

**Votes & Proceedings  
of the  
Fifteenth Parliament**

**No. 51**

**First Sitting of the Twelfth Meeting  
Saturday, 4th September 2004**

**2.00 p.m.**

1. The House met at 2.00 p.m. in accordance with the resolution made on Thursday, 26th August 2004.
2. The Hon. Russell Kun, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the House, suspended the sitting for ten minutes and will resume when the bell rings.

**Resumed.**

**4. Notice of Motion**

Mr. Adam (Buada) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament, he will move the following motion -

*“This House recognises that the motion passed at the sitting of the Parliament held on 9th June 2004 suspending the then Minister for Justice, Hon. Russell Kun, from the sittings of the House was null and void and against the spirit of the Constitution of Nauru;*

*That such a motion reduces the ability of an elected Member of Parliament in representing his constituency for the redressal of the public grievances;*

*That such a motion impaired the ability of the executive arm of the government by not allowing the former Minister for Justice to sit in the House; and*

*The motion also impaired the executive arm of the day to air its views on the system and the governance and such a motion has very negative impact on the performance of the Members of the Parliament and the government of the day,*

*Hence this House resolves that the motion passed on 9th June 2004 suspending Hon. Russell Kun from the sittings of the House be expunged from the official votes of the Parliament vis-a-vis from the Hansard of the Parliament and that particular business be rescinded.”*

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

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

- (i) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) made the following

statement on “Foreign and Ausaid Delegations Visit Nauru” :-

*“Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am pleased to report to this august House that as alluded to in the previous sitting, a delegation of the Forum arrived on Tuesday to engage in talks with government in order to develop a proposal by which the Forum and member countries can extend assistance to Nauru. This august House will recall that this is a result of a request your government made attending the recent Forum Leaders’ Meeting in Apia under a Forum mechanism called the ‘Biketawa Declaration’ - this framework was developed by the region to allow the Forum to extend assistance to those member countries recognised as experiencing serious challenges to their national security.*

*The team is led by the Forum Secretariat’s Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Iosefa Maiava; the Forum Secretariat’s Legislative Governance Advisor, Mr. Mose Saitala; the South Pacific Regional Environment Program’s Sustainable Development Policy Advisor Mr. Amena Yauvoli; the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s Agricultural Expert Mr. Stephen Hazelman; the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s Statistician Mr. Garth Parry, and, of course, they were joined by the Forum Representative on Nauru, MR. Chitra Jeremiah.*

*The Forum team leaves on Monday after having had discussions with Cabinet, heads of departments including the finance team from Australia, and heads of corporations in order to obtain an understanding of Nauru’s challenges and priorities, and to determine how best the Forum and others can assist Nauru.*

*Your government takes this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Forum team, and to express its anticipation of meeting them again on Monday before their return to their respective postings, to discuss the proposal for Forum assistance to Nauru.*

*Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on a similar matter, an Ausaid team has recently visited Nauru on a social impact assessment mission, meeting also with government leaders and other important stakeholders and Nauruan community leaders, the team’s brief was to determine the impact on the Nauruan people of Nauru’s economic and financial decline.*

*We, in government, are heartened to witness Australia’s continued concerns and sympathy for our difficulties here in Nauru and I am sure this august House also would recognise Australia’s ongoing engagement with and commitments to our people’s welfare.*

*Submitted for the information of this august House.”*

(ii) The Hon. Fabian Ribauw (Minister for NPRT) made the following statement on “Update With Regards to Ongoing Attempts by NPRT” :

*“Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the House in regards to the ongoing attempts of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust in defending Nauru’s position with regard to an expedient claim made against them by Business Australia Capital Finance (BACF) and HLBC represented by Mr. Ian Lazar and George Markos.*

*As explained, the Trust has been forced to take action in the Federal Court of Australia to protect the Republic’s residual equity position from profiteering.*

*Since initially taking office as Chairman of the Trust it became apparent that apart from GE Capital, the Trust was under significant attack from the financier that had originally been mandated by the previous government with the responsibility of refinancing the GE Capital debt, namely BACF/HLBC.*

*Despite numerous representations made to the Nauruan parties that negotiated in good faith with Ian Lazar and others, BACF failed to raise a dollar towards the requirement repayment of GE Capital.*

*In the expedient interests of protecting their claim against the Trust and others, BACF placed disruptive caveats on all the properties that formed the security under the GE Capital loan.*

*The value of the claims made against by BACF initially totalled in excess of AUD40 million.*

*The action underlying BACF's lodgement of such caveats was designed to disrupt the ability of Nauru and its subsidiaries to refinance its commitment to GE Capital.*

*Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in part BACF have been successful.*

*Refinanciers' have expressed concern in progressing further given their inability to precisely quantify the amount due and payable to BACF.*

*Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate irony to this sorry saga is that the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust does not deny it as well as the Republic received funds from BACF.*

*More precisely, the Trust utilised funds arranged from BACF and related sources in order to prevent the foreclosure sale of the Savoy Tavern site in the amount of \$6.8 million.*

*Cash advances totally \$2.1 million were distributed to the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust on behalf of RONFIN and the Republic between December 2003 and February 2004.*

*In addition, the BACF Group are claiming reimbursable expenditure of \$550,000 by the Nauruan entities.*

*Whilst disputing this, on a worst case scenario it is acknowledged that the amount of \$9,450,000 is payable to BACF/HLBC.*

*Given the genuine dispute between the quantum owing to BACF/HLBC, BACF's intentional disruption to the ability of the Nauruan entities to refinance the GE Capital debt, as well as the lodgement of caveats against our properties, the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust has no alternative than to commence action against Ian Lazar, George Markos and BACF/HLBC and related parties in July 2004.*

*I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to advise that as a result of our efforts in commencing action against BACF/HLBC, we have already been successful in having BACF reduce their stated claim from approximately \$40 million to \$23 million, a saving of \$17 million.*

*I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Honourable Members of the House and Nauruan officials who in recent weeks made themselves available to provide evidence to our legal team on short notice.*

*I have received advice from our Barrister that the information obtained has been and will prove to be most beneficial to our defence and it is hoped, the successful conclusion of this matter in our favour.*

*The Trust has been attempting to achieve an urgent hearing date before the judge of the Federal Court of Australia. Not only to finalise a long outstanding probjem but to*

*enable the refinancers to refinance the GE Capital debt and protect the Republic's asset portfolio as expediently as possible.*

*On Wednesday, 8 September 2004, the judge hearing our case against Ian Lazar and the BACF and HLBC interests in the Federal Court of Australia, has ordered that, as a prelude to the urgent trial of the matter, mediation will take place.*

*Sir Laurence Street, the former Chief Justice of New South Wales is acting as the mediator.*

*I regret to inform the House that BACF has put forward the name of the Hon. Kinza Clodumar as a person who will give evidence on behalf of HLBC and who will be negotiating for them at the mediation.*

*It now seems that the Hon. Kinza Clodumar has aligned himself with those who continue to profit as Nauru and its citizens suffer. He has done so, even though, as have been reported in the Weekend Australian newspaper of 7 - 8 August 2004, BACF and related companies are under investigation by the New South Wales Fraud Squad and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, not just for what they have done to Nauru but also for allegedly defrauding \$12 million from investors, including workers' superannuation funds.*

*Indeed, I have reason to believe that the \$2.7 million which HLBC lent to us, actually may have been swindled from unsuspecting investors who depend upon BACF succeeding with their outrageous claim that we owe them \$23 million just because we borrowed \$2.7 million, for them to have any prospect of being repaid.*

*By continuing to align himself with BACF and HLBC, the Hon. Kinza Clodumar is bringing Nauru into disrepute. He continues to make our country an object of derision and ridicule in the international community.*

*In our court case, one man, who has nothing to do with Nauru or with BACF, has sworn an affidavit that he had a conversation with Mr. Lazar last October in which Lazar told him -*

***"I own Nauru. I have its seat on the General Assembly of the United Nations and on the Olympic Committee."***

*It appears that the Hon. Kinza Clodumar wants to help these people steal our assets. He, in fact, remains a director of a company in the BACF/HLBC Group.*

*Our lawyer, has sworn an affidavit, from Ian Lazar in which he claims to have bribed a number of Nauruan politicians for their support in his plans to take-over Nauru's assets. The affidavit lists the claims which Mr. Lazar has made as to whom in our country he paid and how much.*

*The Hon. Kinza Clodumar tops the list.*

*Yet neither Mr. Lazar nor Mr. Clodumar have sworn and filed any affidavit denying those allegations. If they swore affidavits they could be forced to testify on oath and be cross-examined in open court about their honesty and integrity.*

*On 3 September, last Friday, our solicitor received a letter from the solicitors for GE Capital, attaching copy of a letter from Mr. Lazar to Paul Bannon, the Secretary to the Trust, in which Lazar claimed falsely that GE Capital had confirmed to Ferrier Hodgson that GE Capital has consented to BACF's refinance package for Nauru.*

***GE Capital's lawyers have confirmed - "A consent to the refinance asserted by BACF, has never been given" by GE Capital.***

*In closing, Mr. Speaker, I will advise the House that government will not allow the wrongs of the past to continue. We will do things properly, without fear or favour. Cabinet continues to finalise the negotiating team that will attend the mediation next week on behalf of the Republic. I am can assure you we will not be swayed by lies and deceit, but be guided by what is right for the Republic and its future.*

*This Cabinet has and will continue talks to agree on Nauru's delegation for the upcoming 'mediation' next Wednesday in Sydney. At this point in time, I, as Minister and Chairman of NPRT, will be heading the delegation. The Hon. Marcus Stephen, as Minister assisting in matters for the Trust, will also be a member of the delegation. We are currently endeavouring to obtain the support of the former Minister, who was instrumental in severing the ties with BACF and we are hopeful of receiving this support.*

*This is a time, Mr. Speaekr, when all Nauruans should be working for the good of the Republic and not to feather one's own nest, while our nest is left empty. Thank you.*

(iii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) tabled the Quarantine Regulations 2004 and made the following statement :-

*"The Quarantine Act was passed by Parliament and certified into operation in 1999. Quarantine Regulations were approved by Cabinet in 2001. However, quarantine activities were suspended by Presidential directive in 2003 under the former government.*

*The Regulations have recently been reviewed and updated. It is worthy to note that the regulations were prepared with extensive consultation and assistance from SPC and other regional bodies.*

*The Quarantine Regulations serve to protect plants, animals and the public health of Nauru. The Regulations, and the legislation they stem from, protect Nauru's natural resources and environment and also prevent the introduction and further spread of injurious disease and pests.*

*Given the increasing risk globally, but especially in the Asis-Pacific region, with Avian Bird flu virus, SARS and other pests such as coconut beetle, and given our small size, Nauru is particularly vulnerable to the spread of disease and pests without effective implementation of quarantine border control.*

*Your government has acknowledged the serious risk to Nauru if we do not control our borders and continue to allow the entry of plants, animals and other goods without measures to ensure they are pest and disease free. Your government has endorsed the reinstatement of Quarantine activities in Nauru to protect our small island home and our public health. Quarantine is essential to prevent pest and disease entering Nauru and destroying our plants, killing our pigs and other animals, and other diseases that can affect the health of our people. We are one of the few remaining countries in the world that do not have quarantine measures in place and we remain at risk without them.*

*These regulations are quite detailed and extensive. To assist our people to understand what they mean in practical terms, the Quarantine division will be undertaking a community education programme with the assistance of Nauru media. This programme will tell people what they may bring in to Nauru, what is prohibited to import into Nauru and how to bring in regulated foods and plants. The Quarantine*

*division will also work with businesses to ensure they are fully aware of the new regulations and the processes involved with importing food and other goods.*

*The implementation of the regulations will be delayed for two to four weeks or until such a time as the Quarantine division feels that the public has a good understanding of what they can or cannot bring into Nauru under the new regulations.*

*I hereby table the “Plant and Animal Regulations 2004”.*

(iv) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement on “Commencement of Parliament of Nauru (Register of Interests)” :

*“Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, this House is aware that Parliament of Nauru had passed an Act with the name of “Parliament of Nauru (Register of Interests) Act 2004. The Act was certified on 21st May 2004 and as per Section 2 of the Act, the Act shall commence on a date to be notified in the Gazette or on 1st September 2004.*

*The Act has come into full force and in operation from 1st September of this year. Part III of the Act requires disclosure of Members’ interests every year. Such disclosure shall be in the ‘form of return”, which is to be supplied to the Clerk of Parliament by the Members.*

*The Clerk of Parliament shall also maintain a register of interests which shall consist of returns submitted by the Members. Such a register shall be available with the Clerk during the normal business hours for inspection by any person who wishes to do so. A wilful contravention by any Member of a requirement of this Act is an offence under the provisions of this Act.*

*I am glad to inform that the Clerk of Parliament has received the formats of the necessary forms, etc. on on 2nd September 2004. After going through the procedural requirements I hope that the forms would be furnished to the Members for necessary action at their end. Thank you Mr. Speaker.*

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

## **Resumed.**

### **6. Motion - Leave Sought for**

The Hon. Fabian Ribauw (Minister for NPRT) sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

### **7. Motion**

The Hon. Fabian Ribauw (Minister for NPRT), as Chairman of the Select Committee on GEC Debt moved the following motion -

*“I move to extend the dates for tabling of the Report of the Select Committee on GEC Debt from 14th September 2004 to 31st December 2004. This extension has been sought keeping in view the pre-occupation of the Select Committee members with*

*exigencies of the official business of the government and the corporations.”*

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**8. Motion**

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that motion Nos. 1, 2 and 3 be adjourned to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

**9. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that motion No. 7 on the notice paper takes precedence over motion No. 4.

Question put and passed.

**10. Motion - Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Education) moved to present the Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2004.

The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.

**First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

**11. Motion - Second Reading**

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

The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

In accordance with Standing Order 159, further debate on the Bill is adjourned to a future date.

**12. Motion - Suspension of Standing Order 159**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable the second reading debate to ensue forthwith.

The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

**13. Leave Sought for**

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

Leave was granted.

**14. Motion - Third Reading**

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

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

**15. Motion - Leave Sought for**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to make a motion.

Leave was granted.

**16. Motion**

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

*“That Parliament resolves to recognise, adopt and implement, wherever necessary the government’s “Guiding Principles to Enhance Budgetary and Economic Stabilisation.”*

The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement on his motion:

*“Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, pursuant to a Cabinet Resolution of 4 August 2004, I am pleased to inform you that your government had adopted, upon the advice of the finance team, “Guiding Principles Underpinning Future Cabinet Decision Making and the 2004-2005 Budget and Forward Estimates”.*

*Whilst these principles are attached to copies of my statement circulated to Members, let me run through some of the principles for the purposes of public information.*

*At the outset, government recognises that the nation’s economic and financial hardships are the result of three -*

- (i) excessive expenditures and falls in revenue;*
- (ii) decline in economic activity resulting from the decline in phosphate mining; and*
- (iii) misallocation of monies through corruption, profligacy and mismanagement.*

*Today, we must strive to live within our means. For government this means developing budgets that are affordable and sustainable, centralising sources of revenue*

*for prioritisation and distribution by Cabinet, with government expenditures approved and authorised by the Finance Minister, on advice of the Finance Secretary, and; streamlining government and bureaucratic functions to a size commensurate with our domestic economy.*

*A key step to all of the above is the preparation of the national budget, which is due to be tabled later this month. I must say at this time that government is somewhat disappointed with the lack of co-operation by some heads of departments in timely submission of their budget proposals. I am aware, of course, that for some years the budget has been a farcical exercise with heads of departments denied the opportunity to participate in the budget preparation process and this has created a Public Service somewhat unfamiliar and out-of-practice with the responsibilities of planning and strategic thinking in addressing issues of sustainable development. But we cannot be complacent. Our people look to us all, as leaders in Parliament and in the bureaucracy, to provide essential services and to continue to strive to improve their welfare.*

*We each have a contribution to make to the momentous task of rebuilding Nauru, and we must face up to the challenges responsibly, diligently and honestly.*

*To this endeavour, government has adopted the guiding principles that all of its affairs shall be conducted in an ethical, transparent and accountable manner; including releasing timely budgetary information by the ministry of finance as they become available to promote public debate and understanding of the government's reform plans can be mitigated through a broad based communications strategy.*

*Further, government has adopted (and in some areas has already begin to work on) the principle of placing state owned enterprises on truly commercial footing and privatising those enterprises/services where appropriate.*

*Mr. Speaker and honourable members, these are the hardest times we have ever encountered since independence 36 years ago.*

*Indeed, last year no less than the Asian Development Bank noted that the government of then President Ludwig Scotty in July 2003 had the worst ever inheritance of economic, financial, and social problems in the history of Nauru.*

*It gives me no pleasure to affirm that this year this new government of President Ludwig Scotty faces even greater challenges than those of 2003.*

*But our only way forward is to live within our means, conserve our remaining resources, and utilise them in the best and most sustainable fashion possible.*

*This also means that ad-hoc cash payments and compensation payments must be constrained as much as possible, and conducted on a considered and planned basis.*

*Mr. Speaker, one of our worst inheritances is the national debt. Whilst it pains me to be directing scarce cash resources to meet external and domestic debts whilst the Nauruan people find it difficult to put food on the table, I assure honourable members that these are conducted judiciously and only to ensure that we do not have to pay more in the longer term and/or disrupt basic services, essentially those priorities indentified by your government.*

*This means that the sometimes hundreds of people I often have to counsel every day, as Minister for Finance, on the government's inability to provide petty cash to address their daily and real hardships will continue to have to exercise restraint and endure hardships whilst their government strives to rebalance Nauru's circumstances.*

*We are working feverishly Mr. Speaker. We are working honestly, and I must say working well together as team Nauru to lift our country's prospects.*

*Your government seeks your continued patience and understanding to allow us the opportunity to correct what is wrong with our system, improve what is already there, and to fill those gaps that can be filled by those better able to, by those friendly and sympathetic to Nauru.*

*I therefore seek the support of honourable members such that Parliament resolve to recognise, adopt and implement wherever necessary government's "guiding principles to enhance budgetary and economic stabilisation".*

*Thank you for your attention.*

## **Guiding Principles**

### ***Guiding Principles to Enhance Budgetary and Economic Stabilisation***

The dire budgetary position of Nauru has been caused by a combination of excessive expenditures and falls in revenue. This can be attributed to the decline in economic activity associated with the largely ceased phosphate mining industry. Through corruption, profligacy and mismanagement, monies have been misallocated and spending has been unrestricted and ill-disciplined.

As illustrated in the chart below, Nauru has routinely run significant budget deficits. This has caused a massive build-up of debt that is not being serviced (and reduction in the value of the Trust funds) and the budget is being operated on a day to day basis without adherence to any credible or effective budgetary plan.

Given this very difficult fiscal position, the government agrees to abide by the following general principles to inform its decisions on government priorities.

The government requires that :

- all revenues (from whatever source) are a resource of the Republic and should be centralised for priority setting and distribution by Cabinet;
- it must live within its means by developing budgets that are affordable and sustainable;
- the large scale of government and bureaucratic functions that are a legacy of the phosphate mining era are no longer appropriate and should be streamlined to a size commensurate with the size of domestic economy, in order to function more efficeintly and provide a more effective service to the Nauru population;
- it exists to deliver services to the public and this needs to be carried out in an efficient manner; and
- fiscal credibility can only be gradually obtained by implementing necessary budget reforms and not by statements of good intentions or cash hand-outs.

The government will not :

- run a budget deficit past 2006-2007 at the absolute latest (given the government's already significant debt burden); and
- borrow domestically (including from the Bank of Nauru, Air Nauru and other government instrumentalities) or internationally to finance recurrent expenditure.

The government will :

- conduct all of its affairs (including through its state-owned enterprises) in an ethical, transparent and accountable manner, for the betterment of all of the people of Nauru;
- ensure that as an interim measure of financial control, all expenditure of government is approved and authorised by the Minister for Finance, on advice from the Secretary for Finance;
- be mindful in all of its decisions of creating an environment that is conducive to sustainable economic growth;
- develop budgetary plans for the remainder of 2004-2005 and onwards that are practical and achievable. Budget plans will be adhered to and departments will be held responsible and accountable for their allocated expenditures; and
- work towards increasing the transparency of public finances by the release of timely budgetary information by the Ministry of Finance as it becomes available. This should help to promote public debate and understanding of the government's budgetary position;
- look to put its state-owned enterprises on a truly commercial footing and privatise and/or commercialise these state-owned enterprises where appropriate. Where commercial activities are retained by stated-owned enterprises, these arrangements are to be transparent and separate from government influence and control.

The government :

- is currently working to tighten fiscal controls by closely monitoring and recording all expenditures and by enhancing revenue collection;
- intends to work towards making an allocation in the budget to gradually start servicing some of its highest priority debts and bills; and
- does not have the financial means to contemplate paying any compensation payments or ad-hoc cash payments. Any payments of salaries or other entitlements will be done on a considered and planned basis."

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

#### **17. Motion - Anti Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill 2004**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved to present the Anti Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill 2004.

The House was suspended and will resume when the bell rings.

**Resumed.**

#### **18. Motion - First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

#### **19. Motion - Second Reading**

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

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

In accordance with Standing Order 159, further debate on the Bill is adjourned to a future date.

**20. Motion - Suspension of Standing Order 159**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

**21. Leave Sought for**

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

Leave was granted.

**22. Motion - Third Reading**

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

The Hon. Fabian Ribauw (Minister for NPRT) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

**23. Motion**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that motion Nos. 5 and 6 be adjourned to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

**24. Orders of the Day No. 1**

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that Order of the Day No. 1 be deferred to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

**25. Order of the Day No. 2 - Illicit Drugs Control Bill 2004**

On the question that the Bill be now read a second time.  
The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.  
Second reading speech ensued.

In accordance with Standing Order 159, further debate on the Bill is adjourned to a future date.

**26. Motion - Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that all relevant standing orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.  
The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) seconded.  
Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.  
Question put and passed.  
The Bill was read a second time.

**27. Leave Sought for**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to move for the third reading of the Bill.  
Leave was granted.

**28. Motion - Third Reading**

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) 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.

**29. Motion**

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that Orders of the Day Nos. 3 to 9 on the notice paper be adjourned and made Orders of the Day at the next sitting.  
Question put and passed.

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

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.  
The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**31. Leave of Absence Sought**

The Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for IDI) sought leave of absence for Mr. Gioura who was sick and Mr. Detenamo who was overseas.  
Leave was granted.

**32. Adjournment**

His Excellency the President moved that the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question put and passed.

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

**Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except -

- |   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| * | Mr. Gioura   | Mr. Clodumar |
| * | Mr. Detenamo | Mr. Namaduk  |
|   | Mr. Harris   |              |

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**