

**Motion to establish a Select Committee on Land Issues:**

I move:

- (1) that under Standing Order 197, the House resolves to establish a Select Committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Land Issues, to inquire into land matters for the purpose of gathering information, background material and public opinion on certain land issues as the first step in a broad review of land issues and land laws, and that such Committee report to the House, on or before 31 December 2011, on the matters referred to the Committee under clause (5) of this motion;
- (2) that the Committee consist of 5 Members, namely:  
  
H.E. Marcus Stephen  
Hon. Godfrey Thoma  
Hon. Landon Deireragea  
Hon. Sprent Dabwido  
Hon. Aloysius Amwano
- (3) that the quorum of the Committee be 3 Members;
- (4) that, in conducting its inquiry, the Committee:
  - (a) have the power to send for and examine persons, papers and records; and
  - (b) consider forming a Commission consisting of experts and prominent Nauruans to seek public views, to examine any of the matters mentioned in clause (5) and to report to the Committee;
- (5) that, in conducting its inquiry, the Committee examine the following matters:
  - (a) the system of land ownership in Nauru, including inheritance of land and fragmentation of land portions;
  - (b) the system of administration of land matters in Nauru including the handling, storage and preservation of land records, decision-making in respect of land matters, handling of land disputes (including whether a special land court should be established) and recording of decisions and other information in respect of land ownership;
  - (c) the *Lands Act 1976* and all others laws relating to land issues in Nauru so as to clearly ascertain the current state of land laws in Nauru;
  - (d) the classification, zoning and uses of land in Nauru and derivation of income from land;
  - (e) access to land for indigenous landless Nauruans;
  - (f) perceived problems with or shortcomings of any of the matters listed in paragraphs (a) to (e);
  - (g) the views of the community in relation to the matters listed in paragraphs (a) to (e), and in relation to any other land issues of concern to the community;
  - (h) any other matter that the Committee deems necessary or relevant to enable it to complete its Report on land issues;

- (6) that, in its Report to Parliament, the Committee:
  - (a) need not identify proposed solutions to any perceived problems that have been identified through its inquiry into and examination of land issues, but may make recommendations as to certain identified issues that may, in the course of the broader review of land issues and land laws, require further attention and/or expert advice; and
  - (b) must present a fair summary of the information gathered by it and of the evidence and views presented to it; and
  - (c) must present its findings in relation to the current state of land laws in Nauru;
- (7) that the Committee may hold closed meetings from which all strangers are excluded, but that wherever practicable the Committee shall hold its meetings in public;
- (8) that the Committee may present progressive reports and recommendations to Parliament as it sees fit;
- (9) that the provisions of this motion, so far as they are inconsistent with the Standing Orders, have effect despite anything contained in the Standing Orders.

Moved: H.E. Hon Marcus Stephen

Seconded: Hon Dr Kieren Keke