



Constitutional Commission's Statement on Constitution Day 4 July 2018

The first Monday in July is designated as a public holiday in the Cayman Islands to commemorate the passing of the first Constitution to be received in these Islands in July 1959. This year Constitution Day duly fell on Monday, 2 July, although the actual anniversary of this landmark event is the 4 July. The 4 July 2018 will therefore be the 59th anniversary of this significant constitutional milestone and the Constitutional Commission welcomes the government's plans to mark the upcoming Diamond Anniversary in 2019.

Since the Cayman Islands received its first Constitution, the Constitution has been amended on a number of occasions, including the following major revisions:-

- SI 1962 No 1646 Cayman Islands Constitution Order in Council 1962
 - Commenced 6 August 1962
- SI 1972 No 1101 The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 1972
 - Commenced 22 August 1972
- SI 2009 No 1379 The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009
 - Commenced 6 November 2009

While it is always important to understand and appreciate our constitutional history, it is also particularly apt this year to reflect on how our Constitution might further evolve in the future. In recent times, the enactment by the United Kingdom Parliament of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 has given rise to questions concerning the exercise of both legislative and executive powers in the Cayman Islands. As a result, potential revisions to the Cayman Islands Constitution have been mooted and the Constitutional Commission has been contacted by the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and, subsequently, by His Excellency, the Governor to discuss these issues.

In accordance with its advisory function in section 118(3)(a) of the Constitution, the Constitutional Commission has been tasked by His Excellency to provide brief comments on the potential revisions that have been proposed and, where possible, examples of such revisions in operation. In addition, the Constitutional Commission has also been engaged by the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to advise as to any other areas of the Constitution that would benefit from clarification at this time.

In reply to these requests, the Constitutional Commission has drafted a consolidated response with the intention that this response would be published in order to inform the general public. Accordingly, the Constitutional Commission's Responses to Requests for Comments on

Potential Reforms to the Cayman Islands Constitution 2009 will be available on the Constitutional Commission's website - www.constitutionalcommission.ky - as of 4 July 2018.

Further information about the Constitutional Commission and the Cayman Islands Constitution can also be found at www.constitutionalcommission.ky and persons interested in contacting the Constitutional Commission or accessing the Cayman Islands Constitution in written, audio and braille formats may e-mail the Commission at info@knowyourconstitution.ky or call 244-3685.

Ends.