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The Port Authority of the Cayman Islands has been the subject of recent comment and speculation with respect to various requests made under the Freedom of Information Law regarding the proposed port expansion project. Although the Authority believes it has no obligation to respond to comment and speculation, it now wishes to state its position clearly.

The Authority is committed to the principles of accountability, transparency and public participation, as enshrined in the Freedom of Information Law. The FOI Law itself contemplates that requests for disclosure of information shall only be made after due compliance with the principles of independence, fairness and due process.

In responding to requests for commercially sensitive, confidential or legally privileged information, the Authority has adopted, as it is lawfully entitled to, a cautious and considered approach to disclosure. Regrettably, some information has been leaked by persons unknown to the local media before the Authority's own review of the issues had concluded.

Following due completion of the Authority's processes, and careful consideration, the Authority has today posted on its website, www.caymanport.com, the minutes of the board of directors meetings that have been the subject of recent requests for disclosure.

The Authority's board of directors, administrative staff and employees are committed to providing the best service possible for the Cayman Islands. It is hoped that the release of this information will end speculation and prevent further and unnecessary diversion of Authority resources.