



**Statement by the
Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Ports
on
The Cayman Airways Twin Otter Acquisition
2024 December Session of Parliament**

Mister Speaker, I recently had the honour of joining Cayman Airways in celebrating the christening of the third Twin Otter aircraft to join the Cayman Airways fleet – a milestone moment for our national airline and our Islands.

This aircraft represents a significant investment in Cayman Airways and underscores the government's commitment to ensuring that there is a reliable airbridge between Grand Cayman and our Sister Islands.

Additionally Mister Speaker, it fulfils a commitment that I made to the Honourable Member from Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman, that I would do everything possible to provide an additional aircraft to address several longstanding challenges, and I am pleased to have kept my word in that regard.

The decision to purchase this particular type of aircraft was driven by several critical factors that made the Twin Otter the best choice for our Islands unique aviation needs and will enable Cayman Airways to enhance its operations across the Cayman Islands.

Operational Reliability:

With one aircraft always undergoing annual maintenance, the fleet previously relied on a single plane to serve Little Cayman, risking service disruptions. The addition of this Twin Otter ensures consistent connectivity and reliability.

Unique STOL Capabilities:

The Twin Otter's Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) performance is perfectly suited for the short and unpaved runways like Little Cayman, allowing it to operate where other aircraft cannot.

Versatility for Island Needs:

The aircraft can seamlessly switch between passenger and cargo configurations (with its fold up seats), making it uniquely suited for transporting both passengers and supplies to Little Cayman (including

when barge services are disrupted). Additionally, its certified medevac setup supports vital emergency medical evacuations.

Cost-Effectiveness and Longevity:

Despite the hull being 48 years old, the Twin Otter has undergone extensive refurbishment, including new engines, wings, and other critical upgrades, ensuring it remains operational until at least 2040. It is essentially a new aircraft. Moreover, this aircraft retains long-term value making it far more cost-effective than purchasing a newly produced plane.

Modernized Avionics for Maintenance and Efficiency:

The replacement of 35 outdated instruments with a streamlined "glass cockpit" featuring three advanced screens, reduces maintenance complexity, improves operational efficiency and reduces instances of parts being obsolete or unavailable.

Lack of Suitable Alternatives:

Competing models like the Cessna 406 were considered prior to purchasing the Twin Otter but they did not meet the same operational requirements. The Twin Otter's unique combination of STOL

performance, cargo versatility, and durability made it the only viable choice for the unique needs of Little Cayman.

Preparedness for Diverse Runways:

The Twin Otter can operate on grass, dirt, and other non-improved surfaces, making it indispensable for maintaining reliable connectivity to remote islands like Little Cayman.

Critical Role in Connectivity:

Beyond its technical features, the aircraft plays an essential role in supporting the Cayman Islands' economy and healthcare system by ensuring the smooth transport of passengers, goods, and medical patients.

Mister Speaker, by acquiring the Twin Otter, Cayman Airways has invested in a robust, adaptable, and long-lasting solution tailored to the unique demands of the Cayman Islands, ensuring continued service and operational efficiency well into the future.

Dedication to First Officer Adrian West:

What makes this aircraft even more special is its registration, **VP-CAW**, which honors the late First Officer Adrian West, a beloved member of staff within the Cayman Airways' family, who tragically passed away last year. I am pleased that his memory will live on and he will always be remembered through this aircraft.

Mister Speaker, the Twin Otter is the perfect gift from Government to our national airline and by extension to the residents of our Sister Islands who depend on this service to travel between our Islands.

May VP-CAW carry its passengers safely and proudly, continuing Cayman Airways proud tradition of service excellence.

Thank you Mister Speaker