



CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: GRENADIANS TO VOTE IN FEBRUARY 2015

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, July 15, 2014 – GIS: February 10th of next year is the date announced for Grenadians to vote in a referendum on changes to the country's constitution.

Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Elvin Nimrod announced, during Tuesday's Post Cabinet News Conference, that an initial report has been submitted to the cabinet by the Constitution Reform Advisory Committee headed by Dr. Francis Alexis.

Minister Nimrod disclosed that the report covered 25 proposed areas for change to the constitution – of which twelve were recommended for Cabinet approval at the moment.

Items highly recommended include the proposal for Grenada to recognize the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as its final court of appeal, as well as for an official country name change from the "State of Grenada" to "Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique."

"We are saying that as an independent nation, as a sovereign nation, we think that we should use our own court instead of going to the Privy Council in England," Nimrod told Journalists at the News Conference.

"I should tell you that from recent uttering and from other actions, we believe that the Privy Council feels burdened with our matters and that they believe it's time for us to find our own wings to fly."

Other suggestions for reform include the oath taken by government officials when accepting office, from "allegiance to the Queen of England" to "allegiance to Grenada," changing the title from the "Chief of Police" to "Commissioner of Police" and establishing an "Electoral Commission" instead of having a "Supervisor of Elections."

Nimrod says at least two-thirds majority of the votes cast must be garnered to have authority to change the portion of the Constitution, as well as two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives.

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