

Motion to establish Select Committee on Electoral Boundaries

Whereas:

- the electoral boundaries of Nauru have remained unchanged since 1965; and
- the current ratio of representatives to voters varies enormously between constituencies; and
- it is timely to consider whether it is necessary or desirable to amend Nauru's electoral boundaries;

I therefore move:

- (1) that, pursuant to Standing Order 197, the House resolves to establish a Select Committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Electoral Boundaries, and that such Committee report to the House, on or before 31 August 2011, on the matters referred to the Committee under paragraph (5) of this motion; and
- (2) that the Committee consist of six Members, namely:
 - H.E. Marcus Stephen
 - Hon Freddie Pitcher
 - Hon Ludwig Scotty
 - Hon Sprent Dabwido
 - Hon Godfrey Thoma
 - Hon Aloysius Amwano
- (3) that the quorum of the Committee be four Members;
- (4) that the Committee have the power to send for and examine persons, papers and records;
- (5) that, in conducting its inquiry, the Committee examine the following matters:
 - (a) the population in each existing constituency;
 - (b) the number of registered voters in each existing constituency;
 - (c) any perceived inequity in existing electoral boundaries;
 - (d) proposed alternatives for the review of electoral boundaries, including:

- (i) the possibility of separating certain constituencies into separate constituencies for each district in order to create a more equitable and relevant division of electorates;
 - (ii) the possibility in particular of the separation of the constituency of Anabar, Ijuw and Anibare into 3 separate constituencies, each with its own individual Member of Parliament;
 - (iii) the possibility of the separation of the constituency of Ubenide into separate constituencies for each of the Districts within that constituency;
 - (iv) the possibility of creating a new electorate to encompass the area containing the Location compound and the NPC settlement residents;
 - (v) submissions from the public;
 - (vi) any other matter that the Committee deems necessary or relevant to enable it to complete its Report on electoral boundaries;
- (6) that, in its Report to Parliament, the Committee:
- (a) may make recommendations for the review of electoral boundaries and the amendment of relevant legislation; and
 - (b) must present a fair summary of the information gathered by it and of the evidence and views presented to it;
- (7) that the first meeting of the Committee shall be held on Monday 25 April at 12:00pm;
- (8) that the Committee may present progressive reports and recommendations to Parliament as it deems fit;
- (9) that the foregoing provisions of this motion, so far as they are inconsistent with the Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.

Moved: Hon Freddie Pitcher

Seconded: Hon Riddel Akua