

**Prayer**

Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessings upon this House, to direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island, Amen

**RESIGNATION OF GEOFFREY JAMES BENNETT**

MR SPEAKER                   Honourable Members, on Tuesday last the 4th July I formally received the resignation of Geoffrey James Bennett effecting immediately his withdrawal from membership of this Assembly and from Executive Office. To address the casual vacancy in the office of a Member of the Assembly, the Administrator has been formally advised and there is a prospective Bi-election that will take place on the 16th August 1995. To adjust and fill the executive offices is the principle purpose of this mornings' sitting and we will move through adjustment of executive offices, that is, designation and titles of Ministers, then place Members into those executive offices including the prospective new executive member Mr Adams

**NOTICES**

**NO 1 - TERMINATION OF OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

We move to Notice No 1, Mrs Sampson

MRS SAMPSON                   Thank you. Mr Speaker, I move that the appointment of Michael William King to the executive office designated Minister for Tourism and Works be terminated, and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR SPEAKER                   Thank you Mrs Sampson. Is there any debate? The question is that that motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you

**NO 2 - NORFOLK ISLAND ACT 1979 - VARIATION OF DESIGNATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

Notice No 2. Variation of designation of Executive Offices, Mrs Anderson

MRS ANDERSON                   Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that for the purposes of section 12 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, the resolution of the Legislative Assembly made under that section on 4 May 1994 be amended - (a) by omitting the designation Minister for Finance and substituting the designation Minister for Tourism and Finance; and (b) by omitting the designation Minister for Tourism and Works and substituting the designation Minister for Industry and Forests

MR SPEAKER                   Thank you Mrs Anderson. Is there any debate or discussion in respect of that motion? The question is that that motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, that motion is agreed to

**NO 3 - APPOINTMENT TO NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

Notice No 3. Appointment to new executive offices, Mr Bates

MR BATES                    Mr Speaker I move that (a) Michael William King be chosen to be appointed to the executive office designated Minister for Tourism and Finance; and (b) Robert Eric Adams be chosen to be appointed to the executive office designated Minister for Industry and Forests, and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR SPEAKER                Thank you Mr Bates. Discussion Honourable Members?

MR ADAMS                    Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for this vote of confidence. It is and will continue to be a challenging position and it's a challenge that I intend to rise to. This title actually reflects areas that have priority for me, particularly in the Forestry area. Mr Speaker, in the make up of the portfolio there is much to be done and in particular the primary industry area where a great deal of stimulus I believe is required. I intend also during the length of my term to widen the focus of the Forestry Section along the lines of the motion passed in December of last year in this House and I look forward to the continued support of all Members on this matter. Mr Speaker, all in all a weighty responsibility but one that I intend to give my best to and I thank my supporters both from within this House and without for their faith in me, thank you

MR SPEAKER                Thank you Mr Adams, Mr King

MR KING                    Mr Speaker, thank you very much. In some respects the conduct of the business of the House this morning will be seen as being somewhat perfunctory and automatic. As you pointed out earlier Mr Speaker, they are really technical motions necessary to accommodate a vacancy in the executive area and a re-shuffle of responsibilities and designations and little has been said about the processes outside the House which lead us to these official but technical motions. For example Mr Speaker, what is suggested in the titles which are on the Notice Paper today and in fact were reproduced in the local press at the weekend, can and have given the mistaken impression that in addition to my former responsibilities I have taken on the additional high profile responsibility of finance. This of course is not the case Mr Speaker as I have relinquished in this re-shuffle a great many areas of former responsibility, for example public service, immigration, civil works and transport which includes shipping and lighterage and something which I'm sure Mr Adams will get his teeth into. Neither will it be evident Mr Speaker from events so far that at least two former Finance Ministers currently sitting in this House on the back bench failed to take the opportunity to offer themselves for the finance portfolio. Those members Mr Speaker have their own good reasons for not offering for executive office and I don't want to appear to be critical of them. I did want to however, make it quite clear that I would have been perfectly happy for either of those Members to pick up the finance portfolio and for me to be left relatively undisturbed in my former office. Mr Speaker nothing I have said should be construed as suggesting that I am not happy with Mr Adams joining the executive, nor that I am uncomfortable with my duties. In fact, I am quite comfortable with Mr Adams joining the executive and let me publicly congratulate me on attaining that office. I would offer him full support Mr Speaker, well perhaps not full support, but alot of support indeed. Equally I am comfortable with taking on the duties of finance, but not so comfortable that I will not be calling on my colleagues for support and I look forward to that support from those Members who, as I have said, have had that relevant experience in the past, thank you very much

MR SPEAKER                Any further contributions in respect of this motion Honourable Members?

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker at the time of the ballot I did not vote for Robert Eric Adams to accept the fourth portfolio however, I was over-ruled and I will be voting with the motion today, thank you

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Anderson. Further contributions? The question before us Honourable Members is that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, that motion is agreed. So in your continuing role Mr King congratulations, particularly to Mr Robert Adams in your new chosen role, congratulations

#### **FIXING OF THE NEXT DAY OF SITTING**

That really completes the formalities that we have particularly gathered for this morning Honourable Members. Mrs Anderson

MRS ANDERSON Mr Speaker, I move that this House confirms its decision of 28 June 1996 to adjourn on rising until Wednesday 19th July 1995 at 10.00am

MR SPEAKER Thank you

MR BATES The Notice Paper reads the 28th June 1995. Surely that's a misprint as it is now the 10th July

MR SPEAKER When we last came together, not today, last time Mr Bates, it was the end of June which was to finalise the budgetary arrangements, we at that time determined that we would come together again on the 19th July, this has been an extraordinary meeting my separate procedures and we are really now confirming that our earlier decision to meet in our normal sequence remains in place

MR BATES Yes I see that now, thank you

MR SPEAKER We are all with that. The question is that that motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you. Adjournment Mr Christian

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR SPEAKER The question is that the House do now adjourn. Is there any adjournment debate?

MRS CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to pay a tribute to Mr Bennett's contribution to the work of this House as a Member of the Assembly for many years and before that, as a Member of the Council. As a new Member of this Assembly myself for only one year I was very appreciative of the help he gave me, unstintingly and without question to understand the work that I had to undertake and to find ways about the work that were more efficient and more useful to the Assembly. He gave many years of hard work to the work of this Assembly and he was also guided by the highest principle for the welfare of Norfolk Island and in spite of his hurried departure I think we should keep that in mind and we should be

10.7.95

extremely grateful for the work he has done and for the things he has achieved for Norfolk Island and for the spirit in which he achieved them. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. Mrs Anderson

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to say that I fully support Mrs Cuthbertson's statement thank you

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Anderson. Any further contribution to be made in the adjournment debate? Thank you Honourable Members. The question is that this House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it Honourable Members, therefore this House stands adjourned until Wednesday the 19th July 1995 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

--ooOoo--