



4th MEETING OF 2026
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
11 MAY 2026
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:

J. Lemuel Hurlston	Chairman
Annalisa Shibli	Member
Hon. Alex Henderson KC	Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melanie McField	Manager
Lise Hurlstone	Research Analyst

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked members for attending.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**a. Minutes of Meeting Held on 10 April 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2026 were confirmed, and the Secretariat was asked to upload the minutes to the Commission's website.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**a. Constitutional Issues for Discussion****i. Entitlement to Legal Aid**

Members discussed the meeting held on 10 April 2026 with representatives of the Legal Aid Office and noted that the Director of Legal Aid appeared adequately supported and did not express concerns regarding the budget available for the provision of legal aid services. Members further noted that the Acting Court Administrator had confirmed this position during the meeting. The Commission agreed that they were satisfied with the current situation and that, whether or not operational concerns may arise in the future, the matter did not presently rise to the level of a constitutional issue requiring further examination.

b. Education Activities**i. Constitutional History Display**

The Manager provided an update on the proposed constitutional history display,

including the anticipated hiring of additional staff to assist with the project, pending feedback from the Portfolio of the Civil Service. It is hoped that the additional staff will be on board by the end of July 2026. The Chairman requested that the Speaker continue to be kept informed regarding the initiative, and noted that the Manager could reach out to him on budgetary matters.

c. Advisory District Councils

The Chairman advised that he continues to await further contact from Parliament on the Parliamentary Select Committee, as previously indicated by the Premier. The Commission agreed that updates would be provided as available.

d. Amendments to the Elections Act

Members discussed reply received from the Supervisor of Elections (the “Supervisor”) on 27 April 2026 responding to the Commissions queries on the proposed amendments to the Elections Act.

In particular, members felt it would be useful to understand the rationale for including the provision under s.91(1)(b) of the Constitution (on disqualifying electors adjudged to be insane or of unsound mind) and asked the Secretariat to conduct research on this and report back on its findings. Members also agreed to consider spearheading a wider consultation on this matter, per the suggestion in the Supervisor’s letter.

It was further agreed for the Secretariat to draft a reply to the Supervisor of Elections with its feedback in due course. As agreed previously, the draft will be circulated to all members for review before it is approved and issued.

4. New Business

a. First Report for 2026

Members reviewed the draft First Report for 2026 and approved it for circulation to the Governor, Deputy Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition. The Secretariat was asked to circulate the finalised report accordingly. Members also discussed whether consideration should be given to a constitutional amendment requiring annual reports of the Commission to be formally laid in Parliament.

5. Any Other Business

a. Summer break

The Manager advised that no meetings would be scheduled during August 2026 for any of the commissions it supports in order to accommodate staff leave. Accordingly, the previously scheduled August Constitutional Commission meeting would be removed from the calendar and updated invitations would be circulated.

b. Constitution Day 2026

Members discussed educational activities for Constitution Day 2026. It was agreed that a radio interview should be scheduled involving all members of the Commission. The Secretariat will seek to arrange the interview for the Thursday or Friday preceding the public holiday and

will update members as necessary.

c. Schedule of Events

The Commission requested that the schedule of events for 2026 be updated and recirculated. The updated schedule is to include the proposed Constitution Day 2026 radio interview.

d. Members' Payments

The Manager advised that members' meeting attendance stipend payments are now up to date, and they may confirm funds have been accordingly received if they wish.

6. Action Items

The Secretariat was asked to:

- a. upload the minutes of the 10 April 2026 meeting to the website, per item 2.a. above;
- b. continue work on the constitutional history display and provide updates as necessary, per item 3.b.i. above;
- c. contact the Speaker on budget for the constitutional history display, per item 3.b.i. above;
- d. continue to provide updates on the ADC Parliamentary Steering Committee as available, per item 3.c. above;
- e. conduct research on the rationale behind s.91(1)(b) of the Constitution, per item 3.d. above;
- f. draft a response to the Supervisor of Elections as agreed, per item 3.d. above;
- g. circulate the First Report for 2026 as agreed; per item 4.a. above;
- h. update calendar invitation for the August 2026 meeting, per item 5.a. above;
- i. arrange a radio interview in recognition of Constitution Day 2026, per item 5.b. above; and
- j. circulate an updated Schedule of Events for 2026, per item 5.c. above.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

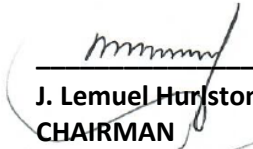
- a. Advisory District Councils
- b. Education Activities
 - i. Display in Constitution Hall
- c. Amendments to the Elections Act
- d. First Report for 2026
- e. Constitution Day 2026
- f. Schedule of Events 2026

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is set for 8 June 2026.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 pm.



J. Lemuel Hurlston
CHAIRMAN

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION