



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
12TH NILA HANSARD – 24 MARCH 2010**

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE THIRTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ACTING CLERK Please be seated. Your Honour the Administrator, Mrs Walsh, Honourable Members of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. This meeting, the first of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island is convened pursuant to the following notice, which appeared in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette dated 22 March 2010.

"I, Owen John Walsh, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under section 40 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, do by this notice, convene the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island after a general election of that Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Kingston, at 10.00 am on Wednesday 24 March 2007 and that was dated the 22nd March 2010 and signed Owen John Walsh, Administrator

PRAYER

I now invite all present to be upstanding, while Reverend Frank Mostyn reads Prayers please.

REV MOSTYN Let Us Pray. Our Lord and heavenly Father, We thank you for the confidence, support and goodwill, of the people, who have elected these, their representatives, to enter this high office. We humbly thank you for the privilege of being called to serve you in the cause of good government. May this 13th Assembly here gathered, be granted your wisdom, grace and counsel, as they face the task of governing Norfolk Island in challenging times? May righteousness and peace be firmly established by their endeavours, for the welfare and comfort of this your people. AMEN

RETURN TO WRIT FOR ELECTION

ACTING CLERK Thank you Reverend Mostyn. Please be seated. I have received a Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on the 17th March 2010. By the endorsement on the Writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

- Timothy John Sheridan
- Craig Maurice Anderson
- Andre` Neville Nobbs
- David Ernest Buffett
- Melissa Ward
- Michael William King
- Lisle Denis Snell
- Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths
- Ms Robin Eleanor Adams

I lay the Return on the Table of the House.

OATHS BY MEMBERS

Honourable Members, we now move to the next process which is the swearing in of Members and I ask the Mrs Davidson to approach each Member in turn so that they may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance and the oath or affirmation of office, thank you

MRS DAVIDSON Ms Adams, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MS ADAMS I, Robin Eleanor Adams, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Robin Eleanor Adams, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr Snell, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SNELL I, Lisle Denis Snell, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Lisle Denis Snell, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr Sheridan please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SHERIDAN I, Timothy John Sheridan, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Timothy John Sheridan, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mrs Griffith, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MRS GRIFFITHS I, Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr Buffett, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BUFFETT I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr Nobbs, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR NOBBS I, Andre Neville Nobbs, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Andre Neville Nobbs, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mrs Ward, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR ANDERSON I, Melissa Ward, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Melissa Ward, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr King please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SHERIDAN I, Michael William King, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Michael William King, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MRS DAVIDSON Mr Anderson, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR ANDERSON I, Craig Maurice Anderson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Craig Maurice Anderson, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

ATTESTATION BY ADMINISTRATOR

ACTING CLERK Thank you Mrs Davidson. I will now ask His Honour the Administrator to sign the form attesting to the making and subscribing of the required oaths and affirmation by Members of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly

ADMINISTRATOR Members of the Legislative Assembly I wish to congratulate you all as successful candidates and now Members of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

ACTING CLERK Thank you Your Honour. The next business is the election of a Speaker of the Assembly. Are there any nominations please? Mr Snell

MR SNELL Thank you Acting Clerk. I move that Robin Eleanor Adams be elected Speaker of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and do now take the Chair as Speaker

ACTING CLERK Thank you Mr Snell. Ms Adams, do you accept nomination.

MS ADAMS I accept nomination Acting Clerk

CLERK Are there any further proposals? There being no further proposals the time for proposals has expired and I declare that Robin Eleanor Adams has been elected Speaker and would ask Ms Adams to now take the Chair

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

SPEAKER Thank you. The next business is election of a Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and I ask are there any nominations please

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Madam Speaker I move that Mr Lisle Denis Snell be elected as Deputy Speaker

SPEAKER Mr Snell, do you accept nomination.

MR SNELL I accept nomination Madam Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals Honourable Members? There are no further proposals. The time for proposals has expired and therefore I declare that Lisle Denis Snell has been elected Deputy Speaker of this 13th Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and offer congratulations to him on his election

ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS

SPEAKER Honourable Members, I now invite His Honour the Administrator to address the Legislative Assembly

ADMINISTRATOR Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Acting Clerk, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is a privilege for Bianca and I to be present and to officiate at this inaugural meeting of the 13th Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, particularly as it follows so closely the 30th anniversary of Norfolk Island's self-government arrangement. It is also a pleasure to join you this morning and to congratulate each of you on your election to this Parliament. I acknowledge the commitment and responsibility each of you have made in accepting positions of public office on behalf of the Norfolk Island community. It is also important on this occasion that I acknowledge the commitment and contribution of the members and officers of the 12th Legislative Assembly. Serving the people of Norfolk Island is an important and demanding duty, a duty which they discharged in a time of real need across our community. I would also like to acknowledge those candidates who were unsuccessful in the election. I thank them for their participation and for having the courage and commitment to step forward and offer themselves as candidates. I would urge them all to remain interested and involved and to continue to make a contribution in Norfolk Island's public and community life. The Minister for Home Affairs, the Honorable Brendan O'Connor MP, has asked me to convey to you his congratulations on your election to the 13th Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and to pass on to you his best wishes for a successful term of office. The Minister is keen to return to Norfolk Island to meet again with the community and to discuss with you, your plans and priorities. The Secretary of the Attorney General's Department, Mr Roger Wilkins, has also asked me to extend to you, on behalf of his Department, his congratulations on your election and his best wishes for your work as Assembly members. Madam Speaker, and Honourable Members,

having completed over thirty years of government, the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly is a remarkable institution with a significant legislative record. However, the Assembly's success is not judged by the volume of the laws that it enacts. Rather it is determined by the ability of the Assembly and its members to identify and resolve the issues and problems facing our community. The themes that you each highlighted during the election – including in your policy and media statements - reflect a range of community concerns and priorities that now require your attention. Responding to these issues and meeting these expectations will bring challenges. One of these will be the fact that those in public life on Norfolk Island can be held to account immediately for the decisions that they make. It is true to say the decisions we make today will be raised with us tomorrow by our family, friends and neighbours on Norfolk Island. As Her Excellency the Governor General stated in her address to this Chamber last year, this means that each of us must daily demonstrate the courage to make decisions, and also to make the right decisions. Not just the decisions that may please our friends, neighbours or those who we may meet in the community. As an Assembly and as a Government, you have been elected to make the hard decisions. This is one of the most important responsibilities that you now each carry in responding to our community's expectations and needs. The decisions you each make – or choose not to make – as Assembly members can impact on the lives of every person on Norfolk Island, their health and education, their livelihoods and their businesses. Moreover, your decisions and your choices can affect not only the current generation of Norfolk Islanders, but future generations of our community. As Her Excellency also reminded us, we must ensure that the decisions we make are fair and informed and will benefit the wider community and the future of our Island. This important responsibility must be exercised prudently, carefully and in a considered manner. As the Honourable Bob Ellicott QC advised the first Legislative Assembly in 1979: *As individuals, be prepared to abandon your own pet theories; adopt as your test what appears to be reasonable in the interests of all the people.* It is important to remind ourselves again – particularly on this occasion - of this expectation that this institution – Norfolk Island's Parliament - should represent all on our Island and should work to ensure that Norfolk Island's gift can be enjoyed by everyone in our community as well as by our children and grandchildren. As the representative of our Head of State, Her Majesty The Queen, on Norfolk Island and as the Australian Government's representative on-island, I look forward to continue working with the Assembly as a whole - and with you Madam Speaker and the Executive Members - for the betterment of the Norfolk Island community. May I conclude by offering you all Bianca's and my best wishes for a very successful 13th Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

SPEAKER'S ADDRESS IN REPLY

SPEAKER Thank you Your Honour. Your Honour and Mrs Walsh, Honourable Members, Madam Clerk, distinguished guests in the Chamber this afternoon, on your behalf I thank Your Honour for your warm wishes to Members upon the commencement of this the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. Thank you also for conveying messages of congratulations from the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP and from the Secretary of the Attorney General's Department, Mr Roger Wilkins, AO. We would appreciate your offering them our thanks for their best wishes. Today, with the commencement of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly, we are again celebrating another milestone in the Island's progression towards full internal self-government, a progression that is fully acknowledged by both the Commonwealth of Australia and the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island in the Preamble to the Norfolk Island Act of 1979, from which I quote in part: "AND WHEREAS the Parliament considers it to be desirable and to be the wish of the people of Norfolk Island that Norfolk Island achieve, over a period of time, internal self-government as a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth and, to that end, to provide, among other things, for the establishment of a representative Legislative Assembly and of other separate political and administrative institutions on Norfolk Island..." That vision remains unchanged and in acknowledging the joint vision of the Commonwealth and of the Norfolk Island community - a vision that has been reinforced at our celebratory sittings on the occasion of the 25th and 30th anniversaries of the

Legislative Assembly – I would like us to pause and pay tribute to the Foremothers and Forefathers of this community, to that courageous little band of men, women and children who, in 1856, made that momentous journey from Pitcairn Island to Norfolk Island, to found the wonderful community that we are blessed to be part of today. At the same time Your Honour, one must equally acknowledge the many people who since 1856 have come to join the Island's forebears and their descendants to make this Island community the wonderful multicultural tapestry of people that it is today. And let us also pause and pay tribute to the members of the Ninth Norfolk Island Council, who, together with the Commonwealth of Australia, and in particular the then Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Ellicott QC, were responsible for Norfolk Island again moving down the path to self-government. Two of those Members are with us today as Members of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly – Mr David Buffett AM and Mr Lisle Snell. We also acknowledge the achievements of each and every Member of the twelve Assemblies which have gone before us and who have toiled tirelessly on behalf of the Norfolk Island community over the past 30 years. We honour them for the role that they have played in progressing self-government. But equally Your Honour I would like on behalf of my colleagues to acknowledge the role that you yourself have played, and will continue to play, as the Administrator of the Territory of Norfolk Island in advancing our self governing status. You have now been with us in a number of roles – that of Official Secretary, Acting Administrator, and today, as the Administrator – for a total of some ten years. But none of those roles can take greater precedence to the part that you have played in our community in more recent times in bringing to Government House our Island's own First Lady - your lovely wife Bianca - whom we especially welcome to the Chamber today. Through your alliance you are both helping to meld this community into a cohesive, vibrant and prosperous whole, and we look forward to working with you for the continuing peace, order and good governance of Norfolk Island. We, the Members of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly, have a responsibility to the people of this Island who have chosen us to be their voice, to bring stability, to promote prosperity and provide capacity to enable the tasks of today to be undertaken and the community's aspirations to be achieved. There is much honour in being chosen in these tasks and we have prayed this morning, we have subscribed to oaths this morning or affirmed our commitment to give service to the Norfolk Island people. Thank you Your Honour for your Address this morning and in conclusion I would like to present you with a copy of the Address in Reply together with a small token of appreciation from the House.

SUSPENSION

Honourable Members the House will now briefly suspend. I would ask that members and guests stand while His Honour the Administrator and his party depart from the Chamber. Thank you

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

SPEAKER Honourable Members, the House has now resumed its sitting and I move now to Messages from the Office of the Administrator

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 1

SPEAKER Honourable Members, I have received the following Message from the Office of the Administrator and it is Message No 1 which reads that on the 10th March 2010, acting pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the following proposed laws passed by the Legislative Assembly: Appropriation (Amendment) Act 2009-2010 (Act No 1 of 2010), Child Welfare (Amendment) Act 2010 (Act No 2 of 2010), Social Services (Amendment) Act 2010 (Act No 3 of 2010) and Social Services (Amendment No 2) Act 2010 (Act No 4 of 2010) and that message was dated the 10th March 2010 and signed Owen Walsh, Administrator.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 2

Message No 2 reads that on the 10th March 2010, pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I reserved the following proposed law for the pleasure of the Governor-General: Healthcare (Amendment) Bill 2010 and that message was dated the 10th March 2010 and signed Owen Walsh, Administrator.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 3

Message No 3 reads that on the 15th March 2010, acting pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the following proposed law passed by the Legislative Assembly: Plant and Fruit Diseases (Amendment) Act 2010 (Act No 5 of 2010) and that message was dated the 15th March 2010 and signed Owen Walsh, Administrator.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 4

Honourable Members Message No 4 reads that on the 19th March 2010, pursuant to section 24 of the Referendum Act 1964 (NI), the Norfolk Island Returning Officer declared that Norfolk Island's electors were not in favour of the question: "Do you think that the profitable publicly owned Norfolk Island Liquor Bond Supply Service should be sold to private enterprise" and that message was dated the 20th March 2010 and signed Owen Walsh, Administrator.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

The next item of business Honourable Members is to determine the number of executive offices and their respective designations pursuant to Standing Order 243. Mr Buffett

MR BUFFETT
Island Act 1979 –

Madam Speaker, I move that, under section 12 of the *Norfolk*

1. All previous resolutions under that section be revoked;
2. That there be 4 executive offices; and
3. These offices have the following designations:
Chief Minister
Minister for Finance and The Attorney-General
Minister for Tourism, Industry & Development
Minister for Community Services

Madam Speaker I commend the motion to the House

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett. Any further debate? Then I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, that motion is agreed thank you

APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF CHIEF MINISTER

SPEAKER We move onto the next item of business, the proposing of Members to fill each executive office that has been determined by the motion that has just been passed and I call for nominations for the position of Chief Minister, Mr Nobbs

MR NOBBS Madam Speaker, I move that David Ernest Buffett be chosen to be Chief Minister and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Buffett, do you accept nomination

MR BUFFETT Madam Speaker I accept the nomination

SPEAKER Is there any further proposal? No. Is there any debate Honourable Members, then I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Congratulations Mr Buffett, you are Chief Minister

APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

SPEAKER Continuing to move through the Ministries Honourable Members I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Finance and The Attorney-General. Mrs Griffiths

MRS GRIFFITHS Madam Speaker I move that Craig Maurice Anderson be chosen to be Minister for Finance and The Attorney-General and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Griffiths. Mr Anderson do you accept nomination

MR ANDERSON Madam Speaker I accept nomination thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Anderson. Is there any further proposal? Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Then I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Congratulations Mr Anderson, you are Minister for Finance and The Attorney-General

APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR TOURISM, INDUSTRY & DEVELOPMENT

SPEAKER I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Minister for Tourism, Industry & Development. Mrs Ward

MRS WARD Madam Speaker, I move that André Neville Nobbs be chosen to be Minister for Tourism, Industry & Development and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Ward. Mr Nobbs, do you accept nomination

MR NOBBS I accept nomination Madam Speaker

SPEAKER Is there any further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate Honourable Members, I put the question

QUESTION PUT

Mr King would you be comfortable that your vote is recorded in the negative

MR KING Indeed Madam Speaker

AGREED
MR KING NO

The motion is agreed thank you, Congratulations Mr Nobbs, on your nomination to the Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Development

APPOINTMENTS TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

SPEAKER and finally and equally as importantly I now call for nominations for the executive office of Minister for Community Services

MR BUFFETT Madam Speaker, I move that Timothy John Sheridan be chosen to be Minister for Community Services and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett. Mr Sheridan, do you accept nomination

MR SHERIDAN I accept nomination Madam Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Sheridan. Is there any further proposal? Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Then I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Congratulations Mr Sheridan, you are Minister for Community Services

FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DATE

Honourable Members, that almost concludes the formal proceedings of the day. It lies with us now to fix our next sitting day and Mr Sheridan I look to you please

MR SHERIDAN Madam Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 10.00 am

SPEAKER Is there any debate Honourable Members

MR KING Madam Speaker, I was given to understand that the first business meeting was going to take place on the 10th. As you can see I haven't been in the vicinity in the last couple of days when this change may have occurred. I have made arrangements to travel away, which I can put off until the 16th April, but I can put it off no later than that as there is a prior appointment I have made on the mainland. I wonder whether the House might be able to accommodate that. I would appreciate consideration of that but I understand if you are not able to do that and rest assured that I would put a reasonable quantity on the Notice Paper for the business meeting if I couldn't be here on the 21st

MR BUFFETT The 14th is a Wednesday

MR KING I can deal with the 14th

SPEAKER Mr Snell, how does that sit with you

MR SNELL The 14th is okay with me

SPEAKER Can I have an indication round the table Members as to how we sit with the 14th. If we are comfortable Honourable Members then rather a formal amendment, we will accept that the motion reads that the House at its rising will adjourn until Wednesday the 14th April 2010 at 10 am and put that question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to

ADJOURNMENT

Finally Honourable Members we come to the adjournment. Mr King

MR KING Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. Madam Speaker thank you very much. Madam Speaker I wish Hansard to reflect that I am the first Member of a registered political party standing on that party's platform ever to be elected to this House of Assembly. Some 30% of the Norfolk Island electorate supported me as standing on the very clear platform of Norfolk Labour, the sub branch of the Australian Labour Party. Those who voted for my place in this House knew what Norfolk Labour stood for, its published policy platforms repeated time and again a belief that Norfolk Island is no longer able to financially and administratively support the current level of self government. Norfolk Labour argued long and hard over several years that the finances of the island were at a critical and unstable level and could not be sustained. Norfolk Labour argued the current financial and taxation arrangements would not provide a solution for our ills and that the only sensible solution available was to join in the Commonwealth arrangements. The wider electorate Madam Speaker did not share this view but 30% did and they supplied Norfolk Labour as an entity with some 14% of the vote on offer, that is, 50% greater than any other Member in this House. At this stage I believe Madam Speaker that the vast majority of other Members around this table are somewhat removed from the views of Norfolk Labour and I accept that. But Madam Speaker what sets me apart from most in this Chamber is the fact that those who voted for me knew precisely what they were getting. I am as it were a known quantity. I am obliged to represent my constituents in the manner expected by them and to that end and as far as necessary I declare myself to be the Opposition Government of Norfolk Island. Indeed Madam Speaker I am not only the Opposition Government, I am the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister for everything. But not to make light of that, this declaration marks the end of the so-called consensus style of Government that followed in Norfolk Island for some thirty years. Some like yourself will lament this passing but some will welcome it for the increased challenge and accountability, which comes with it. At this crucial time in Norfolk's history, it is important that we all work together to find solutions to our very grim situation and I wish to assure the Members and the community that I will not stand in the way of progressive solutions. I will not routinely or as a matter of course oppose Government endeavours. In fact, Madam Speaker quite the contrary. Where there is good Government for the Island I will be extremely supportive. However, where there is bad Government and bad decisions I will probe, I will challenge, I will criticise and expose. I expect to participate in Select and Standing Committees of the House and statutory committees if invited to do so. I do not expect to be invited to Meetings of the Government and its bank bench supporters behind closed doors and I respect that. Of course I would welcome any information, which the Government might share with me from time to time, but I will not question its discretion to do so. Information, which is not made readily available to me, I will endeavour to extract in the House, where I will conduct my business in an open and frank manner. I expect to be treated with the respect due to the Leader of the Opposition and I expect to have reasonable

access to Government facilities and resources, like the radio, to enable me to properly represent and inform my constituents. Madam Speaker I need very little in the way of resources in the vicinity. If I'm seen to be sitting in the corner of the Assembly in a contemplative and reflective mood, then it could well be that I'm conducting a caucus meeting in my mind. There is only one of me at the moment but I will remind Members around this table that that number may change during the course of the Assembly. Madam Speaker on a somber and unfortunate note as I go about my business in what I see as the best interest of my constituents, I will not allow myself to be influenced by the bullying and the attempted intimidation and the verbal abuse and physical threats that I have experienced from some in the community this past week and I lament the necessity to say those words. Madam Speaker let me close by offering my congratulations to elected Members and to those elected to office including yourself and I wish you all the best in your endeavours. Thank you very much

SPEAKER Thank you Mr King. Is there any further debate Honourable Members? There being no further debate I put the question that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday 14th April 2010, at 10.00 am.

