

Votes and Proceedings of the 20th Parliament

No. 30

Second sitting of the 20th meeting
18 April 2013

10.00am

1 Meeting of House

The House met at 10.00am according to the resolution of the House made on 16 April 2013.

Hon Ludwig Scotty (Speaker of Parliament) took the Chair and read Prayers.

2 Statement from Chair

The Chair made the following statement:

Gentlemen, very good morning to you all.

Please give me time because I have two statements to present to the House this morning.

My first statement is about the new Clerk, it is appropriate if I make it official because I have decided to appoint the new Clerk.

Honourable members, I wanted to make it known that I have appointed Ms. Ann-Marie Thoma as the substantive Clerk of Parliament. You may have already been aware that Ann-Marie has done many years of good service to the Parliament and in other public roles of the Republic.

And as of late, when Parliament had regretfully lost the service of our late Freddie Cain and the retirement of John Garabwan, both due to health reasons, she assisted myself and the top officials in our Parliament to put things into shape and ensure the smooth progress of this separate entity of the government of our country to operate business as usual and for the better.

Ann-Marie has also worked closely in assisting her late brother, attending to official parliamentary duties in many areas. Hence, in considering her attentive reports and her knowledge of parliamentary work, and also my observance of her current role as acting clerk will leave me with no compunction but to be satisfied enough to appoint her to the highest post in the Parliament.

I can assure the House that parliament is working extremely well under the control of my three highest officers, in Ann-Marie as the Clerk, Gabrissa Hartman as the Deputy Clerk, and Katy Le Roy as the Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

And may I add, that we are very proud to have Katy's PHD certificate hanging on our wall. Congratulations to Dr. Katy.

I am very sure that Gabrissa Hartman, our deputy clerk, who is also a law graduate will persevere to achieve a PhD in times ahead and make Nauru proud.

I hold that to achieve one's desired aim, the motto of '*I can and I will*' must be taken into deep consideration.

I can also assure members that these three top officers are interacting well for the success of the operations of Parliament and of service to all members of Parliament personal desires whenever the needs arises, but please not so personal.

By encouraging the whole parliamentary staff to work together, I think I have assured them enough to take it to heart that they should all be proud to be working together in the prestigious house of the people of Nauru for the common good of our beloved nation and our people. What is needed is to ensure ongoing training and encouraging support to achieve and maintain improvements and interest in their work.

The position of the Clerk which is not a public service post is of a profession equal in status to that of the Chief Secretary, and has large responsibilities.

Therefore, I would urge all concerned in public duties and of course private entities to give due respect to the new Clerk of the Parliament of the Republic.

I also strongly urge all members of Parliament present and former, not to taint our new Clerk with the complexities of your personal political manoeuvrings and ambitions.

I wish all the best to Ann-Marie in her future endeavours as I have every confidence she will uphold the higher aims of the office of the Clerk of the Republic. Thank you.

Gentlemen, the other statement I would like to read out is a letter from the President. I think you all know that we are into this matter for some time, it has been creating much commotion to our parliament, government, our people and our country.

This advice came from the President and I will read it out to you, dated 15th April being when I received it. You know we had a Parliament sitting last Tuesday but there was no quorum and I had to adjourn the House till the next sitting day which is today 10am. I couldn't present the papers last time because of no quorum so we have to respect what was desired from our Supreme Court.

Hon. Ludwig Scotty, M.P.,
Speaker of Parliament,
Parliament House,
Republic of Nauru

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Mr. Speaker in accordance with Article 41(2), I hereby advise you today to dissolve Parliament.

I take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the support provided to me and my Government during my tenure as President.

God Bless Nauru

(signed)
H. E. Sprent R. Dabwido
President

And I will read you another letter from the President.

Article 41(2), 41(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Nauru
Advice to the Speaker to dissolve Parliament

I, Sprent Dabwido, President of the Republic of Nauru, hereby advise you to dissolve Parliament and refer my advice to Parliament, and if no resolution under Article 24 is approved after the date of which this advice be referred to Parliament, you shall dissolved Parliament on the seventh day after that date.

Given this 15th day of April 2013
His Excellency Sprent Dabwido, M.P.,
President

Although he signed the letter on the 15th, it is not in the Constitution that the time has to run from then. As soon as the Speaker presents the dissolution notice in Parliament then the time arises, from today.

The other letter I received from him, I receive three letters from His Excellency.

Dated 15th April 2013
Hon. Ludwig Scotty, M.P.,
Speaker of Parliament,
Parliament House,
Republic of Nauru

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As discussed, please call Parliament tomorrow Tuesday (that was last sitting where there was not quorum) April 16th 2013.

I propose 25th May 2013 for the general election of Nauru. Accordingly, the following dates are the relevant dates in respect of the 20th Parliament general election:

The first, the closure of electoral roll, will be Saturday 4 May 2013;
Nominations close Saturday 11 May 2013;
Last day of withdrawals of nominations Saturday 18 May 2013; and
Polling day will be on Saturday 25 May 2013.

You may kindly send the writ to the Returning Officer to conduct parliamentary general elections accordingly.

God Bless Nauru

Gentlemen, what I present to this House really gives me so much emotion. I'll have rest for some time now and I will adjourn the House until the bell rings.

3 Resumption of meeting of House after resignation of Speaker

A quorum not being present, Hon Landon Deireragea (Deputy Speaker of Parliament), having informed the House of the resignation of the Speaker, stated that he would take the Chair in 30 minutes.

A quorum not being present, the Hon Landon Deireragea (Deputy Speaker of Parliament) adjourned the House until Tuesday 23 April 2013 at 10.00am.

Members present

The following members were present at some time during the sitting:

Hon Milton Dube (Aiwo)
Hon Godfrey Thoma (Aiwo)
Hon Ridell Akua (Anabar)
Hon Ludwig Scotty (Anabar)
Hon Landon Deireragea (Anetan)
Hon Marcus Stephen (Anetan)
Hon Mathew Batsiua (Boe)
Hon Baron Waqa (Boe)
Hon Shadlog Bernicke (Buada)
Hon Roland Kun (Buada)
Hon Sprent Dabwido (Meneng)
Hon Ryke Solomon (Meneng)
Hon Valdon Dowiyogo (Ubenide)
Hon Ali Amwano (Ubenide)
Hon Freddie Pitcher (Ubenide)
Hon David Adeang (Ubenide)
Hon Dr Kieren Keke (Yaren)
Hon Dominic Tabuna (Yaren)

Ann-Marie Thoma

Clerk of Parliament