

STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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Madam Speaker, yesterday, 19th June 2008, the local publication Cayman Net News carried as its headline ‘**Referendum vote set for 30 July**’. I must tell this House and the wider community that the headline and much of the story that follows is simply untrue. The Government has thus far set no date for the proposed referendum on constitutional modernization. We expect to make an announcement with regard to that matter very shortly.

The Net News story claims that:

“The assembly opened debate on the changes and launched the required three readings of the bills (meaning the Referendum (Constitutional Modernization) Bill and the Elections (Amendment) Bill) yesterday. After the expected rapid approval, the bills will go to the Governor for his assent, then be finalized in a White Paper well in advance of polling day.”

As this House will be aware, this is simply untrue. The two bills in question were delivered to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on 22nd May, 2008 and circulated to members shortly thereafter. They have not been placed by the Business Committee of this House on any Order Paper and have not been dealt with in any way by the House. To say that the House has “*opened debate ... and launched the required three readings of the bills yesterday*” is complete and utter fabrication. Indeed the House has been in Finance committee for the past month and so has had no opportunity to deal with bills.

Madam Speaker, I felt it was important to set the record straight on this important matter and to assure the country that when we are ready to make a statement regarding the proposed referendum, we shall do so publicly. And as I said earlier, we expect to do so very soon.

