



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

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Nauru President has no plans for another election despite deadlock continuing.

Nauru's President Marcus Stephen says he has no intention to dissolve the 20th Parliament and call another election, despite no agreement being reached between the Government and members of the Opposition.

President Stephen said any future election should only take place after the Constitutional amendments preventing another stalemate have been implemented.

"I do not believe another election under the current Constitution is a responsible way to deal with the ongoing stalemate.

"We have had two general elections within the last two months and the message from the people on both occasions is clear - they want us to resolve it among ourselves," the President said.

President Stephen said that when Nauru again goes to the polls, it should only be when the result will ensure a majority and dissolving the parliament and holding another election before that, is not necessarily a solution.

"I wish to make it clear that another election without those amendments is not an option I would consider at this time."

The proposed Constitutional amendments include the provision for an additional Member of Parliament, taking the total number to 19 - and thus providing a majority for the winning side – and the appointment of a Speaker from outside the parliament.

President Stephen said it was disappointing that the stalemate had now persisted for six months.

“It is even more disappointing that despite all concessions, compromises and options I have offered, Members on the other side of the House have not been able to step up to meet me in the middle and enable us to move forward in the best interests of Nauru,”

“We must act responsibly as MP’s and move beyond personal ambitions, personal grievances, concerns about public image or whatever it is that is preventing realistic responses.

“We all need to agree to compromises that are ultimately in the best interests of Nauru and our people.”

President Stephen called on all Members to “dig themselves out of their entrenched positions” and work constructively to find a solution and to be very clear that another election is not the solution. Nor was it on the agenda at this time.

He said he would remain President until the election of the next President under Constitution Article 16 and his Ministers would likewise remain in their positions under Article 20 of the Constitution.

“Constitutionally, we can remain in Government for as long as it takes for this Parliament to elect the next President.

“However, it is my sincere hope this will be sooner rather than later,” President Stephen said.

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