

**Votes & Proceedings
of the
Sixteenth Parliament**

No. 33

**First Sitting of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting
Tuesday 17th October 2006**

10.00 a.m.

1. On advice from His Excellency the President Hon. Ludwig Scotty, M.P., the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo, M.P., convened a sitting of Parliament to meet at Parliament House on Tuesday 17th October 2006, at 10.00 a.m.

2. The Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo, M.P., (Speaker of Parliament) took the Chair and read Prayers.

3. House Keeping Matter

The Chair informed the House that due to technical failure with some of the NTV equipment, the telecasting of the Parliament Sitting will not be aired or televised live on NTV or Radio Nauru, but will be recorded and replayed later in the week.

4. Questions On Notice

Question No. 13 of 2006 – was replied to.

Queries were raised by some Members, whether the Minister for CIR should read out his reply to Question No. 13 of 2006 or not.

The Chair with concurrence of the House suspended the sitting in order to have the Minister's reply copied and circulated to Members.

Resumed.

5. Questions Without Notice were asked.

Queries was again raised by Mr. Kun (Buada) regarding his Question on Notice, No. 13 of 2006 part (V) which was not yet answered by the Minister.

The Chairman, with the indulgence of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

Resumed.

6. The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR), with the indulgence of the House, requested that Part (V) of Question on Notice No. 13 of 2006 remain on the Notice Paper.

Questions without Notice continued.

7. Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

(i) His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty made the following statement regarding ‘the First Taiwan – Pacific Allies Summit in Koror, Palau’:-

‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, you will recall that early last month I headed a delegation to the First Taiwan-Pacific Allies Summit in Koror, Palau. Accompanying me to this inaugural summit was the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Health. Escorting us all the way to Palau and back was our very own Taiwan Ambassador to Nauru, His Excellency Mr. King Yu.

For the purpose of keeping Members informed of important events in the region, I would like to table in this august House, three documents pertaining to that Summit.

The first document is a copy of my speech which I delivered at the opening session of the Taiwan-Pacific Allies Summit on 4th September. The second document is a copy of the Palau Declaration signed by the respective leaders of Taiwan and its Pacific Allies, namely; Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands.

The third and final document is a copy of the Koror Plan of Action which gives a general outline of the development assistance and cooperation which Taiwan intends to provide its allies over the next year. I need mention to members that the Koror Plan of Action is still in its draft form and that Taiwan is currently working on a more comprehensive plan. Notwithstanding this fact, members will note from the draft plan of action that Nauru can look forward to much-needed assistance from Taiwan over the next year in a variety of areas of development including law enforcement, information technology, health and medicine, renewable energy, agriculture and fisheries.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for enabling my delegation and I to attend this very important meeting. I also wish to thank Ambassador Yu for all his assistance throughout our trip to Palau.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(ii) His Excellency the President Ludwig Scotty made the following statement to the House which read as under:-

‘Honourable Speaker and Members, as you would be aware I recently traveled to the United Nations to take part in the General Debate of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly. Included in my delegation was the Minister for Finance & Foreign Affairs & Trade, the Presidential Counsel and my Aide-de-Camp, and of course, our very own Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who is based in New York.

I delivered a statement to the august assembly on Friday 22nd September, of which I have attached a copy for Members’ information and ease of reference.

All in all, I believe the trip proved valuable in garnering support and assistance to Nauru by further consolidating and strengthening the relationships between Nauru and its development partners including the Republic of China (Taiwan), Japan, and Israel, to name a few.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.’

(iii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement on the 2005-2006 Final Budget Outcome which read as follows:- *‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, today I have much pleasure in tabling before the Parliament the 2005-06 Final Budget Outcome (FBO). I should note that these accounts are yet to be fully audited, however they do represent the Government’s full set of revenue and expenditure transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2006.*

In this document the Scotty Government is going a step further than just presenting to the Parliament the 2005-06 revenues and expenditures. In line with this Government’s push to foster an environment of transparency and accountability this document provides analysis and explanations of all significant variations from the forecasts that were provided in our 2005-06 Budget.

Budget Aggregates

Honourable Speaker, in the 2005-06 Budget the Government announced a forecast Budget surplus of \$230,294. Today I am pleased to inform the House that the actual budget balance, excluding an unspent amount of \$2,251,135 that was received from Taiwan for the purchase of the new Air Nauru, was in surplus in the order of \$577,142.

This surplus in 2005-06 was primarily the result of overall 2005-06 expenditures being lower than anticipated at the time of the 2005-06 Budget, and was in fact recorded despite lower than expected revenue collections during the year.

Revenues

In 2005-06 over seventy five per cent of Government revenues came from three sources:

- *Donor assistance in the form of Cash Grants from Taiwan and Australia;*
- *Fisheries from the Government's investment in the Philippines Phosphate company, Philphos.*

Unfortunately, due to the limited revenue sources available to Government, and due to the variability of some of these sources, the total revenue collected in 2005-06 was below that expected at the time of the 2005-06 Budget and the 2005-06 Mid-Year Review. The total negative variation from the forecast Budget was \$2,553,288, which resulted from a combination of some revenue collections being slightly higher than forecast, being greatly outweighed by others that were significantly lower than expected.

There were only a smaller number of revenue items in 2005-06 where variations were higher than expected, these included:

- *\$451,858 higher than expected revenue from Diesel and Petrol sales;*
- *\$204,919 higher than anticipated cash grants from Taiwan, resulting primarily from positive movements in foreign exchange rates;*
- *\$135,784 of additional AusAID education funding being provided in June 2006; and*
- *Other revenue items with higher than expected receipts totalling \$80,707 consists of a grant received from Papua New Guinea (\$20,000) and higher than expected Visa Fees (\$29,730). The other revenue items are in excess by less than \$3,000 on average.*

While there were few revenue items listed above that exceeded Budget expectations in 2005-06, unfortunately there were a number of items that were significantly lower than expected, these included:

- *\$434,292 less than budgeted Fisheries revenue, which highlights the variability of this key source of Nauru's domestic revenue;*
- *\$78,602 less than budgeted was collected by the Port of Nauru, due primarily to the delay in the resumption of full scale Phosphate export operations, and the subsequent reduction in the number of ships processed at the port;*
- *\$565,690 was not paid to Government by Ronphos for amounts loaned to the organization in 2005-06;*
- *\$100,000 was not received as expected in 2005-06 as a refund of unused monies under the letter of credit raised to ensure the operation of the tug boat used in the Port refurbishment project (this money was subsequently received in 2006-07);*
- *\$11,197 of budgeted Customs & Excise duties was not collected due primarily to Ronphos's inability to pay excise duties incurred on imported machinery and heavy equipment during 2005-06. However this payment is expected to be conducted in 2006-07;*
- *\$226,590 lower than budgeted collections for Passports;*
- *\$1,870,326 lower than expected capital returns from the Philphos investment as Philphos ceased making the payments it is required to make under its agreement with Nauru. The Government is now considering legal action to force compliance by Philphos;*

Mr. Speaker, in light of the limited revenue streams collected in 2005-06, and in line with the sustainability goals of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, I am pleased to remind the

Parliament that this Government has already taken steps to secure alternative and diversified streams of revenue for Nauru in 2006-07 and into the future.

Stemming from the 2006-07 Budget which was passed by this Parliament in June this year, I am pleased to report that the Government has already introduced a number of the revenue measures announced in the 2006-07 Budget. Some of the new measures already introduced include a five per cent import duty on all products that were not already subject to excise, as well as rise in duties of 15 per cent on cigarettes and tobacco products. As outlined in the 2006-07 Budget, the Government's new revenue initiatives are expected to raise around \$1.2 million extra of important domestic revenue for Nauru in 2006-07.

Expenditures

Turning now to expenditures. At that time of the 2005-06 Budget, expenditures were expected to be \$18,412,916, which increased to \$26,585,086 through the Supplementary Appropriation Act 2005-06, and the Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 2005-06. The actual expenditure result for 2005-06 was \$21,512,121. This overall 2005-06 expenditure result reflects some significant under spends in combination with a general under spending pattern across the majority of Government activities.

The total 2005-06 expense variation to Budget was a total underspend of \$4,990,998. While this is a large variation, sixty seven per cent of the variation can be explained by under expenditure in three major times:

1. The delay until 2006-07 in the purchase of an aircraft for 'Our Airline' has resulted in expenditure of \$2,251,135 less than anticipated in 2005-06;
2. \$591,182 less than Budgeted was expended on public service salaries (\$521,808) and expatriate salaries (69,375) in 2005-06; and
3. Government Fund and Oil purchases were less than the Budgeted \$2.4 million in 2005-06 by an amount of \$493,380.

Slightly counteracting the major under-spending trend observed in 2005-06 actual results were a small number of overspends for some Government activities, including:

- Travel expenses, which were overspent by \$66,179;
- Bank charges, resulting from large costs of international transactions and for cash uplifts to Nauru of 449,656;
- Higher than budgeted lease and charter payments, including an overspend by the UN Mission of \$26,529; and
- Overspending (28,876) on the special project for the port Refurbishment.

While the majority of Departments under-spent their appropriation in 2005-06, there were a total of four Departments that exceeded their 2005-06 appropriation:

- The UN Mission overspent by \$63,353 as a result of overspending on lease and charter expenses (28,000), Business Travel (23,400), and Salaries for Expatriates (\$8,400). These overspends were primarily due to the inability of the UN Mission to adapt their expenditure within the environment of a reduced Budget allocation.
- The Presidency and State House overspend by \$28,981 as a result of overspending on unbudgeted travel that could not be offset against other subheads. While this head was overspent, this travel was fully reimbursed by cash grants from the Republic of China (Taiwan) but under normal budget accounting practices was still reflected as expenditure in the Government's accounts.
- The Department of Commerce, Industry, and Resources overspent by \$17,227 as the result of a significant overspend on salaries (\$19,102) resulting from the movement of functions and staff, such as Quarantine, to the Department without a matching Budget increase.
- The Parliament overspent by \$7,346 as a result of an over-spend on salaries by \$8,049. It should be noted by the Parliament that the Parliamentary office and administration is the only head of

expenditure that does not monitor staff attendance and deduct amounts from staff salaries for absenteeism.

2006-07 Budget

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal outcome for 2005-06 was a positive result that showed that fiscal restraint can produce results, even when revenues are lower than expected.

However, the result for 2005-06 is not a signal that we can afford to relax our efforts in 2006-07. We are likely to have a more difficult task ahead of us this year. Already, although we have received some unexpected windfalls from fisheries revenue, we are facing a serious shortfall in revenue as the result of the failure of Philphos to meet its legal obligations to Nauru. The signs so far are that we will be forced to continue very strict fiscal discipline if we are to be able to begin paying full salaries to our employees from April 2007.

Some under-spends in 2005-06 came as the result of the failure of agencies to implement government policy decisions. While we need to enforce restraint, we also need to have our monies directed to the areas that our National Sustainable Development Strategy has indicated as key priorities for Nauru. In 2006-07, we are subjecting agencies' performance to increased parliamentary scrutiny to help ensure that they continue to implement the Government's reform agenda.

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal results for the past two years have demonstrated the Government's commitment to reform and its commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for our country. The Government is confident that the 2006-07 Budget continues those efforts. As the result of the mismanagement and corruption by successive administrators of the past, Nauru's situation is a very difficult one that will require continued resolve and discipline to address. We thank the people of Nauru for their support and their forbearance during this difficult time of transition for Nauru.

I commend the 2005-06 Final Budget Outcome Report to the Parliament. Thank you.'

(iv) The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR) made the following statement to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide members with a brief report of my official travel to Brisbane from the 2nd to the 14 of October.

The main purpose of the trip was to attend the high-level talks with AusAID on NACOS issues, and I am pleased to inform the House that the talks were very successful, with a number of important outcomes having been achieved for the benefit of NRC and Nauru.

Foremost, we endorsed the final report of the Independent Review of the NRC Work Programme and Secondary Mining. The report clearly showed that Secondary mining is both physically and economically viable, and recommended that it be commenced forthwith without further trials, and even proposed the machinery required and design of the project. This is a great result for NRC, and already plans are in train to begin building the project team and procuring the machinery with a startup budget of \$9.3 million. It is expected that secondary mining will commence mid 2007, with a projected output of over 500,000 tons per annum.

To better manage the approved NRC 5 year work-plan, the Brisbane meeting also approved the final report of the review of NRC itself. This report made a number of specific recommendations that will improve the management and smooth operation of the corporation. NRC has already commenced implementing some of the recommendations, and will build-in many others over the coming months.

I also wish to advise the House that AusAID has agreed to compensate NRC for underpayment of the annual NACOS disbursements. An amount of over \$480,000 will be paid into the NACOS trust account this financial year. The amount was advised by an independent auditor – Deloitte, after a thorough examination of the NACOS accounts since 1994.

Other matters discussed at the Brisbane meeting include the project on Waste management – with funding already approved by AusAID and procurement underway; the project on Water exploration – for which a final project proposal has been approved and is awaiting deployment of the engineering firm on

Nauru, and finally; the Coral-stone project – for which we have completed terms of reference for a company by the name of Cut & Core to conduct the cutting trials of coral pinnacle in the very near future.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated at the outset, the Brisbane meeting was very successful from Nauru's point of view, and we look forward to the implementation of the many projects soon, particularly on Secondary Mining-which represents the future of industry on Nauru, and will enable exports of phosphate to continue for many years to come.

The rest of my time in Brisbane was spent on RONPHOS matters. While awaiting a flight out of Brisbane, I used the opportunity to meet with IPL and GETAX executives to plan future shipments of phosphate, and made contact with a number of other potential buyers to discuss future business.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it was my great honour and privilege to fly back to Nauru on the maiden flight of Our new aircraft. This was a duty that I was extremely pleased to do on behalf of the Government and all Nauruans. Thank you.'

(v) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Utilities) made the following statement to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in September this year the Minister for Finance and I met with donors and presented them with a proposed strategy for utilities reform in Nauru. The strategy draws in large part on an independent report into the sector, as developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and takes into consideration Nauru's social and economic situation.

While the strategy will soon go before Cabinet for consideration, its development is Nauru's response to donors' ongoing concerns about the sustainability of Nauru's power and water sectors. In particular, during the July MOU IV discussions, Australia (a major donor of diesel for power generation in Nauru) asked that GON not only state its commitment to reform of the utilities sector, but also **demonstrate** it by outlining and presenting to them a strategy for utilities reform. Without any demonstration of reform commitment, Australia that continued diesel funding at current levels under the MOU would be unlikely.

Since then, we have worked hard to develop a GON-owned strategy for utilities reform that would reassure all donors of our commitment to reform. The strategy was presented to Nauru's major utilities' sector donors in September. The strategy was very well-received, and based on the strategy, Australia has even agreed to seek their Cabinet's approval to provide Nauru with an additional (maximum) AUD 3 million in diesel funding, with access to these additional funds contingent on Nauru's implementation of the reform strategy. This is a certain win, particularly in an environment of rising oil prices, and where our total funds allocation to diesel this year, combined with those of donors, will not be enough to see us through to next July without significant and highly disruptive increases in load-shedding.

The strategy will see Nauru Utilities move a system of full cost-recovery over the medium and longer term, with implementation of full cost-recovery for residential consumers to be phased over time. The strategy also makes a number of commitments to the people of Nauru, specifically –

- to provide regular and reliable power to the island;
- to ensure all persons on the island are able to access a basic level of power at an affordable price;
- to ensure that any load shedding schedule is well-communicated to the public – allowing households to plan their meals and activities around when the power will be available.

In particular, the reforms outlined under the strategy will seek to ensure that power supply for essential services will be reliable – with the hospitals, schools and government offices having access to power when they need it.

While there are a number of details that need to be finalised, and some tough issues for Cabinet to work through over the coming months, the strategy is just that – a strategy, an outline – something which the Government of Nauru can work to, with the ultimate aim of achieving regular and reliable power and water services for the entire island.'

(vi) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Sports) made the following statement on 'Violence in AFL on Nauru' to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, a shocking incident occurred following the U19 game between Panzers and Lions on Saturday 7th October, where fighting broke out amongst players and involved supporters and bystanders, but worse still involved the assault of a number of game and NAFA officials.

From all reports, this turned out into an all out brawl involving hundreds of people. What is of serious concern is that it is clear that a good many were prepared to fight and had brought along weapons of all kinds in their vehicles. Individuals were targeted and this involved the targeted assault and bashing of several officials.

These officials are all volunteers, who out of their love for the sport and their desire to work to develop the sport of AFL on Nauru, gave up their time and dedicate themselves to working for the sport. It is disgusting that any player or bystander could even consider attacking these volunteers, let alone beating them so bad that they end up in hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is most regrettable that such a culture has developed whereby the sport of AFL is used by some people as an excuse or as the venue for their personal vendettas and grievances. This behaviour has no role at all in AFL or in any sport. These personal vendettas should, and must, remain at home and can not be allowed to be seen as part of sport. AFL is a contact sport, not a blood-sport.

What is also of major concern is that following this appalling display of violence, there was ongoing talk of yet more attacks and personal vendetta's being planned for the coming games. It appears that some people did not see any wrong in the violence that was displayed that weekend.

It was on the basis of this violence and concern for the safety of players, officials and supporters as well as importantly, in the interests of the future of the game of AFL on Nauru, that a unanimous decision by NAFA Executives was made to close the 2006 AFL season immediately and cancel all further games. This decision was supported and encouraged by the Department of Sports as well as the Nauru Police Force.

I know that there will be many players and teams who do not support and have no part in this violence in their game and who will be angry that the season has been closed. But I am confident that these good sportsmen will agree that the sport of AFL will not die on Nauru simply because one season is incomplete. I am confident that these same people will want to work with the NAFA Executive and the Department of Sports to effect changes and preparations before the start of the next season that will remove this violence from AFL.

I want to make one point very clear. This violence in AFL or any sport on Nauru will not be tolerated and firm and decisive action will be taken to remove it from sport.

Your Government, the Sports Department and NAFA all want to see AFL and sports in general, develop on Nauru, but sport must develop to build teamwork, skills, physical fitness and health along with building the spirit of community and pride. Sport will not be allowed to be used as a vehicle for violence.

The Nauru Police Force has investigations under way into the incident that Saturday 7th October and many investigations are still continuing. To date, three people have been charged with assault with one of them also charged with a firearms offence. This is a serious matter and the full force of Justice will be used against those found guilty.

In order to address this and to work to removing violence from sport, the Department of Sports will work with NAFA in preparation for next season to seek assistance to run workshops for players, coaches and managers of teams as well as game officials and supporters to rebuild the spirit of sportsmanship in AFL and refocus on the joy of the game and building skills. The Dept of Sports will also work with NAFA to strengthen the administration of AFL on Nauru and will develop mechanisms, such as a formal Disciplinary Tribunal, to swiftly and decisively deal with any on or off field discretions and violence.

I call on all sportsmen to work with your team managers, NAFA and the Department of Sports, to put shame on any persons who try to use our sport as a venue for their personal grievances. I call on all sportsmen to make ALF a clean sport and work to develop the sport positively on Nauru so that Nauru can again reach a level where it can compete on a regional and international arena with pride.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(vii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement on ‘NSDS 2005-2025 – Partnership for Quality of Life’ to the House:-

‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, when this Government came into office two years ago, our country was in socio-economic turmoil. Given the situation that this Government inherited, there was recognition of the vital need for Nauru to have a national strategic plan in place. We believed that the only way to improve living standards sustainability was to consult with the people to identify national issues and challenges and how they can be addressed. It was then that public consultations from Government to community level commenced in 2005, and the people then began shaping Nauru’s future.

The national plan is therefore derived from the people’s priorities and their common vision for a better Nauru.

With this planning document then available it enabled this government to convene a donor round table meeting in 2005, inviting development partners to see where they can provide assistance to Nauru.

Mr. Speaker, in October last year, Nauru completed formulation of its National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) with the support of the Asian Development Bank. Today I am pleased to report to this august House that publication of the Nauru NSDS (2005-2025) titled “Partnership for quality of life” has been completed. The production of this planning document marks a milestone in Nauru’s economic development.

This has been made possible by our development partners who have provided assistance in the process – the Government of Australia, Government of Japan, Government of Samoa, the Asian Development Bank and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Mr. Speaker, the NSDS is a product of many months of consultation with all the stakeholders involving Parliament, the government, the public service, State owned enterprises, non-government organizations, the private sector, local associations, land owners and churches. The consultations have clearly identified the priority areas for Nauru’s future.

The people’s vision states – ‘A future where individual, community, business and government partnerships contribute to a sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans.’

This vision emphasizes the desired outcome of sustainable improvements in the quality of life experienced by Nauruans and signals that partnerships at all levels will be a key vehicle to achieving this. Therefore the central message of the Nauru NSDS (2005-2025) is ‘Partnerships for Quality of Life’.

The NSDS now provides a roadmap for Nauru’s development agenda and how that agenda might be implemented. It clearly presents where Nauru wants to be in the medium and long term and how to achieve that. The NSDS clearly articulates the national vision, goals and priorities and how those goals might be implemented.

This planning document shall also provide some level of confidence to our development partners to know our priorities and strategies and see where they can provide assistance. For instance it was after the NSDS was presented at the donor roundtable last year, and subsequently endorsed by donors and Nauruans alike, that substantial support has been extended to Nauru. For the first time, we are receiving direct aid from New Zealand, primarily to the Education sector, but also the Justice and Judiciary sectors. The UNDP has established a presence on Nauru through the appointment of a Liaison Officer, with a larger presence to come to co-ordinate not just UNDP assistance, but all forms of UN assistance to Nauru.

The NSDS will help keep us focused on our aspirations and go guide us as we move forward towards our shared vision for a sustainable and better future for our country.

Concluding Remarks.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I should mention that this is a remarkable achievement by the Nauruan people and I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the consultations and deliberations contributing to the formulation of Nauru’s first ever planning document.

On behalf of the Scotty Government, I present to this august House the Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategies 2005-2025 'Partnerships for Quality of Life'.

(viii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) made the following statement on 'Phosphate Ship Incident' to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, immediate and expert action by Nauru's Harbour Master, Capt. Sekove Cama, as well as the heroic efforts of our marine staff at the Port Authority, averted a potentially serious incident after a freak storm caused a phosphate ship, the Darya Yog, to be forced against the coral reef during loading operations under the cantilevers at the port in Aiwo last Wednesday, 11th October.

The Indian based phosphate buyer, GETAX, who has a long history of purchasing phosphate from Nauru, chartered the Hong Kong registered ship to export a load of 29,000 tonnes of phosphate. This would be Nauru's biggest load of phosphate for several years.

The ship was berthed on the Tuesday in good weather and without any hitches or difficulties and began loading phosphate. The ship remained berthed overnight and during the next day whilst the shore bins were re-filled with phosphate. Unfortunately, just a few minutes after recommencing to load phosphate on the Wednesday afternoon, a freak storm came up without any warning. The ship only had a few minutes to attempt to slip the moorings and move away but the force of the wind and the sea swells forced it in against the reef.

I want to praise the swift response of the marine workers who had already by this time been working well over 24 hours. Yet despite this and the fatigue they must have felt, they all instantly sprang into action. The marine workers all knew what had to be done and with the expertise of their experience and with considerable bravery given the conditions, they all followed their procedures and acted accordingly. Their work along with that of Capt. Cama and the Ship's Master and the RONPHOS workers on the cantilevers meant that the ordeal was over within two hours and the ship was moved off and away from the reef to safety.

I also want to acknowledge and thank all those that raced to provide assistance. This includes the Nauru police force, the Health department, Nauru Fisheries/NFMRA, the Rescue and Fire Service and many of the bystanders who jumped in to provide assistance.

The ship has only been loaded with about 12,100 tonnes and at this stage inspections and work is being carried out to repair some damage to the vessel and some minor damage to the buoys.

The Port Authority is aiming to ensure the Port is back to full operations as quickly as possible and to hopefully be able to complete loading this phosphate ship as well as handle the other vessels drifting off shore.

GETAX has also been quick to praise the actions taken by the marine workers and Captain Cama and has re-affirmed its commitment to continue to buy phosphate from Nauru.

It should be noted that Nauru has a unique port in that it is a deep sea mooring system exposed to the weather. There are always risks with any maritime and shipping operation but the Port of Nauru, under the correct weather conditions, is a safe port. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(ix) The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for C.I.R.) made the following statement as under:-

'Thank you, I provide this statement in my capacity as Minister responsible for RONPHOS.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, many of you will have heard of the incident relating to the phosphate ship last week. The Minister for Transport has provided a briefing to the House, but I wish to advise the House separately of the impact this unfortunate incident has had and continues to have on RONPHOS.

As everyone here knows, this was to have been the first large shipment of phosphate from Nauru for the past 5 – 6 years. It was only made possible after a great deal of effort and money was spent on refurbishing the mining and production infrastructure, as well as the mooring system.

RONPHOS faced much adversity in the previous months and had to overcome major obstacles in its quest to rebuild. In the absence of any income for much of this year, RONPHOS tendered this first 30,000 ton loan of phosphate to all our existing and some new customers, offering the load at a

competitive price to any buyer who was willing to partially pay for the load upfront. We received a number of offers, and eventually decided to go with a regular buyer who had offered to provide stand-by credit as well as other financial and technical support to RONPHOS to enable its production to continue unhindered.

Unfortunately, while production for this first 30,000 ton shipment was completed over a month ago, finding a vessel willing to come to Nauru was much more difficult than we all envisaged, due to the lack of confidence in our old mooring system, and quite simply because no 30,000 tone vessel had been to Nauru for such a long time. Despite this, a vessel, MV Darga Yog, was eventually nominated and arrived on Nauru 18 days ago.

Honourable members, I will not gloss over the fact that we desperately needed this shipment to provide much-needed revenue to RONPHOS. It must also be stated that this shipment would not have pulled RONPHOS out of the doldrums. It would not have allowed us to payout all pending salaries, rentals and royalties, nor make everything all-of-a-sudden better, but it would have provided a significant step forward in terms of raising the Company's viability. We have already scheduled 3 shipments for the next 4 months, and this first one would have been the impetus we needed to get the ball rolling.

Unfortunately, the run of bad weather and the regrettable incident last week in which the ship struck the reef, was something that none of us could have foreseen, but has critically affected the immediate future of RONPHOS.

The most immediate impact of the ship not being loaded is that RONPHOS salaries have been put on hold. The company has no other sources of income other than what we earn from phosphate exports and advances. Had the shipment gone out 2 weeks ago as originally intended, RONPHOS would have had access to sufficient funds to cover salaries for the next 2 months. As it has turned out, RONPHOS is now in a very precarious position.

The best case scenario is that the vessel is repaired and loading continues in the near future, thus providing revenues to enable salaries to be paid. The worse case scenario would be if the ship is not allowed to reload, and sails off with only the 12,000 tonnes already loaded. In such a case, whether or not the buyer decides to deal with RONPHOS anymore is as yet unclear, but I am working closely with them to try and mend the now tenuous relationship.

Mr. Speaker, these are indeed very troubling times for RONPHOS. Our employees are understandably nervous about their salaries and job security, and I, for one, am concerned about what the future holds for us. It is certainly a shame that we started off the year full of hope, and worked through difficult months rebuilding the company only to find ourselves in this situation right now.

All we can do is pray for the best outcome, but prepare for the worse. I wish to offer my deepest apologies to all RONPHOS workers for not being paid their hard-earned salaries last week. I sincerely wish that I could have averted this situation we are in, but we had not for a minute even remotely considered damage to the ship as a possibility. I can only offer my strongest commitment to find a solution to this mess, and source the required funds to pay salaries as soon as practically possible.

We need to pull together during these difficult times, and show that we can overcome such obstacles. I humbly ask that all RONPHOS workers continue to turn up for work, and continue to produce phosphate. If we give up now, all our effort over the past year would have gone to waste.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I ask also for your support in these difficult times. There is no use in laying the blame on anyone, nor in criticisms. We need to get over this hurdle and move on. Thank you.'

(x) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on 'Recent Business Trips' as under:-

'Mr. Speaker, I undertook a business trip recently to Fiji for the Forum Ministers of Education meeting at the end of September.

It was interesting to see a number of past initiatives gaining favour at this meeting, giving it more focus for strengthening through donor funding and regional co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, priority areas noted and agreed to at the meeting which Nauru would gain direct benefit from are as follows:-

- *The implementation of the Forum Basic Education Action Plan (FBEAP).
PRIDE was charged the responsibility of implementing the FBEAP with close collaboration and consultation amongst all key stakeholders.*
- *The Fast Track Initiative for Education for All.
World Bank to fund this project through PRIDE and not UNESCO – owner of the EFA programme
This assistance would cover all Forum member countries.*
- *The promotion of the Education for Sustainable Development in the Pacific.
There is need for the region to have a common and co-ordinated approach.*
- *Promote the partnership between UNESCO, UNICEF and SPBEAP on harmonising education approaches and co-ordinating support for basic education under the Pacific Plan and within the context of the FBEAP.
This would include the adoption of regional benchmarks in literacy, numeracy, and life skills.
Use benchmarking to monitor the quality of education.
It was agreed that SPBEA, UNESCO, UNICEF and PRIDE are to collaborate to carry out the monitoring work at both the national as well as the regional levels.*
- *Re-prioritize Health Promoting Schools programme.
WHO to be directly involved – as health is an essential element of growth, learning and education.
Countries to implement nationally.
Collaborate with PRIDE to conduct a workshop to revitalise interest in-country as the region.
Ministries of Education to work in close collaboration and partnership with the Ministries of Health to effect national strategies.*
- *Ministers urged Forum to give priority to progress work on ICT needs analysis for education in the context of the Regional Digital Strategy.*

Mr. Speaker, I also took the opportunity to dialogue with several Ministers of Education, particularly those of PNG, Tonga and Fiji, mainly on issues regarding teacher recruitment and their ministries' assistance in the selection processes.

Fiji reassures us with their continued assistance in the development of our TVET curriculum and where needed, offer technical support, similarly with PNG and Tonga both offering us teachers and their ministries to assist us in the recruitment process.

Mr. Speaker, with the endorsement of the Minister for Education from Kiribati, we now are awaiting on the short term appointment of a Science/Maths teacher on consultative basis to arrive from Tarawa soon. He will assist at NSS till the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I was accompanied to the meeting by the Secretary for Education. A very successful meeting, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

(xi) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement on 'MoU IV – Allocation of Funds' as under:-

'Mr. Speaker, and Honourable Members, I am pleased to inform this August House that the quarterly review of the MoU IV between the Governments of Australia during the week commencing 11 September 2006.

The total funds available under MoU for fiscal year 2006-06 which has subsequently been rolled over. A further AUD1.2 million of unspent funds was further transferred to this fiscal year and AFP funds of approximately AUD4m. Total funds available under MoU IV for 2006-07 is AUD25m.

Allocations of funds under MoU are allocated as follows:

AUD17m has been allocated to existing commitments including on-going activities under the education and health sector. A significant allocation of funds has been accorded to utilities reform which also includes on-going maintenance and refurbishment of generators, sea water pumps and reverse osmosis units.

Government has allocated remaining funds available under the MoU IV to new activities and programs for completion in this fiscal year. These new activities include technical assistance to the Parliament sector, Eigigu Holdings Corporation and Broader Public Sector Improvements. Allocations have also been provided to support the Price Control Board, design of a Public Welfare System, Landowners Trust Fund, Debt Management Scheme and a Small Business Development Fund.

Other activities under MoU IV 2006-07 include the purchase of a de-sludge truck, cherry-picker and water truck, construction of the Nauru Secondary School, Diesel Funding and a Sports Facility.

The allocations of available funds under MoU IV are distributed across all sectors and targets immediate priorities of the Republic of Nauru. The evolution and success of the discussions at the quarterly MoU reviews has enabled the Government to take the lead on allocation of funds to areas deemed of priority. The challenge to Government now is the implementation of activities and projects as any unspent funds under this fiscal year will not be rolled over into the ensuing years.

It is therefore critical to the success of not only the government's reform process and maximizing national benefit from Australia's generous aid to Nauru, but also to the overall development of the country that all concerned ministries, departments and stakeholders make an additional effort wherever they can in the coming months. We cannot afford to be complacent and I take this opportunity to encourage one and all to serve Nauru with distinction as we team together under the projects for MOU IV.

Thank you.'

(xii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) made a statement on 'Our Airline' as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, Our Airline finally took to the skies 3 days ago on Saturday 14th October and a launch ceremony was held here at Nauru International Airport as it made its inaugural flight into Nauru Brisbane.

The launch of Our Airline is proud moment for all Nauruans and we have cause to celebrate. Nauruans should celebrate as the loss of the aircraft last December placed air services for Nauru in great jeopardy and the very survival of our national airline was seriously in doubt, yet despite this and all the obstacles and difficulties that we have had to overcome, with the assistance of Taiwan and NPRT, we now have an airline up and flying again.

As stated in my speech at the launch on Saturday, just as Angam Day represents survival of the Nauruan people against all odds, we can look to the survival and launch of Our Airline as another example of how Nauru can and will survive and rebuild against the odds.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people who have worked with utmost dedication and relentlessly battled through the obstacles and frustrating delays. Without the commitment of all these people we would not have been able to revive our national airline and the future of any air services for our people would be in serious jeopardy.

I cannot mention every person involved, but on behalf of government I wish to record our sincere appreciation to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its key role along with the NPRT, which has enabled Nauru to own outright this Boeing 737-300 aircraft. And I also wish to register government's gratitude for the expertise, knowledge and perseverance of Capt Kevin Power, Chairman, of Nauru Air Corporation, the CEO of Our Airline, Mr. Geoff Bowmaker and our advisor, Mr. Manish Sundarjee, as wee as all the team and employees at Our Airline.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge before us now is to regain business we have lost and to build confidence in Our Airline. A lot of work is going into regaining sectors and building new sectors and I will be following these issues up next week in Fiji with various neighbouring islands. There is a lot of potential in Our Airline and with this aircraft. Your government looks forward to the ongoing dedication of all the team and employees of Our Airline as well as from Members of this House in working to build confidence in Our Airline, regaining lost business and progressing the further extension of Our Airline into a multi-government joint venture regional airline. These measures will ensure long term viability and security for air services to Nauru and our neighbours.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(xiii) The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Justice) tabled the "Entry of Persons Regulations 2006" and made the following statement thereon:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I table **THE ENTRY OF PERSONS REGULATIONS 2006** to allow nationals of the Republic of China to enter Nauru without the need for a visa for a period of 30 days.*

Given the strong and warm relations that Nauru has with Taiwan, it is not only fitting but also practical that Nauru accords visa waivers to nationals of Taiwan without the need for a reciprocal arrangement.

The Government of Taiwan presently has a diplomatic mission established in Nauru and the mission can process applicants from Nauruans for visas to Taiwan. However, this is not the case in Taiwan as Nauru does not presently have a diplomatic mission to assist and facilitate applications for visas to Nauru.

Furthermore, by not requiring a visa to enter Nauru for Taiwan nationals, it would assist the smooth implementation of Taiwan projects that are currently undertaken by the Technical Mission as more and more technicians are dispatched for that purpose.

There is minimal financial implication as due to the low visitor numbers from Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this Regulation to Parliament.'

(xiv) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on 'Education and Training Report' which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker, I would like to apprise this august house on some of the activities and projects undertaken in Education and Training to date.

As many Members would be aware, the Department of Education is currently conducting the 2006 Year 8 Scholarship examinations. Students sat for the English exam yesterday, the Social Science exam this morning and will sit the Science and Maths papers tomorrow and on Thursday.

I can report that 113 students have presented themselves for examination, including 7 in Fiji. I want to make a special mention about the effort that these students have made to get this far. The exams are not easy – they are international standard – and to pass these exam students need to study very hard. Yet despite the lack of resources in the classrooms, the difficulties students have in studying continue to present themselves for examination. Speaker, the top fifteen students will be sent to various schools in Fiji.

Speaker, I have recently received the term reports of our scholarship students in Fiji. I am pleased to report that last year's winners are all coming in the top five in their classes, many coming first in some subjects and all have settled in well. I currently have a Scholarship Officer in Fiji preparing a report on how to assist our students obtain even better learning outcomes.

Members will be aware that AusAID has offered up to 4 million dollars over the next two years to build a new secondary school. My officers are currently finalising the design of a Learning Village that will incorporate the Secondary School, the USP centre, a community library and an ICT centre. Funding for the construction of the non Secondary School facilities will come from other sources.

Mr. Speaker, another positive outcome from efforts of our own people, the department through the Director Michael Longhurst and Hon. Cyril Buramen as Project Manager, completed the Aiwo classroom block. I would like to take the opportunity to commend the high standard of workmanship demonstrated by the team of former Works Department tradesmen to have satisfactorily completed the project. This Thursday I will be opening the new five classroom block. The Government and people of Nauru are grateful to the Australian government for funding the project. I invite all Members to attend this opening.

Over the past few weeks, the Department has been host to a number of consultants and visitors.

Mr. David Coleman from NZAID was impressed with the progress we have made in the curriculum.

Mr. Peter Baki, acting vice chancellor of the University of Goroka, and a previous Secretary for Education in PNG, has been appointed by PRIDE to prepare a set of Policy and Procedures Manuals for the Education Department. Mr. Baki is here at the moment and will spend a total of six weeks this year in examining the extent of the work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, following on from the TVET curriculum that was prepared for Years 11 to 13 earlier in the year, we recently had another three Fiji based consultants, funded by PRIDE, spend three weeks here, preparing the Year 9 to 10 curriculum for TVET.

Currently we have Dr. Richard Wah from UNICEF here to assist our Department in implementing a CFS (Child Friendly School Programme). Dr. Wah also is training some staff in using a software programme that tracks student progress at school, and matches the progress with the health of the child.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago we had Dr. Priscilla Puamau, from PRIDE, here for three weeks to conduct major review of our curriculum. Dr. Puamau is currently completing her review and I look forward to her findings on our new curriculum initiatives – the New Basics and Rich Tasks.

Next week we will have Mr. Paul Sutton and Ms. Michele Williams here to continue our Curriculum development, continue to implement our ICT programme and to prepare a policy on teacher training and accreditation.

Speaker, two of my officers recently attended an ICT workshop in Suva. The aim of the workshop was to learn how to use a software programme that is an EMIS (Electronic Management Information System). This software will allow my department to better manage the learning of students by providing data on attendance, (of both students and teachers), results of students, conditions of buildings, books in libraries, track orders and progress of various classes.

Myself and the Secretary for Education have also attended meetings of FORUM and PRIDE in Nadi. The Secretary also attended the PRIDE workshop, AGM of SPBEA, and an Education for Sustainable Development workshop hosted by UNESCO.

I need to report to Members that my department's programme of engaging expatriate teachers has not been successful this year. Of the six teachers we have engaged in 2006, only two remain. One had his contract terminated for inappropriate behaviour to female students, one ran away when he was asked to explain discrepancies in the USP exam results of his students, one had an apparent mental break-down, and was sent home, and one has run away to have a baby. I am currently desperately trying to get some teachers from Kiribati for the remainder of the year.

During my meeting in Fiji, I was in dialogue with several Ministers where Tongan Minister for Education offered us assistance in the appointment of teachers from their pool of recently retrenched teachers. We have our senior officers in both countries working on progressing this to the next stage and hopefully in time for the start of the new academic year, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, my Director of CASE in the Department of Education, Mrs. Tryphosa Keke, is going to the UNESCO Training Institute in Paris to do an advanced course in Management. I would like to thank the New Zealand government for their funding assistance through NZAID.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you.'

(xv) The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Justice) tabled the Immigration Regulations (Amendment) 2006' and made the following statement thereon:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, today I am tabling the Immigration Regulations (Amendment) 2006 to provide for a schedule of fees of the special purpose visa. This is to ensure that a schedule of fees is in place for charging of fees for renewals of the period of a special purpose visa for asylum seekers.

In the past, the 'any other case' purpose did not have a specific fee charged for that category. The regulation is therefore to put in place the legal mechanism so that 'any other case' purpose is matched with an appropriate fee based on the schedule inserted by this regulation. The new schedule therefore fits in with an existing schedule to the Immigration Regulations of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this regulation to Parliament'

(xvi) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) made a statement on 'Progress of Department of Land Transport', which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to inform the House of the steady and positive progress being made by the relatively new Department of Land Transport.

As with anything new, there are always attitudes to change, new expectations to meet and teething problems to overcome, but I have been delighted with the commitment of the staff of this new department and the way they have adapted to their new roles.

The Department of Land Transport has been fortunate to initially have received a donation from IOM of a number of second hand vehicles. The department immediately set to work getting these vehicles repaired, serviced and operational and has continued to work on the many old government vehicles, many of which have been out of service for months, if not years, and have successfully revived a number.

The generous donation of 9 vehicles from Taiwan provided a much needed injection to the pool of government vehicles as was the bus donated by Australia.

The department has established the government pool system initially with the small number of vehicles available. These pool vehicles are already booked solid with many departments making the most of this new and essential service. Although there are not enough vehicles to meet all the demands, I want to commend the staff of the department for the way they have been able to juggle what they have to try to meet as many departments ' needs as possible.

The department continues to work on rationalising the list of vehicles required for fixed allocation and this should allow some re-assigning of vehicles to the most appropriate needs and provide some balance and ensure that across the whole of government that transport needs are being best met.

There are more vehicles to come to add to the pool for the benefit of all departments as well as specific specialist vehicles to ensure that government has the transport need required to deliver better services for our people.

I wish to inform Members that the personnel from Education Department (drivers & conductors) have been transferred along with the former education buses to the Transport Department from Monday, 9th October.

With all the buses now centralised, I am confident that the Transport Department will be able to co-ordinate and cater for the nation's need for buses.

The two new yellow buses have been set specially for the transport of infant schools and Yaren Primary School and the other buses currently are rostered to provide the needed transport for other schools as well as office workers.

One of the big buses (Red Daewoo R781) is currently out of service due to work out front brake shoes, but this is being addressed. Along with this, work is being undertaken to try and revive a number of the older Toyota Coaster buses to add back to the fleet.

The department is looking at commencing a 'fee for service' public bus service in the very near future. This service is envisaged to operate between and after the hours the buses are dedicated to the school and workers runs and will provide a transport service for the general public needing to move

around the island. This service will charge a small and affordable fee to help cover costs of fuel and operations.

I look forward to being able to continue to report improvements in land transport and trust that Members, departments and the public will appreciate and benefit from the improved services that are being developed. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(xvii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement on 'Attendance at 2006 Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank', which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform Parliament about my recent meetings with staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss potential Nauruan membership.

Together with the World Bank, IMF was established at the end of World War II to provide financial assistance to member countries. The IMF was established to protect the international financial system and assist countries with balance of payments problems. It promotes good economic governance by regular monitoring and reporting on macro and micro economic policies of its members.

For some time now, the government has been contemplating joining the IMF. The government sees membership of the International Monetary Fund as part of Nauru's re-integration with the global community after decades of mismanagement and neglect by previous administrations. The government began this process with the reforms that led to Nauru's removal from the OECD Financial Action Task Force black list. Membership of the IMF would provide further proof to investors and the international community that Nauru is serious about cementing in place economic reforms that will provide stability and future economic growth. The economic surveillance that is part of IMF membership would place pressure on future administrations to sustain the reforms that this government has implemented.

Membership of the IMF is also a pre-requisite for membership of the World Bank. As Honourable Members will know, the World Bank provides assistance to developing countries with the aim of decreasing poverty and increasing economic growth. The World Bank and its subsidiaries such as the International Finance Corporation could provide valuable technical assistance and other help to Nauru.

Earlier this year, Nauru's Permanent Representative began discussions with IMF staff on the possibility of IMF membership. The Secretary for Finance also discussed the issue with the Deputy Managing Director of the IMF in Nadi in March.

To carry on these discussions, I traveled to Singapore in September with the Secretary for Finance and the Vice-Consul of Nauru's Bangkok Consulate to attend, as special guests, the 2006 Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Our attendance at these meetings was important in demonstrating to the IMF Nauru's commitment to pursuing Fund membership.

During the meetings, we met with staff of the IMF's Asia Pacific and Secretary's Department, with whom we discussed the requirements of Fund membership and Nauru's interests in joining. Fund staff will now draw up a work programme to assemble all relevant information for the IMF Board before Nauru puts forward a formal application for membership.

We also met with Mr. Richard Murray, now Australian Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, who represents a constituency containing eight of the ten Pacific Island nations. Mr. Murray and his New Zealand assistant, Andrew Blazey offered to assist Nauru in its preparation of a request for membership and to act as liaison between Nauru and Fund staff.

Following my early departure for the Royal Funeral in Tonga, the Secretary for Finance attended the IMF's Pacific Islands breakfast on my behalf. This was a formal meeting in which Pacific Island Ministers discussed various aspects of their economies and their relationship with the International Monetary Fund with Mr. David Burton, the Director of the IMF's Asia Pacific Department. At the meeting, Mr. Burton welcomed Nauru as a special guest and committed the IMF to working with Nauru on its membership application. The Secretary for Finance took the opportunity of re-stating Nauru's rationale for joining the Fund and the government's interests in good economic governance for Nauru.

Mr. Speaker, our meetings in Singapore were very successful but there is a long way to go yet in progressing Nauru's application for IMF membership. Membership of the Fund comes with obligations

that Nauru must assess before committing itself to membership. Nauru must satisfy the Executive Board of the Fund that it can meet these obligations. Over the next months, Nauru will work with IMF staff to further its membership application and I will report back to Parliament on progress in due course. Thank you.'

(xviii) The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Fisheries) made a statement on 'Official Overseas Trips' as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I have a statement to make on my official trip to the Solomon Islands in August.

Official Trip to the Forum Fisheries Agency Secretariat – Honiara

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of FFC Ministerial 2006-07, an invitation by the Director General of the Forum Fisheries Agency to make an official visit to the Secretariat was extended to me. My schedule to make this visit was in mid-year, July of this year, but due to unforeseen circumstances, this visit was deferred to late August.

During my visit, I had the honor to visit Solomon Islands Minister for Fisheries, the Honourable Nollen Leni, M.P. We discussed at length, possible ways to strengthening policies that would be in the best interest of the parties to the Nauru Agreement and the need for collaborative approach by all member countries on fisheries and all other ocean-related issues which included whaling and environment.

Minister Leni at the FFC61 in Nadi, Fiji as host, in his address stressed his government's strong commitment to the responsibilities in protecting the FFA Secretariat.

During my visit, I had learnt and witnessed that the fortress-like Secretariat since it was established has had traditional and credible reputation with its employees in promoting an amicable atmosphere in the community which earned them the respect from locals who acknowledges the potential benefits from its derivatives.

My meeting with the Director-General, Mr. Feleti Teo, touched on the implementation of reform plans for the Agency working within the framework of the 25 years strategic plan that was approved by Ministers at the FFC59 in the Marshall Islands in 2005.

This expansion is clearly a nest of employment opportunities for suitable applicants from within the Forum countries and can be appreciated by countries who have yet to avail these opportunities.

We also met on major concerns regarding applications of Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) that is to be enforced in December 2007. There will be challenges that FFA will face when promoting this Scheme to be a high-yield revenue-base, especially to those PNA countries that will have a low allocation of fishing days.

Resignation of the Deputy Director-General

Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Director General, Mr. Stephen Dunn of Australia left the Agency abruptly this year. His actions caught the Agency by surprise creating a vacancy that will certainly have an impact on the functions of the supervisory role within the Agency.

This is a matter which I feel needs to be raised at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders level where the Agency warrants firm commitments of professional senior staff provided by their Forum member country as in Mr. Dunn's case. This position will now remain vacant until May 2007 when the election of a new Deputy Director General will be conducted. It is, therefore, recommended that FFC resolves to amend the dates and have the elections held at an earlier date.

Position of Director General

Mr. Feleti Teo will be handing over the position of Director General in November to Mr. Sua, who was appointed by the Ministers at the FFC61 IN May 2006. During his tenure of six year, Mr. Teo was instrumental in the strengthening of the Agency not to mention his pro-active approach and initiatives to reforming the Agency.

Mr. Tanielu Sua is not new to the work in FFA. He had held a supervisory position in the Agency prior to his appointment. He had expressed at our meeting during my visit of his commitment to overcome any challenges that befalls the Agency as custodian to our tuna industry in the region and will maintain the trend in lifting the standards of management and development of the Agency. His biggest challenge will be the application of the vessel day scheme, which requires the full commitment of the PNA member countries.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, the work of the FFA is to be acknowledged and appreciated by member countries, a resolution made at the PIF in Samoa in 2004 which in effect is the inclusion of a Ministerial oversight in the work of FFC. This allows governments to be well informed, first hand, to the progress of development and management issues on fisheries in the region.

There will be situations where issues on fisheries that will require input by FFC or its Agency to be made an agenda item with ambitious intentions at the meeting of Forum Leaders, such submissions will be misleading to any discussions and will defeat the purpose of the Ministerial oversight. I thank you.'

(xix) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) made a statement on 'Health Ministry Updates', as follows:-

Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, I wish to provide the House with an update on activities within the Health Ministry.

1. ICDF Visit from the Republic of China - Taiwan

This week saw the arrival of a medical team from the International Co-operation and Development Fund (ICDF) of Taiwan. This team consists of an obstetrician and gynaecologist, ENT surgeon, orthopaedic surgeon, dentist, 2 paediatricians, internal medicine specialist, 2 nurse specialists (emergency and haemodialysis) and a pharmacist. These visiting staff will be working with the staff in the department, consulting with patients and doing surgery while they are here. Most members of the Taiwan team are form the Show Chwan Memorial Hospital in Taiwan.

In conjunction with the visit I had the great pleasure of signing a Sister Hospital Agreement with the Show Chwan Memorial Hospital and the RON Hospital yesterday. This is an opportunity for us to set up twinning arrangements and ongoing support with visits, training and the supply of medical equipment.

In addition, 13 boxes of drugs and medical consumables were donated to the hospital by the team.

I would like to convey my government's appreciation to Taiwan, the Taiwan Embassy on Nauru, the ICDF and the Show Chwan Memorial Hospital for this much needed and ongoing support to the Nauru Health Department and the people of Nauru.

2. Nauru Health Supply Chain.

As part of this important improvement to service delivery a follow-up visit of the supply chain consultant, Mr. John Blunt, was undertaken in September. The purpose of this visit was to –

- Follow up action each stakeholder is expected to complete during the period from July to September; and
- Identify any issues that must be resolved during the visit.

Specifically, Mr. Blunt reviewed the performance of the supply chain. In general the performance was assessed as satisfactory, especially the Fill Rate, where 85% of the order was delivered on time. It was identified that more work is required on strengthening on the order planning, approval and release phase.

In conjunction with the work being performed by Mr. Blunt a Drugs & Therapeutics Committee has been formed by our local clinicians and staff, and the Committee is reviewing the essential drugs list and developing standard treatment guidelines for common illnesses and presentations.

Work is also progressing on developing and releasing a long term supply order for the period from October to June 2007.

3. **Capital Works**

I am happy to inform Honourable Members of a number of capital works projects which are planned for the remainder of the financial year.

- **Flood Mitigation & Water Sewage Works**

The contractor for these works has been appointed. Central Meridian, a Nauruan company, has been awarded this large contract. It is anticipated that the work will commence within the next few weeks. The work is being funded by DIMA and I would like to again express my appreciation for the ongoing support of DIMA and the Government of Australia. This work will cause some major disruption to traffic flows both inside and outside the hospital. The contractor is working with department staff to ensure this disruption is minimised. A community meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon in the hospital car park, at 5 p.m. to inform community members of the work schedule. However, following the work and short period of disruption, the flooding of the hospital entrance will be a memory of the past and the hospital will have improved toilet, sewage and water facilities. These are crucial works and I ask that public work with the department and the construction team during this period of works.

- **New Laboratory**

Funding from the MOU with Australia has been allocated for the construction of a new laboratory at the RON Hospital site. Currently the hospital laboratory is split between the two hospitals and both areas are old. The current laboratory service is suffering due to the split and the conditions of the existing labs. The new lab. will bring together all lab. services in the one building, which will be located in the centre of the RONH site providing good access for wards as well as outpatient needs. This will greatly improve the laboratory service and will add to the new lab. machines the hospital has received from Australian donor assistance over the last 1 or 2 years.

The plans for this new lab. have been drawn up with technical advice from a Lab. Consultant in New Zealand and the contracting of this work is being worked on, so we should see this work beginning shortly.

- **Pharmacy Stores**

Monies have also been allocated in the MOU with Australia for the refurbishment and expansion of the pharmacy stores area. This will add to the ability of the Health Department to order and store sufficient stocks of drugs and medical consumables and help to avoid running low of stock. The plans and costings are currently being drawn up for this project and it is hoped that this work can begin within the next couple of months.

- **Dressing Clinic**

The old laboratory room at RONH is currently being converted into a new 4-cubicle dressing clinic. The hospital deals with many patients who have ulcers and wounds needing dressing every day and the existing facilities are far from sufficient. This new clinic will have 4 separate cubicles each fitted out so that our staff can deliver an improved service to our patients needing dressings. This work is being carried out by Eigigu Works.

- **Ward 11**

The last remaining derelict ward at the back of RON hospital has almost completed a face lift and refurbishment. This work has also been undertaken by Eigigu Works. This ward is being specifically refurbished to house our long term nursing home type patients and will be a major improvement on the conditions they have been kept in for the last few years. It should also make caring for these patients much easier for our staff as well as the many volunteers who continue to give their time to assisting with the care of these long term patients.

- **Wards**

Eigigu Works has already undertaken some refurbishment work on the acute block and they are now being asked to continue these refurbishment works through all the other wards. It is planned that these works will be ongoing this year and into next year.

- **Dental Clinic**

The MOU with Australia also has an allocation for major rebuilding of the Dental Clinic. Planning for this has just begun and our Dentist along with AHI in Sydney and the Ministry Executive will be looking at the best options for building a new Dental Clinic. One option being looked at is a pre-fabricated mobile clinic that can be housed at RON Hospital, which will provide easier access to outpatients attend the hospital, but which will also be able to be taken to the schools on Nauru as the Dental Clinic looks to recommence the School Dental Health program in 2007.

- **POHLN**

The computer laboratory for the Pacific Open Health Learning Network at the RON Hospital has been completed and we are expecting the arrival of the computers from WHO in the coming weeks. These computers will be installed by a technical specialist from WHO who will also do the training of staff on how to make the best use of the training modules that will be available. This laboratory and equipment is a part of the department's strategy to ensure retention of our staff, as well as ongoing staff development and training.

4. Workforce Issues

(i) **Israeli Medical Team**

The Department of Health anticipates the arrival of the Israeli Medical team in early November. Dr. Dani and Hadar Yardeni, a paediatrician and paediatric surgeon will be the first two doctors to arrive. It is anticipated that they will stay for two months and will then be replaced by two more doctors. This will be ongoing with two doctors on island for 2-3 months and rotating. The Government of Nauru is grateful for the assistance from the Government of Israel for this ongoing support.

(ii) **Other Medical Workforce Issues**

I am happy to inform the House of the arrival of Dr. Emelie Santamaria, medical officer and Dr. Sisoda, Anaesthetist, both of the doctors have committed to stay in Nauru for a long term contract.

We are also fortunate to have the wife of our radiographer from Fiji join the staff, Mrs. Keshni Keshwan, who is a qualified ultrasonographer from Fiji. This adds to the radiology services and provides for the first time, a full time ultrasonographer on Nauru. We welcome them and look forward to working with them.

Nauru is still experiencing difficulties in maintaining a basic medical workforce. Despite constant work by a number of agencies we are still struggling to recruit and retain medical staff, this is a global problem. The Ministry has recently contacted recruitment agencies in both India and Philippines to gain assistance with this project and I hope that we will soon have a full complement of doctors and a system to ensure this is ongoing.

(iii) **Nursing and Allied Health Workforce Issues**

The MOA which the Government of Nauru is signing with the Government of Fiji is being finalised. Once this is signed, the department expects up to 10 experienced and senior nursing staff as well as a number of allied health staff to be recruited from Fiji to work in Nauru. Work on the

identification and selection of the staff has already commenced with the Fiji Ministry of Health in anticipation of the imminent signing of the MOA.

(iv) **Co-operative Agreement with Kiribati Government and Ministry of Health**

The Ministry is happy to announce that an MOA is also being developed with the Kiribati Government in relation to nurse training, and the delivery of specialist clinical services, particularly in relation to prosthetic services. This co-operation with our close neighbours will provide more options for Nauru in developing the much-needed workforce we need for our health system as well as when trying to treat patients who cannot be treated in Nauru. Two young children have already benefited from this increased co-operation as they received specialist treatment from an Australian Plastic Surgery team in Kiribati last month.

5. **Public Health**

(i) **Diabetes Validation Study & NCD Strategy**

The preliminary results of the Diabetes Validity study have been received. This study has quantified the very high prevalence of diabetes on Nauru with 23% in adults above the age of 25 years and up to 53% in women above 55 years. This is part of the STEP-wise survey and will be used to finalise the NCD strategy.

A workshop will be held this week with the assistance of SPC to finalise the NCD strategy. This workshop is a follow-up to the very successful workshop held in May, where we received great input from the communities. This week's workshop will finalise the draft that came out of the May workshop and will form the framework for public health activities for the next 5 years.

(ii) **Primary Health Care Workers**

An outcome of the May NCD workshops was the request from communities for district based health workers. The department has provided for these positions in this year's budget and has been working on a training program for the District Primary Healthcare Workers.

The district communities are now working with the department in recruiting for these 14 positions, one from each district. Applications will close next week and the district committees will be submitting 2 names of suitable applicants to be interviewed by the department. Once appointed the successful appointees will undergo an intensive 3 months training program before commencing duties as primary health care workers in early 2007. Although the workers will be identified by the district they represent, they will be working in teams to ensure that all communities, large and small, have access to their services. These workers will not be replacing hospital services, but will rather work as an outreach service to extend hospital services and a large focus on their work will be on health promotion, education and preventative screening and programs.

6. **Overseas Attachments/Training**

The following staff had attended training, workshops or training overseas. All of these training had been funded and supported by external donor agencies such as WHO, SPC, Taiwan, etc.:

- Eva Gadabu and Ngano Mwareow attended a three-week attachment to Taiwan in nursing leadership. This attachment was fully sponsored by the Republic of China (Taiwan).
- Chanda Garabwan attended a JICA sponsored attachment on Lifestyle Changes in Japan which was funded by Japan's development agency, JICA.
- Isabella Amwano and Zinnia Grundler attended a SPC workshop in Noumea on HIV and TB prevention, funded by SPC.
- Mr. Vincent Scotty attended the Pacific Health Research Committee meeting in Fiji.
- Mrs. Lois Aingimea was to attend the South Pacific Chief Nursing Officers meeting but unfortunately was unable to make it due to personal reasons.
- Mr. John Limen attended a WHO meeting on Pharmaceutical Policies and Access to Quality Essential Medicines in Fiji.

- *Ms. Eva Gadabu attended a workshop on Management, Analysis and Reporting of Data from STEPWISE NCD surveillance, Fiji.*
- *Ms. Maree Bacigalupo, WHOPRO Meeting Auckland and the Taiwan Pacific Island Countries Health Forum, Palau.*
- *Anne Hubert – Regional Workshop LabNET workshop in New Caledonia.*
- *Ms. Ngano Mwareow and Dr. Kiki Thoma are on their way back from a Rheumatic Heart Disease workshop in Fiji.*

7. **Specialist Medical Visits**

The program of specialist medical visits continue with a renal-vascular team expected in early November, and an oncology scoping visit before the end of year. This oncology visit has been requested initially as a one-off scoping visit to specifically look at the feasibility of establishing chemotherapy services on Nauru for our increasing number of cancer patients. Should this visit prove it a viable option, the department will look to establishing chemotherapy services and would have these supported from Australia with regular visits.

Several Members have raised a few times the issue of eye patients who have retinal diseases that our regular eye specialist has not been able to treat. Although it has taken some time, we now have it confirmed that a team will visit Nauru with the necessary equipment to do this surgery and we are expecting confirmation from RACS of the dates of this visit before the end of the year. These have been added to the program of regular visits and so will be ongoing in addition to our regular eye specialist visits.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I thank you for your time in listening to this update and I trust you will all join me in commending that fantastic works that the health department is doing. The report touches the surface of some of the more significant activities and it reflects the hard work from the Secretary of Health down through the Directors and all the staff of the Health department. There have been significant improvements within the health department over the last 12 months and there are many more being worked on for the coming 12 months. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(xx) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement on 'Offshore Processing Centre' which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, much has been said and done regarding the offshore processing centre and it is my pleasure to share with the House a glimpse of where the OPC program is at.

From the onset of the program our government in close collaboration with DIMA and IOM strived to do what is right and what is best for the people of Nauru and the asylum seekers. Over the years our country has witnessed the positive changes and developments spurred on by the OPC program. Overall, I am glad to say that the stringent policies and attitudes towards the program has become more relaxed.

It should be noted that the OPC camp up at the State House is now an open camp. The occupants of the camp are permitted to move around the island between 8 a.m. in the morning to 7 p.m. in the evening.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, along with these changes IOM have also implemented staff reshuffling and I have the pleasure to welcome the newly appointed IOM Chief of Mission, Mr. Steven Hamilton. I am confident that Mr. Hamilton will continue to strengthen and improve on the present working relationships.

I would like to confirm also that the expected group of asylum seekers arrived on the 17th of September. According to DIMA and IOM officials the Burmese gentlemen have settled in and have been nothing but co-operative.

In this regard, government has amended their visa conditions to allow open camp freedom. Government is pleased to note that at the same time, IOM has agreed to appoint and employ at least 28 district officers, i.e. 2 from each district to assist movements of asylum seekers within the districts.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, as you may recall the first lot of asylum seekers that arrived were processed on Nauru and departed but only 2 men remained due to further assessment. One of these gentlemen is now in Australia undergoing medical treatment and the remaining asylum seeker is Mr. Mohammed Sagar.

For the information of the House at the last meeting of Cabinet the visa renewal fee for the month of September for Mr. Sagar was determined at the level of AUD100,000. However, this fee has not been paid. Cabinet is yet to determine the fee for the month of October. Thank you.'

(xxi) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) made a statement on 'Overseas Travels', as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, since the last sitting of Parliament, I have traveled overseas on government business and would like to apprise the House of the purpose of my travel.

In late August, I was part of the President's delegation that traveled via Brisbane and Taipei to attend the 'Taiwan – Pacific Allies Summit' held in Palau.

Whilst transiting to Palau via Brisbane, I took the opportunity to spend a day with the team at Our Airline, including the Chairman and CEO as well as our Advisor, working further on the preparations for the launch of Our Airline and related matters.

I also joined the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a meeting with Mr. John Okley of Australia's Department of Immigration and Multi-cultural Affairs where we had discussions regarding the offshore processing centre as well as the preparations for the arrival of the asylum seekers from Burma who are now on Nauru.

In Brisbane, I also visited a business that deals in computers and office equipment called Australian Computer Traders and held discussions about possible bulk purchasing of ex-Queensland government computers and office equipment for the government. The contacts I established and details have been passed on to the Chief Secretary's department so that they may further assess and progress this as a possible source of affordable office supplies for Nauru.

During the transit in Taiwan, I along with the Secretary for Health, were fortunate to be able to meet the health department's trainee, Mr. Asterio Appi, who is one of the three Nauruans who have commenced university studies in Taipei under scholarship from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Appi is aiming for studies in medicine once completing the required Chinese language studies. He along with the other scholarship holders had settled in very well and we wish them all the best with their studies.

The main event in Palau was the 'Taiwan – Pacific Allies Summit' which was a very fruitful meeting of leaders from the Pacific with President Chen of Taiwan. In addition to this meeting there was a 'Health Summit' for Ministers of Health from the Pacific Taiwan allies hosted by Taiwan's Minister for Health. This health summit focused on building an alliance to strengthen co-operation in the field of health throughout the Pacific and on ways that Taiwan could assist our small island nations. We are already seeing the benefits of this alliance with Nauruan staff from the Health Department going to Taiwan for attachments and experience as well as the Taiwan Medical Mission on Nauru this week.

Further to these meetings with Taiwan, the Nauru delegation held a number of bilateral meetings with our Pacific neighbours specifically on the issue of air services and on advancing the concept of are multi-government joint ventures regional airlines based on Our Airline. The concept was very well received by all our neighbours and your government continues to progress work on advancing this from a concept into reality.

After returning to Nauru from Palau, I again traveled to Brisbane with my ministerial colleagues and officials to attend the talks with Australia on the MOU as well as the multi-lateral talks on the power sector reforms.

Again during that week I also spent another day working with the team at Our Airline.

I then traveled to Brisbane from Auckland with the Secretary for Health to attend the annual WHO Regional Committee meeting for Ministers of Health from the Western Pacific region. This is a

week long meeting that covers a wide range of health issues and reviews the work of WHO in our region as well as approves the work plans for the coming years.

On the sides of this meeting, the Secretary for Health and I also met with the Kiribati delegation to advance arrangements for our nurses to attend the Kiribati School of Nursing as well as for our patients to access the Kiribati prosthetics services and the visiting specialist terms from Australia to Kiribati. We have recently just had two patients travel to Kiribati for treatment by the specialist plastic surgery team from Australia where they had their cleft palates and lips repaired.

We also met with the Fiji delegation to further push for finalisation of the Memorandum of Agreement between Nauru and Fiji's Health Ministry's that will create a mechanism that will provide up to 10 nurses a year from Fiji as well as a range of allied health workers who we need in Nauru. This MOA is progressing well and I expect it to be signed in the next week or two and we have already begun the process of recruiting the much needed nurses and staffs from Fiji as the legal people fine tune the documents which have been agreed to in principle.

We were able to also follow up in person discussions we have been having for a couple of months with an agency contracted by NZAID who co-ordinates the overseas referrals program for a number of Pacific islands. We are very impressed by the work of this agency, Health Specialists Ltd., and we are continuing to work on being able to engage this agency to assist Nauru manage the overseas referral program. This will result in improvements with the management of the relationships with hospitals where our patients go as well as the welfare of our patients whilst overseas. It should enable the Health Department to achieve more with the same funds whilst at the same time improve the service for our patients.

For the information of the House, I will be departing on government business this Thursday, firstly to launch Our Airline at a function we shall host this Thursday evening in Tarawa. I will then travel with the President's delegation to attend the Pacific Island Leaders Forum in Nadi, Fiji. There are a number of bilateral meetings being arranged to again take the concept of Our Airline as a regional joint venture airline another step forward, as well as furthering negotiations with Fiji on the Air Service Agreements and a number of other meetings. I will inform the House of the outcome of these meetings at the next sitting. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(xxii) The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for C.I.R.) made a statement on 'Agricultural Fair', as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, I wish to inform the House and the general public of the Agricultural fair being held this week at the Centennial Hall in Aiwo.

The Agri-Fair is being organised by the Department of Commerce, Industry and Resources with the assistance of SPC and FAO, and is in commemoration of World Food Day on October 16.

This inaugural event will last until Friday the 20th, and all are welcome to attend the many daily activities planned, and visit the many stalls being set up by the Department and other agencies.

Activities include seminars on livestock and crop management, fish farming, compost making, soil and seed preparation, etc. and there will be competitions in cooking, kitchen gardening, fishing, diving and other activities to keep people interested.

Admission is free for all, so any budding agriculturists or livestock farmers are welcome to attend. I hope to see many Nauruans at Centennial Hall over the next 4 days. Thank you.'

(xxiii) Mr. Batsiua (Boe) as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee made the following statement to the House:-

'I wish to make a statement in regards to the recent developments and work concerning the Constitutional Review Committee (C.R.C.)

I wish to inform this august House of changes in the chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of the Committee.

These changes emerged due to the two positions becoming vacant, when the Chairman and V/Chairman resigned due to other pressing commitments and numerous ministerial obligations which

seriously hampered their ongoing abilities to give full attention to the work of the C.R.C. Nonetheless I wish to stress that despite this both honourable gentlemen continue to effectively serve as active and constructive members of the Committee.

With regards to the new vacancies the C.R.C. elected Hon. Roland Kun, M.P. on Sept 14 to fill the V/Chairman position and on Sept 27 via teleconference I was elected to fill the Chairmanship of the position.

Hon. Members, the Constitutional Review process is currently undergoing step 2. ie Public consultation phase involving public meetings and consultations twice a week in every district.

The main purpose of these consultations is to facilitate public discussions on the Constitutional change. Contrary to the ill-informed and politically motivated scare-mongering by some the C.R.C is not seeking to force an outcome but rather provide an opportunity for public discussions and input so a desired outcome can be reached through absolute majority public census.

Therefore the C.R.C. encourages every Nauruan Citizen and other interested members of the general public to actively and constructively participate in this consultation process and take ownership of our Constitution which is our Supreme law. For those who wish to submit their views in writing please do so before Nov 17, 2006.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members.'

8. Motion – Leave Sought for

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move a motion. Leave was granted.

9. Motion

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved the following motion –

'Mr. Speaker, this House is aware that the Final Report of the Select Committee on Passport Sales was presented to Parliament on 30th March 2006. After thorough deliberations and debates the report was adopted by the Parliament on 28th April 2006 without any amendments having been suggested by the House.

That your government is duty-bound and obliged to implement the recommendations as contained in Part II of the report;

That in view of the limitations of expertise of this nature with the Department of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been successful in seeking external support for this, and other Select Committee reports of Parliament if need be;

The government takes cognisance the wide publicity which the report gained especially in the Australian newspapers, Radio New Zealand and Islands Business magazine dated June 2006;

Since the government is still in the process of finalising the modalities of bringing experts in to work on the recommendations of the report and the entire process is likely to take some time, hence the government requests that this House allows a time of 120 days to implement the recommendations of the report.'

The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Justice) seconded.

Question put and passed.

10. Motion – Leave Sought for

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) sought leave of the House to move a motion. Leave was granted.

11. Motion

Mr. Harris (Aiwo), as Chairman of the Select Committee on Nauru Police Force, moved the following motion:-

'This House is already aware that the said Select Committee was constituted pursuant to a resolution of the House passed at its sitting held on 9th May 2006 and the Select Committee was mandated to report back to the House by 8th September 2006;

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of the Committee wish to inform the House that the Select Committee had since accomplished very meaningful progress, it conducted several in-camera inquiries of key witnesses and has also procured several sets of written materials from all concerned;

That the said Select Committee now intends to conduct its inquiry for the remaining witnesses, the names of whom cannot be divulged at this stage in the interest of the Committee's work;

And after the completion of the inquiry the Select Committee has to present its report to Parliament;

On behalf of the Select Committee, I, therefore, seek extension of 120 days retrospectively from 8th September 2006 onwards for presenting the report to the House.

This extension is necessitated at this sitting because no Parliament meeting took place between 8th September till date and the meeting held on 6th September 2006 was an extraordinary meeting and obviously not meant to entertain normal business of the House.'

Mr. Akua (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) seconded.

Question put and passed.

12. Motion

(a) Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that his motion on the notice paper be adjourned to the next sitting date.

Mr. Akua (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) seconded.

Question put and passed.

(b) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that his motions Nos. 2 and 5 on the notice paper be adjourned to the next sitting date.

Question put and passed.

(c) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport/Health) moved that his motions 3 and 4 on the notice paper be adjourned to the next sitting date.

Question put and passed.

(d) His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that his motion No. 6 be withdrawn from the notice paper.

Question put and passed.

13. House-keeping Matter

(a) Mr. Adam (Buada) raised a matter of house-keeping regarding his resignation from the Constitutional Review Committee, which to date he had not been made aware of.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) as former Chairman of the Committee informed the House that he will give all relevant information regarding the resignation of the Member from the Committee to the new Chairman of the Committee.

(b) Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) also raised a matter of house-keeping regarding his motion that is not on the notice paper. The Chair informed the Member that he will advise the Clerk to look into the matter and the motion will be restored on the notice paper for the next sitting.

14. Motion – Leave Sought for

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) sought leave of the House to move a motion.
Leave was granted.

15. Motion

Mr. Batsiua (Boe), as Chairman of the Select Committee on Procurement of Caterpillar Generator Sets, moved the following motion –

‘The House may kindly recollect that the Select Committee on Procurement of Caterpillar Generator Sets was given an extension of time of four months, i.e. until 26th August 2006 for completing its inquiry and presenting its report to Parliament;

Since then the Select Committee has made significant progress and has completed its taking of oral evidence from all the witnesses, which oral evidence has been transcribed but has yet to be translated;

And the Select Committee intends to present its report at the earliest so therefore I would like to request on behalf of the Select Committee members, that a further extension of 120 days be granted to the committee retrospective from 26th August 2006 for reporting back to the House.’

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) seconded.

Question put and passed.

16. Motion Fixing the Date for the Next Sitting

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

17. Adjournment

His Excellency the President moved that the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at forty five minutes past eight o’clock p.m. adjourned until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

Members Present

All Members were present at some time during the sitting.

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament