



THE IMMIGRATION (GRANT OF THE RIGHT TO BE CAYMANIAN)

(NO. 4) ORDER, 2017

Mister Speaker, this motion is being tabled in relation to the Cabinet Grant of the Right to be Caymanian to Mr. David George Morritt in compliance with 20(1)(e) of the Immigration Law (2015 Revision).

Mister Speaker, in February 2015, an application was made to the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board for the right to be Caymanian for Mr. Morritt. However, in October 2015 the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board deferred Mr. Morritt's application and made a recommendation to Cabinet for the grant of the right to be Caymanian.

In November 2017, Mister Speaker, Cabinet approved the recommendation for Mr. Morritt to be granted the Right to be Caymanian, and requested that the decision be sent to the Legislative Assembly for ratification.

Mister Speaker, I will now set out why the Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency Board and Cabinet were convinced that Mr. Morriott deserves the highest status that we grant non-nationals, the right to be Caymanian.

Mister Speaker, David Morritt is a [seventy-one year old] British national who has spent most of his time in the Cayman Islands since 1988.

He considers the Cayman Islands to be his home and pays homage for bringing his dreams and aspirations to fruition. Mr. Morritt has fully integrated into the community of the Cayman Islands and is highly respected and regarded for his significant local investments and on-going contributions of around

\$15,000-\$20,000 each year for various local charities and causes.

Mister Speaker, since arriving in the Cayman Islands in 1988, Mr. Morritt has made substantial investments in the eastern district of Grand Cayman. In 1988, he purchased Tortuga Club and later developed Morritt's Tortuga Club, followed by Morritt's Grand and in 2014 a twenty-unit luxury section of the property called, The Londoner. The resort has received distinguished awards and accolades including the prestigious Gold Crown Resort (Morritt's Grand Resort) and the Silver Crown Resort property designation by RCI – the worldwide leader in vacation exchange (Morritt's Tortuga Club). It was also awarded the best resort in the Caribbean and Latin America. These awards not only enhanced the resort's own reputation but Cayman's tourism product as well.

Moreover, Mister Speaker, Mr. Morritt has contributed to the livelihood of Caymanians through employment opportunities as over 80% of the resort's employees are Caymanian and, notably, provided the opportunity that has allowed for a young Caymanian business owner to establish his business at the Morritt's Resort.

Mister Speaker, Mr. Morritt spends the majority of his time in the Cayman Islands and continues to have aspirations of additional growth and expansion for the resort. He has remained robust about the Islands and demonstrated outstanding contributions in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, which significantly assisted the Caymanian people and the revitalization of the economy during this difficult time. Notably, he provided free water to residents throughout East End by filling tankers with water from the resort and provided food and supplies to the two East End shelters.

However, Mister Speaker in spite of Mr. Morritt's contributions and active role in investing and developing in the Cayman Islands for over 25 years, he has never acquired status and has remained here as a visitor as he has never been advised on the matter. As a result, he is not in a position to move forward in acquiring Cayman status through traditional means.

Mister Speaker, Mr. Morritt's long-standing interest in the Cayman Islands matched with his long term business strategies, including expansions and continued development of the property, demonstrates his steadfast commitment and positive contributions to the tourism sector and economic sustainability of the Cayman Islands.

Mister Speaker, it is for the foregoing reasons that the Cayman Status and Permanent Board recommended to Cabinet Mr. Morritt's application for the Right to be Caymanian by way of a Cabinet Grant. Furthermore, Mister Speaker, my Cabinet

supported the recommendation of the Board, as we recognize his significant contributions to the tourism industry, the advancement of the eastern district and additional plans for further development.

There is no doubt that Mr. Morritt's tourism product has brought positive international exposure to the Cayman Islands and is therefore a person deserving of consideration of being granted the right to be Cayman in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Law.