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STATEMENT

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Friday 20th July, 2012

At the referendum on Wednesday last, 65% of Caymanians who voted made plain that they support a change of the current electoral system by the implementation of single-member constituencies and the adoption of the principle of one person one vote. It is therefore disingenuous and grossly misleading for the Premier to say as he did on Thursday evening, that the majority of voters voted No in the referendum. In truth and in fact the Yes votes outstripped the No votes by 3 to 1. The reality is that if the Premier had not manipulated the referendum process by creating an artificially high bar of 50% + 1 of registered voters instead of 50% +1 of votes cast, the referendum would have succeeded. It would have succeeded despite the fact that the Government employed the full machinery of the Office of the Premier and utilized public funds in an expensive advertising campaign to persuade the electorate to vote No.

The statement made by the Premier on Thursday evening dismissing the wishes of 65% of voters in the referendum demonstrates the absolute disregard and utter contempt which the UDP administration has for the

views of the voting public and how out of touch the government is with the issues that affect and concern Caymanians.

The Premier says that he doesn't believe that single-member constituencies are good for the country and thus it doesn't matter to him that 65% of those who voted on Wednesday last believe that single-member constituencies is the way to go. However, belatedly he does seem to have realized that the current system of some single-member and some multi-member constituencies is inequitable. So he is now proposing a different scheme of multi-member constituencies. But this is not what Caymanians said they want this past Wednesday. Voters said by a significant majority that they want single-member constituencies and I call on the Premier and his government to respect the voice of the people and move swiftly to implement single-member constituencies for the Cayman Islands in time for the General Elections in May of next year. We do not need more discussions, we do not need more committees, we do not need more campaigning or another referendum. All that is required is a simple amendment to the Elections Law. Come on Mr. Premier, you know what is right. You know what the people want. Just do it!