

LEADER OF  
THE OPPOSITION  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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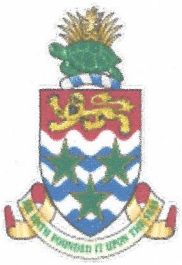
Honourable Alden McLaughlin MBE, JP, MP  
Premier  
Government Administration Building  
Box 102, 133 Elgin Ave  
Grand Cayman KY1-9000  
Cayman Islands

Dear Alden,

I delayed sending this letter to you in anticipation that certain actions would have been taken – but that has not been the case.

The recent conviction of the Speaker, Hon. W. McKeever Bush OBE, JP, MP seriously undermines those he represents, his colleagues, and crucially his position in the Parliament. Regrettably, his actions and subsequent conviction also do not erase what has been a stain on the public confidence that has brought the former Legislative Assembly, and now Parliament, into disrepute.

Whilst we welcome that the Speaker did acknowledge his guilt and sought the professional help he needed, he did not take the honourable course of action and step aside. The longer he remains in post, the longer his conduct will shame the very institution entrusted with making and upholding the laws of the land and which should serve as the moral compass of our citizens. Only his removal as the Speaker will reassure the public that there is not one rule for them and another for elected officials. This will also send the strongest signal that violence, especially against women, will not be tolerated. In the strongest of terms I urge you to take the necessary action forthwith.



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I have been made aware of recent comments attributed to you suggesting that the Speaker's removal would bring your government down. I found this very hard to believe when considering that it was eight years ago that you successfully moved a motion of no-confidence against W. McKeeva Bush OBE, JP, MP when as Premier he was arrested and charged. Although Mr. Bush was subsequently found to be not guilty of those charges, your stated position then was that by the mere fact that he was charged he should have to demit the important office of Premier.

Considering that your Cabinet and the then Legislative Assembly continued to function for several months without his presence, how will his removal now bring down your government? Surely his absence proved otherwise. Is the country to believe that his conviction for crimes that he pleaded guilty to should be acceptable because he is a part of your team? Are we also to believe that the principles you championed eight years ago, namely respect, decency and values, are only required of those who are politically opposed to you?

Like you, I also hold a constitutional office. There were others before us, and, there will be others after us. What we do today defines the roles for others to follow. I therefore ask you to objectively consider how any other political leader and Parliament would respond to a matter such as this. I would also ask you to consider the response of our fellow Caymanians and how other nations would assess the manner in which this matter should be resolved.

In view of the foregoing, I again urge you to exercise the leadership needed and restore the sanctity and dignity required of the position of Speaker of Parliament.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Arden McLean'.

V. Arden McLean, JP. MP  
Leader of the Opposition