

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 45 Answered on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 Second Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third 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:**

Can the Honourable Premier say whether the Government intends to agree to an electoral boundary layout within this term and, if so, when?

#### **ANSWER:**

The boundary adjustment recommendations of the 2023 Electoral Boundary Commission were debated and rejected by the Parliament on two occasions last term. The rejection reflected agreement among Members that several concerns with the 2023 recommendations and that implementation at that late stage in the electoral cycle would not have been in the best interests of the country.

The key concerns raised during debates included the following:

a) low public engagement during the consultation period resulted in limited public awareness or endorsement of the proposed boundary changes (as well as underutilisation of modern communication tools and techniques reduced public engagement).

- b) the recommendations resulted in significant shifts in some constituency boundaries—in some cases up to 30% of electors changing districts—which Members felt required broader public understanding before implementation.
- c) absence of specific terms of reference guiding the 2023 Commission, unlike in 2015, resulting in uncertainty about various matters such as scope, electoral district naming conventions, and the number of seats.
- d) concerns about socio-economic clustering, where some new boundaries could create homogenous 'economic districts', contrary to Cayman's long-standing social balance and unity.
- e) the timing to implement the recommendations was too close to the General Election (April 2025), which creates a risk of voter confusion.
- f) administrative strain on Elections Office resources, given that preparations for the 2025 General Election were already underway.

The National Coalition for Caymanians (NCFC) Government is committed to requesting the Governor to appoint a new Electoral Boundary Commission very early in 2026, with specific terms of reference. These will be designed to include:

- 1) prevent a recurrence of the deficiencies identified in the 2023 process.
- 2) ensure balanced voter distribution across constituencies.
- 3) strengthen public consultation and civic engagement; and
- 4) avoid implementation too close to an election.

The Government intends that the new Electoral Boundary Commission should complete its review and submit its report before the end of 2026, ensuring adequate time for Parliament's consideration and implementation well before the next constitutionally due General Election in 2029.