



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 19
Answered on 27th June, 2025
First Meeting 2025-2026 Session - First Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN, MP – DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL

TO

THE PREMIER, HON. ANDRÉ EBANKS, MINISTER OF FINANCIAL SERVICES &
COMMERCE

QUESTION:

In light of the referendum results from the recent general election in April, 2025, can the Honourable Premier say what is the Government's policy position/way forward on:

1. Cruise berthing facilities;
2. National lottery; and
3. Decriminalisation of Marijuana in small amounts?

ANSWER:

As background, the voters of these islands have spoken clearly during the 2025 Referendum: 64.15% rejected cruise berthing facilities, while 51.24% approved a national lottery and 55.64% approved the decriminalisation of marijuana in small amounts.

This Government is committed to honouring the will of the Caymanian people as expressed through the democratic process.

Turning specifically, to each of the three results.

- a) Given the cruise berthing referendum result, whereby a clear majority of 64.15% rejected building a cruise berthing facility, this Government shall be guided accordingly.
- b) In relation to the National Lottery referendum results: with 51.24% of voters expressing support for the introduction of a national lottery, yet being mindful that this result is a slim majority and being aware of voters with continued concerns particularly regarding the manner in which a national lottery would be operated and regulated, the matter will be referred to the Cayman Islands Law Reform Commission. The Commission will be requested to make reform recommendations regarding key matters such as:
- the appropriate legal framework and licensing regimes;
 - effective mechanisms for oversight and transparency;
 - robust safeguards against problems associated with gambling; and
 - the business model or models that could optimise revenues and costs.
- c) As to the decriminalization of small-scale cannabis possession referendum results: with 55.64% of voters expressing support, though recognising both the evolving regional and global legal landscape, as well as the social and criminal justice implications, this issue will also be formally referred to the Law Reform Commission. The Commission will be asked to evaluate and make reform recommendations regarding key matters such as:
- a. proposed possession thresholds and legal definitions;
 - b. levels of administrative penalties;
 - c. alignment with existing drug enforcement as well as regional and international obligations;
 - d. potential economic and social impacts; and
 - e. safeguarding vulnerable populations.

Once the Government receives and reviews the Commission's reports on the two matters above, an update will be provided to Parliament as to next actions.