



Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 4/2014-2015

Single Member Constituencies

WHEREAS the implementation of Single Member Constituencies have been the subject of discussion by the country for more than a decade;

AND WHEREAS the most recent discussions resulted in a referendum which failed to garner an affirmative vote, but gained the majority of votes of the electors who voted;

AND WHEREAS over the last 12 years, two Electoral Boundary Commissions have been appointed to review the District Electoral Boundaries and to recommend changes, where necessary, to the electoral system;

AND WHEREAS both Electoral Boundary Commissions recommended the implementation of Single Member Constituencies for the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS the majority of candidates contesting the General Election of 2013 campaigned that they supported Single Member Constituencies and the First Past the Post System, for the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS a number of new candidates in the General Election of 2013 launched their political careers on the "One Man One Vote" (OMOV) committee which spearheaded a country wide signature drive in support of the referendum for OMOV;

AND WHEREAS the Peoples' Progressive Movement ("The Progressives"), which won the majority of electoral seats and, consequently, formed and now comprises the current Government, campaigned on and promised Single Member Constituencies and the First Past the Post System for the Cayman Islands, if elected;

AND WHEREAS the primary opposition to the introduction of Single Member Constituencies and the First Past the Post System for the Cayman Islands has been that there was insufficient time for the populace to understand the change in voting system;

AND WHEREAS the Elections Office has documented its preparedness to conduct elections on the basis of Single Member Constituencies throughout the Cayman Islands prior to the 2005 General Election;

AND WHEREAS the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 clearly contemplates the introduction of Single Member Constituencies, in that, Section 92 of such Order provides that any person who is registered as an elector in an electoral district shall, while so registered, be entitled to vote at any election in that district for *an* elected member of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Section 93(c) of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 establishes the authority for the Legislature to enact a law to provide for the division of the Cayman Islands into Electoral Districts for the purpose of elections;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considered a motion during the Fifth Meeting of the 2013/2014 session to implement Single Member Constituencies;

AND WHEREAS the motion calling for the amendment of the Election Law (2009) Revision did not receive a definitive resolution of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there is an increasing call by the public, and need for the Legislative Assembly to bring closure to this emotive political issue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government shall consider bringing a Bill within 3 months to amend the Election Law (2009) Revision to introduce an electoral system of single member constituencies so as to allow the next General Election to be conducted on the basis of the equal suffrage principle of “one person one vote” under the First Past the Post System, which timeframe will allow sufficient time to educate the electors on the changes to the voting system.

Moved by:

Mr. V. Arden McLean, JP, MLA
Elected Member for East End

Seconded by:

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, JP, MLA
Elected Member for North Side

Tabled in the Office of the Clerk this 21st day of July, 2014.

Passed/Rejected by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly this day of , 2014.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN
BY THE ELECTED MEMBER FOR EAST END ON 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly