

**Votes & Proceedings  
Of the  
Sixteenth Parliament  
No. 35**

**First Sitting of the Twenty-eighth Meeting  
Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006**

**10.00 a.m.**

1. The House met on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006 at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution made by the House on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

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

3. **Statements from the Chair**

(i) *‘Members of the House, before we proceed with our normal business of the day, I have four statements to be made to this august House.*

*As Members might be aware that the Parliament of Nauru has been provided with two Toyota Prado diesel four-wheel vehicles as a grant by the Government of India. These vehicles will serve the long term use of the Parliament in smoothening its work and facilitating the Members in their official duties.*

*This project was taken by me with the then Minister for External Affairs who is also the Prime Minister of India and I am happy that they have acceded to my request. I have also regulated the use of the vehicle within the Parliament Secretariat in order to achieve the highest levels of efficiency and diligence.*

*I would also like to state in no uncertain terms that this assistance would not have come without the endeavours of our Department of Foreign Affairs who had over the years strengthened the bilateral ties with India and the Minister, Hon. David Adeang, who talked to the Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, Hon. Anand Sharma during his visit to India this year.*

*I wish to place on record the assistance rendered by the Office of the High Commission of India in Wellington, New Zealand who made this possible through their tireless efforts.*

*Last but not the least, I also wish to place on record the efforts done by our Parliamentary Counsel in devising and implementing this mini project. Thank you.*

(ii) *Honourable Members of the House, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to the debates of certain Members of Parliament alluding to the work of the parliamentary staff.*

*I have since looked into the concerns raised by Members and have held two staff meetings to overcome those problems as raised by Members of the House. Nevertheless, I wish to make a few points in this regard which Honourable Members should seriously consider.*

1. *The Sixteenth Parliament is the most active Parliament since Independence. The number of Select Committees and Standing Committees which have completed their work and reported to the House and the number of Select Committees which are in their serious mode of examination of their subjects are in themselves very convincing evidence. In addition to that the number of sittings held since the inception of this Sixteenth Parliament and the number of Bills passed are also unprecedented.*

2. *The establishment of the parliamentary staff has remained unchanged with the increased volume of the work. The establishment list remains the same as was in 1968, except that two PAC officers have been added to it. The staff, especially the Hansard section is struggling hard to keep pace with this increased volume of work and in my opinion they have shown results.*

3. *The Parliament is working under constraints in terms of not only its manpower but in terms of infrastructure also. The Parliament is without a photocopier for the last two years now. Repeated requests in this regard, not only from me but from other Chairmen of Committees could not bring any fruitful results. We are also short of printers. Whereas almost all the departments within the government have been provided with broad-band internet connections, my three requests to let the Parliament have access to the broad-band connections, including that of the Public Accounts Committee office, did not see any outcome.*

*The Parliament is trying its best to render highest standards of service delivery in spite of the above constraints.*

*While saying so, I am not oblivious of the fact that government is trying its best under this harsh and compelling financial situation. It is for this reason I am actively pursuing a Parliamentary Strengthening Project in support of parliamentary development in Nauru. I am glad to state that yesterday we had a meeting with the UNDP Desk Officer for Nauru in regard to this project. The project once started will help the Parliament in many ways mainly being the development of infrastructural support, capacity building of the parliamentarians/staff, strengthening participatory democratic processes in Nauru and many other important issues. It is expected that the project formulation exercise for this project will commence sometimes in the middle of January 2007 which will take four weeks to complete. Thereafter the donors for the funding would be identified and it is hoped that this project will be up and running sometimes during the middle of the year 2007. We will first try to address the issues relating to the infrastructural facilities and Members amenities in the life of this Parliament itself and it is presumed that the training needs, etc. will be addressed commensurating with the new Parliament.*

*Members might be aware that the well-established Commonwealth conventions demand that the officers of the House are not discussed on the floor of the Parliament. This is mainly due to two important reasons:-*

*(a) to ensure the independence of the Parliament secretariat; and*  
*(b) to ensure the Executive Government's accountability towards the Parliament*  
*through its various devices such as Committee system, etc.*

*Although the conventions avoid the mention of the parliamentary staff on the floor of the House yet the in-house disciplinary measures do exist to rectify any acts of omissions and commissions ostensibly done by the parliamentary staff. I am always open to any complaints to be made to me and I can assure this House that I would look into each and every complaint very objectively. Concerns of serious nature may even be referred to the House Committee by me to have a thorough look at those complaints.*

*I hope the Members will join me in the smooth functioning of the Parliament which is our collective gain. Thank you.*

The Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Justice) moved that the paper be noted.

*(iii) Honourable Members, I am more than happy to inform this august House that I had received a communication from His Excellency King Y. Yu, Ambassador of the Republic of China in Nauru.*

*The communication states that the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) held a 'Congressional Caucus International Symposium on Democracy & Congress' in Taipei where the Symposium resolved to form a Pacific Congressional Caucus. His Excellency Wang*

*Jin-pyng, Speaker of the Legislative Yuan of Taiwan had been elected as the Convener of the Caucus whereas seven other members from different countries were elected as Deputy Conveners in charge of the four different regions.*

*An invitation has been extended to me to join the Pacific Congressional Caucus which I have accepted and I shall be intimating to the Speaker of the Legislative Yuan through the resident Ambassador of Taiwan here. Thank you.'*

*(iv) Honourable Members, before we proceed with the normal business of the day, I wish to seek the indulgence of this august House on a house keeping matter. I have received a letter, dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006, in regard to a vacancy that had been created in the Constitutional Review Committee.*

*The letter states –*

*“Honourable Speaker, RE – Vacancy in Constitutional Review Committee*

*I wish to write to you in regard to one vacancy that had been caused in the Constitutional Review Committee.*

*The Committee, at its nineteenth meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006, accepted the resignation of Hon. Fabian Ribauw from membership of the Committee.*

*I, therefore, on behalf of the Constitutional Review Committee, request you to kindly announce the vacancy in the House in the ensuing sitting in order to fill the same.*

*With kind regards, Yours sincerely (signed) Hon. Mathew Batsiua, M.P., Chairman, Constitutional Review Committee”*

*Honourable Members, I now seek nominations for one vacancy to be filled in the Constitutional Review Committee.’*

#### 4. **Nomination to Fill Vacancy in Constitutional Review Committee**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) nominated Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) to be a member of the Constitutional Review Committee.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Mr. Tabuna accepted the nomination.

There being no other nomination forthcoming, Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) was appointed member of the Constitutional Review Committee.

#### 5. **Questions Without Notice** were asked.

The Chair, on request by Members to break for late lunch, suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

### **Resumed**

#### 6. **Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers**

(i) His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty made a statement on as follows:-

*‘Mr. Speaker, for the information of the House, your good self and Honourable Members, I wish to state that I have decided to reshuffle Cabinet membership in replacing the Hon. Godfrey Thoma, M.P., and putting the Honourable Roland Kun, M.P. in his place.*

*I have also decided to allocate the new Minister with the portfolios of Minister of Justice & Border Control, Minister of Fisheries (NMFRA) and Minister of Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust. Thank you.’*

(ii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) laid on the Table of the House inter subhead transfers in pursuance of Section 4(2) and (3) of the Appropriation Act 2006-2007.

*“Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, today I present to Parliament the document recording inter sub-head transfers agreed to since the last session of Parliament.*

*The Appropriation Act 2006-2007 Section 4(2) & (3) states that Cabinet may direct that a surplus of funding provided under one sub-head may be applied to another sub-head, within the same Head of expenditure. The Act requires Cabinet to lay before Parliament a copy of the order of the transfer at the first meeting of the Parliament after approving the transfer.*

*This document I present to Parliament today meets the requirements under the Act and has received the agreement of Cabinet for the purposes of accounting for anticipated actual expenditure during 2006-07.*

*All sub-head transfers in 2006-07 have been accommodated within under-spends from other sub-heads from within the same Head.*

### **SUMMARY OF INTER-SUBHEAD TRANSFERS**

#### **Increase**

<b>Head</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Subhead No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Increase (\$)</b>
9	Lands and Survey	528	Staff Training	200
10	Justice	309	Membership Fees &	1,000

			<i>Subscriptions</i>	
17	<i>Civil Aviation</i>	502	<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	<b>6,800</b>
50	<i>Transport Secretariat</i>	255	<i>Travel –Business</i>	<b>15,000</b>
51	<i>Fisheries</i>	270	<i>Entertainment</i>	<b>1,000</b>
53	<i>Maritime Transport</i>	251	<i>Travel – Staff</i>	<b>5,000</b>
54	<i>Land Transport</i>	360	<i>Local Transport</i>	<b>5,000</b>
54	<i>Land Transport</i>	360	<i>Local Transport</i>	<b>3,000</b>

### **Decrease**

<b>Head</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Subhead No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decrease (\$)</b>
9	<i>Lands and Survey</i>	502	<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	<b>200</b>
10	<i>Justice</i>	351	<i>Uniforms &amp; Protective Clothing</i>	<b>1,000</b>
17	<i>Civil Aviation</i>	359	<i>Electricity</i>	<b>6,800</b>
50	<i>Transport Secretariat</i>	325	<i>Consultants Fees</i>	<b>15,000</b>
51	<i>Fisheries</i>	502	<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	<b>1,000</b>
53	<i>Maritime Transport</i>	251	<i>Travel – Staff</i>	<b>5,000</b>
54	<i>Land Transport</i>	353	<i>Repairs &amp; Maintenance – Plant</i>	<b>5,000</b>
54	<i>Land Transport</i>	353	<i>Repairs &amp; Maintenance - Plant</i>	<b>3,000</b>

(iii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) made the following statement to the House:-  
*‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I wish to provide the House with an update on activities within the Health Ministry.*

### **1. Donated Medical Equipment and Volunteer Services**

#### **1.1 Dental Equipment**

*The Dental Chair which is being donated has arrived on Nauru, we are awaiting unloading and are anticipating that it will be delivered in the next week. This equipment has been donated by His Excellency Prince Peter Iossif de Lemessos, Grandmaster, Ecumenical Hospitaller Order; Knights of Malta. Again the Ministry extends its sincere appreciation to His Excellency Prince Peter.*

#### **1.2 New Ambulance**

*We are looking forward to the arrival of the new ambulance in early February. The final stages of the fitting out of this vehicle are underway. The ambulance will be fitted with state of the art resuscitation and communication equipment. Once arrived all ambulance drivers and staff will be trained in the use of this equipment, this will be done by Mr. Trevor Schweitzer who is presently working as a volunteer in Pharmacy but is also a qualified Paramedic. Honourable Members I wish to convey the Department’s and the Government of Nauru’s sincere appreciation to Mr. Des and Mrs. Sophie Oppenheimer for donating this essential and life saving piece of equipment.*

#### **1.3 Volunteer Visit by Ms Suzanne Barker and Dr Sally McDonald**

*The Department is fortunate that it receives ongoing assistance and support from friends overseas. Ms Suzanne Baker and Dr Sally McDonald from Victoria recently visited Nauru for 10 days. During their visit they provided education and training to staff and patients, particularly in the areas of wound management and palliative care. They also brought with them a large amount of donated medical equipment including drugs and medical consumables. Ms Barker spent a substantial time during the week working with the staff in the newly renovated dressing clinic setting it up and developing treatment protocols for patients who attend the clinic on a regular basis. Dr. McDonald spent time with the acute*

ward working with staff particularly in relation to caring for patients who require palliative care. Both Sue and Sally are hoping that these visits will be ongoing, and they are expecting that the teams which will visit will be expanded. Sue has also organised a large donation of medical equipment which is to be shipped to Nauru in the near future.

I would like to this opportunity to express my thanks to both Ms Barker and Dr McDonald for donating their time and skills, I know both the staff and patients have benefited from this and we look forward to this ongoing assistance.

#### **1.4 Mrs. Sue Bromhead**

The Ministry is also fortunate to have the volunteer service of Mrs. Sue Bromhead. Sue is here visiting her husband Mr. Richard Bromhead, Mental Health Nurse. Sue has vast experience and skills in the areas of aged care, Alzheimer's disease and with people with disability. She is working daily at the hospital.

The Ministry would like to extend its gratitude to Ms. Bromhead for this work.

## **2. CAPITAL WORKS**

### **2.1 Flood Mitigation Works**

Honourable Members you will have all noticed that the long awaited flood mitigation works have commenced at the hospital. This work is progressing well and is expected to be completed by April 2007. As I have indicated earlier to the House this work is being funded by DIMA. Part of the scope of works for this program is the installation of new toilets in all areas at the hospital, the well which was sunk a number of months ago will have a pump installed and a new tank, this water will be used as brackish water to flush the toilets at the hospital. We are also anticipating that a R/O unit will be installed in close proximity to the well which will then allow potable water to be circulated throughout the hospital. This will go a huge way to alleviating the water supply and quality problems at RON Hospital and will negate the need to ration water which had been happening for most of this year. Again, I would like to convey the Department's thanks to DIMA for the funding for this program.

### **2.2 Ongoing Renovation of Clinical Areas**

The department is continuing the renovations of the clinical areas at RON Hospital. Funding for this work is coming from the Department's budget. This work is being carried out by Eigigu Holdings. This work includes painting of areas, repairing of bathrooms and toilets and repairs to fly screens and windows.

### **2.3 Laboratory and Dental Clinics**

Under the MOU, funds have been allocated for the construction of a new Laboratory and also for a new dental clinic. Both of these buildings will be located at the RON Hospital. Planning has been completed for the lab building with the input of staff and Dr. Warren Dellow from N.Z. It is hoped that with the consolidation of both labs, and with the planned recruitment of a Laboratory Technician an improved service will be offered with resulting improved patient care.

Planning for the dental clinic is underway, this is being done with the assistance of William Green in Australia. Dr. Neel Nitesh has recently had discussions with William Green and we envisage the final plans will be available in the near future. The construction of this new dental clinic will improve our ability to deliver dental services to the people of Nauru.

### **2.4 Renovations to Pharmacy Stores Area**

Honourable Members, plans are also being finalized for the renovations of the above area. Secure storage of medical consumables has been a problem which has been highlighted in many reports and technical inputs. Eigigu Holdings are presently drawing up plans for the construction of a new

building between the two existing stores buildings. It is hoped that the work will also include the re-roofing and securing of the two stores areas which are constantly being broken into and goods stolen. This work is also being funded from the MOU.

### **3. POHLN**

Honourable Members as sated in my last parliamentary statement the computer laboratory for POHLN is now completed. Mr. Sangesh Sagar had recently been to Nauru to install the 4 computers with supporting software and they are now operational. It is disappoint that due to the limitations of the telecommunications system full utilisation of this important resource cannot be achieved. It is hoped that with the upcoming improvements in the telecommunications infrastructure full utilization including internal access will be achieved. This work has been achieved with the assistance and support of WHO.

### **4. Workforce Issues**

#### **4.1 Israeli Medical Team**

It is with pleasure that I notify Honourable Members that the Israeli medical team has settled well into Nauru. Both Dr. Dani and Dr. Hadar Yardeni are providing much needed services to our people, particularly the children of Nauru. Feedback from both doctors to my department has been very positive, they have commented on how well they have been welcomed; accommodation and all arrangements for their visit here have been very acceptable. They have been particularly complimentary regarding the level of service and care which staff give despite the limited resources and daily challenges they fact.

His Excellency, Mr. Michael Ronen, Israeli Ambassador to Nauru visited from Israel last week firstly to present his credentials and secondly to investigate and talk to the doctors while they are here planning for the continuation of this program. His Excellency is extremely supportive of this program and has assured my staff that he will be working to ensuring that it continues. Dr. Dani and Dr. Hadar complete their rotation next week. They have provided a much needed resource in the past couple of months, particularly in the areas of paediatrics. I would like to convey our deep appreciation to them and to the Government of Israel for this support and look forward to it continuing in 2007.

#### **4.2 Recruitment of a Physician**

The Ministry has recently offered a contract to an Indian physician Dr. Dubey, for the position of specialist general physician and this has been accepted. We are awaiting confirmation of her estimated time of commencement and are hoping this will be early in 2007. Dr. Dubey's husband is presently working in Fiji as the Professor of Paediatrics at FSM and her children are studying in Fiji, she is keen to work in the Pacific and be nearer her family.

#### **4.3 MOA Fiji**

The MOA which the Government of Nauru is entering into with the Government of Fiji is being finalized, however, the Fiji Ministry of Health has commenced the recruitment process of staff in the areas of nursing, laboratory technician, physiotherapists and health inspectors. Once they have select suitable applicants these will be forwarded to Nauru for final approval.

#### **4.4 MOA Kiribati**

The Nauru Ministry of Health has begun negotiations with the Government of Kiribati in relation to developing an MOA for the provision of nursing training, prosthetic services and reciprocal arrangements for special medical visits. This MOA has been forwarded to Kiribati and we are awaiting comments. Once the MOA is finalized arrangements will be progressed for the commencement of these three service areas. The Ministry of Health wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of Kiribati for its co-operation in these areas.

### **5. Public Health**

#### **5.1 Primary Health Care Workers**

Honourable Members, I am pleased indeed to announce that the 14 district primary health care workers commenced employment with the Minister on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. These workers are now

undergoing an intensive training program which will last approximately 3 months. They will then work with the Public Health staff in delivering public health services at the district and community level.

### **5.2 International AIDS Day**

The Public Health unit conducted a very successful program for International AIDS Day on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. The focus of the day was to increase awareness of at risk behaviours in relation to HIV and STI's. The Ministry was very pleased with the widespread support it received on this day and it was particularly pleasing to see so many young people attending and participating in the program. I would like to congratulate the Public Health staff on this very successful program.

### **5.3 Filariasis Campaign**

The Public Health staff are planning to conduct a Filariasis survey. Since the commencement of the global course of action supported by WHO to eliminate filariasis in 1999 to date Nauru's endemicity status is uncertain. The goal of this survey will be to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in Nauru by the year 2010. The objective of this survey will be to determine the incidence of filariasis in Nauru and whether to implement Mass Drug Administration (MDA) by February 2007.

The target area for the survey will be the whole of Nauru and the sample size will be 1500 people who will be randomly selected by the Bureau of Statistics office. The survey will be conducted from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January. A two-day workshop for the Filariasis survey will be conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January for staff.

### **5.4 Mental Health Services**

Honourable Members as you are aware the Ministry has been fortunate with the assistance of DIMA in having specialist staff working with us in establishing a mental health service. This service has been run by Mr. Richard Bromhead with local assistance from Ms. Virginia Abraham. Monthly psychiatric visits have also been part of this program. The GON has been notified by DIMA that this assistance will finish with the end of the current contract in February 2007. During the past month and for the future period of the program the Mental Health Service will be in consultation with community and staff members and will be developing a Mental Health Policy and Mental Health Bill. These two areas will firstly provide the legislative framework for the delivery of mental health services and secondly the policy document will provide the plan for the delivery of mental health services for the future. Both of these documents will go towards the sustainability of this very important service. Dr. Kiki Thoma has agreed to provide the medical backup for the service and the Ministry is investigating other options to support the service.

### **6. Specialist Medical Visits**

Dr. Jambie Garap has recently provided specialist ophthalmological services to Nauru as part of our specialist medical visit program. The Ministry, with the assistance of Dr. Garap and RACS, is continuing to pursue the treatment for the growing number of patients requiring treatment by a specialist retinal surgeon.

### **7. Attendance at Regional Meetings**

The Secretary for Health, Maree Bacigalupo and Mrs. Marissa Cook, Director of Administration, recently attended the Pacific Senior Health Officials Network meeting in Brisbane. This Network is supported by AusAID and is facilitated by the Australian Department of Health and Aging. The workshop was attended by senior health officials from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia. Issues which were discussed at the meeting included –

- Key issues and challenges in the delivery of health services across the Pacific;
- Workforce planning project;
- Regional co-operation;
- A presentation by Assoc. Prof. Colin Tukuitonga on the feasibility of developing a regional framework and strategy for health;
- Partnerships in the Development of Health information Systems;

- *Policy partnership initiatives and the development of these initiatives.*

*This network is proving to be very beneficial and an important mechanism to the network. Contacts with these senior officials enable staff to seek advice and assistance readily when needed.*

## **8. Community Participation**

*Honourable Members, I am pleased to advise that over the past 12 months the Ministry of Health has made what I consider great headway in working with the community and other significant stakeholders in Nauru, including government departments. As I have highlighted previously to the House, the delivery of health services to the people of Nauru is not only health's responsibility and health cannot do it on its own; it is encouraging indeed to see staff, government departments and community members working towards one goal: the improvement of the health of the people of Nauru. In saying this we still have a long way to go but I am confident that the foundation stones have been laid in 2006 and that this important building will continue in 2007. In recognizing this, I would like to finish my statement by giving my sincere thanks and appreciation firstly to the staff of the Ministry and secondly to all others who have worked closely and co-operatively with us this year. We look forward to this co-operation continuing next year.'*

(iv) His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty, made the following statement to the House:-

*' Mr. Speaker, at the recent Pacific Islands Forum meeting convened in Fiji in August of this year, the issue of labor mobility was one of the items discussed during the Leaders private retreat. As a result Leaders agreed to "continue to explore opportunities for developing labor mobility schemes that would benefit member countries."*

*In addition Leaders were briefed by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark on a pilot scheme on seasonal labor mobility which was formally announced by her Government in October of this year.*

*The pilot scheme known as the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme will first include just six Pacific island countries, but will eventually include all the members of the Pacific Islands Forum. Although Nauru was not initially a member of the pilot scheme I was assured by Prime Minister Helen Clarke at the recent PIF in Fiji that Nauru would indeed be considered an additional member of the kick-start countries.*

*Earlier this month Nauru was invited to participate in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Forum in New Zealand. This Forum was to provide for further dialogue amongst all kick start countries in the pilot scheme with the aim to develop further operational framework of the new Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme.*

*The Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme is premised on a new policy being introduced to meet the need of horticulture and viticulture industry which prioritizes New Zealanders first, then allows the recruitment of Pacific national. The scheme will officially commence in April of 2007 with the Kick-Start countries.*

*New Zealand Employers must gain Recognised Employer Status before being allowed to recruit overseas workers under the Recognised Seasonal Employer policy.*

### **Responsibilities of the Employer**

*The New Zealand employers have to meet the following conditions in order to be eligible to operate under the scheme:*

- *Paying half of the travel costs for the workers flying to and from New Zealand*
- *A guarantee of pay for at least 240 hours of work ( or an appropriate amount if the employment agreement is for less than 240 hours)*
- *Ensuring hours of work average at 30 hours per week*
- *Evidence of pastoral care - including suitable accommodation, translation, transportation and induction to life in N.Z where appropriate*
- *Evidence that workers will be paid market rates*
- *A commitment to paying costs for removing workers from New Zealand if they overstay.*

*Mr. Speaker, essentially the important element in this new scheme is the mechanisms put in place to minimize the risk of worker exploitation and is indeed very much employer-driven.*



### **Recognised Seasonal Employer Forum Wellington December 13-15**

*At the Recognised Seasonal Employer Forum Nauru was represented by Hon. Mathew Batsiua M.P and Mr. Manish Sundarjee. I wish to express my Government's gratitude for the excellent negotiations done by the two - especially behind the scenes - to promote Nauru's interest. Appended to my statement is the Nauru Delegation Statement presented at the Forum.*

*Mr. Speaker, my Government is indeed very excited to inform this august House that Nauru at the RSE Forum was able to secure immediate employment offers from a multi-billion dollar apple exporting company known as Mr. Apple. Other offers are in the pipeline.*

*Mr. Apple: is grower, packer and the biggest exporter of New Zealand apples. Their products can be found in some of the world's great produce markets. Mr. Apple is looking to recruit an initial 30 workers from Nauru to pick apples commencing in February of next year. Each worker will enter into an individual contract with the employer and the terms of engagement will be covered under this contract. By May these 30 workers, along with an additional 20 recruits from Nauru will move into the wine industry.*

### **Administrative processes**

*Advertisements for the Seasonal Workers for the New Zealand Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme will be relayed through the Government media directly after this announcement. A total of 30 vacancies will be on offer. The Nauru Government will be looking to recruit people who have a good positive attitude, without any previous criminal record, and in healthy condition as required by the New Zealand employer. Those Nauruans who are currently unemployed will be given preference.*

*Training activities for the 30 successful candidates will be undertaken as part of their induction program in New Zealand.*

*Mr. Speaker, my Government will endeavour to put in place the required systems to facilitate effective and efficient selection and hiring processes and to ensure maintenance of the scheme.*

*The need to have a Liaison Officer on the ground to interact with the workers has also been identified. This person will act as mentor for the workers and responsible for their day-to-day welfare. It would be someone who understands the concept of seasonal labor, familiar with New Zealand, a good motivator, and mature with effective counseling skills. The Liaison Officer will also be expected to act as co-ordinator between workers and employer. Government is currently discussing this proposal with the employer.*

### **Public Information**

*Mr. Speaker Government is fully aware of the importance of information and will make every effort to keep the public fully informed on this new scheme. Information pamphlets will be distributed through the Department of the Chief Secretary where a dedicated desk has been established to respond directly to public queries on the current job offers and the New Zealand Recognized Seasonal Employers scheme in general.*

*I cannot over-emphasize the importance of selecting our best workers for this pilot project. The performance of this initial group will determine Nauru's continued participation in New Zealand's Labor Mobility program. If this initial group of Nauruan workers can prove to New Zealand employers that our people have the right attitude, we are diligent workers, and we are law-abiding citizens, we can expect New Zealand employers to demand for more.*

*This is truly a great opportunity for our people. It offers a ready market for those with minimal skills and eases the burden of unemployment. We have learnt about the economic benefits derived from remittances in the small economies of our Pacific island neighbors, we can further learn from these experiences and develop better financial management of remittances in order to maximize the benefits.*

*Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to emphasize that this venture is consistent with the N.S.D.S priority short-term priorities to expand employment opportunities for Nauruans overseas.*

### **Acknowledgement**

*Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the assistance of the New Zealand Government in actively considering Nauru to be one of the kick-start countries under this new and*

*exciting venture and we look forward to their continued support.*

### **Making R.S.E Scheme work**

*I urge all interested Nauruan candidates to be very aware of the significance of such opportunities. Our workers will need to prove to New Zealand employers that we deserve to be recognized as a valuable asset to their company. We are competing against other workers within the region hence the need to be very competitive and meritorious in order to get the maximum benefit out of the scheme. Government will endeavour to work closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure Nauru does obtain maximum benefit from the scheme. Thank you.'*

Mr. Akua (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) moved that the paper be noted.

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

*'Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief report on the recent meeting I attended of the 2006 Austronesian Forum held in Kaoshiung, Taiwan. the meeting was organized and funded jointly by the Government of Taiwan and Pingtung County. Issues dealt with were mainly centered around five topics which were current challenges facing the Austroneasian language group of people which Nauru is a part of as well as sharing of best practices in addressing these issues.*

*The Topic for Discussion were:*

- *Promoting and Rejuvenation of Traditional Tribal Communities*
- *Recovery of Indigenous Languages*
- *Recovery of Indigenous People*
- *Setting up an Exchanging Platform for Cultural Enterprise*
- *Protection of Natural Environment*

*Nauru's area of participation in this forum was in the "Recovery of Indigenous Language".*

*Mr. Speaker, it was alarming to note that with increased global activities through technology indigenous tribal or cultural groups are becoming increasingly vulnerable of loosing their culture and particularly, languages. The long arm of globalization has spared nothing in its path. It brings along with it a popular culture of Western affluence which the small indigenous populations soon assimilate into.*

*Nauru has lost a great deal of its cultural traditions over years of contact with dominant Western cultures, particularly with phosphate creating over night wealth that changed the life style of the Nauru people. Nauru's only real cultural pride that is still very much alive is the Nauruan language. It has to be protected at all cost. It is not dissimilar to a lot of other indigenous languages with their problems, particularly, the encroachment of a more dominant language, English, in a bilingual environment. As well as, the lack of documentation and archiving the language, and the lack of a formal language teaching programme in schools. Another unique problem is the political indecision on, for example, which writing system should be used as there are two, and the diminishing rate of fluency in Nauruan among speakers, and the increasing loss of Nauruan vocabularies.*

*Speaker, in committing to the forum's effort in rejuvenating and protecting our cultural heritage, Nauru will need to embark on a serious and strategic path of recovery and protection of the Nauruan language and other surviving cultural traditions and knowledge.*

*While the Nauruan Language is being spoken widely by every Indigenous Nauruan, young and old, it is becoming evident that the language that is being used now is changing extremely fast. Words have been shortened and in some instances deliberately omitted and substituted for English words. Because everyone learns English and are exposed to the language through television and videos, English words are beginning to be found permanent place in the Nauruan language.*

*Speaker, it is frightening to know that you have an Indigenous language that is being allowed to be diluted into pidgin.*

*Speaker, the Department of Education as part of its reform strategy has commenced work and preparations of setting up a Nauruan Language Section within the department, where curriculum resources will be prepared. Some preliminary work has already started with a few books written.*

*The writing and spelling system will be that of the normal English spelling scheme. The section, as it develops over the next three years will also be developing the second writing scheme which is the more formal Bible based. Nauru will for a while work with two systems of phonetics and spelling as it is*

currently happening but with a more formal approach through the school curriculum. Eventually and preferably a single writing system is developed, which ever that maybe.

*Mr. Speaker this will enable our language to be revitalized and prevent the downward spiral into a diluted form of Nauruan into pidgin that is imply another form of indigenous language death.*

*Mr. Speaker, I also took the opportunity whilst there, to meet up with or students and discuss their study progress. The students are all doing well in Chinese language studies. Of course, it is difficult for them to learn a totally new language, both spoken and written. This is part of their study programme where the first year is spent on intensive study of Mandarin which is expected to help them in their lectures and studies when they commence their full degree programmes. Generally, the students are doing well and are in high spirit.*

*Speaker, I would like to thank the government of Taiwan for sponsoring my attendance to this meeting and their great hospitality during my stay in their beautiful country. Thank you.'*

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

(vi) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Sports) made a statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a statement on a project being worked on between Nauru Lions Football Club and Stawell Football Club in Victoria.*

*For the past 6 months, the Nauru Lions Football Club (LFC) and the Stawell Football Club (SFC) had been working on an arrangement to send the best LFC players to play for SFC in the Wimmera Football League in Victoria. This concept was borne out of the successful debut of an LFC player who was recruited by SFC in 2006 and had outstanding success with the club and generated positive publicity not just for SFC but for the whole community of Stawell.*

*Given this success and the positive publicity it generated the SFC is seeking to expand this recruitment drive from Nauru. Therefore after many months of corresponding and deliberations, three additional players from LFC have been selected and will be going to play football for SFC early in the new year. A chaperone has been appointed as well and he will travel and stay with the players during the footy season. The chaperone will also serve as their manager and co-ordinator and basically look after the players during their stint in Stawell. SFC will be providing them with a furnished house, transport, winter clothing, uniforms and casual employment to assist with their living expenses.*

*As an added bonus to the venture, LFC/SFC have secured sponsorship of airfares for the players and their chaperone from Nauru's own Our Airline. In return Our Airline will receive acknowledgement and signage at the SFC home ground which is the same venue for the Stawell Gift guaranteeing national coverage. Moreover each player has a personal portrait hung in the clubrooms with their sponsors name identified, therefore the LFC players sponsored by Our Airline will have this acknowledgement and displayed in a prominent place in the SFC clubrooms. There is also great scope for positive media coverage of the recruitment drive from Nauru and the venture in general. Preliminary plans are underway to promote this venture through the VCFL (Victorian Country Football League), AFL (Australian Football League) and through exposure on commercial television on programs such as the 'Footy Show' and 'Current Affairs'. These are all possible positive national exposure for the players and their sponsors.*

*Once their visas have been sorted out, we are seeking to have the players in Stawell by the end of January or early February 2007 and they will return when their season is over in September/October 2007.*

*As previously mentioned, if this recruitment is successful and the players do their part and play good footy and keep the clubs and sponsors happy, then there is no reason why this cannot continue and be built upon to further other opportunities for other aspiring footballers from Nauru. It can also be used as an incentive for players who take out best and fairest awards, etc. The Ministry is happy to assist in any way it can to further this concept or any other similar programs for the sake of our young people and of course, for the sport which Nauru is truly passionate for. Thank you.'*

(vii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am pleased to inform this august House that further to my statement of 16th October 2006, activities identified for funding under the Memorandum of*

*Understanding between the Governments of Nauru and Australia have been progressing well. Both the Governments of Australia and Nauru now have a very strong and fruitful working relationship - evidenced by the signing yesterday of an agreement to extend the current MOU IV out by another six months until 31 December 2007. This extension means that Australia is also agreeing to provide to Nauru with additional MOU funding for this extra six month period on a pro-rata basis. This represents a significant vote of confidence by the Australian Government in the reform efforts that the Scotty Government has been undertaking since it came to Government and which we look forward to continue implementing for the benefit of ALL Nauruans.*

*In particular, I would like to inform the House that in the last six (6) months that MoU IV 2006/07 has been operational, the following achievements have been realized:*

***Achievements in the first six months:***

<b><i>Activity under MoU IV</i></b>	<b><i>Estimated Budget 2006/07</i></b>
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***Aid Coordination/Development Planning***

***\$480,000***

***Program Design***

*The draft Joint Country Strategy between the Governments of Nauru and Australia agreed to the formulation of a Program Design Team as a means to support AusAID initiatives in Nauru, with members having specific technical and activity design expertise. The Program Team are mandated to work with GON officials from the Development Planning and Policy Division as well as the Aid Management Unit in all aspects of planning, identification and prioritization of the sector and service delivery needs.*

*Furthermore, the purpose of the Program Team is to provide design expertise, infrastructure design, equipment procurement specifications, technical support and capacity building activities involving aid coordination and development planning, as well as including Monitoring & Evaluation in the designs.*

*From the period July-December 2006, the Program Design Team has been actively progressing activities under the education sector (Nauru Secondary School), facilitating the procurement of cherry picker, sludge truck and water tanks, identifying and deploying consultants for specific public sector reforms as identified by the GON under the MOU, working with departments of Human Resource and Labour, Development Planning and Policy Division and the Aid Management Unit to identify capacity gaps and develop mechanisms for the strengthening of capacity within these departments.*

*The Program Design Team comprise of the following members:*

<i>Team Leader / Design Specialist:</i>	<i>Prof Paul Tippet</i>
<i>Governance and Finance Specialist:</i>	<i>David Hamilton</i>
<i>Economic / Social Impact Specialist:</i>	<i>Cathy Deane</i>
<i>Basic Education Specialist:</i>	<i>Ms Karen Munce</i>

***Economic Development and Reform and Public Sector Management***

***\$2.9 million***

***Business Consultant for Eigigu***

*Mr. Bill Russell is currently in Nauru undertaking consultancy work with Eigigu Holdings Work Division. As part of the Terms of Reference, Mr. Russell is required to assist the Government of Nauru develop a business plan for the new public works function in EHC. This task will involve determining the goals and objectives of the newly expanded EHC; assessing the potential business available to the new entity; assessing the human and physical capital available; setting up a management and employment structure; determining a charging model for the new functions that EHC is taking on; and assessing a business strategy for EHC that will allow it to grow without exceeding the business available or the*

management capacity of the organization.

Mr. Russell will be departing Nauru on Friday 22nd December 2006 but will be back on the island in early January 2007 to progress findings from discussions held in his initial visit.

### **Consultant for Price Control Board**

The initial scoping preparation for this activity is now underway, with anticipated commencement in February 2007. A consultant is being sought by GON for a short-term project to review the Price Control Act, provide guidelines for application of the legislation and, if necessary, suggest amendments to improve the Act to provide for criteria under to determine which goods should be subject to price control and the criteria that should be used in determining a maximum price for a good or service under the Act.

While it is envisaged that the consultancy would largely be accomplished off-island, a preliminary visit to Nauru for a week will be scheduled to ensure consultations with government and the private sector.

### **Debt Management Consultant**

The New Zealand firm of Storkey & Co was contracted by AusAID, with the approval of the Government of Nauru, in October 2006 to undertake a review of Nauru's debt situation and assess its capacity to repay debt. Mr. Todd Robinson of Storkey & Co has visited Nauru twice since October 2006 and, together with the principal of the firm, is expected to finalize the consultancy in early 2007. A draft report on Mr. Robinsons' initial findings and recommendations will be provided to the Secretary of Finance by the end of this month, December 2006.

Terms of Reference of the consultancy include compiling all available information on the current debts of the Republic of Nauru, assessing the priority of various debts and classes of debt for repayment, assessing Nauru's capacity to service its debts, prepare a strategy for negotiation by the Republic of Nauru with its creditors, advise on and assist in establishing any systems necessary to continue to track debts outstanding and debt repayments; and advise on and assist in preparing a reporting format for regular advice to Parliament on the state of Nauru's indebtedness.

### **Small Business Development Fund**

The establishment of a Small Business Development Fund is a new activity under the current MoU IV, which allocates \$250,000 for this new Fund. The Government of Nauru anticipates that by establishing the Small Business Development Fund, it will be able to provide some necessary financial assistance to those members of the general public that are keen to start-up a business, but who are otherwise unable to due to a lack of funding and/or access to credit. This will in turn facilitate the development of a strengthened private sector - a key priority under Nauru's Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS).

In this regard and as a means to avoid duplication of existing programs, the Small Business Development Fund has been negotiated for joint funding between AusAID and UNDP. The Terms of Reference has been developed by the Government of Nauru pending agreement by both AusAID and UNDP.

Subsequently calls for applications are currently being initiated by UNDP and it is anticipated that as early as January 2007, the Government will be receiving applications for the consultancy involved. Decisions on approving consultancies will be done collaboratively between the Government of Nauru, AusAID and UNDP. Further discussions are on-going between GoN, AusAID and UNDP as to pooling of funds as well as management and execution of pooled funds.

### **Broader Public Sector Improvements**

Ms. Cathy Deane - Program Design Team - arrived in Nauru for a period of two (2) weeks to undertake capacity building strengthening as well as identify capacity gaps for the Aid Management Unit and the Development Planning and Policy Division.

Also, Ms. Deane was asked to provide scoping assistance to the Department of Finance for the establishment of a Central Accounting Team to support accounting and audit needs of State Owned Enterprises. This activity is derived from the need for all SoEs to provide annual financial reports. Initial

work has commenced on introducing systems and financial management I accounting software into 3 of the main SoEs being Eigigu Holdings Corporation, RONPHOS and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation. This involves staff training, software installation and training and ongoing support to assist in the financial reporting.

In addition, Ms. Deane was requested to provide assistance to the Human Resource and Labour Division under the Chief Secretary's office including establishment of a centralized training and capacity development committee, secretariat support, personnel management systems and procedures as well as corporate planning. Subsequently Ms. Deane was also asked to investigate what is required of the Division in light of its new responsibility for labour with the aim of achieving labour market access for Nauruans.

A full report on Ms. Deane's findings will be made available to the Government of Nauru in January 2007 including Terms of reference for specific capacity building activities and further technical assistance.

### **Support for in-line officials**

Although funds are available for the continued support for three in-line officials to assist Ministry of Finance in budgetary processes, we are yet to receive a budget officer. The Government anticipates the deployment of this officer in early 2007.

### **Food and Water Security**

**\$600,000**

Discussions are currently progressing with the Department of Commerce, Industry and Resources on submitting a proposal for the purchase of water tanks to support the various agricultural programs are being finalised. It is however anticipated that purchase of the tanks will commence in early 2007

### **Education**

**\$2.5 million**

The initial phase of the refurbishment work on the Aiwo Primary School has been completed with a new block of classrooms for the students use in 2007. Currently underway is the refurbishment of the Nibok Infant School which is anticipated to be completed in 2007. It is with pride that both refurbishment exercises have been done by our local tradesmen at very high standards. The Government of Nauru anticipates continually utilizing existing local tradesmen for future refurbishment work.

The Department of Education has been provided with a new bus. Procurement for the bus was undertaken by the Program Design Team at the least cost to MoU funds.

A team comprising of an education specialist and planner arrived in Nauru in late November 2006 to undertake initial discussions on the construction of the Nauru Secondary School and its incorporation into the Learning Village Concept. Consultations were held with all stakeholders including Government officers, non- government organizations, teachers and parents associations as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Currently the architectural brief is being finalised. Once this done, the Government expects an architect to develop the final design presentation for approval. Subsequently the demolition and construction work will be tendered for however, it is Government's intention that local labour will be used to the maximum that conditions allow. Timeline for the demolition and construction of the Nauru Secondary School will be made known through the team's final report.

Funds are provided under the MoU for ongoing support for the Director of Education and for curriculum development.

### **Health**

**\$2.6 million**

Agreed activities under the health sector are progressing efficiently. I wish to inform this August house that AusAID has approved the establishment of an operational account for health activities which will be monitored and disbursed by the Ministry of Finance through its bank account in Melbourne, Australia. This clearly demonstrates the confidence that AusAID has in our current mechanisms and processes.

On-going activities for the health sector under MoU IV including the purchase of pharmaceuticals and other medical consumables; medical specialist visits not only providing treatment to

patients but capacity building for local staff and support of non-communicable disease (NOD) initiatives.

Discussions have been initiated on ways to provide technical support and project planning advice to assist the Health Strategic and Operational Planning for the Nauru health sector. Furthermore, a scoping for the implementation of a Health Information System with associated infrastructure support is also underway.

On going support is provided through the current MoU for both the Secretary for Health and the Director of Nursing as well as the recruitment and appointment of 14 primary health care workers with the development of current curriculum training.

Infrastructural assistance to the Health sector include the commencement and forthcoming construction of a new dental clinic, finalization of plans for the construction of a new laboratory and on-going technical assistance for maintenance of medical equipment.

## **Infrastructure Reform**

**\$8.3 million**

### **Power and water**

There has been a great deal of work happening in the Utilities sector over the last six months, all anchored to the Government strategy for Utilities Reform.

Most of the immediate reforms outlined under the strategy are funded using MoU funds. This includes the work to refurbish Nauru's four permanent generators and the refurbishment of the desalination plant. Work on the four permanent generators continues and is expected to be completed around March/April. In the meantime, MoU funds have provided for the rental of five Cummins generator sets and the ongoing maintenance of these sets which has ensured the continued supply of power on Nauru. The MoU has also provided diesel funding of around AUD 3 million. Work has also begun on the refurbishment of the DESAL plant, with a major surge in activity expected with the arrival of a team of specialist's on-island on 4 January 2007. This team will be responsible for not only undertaking the refurbishment of the DESAL plant, as well as training and building the capacity of existing Utilities staff to ensure the ongoing local maintenance of the plant possible. Work on the DESAL plant is expected to be completed by April 2007. The plant will boost the availability of fresh water on the Island.

A key reform initiative that is being funded under the MOU also came to fruition in the second week of December, with the arrival on-island of the interim utilities manager Mr. Wayne Brearley for a period of 12 months. Mr. Wayne Brearley has significant experience in running power stations and is a qualified electrical mechanic and had already lived in Nauru for a few months before he agreed to take on this contract. His appointment to work at Utilities is intended to provide Utilities management with some much needed additional capacity particularly in the face of what can only be described as a large reform program. One of the first tasks of Mr. Brearley will be to work with existing management and Utilities staff to undertake a major clean-up of the power station grounds, improve security around fuel stocks and build technical capacity of station staff. Already some preliminary arrangements are being put in place to improve security at the tank farm.

The MOU is also providing funding for a number of other items under the MOU, including, but not limited to:

- the re-cladding of the outside of the Power Station. This work is being performed by a local contractor using local labour;
- New water trucks and a new sludge truck which will be in service in the first half 2007;
- A refurbished Cherry Picker has been purchased and is due to arrive early in the New Year. This will allow the urgent work on the distribution lines to done in a safe manner;
- The rental and ongoing maintenance of the two reverse osmosis units that produce potable water for all Nauruans;
- The purchase of oil and diesel purifiers to ensure that the diesel used by the generators at the power station contains minimal contaminants and therefore extends the generators operating life;
- The contracting of PEX industries to assist in refurbishing the sea water pump house which pumps cooling sea water up to the generators in the power house. Currently the pump house suffers from concrete cancer. PEX Industries staff, together with Utilities station staff will remove the concrete cancer and put an epoxy resin into the replacement formwork. The area will then be coated with a special paint to ensure that the cancer does not spread to other areas of the

building;

- *The MOU also funded the attendance of three utilities staff at a pump training course in Australia. This is the first time that such training has taken place and the three are already using their skills to full effect at the power station. We expect and look forward to undertaking more of this type of training in 2007.*

*I would also like to thank AusAID for their agreement to donate to Utilities three small generators that they no longer require. Utilities have already developed a policy and pricing structure to allow these generators to be rented out the general public. This will mean that people can ensure they have full power at their residences for particular occasions, including, family celebrations and funerals.*

### **Sports Facility**

**\$1 m**

*A sports facility design team comprising of Prof. Steve Hamlett and Dr. Gary Crilley were in Nauru from the 11th to the 19th of December to undertake initial work on the design of a proposed sports facility. While in country, the team consulted with various stakeholders including existing sporting institutions, government officials in order to ensure that all views are incorporated into the final architectural brief.*

*The sports team undertook scoping study on preferable location for the sports facility, accommodation of sporting events, type of proposed community sports and also incorporating meeting facilities.*

*It is anticipated that the architectural brief will be finalized and submitted to AusAID and the Government of Nauru by the end of January 2007. The expected timeline for construction of the sporting facilities will be in mid 2007 subject to finalization of design work and contracting of architecture.*

*In addition to the construction of a new sports facility, the team also undertook an assessment of existing sporting facilities for refurbishment purposes. The repair work on existing sports facilities will likely commence early 2007. As aforementioned, construction work will maximize utilization of local capacity.*

### **Legal**

**\$650,000**

#### **Parliamentary Select Committee**

*A Terms of Reference has been provided by the members of the Parliamentary Select Committees for consultancy assistance in implementation of findings and recommendations of the Select Committees as well as providing legal counsel, guidance, advise and assistance to the Parliamentary Select Committees.*

*While identification of appropriate consultants will be undertaken through close collaboration between AusAID and the Government of Nauru, it is anticipated that the consultant will provide independent advice on work undertaken.*

#### **Logistics**

**\$1.8 million**

*Provides on-going support for in-line officials, visiting officials working on MoU IV projects and programs and the procurement and delivery of materials/consumables for such work.*

*With these very brief words, I thank you for your attention.'*

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

- (viii) His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty, made the following statement to the House:-  
*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to provide an update on police activities.*

#### **1. New Commissioner of Police**

*Commissioner of Police, Mr. Alan Ross, left Nauru on Tuesday 19 December 2006 after completing his two years of service with the NPF. Commander Operations Support, Mr. Brian Tadic, is performing the role of Acting Commissioner of Police until the swearing in of our new Police Commissioner, Mr. Robert Lehmann. Me. Lehmann is due to arrive in country on 29 January 2007 to commence his position and has recently visited Nauru to undertake a familiarisation tour.*



*Mr. Lehmann is a veteran police officer with 32 years policing service. He has had a distinguished career in general policing along with considerable experience at the national and international level in the Australian Federal Police.*

*Mr. Lehmann brings with him significant experience at both the operational and management level. I believe he has the attributes to move the NPF forward to become an effective police service for Nauru.*

## **2. Current Roster**

*Honourable Members, the NPF are currently in a special roster phase for the festive season. This means there are extra police rostered per shift and this will continue until mid-January 2007.*

## **3. Police Boat**

*The NPF have received delivery of a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). This boat is currently at the AFP compound and will be moved to the police station when the boat shed that is currently being built is completed. Police are waiting on some safety equipment and other parts to arrive from Honiara before the boat can be utilized. Once this equipment arrives the boat will be utilized for border security when phosphate and cargo ships are in port and will also be used to assist with any boat rescues.*

## **4. Training**

*In terms of training to be provided to the NPF, 2007 will be a big year and it is hoped much will be achieved to further enhance the capacity and capability of our police force. Some of the training planned for our officers in the earlier part of 2007 is –*

### **4.1 Recruit Training**

*In early 2007 recruiting of new police officers will commence and successful applicants will undertake a 12 week recruit training course. Course costing and venue are still being worked out. On completion of the course the recruits will be equipped with the necessary skills required for policing our communities.*

### **4.2 Forensic Training**

*Two members of the AFP Forensics team will visit Nauru to scope the training required for the NPF. Qualified personnel will then come to Nauru to deliver the training to our officers which will further enhance their capability.*

### **4.3 Prosecutions Training**

*Plans are progressing to organize training of our prosecutions section. Former Commissioner Alan Ross has written to Queensland Police Commissioner requesting their assistance to deliver training to our prosecutors. It is envisaged this training will be in the form of numerous visits throughout the year by Queensland police prosecutors to deliver and assess the training.*

### **4.4 Traffic and Accident Investigations**

*Plans are in place for an accident investigator from Canberra to come to Nauru to train our officers in traffic and accident investigations. The NPF will utilize this opportunity to have as many police officers as possible receive this training.*

## **5. Police Post in the Location**

*To lower incidents of crime and to further enhance the relationship between the police and the community, police are exploring the notion of setting up a 24-hour police post in the Location area. A building within the Location has been offered to the NPF by the landowners. We are currently waiting for a structural integrity report and refurbishment costings of the building to make it habitable. If the reports are favourable police will be looking at setting up and manning a police post with police officers and volunteers from Location. In essence police will be working with the community for the community. If the police posts prove to be successful then it is possible other police posts may be set up strategically across Nauru.*

**6. Visit by Commissioner of AFP**

*Honourable Members, last Wednesday I was paid a courtesy visit by the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Mr. Mick Kelty. Along with my Minister for Foreign Affairs, we had constructive discussions with Commissioner Kelty for the advancement of the Nauru Police Force. Commissioner Kelty is very supportive of NPF's progress and is willing to assist wherever needed of which I will channel through the NPF Commissioner on Nauru.*

**7. Departure of Commissioner Alan Ross**

*Lastly, Honourable Members, on Tuesday 19 December 2006 Commissioner Alan Ross departed our shores after two years of diligent service committed to the betterment of our police force. I would like to formally acknowledge the personal sacrifices he made over the two years and I look forward to the new Commissioner, Mr. Lehmann, continuing to move the NPF forward.*

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

(ix) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Sports) made a statement to the House on 'National Sports Complex':-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am very pleased to announce a major project for the development of sports facilities on Nauru.*

*Your government allocated approximately \$1 million under the MOU funding from Australia for this project.*

*AusAID has just had a team of consultants on Nauru from 12 – 19 December undertaking a series of consultations with sporting bodies, community groups and government departments as well as site visits.*

*The consultants have delivered an initial brief on the concept and although many details need to be developed the project will aim to deliver 3 outputs –*

*Step 1 - provision of a range of sports equipments directly to communities. It is expected this will occur early in 2007.*

*Step 2 - Refurbishment of existing basketball and tennis courts.*

*Step 3 - Building of a new National Sports Complex.*

*It is envisaged that the new National Sports Complex will include a new full-size football oval with combined athletics track. This oval will be multi-purpose and allow athletics, AFL, rugby, soccer and other field sports.*

*In addition the complex will include a new indoor sports complex. It is planned that this will also be multi-purpose with facilities for tennis courts, basketball courts, volley ball as well as a weight-lifting facility and martial arts facility. The whole complex will be supported with offices, change rooms and other infrastructure.*

*This major project will equip Nauru with facilities to develop sports and physical activity.*

*This will benefit Nauru greatly and assist national strategies in sports, health and education as well as help strengthen our communities and keep our youths occupied.*

*The Ministry of Sports invites all sporting bodies on Nauru and all communities to get involved and support this worthy project. Thank you.'*

(x) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to provide the House with a report of official overseas travel I have undertaken over the last couple of months.*

*In late October I accompanied His Excellency President Scotty and his delegation to the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum held in Nadi Fiji. In addition to the full week of formal Forum meetings, I took the opportunity to hold several other meetings with leaders, Ministers and officials from Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and FSM in relation to Our Airline and air services in our region of the Pacific. These were very positive meetings and also involved officials from the Forum Secretariat.*

*Further a bilateral meeting was held with the Prime Minister of Fiji and his officials to advance the air service rights to Fiji as well as the health MOU relating to training of Nauruan nurses in Fiji and the recruitment of Fiji nurses and allied health personnel for Nauru.*

*I also had meetings with officials from SPC and the Forum Secretariat in regards to further exploring shipping services for Nauru and our neighbours. Work has already been taken up by the Forum and SPC on this.*

*During the week I had a meeting with Sky Pacific. This is a company that delivers pay for view satellite TV services across the Pacific. Government is looking at this proposal which could be an additional service to be delivered by Nauru Media for the Nauru public, in addition to the free to air local TV services.*

*I also met with a telecommunications company, Digicel and I shall give you more details of this meeting in a separate statement. Nauru also ratified the Pacific Islands Air Service Agreement (PIASA)*

*Following my travel to Fiji and a short return to Nauru, I travelled to Majuro with the President and officials for the launch of Our Airline in Majuro. This was a very successful and well received launch. During the couple of days we were in Majuro, on behalf of the Minister for CIR, I undertook an initial review of Eigigu's Majuro properties and the related issues. The Eigigu Board has been following this up since.*

*We also had discussions with a business in Majuro who are very interested in buying coral rock from Nauru. This information was passed onto the Minister responsible for RONPHOS.*

*We also had discussions with banks operating in the Marshalls re possible interest in establishing a branch in Nauru, however there was no interest.*

*We also had detailed meetings with the Marshall Islands Government and Air Marshall Islands officials regarding an MOU and commercial arrangements for air services, especially in respect of re-establishing services to Fiji.*

*Following the meetings and launch in Majuro, I travelled to Korea with the Secretary for Transport where we attended the UNESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport. This was a high level meeting on regional transport issues covering Asia and Pacific and we were successful in highlighting Nauru's needs and issues affecting transport in the Pacific.*

*On the way back from Korea, whilst in transit in Brisbane, I had update meetings with Our Airline as well as a meeting with a Media Consultancy firm that government is looking at engaging to upgrade and up-skill Nauru Media.*

*We then travelled to Honiara for one night to do a launch of Our Airline in the Solomons. The following morning before leaving Honiara we had a meeting with Prime Minister Sogavare and his Minister for Aviation regarding air services and increasing co-operation between our two airlines.*

*More recently, I led a delegation to Majuro for a sub-regional meeting organised by the Forum Secretariat in relation to Nauru's proposal to develop a multi-government sub-regional airline joint venture. This was also a productive meeting and work towards this concept will continue over the coming months.*

*Mr. Speaker, this government does not like to travel for the sake of travel and we certainly do not go on junkets. For travel that we must undertake, every effort is made to make the most of the time and do as much work as possible, as well as fund as much travel through external donors as much as possible. Thank you.'*

(xi) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) made a statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker & Honourable Members, Our Airline was issued with a full and conditional AOC (Air Operators Certificate) by Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) on 12th October and Our Airline flights commenced on Saturday 14th October. The initial service is for twice a week flights from Brisbane to Nauru and on to Tarawa and Majuro. Our Airline added the Honiara service from 30th October, stopping there on route between Nauru and Brisbane. This is an important step forward as we now have the full rights to carry passengers and cargo between Honiara and Brisbane and there is a good deal of movement which will assist Our Airline's finances.*

*Our Airline has now held four launches. The first was held on Nauru on the occasion of the inaugural flight. There have also been highly successful launches held in Tarawa and in Majuro. The launch of Our Airline in these two countries has been received with an unexpectedly high level of enthusiasm. The governments and the local people of both Kiribati and the Marshall Islands have all embraced the new name, the new look and the new concept of the regionalization of Our Airline. It has been a very encouraging response. A launch was also held in Honiara which was also successful in*

raising the profile of Our Airline, especially amongst the travel industry and business sector.

*During the Small Islands States Summit at the Forum Leaders Meeting in Nadi, the President included in his statement, Nauru's desire to regionalize Our Airline and to invite our neighbours to share ownership in Our Airline. This led to the Leaders agreeing to incorporate this initiative in the final SIS declaration and directed the Forum Secretariat to provide assistance to advance this concept.*

*I, along with members of the Nauru delegation then immediately met with the Forum Secretariat and obtained their commitment to work with us on advancing this with the countries. A series of bilateral meetings were held with the Leaders and delegations of the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and FSM. The Forum Secretariat joined Nauru at these bilateral meetings on regional air services. Following these meetings, we met with Greg Urwin, Secretary General of the Forum, and we mapped out a mechanism forward with the Forum.*

*Since the Forum meetings ended, a great deal of work was done which led to a meeting earlier this month. From the 8th to 11th December in Majuro, which brought together officials from Nauru, Solomons, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Marshalls and FSM, to begin working through the details and issues of making Our Airline a multi-government regional airline. This meeting was coordinated by the Forum and funding for this first meeting was provided by the Forum. The meeting was very successful with the countries reaffirming support for the concept of a multi-government sub-regional airline and Terms of Reference for a Taskforce have been drafted and a cost-benefit analysis will be commissioned. The Taskforce, which will be finalized by mid-January, will meet over a series of meetings to work through the details of a mechanism to be presented to Leaders by the next Forum Leaders meeting.*

*AusAID has also expressed its strong support for this initiative and we are hopeful that this support will enable assistance for the follow up meetings of this Taskforce which are expected to take place every 6 weeks over the coming months.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our gratitude to Australia for the prompt agreement to fund the cost of an independent report which your government commissioned. AusAID provided the funding for the review and report which your government directed the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation to undertake on the concept of sharing ownership of Our Airline with our neighbours. The report found that this concept of changing Our Airline into a multi-government regional airline is the best means to ensure long term viability of Our Airline and air services for Nauru and the sub-region.*

*Your Government has also discussed this proposal with the ADB, who have expressed interest and support for the initiative to regionalize Our Airline and we hope to receive - support from ADB to promote and progress this initiative amongst our neighbours.*

*Mr. Speaker, your government has successfully acquired a new aircraft to replace the one lost by the inaction of the former government, and your government has now re-launched air services with Our Airline.*

*However, the real challenge before us is to ensure that Our Airline is viable. Many measures have been taken and your government is working hard on further measures to ensure that air services to Nauru are not again put under such risk.*

*One of the surest ways of ensuring air services to Nauru and this part of the Pacific is to share ownership of Our Airline with our neighbours. In doing this, Our Airline will have access to routes and rights which it does not currently have, it will have the support of several governments and as the national airline of several countries, it would enjoy the support of many people.*

*Sharing ownership of Our Airline and regionalizing Our Airline into a multi-government joint venture operation is the best way to ensure that we have reliable and regular air services for the long term.*

*However, further than this, your government and Our Airline continue to work aggressively to build profitable operations to ensure our people have reliable air services. Our Airline has successfully operated quite a number of charters across Australia as well as into the Solomon's, Tonga and East Timor. It is ironic that a number of these charters see Alliance chartering Our Airline. Members will recall that we were chartering Alliance to maintain services to Nauru, now Alliance is chartering Our Airline. The tables have turned. The bookings for these ad-hoc charters continue to come in and are providing good additional revenue for Our Airline.*

*During the visit to Majuro for the launch of Our Airline, I lead a delegation in meetings with the*

*Marshall's government. These meetings were extremely positive and have resulted in agreement to work in close cooperation in air services. I personally met with President Note of the Marshall Islands and he gave me and re-iterated a public commitment to working closely with Nauru on air services. A new MOU is now being finalised as well as a commercial arrangement between Our Airline and Air Marshall Islands as a first step towards working towards shared ownership of Our Airline as well as immediately increasing air services for both Nauru and the Marshall Islands.*

*Following meetings with the Fiji government on the margins of the Forum in Nadi, the Fiji government have agreed to grant Nauru the rights to Fiji via Majuro. The signing of the Air Service Agreement has been delayed due to the political situation in Fiji, but the High Commissioner in Suva is working on a means to ensure Our Airline can be licensed to commence flights into Fiji as soon as possible.*

*With the combination of the close cooperation with the Marshall Islands and the pending approval from Fiji, I am confident that we will shortly see air services to Fiji re-established. As you are all aware this is a crucial sector, not only in terms of the number of Nauruans in Fiji and the fact that Fiji is a hub in the Pacific and our need to be able to get to Fiji easily and affordably, this sector, if operated correctly, is a crucial contributor to Our Airline's finances. It is therefore a priority for government to re-establish this service to Fiji.*

*Further to this, some of you would be aware through media reports that NZ has opened up a seasonal worker scheme for certain Pacific Islands which will begin in April next year. During the bilateral meeting with NZ on the margins of the Forum, your government was able to leverage the inclusion of Nauru as one of the initial countries who will take up this very valuable scheme which will provide much needed employment for Nauruans. In these discussions, New Zealand was very excited by your government's offer to have Our Airline provide the transportation of these seasonal workers from the central and northern Pacific to New Zealand. With the NZ employers committed to paying half of the airfares and the employees funding the rest, this kind of additional flying will provide much needed additional revenue for Our Airline.*

*Mr. Speaker, Members have been provided details of the financing of the aircraft which required a loan from NPRT to provide the upfront cash to purchase the aircraft and which will be repaid over 5 years by grants from Taiwan. I am happy to report that over the last few weeks, an opportunity to refinance the NPRT loan has arisen and which we have been pursuing. We have just received confirmation of the offer and will immediately work on the details. This refinancing will allow the immediate return of all the monies loaned from NPRT. The return of these funds within a matter of months rather than over the next 5 years will, I am sure, be welcomed by Landowners and NPRT beneficiaries. I believe that RON WAN beneficiaries should see this as a clear example of the effort your Government goes to, to ensure the just use of NPRT funds for the benefit of the beneficiaries. The new finance on offer provides far better terms and conditions and will enable significant savings. This finance, as before, will be paid for by Taiwan. As details are finalised, your government will provide details for the benefit of Members.*

*Mr. Speaker, as you can see, a great deal of work continues to go on behind the scenes by your government and Our Airline to ensure that air services are sustained and are viable in the long term. It is not enough that we now have an aircraft and that Our Airline is up and flying. We must work hard to regain lost business, lost confidence and look at new approaches to ensure that air services for Nauru are viable in the long term. Apart from rebuilding profitable routes and looking for additional profitable business, a key strategy is to change Our Airline into a multi-government joint venture operation. Air Nauru was always the "airline of the central Pacific" and we are simply taking the original concept further by aiming to make it owned and shared by the people of the Central Pacific.*

*I look forward to the support of all Members and all our people as we progress and re-develop Our Airline. Thank you.'*

(xii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) made the following statement to the House:

*'Mr. Speaker, & Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to report on some activities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade.*

*On 8 November, government approved that Nauru and Guatemala formally establish diplomatic*

*relations, with a joint communique now signed in New York on 6 December 2006 by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Marlene Moses.*

*On 13 December, your government agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the expectation that there will be a joint communique signed early in the New Year. It is further planned that after having chaired the PIF Group of Ambassadors in New York in relation to co-operation between Forum Island Countries and Venezuela, Ambassador Moses will be travelling to Venezuela early in 2007 to undertake more substantive talks about bilateral and regional co-operation. We are continuing discussions about inter alia Venezuelan assistance to Nauru in the health sector.*

*Also on 13 December, your government, after having agreed to establish consular relations with Morocco, also agreed to appoint Mr. Terence John Mullane as Morocco's Honorary Consul-General to Nauru. We are now in discussions about Moroccan assistance to Nauru in the health sector and also in the form of diplomatic training.*

*In other areas, I am duty-bound to report that I attended a meeting of Forum Foreign Ministers in Sydney that was convened by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, on 1 December. The meeting discussed the then threat of a coup in Fiji and what the region could be doing to ward off the threat. I may also add that some discussion was inevitably made on the possible repercussions to Fiji in the event a coup was realised, and that whilst an armed intervention was never considered, some consideration was made to introduce "smart sanctions" that would be designed to encourage a return to democratic government. These were not agreed to at the time, with preference indicated for the establishment of a regional Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to mediate between interested parties and stakeholders.*

*Nauru has decided for the time being to join the Regional Consensus, preferring not to exacerbate the situation which currently remains quite fluid insofar as it is uncertain as to who is and/or should be running the Government in Fiji.*

*I am advised by our High Commissioner that the situation is calm, and that the military is exercising control over the machinery of government, despite public calls for a return to democratic government by the Churches, NGOs, the Great Council of Chiefs, certain sections of the Fijian public including the Media, and of course the international community.*

*Unfortunately, the coup has already affected Nauru and potentially could further disrupt, severely, our health and education programs notably our scholarships (both AusAID and Nauru funded) and our medical referrals programs. This is not to mention the range and variety of assistance from the regional organisations based in Fiji which, since 2004, have been prioritising assistance to Nauru under the Forum's Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru (PRAN) framework.*

*Your government is of course keeping a close watch on the situation in Fiji and will continue to inform this august house on developments as they arise. The coup of 5 December is indeed a matter of great regional concern and whilst an EPG has been formed to assist mediate between stakeholders, it remains to be seen how co-operative the military will be and therefore how useful the EPG will be in assisting find early resolution to the political and security situation in Fiji.*

*On a related matter, I did have the opportunity to visit Suva on 3-4 December 2006, to sign an exchange of notes with the Japanese Ambassador, Masashi Namekawa. This was a formality that needed to be taken to allow Japan to assist Nauru in the utilities sector, to the value of approximately USD1 million.*

*I also had the pleasure to sign this morning further documents with the Japanese Embassy's First Secretary, Mr. Maeda, by which bank accounts would be agreed to as a part of the mechanism necessary for the procurement of diesel fuel for utilities sector.*

*I am further pleased to add that in our discussions with Japanese Ambassador Namekawa, he pledged Japan's continued support for Nauru in the utilities sector, noting that Nauru required substantial assistance into the longer term as Nauru continued to implement its reforms, good governance and development agenda. Your government of course welcomed Japan's commitment and looks forward to progressing such talks in 2007 as we continue to strive to improve the utilities sector in partnership with Nauru's development partners.*

*I am further pleased to report that after a recruitment process administered by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and on submission by the PIF's of a short-list of applicants, Cabinet agreed last week to appoint Mr. Iosefa Maiava to the position of Secretary of Foreign Affairs & Trade. The position is*

*funded by MoU IV for 12 months and will add considerably to your government's ability to deliver results to Nauru, particularly in terms of external assistance to Nauru in these times of hardship. Mr. Maiava is presently Deputy Secretary-General at the PIF's, and will be on Nauru by March 2007, but will be preceded by 1 or 2 other officials of the PIFS who will be assisting the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as early as January 2007.*

*I wish to also advise that Cabinet will soon be considering an appointment to the Nauru High Commission in Suva, in terms of replacing High Commissioner Keke who has been assigned to Taiwan. Further, Cabinet will soon be considering additional consular appointments to be made in Thailand that will be designed to ensure our Consulate-General continues to function at no direct cost to your government, whilst still serving the needs of government, notably the scholarship students there. In this regard, Cabinet appointed yesterday Mr. Komkid Worayingyong as Nauru's Honorary Consul in Thailand, in the city of Cattaya, Chonburi province. Government is of course still intending to invite new applicants to join the scholarship program in Thailand ahead of the new university school year in mid 2007.*

*Cabinet will also soon be considering further diplomatic appointments to the Taiwan Embassy that will be at no cost to the government - indeed, providing funding support for the valuable work of the embassy.*

*We are also presently discussing some form of representation in New Zealand in order to attend to Nauru's interests in New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme which will - as earlier stated by His Excellency the President - employ 30 Nauruan workers by February 2007, with another 20 by May 2007. As vital as this scheme is to the longer term development of Nauru, as identified in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), it is critical that the early stages of this scheme be supported to the extent possible to ensure its success. I will be happy to continue to report to this august House on these developments.*

*I am further pleased to report that the Republic of China (Taiwan) has agreed to provide, through a Taiwanese bank, a loan to Nauru that will allow your government to repay in full the USD9.3 million that is owed the NPRT. The Taiwanese Embassy had asked your government on 18th December to work on the details and in this regard the Finance Ministry is presently working with the Transport Ministry as well as the NPRT to finalise the repayment to NPRT all the monies owed them for the recent purchase of Our Airline's aircraft VH-RON otherwise known as Naoero.*

*Mr. Speaker, with these few words I thank you for your attention, and express the confidence that 2007 will be an even more successful if very busy year for us in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.'*

(xiii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, it is my honour to give my first ministerial statement to the House on Telecommunications and I have the pleasure of advising the House of some very positive developments which your government has been pursuing.*

*Whilst in Fiji in late October on the margins of the Forum Leaders meeting, I had meetings with a telecommunications company. This company is 'Digicel Pacific Ltd.'. The meetings with Digicel were very positive and things continue to progress quickly.*

*Digicel originates from the Caribbean where it is the number one mobile phone service provider and covers nearly every country in the Caribbean. Digicel has experience in delivering mobile phone services in small island countries with small populations (some of them smaller than Nauru) and also in countries with infrastructure problems similar to Nauru, such as lack of power.*

*Digicel has now commenced a program to roll out its vision in the Pacific. This company has a goal of delivering a seamless pan-Pacific mobile network. Digicel has now launched in Samoa and is constructing its mobile network in Papua New Guinea and Fiji and has now been issued licences to operate in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. They are also in discussions with a number of other Pacific Islands.*

*Reports from various sources speak very highly of Digicel. People in the industry confirm that Digicel is a well respected and reputable company that has the size, funds, capacity, experience and*

*technical expertise to establish and run telecommunications in Nauru. I have attached some information on Digicel for Members' information.*

*The negotiations held so far will see Digicel establish in Nauru in the very near future and begin working to provide a full telecommunication solution. It is envisaged that Digicel will manage the international portal, look at managing the remaining land-line phone service, but what is really exciting is that it is envisaged that Digicel will roll out a GSM mobile phone network across the whole of Nauru. Further to this, we have negotiated for Digicel to also roll out a full wireless internet service across Nauru.*

*The introduction of Digicel in Nauru will be as a joint venture with government. Digicel will finance the required infrastructure and will manage and operate the service, with government as a shareholder. Government will regulate Digicel operations to ensure they deliver a quality service for a price people can afford. The discussions so far indicate innovative service that will provide quality telecommunications for all on Nauru at prices we can all afford.*

*The project is expected to move very quickly and hence my statement today, which may be a little early given that arrangements have not been finalised, but given the positive discussions and speed of progress to date, I felt it timely to inform Members and the public of this exciting development.*

*Government has signed a letter of intent with Digicel and work is progressing on issuing the licence for Digicel to operate. Digicel is currently working on documentation to register in Nauru and we are working with Digicel on review of the legislation to enable their operating in Nauru.*

*Digicel have already had one of their technicians on Nauru in November, who undertook a survey of Nauru to check on the signal requirements to ensure full mobile phone and wireless internet coverage for the whole island. He also reviewed all the related technical issues and existing telecommunications equipment on Nauru so as to identify what is needed to establish the new mobile phone and wireless internet service for Nauru. Following this visit and review, Digicel have now received two quotes from two well known brands to supply the necessary equipment to be installed on Nauru.*

*The business case and model has been drafted as a desk-top exercise and once Digicel confirm their preferred supplier and quote, the business model will be finalised and presented to government for review.*

*Your government is very pleased to be able to announce this development today. Although it is still in the early stages and nothing yet finalised, it is progressing rapidly and all looks very positive.*

*Digicel advises that they will be able to have full mobile phone and wireless internet services established on Nauru in about 4 to 6 months, if not earlier. We are therefore confident that we can look at having mobile phones and wireless internet operating on Nauru in the first half of 2007.*

*This will be a major improvement to telecommunications for Nauru and I know that this will be welcomed by all on Nauru. We know that very few people have access to phones at the moment. Having a mobile phone service reaching across the whole island will be a great boost to society as well as a major boost to our economy. Many small businesses can develop with access to mobile phone services. Many of our people now enjoy the benefits of e-mail and the internet but imagine how much better things will be for our people to be able to access e-mail and the internet from anywhere on Nauru using this wireless internet service.*

*Digicel will continue to employ Nauruans and will up-skill Nauruans. It may lead to further job opportunities.*

*Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting development for Nauru and I trust all will welcome this as another positive step forward being delivered by your government for the betterment of our people. I assure Members and all people on Nauru that your government has been and continues to work overtime on turning Nauru from the brink of total collapse and rebuilding Nauru. Many, many things are going on in the background. Much of this takes time and commitment and I assure you your government puts in the time, the overtime and total dedication and commitment to deliver our promise that voting for change will mean a better life for all on Nauru.*

*This announcement today is yet another in a long list of positive developments your government has achieved in only two years. We are committed to continue to deliver results over the coming 12 months that will demonstrate to everyone that the pains of reform have been worth it and have enabled us to now begin looking up and forward.*



*I look forward to being able to continue delivering statements on the positive developments your government is delivering for Nauru. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'*

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

*'Mr. Speaker, further to the statement I made in this House in November in relation to the public consultation meetings that were held around the island on the Constitution, I would like to provide this House and members of the public with information on the progress of the constitutional review.*

*Following on from the public consultation phase, Step 3 of the constitutional review has now begun. Step 3 involves the independent Constitutional Review Commission. The Commission is part of the six-stage process of constitutional review. The Chair of the Commission is Mrs. Ruby Thoma and the other two members of the Commission are Mr. Leo Keke and Dr. Guy Powles. Guy Powles is an eminent constitutional lawyer with a long association with the Pacific.*

*The role of the Commission is to draft a report which includes recommendations for amending the Constitution of Nauru. In drafting their report, the Commissioners are required to consider all public opinions that have been expressed in written submissions and public consultation meetings. The report by the independent Review Commission is due at the end of February, and will be tabled in this House. The report will also be made available to the public.*

*After the Commission has completed its work, Step 5 of the Constitutional review process will begin. The recommendations will be debated by a Constitutional Convention, which will make decisions about what constitutional amendments, if any, should be submitted to Parliament. Elections for the Convention will be held early next year.*

*Steps 5 and 6 are required under Article 84 of the Constitution which sets out the minimum procedural requirements for amending the Constitution. A bill must be passed by Parliament, which must sit for 90 days between its introduction and passage, and must be passed by at least 12 members. Then, if any of the amendments are to the most important Articles in the Constitution, which are listed in Schedule 5, a referendum must be held in which the people of Nauru vote 'yes' or 'no' for each amendment. Such amendments will only take effect if at least two thirds of the votes cast in the referendum are in support of the amendments.*

*Mr. Speaker, the process of constitutional review that the Committee is undertaking has been designed to ensure that any amendments to the Constitution will be amendments that reflect the wishes and priorities the people of Nauru. One very clear theme that emerged from the written submissions and the public consultation meetings was people's desire for more accountable government. The independent Review Commission will attempt to make recommendations for amendment that fulfil that desire, and the Convention next year will have the opportunity to decide what changes should be made to improve and strengthen the Constitution, and to improve the way the institutions of government function. The constitutional review process provides us with the opportunity to amend the Constitution to make government more accountable to the people, and to strengthen the people's rights.*

*I would like once more to thank those members of the public who made written submissions, and the hundreds of people who contributed their ideas and opinions at the public consultation meetings. I would also like to commend the members of the Review Commission for their hard work thus far. The Commission has already made a public statement informing the public of their work, and will continue to keep the public informed of their progress. Thank you."*

(xv) Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) as Chairman of the Select Committee on NPRT Financing Irregularities made a progressive statement to the House:-

*'Honourable Speaker, I wish to make a statement before this august House in regard to the Select Committee on NPRT Financing Irregularities.*

*I am really indebted to this august House which granted several extensions to the Select Committee and due to those extensions we were able to achieve a steady progress in regard to this work.*

*The Select Committee has taken evidence of several witnesses most of whom are considered to be key witnesses. Contingent to the resolutions of the Committee it is felt that the Committee may re-open its examination and may call fresh witnesses to deal with the aspects wherever felt necessary and the Committee will also seek post evidence replies from the witnesses where they are found to be due. This*

would happen only after the entire transcriptions are translated and read through. Currently the transcripts are still being translated and the Committee is hopeful that it will be expedited so the Committee can further its mandate.

*On behalf of the Select Committee, I would also like to inform that Terms of Reference had been drafted to seek funding for hiring additional translators who can assist in the translation of residual work of this Select Committee plus the rest of the other Select Committees. The hired translators would also do the editing work wherever required in order to produce the best results.*

*I shall keep the House informed from time to time and as and when new developments take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.*

#### **8. Motion – Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2006-2007**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) pursuant to Standing Order 189 moved to present the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2006-2007.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

#### **First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

#### **9. Motion – Second Reading**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

Under Standing Order 159 further debate on the second reading was adjourned to a future date.

#### **10. Motion – Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable debate on the second reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was then read a second time.

#### **11. Letter of Recommendation**

The Chair read the following Letter of Recommendation to the House:-

*'I, Ludwig Scotty, President of the Republic of Nauru, as Chairman of the Cabinet and in pursuance of a resolution of the Cabinet, hereby notify Parliament that the purpose of the withdrawals from the Treasury Fund as proposed by the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (o. 1) Bill 2006-07 is recommended to the Parliament by the Cabinet.*

*Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2006.*

*(Signed) Ludwig Scotty, President and Chairman of the Cabinet.'*

#### **12. Motion – Leave Sought**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move for the third reading of the Bill.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Leave was granted.

**13. Motion – Third Reading**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.  
The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.  
Question put and passed.  
The Bill was read a third time.

**14. Motion – Leave Sought for**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) sought leave of the House to present the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2006.  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Leave was granted.

**15. Motion – Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2006**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved to present the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2006.  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.

**First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read the first time.

**16. Motion – Second Reading**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that the Bill be now read a second time..  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Second reading speech ensued.  
Under Standing Order 159 further debate on the second reading was adjourned to a future date.

**17. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable debate on the second reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Question put and passed.  
Debate ensued.  
Question put and passed.  
The Bill was then read a second time.

**18. Division of the House Called for**

Mr. Ribauw (Ubenide) and Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) called for division.  
Bells were rung for one minute.  
The House divided.

**Ayes**

**Noes**

Mr. Scotty  
Dr. Keke  
Mr. Pitcher  
Mr. Batsiua

Mr. Adeang  
Mr. Waqa  
Mr. Kun  
Mr. Buramen

Mr. Harris  
Mr. Adam  
Mr. Dabwido  
Mr. Tabuna

Mr. Akua  
Mr. Stephen  
Mr. Ribauw

**Total - 8**

**Total - 7**

Question put and negatived.

The House then resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Bill.

#### **IN THE COMMITTEE**

**(Mr. Chairman, Hon. Sprent Dabwido, presiding)**

The Chairman, on request from certain Members, suspended the Committee and to resume when the bell rings.

#### **Resumed.**

#### **19. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that clauses 3, 2 and 1 be agreed to.  
Question put and passed.

#### **20. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that the Principal Act, Short Title and Preamble be agreed to.  
Question put and passed.

#### **21. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that the Committee reports the Bill to the House.  
Question put and passed.

#### **IN THE HOUSE**

**(Mr. Speaker, Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo, resumes in the Chair.)**

The Chairman reported the Bill, without any amendments, to the Chair.

#### **22. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that the report of the Committee be adopted.  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Question put and passed.

#### **23. Motion – Leave Sought for**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) sought leave of the House to move for the third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

**24. Motion – Third Reading**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Telecommunications) moved that the Bill be read a third time.

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

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

**25. Motion – Leave Sought for**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe), as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Procurement of Caterpillar Generator Sets, sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

**26. Motion**

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

*‘Hon. Speaker, as this august House is aware that the Select Committee on the Procurement of Caterpillar Generator Sets was constituted on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and was granted several extensions by the House, the last one of which will expire on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2006;*

*That the work of this Select Committee was inordinately delayed simply due to the fact that its key witness, a former Minister of the Republic, failed to comply with the summons issued by the Committee and avoided facing the Committee for many months by staying overseas;*

*And I am pleased to inform this august House that the Select Committee has now completed the oral evidence of all its witnesses, the evidences have been transcribed and translated and the drafting of the report is currently under progress. It is expected that the draft report would be ready by the first week of January and thereafter the Committee will consider it word by word;*

*The Committee is also looking to engage a consultant to assist with the evidence and material gathered through its inquiries to determine whether further inquiries are warranted and whether or not more people should be examined or re-examined;*

*I, therefore, on behalf of the Select Committee, seek an extension of time for another 120 days, i.e. until 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007, a time by which all the sets for presentations would be compiled and the report would be tabled in the House.*

*Thank you Mr. Speaker.*

Question put and passed.

**27. Motion – Leave Sought for**

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Nauru Police Force sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

**28. Motion**

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

*‘Mr. Speaker, this House is aware that the life of this Select Committee will end on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2007. It is anticipated that there might be no Parliament meeting between now and the expiry date of this Committee, hence I felt it my onerous duty to move this motion today.*

*The Select Committee on Nauru Police Force has been progressing very well and has taken oral evidence of several witnesses including that of the outgoing Commissioner of Police. The Committee has a long list of witnesses to depose before it which would take considerable time and especially to keep pace with the post witness formalities.*

*I therefore request this august House to grant an extension of 120 days, i.e. until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'*  
Question put and passed.

**29. Motion**

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that his motion on the notice paper be postponed.  
Question put and negatived.

**30. Division of the House Called for**

Mr. Ribauw (Ubenide) and Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) called for division.  
Bells rung for one minute.

Ayes		Noes	
Mr. Harris	Mr. Akua	Mr. Scotty	Mr. Adeang
Mr. Batsiua	Mr. Adam	Dr. Keke	Mr. Waqa
Mr. Dabwido	Mr. Ribauw	Mr. Pitcher	Mr. Kun
Mr. Tabuna		Mr. Stephen	Mr. Buramen
<b>Total - 7</b>		<b>Total - 8</b>	

Question put and negatived.

**31. Motion No. 1 on the Notice Paper**

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved the following motion:-

*'That having considered the Speaker's statement on the matter of Sister Mary's Orphanage; Believing the untold damage and embarrassment to the Catholic Community in Nauru; Considering the perception of the supreme body, i.e. the Parliament of Nauru in the eyes of Nauru and internationally; Believing that the Speaker should not be questionable and under a cloud; This House is of the opinion that it is in the interest of the House and its dignity and Nauru at large that the Speaker must vacate the Chair.'*

Debate ensued.

Question put and negatived.

**32. Division of the House Called for**

Mr. Ribauw (Ubenide) and Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) called for division.  
Bells rung for one minute.

Ayes		Noes	
Mr. Harris	Mr. Akua	Mr. Scotty	Mr. Adeang
Mr. Batsiua	Mr. Adam	Dr. Keke	Mr. Waqa
Mr. Ribauw	Mr. Tabuna	Mr. Pitcher	Mr. Kun
		Mr. Stephen	Mr. Buramen
		Mr. Dabwido	

**Total - 6**

**Total - 9**

Question put and negatived.

**33. Motion**

His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty, moved that all other matters and all Orders of the Day be adjourned and made Orders of the Day at the next sitting.

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

Question put and passed.

**34. 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 set by the Chair.

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

Question put and passed.

**35. Adjournment**

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at thirty five minutes past twelve o'clock a.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, except Mr. Thoma.

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**