

**Votes & Proceedings
Of the
Eighteenth Parliament**

No. 13

**First Sitting of the Tenth Meeting
Tuesday, 10th March 2009**

10.00 a.m.

1. The House met at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution of the House made on Thursday, 5th February 2009.
2. Hon. Riddell Akua, Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

Hon. Speaker made a statement to the House reads as follows:-

'Honourable Members, some progressive report for information of this august House concerning parliamentary matters.

As you are all aware that the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment have been sitting for three weeks aided by an external Counsel funded by the UNDP and our very own Parliamentary Counsel. I believe there would be a progressive report by their Chairman today. I shall deliver a vote of thanks to all involved in this regard at close of business today also.

You are also aware that work on the MPs' offices is progressing and I have tasked the Deputy Clerk to advise myself on time of its completion and its present status. You are all invited to take a tour and see for yourselves the progress that it is in.

The Bagobagan Lounge and the Committee Room are fitted with 7-digit direct phones for your convenience and the numbers remain classified for your own information and will not be publicised.

On February 16 a workshop on Freedom of Information was held here in Parliament House, in the committee office, opened by H.E. the Hon. Marcus Stephen, M.P. It was well attended by Cabinet members, Members of Parliament, personnel from various government departments and as well as members of non government organisations and in particular I was very pleased to take note that members of the Select Committee of the Constitutional Amendments were there present as well. You are all aware of course that one of the components in the Constitution is the Freedom of Information clause. The workshop concluded on February 19 and a small celebration of thanks closed it off.

UNDP funded Parliamentary Strengthening Project has stalled for lack of funding and a process to identify new donor partners is still to be progressed.

A newly employed young lady, by the name of Francilia Akubor is working with Hansard department. Her employment has filled the missing gap in terms of numbers of parliamentary staff employees. She is also there to give you assistance if needed.

Honourable Members, thank you kindly'.

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

5. Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers

(i) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Minister for Home Affairs, made a statement to the House which reads as under:-

'As you and other Members of this august House would be aware, yesterday's public holiday was in commemoration of the International Women's Day which falls on the 8th of March of each year.

In addition to the public holiday, there were other activities that had been arranged especially for the International Women's Day. This included the walk around the airstrip with the important theme of 'Stopping Violence Against Women and Children' that was held on Wednesday, 4th March as well as the Float Competition on Saturday, 7th March. A special inter-denominational service was held yesterday morning at the Centennial Hall and the celebrations for International Women's Day were brought to a close with an Awards Presentation and Entertainment Night later that evening.

In my capacity as Minister for Home Affairs, I wish to use this occasion to pay tribute to all the people, in particular the women of Nauru, who either participated in and or contributed their time and resources towards the special events organised in commemoration of the International Women's Day.

My special thanks and appreciation must especially go to the Directorate of Women's Affairs and the Department of Home Affairs for their hard work in organising the events and ensuring that the International Women's Day was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate the staff of the Directorate of Women's Affairs and Department of Home Affairs for their outstanding efforts and dedication in arranging the celebrations of this year's International Women's Day which in turn resulted in the successful promotion of the very important message of stopping violence against women and children all over the world.

In conclusion, I thank those Honourable Members of Parliament and people who showed their support by participating in the activities organised. I would like to end my statement by quoting the chorus from the Women's Anthem which was sung at the Centennial Hall yesterday, and I quote -

"So sing a song for women everywhere, Let it ring around the world and never, never cease; So sing a song for women everywhere, Equality, development and peace." Thank you.'

(ii) Hon. Sprent Dabwido, as Minister for Telecommunications, made the following statement to the House:-

"Honourable Speaker and Members, I wish to report for your information the outcome of the ICT Ministerial meeting held in Tonga on the 17th to the 20th of February.

At this meeting I was accompanied by the Secretary for Transport and Telecommunications, Chris Stephen, and the acting Director for ICT, Mr. Marcus Tanner, both whom were funded by donors.

This meeting was hosted by the International Tele-community Union.

The theme of the 4 days meeting was 'Connecting the Unconnected', there were two Prime Ministers and 11 Ministers in attendance.

On the 17th of Feb., Chris and I held bilateral talks with the Director of ITU, Mr. Sami Al Ber-sheer Morshid. The talks were concentrated on the outstanding debts owed by Nauru to ITU and the development needs of Nauru.

The talks on the outstanding debts were very positive. I conveyed to the Director the current economic situation Nauru is in at the moment and the step by step issues this government is addressing. I explained that Nauru have collated all its debts over the last 10 years and have found to be owing almost a billion dollars internationally and domestically. I acknowledge that we also owe ITU nearly a million dollars in outstanding fees. This debt is being addressed by the government's international and national debt recovery strategy.

I told the Director that despite the debt owing, Nauru is grateful for their continued support in developing our ICT industry, and we would wish for this to continue.

Mr. Morshid, responded by acknowledging Nauru's economic problems and assured me that he will convey to the ITU financial section our difficulties and assures me he will continue to support Nauru's ICT development as long as Nauru keeps ITU updated on the addressing of the debt.

We then concentrated on ITU's continued assistance such as funding for legislation of ICT and supporting of a regional legislation and regulation body in the Pacific.

I am pleased to advise that the very next day, my officers have already started working with ITU on the needs list of our ICT department. I am expecting more assistance from ITU as our ICT departments put forward their list of needs.

Honourable Members, I am pleased to report that at the end of the 4 day's meeting a communiqué was signed by the leaders expressing the need for many things such as Joint Regional Regulatory Head Office to keep ICT legislation uniform for the region, ITU assistance in developing a response for national disasters and many other issues that will benefit the individual islands and the region as a whole.

Copies of the communiqué is available for Members who wish to have copies.

I would like to thank my two members of the delegation who assisted me greatly during the meeting and I would also like to express my thanks to Annie nee Kun and her family for their hospitality and also Mr. Sunia and his family for a wonderful lunch that was fit for a king. Thank you.'

(iii) Hon. Mathew Batsiua, as Minister for Justice & Border Control made a statement on 'Audit on Border Control Sections of the Ministry of Justice', which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker, as I had reported to this House on February 5, 2009, an audit was undertaken on all border control sections of the Ministry of Justice from the end of December 2008 for a period of six weeks. This audit was conducted by Mr. Richard Salton and he examined and critically reviewed all the functions of all border control areas namely, the Customs, Quarantine and Immigration sections of the Justice Department.

This audit involved a full review of the existing systems and procedures of these three key border control sections and to come up with recommended solutions to redress the identified shortfalls and weaknesses of the system.

The audit came up with 19 key recommendations in three main areas and these will be considered by Cabinet over the next few days.

One of the areas that had received a lot of attention was the area of customs and in particular the processing and inspection methods of cargo and documents relating to cargo brought into the country.

Mr. Salton provided on the job training to border control officers on how to properly and thoroughly inspect cargoes, so anything concealed can be uncovered and potential areas of concerns can be identified. Review of how customs documents were administered was also undertaken and serious lapses were identified. This led to the discovery of undeclared goods

or incorrectly valued goods and 'doctored invoices' to be exposed leading to the widespread confiscation of many goods from business houses all of which were operated by Chinese visitors.

Business operators who were involved in these acts were summoned by the department to explain themselves and were made to pay the correct amount for duties after the items were properly re-valued. Those who refused to comply with the re-evaluation did not have their items returned and these were sold to the public at an auction conducted by Customs on February 20, at the airport.

Stemming from these incidents, criminal charges are being considered for those who committed breaches against our laws and Immigration have been directed to review the visas of those visitors involved in these breaches and have them deported from Nauru if warranted.

It is intended that these actions will become a normal feature of a reformed border control section of the Justice Department and it should serve as a warning to all business houses to comply with the laws of Nauru in respect of the movement of cargoes or face the consequences. This government does not want to stifle a healthy business environment however businesses must undertake their activities in a fair manner in accordance with the laws of Nauru.

The government is determined to ensure that a level playing field exist for all, hence if duties are being paid by most business houses those few who try to get away with it through deception, evasion and bribery will be punished harshly.

I urge all concerned to heed this advice.

Mr. Speaker, I now just want to speak briefly on the next phase of the border control reforms. The next phase will involve the input of our regional bodies in Customs, Immigration and Police, namely the Oceania Customs Organisation, the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference and the Pacific Chief of Police respectively.

Representatives from these 3 regional bodies will be coming to Nauru at the end of this month to discuss with the Ministry on our needs for these areas and undertake a scoping study of how they can best channel their assistance, focusing mainly on border control issues.

They will also be given the main finding and recommendations of the audit report done by Mr. Salton so it can serve as a guide to their channelled assistance. Mr. Salton has made himself available to meet with them during their visit in Nauru at the end of this month, which will greatly advance the effectiveness of this visit. Mr. Salton has offered his time at no extra cost, which the government gratefully acknowledge and I am sure all Members will share in appreciating this generous offer of free assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I will make sure to update this august House on the continuing reforms of the border control sections, which is a main focus of the Department of Justice for this year. Tubwa, Mr. Speaker.'

(iv) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Minister responsible for NPRT, made the following statement to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I wish to inform this House that I have extended the date for the submission to the Minister of the Trust's Annual Report for the year ending June 2008 in accordance with Section 30 of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust Act 1968-2001.

As the House would be aware my government considers the timely reporting by all Nauruan government entities to be representative of the good governance standards expected by my government. For too long a number of entities have failed to update Parliament with regards to their financial reporting requirements for various reasons.

I have been informed the Trust intends to submit an interim unaudited annual report reflecting its commercial operations through June 30th, 2008. Whilst a departure from the requirements of the Act, a follow-up report fully supported by an accompanying audit report will be submitted to the House in accordance with the requirements of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Act 1968-2001.

I have approved the Trust's request to submit the interim report in the manner outlined no later than 31st March 2009. Thereafter I will table it in this House for information of the Honourable Speaker and Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

(v) Hon. Sprent Dabwido, as Minister for Transport, made a statement to the House which reads as follows:-

'Honourable Speaker and Members, I wish to make a small statement on the Small Islands State Ministers for Transport Meeting which I attended in Suva, Fiji on the 25th of February. I was accompanied by the Secretary for Transport and Telecommunications, Mr. Chris Stephen, and His Excellency Jarden Kephass, Nauru's High Commissioner.

The meeting was to discuss how the small islands of Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Marshall Islands can be best served by the shipping industry.

The meeting was kindly hosted by the South Pacific Community.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Nauru, Kiribati and Tuvalu with the Secretary for Transport representing the Marshall Islands.

Nauru, proposed that since all the studies done by SPC showed little or no interested ship can service Nauru without charging substantial amount, and furthermore since all the islands are facing the same situation, that SPC should stop producing these reports and do a study on the Micronesian Shipping Commission and produce a similar set-up here between the islands of Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Marshall islands and, if Wallis and Futuna are interested to include them as well.

I am pleased to announce that all the islands agreed and thus have given the SPC two months to produce such plan.

To those who are not familiar with what the Micronesian Shipping Commission is, I will try to explain as follows:-

The Shipping Commission in the Northern Micronesia is where the three islands of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau formed a shipping commission which controls the shipping industry that operates within their region. The commission controls and regulates the number of ships operating and sets various conditions on the ships such as, if a shipping line wants to operate a cargo service to Marshall Islands, it must operate also to small islands such as Kosrae or Yap. If they refuse to service Yap or the other islands as directed by the commission, then the commission will refuse them licence to operate even to Marshall Islands where they wanted to operate. This means that all islands, no matter how small, will get the required shipping service it needs. The islands through this commission have immense power over the shippers to the point where they also set the cargo rates.

Sadly in our region this is not the case and thus the shippers have all the power to do as they wish. We, the islands, are at their mercy. If a shipper does not want to come to Nauru but want to service Kiribati then it would do just that, leaving us to pay very high prices for them to come to Nauru.

From this meeting the islands have decided to completely overhaul this system by agreeing to join forces and create a shipping commission that will put the power in the hands of the islands.

It is estimated that there is currently 500 to 600 containers or in dollar term \$2 million worth of freight moving to and from these islands every month. Now with the shipping commission set up the commission will most likely tender out to interested shippers the container volume and also the route the shipper must take. Now what shipper is not going to be interested in a couple of millions every month, obviously they will be interested and thus to win such tonnage will have to abide by the conditions set by the shipping commission.

This proposed shipping commission will bring so much advantage to importers that I do believe that the benefits such as reduced costs of freight will mean a reduction in cost of commodities on the shelves, thus giving the consumers more buying power.

Also with the shipping commission controlling the route, Nauru will benefit also from the ability to trade with more different countries such as Fiji, PNG, Japan and Asia. There are big plans for this and I look forward to the signing of such agreement in the next two months.

In the meantime SPC have produced a temporary plan to allow Nauru to benefit from trading with our close neighbours such as Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

At the meeting the islands have agreed to use Kiribati's shipping company to service Tuvalu and Nauru until the shipping commission is in place. This service, if Cabinet approves, will commence in April. This service will be monthly. The ship will start from Fiji, then to Tuvalu, then onto Kiribati and then to Nauru. The ship can carry both cargo and passengers.

This service will once again allow Nauruans to trade and travel between our neighbours.

Once Cabinet approves of this temporary service, the Ministry of Transport will be writing to all our business entities and other interested parties to notify them of such service.

Honourable Members, it's been a very long time since Nauru have been isolated from our neighbours in trade and travel. This new service will change all that.

This and temporary service and the shipping commission when in place will allow every Nauruan to ship goods from Asia, Australia and even America and of course from our Pacific neighbours as well as at affordable rates. It will also mean that Nauruans on the neighbouring islands can travel on the ship to and from Nauru if they wish.

This means that more different types of goods will be imported from different places allowing the consumer more choice at the shops.

In the past Nauruans had to charter flights to go shopping due to the limited goods here, with this shipping commission, I do hope that there will be so much different and affordable goods here that people will not need to fly out to do their shopping, well unless they like to travel.

The commitment of this Stephen government to improving the living standards for all Nauruans is evident in its head-on tackle on the very expensive freight Nauru has been experiencing in the last 16 years. With the shipping commission, every single person on the island will gain immense benefit from low prices to a larger choice of products that all can enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on a different yet related matter to shipping, whilst in Fiji, the Secretary and I held two meetings with Fiji Ship Builders to finalise the cost and details of the Port's raft. I am pleased to announce that the contract to build the 30-ton raft has been signed and work on the raft is expected to commence this week. The time-line for building the raft is 14 weeks.

I would like to sincerely thank the Australian government for funding this raft which is a vital piece of equipment for unloading and loading of goods to our shores.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in the spirit of the regional co-operation, talofa, mauri, yokwe and mwa tubwa.'

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) moved that the paper be noted.

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

Resumed.

4. Leave of Absence

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen sought leave of absence for Mr. Landon Deireragea (Ewa/Anetan) and Mr. Godfrey Thoma (Aiwo).

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

Leave was granted.

5. Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement and tabled to the House the 'Government Budget Policy Statement 2009-2010', which reads as under:

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am pleased to table today to the House Government's **'Budget Policy Statement 2009-2010'**.*

This is the first time that I am aware of, that any government in Nauru has developed such a statement for public information.

This statement is another mechanism introduced and advanced by the Stephen Government to improve economic management and planning as well as to increase the information given to our people, increasing government transparency, as well as importantly, encouraging public participating in governance and in particular in the budget process.

As all Members well appreciate the formulation of government's budget impacts on all our people's lives directly and indirectly, and sets the platform for economic development for our whole nation. It is therefore significant to the Stephen Government that our people are encouraged to contribute to this process and to at the very least, be well aware and well-informed of government's intentions.

The Budget Policy Statement is intended to set the scene for budget planning and preparation for the coming financial year. It serves as a guide to the general approach government wants to take and the main priorities for the next budget. It also gives directions on issues of importance to government that may not directly be under the government budget but that government wants to address through its instrumentalities and other means.

I should also make it clear, that the Statement is a guide and a framework of policies and priorities, and as such it should not be read as being government's final budget. It is also not an exhaustive list of everything government can or will aim to address in the coming budget. It provides the setting, highlights issues and priorities and gives direction through policies and aims.

The Budget Policy Statement does however serve to give government departments, officials and our government-owned corporations and instrumentalities information on which they can frame their budget submissions for Cabinet and Caucus consideration.

The Statement gives our people information on the direction government is aiming to take in the next year and so provides an opportunity for the public to give their views and feedback through their MPs. We encourage the public to read the Budget Policy Statement and to discuss any issues, concerns or related matters with their Members of Parliament so that they can take these up with government in the planning process and not after the fact when it is too late.

The Ministry of Finance has issued the Budget planning package to all Heads of Departments and all heads of government corporations and instrumentalities.

This package of documents includes the Budget Policy Statement as well as the planned budget time-table. All departments and SOEs have the month of March to develop their initial draft ideas and submissions which will be reviewed by Cabinet at the end of March. All departments and SOEs will then have the month of April to finalise their budget submissions which are all due on the 1st of May.

As in recent years our budget will be heavily influenced by donor assistance, in particular the level and projects funded by Australia. At this time, we expect to have enough details on Australia's assistance for next financial year by late May or early June, which should enable government just enough time to review all the submissions and to finalise the government budget for presentation to Parliament in June.

Mr. Speaker, the coming financial year is expected to be challenging. The global financial crisis is beginning to impact Nauru and the full extent of the consequences cannot be predicted. There are certainly a lot of economic experts with very gloomy predictions for the next couple of years. We cannot expect that Nauru will not be affected. Nauru will be affected by the global financial crisis and we need to take this into account as we plan for the future.

This is something that all Nauruans should do, not just government. We should all make the most of the salaries and other payments that come our way and use our money wisely and for sustained and real benefits, not just a short-lived good time today with nothing to show for it tomorrow.

I encourage all Nauruans to plan carefully how they spend their money and to not waste it. The external pressures of the global economic slow-down will have impacts on all of us in some way or another, so at this time we should remember the painful lessons on the past to help us plan and better use what money we receive today.

Having said that, Members will see from the Budget Policy Statement that government will continue to strive for ongoing and sustainable improvements in everyone's quality of life on Nauru, whilst at the same time government itself will be preparing and saving for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I will not go into the details of the Budget Policy Statement and will leave that for Members reading at their leisure.

I trust Members and our public will appreciate the intentions of the Budget Policy Statement as a means to outline government's priorities and what it hopes to address in the next budget, whilst at the same time acknowledging that the Statement is not government's final budget but a step in the planning process. We welcome comments and feedback from Members as well as the general public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

6. Leave Sought for

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bills sought leave of the House to suspend S.O. 217 and other relevant standing orders to enable him to table the Report of the Select Committee on the Constitutional Amendment Bills to Parliament.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

Leave was granted.

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bills then made a statement with regards to the tabling of the Report, which reads as under:-

'It gives me great pleasure as Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Bills to present the Committee's Report to Parliament.

The Committee has held 30 meetings to consider and debate the matters referred to it, and has worked more intensively than any other Committee in Nauru's parliamentary history. It is apt that this should be so, as this Committee was charged with the great responsibility of considering two bills to amend the supreme law of Nauru, the 1968 Constitution. All members of the Committee have shown the appropriate dedication to this important task, and after lengthy debate have agreed on the recommendations contained in this Report.

After the initial administrative meetings of the Committee that were devoted to producing a work schedule and agenda, all subsequent meetings of the Committee at which proposed constitutional amendments were debated were held in the Parliamentary Chamber and aired live on the radio. The gallery was open to the public during these Committee meetings, and the meetings were also recorded so that verbatim transcripts could be produced for the historical record.

Because of the significance of the proposed amendments to the Constitution that formed the subject matter of this Committee's work, the Committee hopes that this Report will reach a wide audience, and we have therefore tried to draft this Report with a readership of both Parliament and the public in mind. For this reason, section A of Part 1 of the Report explains the constitutional review process and how the work of this Committee fits into that process.

The Committee has also included appendices to this Report which we hope will not only assist members of Parliament during the debates of the Committee of the Whole on the constitutional amendment Bills, but will also serve as a useful reference guide for members of the public who wish to have an overview of this Committee's recommendations, and how they compare to public opinion, the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Commission and the resolutions of the Constitutional Convention. Thus, Appendix 1 to this Report is a comparative table which shows the history of each proposed amendment, and Appendix 2 shows the existing Constitution of Nauru with the recommended amendments of this Committee marked in the text. This enables readers to see what the Constitution would look like if all of the recommendations of this Committee were ultimately adopted.

This Report and its appendices reflect the resolutions that were passed by the Committee. Whilst most resolutions were passed unanimously, sometimes the members of the Committee held different opinions on particular proposed amendments. The healthy debate between members of the Committee has been seen as a positive thing by members of the

Committee and the public alike. But it must be noted that this Report therefore differs in one important respect from ordinary Committee Reports: and that is, that whilst all nine members of this Committee have agreed to adopt this Report and to put their name to it, each member reserves the right to express a view that may differ from a resolution of the Committee contained in this Report when Parliament forms itself into the Committee of the Whole later this year. In signing this Report, members are acknowledging that the Report accurately reflects the resolutions that were passed by the majority of the Committee, but they are not committing themselves to agree with every resolution contained in the Report when they come to debate in the Committee of the Whole.

One other aspect of this Report deserves mention, and that is that the Minutes of the Committee's meetings and the verbatim transcripts of the meetings are not appended to this Report, because they are too voluminous. However, the Minutes and the transcripts are public documents and will be made available to any interested member of the public upon request. Members of the public may read a hard copy of the Minutes and the transcripts within the Parliament building, or may obtain an electronic copy of the Minutes and the transcripts on disk, by requesting them from Katy Le Roy or Jennie Reiyetsi from Friday 13th March onwards.

This Committee was ably assisted in its work by two legal advisors: Mr Gerard Winter of New Zealand, who served the Committee as UNDP legal consultant, and Ms Katy Le Roy, Nauru's very own Parliamentary Counsel and also Secretary and legal advisor to the Committee. The Committee is grateful to the UNDP and the UNDEF for its generous financial assistance to the constitutional review process in Nauru, and in particular for providing this Committee with the services of the UNDP legal consultant. The Committee also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of all those who, at the request of the Committee, provided input and feedback to the Committee on particular provisions of the Constitution, and whose assistance is detailed in section A of Part 2 of this Report.

The Secretariat staff within Parliament have worked extremely long hours during the term of this Committee, and have produced outstanding work. On behalf of the Committee I wish to express our gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Parliament staff in providing support to this Committee, especially to the Clerk of Parliament, Frederick Cain, Jennie Reiyetsi, Sukie Adeang, Charity Kamtaura, Magra Garoa, Lucy Detabouw, Nissa Peo and Francilia Akubor. The Committee is also grateful to the staff of the Nauru Media Bureau, who have worked long hours alongside the Committee in order to ensure that the meetings could be aired on radio and that all proceedings were recorded, and we extend our thanks to them for their hard work.

The Committee also acknowledges and thanks the Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Riddell Akua, M.P., for showing committed interest in the Committee by attending as observer on many of the Committee's meetings in Chamber. The Speaker's observance provided the Committee with swift responses and technical assistance if required at all times. With that, we thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also wish to thank the members of the Committee for the manner in which they have approached their task: with thorough preparation, careful thought, a generous commitment of time and energy and a constructive and co-operative Nauru constitutional spirit.

Mr. Speaker, ian obwen aeo megada ateng also acknowledge eiy mungana won services eita wam Parliamentary Counsel ngana outstanding kor me made this work available. Ebwak ngana eo show eiy ne, me a lot of work mungana in the background ngana riring out of her ordinary time. With that, Mr. Speaker, bita Committee commend eiy eita Parliamentary Counsel me ma otubwa bed through your Chair.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank all members for their time listening to this report. Tubwa, Mr. Speaker.'

8. Appointment of a Member to the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb

The Chair informed the House of a vacancy in the above Select Committee due to the resignation of Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) from the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb and called for nominations.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) nominated Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) to be a member of the Select Committee.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) declined the nomination.

Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) nominated Mr. Waqa (Boe) to be a member of the Select Committee.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Mr. Waqa (Boe) declined the nomination.

Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIE) nominated Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) to be a member of the Select Committee.

Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) seconded.

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) declined the nomination.

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen nominated Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Education) to be a member of the Select Committee.

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

Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Education) accepted the nomination.

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) nominated Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) to be a member of the Select Committee.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) declined the nomination.

There being no other nominations forthcoming, Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Education) was duly appointed member of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb.

10. Motions

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Leader of Government Business in the House, moved that motions 1 to 8 on the notice paper be deferred to the next sitting.

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

Question put and passed.

11. Leave Sought for

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

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Leave was granted.

12. Motion

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Inspector Corey Caleb, moved that the time and date of the Committee in tabling its report to the House be extended to 30th April 2009.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Question put and passed.

13. Leave sought for

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments Bills sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

Leave was granted.

14. Motion

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Constitutional Amendment Bills moved that –

‘Having been referred to a Select Committee and reported, the Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill and the Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill, as reported be considered in the Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.’

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

Question put and passed.

15. Leave of Absence

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) sought leave of absence for Mr. Bernicke (Buada).

Leave was granted.

16. Order of the Day No. 1 - Shipping Bill 2008

That the House resolves 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.

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

Question put and passed.

17. Order of the Day No. 2 – Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

That the statement made by Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) in presenting an end of the year report from the Ministry of Justice, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

18. Order of the Day No. 3 – Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

That the statement made by Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) in tabling a report on Nauru's recent signing of the Convention of Cluster Munitions be noted.

Motion

Mr. Waqa (Boe), as mover of the motion moved that Order of the Day No. 3 be discharged from the notice paper.

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) seconded.

Question put and passed.

19. Order of the Day No. 4 – Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

That the statement made by Hon. Speaker on 5th February 2009, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

20. Order of the Day No. 5 – Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

That the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Telecommunications) on the latest developments in the improvement of Nauru's Telecommunications, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

21. Motion Fixing the date and time for the next Sitting

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that Parliament at its rising do adjourn until Thursday, 12th March 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Question put and passed.

22. 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 10 minutes past 9 o'clock p.m. adjourned until Thursday, 12th March 2009 at 10 a.m.

Members Present

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

*	Mr. Thoma	*	Mr. Deireragea
*	Mr. Bernicke	**	Mr. Adeang

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament

* Leave of Absence
** Suspension