



# Press Release

## **Election of the Speaker of the House of Keys**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the 24 Members of the House of Keys on the Isle of Man elected a new Speaker. He is the Hon Stephen Charles Rodan BSc (Hon's) MR Pharm S, MHK.

Steve Rodan served as Minister for Health and Social Security from July 2004 until his new appointment. Before this he was Education Minister for 5 years, having been first elected to the House of Keys in 1995 as Member for Garff, at a bye-election in succession to Dr Edgar Mann

Mr Rodan, 52, was born and educated in Glasgow, graduating from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, in Pharmacy. He is married to Ana and they have two grown up children.

It was whilst at University that Mr Rodan first took an active part in politics and between 1974 to 1976 he was the Chairman of both the Edinburgh University Liberal club and the Scottish Young Liberals. In 1979 he stood as parliamentary candidate for Moray and Nairn.

However, his career in Pharmacy saw him take a managerial role in a Pharmaceutical firm in Bermuda where he remained until 1987 when he chose to move to the Isle of Man to take over a retail Pharmacy in Laxey, which he still owns.

In 1991 Mr Rodan was elected to Laxey Village Commissioners where he served for four years, two of which as Chairman.

Mr Rodan is considered to be a very experienced and accomplished politician, who has shown that he is open-minded to reasoned argument, but also capable of making tough decisions when the occasion requires.

Prior to this appointment, Mr Rodan had stood unsuccessfully in the election for Chief minister, the position now occupied by Hon Anthony Brown MHK

Mr Rodan has clearly adopted the Isle of Man as his home and after 20 years has become fiercely proud of the Island. After his election Mr Rodan said, “ **I am proud and honoured to be**

**Speaker of the House of Keys, probably the first Scot to take this position. I will continue to strive to serve to the very best of my ability, the Members of this ancient House, the elected members of the public.”**

From earliest times Mr Speaker has been the spokesperson of the House and the defender of its privileges, in particular in Tynwald Court. He is responsible for controlling procedures of the House and for the authoritative interpretation of its Standing Orders.

As the Presiding Officer in the House, Mr Rodan will have to remain impartial. Although entitled to vote as a Member in divisions and to participate in debate, in the interests of impartiality of the Office of Speaker this right is rarely exercised. Unlike the other Members of the House Mr Speaker is able to abstain from voting, however, in the case of a tied vote on a division he has the casting vote.

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