

Votes and Proceedings Of the Twentieth Parliament

No. 12

First Sitting of the Ninth Meeting
Tuesday 16th August, 2011

10:00am

1. The House met at 10:00am in accordance to the resolution of the House made on Friday 24th June 2011.
2. Hon. Ludwig Scotty M.P., Speaker of Parliament took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

The Chair made a statement to the House which read as follows:

Honourable Members,

On Wednesday 6th July 2011, the Clerk and I departed for Australia to attend the 42nd Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference in Brisbane held from 11 to 14 July. The Meeting was originally scheduled to take place in Port Vila, Vanuatu but had to be cancelled at the last minute due to political instability there at the time.

The Conference was attended by Presiding Officers and Clerks from the Federal and State Parliaments from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific under the umbrella of CPA. I presented a jurisdictional Report on recent progress made within our Parliament focusing solely on the LIAP project and the usage of the new FTR system regarding Hansard work. The latter generated a lot of interest amongst our Pacific colleagues and I believe some have already placed their orders for the FTR system with the same company in Perth that installed ours last year.

An interesting development also occurred at the meeting whereby the conference issued a Communiqué for the first time in its history showing its concern to the Queensland government for not involving its Speaker in being centrally involved in the administration of Parliament by not being

appointed a member and Chairman of its Parliamentary Service Committee. The Committee currently is made up of several Ministers of the Crown including the Premier and some members from the Opposition. The conference views the exclusion of the Speaker from the Management Committee of the Parliament as a substantive diminution of the role of Speaker and a serious breach of the Westminster convention.

A meeting of the CPA Pacific Region also took place during the meeting and I am pleased to inform members that I have been elected as one of the three CPA Pacific representatives to represent our region within the Executive Committee comprising of all CPA Branches, for the next three years along with Tonga and New Zealand.

Overall it was a productive meeting certainly in terms of procedural aspects in dealing with issues that may confront the Chair on certain occasions as well as renewing old acquaintances and meeting new ones.

4. Notices of Motion

- I. Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) gave notice to the House that, at the next sitting, he shall move to present the Private Security Bill 2011.
- II. Hon. Riddel Akua (Minister for Transport) gave notice that, at the next sitting, he shall move to present the Telecommunication Bill 2011.

5. Questions Without Notice were asked.

6. Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

- a. His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made a statement to the House, which read as follows:

Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to provide this House with a brief report of my trip to the United Nations last month to participate in the Security Council open debate on Climate Change and Security.

As members are aware, Nauru is not only the current chair of PSIDS, the Pacific small islands developing states, but we will also be assuming the Chair of AOSIS or the Alliance of Small Island States in January 2012.

Together, PSIDS and AOSIS represent some of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Hence, it is only fitting that Nauru should participate in this debate, and at the highest level of representation.

Mr. Speaker, on 20th July I had the distinct honour of addressing the United Nations Security Council on behalf of the eleven member countries of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, namely Fiji, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and our own beloved Nauru, as well as the countries of Maldives, Seychelles and Timor-Leste. I was equally honoured to be the first non-member country to address the Security Council during this debate.

In my addressing to the Security Council, I spoke of the dangerous and potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change, particularly to small islands such as ours. I stressed that our islands are already feeling these effects and cautioned that for some, it may be too late to save their islands from disappearing altogether.

I highlighted that climate change is a threat to international peace and security and needs a comprehensive and global response. I argued that the Security Council is best placed to take the lead role in coordinating our response to the security implications of climate change.

I further suggested that the Security Council should start by appointing a special representative on climate and security to focus primarily on analyzing the security impacts of climate change. I further proposed that the council should also assess the capacity of the UN systems to respond to these impacts.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the points that I raised in my debate and being mindful of time constraints, I will not dwell on this any longer that to mention that copies of my speech are available for those members who wish to read it at their own leisure.

I would like to mention at this point that I also had the opportunity to co-host a cocktail reception with Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Affairs, the Honourable Richard Marles, on the eve of the Security Council debate. This reception was preceded with a bilateral meeting between Nauru and Australia and Marles and I had very good discussions on our bilateral relations.

To conclude my report, I would like to reflect on the outcomes of the debate. For your information, a statement by the President of the

Security Council was released at the end of the debate. This was a pleasant surprise and a considerable victory for us. Initially, the majority of the Security Council opposed any council action in relation to climate change. So no presidential statement was expected to be issued. However, a turnaround came after the conclusion of the debate whereby representatives from more than 60 countries had addressed the council. So we can proudly say that on this occasion, our voices were heard.

Mr. Speaker, while we may have won this particular fight, the battle is far from over. Climate change still looms as the greatest threat to our future livelihoods and we must continue to do everything in our power to ensure that we are prepared and ready to address and tackle head-on the challenges of this global phenomenon.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

- b.** Hon. R. Kun (Minister for Education) made a statement to the House on the following:

Education Act – *The Education Act came into effect on 14th July. As a means of increasing public awareness and socializing the Act, the Department of Education conducted a series of information sessions in all communities. These were well received by communities and provided the opportunity for the department to directly answer questions and concerns that were raised by parents and community members. As a direct result of the Act, there has been an increase in the number of students returning to school.*

The introduction of the Act has clearly identified the absence of substantive policy and guidelines. To support this initiative the department has contracted a technical assistant (Professor Scott Prasser) to run a number of workshops and work directly with staff to develop their skills in public policy development and implementation.

The department has commenced drafting a range of policy including the following:

- *School Behaviour Management Policy*
- *Policy for Suspension and Expulsion of students.*
- *Teacher and School Staff Attendance Policy and Guidelines*

It is anticipated that the training workshop will prepare and enable staff to draft and implement the range of policy required to effectively administer the Act and drive the education reform agenda.

Non registered Schools

Formal notice has been given to the proprietor of an independent school which is currently operating, advising them of the requirements of the Act and the need for them to comply with the Act.

Employers in breach of the Act

Business that currently employing school aged students during school hours have been contacted and warned that Section 17 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to employ a school age child between 8.30am and 3pm and should they continue to employ they will be committing a strict liability offence. The offence imposes a penalty of \$1000.

Current Reform Agenda

The current reform agenda has witnessed pleasing progress since my last report to Parliament.

In the area of curriculum development a draft of the new Science syllabus is complete and teachers have provided feedback on this. The scope and sequence have been completed for both Mathematics and Language and technical advisors have now been identified for Social Science and Health and Physical Education.

In addition, the literacy and numeracy benchmarking tools are under development. The administration of these tools will provide accurate and rigorous baseline data in comparison to the previous instruments.

As a means of supporting teachers and their understanding of these key learning areas in-service workshops have been undertaken in Science and Early Years education, with further workshops planned in Language and Mathematics.

Schools have commenced the development of their Annual Operational Plans, with Nauru Secondary School and Nauru College being the first schools to complete this with the assistance of the Principal Leadership Program. The development of these plans has involved Parent and Citizen Representatives, student council

representatives as well as staff. The roll out of these plans will continue over the next few months.

Other initiatives within the reform agenda include the developments of an early years curriculum guidelines and in-service training for infant teachers on approaches to early year's education. This initiative will be supported by procurement of early year's resources for all infant schools.

A range of other resources have been procured and are on order and this includes the following:

- Literacy materials for infant, primary and secondary schools.*
- Math's and science equipment kits for schools.*
- Large scale outdoor play equipments and shade covers for infant and primary schools and outdoor rubberized volleyball courts for secondary schools.*
- Equipment for Able/Disable centre*
- Play based equipment for all infant schools*

The first order of computers (242) has arrived. Once these have been configured by ITC and registered on asset they will be installed at schools according to the roll out schedule. To support ICT in schools the department is, with the assistance of TA develop appropriate training programs to ensure that teachers are able to effectively implement the use of ICT across the curriculum. TA for this project commences on the 28th August.

The department is also pleased to announce the commencement of the Nauru Language Commission project. This piece of work will be conducted by Dr. Robert Early and will commence on 21st of August.

The second course of TVET Trainers and Education Assessors course is due to commence on 24th and 25th of August and the current TAA trainers at NSS will be undertaking an upgrading so that they meet the new Australian upgraded qualification.

The formal application for the Australian curriculum license will be completed by the end of this month and forwarded to the New South Wales Board of Studies for its consideration.

Adult classes in TVET (construction, engineering and manufacturing) commenced at the beginning of this school term and it has been pleasing to see the success of this continuing education initiative. There is a

considerable waiting list for these courses and the department is considering the possible introduction of an ICT and Business studies course next year.

Donor Partnership Talks

The recent visit by both AusAID and New Zealand AID representatives has resulted in a decision to move to a model of pooled funding for the education sector. Such an approach has positive outcomes for the department; primarily reductions in the reporting load but also greater cohesion in terms of strategic planning.

The department would like to thank all of those individuals who were involved with the talks and assisted in achieving this positive outcome.

I would also like to congratulate the Department for their efforts and commitment to this reform agenda and ask my Parliamentary colleagues to join with me in recognizing the important work that is being done to improve the quality of education in Nauru.

Mr. Dabwido (Meneng) moved that the paper be noted.

- c. Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) made a statement and tabled to the House the Nauru Air Corporation Annual Report:

Mr Speaker,

It is my honour to table in this august house NAC financial statements for two years in particular, years 2004 and 2007.

In recent weeks the parliamentary librarian was able to confirm NAC annual reports in record for years prior to 2010 but with the exception of these two.

Mr. Speaker my apology for not being able to furnish to every member a copy but I am sure if members wishes for a copy, your staff will be able to accommodate their need.

Mr. Speaker and honourable members, ma tubwa kor.

- d. Hon. D. Tabuna (Minister for CIE) made a statement to the House which read as follows:

Mr. Speaker and members,

I would like to update this august house on my recent trip to Jamaica, to a meeting of the International Seabed Authority, with Nauru's application of Seabed exploration by a Nauru State owned entity known as Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., which is owned by the Nauru Education and Training Foundation and Nauru Health and Rehabilitation Foundation. Nauru is sponsoring this company to undertake seabed exploration for polymetallic and possibility of mining.

Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to announce that our application for the Exploration license is finally approved by the International Seabed Authority, the area of exploration is the area known as the Clarion Clipperton zone. The area is not in our exclusive economic zone but rather in international waters between Kiribati and Mexico. The application is a first in this area reserved for Developing countries and I must say that the International Seabed Authority was very pleased with our application as included in our application is our agreement for greater collaboration on our studies than most countries. Our team of scientist and experts that we have engaged with NORI are world renowned and are world leaders in their field; this is a signal to the world in our seriousness in this venture.

Mr. Speaker,

I look forward to updating this august house on this issue as I am confident of positive developments in this area.

Mr. Speaker and members I thank you for your time.

7. Motion

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that his motions No. 1 & 2 on the Notice Paper be deferred to the next sitting.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

8. Motion

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) moved that his motion No. 3 on the Notice Paper be deferred to the next sitting.

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

Question Put and Passed.

9. Motion

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) moved that his motion No. 4 on the Notice Paper be deferred to the next sitting.

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

10. Motion

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that his motion No. 5 on the Notice Paper be deferred to the next sitting.

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

Question Put and Passed.

11. Motion – Gaming Bill 2011.

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved to present the Gaming Bill 2011.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

12. Motion – Second Reading

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

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Second Reading Speech ensued.

(Under Standing Order 159, second reading debate on the Bill was adjourned to a future date.)

13. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Honourable Dr. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that S.O.159 be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

Debate ensued.

Question Put and Passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

14. Leave Sought For

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to allow the third reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Leave was not granted.

15. Motion

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that the third reading on the Bill be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

16. Leave Sought For

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to present the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2011.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Leave was granted.

17. Motion – Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved to present the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2011.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

18. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. Dr. K. 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 Standing Order 159, second debate on the Bill was adjourned to a future date.)

19. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable the debate on the Second Reading to proceed forthwith.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

Debate ensued.

Question Put and Passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

20. Leave Sought For

Hon. Dr. K. Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to enable the third reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen seconded.

Leave was granted.

21. Motion – Third Reading.

Hon. Dr. K. 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.

22. Order Discharged

Motion No. 7 from the Notice Paper by Mr. G. Thoma (Aiwo), was discharged by the Chair, due to the mover being not present at the sitting to move his motion accordingly.

23. Leave Sought For

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House, to enable him to present the Interpretation Consequential (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Leave was granted.

24. Motion – The Interpretation Consequential (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) moved to present the Interpretation Consequential (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

25. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Second Reading speech ensued.

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

26. Leave Sought For

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House, to enable him to present the Courts Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Leave was granted.

27. Motion – Courts Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2011.

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) moved to present the Courts Legislation Bill 2011.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

28. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. M. Batsiua (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. R. Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Second Reading speech ensued.

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

29. Orders of the Day No. 1 - Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendment) Consequential Amendment) Bill 2010.

That the Bill be now read a third time.

30. Motion

Mr. S. Dabwido (Meneng) moved that Orders of the Day No. 1, be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Mr. F. Pitcher (Ubenide) seconded.

Question Put and Passed.

31. Motion Fixing the Date For the Next Sitting.

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

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

Question Put and Passed.

32. Adjournment

His Excellency the President moved that Parliament do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

33. Leave of Absence.

Mr. S. Dabwido (Meneng) sought leave of absence for Mr. V. Dowiyogo (Ubenide), who is away overseas on Parliamentary business.

Mr. F. Pitcher (Ubenide) seconded.

Leave was granted

Debate continued.

Question Put and Passed.

And then the House at forty minutes past one o'clock pm, adjourned until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

Members Present:

All Members were present at sometime during the sitting except for –

Mr. Dube

Mr. Solomon

Mr. Thoma

Mr. Adeang

Mr. Waqa

Mr. Amwano

Mr. Bernicke

* Mr. Dowiyogo

*Leave granted

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament