

For months Cayman Voices has been advocating for greater accountability among our Ministers of Parliament and for efforts to end gender-based violence within our shores. We have, unequivocally stood against the empowerment of perpetrators at all levels, most of all among those in a position of national leadership.

Since the election was held on 14 April the country has found itself once again in an untenable position as speculations take over as to who will form the next government and many people who may feel exhausted, angry, and disenfranchised, have reacted accordingly.

In numerous chat groups, behind closed doors and at work cubicles it appears that the question has boiled down to this choice:

Choice 1: A PACT led government that includes the convicted criminal, McKeeva Bush.

OR

Choice 2: A PPM led government that includes the convicted criminal, McKeeva Bush.

In a perfect world our response would have been neither. We do not believe that any person who has shown such disregard for our Parliament, our laws, or our residents should be given more power by sitting as part of a government. Yes, the voters of West Bay West have every right to vote for whomever they choose, but it is the responsibility of the remaining 18 elected MPs to decide how much **more** power they will put in this individual's hands.

Our country is divided, and the only way to truly bridge this division would be to **form a true coalition government with capable members from within both groups** coming together to lead. Unfortunately, as we have seen, this does not appear to be possible.

As such, it appears as if the PACT has in fact taken steps to reseat McKeeva Bush in the Speaker's chair.

We understand that many people are disillusioned with our current leaders, that they want a better way forward for Cayman, and that they want change.

We also understand that the desire for change has people bending over backwards to rationalise the compromise that is being asked of this two-choices scenario. We are being told this is what is necessary for the best interest of the country, that this is necessary to save Cayman from all other ills, and that it is easier to keep one person under surveillance than an entire government. We do not judge those who see things that way.

For Cayman Voices, The PACT represents more than simply "not PPM".

It represents the potential for change from the status quo, change from the old ways, change from business as usual. The PACT represents hope.

To have the PACT's first step into governance be to embrace the very person whose actions, compounded by the inaction of the Progressives, which again, puts us in the same position as we started in, is simply too high a price to pay.

The issues at hand are greater than a single individual, but what message does it send to our children, to victims of violence, to first time voters and so many others to end up in the exact place from where we started?

When the PPM failed to act we lost. When the PPM failed to act again we lost again. Now, as the country grapples with a stalemate it appears that we will lose once more.



Yes, it was the Progressives who put us in this untenable position yet again, and each elected PPM and Alliance member hiding behind party loyalty instead of putting the country first bears the weight of what is to come. However, neither side has the high ground on this.

We are grappling with our disappointment, but we are not defeated. It is clear now that we will need to redouble our efforts to push for the necessary change needed in our country. We will hold both sides to their campaign declarations of supporting greater accountability, the implementation of a ROBUST code of conduct, for MPs, clear procedures for resignation, revising and updating the eligibility clause for those who wish to hold public office, and the implementation of a recall mechanism so that we are never put in this position again.

Our goal is simple: we want accountability with integrity among our leaders to become the norm and not the exception.

No matter what happens next, Cayman Voices remains committed to the fight for greater accountability of our elected officials.

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