D. EZZARD MILLER.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

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Date: June 27, 2017.

To: Hon. Franz Manderson.

 Deputy Governor.

Subject:  **MLA’s Salaries.**

Dear Hon. Manderson,

Further to our exchange of e-mail correspondence on June 21 and 22 on the matter of the salaries paid to Members of the Cayman Islands Legislature the Opposition wish to express the following concerns;

1. The Opposition is concerned with the lack of transparency, logic, fairness and practical way by which the salaries for individual Members of the Legislative Assembly are determined.
2. The Opposition believes that it is totally inappropriate that Members continue to receive salaries for jobs they no longer perform.
3. The Opposition is equally concerned about the appointment of Councilors under section 54 sub-section 6 and how these councilors are compensated for their work.

The Opposition would like to propose the following changes to address our concerns. The fact that a member is re-elected by his constituents should be ample proof that the member has performed his job satisfactorily.

1. All Members are placed in salary scale D and receive one increment four each four years served. If a Member is given additional responsibilities such as Deputy Speaker or Deputy Leader of the Opposition they receive one additional increment for the period of time they perform that duty.
2. The Leader of the Opposition be placed in salary scale C and receive one increment for every four years served in that position.
3. The Members who are appointed Ministers be placed in salary scale B and receive one increment for each four years served in that position.
4. The current designation of members as Councilors should be changed by amending the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 in section 44 to provide for the appointment of Junior Ministers and that such Junior Ministers be placed in salary scale C and they earn one increment for every four years they perform the role of Junior Ministers.
5. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be placed in salary scale B and earn one increment for each four years they perform the job of Speaker.
6. The Premier be placed in salary scale A at point 4 and earn one increment for each four years served as Premier.
7. The Deputy Premier be placed in salary scale B and receive one additional increment for every four years served in that role.

The Opposition believes that these recommended changes provide the necessary transparency, logical and practical methodology by which Members of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly are compensated for their service and work on behalf of their constituents.

The current salaries for each of the Opposition Members, if the changes proposed above are accepted for the period 2017 to 2021 would be as follows;

D. Ezzard Miller Leader of the Opposition – Salary scale C Pt. 1 $128,292.

Anthony Eden (28 years) Salary scale D Pt. 8 $130,668.

Arden McLean (16 years) Salary scale D Pt 5 $121,320.

Alva Suckoo (4years and deputy LOO) Salary scale D Pt. 3 $115.488

Christopher Saunders (first term) Salary scale D Pt. 1 $109,932.

Kenneth Bryan (first term) Salary scale D Pt. 1 $109,932.

The Opposition also believes that the Constituency allowance of $4,000 be given to each member to assist with the operation of an office in their Electoral Districts without the three components detailed in the guidelines for disbursement of the Constituency allowance or the fifty percent reduction in allowance if the office is in the Member’s house.

We also support the employment of a Constituency Office Administrative Assistant under a proper Government contract.

The Opposition invites you to adopt these recommendations for all members of the Legislative Assembly as we believe this would make all members equal.

However we are not intending that any adjustments to Members existing salaries should lead to a reduction, but we do contend that in the case of both Mr. Arden McLean and Mr. Anthony Eden they should be rewarded for their years of service with the recommended increments.

This would make the system by which Members are paid fully transparent, practical and logical. We further believe that such a system of compensation would be acceptable to the general public and remove the veil of secrecy and the perception that some Members are treated better that others.

Sincerely,

D. Ezzard Miller

Leader of the Opposition.

cc. Hon. Premier.