



OFFICE OF THE
PREMIER
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

**Statement by
The Honourable McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP
Premier and Minister for Finance, Tourism & Development**

Despite the criticism that we've heard about this Government financially supporting churches, working with and supporting churches in the community is nothing new. I did so in the past when I was in Government as a member of ExCo and then as Member of Cabinet; but so did the PPM.

But now the Leader of the PPM and the two independent MLAs are so overly critical of the Nation Building Fund financially supporting churches with construction of buildings that can also serve as hurricane shelters.

This is so contradictory of the Leader of the PPM and the Independent Members. In a letter dated 24 April 2009 the then Deputy Chief Secretary wrote to Pastor Winston Rose saying, and I quote, "The Cayman Islands Government remains committed to supporting the efforts of your church to build a new church hall in Bodden Town to standards and specifications that will allow the facility to serve as a Category A hurricane shelter..."

I lay that correspondence on the table of this Honourable House.

After stating the terms agreed to, the letter concludes by saying, quote, "We would, armed with this assurance, seek to have the government appropriate \$1.0 - \$1.25M in its 09/10 budget.

The very people they promised just before the election in 2009 is the church we are assisting today.

Before anyone says, "oh that was the Deputy Chief Secretary writing that," you can rest assured that it was the political arm of the Government, which happened to be the PPM that appropriated any money.

However, now that they are not the Government, they change their position. If it was appropriate for the PPM Government to give funds to churches in 2009, it must be appropriate for the UDP Government to give churches funds for similar projects and programmes in 2012 if and when funds are available.