



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
OF THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

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Date: 02 February 2024

Mrs Taggy Tangimetua  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Avarua  
Rarotonga

Kia Orana Mrs Tangimetua,

Re: Notice of vacation of seat of Member of Parliament Mr Robert Taimoe Tapaitau,  
Penrhyn Constituency.

Article 27 (2) (g) of the Constitution of the Cook Islands provides for the election of 1 Member to represent the island of Penrhyn in the Parliament of the Cook Islands. Accordingly, Mr Robert Taimoe Tapaitau was duly elected as the Member of Parliament for the Penrhyn Constituency following the general election for the 18th Parliament held on 1st August 2022.

On 31st January 2024, Mr Tapaitau was convicted in the High Court of the Cook Islands of offences punishable with imprisonment for terms exceeding 1 year. Accordingly, pursuant to sections 9 (1) (h) and 9 (4) of the Electoral Act 2004, the seat of the Island of Penrhyn is hereby declared vacant as of 31st January 2024.

This declaration shall be published in the Cook Islands Gazette forthwith.

Yours Sincerely

Hon. Tai Tura  
Speaker  
PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS



# THE COOK ISLANDS GAZETTE

## Published by Authority

02/24

2 February 2024

02

### DECLARATION OF VACANT SEAT IN THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Pursuant to sections 9 (1) (h) and 9 (4) of the Electoral Act 2004, I, Tai Tura, Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands, hereby declare that by reason of the conviction by the High Court on 31st January 2024 of the Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Penrhyn Mr Robert Taimoe Tapaitau of offences punishable with imprisonment for terms of more than one year, the seat of the Constituency of Penrhyn has become vacant as of 31st January 2024.

Pursuant to section 105 (2) of the Electoral Act 2004, the Chief Electoral Officer is hereby authorised to make all the necessary arrangements for the conduct of a by-election in the Penrhyn Constituency.

Dated at Avarua this 2nd Day of February 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tai Tura', written over a faint circular stamp.

Hon. Tai Tura  
Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands