CC-MIN-2015-03



# 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF 2015 57<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION 1 SEPTEMBER 2015 COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: David Ritch Vaughan Carter Natalie Urquhart

Chairman Member Member

# APOLOGIES: N/A

## Secretariat members present:

Deborah Bodden

Manager, Commissions Secretariat

## 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:08am.

## 2. Welcome of New Member

The Chairman welcomed new member Natalie Urquhart to the Commission and thanked her for her willingness to serve. A brief summary of the most recent work of the Commission was provided.

## 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of 17 March 2015 were approved with a minor amendment.

#### 4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

#### a. Update on the Suggested Areas of the 2009 Constitution for Review

The Commission has received confirmation from the Attorney General, in response to their query, that he has not been made privy to any plans by the Government to move this review forward. The Commission noted that without support from the Leader of the Opposition the Government would not be in a position to make any changes, no matter how minor or uncontroversial.

### b. Commissions Work Plan

The Commission has not had a response to its correspondence offering to provide any advice to the Government on questions concerning constitutional status and development in the Cayman Islands.

Following a review by Member Vaughan Carter of the previously suggested areas of the Constitution for review, it was agreed that the Commission would engage in a public relations campaign in order to provide more education and awareness on the Constitution. This campaign will include the publishing of a short series of viewpoint articles intended to draw attention to the review exercise which the Commission had previously completed regarding proposed amendments to the Constitution but which the Government and the Leader of the Opposition have so far not acted upon. The Commission selected the topic of prorogation and dissolution (s.85) as the subject of the first viewpoint. A draft of the viewpoint will be prepared by the members for review and release.

## 5. New Business

## a. Communication with the Ministry of Education

The Commission has not had a substantive response to its correspondence regarding a joint effort to infuse a sense of our Constitution into the school curriculum. It was agreed that the Commission would again approach the Ministry to try to engage in this discussion.

## b. UWI Magna Carta event

Member Vaughan Carter was asked, in his private capacity, to speak at a lecture hosted by the University of the West Indies to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magna Carta. The speeches are all being collated and once completed a link will be placed on the Commission's website to the material.

## 6. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

a. Public Education Campaign

b. Communication with the Ministry of Education

#### 7. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be determined.

8. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 11:45am.

David Ritch CHAIRMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION