

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ezzard Miller, ezzard@candw.ky, 327-5757

Date: February 28, 2020

Miller Calls for a Special Meeting of the Legislative Assembly: To Elect Deputy Speaker and Debate Vote of No Confidence

Subsequent to the resignation of Mr. Bernie Bush as Deputy Speaker, North Side MLA Ezzard Miller is calling on the Members of the Opposition to join him in requesting a special meeting of the Legislative Assembly to elect a Deputy Speaker and debate a Motion of No Confidence in the Speaker.

“The Cayman Islands is on the verge of a constitutional crisis. To forestall this, we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, must assume our responsibility by invoking the relevant provisions of the Cayman Islands Constitution and the Legislature’s Standing Orders to deal with such matters,” Mr. Miller said.

The North Side Member said that this was urgent, as while there is no written Code of Conduct, there is certainly an implicit Code to which every Member subscribes:

“At the core of our unwritten Code of Conduct is a pledge to safeguard the respect necessary to maintaining the trust and confidence of the local population and the international community. When we damage that respect as has so obviously happened in this case, then our fidelity to the institution that we serve and represent must be challenged,” Mr. Miller said.

Invoking the relevant constitutional and legislative provisions has become necessary, Mr. Miller said, as “It is obvious that the Speaker will not do the honourable thing and resign. It is also clear that the Premier and the Unity Government will not revoke the current Speaker’s election.”

In the meantime, the North Side MLA, thanked Mr. Bernie Bush for his service as Deputy Speaker and for making the decision called for in the present circumstances, adding:

“I congratulate Mr. Bernie Bush on his bold and decisive action in tendering his resignation from the position of Deputy Speaker subsequent to the Speaker announcing that he is taking a leave of absence from the duties of Speakership,” Mr. Miller said.

Nevertheless, Mr. Miller was concerned that the resignation of the Deputy Speaker leaves the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands with a procedural void in the event there needs to be a meeting of the Legislative assembly to deal with urgent matters such as the passage of legislation to remove the Cayman Islands from the OECD blacklist.

To address such urgent needs for continuity in government business, Mr. Miller noted that section 72 of the Constitution mandates the election of a Member other than a Minister to serve as Deputy Speaker.

In order to convene a meeting of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Miller called on Members of the Legislative Assembly charged with responsibility for the good governance of the Cayman Islands to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 8(2) of the Legislative Assembly:

“In addition to the meetings provided for in Paragraph (1), the Presiding Officer [the Speaker] may, in his discretion, summon a meeting of the House and shall do so on the written requisition signed by not less than seven members, stating the terms of the motion or motions which they wish to debate. Notice of any such meeting shall be given to Members as soon as possible by the Clerk.”

To achieve the required seven numbers, Mr. Miller is inviting the Leader of the Opposition and his five colleagues to join him in requesting a special meeting of the Legislative Assembly: “I would be happy to sign as the seventh Member in accordance with the stated provisions of the Standing Orders.”

This meeting of the House would be to debate two motions: the first, to elect a Deputy Speaker and, the second, to debate a Motion of No Confidence in the current Speaker the Hon. McKeeva Bush.

“As duly elected representatives of the People in the nineteen electoral districts, it is our responsibility to act in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and do the right thing for these beloved Island in safeguarding the reputation of the Legislative Assembly and of the Cayman Islands,” Mr. Miller said.