



Constitution Day Message 2014 **Cayman Islands Constitutional Commission**

Once each year we pause to celebrate the importance of having been granted our own Constitution. Often forgotten or dismissed by the majority, the Constitution is one of the most important documents governing our islands. Without it there would be no protection from tyranny, the rule of law would be marginalised and government would have free reign to rule the people instead of represent them. The basic principles of democracy would hold little persuasion if not reinforced in a constitution.

The Cayman Islands received their first Constitution on 4 July, 1959. This is a symbolic day because it gave the Cayman Islands their own identity. It separated us from the Jamaican Legislature and enabled us to erect our own system of governance founded on the solid principles of democracy safeguarding the people.

Past Constitutional Day messages have fervently described the importance of our Constitution however this year the Constitutional Commission thought the most appropriate theme would be “Remember your Constitution”. The Constitutional Commission’s responsibility is to advise the Government on constitutional matters, publish reports, discussion papers, information papers and other documents on constitutional matters affecting the Cayman Islands, and promote understanding and awareness of the Constitution and its values.

An important facet of our Constitution is its ability to evolve over time. It serves as a contract between our government and the people. The Constitutional Commission urges individuals to take an interest in your Constitution – to be a part of those who appreciate and understand that the Constitution is the very source from which essential tenets of a modern democracy flow. It becomes a much easier task to understand, embrace and know it ... when educated on what society might be without it.

The Constitutional Commission has created a number of educational documents in order to enhance your understanding of the Constitution. These documents, along with other resources are available on our website www.knowyourconstitution.ky or you can visit our offices at the Cayman Corporate Centre on Hospital Road.