Legislative Assembly of the

Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 5/2016-2017

MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

WHEREAS if we are to hold ourselves out as a first world jurisdiction it is crucial to have quality professionals to ensure that they have the right skills, knowledge and competence for the work that they do for the public. As a country we must ensure that there are high standards of public accountability that match up to internationally accepted professional standards in each discipline, including continuing education and training;

AND WHEREAS the following professions are actively practised in Cayman, viz.:

1. Accountants
2. Architects
3. Attorneys
4. Contractors
5. Engineers
6. Health Practitioners
7. Interior Designers
8. Real Estate Agents
9. Surveyors
10. Teachers

There is a need to have a robust system to properly hold professionals to account when their work is sub-standard and rigor in the assessment of competency and qualifications and better checks and balances in regulating professions to ensure the public interest is served;

AND WHEREAS a number of these professions are completely unregulated or others regulated by outdated regulations. Concerns remain that as a country, to protect our national and international reputation, we need to ensure that the quality of professional services is ensured and maintained;

AND WHEREAS the primary purpose of professional registration in a discipline is to protect the public health and safety, as an international financial centre, Cayman must be seen to regulate its professionals to equivalent international standards to ensure that a system exists which is fair and highly skilled with adequate safeguards and support for inward investment;

AND WHEREAS it is currently possible for architects, engineers and some medical practitioners to come to the Cayman Islands and practice without being licensed, without even a trade and business licence;

AND WHEREAS government has in the past also contributed to the phenomenon, even setting up tenders to favour overseas groups. This does not allow local businesses to grow and provide education and employment for those Caymanians trying to get into the field nor does it provide adequate advancement opportunities for Caymanian professionals;

AND WHEREAS a review of the regulation of all entities holding themselves out as professionals is needed and where appropriate, existing regulations should be modernised and regimes put in place where there are none.

The following professions and industries need to be regulated and professional regulations put in place for:

1. Architects
2. Contractors
3. Engineers
4. Interior Designers
5. Pharmacists
6. Real Estate Agents
7. Teachers
8. Surveyors; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government consider putting in place the regulatory regime to facilitate the registration/regulation of all professionals and professional bodies in the Cayman Islands.

Moved by: _____
Mr. Winston C Connolly, Jr, MLA
Fifth Elected Member for George Town

Seconded: _____
Mr. Alva H Suckoo, MLA
Fourth Elected Member for Bodden Town

Tabled in the Office of the Clerk this 21st day of May, 2016.

Passed by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly this 23rd day of February, 2017.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly