



REPUBLIC OF NAURU
Government Information Office

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nauru Parliamentary deadlock ends

Nauru's 20th Parliament is at last up and running following the election of a new Speaker and the re-election of Marcus Stephen as President.

The breakthrough brings to an end the deadlock which has plagued the parliament of Nauru since early in the year when three former government members sided with the Opposition and attempted a no-confidence motion against the Stephen government.

Two general elections followed, - in April and June - with both resulting in equal numbers on both sides being returned. The government has functioned under State of Emergency provisions since June 11.

This morning, the "grandfather" and 30-year veteran of the parliament, former president Ludwig Scotty accepted the sole nomination for the Speaker's position having been nominated by Marcus Stephen and seconded by Opposition member Godfrey Thoma.

The new Speaker took the early opportunity to encourage all Members to work together for the benefit of Nauru, pointing out that the disruptions of the past months have not been productive for the country, its people or the House.

He encouraged his colleagues to talk about issues and resolve them in parliament rather than lash out in the media or turn to the Courts to resolve issues.

The Supreme Court two weeks ago ruled in favour of the President and his government after a challenge had been mounted which questioned the legality of the State of Emergency and the various Orders issued by the President.

Mr Scotty said this had produced bad publicity for Nauru and had cost a great deal of money for lawyers for a Court ruling that still left some Members dissatisfied.

As Speaker he promised to listen to both sides of the House and not to favour either side.

Two nominations were forthcoming for the presidency, with parliament's newest member, Milton Dube being nominated to stand against the incumbent, Marcus Stephen. However the secret ballot resulted in Mr Stephen winning by a margin of 11 votes to 6.

In accepting the vote, President Stephen said it was a great day for Nauru, and he now looked forward to lifting the State of Emergency, so the parliament and the country could function properly.

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