2016 – A Unified Cayman

Dear Friends – I trust you and your family and friends have enjoyed a blessed Christmas

Now and yet again, our God has granted us in his goodness, to come to another year.

In whatever is our lot, let us not forget that it is he, that hath made us, and not we ourselves !!

God is good beyond all that is good. We pray for a better year ahead – that in all our relationships – at home – at work – in our social life – in our church – there would be a calmness, peace and concord. We want the divisiveness which may divide our people from each other – to go away – and a real unity of love to exist.

To build a home a community – our country – we must be one by the unanimity of a good mind. With agendas that make people better off.

To succeed – in our endeavours, we must be unified – or else, we will always be used and advantage taken of us.

The past year has seen government coffers enhanced – by the efforts of my administration. Yes new revenue, but the present government efforts has produced very little – and your plight has worsened – Bills – and more Bills that are not easily paid – more unemployment – more bureaucracy – less and less for both businesses and the man at the lower levels of employment. Benefits in terms of bonuses etc. have been less and less. We were promised a “NICE” program of work for the unemployed – they got a dirty deal. While $500,000.00 was sent to another island.

A plane was purchased for the Brac - but no ends of trouble exist with it. Airport works begun, but do not fit a plan for the long term enhancement of movement of people. With no Jet-Ways – no addition to its Run-Way – No Taxi-Way to assist with the safety of passengers and a plan that will see Cayman Airways – our own National Carrier – being more disadvantaged.

Yet they brand themselves, Progressives? The reality is, regressive.!!

Crime, particularly Robbery at gun-point is more prevalent today, than it ever has been – so safety of people – residents as well as visitors are not guaranteed.

More uncertainty exists in the financial services industry because of more black list by the OECD and threats of new regulations – that in the end, our harshest critics and our competitors themselves will not be in danger from.

Social deterioration in family life is wiping out the little gains made – by Social Programs that were in place in the 1990’s, and programs that strengthened family life, put in place by administrations that I have served in over the years.

National life can be expected to deteriorate, when the Social issues that affect the family are given a pittance of monetary support and no real attention. So crime will continue at unnecessary levels. Roads are always made by every government. A new road by itself, however, my friends cannot strengthen national life and give security from the kind of social deterioration now prevailing. People must be taken care of – their needs dealt with, and real Social Development Programs implemented. So we build roads in George Town but people are hungry – with no place to lay their heads.

However, I know our people will not be fooled by the utterances of the government about how they will start to provide for them this year. We are not daft to be fooled when being starved for 3 years, and for the government to come in the last year of their term – to pack the place with all kinds of P/R, about jobs now!!!

So – as a people, in the year ahead I beseech you to join ranks with me. Let’s build an organization that will work – for you.

No I am not perfect – But the plans I put in place over the years – are helping the country survive today. Don’t forget that Camana Bay was going nowhere – when in 2001 – 2005 I gave permission for the 2 canals. Today the Camana Bay developments increases jobs and adds to our GDP.

Don’t forget that I was criticized about the development of the Ritz. Today it is the Flagship of our Tourism industry.

You might not know – but the Marriott was in problems – I stepped in and gave them government support – It survived and doing well today.

The Westin ran into a problem as well – as the Minister of Finance and Tourism – I gave them government support also. Today it is doing well and all 3 Hotels are strong pillars in our Tourism Product.

You know how much the PPM criticized me on the Shetty hospital. Today it gives us - strong tertiary level Health Care, and other aspects of Shetty’s developments is now about to move forward . I was criticized about Enterprise City but it is growing and more expansion from their plans is a certainty . A strong development sector and a stronger government budget put in place in 2012 created revenue and better surpluses, that is what we have today. The vision I have is where you, our people are the beneficiaries of programs, that enhance national life. – Let’s work together in the year ahead to strengthen that vision so that we have more jobs, and plans that give us sustainable development, will be accomplished. All that takes - vision and hardwork!!

It is this arena coming from the vision I am talking about, that you are needed. I will put young energetic people in place to assist and build their base as I cannot carry the burdens alone. Let’s stop the bickering – let’s work together to fashion a stronger Cayman Islands.

We look forward for the help of a God who changest not, with changing years – knowing not what may befall us in the year that has just begun; We ask him to give us wisdom, courage and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair and fear.

Let us first, trust him as much in the Shadow – as in the Sunshine.

Then – let us be not afraid to join hands to work together.

We need to be unified, as unity is needed; to beat the problems that all of us face as a country. This is the way I can help you, help yourselves !!

God Bless you and your families.