



**Statement from the Hon. Moses Kirkconnell  
Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism  
on the passing of Robert Hamaty**

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The Ministry of Tourism is greatly saddened by the passing of our dear friend and esteemed tourism industry partner, Robert “Robbie” Hamaty, who died in Florida on Saturday 13 June, 2020.

Originally from Jamaica, Robert Hamaty made the Cayman Islands his home for over four decades. He was well-known as Captain Hamaty during his days as a pilot with Cayman Airways, but is perhaps best known for founding the Tortuga Rum Company in 1984, along with his wife Carlene. The company has since flourished into an internationally recognized brand and its rum cakes are the Cayman Islands number one export.

Robert Hamaty was a man of purpose who was admired for his business acumen and highly respected as an advocate for our tourism industry. In 1992 he was appointed as the Cayman Islands first Honorary Consul for Jamaica and greatly contributed to the development of diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries during his 16 year tenure.

Throughout his life Robert Hamaty received many well-deserved accolades from international organisations and publications, and held Directorships on a number of Boards, locally and overseas. He served as Chairman of the Cayman Islands’ Port Improvement and Beautification Committee from 2001 to 2004, and was a founding member of both the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Airline Pilots Associations.

In 2010 Robert Hamaty was conferred with the Order of Distinction, in the Rank of Officer, in recognition of his outstanding service and accomplishments in the fields of tourism & hospitality, manufacturing and global brand building.

Robert Hamaty held a deep and abiding love for the Cayman Islands, and his passion for people and spirit of Caymankindness were evident in every aspect of his life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and by countless others who took inspiration from his courage, integrity and strength of character.

The Ministry of Tourism extends deepest sympathy to Robert's family, friends and loved ones at this sad time. We are sorry for your loss and trust that you will find comfort together during this difficult time. We pray that Robert is resting in God's eternal peace and will fondly cherish the memories he has left in our hearts.