

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 70 OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS CONSTITUTION ORDER 2009

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE DECRIMINALISATION OF CANNABIS FOR PERSONAL USE BY ADULTS (NOT CHILDREN) IN PRIVATE (INCLUDING POSSESSION, CONSUMPTION AND CULTIVATION ON PRIVATE PREMISES)

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE SCOPE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS LEGISLATION (INCLUDING DOMESTIC CULTIVATION AND CANNABINOID EXTRACTION, AS WELL AS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND LAWFUL EXPORT OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS PRODUCTS TO AUTHORISED PARTIES IN OTHER RELEVANT JURISDICTIONS)

PETITION

TO: THE PARLIAMENT, THE CABINET AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 70 the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 as amended (“**Constitution**”), our Constitution provides for a voter-initiated referendum (on matters of national importance that do not contravene the Bill of Rights) by Petition addressed to the Cabinet signed by no less than 25% of the persons registered as electors, which (if assented to by more than 50% of such registered electors) shall be binding on the Government and on the Legislature;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with section 70 of the Constitution, the undersigned electors in the prayer below do hereby humbly request the Cabinet to arrange for the holding of a voter-initiated referendum on the scope of proposed cannabis legislation in the Cayman Islands (including decriminalisation of cannabis used by adults in private and expansion of facilities to enhance the licensed medical cannabis industry) and, therefore, a mandate from the Caymanian people to Parliament to take legislative action;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with recent amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act (2017 Revision), particularly section 2A, which are compatible and compliant with the three existing United Nations drug conventions, providing for use of cannabis extracts and tinctures of cannabis for medical or therapeutic purposes, where prescribed by a medical doctor, and which only allows for lawful importation into the Cayman Islands (but not for domestic cultivation and cannabinoid extraction, nor for lawful exportation of medical cannabis, including extracts and tinctures); and

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the United Nations drug conventions, which provide for constitutional limitation and/or constitutional principles concerning exceptions and case-law supporting constitutional justification of personal use by adults in private (inclusive of consumption, possession and cultivation on private premises), as well as recent legislative changes in other jurisdictions (particularly Commonwealth and CARICOM jurisdictions, including the Caribbean region), that are in line with human rights and fundamental freedoms supporting personal cannabis use in private, as well as for medical and scientific purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned current electors of the Cayman Islands hereby pray that the following issues be put to the Caymanian people by way of referendum:

1. decriminalisation of cannabis for personal use by adults on private premises; and
2. establishment of a medical cannabis licensing authority (to issue licenses for the domestic medical cannabis industry exclusively to Caymanian owned and controlled businesses).

