service. Together, we are building a safer, stronger Cayman Islands, and I am honored to support this mission of protecting and serving with excellence."

Her Excellency the Governor, Jane Owen, delivered a keynote address that resonated deeply with attendees. Her vision for excellence in public service inspired all, stressing the importance of leadership, service, and the lasting impact each individual can have. She urged the development of a culture of excellence and continuous improvement within organizations, reinforcing the importance of every employee embracing leadership, regardless of their position.

A dynamic panel discussion followed, where key figures shared their insights on the theme "One Mission, One Team: Protecting, Serving, and Leading with Excellence." The panel featured;

- D. Randy Rankin, Chief Fire Officer, Cayman Islands Fire Service
- Leanni Tibbetts, Commercial Pilot, Cayman Airways, Entrepreneur, and Miss World Cayman Islands 2022-2024
- Angelyn Hernandez, Chief Magistrate of the Summary Court of the Cayman Islands

The discussion focused on the importance of collaboration, leadership, and providing continuous support for frontline workers. The panel highlighted that open communication and sector collaboration are key to enhancing service delivery.

A major highlight of the event was the launch of the Emerging Leaders Programme and Awards, a six-month leadership initiative designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders across all departments. This programme aligns with the Cayman Islands Government's succession planning objectives and underscores the MHA's commitment to nurturing talent.

The 2024-2025 Emerging Leaders Awardees are; Nathan Dack – CIR, Bronwen Caraballo – DCR, Jaheem Hayles – CICC, Jermaine Anderson – HMCIPS, Camellia Alexander – DPSC, Rhojel Gayle – CIFS, and Abigail Perez – MHA.

The success of the MHA Frontline Event was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the planning team. Every aspect of the event was meticulously planned, ensuring a seamless and impactful experience for all attendees. MHA extends special thanks to the panelists, guest speakers, and all participants for their contributions, which made the event truly memorable.

As we reflect on the success of this year's event, we are excited to continue this tradition of celebrating the remarkable work of frontline workers and fostering cross-sector collaboration. Plans are already underway for next year's event, with a focus on building upon the lessons learned and relationships formed.

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