

PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED ON 24 FEBRUARY 2020

I wish to extend my profound and sincere apologies to the management and staff of Coral Beach, the public, my colleagues, my constituents and in particular to Livia Kwong, the General Manager, for the incident which occurred on Friday 21 February, 2020. I went to Coral Beach to collect food to take home.

I have been subsequently informed that I passed out and fell. Being a significantly overweight person, I am told I made quite an impact. I don't recall passing out and falling. I am told that the management and staff rushed to my assistance, for which I wish to personally thank them. I am told that, with the assistance of the management and staff, that as they pulled me back to my feet I reacted badly to the very persons who were surrounding me and assisting me. I had no intention of doing so. I did not know where I was or what had happened or who was assisting me to get back to my feet. I was confused and disorientated, a similar feeling to that which I experienced when coming out of anesthetic from my previous operations. I can only assume that I must have believed that I was in danger.

I have always been transparent on matters concerning the public and committed the majority of my time and efforts in serving my constituents, the public and my country. I wish to share with the public a very personal matter, not by way of excuse, but in the hope that my personal experience and my own lack of dealing professionally with the same, may encourage others to take a different path from the one that I took.

Unfortunately, as many of you may be aware, I lost my daughter in tragic circumstances at the end of January a few years ago. At the time, I was dealing with a number of work related issues and did not take the advice of a number of my close friends to seek professional help to deal with the personal grief and our family's loss. I have, on numerous occasions, discussed with my Pastor these feelings of grief and my personal efforts to try and deal with them but I did not take the time to come to grips with the tragedy.

I cannot describe in words the deep feelings of sorrow and depression that one experiences with the unexpected loss of a loved one and in particular, a child. It is something which lives with you twenty four hours a day, every day and which time does not heal. I find myself going to my daughter's grave site on a regular basis, sometimes in the middle of the night or later. These feelings get worse in times surrounding the event of loss and on Friday 21, February 2020, I found myself sitting at her grave site and my mother's who was very dear to me.

This incident has brought home to me the result of my failures to seek professional help and a realization of my inability, despite significant efforts, to deal with this on my own. I am committed to seeking long term professional help to assist me in dealing with the emotional pain which I am experiencing and to cease any use of alcohol as it exaggerates my emotional pain.

I hope that the sharing of my experience with the public will encourage persons who have had or may have a very similar tragic experience to seek professional assistance. The trauma of an event such as my own, no matter how strong we think we are, lives with you each day and every hour of the rest of your life and professional assistance may not ease the pain, but will help to deal with in a more effective manner than I have done.

Despite these emotions, I have always worked diligently on behalf of my constituents, the community and the Cayman Islands in dealing with the various issues, both internationally, regionally and locally which our country has encountered and I will continue to do so.


McKeeva Bush