

102nd Annual American Association of Ports Authorities Convention

Orlando, Florida

Response to Welcome by James C. Parsons, Jr

Responder for the Caribbean Delegation

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Cayman Islands**

Good Morning Mr. Chairman, President Nagle, honorable government officials, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a heartfelt welcome to all. It is my distinct honor to be here to bring greetings from my colleagues scattered all over the Caribbean at this 102nd AAPA Annual Convention. It is with regret that the current chairman, Mr. Orlando Forbes, is unavoidably absent but sends his best wishes for a successful convention.

It's a wonderful privilege for me and the Caribbean delegation to be here in beautiful Orland Florida to enjoy the Floridian Hospitality and to experience the surprises that the sponsor, Port Canaveral, have in store for us as we continue into the conference for the next few days. A sincere thank you to our gracious hosts for the hospitality and welcome extended to us all. I have been associated with the AAPA for the past 8 years and each year the events get better.

As we proceed into our conference and various meetings this week let us not reflect on the past negatives but let us reflect on the positives and the accomplishments of our individual ports and our wonderful organization on a whole. I would be remiss if I stood here today and told you that the Caribbean is immune to the global economic down turn. Quite to the contrary!

To put it into Caribbean terms, should North America sneeze the entire Caribbean will contract pneumonia. A good analogy can be drawn from statistics at the Port Authority of the Cayman Islands which experienced a 50% decrease in Cargo imports over the past six years. I'm sure each of our ports have similar experiences but with a positive attitude, dynamic personnel, strong fiscal policies and good leadership we shall see the light at the end of the tunnel in the not too distant future

As we approach the 103rd year of the AAPA, let us reflect on the numerous achievements that have been realized and look forward with much anticipation for what lies ahead for the next year.

In anticipation of what lies in store for us at this convention, I wish to thank the management and staff of the AAPA and our hosts for hosting this convention at the lovely Disney World.