

**TAD STONER INTERVIEW WITH STEVE HAWLEY
FOR CAYMAN CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BUILDERS BILL IMPLEMENTATION
14 MARCH, 2009**

Where does the Bill stand now?

The bill and its regulations have been passed for over a year.

What has taken so long to get it implemented?

Government needed to rent a premises and fit it out. They also needed to locate a facilitator and hire him, then select a Board. This took about a year, but all these things were completed last year.

What is holding it up? Why isn't it operative?

The CCA is a bit in the dark regarding implementation. Last August, we had been assured by the LOGB that the first official meeting could take place in the first week of the new year. There was a minor glitch with one of the potential members, but he advised us that someone had been given the task to sort it out and we could safely assume that meetings could begin the first week in January 2009. Since that time, emails have been sent and calls left with the Ministry, but, unfortunately, no responses of any kind have been received. We have continued our appeals, but we cannot seem to get any response.

When might we look forward to implementation?

I'm afraid we really have no idea. We are as much in the dark as you are.

How important is it that the Builders law be implemented?

We feel that it is essential to the people of Cayman. After hurricane Ivan, countless people were taken advantage of by incompetent and/or unscrupulous builders. The Present LOGB wisely advised us as soon as he took over that we must get a Builders law in place that would assure that this could never happen again. All the hard work of writing and passing the law, creating the premises and hiring a facilitator has been done, but we are at the 99 yard line and we seem to have stopped.

Is there a danger that the public will continue to be victimized in spite of the passage of the Bill?

Yes, very much so. Until it is implemented, the people of Cayman are no more protected than they were after Ivan. In fact, we are presently hearing stories of Brackers being victimized following Paloma. Another hurricane season is around the corner and it is projected to be a bad one. Every day the implementation of the Law is delayed is another day that the public is left exposed.

How many contractors, roughly speaking, are out there?

After Ivan, the number of contractors swelled to over 700. We believe that only a fraction of those 700 meet the standard of the Contractors Association. We are still getting regular appeals from people who are being victimized.

1. Finally, a rough time line for the bill? When was it proposed? Right after the PPM was elected, Kurt told us to get it done.
2. Written? It was already being worked on at that time. It was completed maybe 6 months later.
3. Passed? In February of 2007. Then they took months to pass the reg's.
4. When did we think, initially, it might be implemented? After it passed the House, we hoped for implementation in June of 2007.