

Office of Te Beretitenti

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Three Judges - Acting in a Manner That Raise Substantial Questions about Their Judicial Integrity - Continue to Dictate in Apparent Ignorance of the Laws, Constitution and the Legally Binding Customs and Traditions of Kiribati by Awarding David Lambourne with a Life-Time Judgeship, a Position Unknown and Alien to Kiribati and the Commonwealth of Nations, and Incredulously Dare to Hold Former Chief Justice Sir Gilbert John Baptist Muria at "Fault" for Lambourne's Fraudulent Scheme to Raid the Treasury and Rule Kiribati for Life.

(Bairiki, Tarawa, Monday, 29 August 2022) -----The Government of Kiribati is gravely concerned by the continuing attack on the rule of law by a few judges, who refuse to honor the constitution, laws and customs by issuing autocratic mandates daring to hold even former Chief Justice Sir John Baptist Muria at fault (para 69, Judgment) for David Lambourne's misconduct.

On the 26th of August, Judges Blanchard, Hansen and Heath - acting in a manner that raise substantial questions about their Judicial Integrity - continue to dictate in apparent ignorance of the Laws, Constitution and the legally binding Customs and Traditions ("usages") of Kiribati which they have sworn to uphold, by awarding David Lambourne with a Life-Time Judgeship, a position unknown and alien to Kiribati and the Commonwealth of Nations, and incredulously dare to hold former Chief Justice Sir Gilbert John Baptist Muria at "Fault" for Lambourne's fraudulent scheme to raid the treasury, started more than three years after he was appointed on 10th May 2018 for a 3 year term from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2021. Lambourne in his 5th August 2021 Affidavit supporting the 12th August 2021 Originating Summons admitted that when he was appointed in 2018 he knew that every judge in Kiribati to then-date had been appointed for a three (3) year term.

As the Government's American Counsel Ravi Batra told the Court during the 19th August 2022 Hearing in sum and substance: Lambourne mischievously waited in silence - the "smoking gun" evidence of fraud - for his three year term to expire before he launched his fraud-upon-the court seeking an illegal order, with help from his aiders and abettors, that would convert his appointing decree with an unstated term of office, but contemporaneously known to David Lambourne to be for three years when he took his Oath, into a lifetime right to rule over Kiribati.

Tragically, the latest Dictate, in a self-immolating manner, continues to undermine judicial independence as it attacks everyone - who has fought to maintain judicial integrity as the necessary underpinning of judicial independence - from The Government of Kiribati to the former Chief Justice Sir

John Muria. The latest judgment is breathtaking, as is its circularity of logic, and mis-statements of facts and law. Even a simple factual withdrawal by Ravi Batra during the Hearing on 19th August of the Government's prior withdrawal of appeals (i.e. the appeals remain) so as to permit the court to have maximum jurisdiction over all issues so it could "self-police" and "self-correct" is mis-stated repeatedly. Forgotten by these three judges is that Ravi Batra even directly corrected J. Heath to remind that the appeals withdrawal letter was itself withdrawn.

This latest judgment upholding suspended-CJ Hastings' predicate unlawful judgment by attacking and holding former Chief Justice Sir John Muria at "fault" exemplifies the base nature of the attempted Judicial Coup and its threat to the independent sovereign republic of Kiribati.

Kiribati will remain a nation of laws where even a few errant judges will not be allowed to be above-the-law. The President of Kiribati reaffirms that "Consistent with my Oath of Office, I will continue to justly and faithfully carry out my duties in the administration of the Independent and Sovereign Republic of Kiribati and in accordance with the Constitution and the law. At the same time, it is crucial that our laws continue to cherish and uphold the customs and traditions ("usages") of Kiribati - exactly as stated in the preamble of our Constitution and Oath of Judges - as they are meant for the people of Kiribati. The government of Kiribati will continue to stress that it is vital that judicial integrity underpin judicial independence, so the rule of law does not become a vehicle for autocratic judicial tyranny that robs our good and honest people of their sovereignty."

The Government further reiterates its advisory to all who come to Kiribati on a Visitor's Visa to enjoy Kiribati as a welcomed Tourist, and not to work illegally. Notwithstanding the illogical mandate issued by three judges to favor Lambourne by violating the law and binding customs and traditions of Kiribati, all Visitors on a Visitor's Visa are welcome to enjoy the rich culture and traditions of Kiribati and relish in being welcomed guests. However, they are forewarned that if they go into a High Court judge's chambers, sit in the judge's chair, work in a judge's chambers on matters as David Lambourne did by working on his lawsuit intended to reward him with money, or work on administrative matters and instruct the administrative staff, use government vehicles, and demand a government employee chauffeur them around will be subject - as in all countries - to arrest, deportation and maximum penalty pursuant to law.

The government will continue to honor the "rule of law" and preserve and protect the customs and traditions, the Constitution and laws of Kiribati, and defend judicial independence even from members of the bar and bench who

seek to convert the Sovereign Independent Republic of Kiribati into a judicial tyranny, as Nuremberg Judges did by aiding and abetting Nazi Germany.

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