

**Votes & Proceedings
Of the
Eighteenth Parliament**

No. 15

**First Sitting of the Eleventh Meeting
Thursday, 16th April 2009**

10.00 a.m.

1. The House met at 10 a.m. in pursuant to the resolution of the House made on Thursday, 12th March 2009.
2. Hon. Riddell Akua, Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

“Hon. Members, I have a couple of things to say at today’s sitting. Although I had prepared it in English I will read it in Nauruan.

Ngea bita office won MPs magen kor makurin me iyuwen won furniture. Eigigu has advised ngana ro koni n me coming via sea freight. Ngarana murana carpet erouda in bwe enim iwid, so those are the changes. Eigigu advised ngana April 24th ngea wangara hand-over date me I believe ngana ngea daein an orre mona deimanu is after April 24th, so I don’t think the 24th would be advisable.

Ngea second, ngago March 12th amea Hon. Member for Ubenide move eiy won motion ion, the gist of it is to rescind bita motion dogin won suspension amea Hon. David Adeang, me anga regret ia anim pana ngana a eo accept eiy bita won motion dogin mungana wordings. Ngana wording ouge aen ngana enim ta rouda ea ngaben. Me iduwen conflict ea ngen bita Standing Order 62, in the first section of that where it says ngana and casting reflection on that motion.

However garo ngea won gist, me dogin ngaga eo ogaro kor won meaning, it only made an illusion ngana enim rescind eiy bita motion me anga deem it inappropriate ia anim omeatu ne, so amea Hon. Member, as he would have read his notice paper ngago nene, ekeow ian. Me anan dorer in burbur eiy ngune, ngana may I inform Hon. Members that the Parliamentary Counsel is always available to lend assistance ean mungana parliamentary matters, draft eiyen legislation me ia mwa teng move eiy motion that must be worded exactly to the point me ekeowen wanga choice bwe anim accept it as is. I hope garoa Member bita message anga orin pan, me to other Members also. Hon. Members, thank you.’

4. Message from the President

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen made the following statement on the ‘2003 RONWAN Payout, which reads as under:-

‘Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, this morning I wish to make a very short statement on the 2003 RONWAN payout that I have announced in earlier statements to the House and the people.

My government is acutely aware of the heightened level of beneficiary interest concerning the next payment of RONWAN income. My government has previously stated that the next payment of RONWAN will be distributed by June 2009.

I wish to inform this august House that the NPRT trustees met in Brisbane last month, the month of March, and formally approved the payment of the 2003 RONWAN interest.

The next step is to wait on the auditors in Melbourne who are currently reviewing the total unaudited distributable amount. This has taken longer than normal due to the auditors being new and also given government's wish to avoid any discrepancies such as those that have arisen in the past.

The Trust, on receipt of the Audit Report, will then seek Cabinet's approval for the final distribution amount. Thereafter the process of distribution will take place.

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, I wish to advise Members of Parliament and the public at large that once the audit work in Melbourne is completed I will inform everyone of the confirmed date of payment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

5. Notice of Motion

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament he shall move the following motion:-

'That this august House resolve to end the suspension of the Member for Ubenide, Hon. David Adeang, M.P., in which the motion seek to rescind the motion of July 2008, as per S.O. 62 in the second part, whereas 'except upon a motion that such vote be rescinded.'

Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) seconded.

6. Questions Without Notice - were asked.

(Due to audio technical problems with the live broadcasting of procedures on Radio Nauru and in order for the technicians to resolve the matter, the Speaker suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.)

Resumed.

Questions without notice continued.

7. Ministerial Statements & Tabling of Papers

(i) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement on 'Activities Currently Underway Within the Department of Finance', which reads as follows:-

'Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, I wish to update this House on the various activities currently underway within the Department of Finance.

The Government has commenced preparations for the 2009-10 Budget. Caucus has already considered some new policy proposals, and departments are currently preparing baseline budgets for consideration. These baseline budgets are due to be submitted by the end of April.

Similarly, State Owned Enterprises are preparing budgets for consideration by Ministers and Cabinet and these are due also by the end of April.

In January and February, the Department of Finance paid land rents, at the rate of 100% in cash. The final lot of payments, for the former IOM State House site in Meneng are expected to be made next week.

Mr. Speaker, I will update the House on some important activities with our key development partners.

Government of Australia - *Over the next 2 to 3 months the Governments of Australia and Nauru will negotiate our first Partnership for Development. The Partnership will continue the progress made under the various MOU agreements, but will be a more long term and strategic document. It is anticipated that Australia's support will continue at around current levels.*

With funding provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the government is progressing work on converting parts of the Meneng Hotel into suitable accommodation for our long term expatriate employees. A number of apartments have been completed and government expatriate employees have already moved into the completed apartments.

European Market - *The European Union's assistance to Nauru is currently provided through the European Development Fund.*

One of the main projects under the EDF is the EU's regional Renewable Energy Program 5 (REP5). For Nauru, this is providing the infrastructure, technical and in-kind assistance for the installation of grid connected solar panels at Nauru College. Around 2000 prepaid meters for households and businesses will be installed, and it is hoped that installation will be completed by mid 2009.

The programming of the EU's funding for 2010 has already begun and at this stage most of it will be used to support ongoing upgrades in relation to our electricity supply and delivery. The EU's assistance overall is certainly making and will continue to make a major improvement in Nauru's overall electricity and power capacity.

Japan - *The Government of Japan has indicated its willingness to provide another shipment of diesel in 2009, which will be most welcome. Only last week, officials from AMU hosted a visit from Japanese officials and the acting Minister for Utilities and I signed the required agreements for this diesel supply. It is very pleasing to note that Japan's assistance this year is double that provided in earlier years.*

Taiwan - *The Taiwanese Government has provided funding towards the establishment of new telecommunications infrastructure. The Government of Nauru is in the process of signing agreements with Digicel to establish a new telecommunications company on Nauru, providing a wide range of modern telecommunications services.*

The Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (ExIm) provided a loan to PALCo for VH-INU in return for a charge held over, a cash deposit held by Our Airline. The cash deposit was created from the sale of a spare engine. In a show of good faith, the Government of Taiwan recently agreed to the release of this cash reserve which helped to meet the costs of the recent major maintenance 'C' check on VH-INU.

Debt Management Strategy - *In addition to ongoing work on addressing Nauru's external debts, which has already resulted in a number providing forgiveness or agreeing to major write-downs of our debt, as well as payment of some critical debts, government has continued to work on domestic debt issues.*

Government has agreed to a formal write-off of mutual debt held between SOEs, government agencies and entities, and the Government of Nauru. The reality is that it is impossible to get absolute accuracy or certainly on exactly what amounts are owed by which entities. Further, none of the government corporations or entities that continue in operation

or are being rebuilt, have any realistic expectations of ever receiving payment from each other and all budgeting and planning for future rebuilding has not factored this in. However, in order to clear the past mistakes and to clean up the accounts for all government entities, this mutual debt write-off between SOEs is necessary and will provide a clean slate from which all can build on.

MYOB - A number of milestones have been achieved under the MYOB accounting project. The MYOB software has been purchased and installed at five government owned enterprises being Utilities, RONPHOS, the Menen Hotel, Eigigu and NRC. Several of these agencies are progressing well with utilisation of MYOB.

The Department of Finance has begun the process of extending the rollout of MYOB to NC Supermarket and government, as agreed through the MOU negotiations with Australia. In particular, an MYOB payroll specialist is working in the Department of the Chief Secretary to implement the major project of putting the government payroll onto MYOB which is expected to be operational by early June.

Banking - The re-establishment of full banking services on Nauru remains a high priority for your government. Despite the global financial crisis working against Nauru, we continue our endeavours to attract a commercial bank and are continuing to pursue a number of possibilities.

The government is also working towards the closure and liquidation of the Bank of Nauru and AusAID has assisted with funding towards this process. In March, consultants from the firm Deloitte, Touche, Tomatsu were on-island to scope the liquidation process. They have secured all the critical records from the Bank as well as a lot of other information. They have undertaken some initial work on extracting the data from the old ASX400 tapes and some initial analysis of depositors' records. The consultants will return to Nauru in early May to discuss with Cabinet and Caucus the process required and the next steps in this process.

This process will provide expert and independent conclusions about exactly what is owed to all those who have savings tied up in the Bank. Initial indications are that this work can be largely completed in about 1 year. Government would then be in a position to accurately work out what may be done to recover our people's savings that were lost by former governments' abuse of the Bank.

Asian Development Bank - The Government of Australia met the debts in arrears owed by the Government of Nauru to the Asian Development Bank. We are now meeting the ongoing loan repayments to the ADB from our own budget resources.

As a result the ADB is providing technical assistance for the design and establishment of a new Government Trust Fund. Consultants were recently selected to provide legal and corporate governance expertise for this task. Applications have been sought locally for a Community and Information Outreach Specialist for this project, and applications must be submitted by tomorrow, Friday 17th April 2009. Once finalised this team of consultants will work on Nauru over a period of some months, both with government and in consultation with the public and others, to develop a new Trust Fund, separate to the Landowners Trust Fund that will specially be designed to provide future support for government budgets and all its services such as schools, health and infrastructure. This work is vital to help secure the long term future of Nauru, in particular after phosphate mining.

The ADB will also provide support for a project to improve Nauru's port facility which is in desperate need of an upgrade. Government is already in early discussions with other development partners, seeking a joint approach to ensure the funding required for this

major rebuild of our port facility can be achieved. This is a critical infrastructure project, which will cost millions of dollars, but will aim to provide Nauru with a safe, all weather, berthing port to secure our ability to import essential goods and fuel as well as enable us to develop a fisheries service port and facilities.

My colleague, the Hon. Rykers Solomon, M.P., will represent Nauru, on my behalf, at the ADB Annual Governors Meeting to be held in Bali in early May 2009, which will provide an opportunity to further discuss and investigate ADB assistance for Nauru.

Statistics - Based on data obtained through the Household Income and Expenditure survey the Bureau of Statistics has developed a consumer price index. The Bureau undertakes regular surveys of items for the consumer price index and has produced monthly CPI figures since September 2008. These are the first CPI estimates for a very long time, and the aim is to provide additional reporting on economic statistics. As expected, there are fluctuations with each monthly survey, however the trend has been that Nauru's inflation remains at an acceptable level of around 3.8%.

National Sustainable Development Strategy - The Development Planning and Policy Division has completed a progress report on the NSDS, and sought comments from departments prior to finalising the report. Government will now embark on a full revision and update of the NSDS. It has been over 3 years since the NSDS was first tabled and the immediate term goals were targeted to be achieved by the end of 2008. Therefore it is timely that we not only report on our progress but that we now establish updated targets and goals for the next 3 years.

This updated NSDS will be a key document for the next Donor Roundtable which government is planning to host towards the end of this year, 2009. Initial planning and preparations for this have already begun and I also wish to thank Hon. Rykers Solomon for the assistance he has kindly offered in co-ordinating this work.

Mr. Speaker, there is a long list of other activities being progressed by government and the Department of Finance and I would be happy to provide updates and details on any of these other matters if required by Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(ii) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made a statement on 'Activities in the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, much has happened in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since the beginning of the year and I would therefore like to report on some of these activities for the information of the House.

Department Restructuring - A particular priority for the department has been internal restructuring aimed at improving the management and performance of the Department and our overseas missions.

This is a process that includes identifying clearly the policy, role and activities for the department, our foreign missions and its entire staff. It is expected that once completed, this restructuring will result in a far more efficient, proactive Foreign Affairs and Trade Department that will be far more effective in advancing Nauru's interests than it has been in the last decade.

Here at home the department is finalising its new structure with the chief Secretary's department before I take it up to Cabinet for deliberation. The aim of this restructuring includes providing much greater clarity to the division of work and responsibilities within the sections of the department and importantly for the staff themselves. It should also lead to a better model for creating career development pathways and a mechanism for us to develop

career diplomats with a broad range of skills. This re-structure will involve the advertisement of nearly all the posts in the department. This will mean that all existing staff in the department will have to apply for the new positions, along with any other eligible Nauruan. In effect, all will have to prove their worth and gain their position in the restructured department and performance criteria will ensure that all deliver results in order to maintain their positions. The department hopes to complete this exercise by the middle of this year at the latest.

Foreign Missions - Our Foreign Missions have been increasingly active and are playing a major and key role in communicating with a wide range of our development partners and on many, many different issues and projects.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that Nauru's Her Excellency Marlene Moses, has recently been appointed as Chairperson of the Pacific Small Islands Development States (PSIDS) at the United Nations. I will make a separate brief statement on this appointment and her role.

The Brisbane office has been well established both staffing-wise and physically, with only a few last touches being finalised including a modern computer network system which will also serve as a back-up facility for government's server here on-island.

Restructuring of the High Commission in Suva has begun and is ongoing and I am happy to report that 3 posts were advertised, interviews were held and 2 candidates recommended by the Interview Panel are now with me for Government's endorsement. The Panel has yet to finalise the position of Welfare Officer. Also with me for endorsement is the nomination from DFAT for the position of First Secretary in the High Commission. This will become the first position in our plans to create a few postings in our foreign missions that will be filled on rotation by staff from within the Department is intended to be part of the diplomat career development mechanisms. An increasing number of training opportunities are also being taken up as part of the plan to create a cadre of properly qualified foreign affairs officials.

Still on staffing, I am happy to inform the House that the Forum Secretariat has appointed Mr. Michael Aroi of Boe District, to be the Pacific Desk Officer for Nauru. Mr. Aroi started work in March and has since liaised with the government and other stakeholders on the Pacific Islands Forum's decisions and assistance available from the Secretariat, other agencies and through the Pacific Plan. Mr. Aroi has also recently returned from Fiji where he had briefings with the Forum Secretariat, attended the Pacific Plan Officials meeting and held a number of other meetings with Nauru's key development partners. I am very happy to welcome Mike Aroi to this position and am certain that he will be able to contribute to a wide range of activities in this role.

Trade - On trade, and following the adoption of the Work Plan for the Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), a national committee to implement the Plan was formed. The Committee includes representatives from Foreign Affairs and Trade, Finance, Fisheries, Justice, CIE and the private sector. Chaired by DFAT, the Committee is directly meeting to identify areas of interest to Nauru and those that would require technical assistance. Subsequently we have requested some technical assistance from the Forum Secretariat to do some work on our tax reform.

Cabinet endorsed the acceptance of PICTA amendments and these have been sent to the Forum Secretariat. The draft Customs Amendment Act, incorporating the PICTA tariff reduction schedule is still being reviewed by our officials before submission to Cabinet for approval and Nauru has announced that we will be ready to trade with the other Pacific Island Countries under PICTA by the end of September this year.

On PICTA Trade in Services, Cabinet has approved our schedule of offers and requests and these have been submitted to the Forum Secretariat. Our trade officials will be meeting in Nadi next week to further advance our offers and requests with other PICs.

With regards to the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU, no dates have been yet scheduled for the resumption of negotiations between the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the EU. The PICs are, however, having their internal consultations in anticipation of an early resumption of negotiations.

On PACER, a proposed trade agreement between PICs and Australia and New Zealand, the latter are pushing for formal negotiations to begin by the end of the year, but PICs are having serious capacity constraints in simultaneously negotiating EPA, PICTA and PACER. We will continue to work closely with our neighbours in the region and with the support of the Forum Secretariat and others to ensure that Nauru remains on top of all these trade matters and that Nauru's interests are and continue to be reflected in all these negotiations.

For the department, trade negotiations will therefore be one of, if not the main occupation it will have to grapple with from now until the end of the year. The need to build the capacity of the department and our officials and government as a whole is paramount.

Whilst there are certain differing views on the benefits or otherwise of trade agreements for the Pacific Islands, it is my firm view that Nauru has the potential to reap great benefits from the liberalisation that comes with trade agreements. However, it is crucial that our private sector is developed and prepared to actively participate in trade. Even on a small scale, these trade agreements will open up a lot of potential for Nauru's private sector and the public, not only for trade in goods, but also in services and labour mobility as well as having services being provided on Nauru that we currently do not have. The key for Nauru in ensuring we reap the benefits, is to build our capacity, both in government and crucially in our private sector, and to be prepared to take up the opportunities these trade agreements will open up for us.

Foreign Dignitary Visits to Nauru - *Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have the Ambassadors from the Republic of Fiji, Japan and the European Union visiting us to present their credentials during the first quarter of this year. Through those visits we consolidated and strengthened our bilateral relations with their respective countries. And next week I am happy to announce that Cuba's Ambassador to Nauru, who is based in Canberra, will also visit Nauru to present his credentials and I am sure we will all extend to him a very warm welcome.*

There will then be a mission from the UNDP visiting Nauru in the following week and May is another busy month with formal talks scheduled with Australia on the new Partnership for Development which will replace the current MOU which expires at the end of June. The President will also lead a delegation to Japan to attend the PALM Summit between leaders of Japan and the Pacific Island countries. Due to other commitments, I will be sending a number of Caucus Members to attend international meetings on my behalf and I will report the outcomes of these meetings to the House in due course.

Fiji - *Mr. Speaker, in closing I wish to make some brief comments in relation to the recent events in Fiji. Members may well be aware from coverage in the international media that there has been a dramatic deterioration in governance and democracy in Fiji.*

Fiji's Court of Appeal handed down a ruling last Thursday, which amongst other things stated that the military coup and removal of the democratically elected Qarase government in December 2006 was unlawful and that the appointment of Commodore Bainimarama as interim Prime Minister was also unlawful under Fiji's Constitution. There

was brief window of hope that this would have provided a clear pathway forward to democratic elections. However, the following day, President Iloilo abrogated Fiji's Constitution, removed all judicial appointments and stated that elections would not happen for another 5 years. He subsequently re-appointed Commodore Bainimarama as interim Prime Minister.

The reaction from regional leaders and the Forum has been quick and consistent with its condemnation of the actions taken by President Iloilo and Commodore Bainimarama. Pacific Leaders are already in communication on what actions the Forum will take and details of this will be announced through the Forum Chair and Secretary General.

However, I wish to reassure and advise all Nauruans with family or other interests in Fiji that despite these events occurring over the Easter weekend, government maintained a very close watch on the situation in Fiji and was in communication with our High Commissioner frequently to ensure that government, at all times, was well informed of any potential risk to Nauruans and our interests in Fiji.

I can assure everyone that all reports from our High Commissioner in Suva have been reassuring and have confirmed that there has not been any risk to our students and other Nauruans in Fiji.

I can also assure everyone that government, in addition to monitoring the situation, has already begun discussions on what measures we may need to be prepared to take to protect the welfare of our students and other Nauruans in Fiji. If this requires evacuation of Nauruans or relocating students or any other measures, I assure everyone that government will be ready to do what is required.

Should the situation deteriorate in Fiji, government will keep all informed of actions we will take to protect the welfare of Nauruans in Fiji.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to update Members on any further aspect of government's activities in Foreign Affairs and Trade at any time. Thank you.'

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

(iii) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made a statement relating to the departure of Taiwan's Ambassador to Nauru, which reads as follows:

'Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, I wish to inform the House that His Excellency Bruce Fuh will complete his term as the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) Ambassador to Nauru at the end of this month and will return home to Taiwan on the 1st of May.

Ambassador Fuh has been Taiwan's Ambassador on Nauru for nearly 2 years having arrived in mid-2007.

Ambassador Fuh has been instrumental in further strengthening our close relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and in particular, was key in advancing a number of crucial projects for Nauru's benefit.

This has included promoting a significant increase in the annual grant Nauru receives from Taiwan and the signing of the new MOU between Nauru and Taiwan on our bilateral co-operation. With Ambassador Fuh's close working style and co-operation, the use of the annual grant for a range of activities has been a swift and smooth process and has assisted Nauru in a range of ways, including support for Nauru's overseas missions, a major grant for the new telecommunications system, purchase of diesel, funding for training of our welders, payments for the first aircraft and generous general budget support.

Ambassador Fuh also pushed and helped to ensure the donation of rice which we received earlier this year.

Ambassador Fuh personally championed and sought out hospitals in Taiwan who were willing to provide doctors to be stationed here on Nauru. We now have doctors from Taiwan, in essence on-island all the time and on a rotating basis, which has been a valuable support for our health services. This is, of course, in addition to the Visiting Taiwan Medical Missions that come in for 1 to 2 weeks at a time.

Apart from the key role Ambassador Fuh has played in a wide range of projects for Nauru's benefit he was also instrumental in arranging President Stephen's State Visit to Taiwan last year which was a great success and most valuable in further developing our strong relationship with Taiwan.

Ambassador Fuh also co-ordinated the visit to Nauru of Taiwan's Vice President who joined us in celebration of our 40th Anniversary of Independence.

I am certain that all Members will join me in expressing Nauru's most sincere appreciation for Ambassador Fuh's personal efforts for Nauru and for playing a pivotal role in further strengthening our already close and friendly ties with Taiwan.

We wish Ambassador Fuh well in his future role and wherever this may take him and wish his family the best of health and also thank them for their support during his term, especially Madam Joan Fuh.

Ambassador Fuh will be replaced by Ambassador Wan, Chia-Hsin who has been Director of Taiwan's Office in Canada since 2003. Thank you.

(iv) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made a statement relating to Ambassador Moses' election as Chairperson of the PSIDS, which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues, I am very pleased to announce that Nauru's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency Marlene Moses, has recently been elected as Chairperson of the Pacific Small islands Developing States (PSIDS) at the United Nations.

This appointment is recognition of the stature Nauru's Ambassador has and continues to build in New York at the United Nations, and Nauru should rightly be proud of this appointment. Ambassador Moses' strong voice, influence and diplomatic skills are well renowned and have been instrumental in advancing Nauru's interests for many years. She will now also use her talents to represent the Pacific at the United Nations and this will bring further benefit to Nauru and raise Nauru's reputation at the UN.

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) is a group comprised of Permanent Representatives of Pacific United Nations member states that maintain a presence in New York, namely Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The PSIDS group was formed in 2007. The objective of this group is to provide a strong and unified voice at the multilateral level in the pursuit of achieving national priorities specifically in the area of sustainable development, environment, climate change and gender.

The PSIDS group is recognised at the UN as a solid, cohesive and unified political group.

Since its formation, the group has established a workable development framework with the Governments of Italy, Austria and the City of Milan. The group intends to establish similar arrangement with other non-traditional development partners in due course.

The group has also visited Italy, Austria, Venezuela, Cuba, Turkey, Brazil and Israel at the invitation of the respective governments meeting high-level officials including various Heads of States, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers.

The group further heightened its profile this year through its Draft Resolution 'Climate Change and its Security Implications' that it proposes to introduce in the General Assembly in the coming days.

The group has collectively pushed the UN to implement satellite offices in each of the PICs that do not currently have a UN presence. Implementation of such an office in Nauru is in its final stages.

The Chair of the PSIDS group is normally held by the Ambassador whose country is responsible for holding the Pacific Islands Forum Chair. In this connection, Papua New Guinea and Tonga have previously held the role of Chair.

Following the imminent departure of the Ambassador of Tonga this week, the Pacific Island Ambassadors have chosen Nauru to lead the group until the Solomon Islands assumes the Forum Chair.

As the incoming Chair, Ambassador Moses has a primary responsibility to organise and chair PSIDS meetings, deliver statements and represent the group on collective issues at the United Nations.

As Chair, Ambassador Moses will be the voice and face PSIDS in New York and thus will in doing so raise the profile of Nauru in the international arena.

Mr. Speaker, I trust all Members will join me in congratulating Ambassador Marlene Moses on her being elected to this position as Chairman of the PSIDS group at the United Nations. Thank you.

(v) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made a statement and laid on the Table of the House inter-subhead transfers approved by Cabinet:

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

Presidency – Head 1 - An increase of \$1,020 for subhead 305 – Telephone/Fax was required to cover the President's communication costs whilst overseas. An increase in subhead 423 for Official Celebrations was provided to cover expenses in relation to this year's Independence Day celebrations.

A decrease in both subhead 301 for Printing and Stationery and subhead 353 for R & M Plant provided for the above increases.

Ministerial - Head 2 - The provisions under the Ministerial budget for subhead 270 for Entertainment and subhead 352 for Stores items were anticipated to be insufficient for the remainder of the financial year and so an increment of \$2,500 and \$1,000 was provided to cover these costs respectively.

It is unlikely that subhead 305 for telephone/fax and subhead 311 for R & M office Equipment will be fully expended at the end of this financial year. Therefore a proposed decrease of \$2,000 and \$1,500 for the respective subheads was transferred to replenish subhead 270 and 352.

Chief Secretary – Head 02 - Addition work on matters such as pending salaries and the electricity deductions required extra printing and stationery resources and so

a transfer of \$3,000 from subhead 359 – Electricity, was approved on the basis that there remains over \$43,000 after this ISHT in this subhead to cater for government electricity bills.

Judiciary – Head 44 - The Judiciary had almost depleted its budget for printing and stationery and so \$1,000 was transferred to this subhead from subhead 528 – Staff Training, as no expenditure had been made against this subhead all year.

Education – Head 51 - Education had insufficient funds remaining under subhead 251 for Staff Travel and an extra \$5,000 was approved to enable the payment of airfares and travel for two new expatriate teachers.

This was funded by transfer out of subhead 203 – Salaries – Expatriates.

Health – Head 61 - Health requested an increase in subhead 251 for Travel – Staff of \$41,480 to cover costs of travel for medical personnel proceeding on recreational and terminal leave as well as to accommodate travel costs for incoming personnel recruited from India, Fiji, Tonga and Cuba.

An increase in subhead 203 – Salary – Expatriate of \$21,602 was also requested to provide sufficient funds to cater for the monthly allowances government is committed to provide for the Cuban Medical team. At the time of the submission 3 months provision was provided for. However, it has just been confirmed in the last couple of days that due to visa requirements the Cuban Medical Team consisting of 4 persons will not arrive until June.

Nauru has 9 students studying medicine in Cuba and government provides them with some support with monthly allowances. An increase of \$4,053 was required for subhead 528 to ensure these allowances could be continued through to the end of the financial year.

These increases were funded by a combination of decreases in subheads for local salaries, electricity, Nauruan Housing maintenance and health and hygiene projects, all of which had more than sufficient funds to meet planned expenditures for the remainder of the budget year.

Land Transport – Head 92 - The increase in subhead 353 of \$14,000 for R. & M. Plant is to cover the purchase of parts and to pay for servicing, maintenance and repairs on government fleet vehicles.

This was funded by a decrease in subhead 502 for Plant & Equipment which was originally for purchase of tools which are not needed at present.

Maritime – Head 93 - The lack of flights between Nauru and Kiribati has resulted in increased costs associated with travel for annual recreation leave for the Harbour Master and his family, who are i-Kiribati. An increase in subhead 251 of \$1,650 covers the additional costs of travel via Solomons and Fiji as well as transit expenses.

A decrease in subhead 371 for food rations is to replenish subhead 251.

Summary of Inter Subhead Transfers -

Increases

Head	Agency	Subhead No.	Item	Increase (\$)
01	Presidency	305	Telephone/Fax	1,020
01	Presidency	423	Official Celebrations	520
02	Ministerial	270	Entertainment	2,500
02	Ministerial	352	Stores Items	1,000
03	Chief Secretary	301	Printing & Stationery	3,000
44	Judiciary	301	Printing & Stationery	1,000

51	Education	251	Travel - Staff	5,000
61	Health	251	Travel - Staff	41,480
61	Health	528	Staff Training	4,053
61	Health	203	Salary - Expatriate	21,602
92	Land Transport	353	R. & M - Plant	14,000
93	Maritime	251	Travel - Staff	1,650

Decreases

Head	Agency	Subhead No.	Item	Decrease (\$)
01	Presidency	301	Printing & Stationery	840
01	Presidency	353	R. & M. - Plant	700
02	Ministerial	305	Telephone/Fax	2,000
02	Ministerial	311	R. & M. - Office Equipment	1,500
03	Chief Secretary	359	Electricity	3,000
44	Judiciary	528	Staff Training	1,000
51	Education	203	Salaries - Expatriates	5,000
61	Health	202	Salaries - Local	11,304
61	Health	359	Electricity	41,500
61	Health	512	Nauruan Housing Main'ence	8,000
61	Health	421	Health & Hygiene Projects	6,331
92	Land Transport	502	Plant & Equipment	14,000
93	Maritime	371	Food Rations	1,650

9. Motions

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Leader of Government Business in the House, moved that motion Nos. 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.

10. Orders of the Day No. 1 - Shipping Bill 2008.

That the House 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. Order of the Day No. 2 - Tobacco Control Bill 2009

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

Motion

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Leader of Government Business in the House, moved that Order of the Day No. 2 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Question put and passed.

12. Order of the Day No. 3 - Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust (Amendment) Bill 2009

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

13. Motion - Third Reading

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

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

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

14. Order of the Day No. 4 - Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers.

On the question that the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) on 10th March 2009 be noted.

Motion

Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) moved that Order of the Day No. 4 be adjourned and made an Order of the Day at the next sitting.

Mr. Waqa (Boe) seconded.

Question put and passed.

15. Order of the Day No. 5 - Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill 2008 & Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2008

That the House, by its resolution of 10th March 2009, resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the two Bills.

Motion

Mr. Amwano (Ubenide) as Chairman of the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments Bills, moved that consideration of the two Bills be adjourned and made Orders of the Day at the next sitting.

Mr. Waqa (Boe) seconded.

Question put and passed.

16. Motion Fixing the date for the next sitting

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

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

Question put and passed.

17. Leave of Absence

(i) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen sought leave of absence for Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Justice) who was away on government business overseas.

Leave was granted.

(ii) Mr. Dowiyogo (Ubenide) sought leave of absence for Mr. Bernicke (Buada) who is overseas seeking medical treatment.

Leave was not granted.

18. Adjournment

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that the House do adjourn.

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at 30 minutes past 6 o'clock p.m. adjourned until a time and date to be fixed by the Chair.

Members Present

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

- * Mr. Batsiua
- ** Mr. Adeang
- Mr. Bernicke

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament

- * Leave of Absence
- ** Suspension

