



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, 22 October 2004

Contact: Pat Ebanks

Direct line: 345-244-1763

Tel: (345) 949-8092

Fax: (345) 949-5936, 946-0664

E-mail address: [patricia.ebanks@gov.ky](mailto:patricia.ebanks@gov.ky)

Official Government Website: [www.gov.ky](http://www.gov.ky)

## NEWSLETTER TO BETTER INFORM THE PUBLIC

The Cayman Islands Government Information Services today (Friday, 22 October) published its first Ivan-related weekly newsletter, *CaymanSpirit*, focusing on the work of Government's Cayman Islands Recovery Operation (CIRO). The newsletter is being distributed as an insert in the *Caymanian Compass*, which will hit the newsstands tonight.

CIRO is the work of a wide-cross section of civil servants working to restore public services and solve needs in post-Ivan Cayman. It will hold its first press conference next Friday, 29 October, at 2 p.m., to announce important milestones in recovery operations. (A press briefing will be routinely scheduled for successive Fridays, with news conferences announced from time-to-time, as CIRO's work progresses.) The newsletter is another means of ensuring that the public gets the information it needs in the recovery process.

Stories in this first issue inform on how CIRO is responding to the demand for temporary housing for the population, tourism's recovery, and the compilation of data to assist Cayman in securing aid from donor agencies.

Members of the public will learn about the debris removal schedule for their areas, landlord/tenants issues, and will have a complete schedule of school re-openings to the end of this month, among other topical concerns. The newsletter also carries an inspiring story of how one family is coping with post-Ivan recovery. Such human-interest stories are expected to be a regular feature of the newsletter, and members of the public are invited to suggest stories.

"The production of *CaymanSpirit* is the story in itself of the indomitable Caymanian spirit rising above the constraints around us," says Editor-in-Chief Patricia Ebanks, Director of the Government Information Services. "Where accessibility to normal tools of production failed, we resorted to traditional resources – human ingenuity."

In the absence of local printing facilities, Government's Computer Services yesterday put on an overnight crew, with three top-level managers pitching in, to produce 8,000 copies.

“We also discovered in the process that there were no working folding machines on Grand Cayman, so our Computer Services crew dutifully folded and inserted through the night,” Ms Ebanks said.

“I am also indebted to *Caymanian Compass*’ Brian Uzzell, who, offered, as a public service to the people of these Islands, to insert the *CaymanSpirit* into his newspaper that arrives this afternoon,” said Ms Ebanks. “Mr. Uzzell and his crew will be very busy this afternoon working against time to ensure that the population receives its copies of *CaymanSpirit*.” (Ms Ebanks noted that the intensity of operations by Computer Services does not allow a double run which would be required for distribution by means of other sources.)

Ms Ebanks also complimented the dedication of her staff: “The public will have an opportunity to see today the calibre work that is produced by GIS.” The staff of the unit worked on the production of the newsletter in addition to their many other roles: responding to public inquiries; issuing non-Ivan news releases on behalf of Government; drafting speeches, messages, tributes; updating Government’s website, developing communication strategies, graphic products, and video news releases, etc.

“I am truly grateful and proud of the dedication of my staff,” Ms Ebanks said. “Despite having to cope with their own personal disasters, they have managed to stay focused, producing work to high standards, in the multiplicity of roles that they play.”

Ms Ebanks said that in every challenge there is opportunity, adding that the public can now have a clearer concept of the level of professionalism and volume of the unit’s outputs.

“My staff have displayed true ‘*CaymanSpirit*,’ ” she said.

**(GIS)**