



Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 6 /2014-2015

Immigration Law- Immigration Accreditation System

WHEREAS the Immigration Law (2013 Revision) provides for the grant or refusal of work permits in the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS in 2009, the Government of the Cayman Islands commissioned a working group to consider an Immigration Accreditation System ("IAS") to place stricter controls on the large increase in the number of work permits; increased evidence of employers acting unscrupulously; increased evidence of employees being treated unfairly by employers, employers failing to comply with statutory pension and health insurance requirements; and employers failing to fulfill their responsibility to recruit, train and provide advancement opportunities for Caymanians;

AND WHEREAS a system to be called the Immigration Accreditation System has been proposed to better regulate the granting of work permits

AND WHEREAS Cayman has had to traditionally import skilled labour to compensate for the shortage amongst the local labour market in order to meet its employment needs.

AND WHEREAS the Immigration Department does not have the resources to verify in each instance, whether an employer is complying with Health and Pension Laws or other industry specific statutory requirements;

AND WHEREAS it has been recognised that employers who comply fully with all statutory requirement and who have a proven track record of employing Caymanians should be rewarded for their commitment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government consider a review and if necessary, a revision, of the Immigration Law (2013 Revision) and the draft Immigration Accreditation System with the view to implement, in short order, and no later than in six (6) months, the methodology set out in the draft Immigration Accreditation System documents;

BE IT THEREFORE ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Government considers appointing a task force to consider any relevant revisions to the Immigration Law subsequent to the draft IAS documents. Such task force to carry out public consultation and input from related stakeholders and present their revised draft of the Immigration Accreditation System which will be included in an amendment to the Immigration Law and brought into effect;

BE IT THEREFORE ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Government consider as part of the Immigration Accreditation System, the Singapore model, whereby for each skilled worker imported, ten percent of the work permit fee currently paid for such work permit holder, be paid into a segregated fund by the Immigration Department. The fund should be used solely for the training and up skilling of locals in order to teach skills and retool workers in order to allow unskilled locals to enter into and succeed in the skilled labour market that they are currently not able to access. Such fund can also act as a workforce income supplement to replace social services for those able to work and actively looking for work and willing to undergo such training in order to incentivise employers by supplementing salaries of locals training for employment.

Moved by:

Mr. Winston Churchill Connolly Jr, MLA
Fifth Elected Member for George Town

Seconded by:

Mr. Alva Suckoo, MLA
Fourth Elected Member for Bodden Town

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 18th day of August, 2014.

Passed by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly this 15th day of September, 2014.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly