



Statement from Donte Hunt JP MP in regards to Cayman immigration plans
28th December 2009

The Cayman plan is certainly one that is worth looking at. Having said that the Department of Immigration has made vast strides in turning work permit applications around very quickly and it is our understanding that the Department is working closely and quite successfully with the international business sector to find the right balance in terms of encouraging growth of international business and protecting the jobs of Bermudians. In fact some of what has happened in Cayman has happened here.

With Bermuda relying so heavily on international business for income and employment of locals given the staggering collapse of tourism, it is important to get it right. The Bermuda First report outlined ways in which the Government could ensure Bermuda remains a premier jurisdiction and grows. One of the recommendations was to launch a coordinated and sustained public education campaign that clearly articulates the contributions of international business to Bermuda and the opportunities that international business creates for Bermudians.

The report also recommended that the Government should further diversify Bermuda's economy, to minimize disruptions from particular market events and explore ways to provide incentives for such wealthy individuals to come to Bermuda and contribute to Bermuda's economy. The Alliance supports exploring and implementing at least the majority of recommendations contained in the report. Simply tinkering with immigration rules is not enough in a changing financial environment.