

PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM RAUL GONZALEZ JR.

Independent Candidate for Newlands

As election season progresses, I want to address a rumor that has been circulating.

It has been said that I am being funded or supported by the Cayman National Party. I want to make this very clear: I am not being financially supported or funded by any party. I am not a part of the Cayman National Party, nor am I controlled by any political group.

There's a difference between financial backing and freedom of speech.

When people ask for my opinion on other candidates, I give them honestly. Likewise, there may be other candidates from various parties who may believe I am the better choice in Newlands. That is their right—just as I have the right to express my views on other candidates I respect. That is freedom of speech. That is democracy. But none of this equates to party affiliation or funding.

In 2017, it was public knowledge that Dr. Steve Tomlinson offered financial help to independent candidates, including myself. Running a campaign costs money, and this is often where independent candidates are at a disadvantage. However, the difference was that Dr. Tomlinson made it clear that he expected nothing in return. He even gave permission for any elected candidate to expose him publicly if he ever requested political favors. That kind of transparency is rare, and I respect it.

This is exactly why I continue to run as an independent candidate in 2017, 2021, and now in 2025—because I do not want to be tied down or controlled by any party. When a party funds a candidate, they often expect loyalty in return. They expect favors, and that is something I refuse to be part of. My loyalty is to the people—not to any party.

My campaign is powered by hard work and community support, not party money. I'm going door to door, speaking directly with residents, with the help of my family and a dedicated campaign team—each of them volunteering their time while balancing full-time jobs.

I'm also grateful to those across the Cayman Islands who've helped organize meetings and spread our message. This movement is bigger than politics—it's about unity and real change.

To everyone who's stepped up—thank you. My family and I deeply appreciate everything that has been done and continues to be done to support this journey. This campaign is about all of us. It is about standing together for the future we want to build. This is proof that it can be done without big financial backing from any party. I have built a campaign with the support of my community. And with your continued support, I believe we can make history together.

I cannot do this alone. If elected, I will still need the support of the people to accomplish real change. And when it comes to national issues, I will need to work with the other 18 elected Members of Parliament. That is why I must remain independent—so I can work with whoever the people choose without being tied to party agendas.

Let's break the cycle and move forward together—with integrity, unity, and leadership that puts people first.

Thank you,

Raul Gonzalez Jr.

Independent Candidate for Newlands