



STATEMENT

By Hon. Gary Ruddy,
Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism & Trade Development

Acknowledging the Retirement of Mr. Fabian Whorms
President & CEO, Cayman Airways.

Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to recognise and pay tribute to Mr. Fabian Whorms, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cayman Airways Limited.

After 43 years in the aviation industry, and 31 years of dedicated service to our national airline, Mr. Whorms has announced his retirement, effective December 2026, following decades of exemplary service to Cayman Airways and the people it serves.

Mr. Speaker, Fabian Whorms began his aviation career in 1983 with Air Jamaica, where he spent 12 years before joining Cayman Airways on May 1, 1995. With a professional background rooted in aircraft maintenance and engineering, he held a number of senior positions at Cayman Airways and served as Vice President of Maintenance and Engineering from 2001 to 2009.

In 2009, he was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer, a position he has held for 17 years, making him the longest-serving CEO in the airline's history.

Throughout his tenure, Fabian Whorms led Cayman Airways with vision, foresight and a deep sense of responsibility. He has guided the airline through periods of challenge and uncertainty, as well as times of growth and achievement.

During his leadership, Cayman Airways has undergone significant modernization of its fleet, its operations and its international network. While his many accomplishments during three decades of service would be too numerous to mention, some of the most defining moments include:

- Cayman Airways becoming the first Caribbean-based airline to introduce the Boeing 737-8 when the first aircraft was delivered to the airline in 2018.
- The launch of new services to Denver and Los Angeles, establishing the longest nonstop routes ever operated directly from the Cayman Islands. Network expansion has continued with the recent launch of service to Austin, Texas.

- For the Sister Islands, the introduction of the Saab 340B+ aircraft which increased capacity and improved service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cayman Airways maintained repatriation services and critical links to the outside world, at a time when normal air travel was severely restricted. For his contribution to the Cayman Islands' pandemic response, Fabian was awarded a Cayman Islands Certificate of Honour acknowledging his meritorious service.
- Under his tenure Cayman Airways has earned significant regional and international recognition, including:
 - Caribbean Airline of the Year by Caribbean Journal in 2015.
 - Best Airline in the Caribbean, in the 2019 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards.
 - And being ranked among the world's top 15 international airlines by Travel and Leisure readers, in 2024.

Mr. Speaker, great leadership is not measured simply by the length of time a person occupies a position. It is measured by the strength of the organisation they have built; by the people they have encouraged and developed along the way; and by the examples they have set for others to follow.

By those measures, Fabian Whorms has so much to be proud of.

His ability to anticipate change and successfully lead the Organisation through it, has enabled our national airline to become stronger, more resilient and better prepared to carry out its strategic role of supporting tourism, driving economic activity and providing essential connectivity for the Cayman Islands.

Over the years, he has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues, partners, stakeholders and his Board of Directors, as well as all who have had the privilege of working alongside him.

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and Trade Development, I wish to express our deepest and most sincere appreciation to Fabian Whorms for his outstanding contribution to this country, and for the professionalism, dedication and integrity that has characterised his service.

As he prepares to begin a new chapter in his life, I wish him all the happiness in the world, good health and abundant blessings in his richly deserved retirement.

I hope that the years ahead will afford him the opportunity to enjoy the rewards of a career he so faithfully and successfully served.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members across this Honourable House will also join me in recognising Fabian and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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