

**Votes & Proceedings  
of the  
Fifteenth Parliament**

**No. 22**

**First Sitting of the Eighth Meeting  
Tuesday, 6th April 2004**

**2.00 p.m.**

1. The House met in accordance with the resolution made on Thursday, 26th March 2004.
2. The Hon. Ludwig D. Scotty, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Matter of Privilege**

Dr. Keke (Yaren) raised a matter of breach of privilege and contempt of the House against the President and Ministers for not advising the Speaker to call a meeting of Parliament on or before the 31st day of March 2004.

The Chair advised the House that the matter of privilege will be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

His Excellency the President requested for suspension of the House until 4.30 p.m. The Chair, with the consensus of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume at 4.30 p.m.

**Resumed.**

4. **Letter of Resignation**

The Chairman, Mr. F. Cain, took the Chair and announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Hon. Speaker Ludwig Scotty, M.P., which read as follows -

*“Mr. Clerk, we are all aware of the authorised period for the government to submit for Parliament’s approval the 2003-04 Budget, i.e. a date by no later than 31st of March 2004, had passed without any responsible action from government to seek and secure parliamentary endorsement before the deadline. The government has since then been operating on an illegal budget by breaching Part VI of the Constitution of which process had set a ‘dangerous precedent’ that this country had never experienced.*

*Such conduct and the degradation of our democratic parliamentary system demoralise me as the custodian of Parliament. In as much as I cherish this job, I regret it would be difficult for me to continue to render impartial service in the speakership role whilst being a sacrifice to the unlawful manner of operation by the executive body supported by certain honourable Members elected to this 15th Parliament.*

*On that note and in accordance with Article 35(3)(e) of the Constitution, I hereby submit my resignation from the position of Speaker.*

*(Signed) Hon. Ludwig D. Scotty, M.P., Speaker.”*

The Chairman then called upon the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Terangi Adam, M.P., to take the Chair and conduct the business of electing a Member to fill the vacancy in the Office of Speaker.

5. The Hon. Terangi Adam M.P. (Deputy Speaker of Parliament) took the Chair and with the consensus of the House suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

### **Resumed.**

### **6. Election of Speaker**

The Chair, after informing Members of the business of the House which is the election of a Member to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Speaker, then called for nominations.

Dr. Keke (Yaren) nominated Mr. Adam (Buada) to be Speaker of Parliament.

Mr. Ribauw (Ubenide) seconded.

Mr. Adam declined the nomination.

There being no other nominations forthcoming, the election of Speaker was postponed to the next sitting day.

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

His Excellency President Rene Harris moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until next Thursday, 8th April 2004 at 10 a.m.

The Hon. D. Gioura (Minister Assisting the President) seconded.

Question put and passed.

### **8. Adjournment**

His Excellency the President moved that Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at fifteen minutes past five o'clock p.m. adjourned until next Thursday at 10 a.m.

### **Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting.

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**