

**Votes & Proceedings  
of the  
Fifteenth Parliament**

**No. 10**

**Tenth Sitting of the First Meeting  
Tuesday, 3rd June 2003**

**10.00 a.m.**

1. The House met at 10 a.m. pursuant to adjournment. (House actually sat at 4 p.m.)
2. The Speaker, Hon. F. Ribauw M.P., took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Advice to Dissolve Parliament**

The Chair informed the House that he had received a letter from His Excellency the President which reads as follows:

*“Honourable Speaker,*

*Under the powers vested in me under Article 41(2) of the Constitution of Nauru which state -*

*“41(2) The Speaker shall, if he is advised by the President to dissolve Parliament, refer the advice of the President to Parliament as soon as practicable and in any case before the expiration of fourteen days after his receipt of the advice.”*

*I hereby give notice and advise your Honourable Chair to dissolve the Fifteenth Parliament of the Republic of Nauru.*

*This advice is hereby given on this 3rd day of June 2003.*

*(Signed) Ludwig Scotty, President.”*

The House was suspended until the bell rings.

4. **Matter of Privilege**

The Chair informed the House that a Matter of Privilege had been brought to his attention by the Deputy Speaker, Dr. Kieren Keke, which reads as follows:

*“Honourable Speaker,*

*Re: **Complain of Breach of Privilege & Contempt of the House***

*I wish to bring to your kind notice a very serious matter of breach of my privileges as the Deputy Speaker and Member of this House and a responsible functionary of the legislative arm of the government.*

*You may kindly recall that on 20th May 2003, I had sought legal advice of the Secretary for Justice, Mr. Denzil Seneviratne which was essential for the discharge of*

*my duties towards the Parliament and to the nation. The advice as sought was in the form of a questionnaire built in my forwarding letter. However, the Secretary for Justice refused to give his legal opinion on a very flimsy ground stating that, "We are currently advising the Office of the President and the Cabinet on constitutional issue. I therefore regret I am unable to advise your office."*

*His reply clearly obstructed me in the discharge of my duties towards the Parliament. Nevertheless, I found myself duty-bound and responsible towards the House and the nation and I again requested the Secretary to send his legal advice whilst the House would remain suspended till his reply was sought. Once again the Secretary for Justice refused to furnish his advice on flimsy ground.*

*Honourable Speaker this is the earliest opportunity for me to bring this matter of serious breach of privilege of the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair on that day, and contempt of the House. Although I had laid the copies of the correspondence in the House for information and record of the Honourable Members, yet I am enclosing a set of the entire correspondence with this letter.*

*I therefore request you to formally refer my complaint to the Committee of Privileges for formal in-depth investigation, take evidences and recommend suitable punishment thereafter so that the instances of this nature are not repeated in future and the work of the Parliament is not obstructed by the officials of the Republic, however high position they may hold.*

*I am willing to assist the Committee in all possible manner and look forward for your favourable action in the matter.*

*With kind regards,*

*Yours sincerely, (Signed) Hon. Kieren Keke, M.P., Deputy Speaker of Parliament."*

## **5. Motion Fixing the Date for the Next Sitting**

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until next Thursday morning, 5th June 2003, at 10 a.m.

The Hon. D. Jeremiah (Minister for Works) seconded.

## **6. Motion of Amendment**

Mr. Clodumar (Boe) moved to amend that Parliament do adjourn until tomorrow afternoon, Wednesday 4th June at 2 p.m.

Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) seconded.

The motion of amendment was put and passed.

## **7. Adjournment**

His Excellency the President moved that the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at six o'clock p.m. adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, Wednesday 4th June 2003, at 2 p.m.

**Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr. Kun.

Frederick Cain  
**Clerk of Parliament**