

**Votes & Proceedings  
Of the  
Sixteenth Parliament**

**No. 36**

**First Sitting of the Thirtieth Meeting  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**10.00 a.m.**

1. The House met on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution made by the House on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

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

3. **Messages from the President**

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty informed the House as under:-

- (i) that due to concerns raised with regards to the 'grass roots' scheme, the donor has decided a temporarily stoppage of the scheme to enable it to review the distribution scheme;
- (ii) the donation of a fishing ship from the Republic of China (Taiwan);
- (iii) the donation of food stuffs from the Republic of China (Taiwan) in support of the government's food security policy; and
- (iv) the increase in salary to all public servants commencing the next government pay day.

4. **Questions Without Notice** were asked.

The Chair, with the consensus of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

**Resumed.**

5. **Disorder in the House**

After repeated verbal outbursts and interjection, the Speaker asked the Member for Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare to withdraw from the Chamber for disorderly behaviour and instructed the Clerk accordingly.

The Member then removed himself from the Chamber.

The question on a motion to suspend the Member for Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare was put and passed.

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) and Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) moved that for record purposes their names be listed in the negative.

The Chair, pursuant to S.O. 47, informed the House that the Member for Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare would be suspended for the remainder of the sitting day since this is his first suspension.

Questions without notice further ensued.

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

(i) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health made a statement on 'Overseas Travel on Government Business', as under:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, over the last couple of months I have attended a number of meetings overseas on official government business and keeping with the practise of this Government, I would like to give you a brief report of the purpose of these meetings.'*

*In February this year I was invited to attend a meeting hosted by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity held in Chiangmai, Thailand. The meeting was on the issue of "Telemedicine" and involved experts, government officials and some private sector operators from both the Health and the Telecommunications sectors, bringing both sectors together to maximize the opportunities new telecommunications provide in supporting the delivery of health services. There are significant advances in telecommunications technology which now make it affordable and relatively easy to implement telemedicine and e-Health, not only for large hospitals in urban centres, but now also in small health clinics in remote areas. As Minister responsible for both of these sectors in Nauru I was able to gain invaluable knowledge and establish contacts with a range of experts and organisations which has assisted us as we are in the process of finalising design of the new Health Department IT network as well as the new whole of Government network.*

*Whilst in Thailand I had the opportunity to meet with the Nauruan students in Bangkok. They are always very happy to catch up with any Nauruans passing through their part of the world and eager to hear news of home. I can say that all are very settled and working well in their studies. They looked happy and well looked after by our Nauru's Consul General and staff in Thailand.*

*Along with Nauru's Consul General and other staff in Thailand I had several other brief meetings with some Thai businessmen as well as some former and current government officials. I also met Nauru's new Honorary Consul based in Pattaya.*

*Whilst in Bangkok, I met with one of the applicants for the new position of Director of ICT and was able to confirm his appointment and arrangements and I am pleased to say he was able to travel back to Nauru with me to take up the post. Mr. Martin Archer, from the United Kingdom has thus been on Nauru for a little over 6 weeks and has done a tremendous amount of work in the new Department of ICT and with the planning the progression of the three main IT projects for Education, Health and whole of Government.*

*Whilst in transit in Brisbane both on the way to and back from Thailand, I held a number of meetings with the Chairman and senior management of Our Airline. These are part of the ongoing meetings I try to regularly have with Our Airline as we continue to work on ensuring the long term viability of the airline for the benefit of Nauru.*

*I also had a meeting with a representative of Digicel to further discuss details regarding this proposal. These discussions are ongoing.*

*Last month I attended the Pacific Ministers of Health meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu. This meeting takes place once every two years and is an effective forum for advancing health issues specific to the Pacific Island countries at a regional level and has achieved a great deal in terms of regional programs that Nauru benefits from. I was accompanied to this meeting by the Secretary for Health, Ms Maree Bacigalupo, and the Director of Health Administration, Mrs. Marissa Cook. In addition to the formal meeting agenda, this meeting provided us the opportunity to meet with many people and organisations on the margins of the meeting and have already resulted in a number of specific offers of assistance and new projects for the Health Department for the benefit of our people.*

*En route to Vanuatu via Brisbane, we took the opportunity to meet with AusHealth International, who currently provides support to the Health Department in the implementation of projects and activities funded by AusAID under the MOU. This was a good opportunity to follow up on all outstanding activities to ensure maximal use of the MOU funding for Health, as well as iron out a few administrative issues.*

*I again met with Our Airline management whilst transiting through Brisbane and held a couple of telephone conferences with Digicel and Government's advisor, Mr. Manish Sundarjee, to further progress the business plan and commercial relationship being proposed between Nauru and Digicel.*

*For the information of the House, I will be departing on government business tomorrow, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April to attend a high level meeting on HIV and the law being held in Auckland New Zealand. Although Nauru does not have any active cases of HIV/AIDS, as I stated in my address on World Aids Day, Nauru is at serious and real risk of HIV/AIDS due mainly to our current risk behaviour and documented high levels of STI, particularly in our youth. HIV/AIDS has the potential to quickly spread in Nauru and therefore we must do all possible to maintain our current AIDS free status and do all we can to prevent it.*

Following that meeting I will be attending the inaugural Pacific Maritime Ministers meeting being held in Apia, Samoa. This is the first time all Ministers responsible for shipping, ports and Maritime Affairs will be meeting in the Pacific. A meeting of Secretaries and Heads of Departments was held late last year to prepare for this meeting and we will be covering many issues that affect Nauru. There are a number of common issues across the region that Nauru would benefit greatly from if addressed as a region. This includes affordable and regular cargo shipping services, something which I have been pursuing for some time with little progress. However, there will be a special session on this topic looking at possible ways that the smaller island states in our part of the Pacific can work together to achieve more affordable cargo shipping services. I will be accompanied on this meeting by the new Secretary for Transport, Ms. Limay Uera, the Director of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Christopher Stephen and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Iosefa Maiava.

Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, I thank you for your attention and trust you appreciate the importance of the high level meetings I have attended on behalf of Nauru and the benefits Nauru's attendance at these meetings bring for our people. Thank you.'

(ii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance made a statement on inter-subhead transfers as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, today I present to Parliament the document recording inter subhead transfers agreed since my last statement on 26 December 2006, relating to the 2006-7 Budget.

The Appropriation Act 2006-2007, section 42) & (3) states that Cabinet may direct that a surplus of funding provided under one subhead may be applied to another subhead 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 purpose of accounting for anticipated actual expenditure during 2006-07.

All subhead transfers in 2006-07 have been accommodated within under-spends from other subheads from within the same head.

### **Summary of Inter-subhead Transfers**

#### **Increases**

<b>Head</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Subhead No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Increase (\$)</b>
1	Chief Secretary – Secretariat	321	Carriage of Mail	7,000
3	Finance – Secretariat	255	Travel – Business	20,000
7	Education	202	Salaries – Local	21,720
7	Education	251	Travel – Staff	23,000
7	Education	301	Printing & Stationery	15,500
7	Education	305	Telephone & Fax	1,400
7	Education	309	M/Fees & Subscriptions	15,000
7	Education	325	Consultants Fees	33,900
7	Education	352	Stores Items	69,500
7	Education	354	R. & M. Buildings	587,720
7	Education	404	Scholarship & Trade	54,000
7	Education	528	Staff Training	14,500
7	Education	318	Bank Charges	1,500
8	Melbourne Office	203	Staff Salaries	46,200

10	Justice	309	M/Fees & Subscriptions	2,500
11	Health	305	Telephone & Fax	4,000
11	Health	353	R. & M. – Plant	40,196
11	Health	251	Travel – Staff	42,296
12	Parliament	305	Telephone & Fax	2,100
13	Chief Sec. - Ministerial	270	Entertainment	3,500
17	Civil Aviation	354	R. & M. – Buildings	7,000
17	Civil Aviation	452	R. & M. – Aerodrome	15,000
18	Foreign Secretariat	270	Entertainment	500
40	Women’s Affairs	255	Travel – Business	1,923
54	Land Transport	360	Local Transport	3,000
54	Land Transport	205	Salaries - OCE	11,000

### *Decreases*

Head	Agency	Subhead No.	Item	Decrease (\$)
1	Chief Sec. – Secretariat	359	Electricity	7,000
3	Finance – Secretariat	455	Subsidies & Donations	20,000
7	Education	308	Library & Periodicals	52,000
7	Education	326	Special Projects	6,500
7	Education	502	Plant & Equipment	779,240
8	Melbourne Office	302	Office Rental	46,200
10	Justice	314	Legal Expenses - External	2,500
11	Health	203	Salaries – Expatriates	44,196
11	Health	203	Salaries – Expatriates	46,296
12	Parliament	255	Travel – Business	1,100
12	Parliament	309	M/Fee & Subscriptions	1,000
13	Chief Sec. – Ministerial	305	Telephone & Fax	3,500
17	Civil Aviation	528	Staff Training	7,000
17	Civil Aviation	359	Electricity	15,000
18	Foreign Secretariat	520	Lease & Charter Payments	500
40	Women’s Affairs	202	Salaries – Local	1,923
54	Land Transport	353	R. & M. – Plant	3,000
54	Land Transport	202	Salaries - Local	11,000

(iii) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made the following statement on ‘Activities in the Department of Education’ to the House:-

*‘Mr. Speaker, Members would recall my last statement to Parliament regarding the literacy level of our students being below the regional benchmarks, I am pleased to inform Hon. Members that your government has re-prioritized its educational activities to help address this issue. Government, through the Department of Education, arranged a series of workshops for both its teachers, parents and guardians on Four S (4S) Reading programme. The developer of the programme, Mr. Keith Wright, was flown in to conduct the workshops himself assisted by Clarissa Jeremiah and Jesarbeth Cecil.*

*For Hon. Members’ benefit, the 4S programme is a way of teaching people to read. It has been shown to be successful for young children as well as adults. Basically, it is a programme that will have older students reading in 10 weeks and younger students learning to read from the early stages of their schooling.*

*The Department is negotiating to buy the copyright to the programme and its books for Nauru.*

*It is intended that with this new reading programme the Nauruan language can also be taught in the same way as it is with English.*

*The Department has arranged for a second series of training in the 4S programme to be delivered at the end of June. I hope more people would use this opportunity to learn this programme so that they can use it in their own homes on their own children.*

*More information can be provided by the Department of Education for those interested. Thank you.*

### **Staff Development**

*(a) The recent review of our curriculum by PRIDE recommended that the upgrading of teachers skills and qualifications be made a priority for the Department. In response to this, government has now set a performance target of 70% of our teachers to have a degree within three years and 80% within four years.*

*(b) I have tasked the Department of Education to commence negotiations with a number of universities to provide an accredited degree programme that will achieve this target.*

*(c) The degree programme must be a programme designed for Nauru teachers. Apart from the usual requirements of a knowledge of curriculum, teaching practices, assessment, etc. to gain a Nauruan education and teaching degree a teacher must –*

*(i) be able to speak and teach Nauruan.*

*(ii) have a knowledge and understanding of the Constitution, the NSDS and the Department's strategic plan.*

*(iii) have a knowledge and understanding of the Rich Task pedagogy.*

*The reason teachers are expected to have knowledge of the Constitution and NSDS is that teachers are seen as change agents in our community. Through our education system we have the capacity to deliver the messages and goals of the NSDS to our young people. Remembering that we have over 2,800 students enrolled in our schools, the potential of teachers to shape the future of Nauru through a curriculum is considerable. That is why our new curriculum derives its direction from the Constitution and NSDS.*

*The department will also be telling the universities that we do not have the capacity to send large numbers of teachers overseas for three or more years to be trained and it is desirable that the courses be delivered in Nauru. The course will be delivered through the action research mode where teachers gain accreditation by demonstrating understanding of teaching practices in the work they do in the classroom. Thank you.*

*Mr. Speaker, regarding the Welding Accreditation programme, your government entered into an agreement recently with East Coast Apprenticeship Company and Bremer TAFE College from Queensland, Australia to train Nauruan welders in Brisbane to Australian standards. Over 30 applications were received and applicants were later tested and assessed by Mr. Mark Ketter, Bremer TAFE lecturer and assessor who was specially flown in for the purpose.*

*Mr. Speaker, twelve successful candidates have been selected to undergo training in precision welding at Bremer TAFE in Brisbane for a month commencing in May 2007. They are –*

- 1. Gary Degia*
- 2. Timmy Denuga*
- 3. Joel Joram*
- 4. James Temaki*
- 5. Greig Keppa*
- 6. Aruito Ika*
- 7. John Joseph Detenamo*
- 8. Greg Adire*
- 9. Oswin Agigo*
- 10. Lynden Jeremiah*
- 11. Robert Dabwido; and*
- 12. Uale Edwards*

*Government offers its congratulations to those selected and hope that this opportunity will be used as a spring-board to bigger and better things in apprenticeship and possibly employment opportunities here and elsewhere for them and future apprentices in the programme.*

*I take this opportunity to thank the Republic of China, Taiwan, for providing the funds to make this project a possibility and a reality. Our gratitude to Hon. Mathew Batsiua, M.P., Hon. Cyril Buramen, M.P., and the Department of Education for their efforts in organising and administrating the project. Thank you.'*

(iv) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement on 'Budget Implementation & Planning' as follows:-

*'Mr. Speaker, today I would like to inform Parliament about the continued implementation of the 2006-07 Budget and the planning and processes for the forthcoming 2007-08 Budget.*

*During the implementation of the 2006-07 Budget, the Government has continued to make progress in overcoming Nauru's difficult financial situation.*

*I am pleased to announce that from 1 April 2007 the government is now paying full cash salaries under the new public service pay scale. That we were able to meet this commitment in a fiscally responsible manner despite a climate of declining revenue demonstrates that this government is committed to ensuring that Nauru has an effective and efficient public service. Public servants will see these new pay rates reflected from payday 20 April 2007.*

*Work has already commenced on the 2007-08 Budget. The timetable was released last week to all Ministers and departments. Throughout the preparation of the upcoming 2007-08 Budget the government will continue to work towards achieving a stable and sustainable future for Nauru. The Budget of another year of very tight revenues – particularly given the continued failure of PHILPHOS to honour its agreement to repay Nauru's past capital investments – necessarily means that the Budget will be tight and the government will again be asked to make difficult decisions.*

*The Budget process this year will be similar to last year. Key dates include:*

- 18 May 2007 – All budget submissions will need to be provided to the Department of Finance on or prior to this date. Finance will again be working closely with all Departments to assist in the preparation of proposals as well as reviewing each Department's existing funding allocation;*
- 21 May – 23 May 2007 - The alignment of all proposals to the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) will be assessed by the Development Planning & Policy Division (DPPD) and recommendations on the compatibility of proposals with the NSDS will be provided to the Budget Screening Committee and Cabinet;*

*We are committed to re-aligning Nauru's budget expenditures to bring them in line with the NSDS and I encourage Departments to liaise with DPPD during the development of proposals.*

- 23 May – 27 May 2007 - The Budget Screening Committee (a sub-committee of the National Development Committee) will consider proposals and provide recommendations on each proposal to Cabinet;*
- Late May 2007 - Cabinet will consider all proposals submitted by Departments alongside advice and recommendations from DPPD, the Budget Screening and the Finance Team.*
- Early June 2007 – The 2007-08 Budget will be introduced into Parliament.*

*The above time-table applies to all Departments and I ask that all parties work closely with Finance to ensure deadlines are met and well developed and relevant proposals are submitted for consideration.*

*Finally, I am pleased to advise that a number of departments have been invited to attend a four-week course commencing in mid-April. This course, funded by AUSAID, will provide practical training on the identification and development of proposals. While it requires significant commitment from participants and their departments, I encourage all department heads and Ministers to facilitate attendance at this course. The Budget time-table has been set to enable departments to participate in this course and still meet the 18 May 2007 deadline for Budget submissions.*

(v) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Utilities) made the following statement on 'Utilities Activities Report' as under:-

*Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, I wish to update the august House on recent activities undertaken within the utilities sector since my last statement in March.*

### **Power Station**

- *An extra Cummins genset arrived on this recent ship and when received by the power station will increase the number of working sets to four (4). This extra set is expected to be installed after the departure of the cargo ship and on-line as soon as possible.*
- *Utilities is awaiting the confirmed arrival dates for TSF and MAN technicians to undertake required refurbishment for Paxman No. 2 and Ruston No. 1. As reported in March, we anticipate having these permanent generators up and running by May. For Ruston No. 1, new pre lube oil pump and pro rails have been ordered and while the original pump is working, it will still require to be replaced with a new pump.*
- *A spare part has been ordered for Cummins set No. 6 which is now on-line bringing total of operational sets up to five (5). Subsequently, it is envisioned that once all six (6) sets are operational Meneñ Hotel and RONPHOS will be re-connected enabling the latter to maintain an average of two (2) drying shifts to boost phosphate production.*
- *The Utilities sector has been fortunate to receive funding from the Republic of China (Taiwan) for the purchase of transformers and insulators. At this stage I wish to seek on behalf of government and utilities management for the co-operation of communities and constituencies because once these transformers and insulators arrive Nauru, the utilities staff will be going through each district to undertake repairs and installation. There might in some cases be power cuts to these districts or the cordoning of roads into these districts to ensure that not only are the public safe, but our workers installing these equipments are also working under safe and secure areas. Utilities look forward to working with the relevant MP's and community leaders in rolling out improved power services to their communities.*
- *In addition to the purchase of transformers and insulators, I wish to confirm that the two service vehicles and a crane truck have reached Nauru thanks to funding from the Republic of China (Taiwan). As advised in the March sitting, the service vehicles will be used by switching and line gangs. The crane truck will be beneficial once installation of transformers and insulators are underway. To ensure proper use and handling of the crane truck, training will be provided by GMJ equipments who also provided training for the use of the cherry picker. Utilities are expecting the arrival of the trainer in the latter half of this month.*

### **Tank Farm**

- *Petrol has been ordered and purchased and expected to arrive Nauru no later than in the week commencing 16 April 2007. This order is funded by RON and is valued at about AUD700,000.*
- *950MT of diesel was received a few weeks ago provided through Japanese Non-Grant Aid funding valued at about USD1 million. A further AUD750,000 of diesel funded by AusAID to be ordered in mid-May. I wish to stress that although we have received a significant amount of diesel, it is still required that we maintain daily load shedding at 12 hours on and 12 hours off. This will ensure stability for the provision of power and minimise usage of diesel.*
- *A shipment of Jet-A1 is due to arrive next week on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Valued at AUD800,000 this order is funded by the Republic of China and is arranged at the specific request of Our Airline.*
- *Security equipments for the tank farm will be arriving on the shipment in May and includes lighting for the farm perimeters. I wish to also advise this august House that IOM has sought the assistance of the Government of Nauru for the purchase and storage of diesel at the tank farm facilities. Utilities have provided the storage tank known as T2 for IOM's usage. As part of the arrangements, IOM has agreed to provide 24 hour security services to the tank farm.*

- *In addition, the Utilities Supervisor will be consulting security services in Australia from the 16 – 17 April 2007 for the provision of electronic security for the tank farm. The up-scaling of security services has been worthwhile and evident in the reduction of theft occurring at the tank farm.*

### **Other Matters**

- *Further to my statement last month, I am pleased to announce that Utilities involvement in refurbishing the Trade School is still on-going and very much on track. 90% of the existing machinery in the school can be expected to be operational and functional by the end of this month.*
- *In addition, tools such as electronic and safety equipment have been ordered and will be on board the next cargo ship expected to depart Australia in May 2007.*
- *Noting the demand for trades skills and as a means of promoting these skills to our Nauruan youths, the Utilities Supervisor will be meeting with Bremer Institute of TAFE during the first week in May to discuss in-country training offered by qualified trainers at the Trade School with passing tradesmen receiving Australian certificates thereby increasing their opportunity to work in the region and internationally.*

### **Conclusion**

*I wish to stress to this august House that each of the activities undertaken within the utilities sector are all articulated in the Utilities Sector Strategy and pursued to ensure that the provision of utilities services are efficient and effective.*

*Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in conclusion I wish to inform the House that in recognition of the hard and necessary work undertaken within the utilities sector, government will be including all utilities staff in the up-scaling of cash salaries as per public servants. I am hopeful that we will be able to clear all administrative details to allow Utilities to reward its workers with an increase in cash salaries commencing their next salaries which is due next week. Thank you for your attention.*

(vi) Mr. Batsiua (Boe), as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, made the following statement on the 'Progress of the Constitutional Review Process':-

*'Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform Members of this House and members of the public of the progress that has been made on the constitutional review since this House passed the Constitutional Convention Act at the last sitting.*

*Firstly Mr. Speaker I am pleased to inform the House that the Report of the Constitutional Review Commission was printed in Australia and freighted to Nauru and that 250 copies of the Report have been distributed to Community Committee leaders, Members of Parliament, Parliament secretariat and the Supreme Court, the Chief Court, the Chief Secretary, and the USP Centre. All members of the Convention will also receive copy. The Report is also available electronically on the naurugov.nr website.*

*Secondly, a writ for elections to the Constitutional Convention was issued by the Speaker soon after the last sitting of Parliament, and nominations for candidates for election closed last Saturday. A total of 84 people nominated for the 18 positions from the 8 electoral constituencies. Polling day will be Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April, and at this stage it is envisaged that the Convention will begin its deliberations on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The CRC has also appointed nine members of the Convention in accordance with the terms of Constitutional Convention Act. They are Mr. Paul Ribauw, Mr. David Gadaroa, Mr. Willie Star, and Ms. Enza Denuga. These appointed persons were chosen either by their National bodies i.e. National Women Council for the two women representatives, or they were chosen by the CRC to represent a certain group i.e. the two people representing the original members of the 1968 Convention.*

*Finally Mr. Speaker I would like to point out yet again, for the benefit of those people that have received false information about the constitutional review, that the recommendations contained*

*in the Commission Report are recommendations that will be debated and decided upon by the Convention. Nothing has been decided at this early stage, and everything contained in the report is still open for discussion. Further, if people read the Report they will see that the Independent Commission has urged that careful consideration be given to the possibility of increasing the term of Parliament from 3 year to 4 years. This suggestion will be on the agenda for debate at the Convention. Suggestions from people that 5 or 6 year terms will be considered are simply not true. Even an increase to 4 years will not happened unless first, the Convention votes in favour of it, then secondly at least twelve members of Parliament vote “yes” for such a change in a referendum. I single out this issue to clarify it as many people are apparently concerned about the possibility of six year terms of Parliament, which as I have just said, is not a possibility. I urge those people who are guilty of spreading these lies (some are candidates for the upcoming Convention elections) to stop spreading these untruths as it is unhelpful, counterproductive and plain stupid!*

*I look forward to the Convention getting underway, when there will be an informed debate amongst the 36 representatives, and informed decisions about whether or not there should be any amendments to improve the Constitution of Nauru for the benefit of the people of Nauru.*

*Thank you.’*

The Chair suspended the sitting and to resume at 4.30 p.m. or when the bell rings.

### **Resumed.**

#### **7. Motion – Leave Sought for**

His Excellency the President sought leave of the House to move a motion regarding the Tsunami Victims in the Solomon Islands.

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) seconded.

Leave was granted.

#### **8. Motion**

His Excellency then moved the following motion –

*“Mr. Speaker, as a result of the recent tsunami which hit the Solomon Islands a couple of days ago claiming lives and many still unaccounted for, I hereby move that this House on behalf of the people and government of Nauru offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims for the anguish and pain brought by this tragedy. Our prayers and thoughts are with the people and government of the Solomon Islands in the wake of this disaster.”*

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The House then stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the victims.

#### **9. Motion**

Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) moved that motion No. 1 be withdrawn from the notice paper.

Question put and passed.

#### **10. Motion**

Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) moved the following motion –

*‘Whereas on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, the 15<sup>th</sup> Parliament unanimously voted and endorsed the re-establishment of the diplomatic relationship with the R.O.C. (Taiwan);*

*Recognising the future implications and drawbacks on the current practice of the distribution of GRF and also recognising the essential needs of each Constituency, this House takes note the importance of that all Members will receive equal distribution of GRF and eventually flow onto equal distribution through their communities and people;*

*Recognising that in future any other such equivalent funding received will need to be brought in Parliament to be dealt with and addressed in the same manner;*

*Recognising that ROC (Taiwan) is a friend of Nauru, this House wish to convey its concern to protect the future relationship of Taiwan and Nauru;*

*Recognising also that each Member of Parliament has an equal voting right in this House and equal needs for their constituency, the GRF will not be used as a political tool that will affect and impinge on Members' ability to speak on behalf of their people;*

*The Parliament of Nauru, therefore, resolves as follows –*

1. *That the Republic of China, through His Excellency the Ambassador to Nauru, Mr. King Yu, be requested to apply principles of equality, fairness and respect to the Honourable Members of the Parliament in the distribution of the Republic of China's support for Grass Roots Projects directly through the respective Members;*
2. *That the Republic of China does not discriminate and ceases to discriminate between Members of the House who are in the Cabinet against ordinary Members by differentiating the amounts of the financial support given to Members for Grass Root Projects, and isolating certain Members by not issuing to them any funding support at all for unknown reasons;*
3. *That the ROC's Grass Roots Funding or any other similar type of funding in future will be distributed equally amongst Members of Parliament regardless whether they are Cabinet members, Speaker or ordinary Members of Parliament;*
4. *That the Republic of China, with respect to the Grass Roots Funding, being funding that is not paid into the Treasury Fund, will deal directly with the Members of Parliament through the Office of the Speaker instead of the current arrangement through the Ministry of Finance and Foreign Affairs in recognition of the status of Honourable Members;*
5. *That the Grass Roots Funding will not be used for politicization of the national affairs of the Republic of Nauru and in particular the use of the funding to place pressure on Members in the discharge of their duties as representatives of their peoples;*
6. *That this resolution is transmitted by the Speaker of Parliament to the Ambassador of the Republic of China to Nauru, H.E. King Yu and to the President of the Republic of Nauru.*

Mr. Jeremiah (Meneng) seconded.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

## **Resumed.**

### **11. Motion of Amendment**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved the following amendment to the motion:-

*“That all words from the word ‘recognising’ in the second paragraph be deleted and the following words inserted therein –*

*‘That the Parliament of Nauru resolves that for so long as the Republic of China (Taiwan) desires and agrees, its direct assistance to the communities of Nauru, commonly referred to in Nauru as the ‘grass roots’, be equally distributed to each constituency according to the distribution of Members of Parliament.’*

*So that the motion reads –*

*‘Whereas on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, the 15<sup>th</sup> Parliament unanimously voted and endorsed the re-establishment of the diplomatic relationship with the R.O.C. (Taiwan);*

*‘That the Parliament of Nauru resolves that for so long as the Republic of China (Taiwan) desires and agrees, its direct assistance to the communities of Nauru, commonly referred to in Nauru as the ‘grass roots’, be equally distributed to each constituency according to the distribution of Members of Parliament.’*

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

12. **Motion**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved that the question be now put.  
The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.  
The question on the amendment motion was put and passed.

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

Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) and Mr. Ribauw (Ubenide) called for division.

Bells were rung for one minute.

The House divided.

<b>Ayes</b>		<b>Noes</b>	
Mr. Scotty	Mr. Adeang	Mr. Harris	Mr. Thoma
Dr. Keke	Mr. Waqa	Mr. Adam	Mr. Jeremiah
Mr. Kun	Mr. Tabuna	Mr. Stephen	Mr. Ribauw
Mr. Dabwido	Mr. Buramen		
Mr. Batsiua			
<b>Total - 9</b>		<b>Total - 6</b>	

Question was put and passed.

14. **Motion – Leave Sought for**

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

15. **Motion – Nauru Air Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2007**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) moved to present the Nauru Air Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2007.

**First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

16. **Motion – Second Reading**

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

17. **Motion – Suspension of S.O. 159**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Transport) moved that S.O. 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.

The Bill was read a second time.

**18. Motion – Leave Sought for**

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

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

Leave was granted.

**19. Motion – Third Reading**

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

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

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

**20. Motion**

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) moved the following motion –

*‘Noting that the Yaren sea-wall at the coastal side of the runway is rapidly eroding the shoreline of certain residences within the area,*

*Recognising that this problem will be exacerbated in the not too distant future thus rendering many problems to these residences;*

*The House therefore resolves that government urgently initiate that a temporary sea-wall be erected as a stop-gap measure to divert the bulk of the sea current from these residences until such time that a permanent structure is installed.’*

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) seconded.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

**21. Motion**

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) moved that motion No. 4 remain on the notice paper.

Mr. Harris (Aiwo) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**22. Motion**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that motion Nos 5 and 8 remain on the notice paper for the next sitting.

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

Question put and passed.

**23. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that motion Nos. 6 and 7 remain on the notice for the next sitting.

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

Question put and passed.

**24. Motion Fixing the Date for the Next Sitting**

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

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.  
Question put and passed.

**25. Adjournment**

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

Question put and passed.

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

**Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting except Mr. Pitcher.

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**