

Politicians not service deliverers, says Dame

PEOPLE are the builders of the nation and not the politicians, national politician Dame Carol Kidu said yesterday.



Dame Carol

Speaking at the second day of induction for the Eighth Parliament, Dame Carol said to achieve that the mind-set of the people had to be changed.

She told the members that there were many roles of a politician and one that needed to be emphasized was to change the mind-set from the dependency to "re-empowerment".

She said politicians were not service deliverers and the mind-set of the voters had to be changed to understand the roles of their elected Members. "We are not the service delivery arm of the government. Delivery of service is a very vague term," Dame Carol said. She said the voters expectations among others were of personal access to the Member and delivery of services. Dame Carol, who is now the longest serving woman parliamentarian, said some, given the financial difficulties, wanted school fees to be paid by the member as people did not know where to go to and who to see with their problems. She said under the current financial guidelines, it was impossible to deliver most of these expectations. One way of making people understand the system and change the mind-set was to include them and allow them to take part in decisions.

She said with the Members slush fund gone and the District Services Improvement program introduced, the communities must come to appreciate what it was all about.

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By ROBERT PALME

THE Parliament is a and "strangers" are unless the Parliame vote, Speaker Jeffrey Members during the induction yesterday.

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'Protect dignity of office'

PARLIAMENTARIANS were urged to protect the dignity of the office they hold by former Speaker for New South Wales, Australia Kevin Rozzoli yesterday.

Mr Rozzoli, a veteran politician of 30 years, was addressing the members at the induction of the Eighth Parliament. He told the Members to prevent any act that built a negative image of themselves and the office.

He urged them to be role models and act as leaders in everything they did. He challenged that the

biggest reward by any elected leader "is in the heart if one has done the right thing for his or her people". Mr Rozzoli also urged them to have an open door policy and not to make excuses if their people wanted to see them.

He said they had a duty to their country and that was to help even those who had not voted for them.

The former parliamentarian told them that they must make an effort to visit every corner of their electorate and talk to the people using every opportunity available.

Werge wants old system

Role of the media vital, editor tells Members

THE media played an important in the process of checks and balances of the way our particular parliamentary democracy functioned, Members of Parliament were told yesterday.

Speaking during the induction of the MPs, Media Council president Oseah Philemon said when the Parliament building was designed, a parliamentary press gallery was also included in the design.

"This special place is reserved for the media or press so that those accredited to cover Parliament can sit and observe the proceedings and report on the same for the benefit of the general public at large.

"As Members of the National Parliament you should be aware that everything you say or do on the floor of Parliament is privileged information and can be reported by the media.

"You should also be aware that upon your election to public office, you have lost the privacy of your life as an ordinary citizen.

"Your life - both public and private - will now be subject to public scrutiny and scrutiny by the media," he said.

Mr Philemon said it was therefore incumbent on MPs "to think carefully about issues you wish to talk about before you actually discuss them on the floor of Parliament or outside. Your words are powerful words because you are elected representatives of the people".

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