

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

For Immediate Release

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Hon. Bernie Bush MLA resigns as Deputy Speaker.

West Bay North MLA Bernie Bush today announced his resignation as Deputy Speaker of the House with the support of Opposition colleagues, and with immediate effect, in accordance with Section 65 2(b) of the Cayman Islands Constitution.

Mr Bush states, "It has been a great privilege to serve as Deputy Speaker of the House and an honour that I will cherish long after I cease to be a member of the Legislative Assembly."

Mr. Bush went on to make the following statements:

"The recent incident involving the Speaker of the House which resulted in a female member of the public being injured, only to be followed by the Speaker taking a temporary leave of absence, leaves me in an untenable situation when considering the severity and seriousness of this incident and the implications of the Speaker's planned leave."

"Like many of you, this issue has prompted many of conversations not only within my personal circle, and with constituents, but also with the Leader of the Opposition and some of my other colleagues as well. I am encouraged by the many people who refuse to stay silent and refuse to compromise their principles. More and more people are choosing to do the hard but right thing, instead of going along trying to justify the easy wrong."

"While I will forever be grateful and humbled by the confidence bestowed upon me by the voters of West Bay who elected me to be a representative for my home district of West Bay for close to 7 years, first and foremost, I am a father of 2 wonderful daughters, and a grandfather to 2 very precious granddaughters."

"I was raised to respect the role of women not only in our homes, but in our society as well. Caymanian women have always had a strong role to play; they were the backbone when our grandfathers and fathers went off to sea and through nature, remains our first nurturers and teachers. I cannot condone violence against anyone and as an elected leader, I certainly expect to be held to a higher, not lower standard, of conduct."

“The Speaker of the House has admitted that he will be seeking the help he needs, and I wish him and his family well in what will be a long and difficult process. But with great power, comes great responsibility, and as a representative of the people I must always strive to lead by example. I therefore in good conscience cannot step up to fill a role that has been tainted by the weakness of the Unity Government to take the morally right, rather than, politically expedient course of action.”

“I started my political service on the premise that my principles will not be for sale or rent and remaining in the post as Deputy Speaker, in view of the current circumstances, would very much go against my core values. I therefore humbly resign as Deputy Speaker with immediate effect.”

“I ask that you all continue to pray for the victim and the many other victims who have the unfortunate experience of dealing with violence. I also ask that you also pray for the many perpetrators of violence so that they may turn from the errors of their ways and find the peace that they need. As a community, we are making strides in standing up for what is right.”

Mr Bush ends by saying, “May God bless you all and continue to bless these Cayman Islands.”.

#sheissupported #metoo

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