18 June 2015

The Minister for Business Peter Styles has called on the Leader of the Labor Opposition to apologise for its unprecedented attack on the reputations and integrity of the Head of the Department of Business, the General Manager of Channel 9 Darwin and Darwin’s Honorary Greek Consul during yesterday’s anti-corruption commission debate in Parliament.

“Yesterday’s attack in Parliament on the reputations and integrity of the Head of my Department of Business, the General Manager of Channel 9 Darwin and Darwin’s Honorary Greek Consul was another grubby chapter in the behaviour of the Labor Opposition and the Member for Nhulunbuy,” Mr Styles said.

“So untidy, that it demands a public apology to these three Darwin citizens from the Leader of the Opposition.

“The Member for Nhulunbuy dumped mud on the reputations of three highly respected people during yesterday’s anti-corruption debate.

“The Opposition Leader must issue a public apology to these three men and it must be today, these comments are a deliberate and despicable attack on the reputations of these three men.

“The Member for Nhulunbuy made references to these three gentlemen when presenting her case for the establishment of an anti-corruption watchdog, making wild claims of travel rorts.”

Member for Nhulunbuy said the entourage of people who headed to Greece read like a who’s who list of CLP mates. Mr Styles said the gentleman did not deserve to be used as examples by the Labor Party to support its case for an anti-corruption watchdog.

“For the record the Head of the Department of Business is one of the most highly regarded Chief Executives the Territory has ever had. He is held in high esteem for his tireless work for the Territory throughout the business community, throughout regional Territory centres and among his interstate counterparts,” Mr Styles said.

“The General Manager of Channel 9 is also held in the highest esteem by the business community and the wider community for his contribution to the Territory for which he has been bestowed honours for at a national level. He serves on numerous community boards, is the Chair of the
Northern Territory Education and Training Authority and is a man of honesty and impeccable character.

“Likewise the Greek Consul is a former administrator, who has been bestowed national honours for his contribution to the Territory and represents the Territory Greek community with the utmost honesty and integrity.

“I call on the Opposition Leader to today walk outside this chamber and issue on behalf of the Labor Party a public apology for the attack on these three gentlemen’s reputations.”

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