



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nauru's President Marcus Stephen says parliamentary deadlock not affecting government business.

Nauru's President Marcus Stephen says that despite the continued stalemate in the country's parliament, it was "business as usual" as far as governing Nauru was concerned.

The Parliament is deadlocked at nine members a side after last weekend's general election, which returned the same members as before the poll was announced six weeks ago. So far, the new parliament has been unable to elect a Speaker despite two sittings this week.

President Stephen said that while he was hopeful an early resolution can be found, his government can ably continue to govern through till 30th June if necessary.

"We don't have a sense of urgency about this. As far as governing is concerned, it's business as usual.

"However we are continuing to look for a workable solution with some of the more sensible members on the other side," President Stephen said.

The President suspected there were some members of the non-government group who would be considering their positions.

"It is our hope that they will consider our record of achievement and recognise that we are the only government with policies and plans in place to move forward, as we have done over the past two years.

"Our door is open to any suggestions or approaches from those Members. But in the meantime, we'll continue to govern in the best interests of the Nauruan people," he said.

President Stephen said there had been precedents where deadlocks meant the parliament was without a Speaker.

"In particular, in 2003 the House was in the same stalemate position for about a month until a Speaker was elected."

President Stephen said when the parliamentary process is finally resolved, it should be the priority of the parliament to pass a number of Constitutional Amendments which would prevent such stalemates in the future.

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For further information or to arrange interviews:

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