

**Votes & Proceedings  
Of the  
Eighteenth Parliament**

**No. 17**

**First Sitting of the Twelfth Meeting  
Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**10.00 a.m.**

1. The House met at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution of the House made on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

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

**3. Statement From the Chair**

*‘Honourable Members, a couple of issues to be reported before prevailing with today’s sitting.*

*Firstly, the Legal Advisor for the Committee of the Whole is booked for today’s flight and shall be appointed as an assistant Parliamentary Counsel so she could sit in the Chamber for the COTW session regarding the Amendment Bills on the Constitutional Review. More information will be divulged at the next sitting.*

*Secondly, a reminder to all Members. The Members’ Lounge, known as the Bagobagan Lounge is exclusively for Members only. Although Members are privileged to its use, all Members must take into consideration other Members’ privileges as well.*

*Also, sometimes the Parliament may be used by staff and their safety and security is also paramount. If we are to allow anybody and everybody to enter at their own discretion then it is more likely that safety of Members and staff could be at risk. Thank you.’*

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

**Resumed.**

4. **Questions without notice** were asked.

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

(a) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement to the House on ‘Fifth Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PALM 5) and related Meetings’, which reads as under:-

*‘Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, I wish to provide this august House with a brief report on the Fifth Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PALM 5) which I attended last month in Japan.*

The PALM 5 meeting was held in Hokkaido, Japan from 22 to 23 May 2009. All of the Forum member countries were present at this high-level meeting and were represented by their respective leaders. Accompanying me on this occasion was the Hon. Landon Deireragea, my private secretary and Aide-de-Camp.

By way of background information, Mr. Speaker, the first ever PALM Summit was convened in Japan in 1997. Since then Japan has continued its ongoing commitment to the Pacific region by holding the PALM Summit every three years. Although this was the fifth occasion that Japan has hosted a meeting with leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, it was actually my first time to attend this particular meeting and I was honoured to have been able to represent Nauru as President of this beloved nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to highlight some of the pertinent outcomes of the PALM 5 Summit for Members' information. In brief they are as follows:-

- Japan will provide assistance to Pacific island countries to the extent of 50 billion yen over the next 3 years. This is an increase of approximately 50 million from the assistance that was provided 3 years ago under the Okinawa Initiative (PALM 4).
- Japan will establish the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) of which the Pacific Island Forum countries have agreed to become members. Japan and the Forum countries will continue to work closely together in addressing environmental issues under the auspices of the PEC.
- Japan has committed to providing assistance for human resources development of 1,300 individuals to share Japan's knowledge in the area of environment including climate change. The Government of Japan also committed a further 2,000 individuals to assist Pacific island countries to attain MDGs and overcome economic vulnerabilities.
- Leaders agreed to hold high-level interim meeting during 2010 to follow up implementation of the key PALM 5 outcomes, as well as start the preparatory process for PALM 6.

Again these are only some of the important issues which were agreed to at the meeting and the full outcomes of the PALM 5 Summit can be found in the PALM 5 islanders' Hokkaido Declaration which has been attached for Members' further information and ease of reference.

Mr. Speaker, you may be interested to know that I was also invited to participate in the Round Table on Water and Sanitation, together with other Leaders of the Pacific island countries, prior to the PALM 5 Summit. This meeting was convened in Tokyo on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May and was chaired by the former Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency, Mr. Yoshiro Mori.

At the meeting the Leaders made short presentations on their individual country's water-related issues. I used this occasion to emphasise the challenges that Nauru is currently facing in the water sector, including our lack of storage capacity which is greatly affecting our water supply.

At the end of the meeting, Chairman Mori announced that the Japan Water Forum would be providing AUD66 million to assist Pacific island countries in meeting their water development goals.

I am further pleased to advise you, Mr. Speaker and Members of this House, that I also held a number of important bilateral meetings at the

margins of the PALM 5 Summit. This included a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Taro Aso of Japan, a meeting with the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Aid, Mr. Bob McMullan, a meeting with the New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as a meeting with the Leaders of Taiwan's Pacific Allies, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the PALM 5 meeting was an altogether very successful one. The meeting served to further deepen and consolidate the friendly relations that exist between Japan and the Pacific island region over the next 3 years, despite the current global economic crisis which is affecting countries world-wide, including Japan itself, is a clear demonstration of the strong ties of friendship between Japan and the Pacific region. Nauru, as a member of the Pacific Island Forum, can look forward to benefiting from this generous assistance over the next 3 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(b) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) made a statement to the House on 'Ministry of Health Updates', which reads as follows:-

*Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues,*

**Staff Recruitment** – *The Ministry places priority in the recruitment and retention of specialist medical staff and well qualified nurse, midwife and allied health staff. I am pleased to report Nauru now has a complement of 8 expatriate and 2 national doctors.*

*The new surgeon, Dr. Phupendra Sharma, arrives on 19 June. We have also recruited two new nurse/midwives, Ms. Mese Rakaidawa arrived in May and Ms. Kaloni Fihaki arrived last week. Also we have recently recruited allied health staff.*

*Two new pharmacists have been recruited, Mr. James Geyrozaga arrived in May and Mr. Filipino Samunaka arrived last week. They replace the UNV pharmacist, Ms. Uhjin Kim who left last Friday. Mr. Joisese Mailulu arrived last Friday as the Senior Laboratory Technician. Dr. Si, Director of Public Health, leaves on Tuesday, 23 June and the recruitment for his replacement is finalised and we expect Dr. Thant Zin to arrive early in the new financial year.*

*We are also finalising recruitment for a school dentist, a dietician and a physiotherapist. Other priority positions that we hope to recruit in the new financial year are a psychiatrist and two more expatriate nurses with Operating Theatre and Intensive care experience.*

*The Health Education, Natalie de Vos left in March and her replacement, Ms. Pauline Fitzgerald, arrives on 3 July. The strategic health planner, Madeleine Salton, completes her 18 month contract on 26 June and her replacement, Mr. Norman Powell, arrives on 16 June. Both of these positions are PACTAM funded and AusAID's continuing support to the Ministry is acknowledged with gratitude.*

**Visiting Medical Specialists** – *Recognising the need to ensure the public receives specialist medical care the Ministry places priority in ensuring specialist teams visit Nauru on a regular basis.*

*The AusAID funded Pacific Island Projects managed by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons has confirmed the following visits –*

- *Gastroenterology from 14 to 21 July*
- *Renal/Vascular from 1 to 8 September*

- ENT, tentative for October/November.

Given the apparent need we are also hoping to secure a visiting psychiatrist next financial year, funded under our bilateral program for health with the Government of Australia.

Dr. Jambi Garap, the contracted ophthalmologist, visited in May and reviewed a number of patients with eye problems. Dr. Jambi has renewed her contract to undertake 4 visits in the next 12 months.

**Health Information Management** - I am pleased to advise that the Department of Health is currently addressing the very serious need for a good health information management system to support the Health Information/Medical Records Department. Recently, a proposal was submitted to the Pacific Senior Health Officials Network, and as part of their Policy Partnership Initiative, they approved Nauru to secure assistance from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Two Health information management experts arrived in May and we are awaiting their report.

We are also hoping to secure Health Information Management Consultant expertise next financial year funded by AusAID.

**Dialysis Unit** – The contracted technician had visited Nauru last year to undertake the quarterly maintenance and repair of the dialysis machines and equipment. Six machines are operational and the remaining are to be checked next visit. Health recently purchased four new chairs and will purchase another two in the new financial year.

**Taiwan Mobile Medical Team** – Nauru continues to benefit from its bilateral program of assistance with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and a mobile medical team has just completed two weeks here from 29 May to 12 June. The team comprised a dentist, a paediatrician, orthopaedic surgeon, nephrologist, nurse and co-ordinator. In addition we have an ICDF volunteer urologist here until early July. We are very grateful to Taiwan for this continuing support.

**Israeli Visiting Specialist** – Since my last report to Parliament, further progress has been made with regard to support from Israel. We are currently in negotiations to secure diabetes specialist support.

**Cuba Medical Team** – The Cuban Medical Brigade is due to arrive in Nauru on 3 July. The four team members comprise a surgeon, paediatrician, physician and pharmacist.

**Operational Management** – The Ministry continues to pursue the reform process and wishes to highlight the following important reform activities –

**Organisational Reform:** The Department of Health Organisational Reform report has been completed and has been approved by Cabinet. All job descriptions for all categories of staff have been revised and now reflect the proposed staffing recommendations.

**Clinical Governance:** As part of the Organisational Reform process, a Nursing Services Review was completed in October 2008. The implementation of recommendation is almost complete.

**NNSDS:** The Ministry continues to work closely with AMU in ensuring timely progress reports are provided on the progress of activities. All sections of the Ministry are required to produce a monthly report to demonstrate how they are tracking with NSDS goals.

**09/10 Operational Plan** The Department of Health 09/10 Operational Plan and Department Specific reporting frameworks are completed and have been submitted to my office for my review and approval.

**Orientation Manual:** In addition I am pleased to advise that the Department of Health Organisational Manual and Department Specific Orientation Programs have been completed and are now in use.

**Hospital Communication:** Meetings with other government departments including ICT and Police continue to occur monthly. We are currently re-establishing meetings with Education. Also, the purchase of new communication radios has meant that RONH on-call staff are assigned radios for emergency communications.

**Staff Training:** The Ministry of Health continues to place great emphasis on ensuring staff development opportunities are available and realised.

As part of the Minister of Health staff development, individuals are pursuing training locally and abroad in the following areas. The Department of Health, recognising that support for all of these students is crucial to their educational outcomes, has put in place regular meeting and counselling sessions. The Health Educator's role in linking them with all students and institutions is seen as critical to the students' positive outcomes.

Course	Number	Country	Status
Medicine	2	Cuba	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
	7	Cuba	Preliminary Year
Pre Med	1	Fiji	4 <sup>th</sup> Year
	3	Nauru USP Campus	Science/English
Radiology	1	Fiji	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
	1	Nauru USP Campus	Science/English
Pre Pharmacy	2	Nauru USP Campus	Science/English
Pre Physiotherapy	1	Nauru USP Campus	Science/English
Pre Laboratory	0	-	-
Pre Dentistry	1	Nauru USP Campus	Science/English
Nursing	3	Fiji	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
	1	Fiji	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
	1	Fiji	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
	4	Kiribati	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
	1	Kiribati	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Pre Nursing	1	Nauru USP Campus	

*Other health supported studies at USP are as follows:-*

Course	Number	Country	Status
Management	3	Nauru USP Campus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Communicating & Study Skills	1	Nauru USP Campus	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
English	27	Nauru USP Campus	
Basic & Advanced Computing	57	Nauru USP Campus	

Furthermore, it is with pleasure to inform the House that the Cuban medical scholarships will continue for the next intake of students. Therefore 10 new students have been selected by the Department as an expression of interest and application process, for the next intake bringing a total of 19 Nauruan medical students in Cuba this year. The 10 new students are Ms. Samira Detageouwa, Ms. Cathlehra Denitaga, Mr. Francis

Gadeouwa, Ms. Jane Detabouw, Mr. Famo Detenamo, Ms. Layana Menke, Mr. Derek Atto, Mr. Templa Tau, Ms. Kyllene Kepae and Ms. Tilda Ephraim.

Students departure is scheduled to be in the month of August. They will be briefed by the department prior to their departure.

**Hospital Infrastructure:** I am pleased to advise the outcome of Phase 1 Capital Works completed or underway, and these include

<b>RONH</b>	<b>NGH</b>
Refurbish nurses home toilet facilities - completed 19 December 2008	Bulldoze and clear damaged buildings - Completed 29 January 2009
Medical Records - extension, internal refurbishment, Shelving, filing, painting. - Completed 28 January 2009	Construct perimeter fence - Completed 25 May 2009
Old Pharmacy Store refurbishment - Converted to outpatients clinics and tea room/library - Completed 19 February 2009	Director PH office - Internal refurbishment and external paint - Completed 14 May 2009
Laundry - Internal refurbishment, plumbing - Completed 19 February 2009	Sewerage plumbing repair - Completed 5 January 2009
Oxygen Plant roof - Completed 28 November 2008	NGH Baby Clinic - Roof and other repairs - Contract yet to be signed. - All will be completed as soon as possible after budget known (to be funded by AusAID MOU)
RONH boom gate - Completed 28 November 2008	Environmental Health office refurbishment - Contract yet to be signed - To be completed as soon as possible after budget known (to be funded by AusAID MOU)
Pharmacy bulk store refurbishment - Completed 28 November 2008	- In new financial year we expect to complete the diabetes one-stop shop, the demonstration kitchen for healthy eating, the office for the District Primary Health Care Workers, the staff meeting room, and the Security House - All will be completed as soon as possible after budget known (to be funded by AusAID MOU)
Ceiling repair walkway - Completed 28 November 2008	
Sewerage plumbing repair x 2 RONH - Completed 5 January 2009	
RONH Public Toilets - Contract yet to be signed.	
In new fiscal year we expect to refurbish the maternity unit, the administration block and finalise the Isolation Ward.	

**Oxygen Plant** – The oxygen plant has been operational for some months following the expert servicing and maintenance carried out by an engineer from Townsville and the training that he provided to local staff has ensured the ongoing operation. The contract with this engineer has been

negotiated and will be signed shortly, and we expect him to provide services twice a year. He has also provided a detailed report on future options for the oxygen plant.

**Standby Generator** – I have further pleasure in informing Parliament the genset provided by DIAC was commissioned in August last year and a local technician has been contracted to undertake routine maintenance and report of gensets at NGH and RON hospitals. Both generators continue to work very well.

**Reverse Osmosis Unit at RONH** - The RO Unit from AusAID was commissioned at the end of June last year. The RONH RO unit in particular has experienced high levels of salinity at times, and the RO unit has not had the capacity to adequately cope with these levels. The Veolia RO unit technician is currently on-island and is upgrading the RO unit to provide potable water by decreasing the salinity of the current supply, and the RO unit at NGH will also be upgraded on this visit. Also, a local technician has been contracted to maintain and repair the unit, and this is working very well.

**Hospital Security** – The monthly joint meeting between the Ministry of Health and the Police continues to address security at the hospital sites and kitchen at Statehouse.

**Health Practitioners Registration** - The Health Practitioners Registration Board continues to meet and to approve applications for registration of all doctors, nurses and allied health staff.

**Disability Committee** - The work of the Disability Assessment Committee continues with reviewing patients' disability levels to improve their quality of life through access to the State's disability allowance.

**Pharmaceutical Status** - The Essential Drugs List has been finalised and all pharmaceuticals orders now are restricted to those contained in the EDL. However, patients in need of specific medications are also catered for.

The WHO National Medicine Policy consultant is currently on-island and have commenced consultations on the Nauru National Medicines Policy. This important initiative will be an important guideline for future laws on medicines in general in Nauru. I attach a copy of my opening remarks at this workshop for the benefit of Members.

There have been significant changes to the way pharmaceuticals and medical consumables are planned for, ordered or purchased. These changes now reflect positive outcomes in terms of budget and organisation, and the stock-outs of the past and the need to make frequent urgent, often air-freighted orders, while not entirely overcome, is much less. We are optimistic that the current way of doing business will continue to demonstrate positive outcomes. This positive development in our pharmaceuticals processes can be attributed largely to the efforts of the UN volunteer, Ms Uhjin Kim from Korea, who sadly has departed our shores after completing 15 months as our pharmacist.

**Staff Departures** - On a similar note I also wish to make mention of other crucial expatriate staff who are departing our shores as well after completion of their terms. Dr. Si, Director of Public Health who has been a tremendous contributor to the development of Public Health plans and related activities and who will be greatly missed by all in the Ministry. Mrs.

Madeleine Salton, the Strategic Health Planner, Madeleine has been instrumental in developing the long term policies and reform plans for the Ministry and has achieved a tremendous amount of work in such short space of time. Last, but not least, Ms. Nahida Ahkar, our dietician who joined us straight after graduating and have achieved a great deal of work in improving our kitchen services and improving food handling and hygiene at the hospital. Nahida has also been instrumental in reforming our kitchen section to ensure that it remains an efficient unit to deliver meal requirements of the hospital at acceptable standards on a consistent basis.

I commend and thank them all for their efforts and contribution and wish them all the best for the future.

(c) Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) made a statement on 'Our Airline Activities', which reads as under:

*Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to update the House on Our Airline activities.*

*The new CEO outlined his vision for the company in April including to the Board. The vision is for a successful Nauru Airline by –*

- Leveraging its core competencies (established itself as a competence wet-lease provider);*
- Better utilisation of resources (aircraft and crew); and*
- Balancing its three revenue streams (which are scheduled services, charters, strategic partnerships)*

*But to address immediate hurdles, work has commenced on finding additional work through –*

- More strategic partnerships along the lines of Norfolk Air;*
- More scheduled work as ad hoc charter (an activity which comes with high risks in the current environment)*

*With the expiry of the code-share agreement with Solomons, Our Airline has made the decision to go back into the Honiara market from 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009, initially with one per week flight going to twice weekly services from mid-September. Brisbane-Honiara market is much more competitive now and thus other options are being explored to reduce losses. In this regard a meeting is taking place today with Air Vanuatu exploring a co-operative arrangement. An intermediary point is required for Nauru services to maximise on payload that can be uplifted.*

*The other major development is chartering aircraft time to Norfolk Air and from October to Pacific Wings. This arrangement provides Our Airline with guaranteed revenue and is important given the charter business is non-existent in the current economic climate.*

*The induction of VH-NLK into Norfolk Air has been largely successful. The extra effort put in by Our Airline staff and suppliers to meet the new start date has been appreciated by Norfolk Air whose services would have been affected by the sudden termination of the charter contract by Ozjet. The solid work done by Godwyn Debaio in training staff in Australia and Norfolk was exemplary.*

*Extensive discussions took place with Kiribati Government and Air Kiribati recently. A set of draft contracts have been provided to them to formalise the understanding. Our Airline is ready to execute the*



arrangements as soon as they are ready and work towards an October start on the Nauru-Tarawa-Nadi and return services.

A number of other commercial initiatives are being explored at present which would see Our Airline entering into new collaborative arrangements. These discussions have just commenced. If it comes to fruition these arrangements would provide Our Airline with additional work and revenues.

Our Airline is working with the Government to re-establish the aviation fuel supply in Nauru. This project is critical for optimising payloads into Nauru and onto places like Tarawa. The expectation is this project would be completed before the services to Tarawa.

Honourable Members, I will continue to update this House as developments occur. Thank you for your kind attention.'

(d) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement updating the House on 'Prison and Corrective Services', which reads as under:-

*Mr. Speaker & Honourable Members,*

*It is timely given there has been a lot of interest in the prison service of late to brief Parliament on the current situation.*

*As members will recall, the entire police and prison operational premises were totally destroyed by fire through a malicious and deliberate arson attack in March 2007. As a consequence, temporary facilities had to be established at Topside whilst the former prison underwent demolition and reconstruction works. Topside, however, soon proved inadequate as there were several escapes from that location. Although these escapees were soon re-apprehended it nonetheless necessitated the move back to the former premises in Yaren and we have persevered in this current location whilst making every effort to improve the facilities.*

*Prior to the fire Mr. Speaker, the prison population was two, sometimes three. The combined police and prisons facility at that time was adequate for those numbers. Since then, the police and other arms of the Justice sector have worked closely to tackle the evolving crime problems and to a large extent have been successful in curtailing the majority of serious crime that had regularly occurred in our communities.*

*The end result of course has been a vast increase in the prison population; in fact it is an increase of more than ten times the number at the beginning of 2007. (3 to 32 as of 10/06/09) but it has been as high as 44 with police remandees). All of this occurring whilst the former prison underwent demolition and reconstruction works.*

*It is obvious that such a rapid increase in prison numbers during the reconstruction efforts has resulted in the staff being placed under severe strain and it was almost inevitable that there would be teething problems.*

*Mr. Speaker, I make no apologies but I do inform this august house that there have been difficulties, there have been escapes from custody, there have been concerns raised by family members and MPs and there has been significant concern by my Government as I work with the Police Commissioner to protect the integrity of our prison system and ensure that our communities are not put at undue risk.*

*One might ask what action has the government take to curb this problem and to ensure that our facilities are adequate and that our*

communities can live and sleep without fear of possible retribution by escaped prisoners. Let me assure you Mr. Speaker, and Members of this House, that I have maintained close communication with the Commissioner as together we work to continue to improve the facility to ensure the proper treatment of prisoners, the safety of prison staff, the opportunity for family visitation conducted in a safe environment, and the physical wellbeing of the inmates.

Those prisoners who have transgressed and taken opportunistic action by escaping are being dealt with through the courts but importantly and somewhat regrettably it has meant that the prison operating procedures have been tightened and strictly enforced. Sanctions are imposed on those who break the rules and these can affect the whole prison population and the families of inmates.

In developing a better, secure and safer environment, my government had approved funds for a significant re-construction program that is now complete. Planning is well underway for a phase two project that will, when complete, expand the current facility by increasing the number of cells in the existing facility, improving security by installing segregated areas for different classes of prisoners, strengthening the perimeter fencing, increasing ablution areas and providing detention and prison facilities for convicted and remanded women and juveniles. As part of our efforts to improve the living conditions of the prison inmates, medical doctors now visit the prison to examine and treat inmates on a regular basis. This initiative has greatly relieved the pressure on prison staff and the hospital as frequent visits to the hospital were often required.

The Prison Work Scheme operates as per usual but sometimes there is a requirement to defer that project if staff numbers are not adequate due to other duties such as court escorts.

I am also pleased to say that now the prison population is more settled and security measures enhanced, the assistance by the prison staff and low risk prisoners in dealing with dangerous and diseased dogs will recommence.

In addition, selected low risk prisoners continue to be actively engaged in a fishing program during daylight hours that allows for the prisoners to be fed on three days per week by catching the fish. This also provides substantial savings to the prison running costs.

Mr. Speaker, may I also remind the House that the work of prison staff can be very stressful and often they are subject to abuse and assault. Whilst efforts are now in place to better protect the staff from this type of abuse, this has been an issue of concern and has led to increased staff absenteeism and dissatisfaction. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks and appreciation to those staff that are working in the prison environment and encourage them to be vigilant in their duties and ensure that the prison is run and managed according to the established protocols.

Before closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to confirm to you and other members of this house, Government's intention to separate prisons from the police structure. At present, the prisons are operating as a semi-independent entity from the police but remain responsible and answerable to the Commissioner of Police. Operational and administrative procedures have

been put in place for quite some time and new staff engaged and trained to perform prison duties. In the meantime, Government is currently considering the draft Correctional Services Bill, which will be introduced into Parliament soon. Once passed and legislated, the Prisons and Correctional Services will move to the Justice portfolio which is in line with most other jurisdiction.

Thank you.

(e) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) made a statement which reads as follows:-

*'Honourable Speaker & Honourable Members, in light of the recent pandemic declaration from the World Health Organisation the Public Health section of the Ministry of Health issued an update on the new influenza virus H1N1, commonly referred to as the swine flu and I wish to read that statement to update members and the public on the status of this new virus and to clearly outline the steps which the Ministry has taken in response to this new influenza virus.*

*Recently the new Influenza virus A (H1N1) had spread rapidly in a number of locations in countries in different Region of the World Health Organisation. The WHO has thus concluded that the criteria for a pandemic has been met and formalized this decision in a meeting of the WHO emergency committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Consequently the WHO Director General has issued a statement to raise the level of influenza pandemic alert from the current phase 5 to phase 6.*

*Phase 5, pandemic alert phase, is characterized by human to human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. Phase 6, the pandemic phase, is characterized by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the criteria in phase 5. A "pandemic" simply means that an influenza virus, new to humans, has appeared, is spreading and is causing disease in many parts of the world.*

*At this early stage, the pandemic can be characterized globally as being moderate in severity. Therefore the WHO has recommended the followings;*

- *Government will be focusing on:*
  - *Taking care of the sick.*
  - *Providing guidance for people to protect themselves and their families.*
  - *Monitoring the outbreak*
  - *Working with the World Health Organization, exchanging information about the virus in this country, helping to understand how the pandemic is evolving and following developments in scientific and clinic issues.*
- *Some things WHO is recommending:*
  - *No border closure. It will not be possible to stop it at the border, port or the airport. There is no evidence that these measures stop the spread of the disease, and they may be very disruptive for international traffic and trade.*
  - *No restriction of travel. People who are infected with the virus and are capable of infecting others, may not show symptoms so they cannot be identified from others who are not infected.*

- Greater emphasis on providing care with a decreased emphasis on stopping the spread of the virus. Now that a pandemic has been declared, the Government will need to focus its resources on caring for those who fall ill.
- Guidance for communities, families and individuals
  - Currently, the vast majority of people who fall ill can be cared for at home and they recover without medical treatment.
  - If they are caring for someone who is sick, protect yourself and others with careful hygiene (hand washing, cough etiquette).
  - Anyone who becomes ill with a fever above 38°C should seek medical attention
  - Get informed and, as things change, stay informed.

WHO remains in close dialogue with influenza vaccine manufactures. It is understood that production of vaccines for seasonal influenza will be completed soon, and that full capacity will be available to ensure the large possible supply of pandemic vaccine in the months to come.

**Preparedness measures taken at the Republic of Nauru** - In order to prepare new influenza virus H1N1 pandemic, health department has reactivated the pandemic preparedness taskforce which includes members from various department such as Health, Immigration, Quarantine, Airline, Border control, Fisheries, Civil Aviation and community members and the members of the taskforce meet every Thursday at 12:00 noon to discuss and update the preparedness procedures according to the pandemic preparedness plan which had been developed in 2005 in collaboration with WHO. The followings preparedness procedures have been in place.

1. Public awareness (general public)
  - a. Public awareness using mass media (TV/Radio/emails through GIO etc) is ongoing with updated information from WHO/SPC/CDC.
  - b. Public awareness for individual, Household, Hospital through health workers using Information, Education and Communication materials such as pamphlet/ leaflet etc is ongoing with updated information from WHO/SPC/CDC.
2. Travellers
  - a. Travel notice to the travellers (airport/seaport) by using Information, Education and Communication materials such as pamphlet/leaflet etc is ongoing with updated information from WHO/SPC/CDC.
  - b. Health clearance form had been developed and implemented for all the incoming passengers from both airport and seaport.
  - c. Screening at the airport is ongoing according to the flight schedule including charter flights and isolation room has been identified at the airport.
  - d. If suspected case identified, quarantine measure has been in place.
3. Medical care
  - a. Medicine – Health department has enough stock for emergency needs and has already calculated to purchase more, if necessary

*as recommended by WHO including disinfectants/Tamiflu (antiviral)/antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections.*

*b. Treatment protocol has been in place.*

*c. PPE (personal protective equipments) Stock piling*

- PPE Training to health staff and airport staff/ Crew members had been done. Refresher training had also been done for the health staff.*
- Health department has received some more PPE materials from SPC and WHO.*
- Isolation/ quarantine place been identified if necessary*
- Lab referral procedure manual from WHO have been in place at the lab and so also the specimen sending procedure manual for disease confirmation. Lab has received rapid test kits for H1N1 to diagnose the suspected cases.*

*4. Communication*

- Provide regular report to WHO for all preparedness updates and also received update information from WHO.*

*If Honourable Members or the general public wish to know more of this new illness they can contact the Nauru public health department situated at the NGH site. Thank you.*

The Chair, with consensus of the House, adjourned the sitting till the bell rings.

## **Resumed.**

(f) Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) made the following statement regarding his attendance at a WHO meeting in Geneva, and tabled a report thereon.

*'Honourable Speaker and fellow colleagues, I would like to report to this august House on the recent World Health Assembly, held in Geneva, attended by Mrs. Madeleine Salton, the Ministry of Health's Strategic Planner and myself as Nauru's Head of delegation on behalf of the Minister for Health and Ministry of Health.*

*Mr. Speaker, the importance of this year's World Health Assembly is the fact that the World is in the midst of Swine flu which is now defined as Pandemic. During the Assembly and in regional side meetings it is clear that we should be ready for a Pandemic flu and if the current trend of the flu persist, a relatively mild form of influenza, with relatively low severity rate.*

*The Pacific Region in its readiness of a Pandemic is working together with the WHO and SPC to better coordinate and supply each country in the region with the required anti-viral drugs, I have on return from the meeting briefed the Minister on possible assistance from our developing partners such as Australia and New Zealand for the sourcing of Anti-viral drugs.*

*Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, also with most importance, is the acceptance and inclusion of our friends and development partner the Republic of China – Taiwan into the international arena as an Observer country into the WHO, we have been advocates for a number of years for the inclusion of Taiwan into the WHO in recognition of their assistance in our*

*Health Sector and other countries Health Sectors throughout the world and I would like to commend and congratulate Taiwan for this occasion.*

*Mr. Speaker, importantly also is that the WHO is making budgetary cuts across its funded projects and Nauru is set to get 10% reduction in health Project funds allocated to it by WHO.*

*On side meetings with representatives from Fiji, Cook Islands and Kiribati, the delegation furthered talks on the issues of Nurse Training, Prosthetic services and specialized medical services that Nauru is lacking.*

*Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my able advisor Mrs. Madeleine Salton for her role in making the World Health Assembly Meeting productive and informative for Nauru's delegation and the Minister and Ministry of Health for their assistance in regards to the Meeting and for giving me the opportunity to represent my beloved Nauru.*

*Thank you Speaker and Members.'*

(g) Mr. Tabuna (Yaren), as Chairman of the Select Committee on Corey Caleb, made the following statement and tabled the Committee's report.

*'Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report to this House that the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb has completed its task, and to table in this House today the revised Report of the Select Committee.*

*The Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb was appointed by Parliament in October 2008 and immediately commenced work on its tasks of inquiring into the incident that occurred in Parliament on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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. The Committee first submitted its Report to Parliament on 18 December 2008. Some members of Parliament, upon reading the Report, expressed concern that the Committee did not appear to have gathered all relevant evidence, and that this may have affected the Committee's findings. Therefore, instead of considering the adoption of the Report by Parliament, the following motion was moved by His Excellency Hon. Marcus Stephen MP and passed by the House on 5 February 2009:*

*'That this House refer the Report of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb back to the Committee in order to enable the Committee to consider providing in its Report more detailed explanation of the extent of the authority of Nauru's head of state, more detailed explanation of the special circumstances of the matter that was referred to the Committee, and additional recommendations in relation to dealing with situations in which the Speaker issues unlawful instructions, and that the Committee report back to Parliament on or before 20 March 2009.'*

*The date by which the Committee had to report back to Parliament was subsequently extended by resolution of Parliament passed on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, extending date to 30 April 2009. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the*

*Committee was not able to finalise its report by the 30<sup>th</sup> April, and there has been no sitting of Parliament since that date at which to seek an extension of time. Therefore, Mr. Speaker I wish to inform the House that later in today's business when we get to motions, I will be seeking leave to move a motion without notice that, pursuant to Standing Order 201, this House agree to extend the reporting date of the Committee to today's date, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2009.*

*Mr. Speaker, the Report that I am tabling in this House today is a revised version of the Report that was first tabled in Parliament on 18 December 2008. This revised Report was unanimously adopted by all members of the Committee at its final Committee meeting held this morning before the Parliament sitting. 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.*

*Part 2 of this Report sets out the manner in which the Committee proceeded with its deliberations following the recommittal of the report back to the Committee, the additional evidence that was sought and gathered, and the effect that these further deliberations had on the revision of the Report.*

*Subsequent to the recommittal of the Report to the Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Committee held a further six meetings, during which it heard further evidence and reconsidered its findings and recommendations. The additional evidence resulted in some changes to the Committee's findings of fact. The Committee resolved, as a result of the new findings of fact, to change the recommendations it had made in the earlier version of the Report.*

*As a result of his inappropriate and disrespectful conduct on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008, it is appropriate that severe disciplinary action be taken against Inspector Caleb. It should also be noted that the Committee found that ultimate responsibility for the incident that occurred on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 should be borne by the Commissioner of Police. Taking into account the burden of responsibility on the Commissioner for better handling of the situation, and the evidence that, with the exception of this incident, Inspector Caleb has consistently been a competent and dedicated police officer, the Committee resolved that a lengthy suspension without pay would be the most appropriate form of disciplinary action to impose upon Inspector Caleb in respect of his conduct on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The Committee recommends that Inspector Caleb should be suspended without pay for 15 months, and should resume his duties on 9 July 2009. The Committee has also made recommendations in relation to amending the law relating to the policing of Parliament, and taking other measures to avoid any uncertainty about how the police should respond to such situations in future.*

*On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank all those who so willingly cooperated with the Committee's requests for written information and who appeared before the Committee.*

*The Committee is grateful for the hard work for the Committee Secretariat, Kay LeRoy, Jennie Reiyetsi, Sukie Adeang and Raines Stephen, all of whom have worked long hours, including weekends, in order to enable the Committee to complete its report.*

*Finally, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the good work of the former Chairman, Hon. Ludwig Scotty, and 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.*

Under Standing Order 218, the report will be considered at subsequent sittings of the House.

**6. Motions**

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that motion Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 on the notice paper be adjourned to the next sitting.

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

Question put and passed.

**7. Motion**

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) moved that motion No. 9 be deferred to the next sitting.

Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) seconded.

Question put and passed.

**8. Motion – Leave Sought for**

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Corey Caleb sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Leave was granted.

**9. Motion**

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Corey Caleb moved the following motion –

*‘That this House resolves to extend the reporting date of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009.’*

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

**10. Orders of the Day No. 1 - Shipping Bill 2008** - The House to resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Bill.

**Motion**

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) moved that Order of the Day No. 1 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question put and passed.



11. **Orders of the Day No. 2 – Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers** - On the question that the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, relating to his attendance at the Small Island States Ministers of Transport meeting held in Suva, Fiji be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

12. **Order of the Day No. 3 - Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill 2008 and Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill, 2008.** - That the House, by its resolution of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill 2008 and the Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2008.

**Motion**

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide), as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, moved that Order of the Day No. 3 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

Question put and passed.

13. **Order of the Day No. 4 - Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers** - On the question that the statement made by Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2000 relating to Activities in the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, be noted.

**Motion**

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare), upon being requested by the mover, Mr. Waqa (Boe), moved that Order of the Day No. 4 be discharged from the notice paper.

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) seconded.

Question put and passed.

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

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that Parliament at its rising adjourn until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

Question put and passed.

15. **Adjournment**

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

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at fifteen minutes past six o'clock p.m. adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009, at 10 a.m.

**Members Present**

All Members were present at some time during the sitting except

\* Mr. Adeang.

John Garabwan  
**Deputy Clerk of Parliament**

\* Suspension