

**Votes & Proceedings
Of the
Eighteenth Parliament**

No. 11

**Second Sitting of the Eighth Meeting
Thursday, 18th December 2008**

10.00 a.m.

1. The House met at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution made on Tuesday, 16th December 2008.

2. Hon. Riddell Akua, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.

3. Leave of Absence

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen sought leave of absence for Mr. Solomon (Meneng) and Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) who were overseas on government business.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

4. Questions Without Notice were asked.

5. Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers

(i) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement relating to the Status of NPRT, which reads as under:-

‘Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to make a brief statement on the status of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust and important aspects of its operations to date.

In general the Trust is externally debt free.

RONWAN - *The payment of RONWAN interest to the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund for the year ending June 2003 will take place by June next year. There is a lot of work to be done on the movement of landownership records and this is currently in progress.*

The RONWAN payment system is also being changed so that it could use better and modern technology and be more efficient in processing payments to beneficiaries.

When an actual date is known I will advise the House in timely manner. I will also table to Parliament for Members’ approval the amount of RONWAN to be distributed once it has been finalised.

Royalties - *The Trust has received payment of royalties to the RONWAN Fund for the period July to September 2008. Further royalties are expected for the period October to December 2008 early in January 2009.*

The government has made good on its commitments to pay royalties to the funds managed by the Trust and will continue to do so in the future.

Residual Funds - The receivers of the Trust have advised that residual Trust funds currently in their hands is about AUD75,454,112.24 as at September 2008. This is an increase of about AUD7 million since May 2007.

Annual & Financial Reports - The financial reports of the Trust for the years prior to 2007-2008 are almost complete and they will be tabled in the House early next year. The reports are waiting the completion of one of the Trust entities in the United States to be completed and merged with the Australian entities reports.

PALHco Investment - I am happy to inform the House that the Trust's investment in PALHco of about AUD9.3 million has been realised. The capital investment has been repaid by PALHco early this week.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, thank you.

(ii) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) made a statement to the House which reads as under:-

'Hon. Speaker and colleagues, this statement is an end of year report to the House from the Ministry of Justice. To set the context I wish to first of all reaffirm that the strategies and activities of the Justice sector are done so and pursued in line with the wishes and aspirations of Nauruans as expressed in the NSDS.

In compliance with the NSDS motion 'A future where individual, community, business and government partnerships contribute to a sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans, partnerships for Quality of life', the Ministry of Justice is realigning and reforming its core activities to ensure the achievement of the following strategic goals –

- *Assist government departments to develop and gain a better understanding of their administrative and legal responsibilities, so they not only do what's required and expected of them as mandated by policies and law, but also do so in a manner that complies with these policies and laws thus not exposing the Republic to complaints and in some cases legal challenges.*
- *Ensure the maintenance of a stable, trustworthy and fiscally responsible government with transparent and accountable parliamentarians, Cabinet and Public Service underpinned by the following good governance principles –*
 1. *Transparent and accountable governance practices;*
 2. *Conducive legal framework;*
 3. *Efficient, effective and productive Public Service;*
 4. *Enabling co-operative international relations;*
 5. *Efficient, effective and respect for law and order system;*
 6. *Increased community role in governance.*

The two broad goals are to be achieved through the strategy of enhancing the process and practice of strengthening good governance by executives, Parliament, Judiciary, government officials and government instrumentalities with their Boards and Committees.

These works run concurrently and are in line with the Ministry's routine role in discharging legal advice, litigation and Border Control duties.

The strategies adopted by the Ministry in carrying out these roles vary and the activities are ongoing with encouraging measurable results slowly emerging thus far.

This now leads me to the general summary of activities for the past 12 months in the Justice sector highlighting achievements to date and the expected challenges for the Ministry of Justice and Border Control in the new year.

General Summary of Activity - As we all know the Republic has emerged from allegations of improper financial transactions and/or international blacklisting. The recent withdrawal of Advisories 21 and 21A concerning Transactions involving Nauru by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the US Treasury, is proof of the significant reforms that Nauru has undertaken and continue to undertake in addressing those points noted in both advisories. However, many legal challenges still persist and allegations may remain hence we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to combat financial crime. The current legal team will play an important part in ensuring Nauru has access to sound legal advice in its effort to remain vigilant. Passing of the three new anti money laundering legislations last month is clear evidence that the Ministry is remaining vigilant.

Nauru has experienced a lot of activities in the maintenance of law and order for the last 12 months. A spate of serious crimes including arson on the police and prison headquarters and on the cantilever arm has been police and prosecutions busy in court. Involvement of a forensic team from the Australian Federal Police in a murder case saw the successful prosecution of the offender. This form of assistance along with other generous assistance by the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Government to Nauru is starting to bear fruits with regards to capacity building within the Nauru Police force and towards the general administration of justice.

The following is a list of all criminal cases and charges that Justice and Police worked on during the year:-

Criminal Cases/Charges	No.	Disposed of	Pending
Criminal Trespass	9	6	3
Wilful Murder	1	1	0
Possession of dangerous drugs	3	3	0
False pretence	2	1	1
Receiving stolen goods	1	1	0
Forgery	3	2	1
Traffic offences	120	112	8
Defilement	1	0	1
Obscene language	2	0	2
Attempt suicide	1	0	1
Affray	2	0	2
Sabotage	2	0	2
Common assault	18	8	10
Indecent assault	14	11	3
Serious assault	2	1	1
Threatening violence	3	3	0

Rape	3	1	2
Going armed in public	4	1	3
Arson	3	0	3
Unlawful wounding	6	2	4
Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	11	7	4
Aggravated assault	4	3	1
Offensive behaviour	12	4	8
Stealing	12	7	5
Robbery	6	1	5
Damaging property	22	11	11
Deprivation of liberty	1	1	0
Drunk and disorderly	14	8	6
Serious assault	6	2	4
Escaping lawful custody	4	1	3
Grievous bodily harm	1	0	1

All civil cases against the Republic and its instrumentalities, (i.e. election petitions (2); non-payment of contracts sum claims (3); land claims (4); claim against utility supply metering and disconnection (1); Public Service appeal (1) are expected to be heard or part-heard during this current session of the Supreme Court.

Election petitions and claim against Utility had all been struck out. Contract cases had survived our Strike-out Applications but we will review the court's decision after receiving the decision in writing. Decision on all other civil matters will be known later this week.

The Justice Ministry is currently undertaking a much-needed review of the different sections of the Department. One significant change will be the proposal for the creation of a 'Director of Border Control' post. This new position will oversee the management and operation of the three key Border Control Departments, namely Immigration, Customs and Quarantine.

A new project to consolidate all our laws is currently being pursued with potential donors and I am hopeful that we will have donor identified early in the new year so we can commence this vital project soon.

In addition, a Corporate Plan for the Justice Ministry is currently being developed by the Secretary for Justice in collaboration with all key section heads in the department. This new Corporate Plan should give strategic directions on how Nauru Justice sector goals and objectives are to be undertaken and achieved.

The Ministry continues to have the services of Mr. Robert Kaierua as the Registrar of Corporations, Licences and Intellectual properties. This Intellectual Property and Incorporations of Companies have been steady and have good revenue potential for the Republic.

Border Control - *Improving our immigration, Customs and Quarantine Border Control monitoring with appropriate computers and software as well as new x-ray technology to help our customs and quarantine better monitor arriving bags and cargoes is a priority at present. Nauru is seeking both technical and financial assistance in this important area and hope to get some feedbacks from potential donors soon.*

The recruitment of a Border Control Director should help facilitate and streamline the management and operation of these three separate departments.

Land and Civil Matters - The Nauru Supreme Court has a number of cases dealing with disputes to land ownership listed before it but yet to be heard at present. This trend is envisaged to continue to increase because of the recent advance of secondary mining.

Long term government land leases that had continued to expire since 2000 had and will continue to create problems especially where government infrastructures for mining purposes exists. The current lease negotiations with various landowners staging varying and unrealistic demands and rental rates are envisaged to continue for some time for a multitude of reasons. These are additional challenges the Justice Ministry is going to face over the next year.

In this regard, the Justice Ministry will seek to progress the resolution of land issues in a comprehensive and consultative manner with all stakeholders with an aim of putting into place new and realistic land legislation that is an end-product of these comprehensive consultations.

Legal Threats against the Republic - Recently the government has been approached by new owners of Yen Bond series guaranteed by the Republic in the past, seeking to do deals with Nauru in relation to phosphate in exchange of forgiveness of the claims on these bonds.

Another group has also made an approach regarding investments made by a Republic entity in Guam claiming wrongdoing on the part of the entity and threatening to take action against the Republic entity unless the government enters into a business deal with it.

Both claims appear to be targeting ownership and/or involvement with our phosphate industry.

Justice has been providing legal opinion and views on both matters and will continue to co-ordinate further legal actions on these matters as required.

Bills passed - Following the General Elections in April this year, a total of 11 Bills have been passed by the House with a further 4 Bills being progressed. Another 8 Bills are on notice to be tabled in Parliament at a future date and currently 25 other Bills are currently being worked on.

With the new Parliamentary Counsel appointed, the Justice Department has now relinquished the lead on drafting of legislations to the Parliamentary Counsel but will still be intimately involved in the review and scrutiny of Bills and providing legal opinion and advice to government on any Bills being submitted for consideration.

A 12-step legislative process has been adopted by Cabinet as part of its governance policies therefore any new legislation must undergo consideration and feedback from relevant agencies and stakeholders before being submitted to Cabinet for further consideration.

Office of the Director of Prosecutions - The new Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Paul Bannister, has been extremely busy soon after his appointment. This position has also become a full-time position and similar in nature to that of other jurisdictions in our region as opposed to the previous dual responsibility used to be held by the Secretary for Justice.

Amongst Mr. Bannister's responsibilities is the training and up-skilling of both local Justice staff and police prosecutors. This has led to significant improvements in many areas including the marked improvement in the standard of police briefs to the prosecutor resulting in more effective co-ordination, much tighter prosecution cases ultimately leading to higher success rates of prosecutions in the courts.

The following is a snapshot of what transpired in the Supreme Court earlier this week which gives a clear indication of the successful trend Justice is having with the new DPP.

- ✓ Successful prosecution of the arson to the cantilever. Guilty plea entered on December 16 now awaiting sentencing in March 2009.
- ✓ Successful prosecution of manslaughter case. To be sentenced on December 20.
- ✓ Successful prosecution of two persons for wearing mask with intent to committing a crime. To be sentenced on December 20.
- ✓ Successful prosecution of person for wearing mask with intent to committing a crime. Trial will continue in March 2009 for two extra charges still being contested.
- ✓ Successful prosecution of rape case. To be sentenced on December 20.
- ✓ Successful defence against appeal to lower sentence for two convicted persons. Persons will remain incarcerated with full sentence is realised.

Further to this the DPP is also pursuing police to complete their briefs on a number of cases so they can be committed for trial in February 2009 when the District Court sits and then before the Supreme Court in March 2009 if required.

One high profile case is ready for trial and that is the arson to the police and prison headquarters which occurred earlier this year. Arrests were made and 3 people have been charged for the arson to the police and prison headquarters. Case to be heard in February 2009 and should go before the Supreme Court in March 2009.

Another high profile case is the assault of a Lay Magistrate and the DPP. This case will be prosecuted by a prosecutor from the Solomon Islands Office of the DPP due to the potential conflict of interest if the case was prosecuted by the ODPP or Justice. The court has adjourned the case and so it will now be heard in February 2009.

There are also numerous rape cases, indecent treatment of children, offensive behaviour and a fraud case, all which will go before the courts in February 2009.

The increased success of Justice in prosecuting offenders has led to problems of overcrowding in the prisons. This has led to the decision to convert two containers into temporary holding cells to help alleviate the problem.

Given the high number of serious cases listed for trial next year and the likelihood of more successful prosecution of these cases, there is a need to expand the prisons to adequately cater for larger number of prisoners. I have already tasked the department to start planning the expansion and to come up with a concept plan that can be costed and properly budgeted for in the new financial year.

Conclusion - *The outcome of the improved ODPP set-up is certainly reinforcing the old adage that 'crime does not pay'. Justice in Nauru is fighting back and people must take notice. My advice to those who are thinking of breaking the law is simple, don't. If you do then you will be caught, you will be charged and you will be prosecuted to the best of our abilities with every bit of resource we can spare.*

To those who have long sought justice to fight back I apologise for the long wait, but be comforted that justice is fighting back and it will continue to grow from strength to strength as our police and the Justice department enhance their co-ordination and continue to steadily improve.

I also wish to point out that the role of policing in Nauru does not just rest with the police and Justice. We all have a role to ensure law and order is respected in Nauru. If we see a crime being committed we have a responsibility to report it, we have a responsibility to give testimony in court so crimes can be punished appropriately and we have a responsibility to protect and assist victims of crimes especially those who are vulnerable like young children.

Mr. Speaker, in my short time in Justice I have noticed that there are many cases in Nauru involving the abuse of children. As a Christian nation we must not turn a blind eye to this problem. It is our collective responsibilities to provide support and assistance where we can to those children and young people who are victims of abuse and domestic violence.

On my part as the incumbent Minister for Justice, I will do everything in my powers to ensure that crimes against the more vulnerable members of our society especially children are given priority by prosecution and that every resource of the Ministry is not spared to bring justice to those who commit hideous and violent crimes against children.

With the advent of secondary mining, Nauru is and will face numerous issues surrounding land and some expected rekindling of legal challenges that targets her international assets and the mining industry.

Any suggested amendment to the existing entrenched Lands Act will need to be thoroughly scrutinised and debated at all levels before being introduced into Parliament. Government is committed to a comprehensive review of the Lands Act and will be moving towards this aim early in the new year. Justice will be heavily involved in guiding and co-ordinating the review process.

Technical and financial assistance to our law consolidation project, digitisation of companies and intellectual property records with computerisation of Border Control data and monitoring of trans-movements of persons and goods and services remain a priority for the Justice Ministry.

Consistent monitoring of relevant international standards on money laundering and terrorism laws will require that Nauru continually update its own laws and financial procedures and process.

The Ministry's Corporate Plan that will be introduced in the first quarter next year should map strategies in addressing our short, medium to long term goals and objectives assigned through the NSDS.

The valuable input and support of our many donors has aided our recovery process tremendously. It is our hope that this assistance will remain until we are able to show positive signs to achieving sustainable

(Note: This page supersedes the current page 8)

economic growth. It is on this precinct that the Republic, through the Ministry of Justice and Border Control, would like to express her sincere appreciation to the Forum Island Secretariat, the New Zealand and Australia Governments for their continuing support and assistance. Their assistance has allowed Nauru to once again fulfil some of her goals and objectives in the Justice sector leading to tangible outcomes for the people of Nauru.

In closing I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all staff of the Justice Ministry for their tremendous efforts in the past 12 months and I look forward to their ongoing commitment towards improving the Justice Ministry in the next 12 months. Thank you.'

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the paper be noted.

(iii) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement to the House on Nauru Police Force Activities for 2008, which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker, since this is our last sitting for this year I would like to address this august House on matters of significance that relate to police activities during 2008.

The requirements of the police force this year was again substantial. This was to some extent made more difficult as the police force had a significant number of personnel undergoing training to better equip them to respond to the public. Through all of this, operational demands had also increased substantially. The training program, however, was maintained throughout the year and suspended during times of high police response requirements.

A professional development program for members at all rank levels was provided and on successful completion would equip them for higher order policing duties and better responses. In addition, some selected members of the police force undertook a non-commissioned officer qualifying program. On 11 December, 22 recruits and 36 members were deemed academically competent and 14 were promoted to sergeants and 5 to senior constable.

International training was obtained in the fields of sexual assault investigation, executive development and international security systems. Some members of the police also attended workshops in various fields both locally and overseas.

I am pleased to say with confidence that the police force is now equipped with personnel who are competent and equipped to perform duties required of them. Despite these welcomed improvements, there is more to be achieved to meet community and government expectations.

Mr. Speaker, operationally it was also a very challenging year. Leading into March there were a number of landowner issues that were being managed but unfortunately these exacerbated into overt action that saw civil unrest at the cantilever interrupting phosphate loading for some time. There was also the unlawful occupation of the power house during this time. Police resources were stretched to the limit as threats of other damage to key infrastructure was made. This included RONTTEL and our communications facilities at Command Ridge. Whilst dealing with these serious matters the police and the government were put under pressure when the police station was totally destroyed by fire on 17 March. The government responded to a request from the Police Commissioner for increased personnel and 100 reserves were approved for deployment to protect key assets.

Mr. Speaker, politically this was also a very challenging time and issues of Parliament required a strong police presence. The police, with my government's direction, were determined to bring law and order back and whilst difficulties continued over the Easter period with matters of Parliament the police worked long hours to support the rule of law and bring the perpetrators to justice and to ensure that parliamentary processes were worked through.

I am pleased to inform Parliament that even with severe damage to the police and prison the police members supported by my government looked for alternatives that would minimise the disruption to the public through reduced services. Eventually the prison reconstruction commenced and whilst it is acknowledged there were some problems I can advise this august House that the work program is on schedule and the prison is being rehabilitated thanks to the efforts of Eigigu Holdings and Rehabilitation Corporation.

During 2007 the prison population was on average 3 to 4. This year with a concerted effort by the police supported by the Director of Public Prosecutions and greater efficiencies in the courts those numbers have risen substantially. I am pleased to say that I am confident that significant inroads have been made to curtail the activity of those few persons who would destroy our assets and our income through acts of brute sabotage. Sixteen persons are now imprisoned serving sentences and another 5 are under remand pending hearing of their cases. The Commissioner has informed me that since the prison population has increased there has been a significant decrease in medium crime levels, being home and shop invasions, assaults and robberies and the like.

Mr. Speaker, the police are not acting in isolation but instead are consulting with community leaders on a monthly basis and are formulating local police initiatives for local problems. In addition the Nauru Police Force outsourced through the Department of Women's Affairs a second community survey and again obtained valuable information that is being utilised to plan future police pro-active responses to community concerns. Other stakeholders, be it non-government organisations, health or women's affairs are combining their efforts with police to provide more information and assistance directly to our communities. This is particularly relevant in the area of sexual assault and domestic violence awareness.

I am also pleased to say that the police now have a dedicated sexual assault and domestic violence unit that has access to more discreet premises to protect victims of crime and allow for privacy and support services to be provided.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier the prison population is rising substantially. Whilst this is unfortunate it is however a necessary step to ensure our communities can live in safety and security. In tandem with the increased prison population it goes without saying that police prosecutions have also increased substantially and are not only targeting higher order crime but are achieving better results at all crime levels. Whilst I do not have detailed comparative figures for the House these successes are notably

attributed to professional training of police and enhanced co-operation with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, protection and guarding of government assets continues with 150 personnel performing those security duties. There have been problems and thefts that have occurred but on average there has been a reduction in the theft and damage across the board.

In all of these activities the Police Internal Affairs Unit has received 87 complaints against police this year. Of those 66 have been completed. There have been 25 discipline board hearings that have resulted in 9 members being terminated from duty. There have also been 5 resignations from the force during this period.

Other matters of significance were a murder investigation with the matter currently before the courts. Fraud matters, particularly in the government and private sector have increased and one area of concern is the apparent increase in forging of signatures on official documents.

May I also add that the police continue to build their case into the arson of the police station and I can inform Members of this august House that another person has been charged with that crime. There is also the issue of another cantilever fire this year that the police are progressing to a resolution.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address the Chamber on the 2008 Police Activity. Before resuming my seat I would like to mention that I have tasked the Commissioner to increase police presence and surveillance around the communities and on our roads during this festive season. But the police will need everyone's support. Hence, I would like to appeal to each and every member of the general public to exercise caution and restraint, particularly as we celebrate the Christmas and New Year, so as to ensure that we all enjoy a safe, happy and festive season. Thank you.'

(iv) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) made a statement on Health Achievements for 2008, which reads as under:

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, Year 2008 has been an extremely hectic year for health as we welcomed our new Secretary for Health, Mr. Sunia Soakai, our Strategic Health Planner, Mrs. Madeleine Salton in February and a couple of months after them, Ms. Natalie DeVos, the health educator.

In the ensuing months after their arrival they quickly slotted into their respective roles and were instrumental along with all the other senior managers of health to move things along and build upon the work already put in place by their predecessors.

Here is a list of achievements in Health in 2008:-

Organisational Reform –

- The organisational restructuring plan has been complete and submitted to my office for consideration and approval.
- Operational Plan 2008-2009 and reporting framework and schedules completed.
- Nursing Services Review has been done.
- Health financial governance structure have been reviewed and improved.
- All job descriptions have been reviewed and revamped.

- *Drugs and consumables reviewed and major changes to purchasing procedures.*
- *EDL and STGs have been established following from the review of the whole drugs and consumables procedures.*
- *New Asset Management and Inventory Policies established.*
- *Workforce Planning Report 2004 Implementation Report completed and signed off by Minister*
- *Code of conduct completed.*
- *Clinical incidents and patients safety improved.*

Medical Equipment

- **Lab**

- *Arrival of the new biochemistry analyser and haematology analyser which help with the improving of the test available locally thus reducing the number of tests sending overseas*

- **Physiotherapy**

- *Arrival of new equipment which assist with the improvement in the physiotherapy services and the availability of different types physiotherapy treatment locally.*

- **Radiology**

- *Commissioning of new dual power source 1125kVp (200mAs) AMX-4+ mobile x-ray unit*
- *Complete servicing of all radiology equipment by Shimadzu and EBOS*

- **Dialysis Unit**

- *Infra red rays for fistula maturity treatment*
- *World Wide Rotary Club from Melbourne, Australia donated equipment for the unit including a washing machine and a dryer.*
- *Colin Cutler and Phil Batey continue to visit for the maintenance of the unit.*

- **Dental Clinic**

- *Most of the equipment in the new dental clinic are all brand new, that is 2 dental chairs, autoclave and a dental technician lab fully equipped.*
- *Biomedical technician has been contracted to visit for the maintenance of the dental clinic equipment.*

- **Biomedical Technician**

- *EBOS has been officially confirmed to service all our medical equipment on a regular basis and they visited us in November 2008, (10 – 16/11)*

- **Maternity**

- *New delivery bed*
- *CTG machine*
- *Autoclave machine*
- *Baby cots*
- *Portable ECG monitor*

Capital Works and Refurbishment

- ✚ *New dental clinic at RON hospital opened.*
- ✚ *Medical records refurbishment commenced.*
- ✚ *Physio ward refurbishment completed.*

- ✚ Nurses' home renovations and plumbing work done.
- ✚ New isolation ward refurbished.
- ✚ Refurbishment of Outpatients/Consultation rooms at RON Hospital in progress and to be completed soon.
- ✚ Demolition and clearance of vandalised and demolished buildings at NG Hospital completed.
- ✚ Installation of boom gate at RON Hospital done.
- ✚ Refurbishment, plumbing and relocation of laundry at RONH done.
- ✚ RO Unit at RO Hospital successfully installed and commissioned in June.
- ✚ New generator at RON Hospital commissioned in August
- ✚ The completion of the new pharmacy including the refurbishment of the pharmacy store-rooms and lab, with the renovation to the operating theatre, HDU/Emergency Bay.
- ✚ Refurbishment and outfitting of physiotherapy department.

Staff Training

- ❖ Completion of Training Needs Analysis
- ❖ Completion of 2008-2010 Education Service Plan
- ❖ 50% complete Basic Life Support by end 2008 assuming everyone comes to class
- ❖ 50% complete Annual Mandatory Assessment Infection Control Assessment and Lecture attendance.
- ❖ Commencement of training program for nurse aides – first group to complete by the end of this month.
- ❖ Commencement of training program for District Public Health workers.
- ❖ Career in Health Stall at School careers week.
- ❖ Appointment of training officer.
- ❖ 2 staff undertaken Pacific Open Health Learning Network courses.
- ❖ 2 staff successfully completed USP subjects associated with traineeship.
- ❖ Purchase books and medical journals.
- ❖ Purchase of radiology training DVD.
- ❖ Purchase of physio training equipment.
- ❖ A 3-month attachment in Taiwan for Nancy Benjamin (dialysis nurse) from July to September 2008.
- ❖ In-service training for infection control which was facilitated by a SPC consultant in June 2008.
- ❖ 5 staff from the diabetes clinic received training on diabetes care from Australia.
- ❖ 2 staff from Health Promotion unit obtained physical activity training from Sydney university.
- ❖ 3 staff from the community unit obtained training for Global Fund plan implementation.

Upcoming Achievements – will be completed by end of December.

- Opening of Education Training Centre
- Appointment of 2009 trainees.
- Development of staff identification badges
- 2 staff complete traineeship (awaiting USP results)
- Awaiting AusAID decisions re ARDS scholarships for 1 staff member.

Administration Achievements

- August 08 – deployment of desk tops stage 2 by ICT department.
- August 08 – dental equipment technician Alan Davis.
- September 08 – oxygen plant commissioner engineering contractor.
- October 08 – plumbing and sewerage works between doctors' surgeries and operating theatre was completed.
- October 08 – staff undertaking Basic Life Support by Health Education.
- October 08 – install of new wall fans for Acute block and maternity ward.
- November 08 – medical equipment servicing by EBOS technicians.
- November 08 – refurbishment of breezeway ceiling.
- Outsourcing of servicing and maintenance of generators at RONH and NGH to a private contractor.
- Outsourcing of servicing and maintenance of air conditions and fridges at the RONH, NGH, staff accommodation and kitchen (State site) to a private contractor.
- Human resource data base developed and updated monthly by administration.
- Asset management developed and completed and reviewed monthly by Supply Manager.

Medical Services

- ❖ UN Volunteer pharmacist, Uhjin Kim, started in January 08.
- ❖ DMS recruitment in June 2008.
- ❖ Recruitment of 7 doctors – 4 General Medical Officers, 1 anaesthetist, 1 gynaecologist & obstetrician, and 1 Director of Medical Services.
- ❖ Taiwan ICDF volunteer surgeon, November 2008.

Visiting Medical Team

- April 2008 - Renal team visits for 2 weeks.
- May 2008 - Professor Kafle, WHO consultant on the development of STG visited Nauru for 2 weeks.
- May 2008 - Mr. Ujwal Khattry from mSupply visited Nauru for mSupply upgrade and staff training.
- June 2008 - Ms. Amanda Sanburg, WHO consultant on the supply management visited Nauru for one month.
- June 2008 - Ms. Margaret Leong, SPC consultant visit on Infection Control.
- August 2008 - Dr. Jambi, Eye specialist visit for a week.
- September 2008 - Dr. Ian Kronberge, gastroenterologist visit for a week (22 – 27/9)
- October 2008 - Dr. Warren Walsh, cardiologist visit for a week (20/9 – 5/10)
- October 2008 - Dr. Robert Loane, ENT team visit for a week (20 – 26/10)
- November 2008 - ICDF Taiwan Medical Team visits for 2 weeks (3 – 14/11) which include a surgeon, physician, paediatrician, nephrologist, gynaecologist, cardiologist, lab technician and dialysis nurse.
- November 2008 - Sue Barker from Sequel Consultancy visited for 2 weeks mostly reviewing the Wound Dressing Unit.

Special Outpatient Clinic

- ✓ Since August 2008 there has been regular clinic at RON hospital for follow up of hypertension, cardiac, asthma and other medical condition and also surgical conditions.
 - Medical clinic – Every Tuesday at 2.00 p.m. RON Hospital
 - Surgical clinic – Every Monday at 10.00 a.m. RON Hospital
 - Gynaecology clinic – Every Thursday at 2.00 p.m. RON Hospital
- ✓ Initiation of the home visit program which started in September 2008. The team include Dr. Myint, Junior Brechtefeld (physiotherapy) and a District Health Nurse.

Nursing Services Achievements

- ✚ September 08 Taiwan volunteer nurse arrived.
- ✚ Ante natal clinic moved to RONH site.
- ✚ Reporting form for complaints, clinical and general incidents implemented.
- ✚ Completion of Nursing Services Review, October 2008.
- ✚ Maintain close monitoring of absenteeism.
- ✚ Nursing job descriptions review.
- ✚ Registered nurses weekly rostered for clinical presentations as part of staff development.
- ✚ Nurse aides – education program started.
- ✚ Nurses collecting statistics monthly.
- ✚ Nursing medical equipments and inventory system implemented.
- ✚ Rostering of shift staff to sections 3-monthly instead of weekly.
- ✚ Clinical Practice Guidelines for Maternity Nursing done.
- ✚ Development of Nursing Care Plan forms for very sick patients.
- ✚ DON responsible for reporting re – Operation Plan and involved in budget meetings.
- ✚ Development nursing training program for trained nurses x 10 years (speciality areas).
- ✚ Maintain weekly nursing meetings.
- ✚ Nursing is represented in the Overseas Referral Committee.
- ✚ Training of OPD nurses to assist visiting specialist teams.
- ✚ Registration now of nursing staff with the Health Practitioners Registration Board.

Public Health Achievements

- 100% coverage of Expanded Program of Immunization.
- Initiation on introduction of Human Influenza Type B vaccine to the EPI program.
- 95% coverage on rheumatic heart disease follow-up program/compliance of the drugs.
- Trachoma prevalence survey successfully done and continuation of treatment and prevention program.
- STI prevalence survey successfully done and continuation of screening and treatment program.
- Demographic survey analysis done and report will soon be published.
- School health survey successfully done.
- International health regulation IHR Plan successfully developed and initiated implementation.

- Communicable diseases surveillance system in place and produced monthly bulletins.
- Public health quarterly newsletters produced and is ongoing.
- Health message video clips successfully developed and begun broadcasting through mass media.
- New IEC materials and BCC materials for HIV/STI/diabetes/Trachoma/immunization/RHD, etc. had been produced.
- Strengthened NCD plan implementation.
- One stop diabetes service centre had been initiated.
- Diabetes stakeholder forum carried out and work plan for prevention of diabetes complication and capacity building done.
- Community education program and school health program initiated.
- Weight reduction campaign had been successfully implemented and is ongoing.
- Health international days had been marked successfully (World No Tobacco Day, World Sight Day, World Diabetes Day, World AIDS Day, etc.)
- 5-years grant from Global Fund to fight against TB and HIV was approved and obtained funding.
- Proposal for smoking cessation program approved and funding will be available in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health is continually challenged by the many health issues facing us in Nauru. We will continue to strive to meet those challenges but it is timely to remind people that prevention is still the best cure.

Most of the serious illnesses facing our nation are preventable as they stem from poor lifestyle choices. We must make better lifestyle choices with the simple guiding principle of better diets and more physical activity.

The focus of Health policies will therefore continue to promote healthy lifestyles with a strong preventative focus.

In closing I wish to make mention and gratefully acknowledge the ongoing assistance we continue to receive from our many development partners in particular the Government of Australia who has been consistent in their assistance and attention to the Health sector. The Government of Taiwan is another key partner in health and has been for a long period of time. To both partners thank you very much.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to convey my deep appreciation to all my Health staff for their hard work and efforts this year and look forward to an even better 2009. Thank you.'

(v) Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Education made a statement to the House which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker, I advise the House of the outcomes of a meeting I convened in November at the Bremer Institute of TAFE, Queensland.

For some time now I have been putting together a program that will guide the skills development of our economy.

The program will develop the skills needed by our internal economy and by those who wish to work in the international economy.

One of the requirements of the program is that it provides a curriculum for students and trainees that leads to a qualification that is recognised not only in Nauru but regionally and internationally. The second requirement is that the program delivers the skills needed by Nauru now and in the future.

In developing this program, I have been working closely with Mr. Alan Sparks of East Coast Apprenticeships and Trent Dabwido, our Labour Mobility Officer in the Australian Consulate.

To provide us with information that would assist us in the design of our Technical Vocational Education and Training programs I convened a meeting of senior executives of trade training in Australia to explore opportunities to implement a certified Vocation and Trade qualifications curriculum for our new NSS.

Those invited to the meeting included executives from the Bremer Institute of TAFE, Sunshine Coast TAFE, Australian Pacific Technical College, East Coast Apprenticeships and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Also at the meeting were our Trade Mobility Officer, our Director of Education and our Senior Curriculum Officer.

The department is very pleased with the outcomes of the workshop and now have a clearer understanding of what is possible in the area of TVET and Trade training, especially in the area of delivery of these services and the certification requirements for the different levels of training.

Following the meeting, I have established a TVET and Trade Training Reference Committee to follow up on the outcomes of the workshop and to guide us in the design of our new curriculum and how it will be delivered. The Committee will include representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Nauru Australian Consulate, the Bremer Institute of TAFE, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, East Coast Apprenticeships and Australian Pacific Technical College.

The main role of the Committee will be to provide a reference for the curriculum being designed by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and to advise the department on these matters.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is currently on Nauru to conduct a Training Needs Analysis. In consultation with the Reference Committee, they will use that information to provide a curriculum and association qualifications framework that can be delivered through NSS.

The new curriculum structure will mean that NSS will deliver courses that provide successful graduates with Certificates I and II level qualifications of the Australian Qualifications Framework. This will allow them to gain entry to Australia Pacific Technical College and be eligible for the training scholarships they have on offer.

The courses will also provide certified skills training in areas of need in the Nauru economy in our Public Service, mining, fishing, retail and hospitality industries.

My visit to Bremer also allowed me to inspect the training facilities and programs at the Bremer Institute. They offer courses in almost every area including hospitality, metal trades, building trades and business studies.

I also took the opportunity to inspect the new Skills Training facility at Acacia Ridge in Brisbane. This facility has only recently been opened and is

still being extended. The inspection provided an opportunity to compare the stand-alone training facilities at Bremer, which was built 30 years ago, with the new one at Acacia Ridge. The new Skills Training facility incorporates a design that allows for flexible use of available floor space so that the same area can be used for different courses. The concept is useful in designing our new facilities at NSS.

By February 2009, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will have completed the Training Needs Analysis and prepared a set of curriculum documents that will deliver skills in the areas that their survey reveals.

When the curriculum is implemented, students who exit Year 12 from NSS will have the opportunity to gain the same TVET qualifications as students existing a secondary school in Australia.

I record the appreciation of the Education Department to all those who have assisted us in the preparation of our new Skills and Trade Training program. Thank you.'

(vi) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made a statement and tabled his report on Nauru's recent signing of the Convention of Cluster Munitions, which reads as under:

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, today I wish to table to the House a report on Nauru's recent signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The report and attachments say all that need to be said but I wish to express my gratitude to the Honourable Member for Ubenide, Aloysius Amwano, who travelled at short notice as Nauru's Special Envoy, all the way to Oslo in Norway in the depth of its cold winter.

Although Nauru is fortunate to not have had any experience with such bombs and cluster munitions, Nauru's presence at this historic event and signatory by Hon. Amwano on Nauru's behalf is however an important statement of Nauru's commitment to world peace and demonstrates Nauru's maturity as a sovereign nation in world affairs.

I thank Hon. Amwano and Mr. Pyon Deiye, Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who accompanied and assisted Hon. Amwano, for representing Nauru and signing this convention of behalf of the people of Nauru.

I have attached their report on this event which includes a copy of the statement Honourable Amwano delivered in Norway as well as photos of his signing the Convention. I have also attached a copy of the Convention for the information of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(vii) Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for NFMRA) made a statement on Happenings in the Realm of Fisheries, which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to update this august House of what is happening in the realm of Fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Busan, Korea where I headed a delegation comprising of the NFMRA Chairman and CEO and three other Fisheries officials including Dr. Tim Adams, the NFMRA ISP specialist.

Our main business agenda in Korea was to attend the 5th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fisheries Commission.

However, members of the delegation also attended to a number of bilateral consultations for Fisheries Access Agreements. We also took the opportunity to meet with different parties regarding matters of importance to Fisheries.

I am very pleased to inform the House that a number of critical conservation and management measures were reached in Busan, including –

- (i) A cut of 10% in long-line fishing in 2009;
- (ii) Closure of the high seas and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) to fishing using fishing aggregating devices (FADs) for 2 months in 2009 and 3 months in 2010 (July – September);
- (iii) Prohibition of purse seine fishing vessels from throwing juvenile fish back to sea;
- (iv) Agreement to close 2 high seas pockets from January 2010 (details of which will be finalised, including consideration of closing all high seas pockets by the WCPFC next year); and
- (v) Future 100% coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers.

The progress and achievements made in Korea was greatly influenced by the decisive action of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) in agreeing to the Third Implementing Arrangement in Palau last April. The efforts of the 8 members of the PNA in paving the way for the Commission to consider the aforementioned critical conservation and management issues at this year's Commission meeting were publicly acknowledged by the Chair of the Commission.

Another significant achievement for island members is the clarification, recognition and acceptance by the Commission of the special situation of SIDS and territories which paves the way for Nauru, and other island nations and territories, to pursue their development aspirations without impediment from the Commission and its members. This is significant in light of government plans to develop fisheries in Nauru. The presence of PNA Ministers at the Commission meeting ensured very careful and measured consideration by the distant water fishing nations (DWFNs) on this particular matter resulting in full consensus support by Commission members.

For the information of the House, Ambassador Satya Nandan from Fiji is the new Chair of the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the NFMRA has reviewed and renewed its Fisheries Access Agreements with fishing parties from New Zealand, Taiwan and Korea. I am further delighted to report that a new access arrangement has been agreed to with fishing interests from the European Union which will bring in additional and much needed revenue to Nauru.

Whilst on the topic of fisheries revenue, it is my understanding that budgeted revenue from fishing licence fees are on track and, in fact, the declining value of the Australian dollar against the green-back and the Japanese yen may realise an increase in actual revenue against estimates for this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, as you and Members are aware, Fisheries has budgeted for the sale of the two long-line vessels in this fiscal year. One expression of interest has been shown and the Authority is investigating this. However, I wish to inform the House that one vessel may possibly be utilised for important research studies. The proposed research involves mapping out

other fisheries and marine resources within Nauru's EEZ to determine abundance and potential for commercial development. Members will surely appreciate the importance and significance of such an initiative to the effective development of Nauru's economic future. We are examining the economics of this direction. Thank you.'

(viii) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement and tabled Inter-subhead Transfers as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable colleagues, today I table to Parliament the statement recording inter subhead transfers (ISHTs) approved by Cabinet since the last sitting of Parliament.

Health – Head 61 – *The Department of Health proposed an additional \$25,000 for Salaries Expatriates to cater for the Expatriates Staff Salary Structure and a \$40,000 increase for Travel – Staff to cater for expatriate travel expenses arising from annual recreation leave, recruitment of new employees and accompanying dependants. Both provisions for this current financial year 2008-09 would otherwise be insufficient.*

The increase is funded by decreasing subheads 255 – Travel Business; 371 – Rations Hospitals & Prisons and 421 – Health & Hygiene. The increase would not affect any progress in health sector nor with various projects as most activities based on these subheads are fully funded by donors.

Health – Head 61 - *The Department of Health requested \$20,000 to increase subhead 528 – Staff Training to part-fund the travel requirements for the Cuban scholarship recipients to enable them to undertake Medical Degree studies in Cuba. The proposed decrease is funded by a reduction in subhead 359 – Electricity.*

Health – Head 61 – *The Department of Health requested another \$10,000 to increase in subhead 528 – Staff Training to part-fund the travel requirements of the Cuban scholarship recipients to enable them to undertake Medical Degree studies in Cuba. The proposed decrease is funded by a reduction in subhead 359 – Electricity.*

Brisbane Office – Head 72 – *Brisbane Office requested an additional \$1,197 – Travel Business. More expenses are predicted with parking fees at the airport to meet dignitaries arriving and departing during transit in Brisbane and expenses associated with facilitating patient movement. Brisbane office requires an additional \$896 for the purchase of new stationery items for the office personnel. An increase to subhead 306 – Postage of \$300 was required to cover for predicted costs. For ongoing maintenance costs on government residence of 15 Emma Street, Milton as well as maintenance for office space and service of 3 consulate vehicles, subhead 353 – Repairs & Maintenance Plant was increased by \$2,500.*

A decrease of \$4,893 in subhead 315 – Insurance was used to cover the above increase.

Transport – Head 94 – *The Department of Transport (Civil Aviation) has increased an amount of \$2,000 in subhead 353 – Repairs & Maintenance Plant in order to purchase new batteries to replace stolen batteries from topside. These batteries are placed in the navigational aid sites which assist the functions of the nav aids and the backup generators which ensure continuity of the air services on the island.*

A decrease in subhead 452 for Repairs & Maintenance Aerodrome will enable purchasing of the new batteries.

Nauru Embassy – Taiwan – Head 75 – *Balance for subhead 407 – Medical Expenses is not sufficient to pay for anticipated expenses.*

Proposed decrease in subhead 315 – Insurance will cover the requirement for medical expenses.

UN Mission – New York – Head 74 – An amount of \$2,000 is required to replenish subhead 270 – Entertainment to cater for the Mission’s end of year official functions and engagements for 2008. This is due to an increase in costs brought on by the significant drop in value of the Australian dollar against the US Dollar. A proposed decrease in subhead 520 – Lease & Charter Payments is to cover for the entertainment requirements.

Summary of Inter Subhead Transfers -

Increases

Head	Agency	Subhead No.	Item	Increase (\$)
72	Foreign Affairs – Brisbane Office	255	Travel – Business	1,197
72	Foreign Affairs – Brisbane Office	301	Printing & Stationery	896
72	Foreign Affairs – Brisbane Office	306	Postage	300
72	Foreign Affairs – Brisbane Office	353	R. & M. - Plant	2,500
75	Foreign Affairs – Taiwan	407	Medical Expenses	3,000
61	Health	528	Staff Training	20,000
61	Health	528	Staff Training	10,000
94	Directorate of Civil Aviation	353	R. & M. – Plant	2,000
61	Health	203	Salary Expatriates	25,000
61	Health	251	Travel – Staff	40,000
74	UN Mission New York	270	Entertainment	2,000

Decreases

Head	Agency	Subhead No.	Item	Decrease (\$)
72	Foreign Affairs – Brisbane Office	315	Insurance	4,893
75	Foreign Affairs – Taiwan	315	Insurance	3,000
61	Health	359	Electricity	20,000
61	Health	359	Electricity	10,000
94	Directorate of Civil Aviation	452	R. & M. Aerodrome	2,000
61	Health	255	Travel Business	5,000
61	Health	371	Rations – Hospitals	50,000
61	Health	421	Health & Hygiene Projects	10,000
74	UN Mission – New York	520	Lease & Charter Payments	2,000

(ix) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement on Home Affairs which reads as under:-

‘Honourable Speaker, as Minister for Home Affair, I take pleasure in informing Members of this House that a new radio transmission was officially launched on the 3rd of this month.

I am also very pleased to advise that this new transmission, FM 105, can now be heard right around the island. I have also been informed by my Media staff that television coverage is also accessible from any part of the island.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a most welcome development. For far too long Nauru has been without proper radio and television reception with only half of the island able to receive coverage. One of my government's priorities when we came into office was to make sure that our radio, television and Bulletin newspaper would be fully restored and improved upon in order to effectively inform the people about what is happening on Nauru and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will agree that an effective Media is essential in my democracy. My government is serious with its intent to improve the Media services on Nauru so that it can eventually provide some responsible scrutiny. I realise only too well that achieving these objectives can take time but with the ongoing training which is taking place in the Media Bureau, I know that before long we will have professional and enlightening output, which will be of great benefit to the entire Nauruan community.

Already I am pleased to note that there have been vast improvements in new gathering and presentation in the weekly television news bulletin on NTV. I am also pleased to announce that plans are currently underway to introduce more local television content including important information on health issues, kitchen gardening and such.

The improvements in our media services also has an added benefit, one which is of great national significance, and that is the improved communications on the island. As you are all aware in times of natural disaster effective communication is absolutely vital for the safety and benefit of everyone on island. Hence, now that there is island-wide coverage of both radio and television, important information can be quickly disseminated and spread around the island.

All in all, these are positive and much welcomed developments to our media services on Nauru. I am sure that the Members of this House are just as appreciative of these improvements as I am.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge some people who have been instrumental in bringing about these improvements to Nauru Media. Firstly my special thanks and commendation goes to Mr. Rod Henshaw, government's media consultant, for his personal efforts and dedication to reforming the Nauru Media. I also wish to thank Mr. Peter Gough and his team of technicians and riggers who were wholly responsible for getting the new transmission, FM 105, up and running smoothly. Finally I wish to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the funding support that has been provided by AusAID and the Government of Australia towards these Media projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

(x) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement on Some Major Developments and Activities undertaken by the Department of Finance, which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to report to the House on some of the major developments and activities undertaken by the Department of Finance over the course of 2008.

Financial Management – *The primary focus of the Department of Finance is to manage the government's finances to maintain the budget in surplus. The government continues the process of focussing spending on the core areas of government services and meeting the goals of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The government ensures that basic services, such as the hospital, schools and law and order are maintained.*

Maintaining the budget in surplus and ensuring the maintenance of basic services can be challenging when Nauru continues to face limited and volatile revenues from non-donor

sources. The quantum and timing of these revenues can be difficult to forecast with accuracy.

In the 2008-09 Budget total revenue was originally estimated at \$46.6 million and total expenditure was estimated at \$46.4 million. This was the largest Nauruan budget for several years, reflecting increases in donor support and phosphate related payments. The government is using these additional revenues to fund priority additional expenditure commitments, such as 100 per cent payment of land rentals for the first time in many years and the purchase of gas stoves to be installed in Nauruan households.

The 2008-09 Budget document presented more information and was a first step towards a document that will provide a broader economic overview of Nauru rather than the past budget documents which really just provided a view of public service and government operations.

In the 2008-09 Budget donor funds were clearly separated out for the first time, enabling ready identification of where projects are undertaken using scarce Government of Nauru resources or are funded by our donor partners.

The government is now operating on a new Corporate Online banking package, which enables better access to account balances and simplifies the procedures involved in making online payments. With the assistance of the Department of ICT live tracking of budget process is now available to relevant Finance officials and I am also able to view this electronic data.

The roll-out of MYOB over the last 18 months across 5 SOEs and training of 35 staff in the use of MYOB means that we now have much more accurate accounts and these SOEs are now in a position, for the first time in many years, to produce accurate and timely financial statements.

MYOB is now being rolled out to RONTEL, NC Supermarket and in government. MYOB payroll training is currently being conducted and this will result in accurate payroll records being maintained for the whole Public Service.

Introducing MYOB into Finance will also result in government's financial records and data being easier to manage and report on.

Through 2008, the department has continued to improve financial practices, including reforms to payments processes that allow for better tracking of expenditures and more effective cash managements. The department will continue to focus on improving these processes with particular focus on the revenue side in 2009.

All of these activities have not only enabled government to deliver budgets that are much better planned and focused on priorities and advancing the NSDS, they also mean greater control over government finances and ensuring we do not run into deficit but they are important reforms towards improving government accountability and transparency, which remain a high priority for the Stephen government.

Economic Developments – *During 2008, the government has undertaken a lot of work aimed at improving the economic environment and sustainability of Nauru.*

One of the key pillars of the NSDS is to work towards a broader economic base as well as redevelopment of the phosphate industry and rehabilitation of mined lands.

Phosphate and coral rock industry - *2008 was the best year for phosphate exports for some time, which higher exports and significantly increased prices leading to much higher revenues. This is a result of a lot of planning and dedicated hard work by government and the management and staff of both RONPHOS and Rehab.*

Whilst we applaud these achievements, we must recognise that we remain fragile and that these revenues can easily be lost either through interruptions to mining and production or due to the decline in demand and the effects of the global financial crisis. This good news has already been tempered by a softening of the phosphate market, and all other

commodities, as the year drew to a close. The rapid rise in phosphate prices seen in early 2008 are already beginning to drop almost as quickly as they rose.

This highlights the need for all of us to take care and not be greedy or overzealous but rather to ensure that we spend what we receive on priorities and we begin to save for the future.

As part of the strategy to broaden our economic base, Rehab. and RONPHOS have already begun to seek other export opportunities during 2008. Opportunities for the export of coral rock have been explored and further work was progressed into the feasibility and market demand for pinnacle stone to export as polished tiles and other surfacing for use in construction.

Planning and progress towards rehabilitation of mined-out lands in 2008 which included the ordering of \$6 million worth of heavy machinery and equipment to enable secondary mining and rehabilitation to commence in 2009.

Fisheries – The Republic of Nauru can expect to receive additional fisheries licences revenue in 2008-09 beyond that included in the 2008-09 Budget. This is due to the combination of an improved catch in the region, the negotiation of improved contracts and the depreciation of the Australian dollar.

But beyond our reliance on fisheries licence revenue, government has actively pursued other opportunities to expand our economy in relation to fisheries. Nauru is in negotiations with potential foreign investors to enter into a joint venture purse seine fishing partnership. This could provide Nauru with an additional source of income and help Nauru develop its own fishing industry/

A number of meetings and the negotiations have been held in 2008 towards the establishment of a tuna cannery and fishing vessel service port on Nauru. This requires considerable direct foreign investment. This has progressed well with representatives of the interested investors again visiting Nauru just last weekend, and negotiations continued towards this important goal.

Commercial banking services - The re-establishment of full banking services on Nauru remains a high priority for your government. In March 2008, the government engaged KPMG to conduct a study into the feasibility of establishing a commercial bank on Nauru. The study was positive about the prospects of any such bank.

The support of the Australian government was sought in discussions I had with Minister Smith, Australia's Foreign Minister in Canberra in July and by the President with Prime Minister Rudd in Niue.

Unfortunately, the global financial crisis has worked against Nauru and no existing commercial bank has yet offered to establish a branch on Nauru.

In the absence of an Australian bank agreeing to open a branch on Nauru we have been approached by a private company looking to establish a bank on Nauru. This would be a stand-alone bank, rather than a branch of an existing bank. The company has engaged a consultant with extensive experience in setting up banking infrastructure and banks, and the consultant visited Nauru last weekend.

The Department of Finance is also finalising banking legislation suitable for Nauru's needs and that will enable a new bank to be established. This legislation would be finalised in consultation with a banking partner. The department is also pursuing options in regards to supervision and regulation of the new bank, which is a key tool to safeguard depositors' savings.

In August the employees of the Bank of Nauru were transferred to the Public Service and are now employed within the Payments Directorate of the Department of Finance.

The government is also working towards the closure and liquidation of the Bank of Nauru and AusAID has agreed to provide funding towards this project. Tenders have been sought for Stage 1 of this process.

Although we are moving to formally close the Bank of Nauru, the Stephen Government will secure all accounts and other bank records and work with the help of consultants to reconcile all the accounts. This government will work towards options of what may be done with our people's savings that were lost by former governments' abuse of the bank.

Power - *In March 2008 the government moved to increase the amount of power available each day from 12 hours to 16 hours, including power across the island between midnight and 8 a.m.*

The government introduced an electricity charge of \$25 per household per fortnight. While this measure was introduced later than anticipated it is now providing valuable revenue to assist in covering the cost of power generation.

In 2009, Utilities will be rolling out prepayment meters for all power consumers in Nauru. The meters have arrived on the island and an installation crew is being trained. This will be a valuable step towards ensuring the financial sustainability of power generation on Nauru.

Financial Sector Reform - *Over the past 5 years Nauru has undertaken various reforms to prevent money laundering and associated practices such as the financing of terrorism. These reforms continue to pay dividends. In April 2008, the US Treasury withdrew its previous Advisory 21 and Advisory 21A which warned banks and other financial institutions of the need for enhanced scrutiny of transactions involving Nauru. The US Treasury has again recently confirmed that it no longer has any concerns about financial transactions involving Nauru and has removed all block and holds on our financial activities.*

Debt Management Strategy - *Dealing with Nauru's enormous debt burden is possibly the greatest challenge facing the Government of Nauru. These debts are the result of the former period of appalling fiscal management.*

The Department of Finance has worked with consultants to progress a debt management strategy.

With the assistance of an AusAID funded consultant, the Department of Finance has established a data-base of Nauru's external debts and a staff member has been recruited and trained as the administrator of the data-base. Available documentary information on Nauru's debts has been collated and recorded in the debt data-base. This represents a considerable step forward as there was previously no consolidated information on Nauru's debt position.

The government has begun negotiating with creditors to accept a very substantial write-down or rescheduling of Nauru's debts with a view to establishing a schedule of modest repayments when the budget position allows. This has led to some debts being forgiven.

Importantly, the government has also commenced discussions with the current owners of the Series B and C Yen bonds, which represent the largest single debt owed by Nauru. The government is seeking additional legal advice on the status of these bonds, given the various court cases they have generated across the world.

The Department of Finance is finalising advice to address the inter-related debts owed by Nauru's State-owned Enterprises which will enable the government to commence a process of addressing these debts.

Government and a number of corporations have also begun making payments towards debts owed to our workers.

All of these indicate significant progress has been made in 2008 towards addressing and ultimately overcoming the horrendous debt burden left to Nauru by previous generations.

Pending Salaries - Due to the parlous status of the finances of the Government of Nauru for many years public servants are owed considerable pending salaries. This week we have paid out \$1.05 million worth of pending salary payments. The government appreciates that there is a long way to go but this represents a first down payment on a considerable debt.

Statistics - With the support of AusAID and the ADB, an extensive Household Income and Expenditure Survey was conducted in December 2006. One objective of the survey was to provide data for the re-base of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Bureau of Statistics is now generating a monthly measure of the CPI, and has so far issued measures for September and October 2008.

Offshore Processing Centre - The Offshore Processing Centre was officially closed on 31 March 2008.

This closure provided Nauru with both opportunities and challenges.

The centre provided considerable economic benefits to Nauru, including employment opportunities and additional business for the Menen Hotel, Our Airline and shops and businesses across Nauru.

The election of the Labour Government in Australia, however meant that the days of the centre were numbered.

The government is addressing the challenges presented to us by the closure. Australia has provided assistance on a number of transitional matters.

Occupancy rates at the Menen Hotel have declined sharply and the hotel is not sustainable with so many short term accommodation rooms. Nauru has a shortage of suitable long term accommodation options for expatriate staff and the loss of the OPC presented an opportunity for parts of the Menen Hotel to be converted into suitable long term accommodation. This project has commenced, and is being undertaken by Eigigu with funding from Australia.

The closure of the OPC meant that a considerable amount of goods were gifted by the Government of Australia and the IOM to the Government of Nauru. Some of these items were allocated to the agencies, departments and State-owned Enterprises of the Government of Nauru therefore saving future government expenditure. The warehouse facility at the OPC site is now the government warehouse. The consolidation of all government buying through the warehouse has provided procurement benefits and efficiency savings for the Government of Nauru.

The education sector has benefited from assets previously owned by the OPC. Some of the demountable buildings were relocated to various schools around Nauru allowing the government to offer schooling to our children in better quality facilities at a relatively low cost to the Government of Nauru.

While the new Nauru Secondary School is being built, the school is holding classes at the OPC site. This is a low cost solution to a difficult situation.

Nauru's Development Partners – An Overview - Since the establishment of the Aid Management Unit (AMU) within the Department of Finance in 2004, Nauru has worked hard to build strengthened relations with existing and new development partners.

Australia - By far the biggest aid donor to Nauru Australia is providing approximately \$25.4 million in assistance in 2008-09, including \$5.4 million provided by the Australian Federal Police for the building of a new police headquarters and continuation of the Police Development Program.

The development assistance provided by Australia is founded on the desire of both governments to enhance Nauru's long term viability. Recognising the Republic of Nauru as a sovereign state, Australia's development assistance to Nauru is provided under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is negotiated between the two governments.

On 25 June 2008, officials of the Governments of Nauru and Australia finalised the fifth MOU. This included agreement on the allocation of funds under MOU V, and agreement on the Terms of Reference for the 'Review of Australian Development Assistance to Nauru 2005-2008'. I signed this MOU with Australia's Foreign Minister in Canberra in July 2008.

In the first half of 2009 the Governments of Australia and Nauru will negotiate a Partnership Agreement which will be a more strategic and long term commitment to Nauru from the Government of Australia.

ROC (Taiwan) - Funding provided by the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Nauru in 2008 was USD9.35 million in 2008 and will be maintained in 2009.

Significantly, in 2008-09, Taiwan has made a particularly important contribution by providing funds towards the repayment of pending salaries owed to Nauruan public servants.

Taiwan also provided significant levels of general budget support during 2008-09 which have been used to help finance government services across all sectors.

Taiwan's grant assistance also provides the funds to cover payments required on the first aircraft and therefore are a crucial contribution to Nauru's essential air services.

The aid relationship between Taiwan and Nauru is characterised by flexibility and co-operation. Assistance from Taiwan has contributed greatly to Nauru's gradual economic recovery over the past four years.

Japan - The Government of Japan first invited Nauru to apply for assistance under its Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) scheme in 2005. In 2008, Japan supplied Nauru with a shipment of diesel valued at 100 million Yen through the NPGA, and this shipment arrived in August 2008. This was the third shipment of diesel purchased by the Government of Japan for Nauru and Japan has indicated a willingness to supply a fourth shipment in 2009.

European Union - Nauru has focussed the assistance from the EU on its energy sector. The key objective of the EU assistance is improving overall efficiency in the energy sector and where justified, increase production through renewable energy sources to allow better allocation of limited resources for sustainable development.

Through the REP-5 program the EU is supporting the provision of repayment meters for all households, energy efficiency awareness raising, an energy efficiency officer, tariff review and grid connected solar PV panels on public buildings. The solar panels were installed on Nauru College during 2008 and the roll-out of the prepayment meters is expected to occur early in 2009.

New Zealand - Nauru is in the process of deepening its relationship with New Zealand which currently focuses its support for Nauru on justice and education. New Zealand funds the Secretary for Justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Resident Magistrate. New Zealand provides significant funding on budget to Nauru's education sector with a focus on supporting development and reform activities. Initially, support from New Zealand was provided for defined short term periods, but is now expected to continue into the long term.

Italy - The Government of Italy has made a commitment of USD10 million to support climate change and renewable energy projects in certain Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) including Nauru. The Government of Italy is providing support of USD570,000 for the purchase and installation of household water tanks.

Asian Development Bank - The Government of Nauru had been in arrears to the Asian Development Bank, meaning that Nauru could not benefit from ADB funding programs. Earlier this year the Government of Australia met the debts in arrears owed by the Government of Nauru to the ADB and the Government of Nauru has just paid its first membership fee to the ADB for many years. This means that Nauru is now eligible to access funding from the Asian Development Fund.

Since then the Government of Nauru has moved to strengthen its relationship with the ADB, Nauru attended the 41st Annual Meeting of the ADB and has hosted several visits from ADB consultants since then.

The ADB will provide technical assistance for the design and establishment of a new Government Trust Fund. Terms of Reference for this project are to be released by the ADB in the near future with a view to consultants commencing the work in 2009. This work is vital to help secure the long term future of Nauru.

The ADB will also work with government to plan and redevelop an expanded shipping port aiming to provide Nauru with a safe berthing port that will be able to handle cargo, fuel, fishing and phosphate vessels much more efficiently.

Other Donors - There is a long list of other projects and assistance that has been provided through 2008 by many other donors including the UN, India, Turkey, Cuba, Venezuela and others including regional and international organisations.

2008 has generally seen an increase in the number of countries offering assistance and a strengthening of Nauru's relationships with existing partners.

All of this external assistance has been vital for both ensuring essential services as well as enabling and assisting our economic recovery.

***NPRT** - A considerable amount of time and work has resulted in good progress in terms of NPRT reaching the conclusion of the GE relationship which has dragged on for far too long.*

This has required a lot of attention to finalising years of outstanding tax issues in Australia as well as dealing with a raft of legal claims and issues.

NPRT paid out the first RONWAN payment for many years in 2008 and a lot of work has been undertaken to update all subsequent years' records to enable planning for future RONWAN payments.

Whilst these achievements have been progressed by the Chairman, trustees and management of NPRT, government has also given attention to making payments to NPRT. 2008 saw the first payments to NPRT for Fund 2 royalties for more than a decade. Over \$1.3 million will be paid to NPRT in 2008 for Fund 2 royalties.

In addition, government has paid NPRT over \$1.5 million in interest on the loan for the first aircraft and the final payment of USD5.3 million, equivalent to over AUD8.1 million, on this loan was made yesterday. 2008 will therefore see government fully repaying NPRT for the loan on the first aircraft.

***Conclusion** - Mr. Speaker, my statement today highlights some of the major achievements of 2008 but there are also a lot of activities that I have not included in this statement in the interest of time.*

None of this could have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of the many excellent staff working for government and especially in the Department of Finance. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and the extra efforts and hours they continue to put into government's agenda and requirements. Although we don't always have the opportunity to thank them for all they do, I trust that through this statement they will all know that government recognises the invaluable work and contributions to the development of Nauru and which is all for the people of Nauru. I trust everyone will join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to all our staff.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to also thank the Nauruan people for their patience and also for their confidence in the Stephen Government. During this tumultuous months from last December to the elections in April this year, the Stephen Government asked the people to give us sufficient time to deliver on what we knew we could achieve for them. Through the election results and the support of members of Caucus, we were given this time

and in really only 8 months of 2008 a lot of has been delivered and a lot of progress has been made.

This government's commitment has been to redeveloping Nauru, improving and broadening our economy, preparing and planning for our future and delivering a better quality of life for all our people.

2009 promises to be a year of further improvements for the lives of our people and the Stephen Government's commitment to rebuilding Nauru remains as strong as ever.

Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, we continue to look forward to your support to ensure a prosperous New Year for Nauru in 2009. Thank you.'

(xi) Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare), as Chairman of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb, under 218 presented a statement and tabled to the House the Report of the Select Committee:-

'Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the House the Report of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb.

The Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb was appointed by Parliament in October 2008 and immediately commenced work on its task of inquiring into the incident that occurred in Parliament on 28th March and in particular the conduct of Inspector Corey Caleb on that day in accordance with the motion that established the Committee and the terms of the Committee's inquiry under that motion.

The Committee has sought to conclude its inquiry as expeditiously as possible in order that the uncertainty regarding the status of Inspector Caleb, and his continuance as a police officer or his dismissal from the police force, could be resolved one way or the other.

This Report contains the background to the inquiry, including the matters referred to the Committee and an overview of the laws applicable to those matters; an account of the deliberations of the Committee and the evidence presented to the Committee and the findings and recommendations of the Committee. In summary, the Committee determined that the dismissal of Inspector Caleb would not be in the public interest and that Inspector Caleb's suspension should be lifted. The Committee also made other recommendations as to measures that could be taken to enable situations such as that which was before this inquiry can be avoided or better handled in future.

On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank those who so willingly co-operated with the Committee's requests for written information and who appeared before the Committee. I also express my thanks to those who generously provided pro bono advice to the Committee; Mr. Ian Harris Clerk of the Australian House of Representatives, Associate Professor Anne Twomey of the University of Sydney and Professor Don Paterson of the University of the South Pacific.

The Committee is grateful for the hard work of the Committee Secretariat in the completion of this report. Raines Stephen has worked beyond normal working hours in order to record the proceedings of the Committee. And the outstanding work of Jennie Reiyetsi and Sukie Adeang must also be placed on the record. Jennie and Sukie have both been working extremely long hours, including weekends in recent weeks. They were able to prepare the transcripts of evidence with remarkable speed and have also very efficiently translated some of that evidence from Nauruan into English in order to enable the evidence to be published in the Report. They have done an excellent job.

The Committee would also not have been able to complete its work so quickly without the assistance of its Secretary and Advisor, Katy Le Roy. The Committee found its Secretary to be very efficient and helpful and on behalf of the Committee I wish to thank her for her good work.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Committee for the manner in which they applied themselves to the task of the Committee's inquiry and for their work in completing the Committee's Report.

I commend this Report to the House and hope that the recommendations of the Committee will later be endorsed by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

(i) **Motion – Suspension of all Relevant Standing Orders**

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare), as Chairman of the Select Committee moved that all relevant standing orders be suspended to enable further deliberations of the report.

Mr. Waqa (Boe) seconded.

(ii) **Motion of Amendment**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved an amendment motion, that further deliberations on the report of the Select Committee be adjourned to a later stage.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question put and passed.

6. **Motion**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Leader of Government Business, moved that motion Nos. 1 to 8 to adjourned to the next sitting day.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

7. **Motion – Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2008-2009**

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved to present the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2008-2009.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

First Reading - The Bill was presented and read a first time.

8. **Motion – Second Reading**

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

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

(Under S.O. 159 further debate on the Bill was adjourned to a future date.)

9. **Order of the Day No. 1 – Shipping Bill 2008**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Leader of Government Business, moved that Order of the Day No. 1 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

10. Order of the Day No. 2 – Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendment) Bill 2008

Resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

11. Leave Sought for

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide), as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Leave was granted.

12. Motion

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide), as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee moved that any further consideration or resolution to the manner in which the Bill is to progress be deferred until after the second reading of its companion Bill, the Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill.

13. Order of the Day No. 3 – Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2008.

Resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

14. Motion

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide), as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, moved a motion to establish a Select Committee on the Constitutional Amendment Bills which read as follows:-

‘(1) That pursuant to Standing Order 163, the House resolves to refer the Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill 2008 and the Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2008 (the Constitutional Amendment Bills) to a select committee, and that such Committee be established to inquire into and report to the House on or before 16 February 2009, on the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment Bills and other matters referred to the Committee in paragraph (5) of this motion;

(2) That the Committee consist of nine Members, namely –

Hon. Kieren Keke

Hon. Roland Kun

Hon. Frederick Pitcher

Hon. Mathew Batsiua

Hon. Baron Waqa

Hon. Dominic Tabuna,

Hon. Landon Deireragea, and

Hon. Amwano Amwano;

- (3) *That the quorum of the Committee be five Members;*
- (4) *That the Committee have the power to send for and examine persons, papers and records;*
- (5) *That, in conducting its inquiry, the Committee examine the following matters –*
- (a) *whether it is necessary or desirable to make any amendments to the Constitutional Amendment Bills;*
- (b) *whether any of the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Commission that were rejected by the Constitutional Convention in 2007 were so soundly based and/or so strongly supported by public opinion that they ought to be inserted into the Constitutional Amendment Bills;*
- (c) *whether the Constitutional Amendment Bills, including any amendments and insertions proposed by the Select Committee, are legally sound and what the likely impact of each of the proposed amendments to the Constitution will be;*
- (d) *what needs to be inserted in the Constitutional Amendment Bills by way of transitional provisions, based on the proposed final form of the Bills as recommended by the Select Committee;*
- (e) *any other matter that the Committee deems necessary or relevant to enable it to complete its Report on the Constitutional Amendment Bills.*
- (6) *That, in inquiring into and reporting on the matters referred to in paragraph (5), the Committee have regard to:-*
- (a) *the Report of the Nauru Constitutional Review Commission, 28 February 2007;*
- (b) *the Report of the Nauru Constitutional Convention, May 2007;*
- (c) *the table of public views on proposed constitutional amendments that was prepared for the use of the Constitutional Review Committee;*
- (d) *the advice of any legal advisor(s) whose services may be made available to the Committee;*
- (e) *any material of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Review that the Committee deems useful for its inquiry;*
- (f) *any other material that the Committee deems relevant to its inquiry;*
- (7) *That the House resolves that notwithstanding Standing 165, when the Constitutional Amendment Bills, as reported by the Select Committee, are considered by the Committee of the Whole, the Committee of the Whole may follow the order of clauses proposed in the Report of the Select Committee, and that the Committee of the Whole shall not be confined to considering the clause of the Constitutional Amendment Bills but may also consider any matters or proposed clauses contained in the Report or arising there-from.*
- (8) *That the Committee may hold closed meetings from which all strangers are excluded, but that wherever practicable the Committee shall hold its meetings in public;*
- (9) *That the first meeting of the Committee shall be held on Monday 5 January 2009 at 10.00 a.m.'*

Mr. Waqa (Boe) seconded.

Question put and passed.

15. Order of the Day No. 4 – Treasury Fund Protection (Amendment) Bill 2008

Resumption of debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

Corrigendum

This page is to replace page 32 of the original Votes & Proceedings (No. 11) of the Eighteenth Parliament.

16. Leave Sought for

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move a motion. His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded. Leave was granted.

17. Motion – Third Reading

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a third time. His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded. Question put and passed. The Bill was read a third time.

18. Orders of the Day No. 5 – First Report of the Committee of Privileges on the Matter of Alleged Breaches of Privilege and Contempt of Parliament by Hon. David Adeang, M.P.

Resumption of debate on the question that the report be adopted. Debate ensued. Question put and passed.

19. Division of the House Called for

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) and Mr. Waqa (Boe) called for a division. Bells rung for one minute. The House divided.

AYES		NOES	
Mr. Stephen	Dr. Keke	Mr. Tsitsi	Mr. Scotty
Mr. Pitcher	Mr. Kun	Mr. Waqa	Mr. Bernicke
Mr. Batsiua	Mr. Tabuna	Mr. Dowiyogo	
Mr. Amwano	Mr. Deireregea		
Mr. Thoma			
Total - 9		Total - 5	

Question put and passed.

The Chair, with the concurrence of the House, suspended the sitting to look into the matter raised by certain Members regarding the Member for Buada.

Resumed.

20. Ruling from the Chair

On the first point of order that was raised by Dr. Keke, I believe it is a matter of convention in this Parliament and other Westminster Parliaments, although not expressly prescribed in our Standing Orders, that if a member of a committee does not agree with the report prepared by a committee of which he is a member, that member should make his dissent known and is entitled to include a dissenting report. If a member does not express his dissent and thereby allows his name to appear on the report, by convention he should vote in support of the adoption of the report, or if he is unable to, it is usual for him to absent himself from the House or otherwise abstain from voting. In this case I am satisfied that Hon.

Member for Buada, Mr. Bernicke, has not wilfully disregarded the customary practice but that his failure to observe the correct procedure is due to lack of knowledge of the procedures, and I would encourage the Member in any future committees of which he is a member to familiarise himself with the applicable rules.

On the second point of order raised by Hon. Member for Boe, Mr. Waqa, I rule that the Minister for Finance was not casting reflections, but was merely alerting the Chair to a perceived breach of correct parliamentary procedure.

On the third point that raised by the Minister for Finance in relation to the Hon. Member for Buada's failure to observe the correct parliamentary dress code, this House has resolved that the dress code to be observed within the chamber is a long-sleeved white-collared shirt and tie and dark trousers and the Minister correctly observed that the Member in question is today not in compliance with the dress code. In view of the Christmas spirit I will not order the Member to correct his dress immediately but would request him to observe the correct dress code at all future sittings.'

21. Leave sought for

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move a motion with regards to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2008-2009.
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.
Leave was granted.

22. Motion – Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2008-2009

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved a motion that debate on the question that the Bill be now read a second time, proceed forthwith.
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
The Bill was read a second time.

23. Letter of Recommendation

The Speaker informed Members that he had received the Letter of Recommendation from His Excellency the President which reads as follows:-

'I, Marcus Stephen, 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 2008-09, is recommended to the Parliament by the Cabinet.

Dated this 18th day of December 2008.

(Signed) Marcus Stephen, President and Chairman of the Cabinet.'

24. Leave Sought for

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move a motion.
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.
Leave was granted.

25. Motion – Third Reading

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.
Question put and passed.
The Bill was read a third time.

26. Motion

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare), as Chairman of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb, moved that the report of the Select Committee be adopted.
Mr. Waqa (Boe) seconded.

27. Motion

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that further debate on the Report of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.
His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.
Question put and passed.

28. Motion Fixing the Date for the next Sitting

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.
Question put and passed.

29. Adjournment

His Excellency the President moved that Parliament do now adjourn.
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) seconded.
Debate ensued.
The Chair, being advised of the absence of quorum in the House, suspended the sitting and to resume after ringing of the bells for five minutes.

Resumed.

Debate continued.
Question put and passed.
And then the House at thirty five minutes past nine 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. Dabwido * Mr. Solomon ** Mr. Adeang

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament

* Leave of Absence
** Suspension

