

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER, 2015

The Speaker, Mr Ajilon Nasiu took the Chair at 8.15am.

Prayers.

ATTENDANCE

All were present with the exception of the Members for North West Guadalcanal; Central Makira and North East Guadalcanal.

SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, before we proceed on to the business set down for today's sitting, allow me to make a few remarks and announcements.

Firstly, the High Court has just given its decision regarding the attempt to question the validity of the decision from this Chair to allow the Motion of No Confidence to be set down for today's business.

Simply put, the decision by the High Court is that internal proceedings of Parliament cannot be inquired into by the Courts, or other tribunals for that matter. This fundamental principle is deeply entrenched throughout the Commonwealth. For us, there is only one exception, and that is if a decision or ruling of this Chair is such that infringes a Constitutional right of a Member of Parliament. Founded on the doctrine of the 'separation of powers', the decision by the High Court is a restatement that Parliament enjoys certain privileges in order for it to discharge its constitutional duties without fear or favour. Under the current circumstances the privilege enjoyed by this House is that Parliament and Parliament alone is in control exclusively of its own proceedings. If the Courts or other tribunals are allowed to inquire into the proceedings of this House and question the validity of the decisions taken thereof, then Parliament would not be able to effectively discharge its representational, legislative and oversight roles. Let this be on the records of this House.

Secondly, you may have noticed that in your pigeon holes are nomination forms for the election of a Deputy Speaker. As you are aware, the Office of the Deputy Speaker has become vacant since my former Deputy, Member of Parliament for Central Honiara, has now assumed a Ministerial responsibility as the Minister of Education and Human Resources Development. I sincerely thank him for his assistance to this Chair. According to section 64 of the Constitution and Order 5 of the Standing Orders, nominations are open for two clear days before the election of the Deputy Speaker will be set down for the election proper. Nominations are to be submitted to the Clerk of the National Parliament.

Finally, honourable Members, the Leader of Opposition has duly informed me through the Clerk this morning of his intention to withdraw the Motion of No Confidence.

As such, according to Standing Order 31 paragraph 2, the Motion of No Confidence in the Prime Minister is withdrawn from the Business Paper accordingly. ”

ADJOURNMENT

Hon Manasseh Sogavare: I only have one responsibility now and that is to move that the House do now adjourn for today.

The House adjourned at 10.04am