



### Cayman International Sevens in 2007.

The organizers of the highly popular world renowned Cayman International sevens have announced, regretfully, that the event will not take place in June 2007.

The event that was broadcast to over one hundred and twenty five million viewers worldwide in 2006 and highlighted the Island as a tourist destination in a thirty minute documentary on the tournament, its players and the Cayman Islands, has failed to ignite the interest of local or international sponsorship of significant means. This combined with the unavailability of the national stadium during June, closed for Hurricane Ivan repairs, has made it impossible for the organizers to continue with the tournament in June 2007. Future plans for the tournament in 2007 and beyond remain under discussion.

The organizers of the event, which has brought the very best players in the world to the Cayman Islands such as Simon Amor of England, William Ryder of Fiji and Dave Strettle of England, are saddened by the decision not to stage the tournament this June in light of the significant efforts over the years to build the tournament into the leading invitational sevens tournament in the world. Despite significant obstacles following Hurricane Ivan in September 2004 the Cayman Sevens was the only major sporting event to continue without disruption in 2005 thanks to the support of the Department of Tourism and a few dedicated local sponsors. The organizers hope to be able to attract significant sponsorship to allow the tournament to continue in the future months and in particular to continue their efforts in introducing the school children of the Cayman Islands to the best international rugby sevens players in the world.

Spokesperson Andrew Galloway is deeply saddened by the current state of events, 'We have tried very hard for over six years now to make this event what it has become today but despite the significant financial contributions of those involved, the support of a few dedicated local sponsors and the support of some of the world's leading invitational teams the tournament is unable to continue at present and in its present form without a major sponsor. The organizers would like to thank all those who have supported the tournament over the years, sponsors, government and in particular the players. We hope to build on the significant global television coverage provided in 2006 to re-establish the tournament later in 2007 or at worst in 2008 with a major new sponsor or sponsors. One of the tournament's objectives was to contribute to the development of rugby within the Cayman Islands and the organizers are particularly sorry that the children of Cayman, who have enjoyed meeting and being coached by some of the world's leading sevens players, will not have the opportunity to do so in June 2007 as this has proven to be one of their highlights of the school sports year. We will miss the enthusiasm that the children added to the event. We continue to hope that we will find a major sponsor and, if successful, we will consider holding the event in November as a warm up tournament for national teams preparing for the World Sevens Series which starts each year in December. We would welcome any enquiries from individuals or companies wishing to make this their tournament!