



Date: 2 December 2016

Press Release

Constitutional Commission Commits to Version of the Constitution for Visually Impaired Persons on International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The Constitutional Commission (“the Commission”) is pleased to announce that it has resolved to produce of a version of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 (“the Constitution”), which will be accessible to persons with visual impairments that have to date prevented such persons from accessing the standard text version. The project, which is to be completed in partnership with the Human Rights Commission, will take the Constitution, currently only available in written English, and make it available in audio format similar to a digital audiobook that can be accessed for free.

The Commission makes this announcement on 3 December, which is celebrated annually as International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, Mr. Vaughan Carter, comments “the Commission is excited by this project and the opportunity that it presents to make this fundamental document of civic engagement – our Constitution – accessible to persons who may not otherwise have been able to access it.” The 2010 Census recorded that over 5% of the total Cayman Islands population, some 2,993 people, reported known sight disabilities¹ and it is anticipated that all such persons, including persons with congenital visual impairments as well as acquired impairments and groups such as the elderly who are particularly susceptible to visual deterioration, will benefit from this project.

The Commission is currently in the preliminary stages of the project, but hopes to have it completed in the near future. “The idea for the audio constitution came about because a member of the public who has a visual impairment inquired with Commissions Secretariat as to how they could access a version of the Constitution,” said the Chairman. He went on to explain that, “with a primary element of the Commission’s mandate being ‘to promote understanding and awareness of [the] Constitution and its values’, we were inspired to address this deficit in a meaningful way so that persons with visual impairments can properly engage with the Constitution.”

The theme for this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities is “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want”, referring to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and how they relate specifically to persons with disabilities. Goal number 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals is “Quality Education”, and goal number 10 is “Reduced Inequalities”, both of which are reflected in this project.

The Commission looks forward to completing this project and to delivering on its commitment to increasing access to the Constitution for all members of the public. For more information about the Constitutional Commission please visit www.knowyourconstitution.ky or call 244-3685.

Ends.

¹ [http://www.eso.ky/UserFiles/File/5_%20Disability\(2\).pdf](http://www.eso.ky/UserFiles/File/5_%20Disability(2).pdf)