



3 July 2026

Constitutional Commission Statement for Constitution Day 2026

The Constitutional Commission invites the public to review its statement made in observance of the upcoming Constitution Day public holiday, this Monday, 6 July 2026. Please see attached for a copy of the statement, which touches on the history of the Cayman Islands Constitution, the remit and recent activities of the Constitutional Commission, and information on how to access constitutional resources.

The statement was read by the Commission on Radio Cayman show *For the Record* with Orrett “OC” Connor this morning, Friday, 3 July 2026. *For the Record* Host, Mr Orrett Connor, then interviewed Constitutional Commission Chairman, Mr J. Lemuel Hurlston, and Commission Members Mrs Annalisa Shibli, and Hon. Alex Henderson KC. A video recording of the show featuring the Commission can be found on the *For the Record* YouTube account at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7S8Q8D5Zy_s.

To learn more about the Constitutional Commission, and to access its educational materials or copies of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 2009, please visit the Constitutional Commission website at www.constitutionalcommission.ky.

Enquiries about the Constitutional Commission can be directed to the Commissions Secretariat at info@constitutionalcommission.ky, or by calling 244-3685.

Ends.

Constitutional Commission Statement for Constitution Day 2026
Delivered on Radio Cayman – *For the Record* with Orrett Connor

3 July 2026

Speakers (in order): J. Lemuel Hurlston, Chairman

Alex Henderson KC, Member

Annalisa Shibli, Member

[Speaker 1]

Good morning, OC, and thank you for the opportunity to join you on *For the Record* as we mark Constitution Day here in the Cayman Islands.

Today is an opportunity not simply to commemorate an important date in our history, but to reflect on the Constitution that continues to shape our democracy, protect our rights, and provide the framework for good governance in our Islands.

Many people know Constitution Day as a public holiday, but some may not know why it falls in July. The holiday traces its origins to the 4th of July 1959, when the Cayman Islands received our first Constitution. Since then, our constitutional development has continued through the 1972 Constitution and, following our first national referendum in 2009, the Constitution that came into force on 6 November 2009, together with its Bill of Rights, which became effective in 2012.

Our Constitution is much more than a legal document; it is the supreme law of the Cayman Islands. Every law passed, every decision made by Government, and every public authority operates within the framework established by the Constitution.

It defines how power is exercised, sets out the responsibilities of our elected representatives and public officials, protects the rights and freedoms of every person, and establishes the institutions that help ensure accountability, transparency, and respect for the rule of law.

The Constitution also reflects the values that underpin our democratic society. These include integrity, accountability, transparency, respect for democracy, and adherence to the rule of law. These are not abstract ideals. They are principles that guide how public decisions should be made and how those entrusted with public office should conduct themselves.

One of the most significant features of our current Constitution is its Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities. It recognises the inherent dignity of every individual and guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to everyone in the Cayman Islands. It also ensures that public authorities are accountable for respecting those rights in the decisions they make.

The Constitution is also about our identity. Its Preamble acknowledges the unique history of the Cayman Islands, our culture, our Christian heritage, and the values that have contributed to the peace, prosperity, and stability our Islands have enjoyed over many decades.

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[Speaker 2]

The Constitutional Commission was established under section 118 of the Constitution as an independent constitutional body. Our responsibilities are to promote understanding and awareness of the Constitution and its values, to publish educational materials and reports, and to provide advice on constitutional matters when appropriate.

Importantly, the Commission is independent. We are not directed by Government or by any other authority. Our role is educational and advisory. We seek to encourage informed public understanding of the Constitution so that all Caymanians and residents appreciate both the rights they enjoy and the responsibilities that accompany them.

Over the past year, the Commission has continued to fulfil that constitutional mandate in a number of important ways. We have provided independent constitutional advice to Government on significant constitutional issues, including matters with implications for the Cayman Islands' relationship with the United Kingdom. We have continued to monitor constitutional compliance across public administration by engaging constructively with public authorities on issues affecting rights and good governance, including access to legal aid, and electoral matters.

We were also honoured to accept an invitation from the Speaker of Parliament to deliver a presentation to newly elected Members following the 2025 General Election, focusing on the Constitution, constitutional values, and the role of the Commission in supporting Parliament. In addition, we have continued developing educational initiatives, including plans for new resources on Cayman's constitutional history and expanding opportunities to engage with young people and the wider community. These activities reflect the Commission's ongoing commitment to promoting constitutional awareness while providing thoughtful, independent advice on matters affecting our democratic system.

While much of the Commission's work takes place quietly and behind the scenes, its purpose is always the same: to help ensure that the Constitution continues to serve the people of the Cayman Islands as a living framework for democratic government, good governance, and the protection of fundamental rights.

[Speaker 3]

This Constitution Day, we encourage everyone to take a little time to learn more about our Constitution. Understanding how our system of government works strengthens civic participation, promotes informed public discussion, and ultimately helps safeguard our democracy for future generations.

The Constitutional Commission has developed a wide range of free educational resources, including guides explaining different aspects of the Constitution, historical documents tracing our constitutional development, and materials designed for students, teachers, and members of the public. We invite everyone to explore these resources and continue learning about the document

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that serves as the foundation of our system of government. These resources can be found on our website at www.constitutionalcommission.ky.

On behalf of the Constitutional Commission, Mr Connor, thank you for helping us mark Constitution Day 2026. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday on Monday, and we encourage all Caymanians and residents to take pride in our Constitution, our democratic institutions, and the shared responsibility we all have to uphold the values they represent.

Thank you.