

**Votes & Proceedings
Of the
Eighteenth Parliament**

No. 28

**First Sitting of the Sixteenth Meeting
Thursday, 26th November 2009**

10.00 a.m.

1. The House met at 10 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Dominic Tabuna, M.P., Deputy Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

Hon. Deputy Speaker made the following statement to the House:

‘Honourable Members, I would like to report to you some of the developments in Parliament.

Parliament is proud to welcome and work with our new Assistant Parliamentary Counsel, Ms. Catriona Steele. Ms. Steele is here with us sitting in the Parliamentary Counsel’s chair. Ms. Steele was formerly the Assistant Parliamentary Counsel for the Northern Territory Legislative Council in Australia and brings with her experience and expertise that this Parliament will certainly treasure.

Also assisting us because the Speaker and Clerk are away on official business is our trainee, Mr. Raines Stephen, who is sitting in with us this morning.

There is a project in its final stages which is the renovation of the restrooms in Parliament and I thank Eigigu who had done it in a week’s time and I thank Eigigu Holdings for their work.

Just a brief comment on two meetings that I attended. I attended the 18th CPA Australia and Pacific Seminar in Wellington from the 2nd to the 6th of November. The meeting was attended by all the Australian states and territories including the Federal Parliament, New Zealand and Pacific island countries’ Members of Parliament. Some of the issues that were discussed were climate change and energy. Something worth noting is the technological advances in energy that were made aware to us included a 5 Mw plant in Western Australia using waves and 10 Mw solar thermal energy that uses solar without the need to use batteries but works 24 hours a day, using graphite blocks. The meeting concluded with a resolution requiring the CPA and developed member states to help Pacific island states undertake necessary practical measures in dealing with tsunamis including warning systems, etc.

In my second meeting held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from the 7th – 10th November, I attended a small island states meeting consisting of countries from Caribbean, African and Pacific small states. The meeting was for parliamentarians and I attended on behalf of our Minister for CIE. The meeting was essentially on climate change; and the meeting had some very good attendees including IPC scientists, etc. The meeting concluded with its pledge of the Tuvalu target which essentially says that we should save Tuvalu in which will mean that it will save us and we should take the Tuvalu lead of 100% renewable that Tuvalu is taking.

Members, I thank you.’

Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

4. **Questions on Notice**

Question No. 16 of 2009 was replied to.

5. **Questions Without Notice** were asked.

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

(i) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke, as Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, made the following statement:-

Mr. Deputy Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I am very pleased to announce to the House today, the agreement of this Government to the appointment of Australia's new High Commissioner to Nauru, based in Nauru.

This follows my announcement in August that Australia had elevated the status of their diplomatic representation in Nauru from a Consulate General to a High Commission. This reflects the ongoing strengthening and development of our diplomatic relations with Australia.

Having once had an Australian High Commission resident in Nauru for many years, it was somewhat disappointing that the former High Commission was closed in the 1990s. With the heightened re-engagement of Australia in Nauru in 2001, Australia opened a Consulate General on Nauru, but until now, Australia's High Commissioner to Nauru had been non-resident and served Nauru from Fiji. The Australian High Commissioner to Nauru until now had been Mr. James Batley.

Australia has now appointed Mr. George Fraser as the Australian High Commissioner to Nauru, resident in Nauru.

On behalf of Government, I would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Fraser on his appointment. This appointment is clearly a reflection of the excellent work he has done since being posted to Nauru in 2007 as Consul General. I know that Mr. Fraser will continue to build on his experience in Nauru and use this to further the development of our relations and to work for the benefit of the mutual interests of Australia and Nauru.

I am certain all Members will join me in congratulating Mr. Fraser and will continue to work closely with him and the Australian High Commission to further build on our already substantial and close relations.

Mr. Speaker, Nauru's own diplomatic representation in Australia, as Members well know, was for many years based in Melbourne as a Consulate General. The Consulate was relocated to Brisbane and Mrs. Clarissa Jeremiah has served as Consul General for the most part of the last two years and was instrumental in establishing the new Consulate in Brisbane.

This in itself was a major task and involved cleaning up a lot of loose ends from Melbourne and in essence required the establishment of professional systems and practices that had been missing for too many years.

Mrs. Clarissa Jeremiah will be completing her posting as Consul General to Australia in December and will be returning to Nauru. Following a period of leave she will be reassigned to a senior role in the public service where I am certain she will continue to deliver results as effectively as she has done for Government in her role in Australia.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express Government's sincere gratitude for all her hard work and tireless efforts as Nauru's Consul General to Australia.

Mr. Speaker, I am further pleased to announce to the House today that Mrs. Clarissa Jeremiah will be succeeded by Mrs. Chitra Jeremiah as Nauru's Consul General to Australia.

Mrs. Chitra Jeremiah has a post-graduate degree in International Relations and a Bachelor of Arts. She is currently serving as Nauru's Vice-Consul to Australia and was previously Director of the Aid Management Unit. She has also held a number of senior posts including Acting Chief Secretary, Presidential Counsel, Pacific Islands Forum Representative to Nauru and she has considerable foreign affairs experience having served in the department for several years.

Government is very pleased that we have people with such strong credentials and of such a high calibre who are able to follow on and continue the work of their predecessors. Given Mrs. Chitra Jeremiah's background, and in addition to her direct responsibilities in Australia, it is intended that she will also be involved in a number of key international issues, beginning with the upcoming review of the Mauritius Strategy on development of Small Island States.

Again, I am certain the House joins me in congratulating Mrs. Chitra Jeremiah on her appointment as Consul General to Australia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as Members would no doubt have noticed, the Heads of our Foreign Missions returned to Nauru a couple of weeks ago. There were two main reasons for their return to Nauru. Firstly, to assist with and participate in the Donor Round Table. Secondly, we held the first ever Head of Mission Consultations last week.

The Head of Mission Consultations provided a valuable opportunity for the Heads of Missions to meet with the President, Ministers, all Departments and a number of instrumentalities. This was intended to ensure that our foreign missions are well versed in the activities of our departments as well as their needs, and that we maximise the potential of our foreign mission's ability to work with our departments. These consultations also provided an opportunity for our foreign missions to highlight to all relevant departments the key supporting role they play in assisting our missions deliver on their responsibilities.

As part of the program for the week, internal Departmental consultations were held involving all the staff of our Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I chaired these consultations and am very happy that the discussions will result in a far better degree of communication and a much better working relationship between our foreign missions and our head office.

There were a number of agreed tasks resulting from the Departmental consultations. Some of these include the redrafting of the Foreign Relations & Trade Policy Statement as well as a review to be undertaken by our foreign missions in conjunction with the Department, on Nauru's foreign representation.

The review will look at matters such as where Nauru would be best served focussing foreign diplomatic representation, at what levels and in what manner, as well as the benefits and costs of doing so. This will include an assessment of our diplomatic representation in Australia and the feasibility of upgrading this to a High Commission in Canberra.

Reports on these important issues will be submitted to me in the first quarter of 2010 for submission to Cabinet for further consideration.

Mr. Speaker, the recent work in restructuring the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, including new appointments, is just the beginning of ongoing work we are undertaking to better equip our staff with knowledge and skills, and better ensure that Nauru is active and effective in our foreign relations.

The developments of recent years have clearly demonstrated the critical importance our foreign relations and policies play in our recovery. Ensuring that we are well informed, effective and competent in our foreign relations will be crucial to ensuring our ongoing development and to ensuring Nauru plays a positive role in our region and internationally. We must also be actively developing and strengthening our relations with existing diplomatic

allies, especially our closest friends, like Australia and Taiwan, whilst at the same time, actively developing new friendships that advance our national interest.

A strong and skilled workforce in our department as well as in our foreign missions will help ensure our goals. Thank you, Mr Speaker.'

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

Resumed.

Ministerial statements and tabling of papers continued.

(ii) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made the following statement on his recent overseas meetings:-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I wish to give a statement on recent overseas meetings.

As per my advice to the House at the last sitting, I attended the Special Forum Trade Ministers Meeting in Brisbane held on 23-24 October. I was accompanied to this meeting by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Assistant Director Lara Atto and our staff from our Consulate in Brisbane.

The objectives of the Meeting were to consider and make decisions on progress towards the appointment of the Chief Trade Adviser and the establishment of the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor, the framework for the PACER Plus negotiations including timelines for negotiations, identification of issues relating to PACER Plus arrangements common to all Forum countries, and issues in respect of which the Chief Trade Advisor could negotiate. The meeting also discussed the preparatory work for PACER Plus negotiations, including engagement with Non-State Actors, and other matters relating to PACER Plus.

I am happy to report that at this Special Forum Trade Ministers meeting, which includes Australia and New Zealand, Ministers noted the decision of Forum Island Countries to appoint Dr. Christopher Noonan as our Chief Trade Adviser for the PACER Plus negotiations. Ministers, amongst other things, also, agreed that during the preliminary stage of negotiations, within the next 12 months, members would focus on:

- Consolidating the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor;*
- Intensifying national consultations, bearing in mind the different capacities of Member countries to undertake consultations; and*
- Undertaking meetings at Officials level to deepen our understanding on common priority issues including, but not limited to:*
 - Rules of Origin;*
 - Regional Labour Mobility;*
 - Development Assistance, focusing on physical infrastructure for trade, trade development and promotion; and*
 - Trade Facilitation, including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Standards and Customs Procedures.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, PACER Plus holds a lot of potential for Nauru and the region if we get it right. So much so that we have already engaged a consultant assisted by two local counterparts to assess the potential challenges, costs and benefits of PACER Plus in so far as Nauru is concerned. The team has and will continue to consult all stakeholders and will submit their draft report by the end of this month.

I have attached for the information of Members, a copy of the Outcomes Document from this meeting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the Trade Meeting in Brisbane, I went on to the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands. I was accompanied to this meeting by the Secretary for Finance.

This meeting covered a range of issues but the Global Economic Crisis and how we can respond to and get through the crisis were certainly the top item on the agenda. A lot of discussions were held on policy responses Government's can make as well as ways development partners and others can assist Pacific countries deal with the crisis.

Specific attention was given to the need for investment in economic infrastructure and a request for development partners and financial institutions to support this. Similarly, specific attention and requests for support was given to the need for development of our private sector.

In addition, the Forum Secretariat was tasked with a number of activities, including looking at ways Government's can improve revenue collection overall, specifically to work with Fisheries Ministers on maximising returns from our fisheries resources, advancing specific regional regulatory options and working through regional approaches to strengthen statistics and customs services.

Ministers also gave attention to the Cairns Compact and developing a roadmap to take this forward. This will include a process of annual peer reviews and Nauru has already advised the Forum Secretariat of our desire to be involved in this process from the beginning.

I have also attached a copy of the outcomes of this meeting for the information of Members. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.'

(iii) Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) made the following statement on his trip to the Kingdom of Tonga:-

'Hon. Deputy Speaker and Hon. Members, I wish to make a brief statement on my trip to the Kingdom of Tonga on the 12 and 13 of October. The purpose of the trip was to attend the 6th Conference of the Pacific Community. I was accompanied by Mr. Mike Aroi.

Over the two days of the meeting a lot of issues were raised and discussed concerning the assistance of SPC to the region and to individual country member. There is a joint communiqué that was agreed to by all members attending, for those who are interested copies of the communiqué will be made available.

I won't go into all the details that were covered in the meetings, but I will touch upon issues which are of concern to us.

SPC's budget for 2009/10 is approximately USD63 million.

Since 2005 Nauru have had just over \$2 million worth of assistance from SPC, averaging approximately \$500,000 per year.

Most assistance has been in the form of technical and training programs.

In keeping the focus on the theme of the conference which was 'Maximising Impacts of Regional Programs at National Level, Nauru raised the concern that assistance should be aligned with our National Sustainable Development Strategy or commonly known as NSDS. Nauru also invited SPC to attend the Donor Round Table meeting and see for themselves the needs of this nation and to assist where they can for I did notice that last year, 2008, SPC's assistance did drop off.

Nauru expressed its support for the SPC's corporate plan objective of 'Increased Focus on Members' Priorities', and the development of individual Joint Country Strategies with national partners. We believe that this corporate plan will be able to focus on our NSDS and set the priorities for SPC's assistance.

Also at that conference it was unanimously resolved to extend the contract of the Director General, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, for another two years.

I do wish to thank whole-heartedly Mr. Mike Aroi for all his hard work and advices during the entire trip, for which I am very grateful.

With these comments, I thank you for your kind attention.'

(iv) Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) made the following statement on his attendance at a Forum Disability Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands:- *'Mr. Deputy Speaker me Honourable Members, I wish to make a short statement on an official travel I undertook recently.*

On October 19, I headed a delegation from Nauru comprising of the Secretary for Education, Dr. Maria Gaiyabu and Ms. Elmina Quadina representing able/disabled persons in Nauru – to attend the first ever Pacific Forum Disability Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands.

The meeting was mandated by the Pacific Islands' Forum leaders meeting in Cairns earlier this year to look at a common regional approach to managing disability issues in the respective Forum countries. The emergence of this meeting also clearly flagged the Pacific Islands' Forum leaders wish to elevate the status of disability issues and their urging of states to ensure disability issues figure prominently in national plans, policies and strategies.

At the meeting I presented an update on our current management and handling of disability issues and informed them some of the challenges and constraints facing us in effectively progressing these matters. The core problem I raised was our current fragmented approach whereby there was no single department focussing on disability issues. Instead we have few departments doing their part to meet disability needs in Nauru.

I mentioned that in our NSDS there is intention to undertake an assessment on how to consolidate disability issues under one umbrella entity. In all countries in the region this is the case but not in Nauru. In other countries in the region disability services are consolidated in my Ministry, i.e. Ministry for Disability Services or Ministry for Social Services, etc. I flagged that this is what we are moving towards as mentioned in our NSDS.

Some other significant issues at the meeting were the encouragement of Pacific Islands Forum countries to sign and ratify the new Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the endorsement of a Pacific Regional Strategy on Disabilities.

I flagged our willingness to consider these matters but did outline our concern on the onerous reporting requirements of International Conventions and part of our decision making process will take these matters into account to ensure that it is feasible for us to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the margins of the meeting I met with the Head of the Regional Disabilities Association who offered to assist us develop our national disability plan. I expressed our interest as establishment of a national Disability Plan will enable us to move significantly towards the achievement of our NSDS short-term milestone on the issues of disabilities.

This offer will be followed up soon with the officials.

Mr. Speaker, for the interest and benefit of Members I have circulated to all Members and your staff an e-copy of my presentation at the meeting. Tubwa kor.'

Mr. Tsitsi (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

(v) His Excellency President Marcus Stephen, as Minister for Police, made the following statement to the House:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as Minister for Police I wish to briefly inform Members of this House that recently the Australian Federal Police had deployed Mr. Bennet Foster as the new Logistic Administration Officer providing assistance to the Nauru Police Force, Police Capacity Program, replacing Mr. Austin Vaughn pursuant to the

'Agreement between Australia and Nauru concerning additional police and other assistance to Nauru (2004)'.

Mr. Foster arrived in Nauru on 2nd November 2009 and is scheduled to be working in Nauru for 3 months.

He joined the Australian Federal Police in 2007 as team support member for the International Development Group.

Mr. Foster graduated from the University of Canberra with a Bachelor of Applied Economics (Major in Finance.)

I take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the government and the people of Nauru and in particular the Nauru Police Force, our deepest thanks and appreciation to the Australian Federal Police and the Government of Australia for its continued support and assistance to the Republic. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker'.

(vi) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made the following statement to the House:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I am pleased to make this statement as I table to the House the "National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 – As Revised 2009" and the "National Sustainable Development Strategy Review".'

Work on the review began several months ago and many hours and an immense amount of effort was put in by many people. In tabling these documents I wish to acknowledge and express Government's deep appreciation to all those who worked on these documents. I want to in particular thank and express how pleasing it has been to be able to say that the vast majority of the work in this review was done by our own staff and officials in all our Departments and instrumentalities. There was also considerable and valuable input from NGO's and the community.

I do also want to particularly thank the members of the working group and in particular Hon Rykers Solomon and Mr Peter Depta. This working group provided the leadership and driving force for this work and co-ordinated inputs from Departments, instrumentalities, NGOs, communities and others. This review could not have been achieved without them.

Government is also grateful to the United Nations for organising the team of experts who came in the final stages and assisted giving the review its polish.

The review has resulted in two documents. One that provides a report on progress in implementing the 2005 NSDS over the last 3-4 years and analyses obstacles and challenges to our successful achievement of goals and milestones.

The second provides a revision of the short and medium term milestones. This takes into account achievements over the last 4 years, changes in our circumstances and adds new focus to areas that were lacking or weak in the original NSDS. The revised NSDS also has a more logical structure that better displays the input we have received from departments, instrumentalities and the community.

These documents were presented to donors at the recent Donor Round Table and were very well received. A lot of compliments were made on the process as well as the new and improved structure and the content. In particular, positive mention was made of the key performance indicators and that the structure will make it easier for donors to identify where they may be able to assist our development as well as to track and monitor our progress.

Apart from its usefulness to our development partners, obviously the key purpose of these documents is to provide the strategic framework for all government planning and they will be the reference against which Sector Plan, Departmental Corporate Plans, Annual Operational Plans and budgets are developed and monitored.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a big thank you to everyone involved and who provided contributions and I trust Members will find these documents useful. Thank you.'

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

(vii) Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) made a statement on Our Airline's route to Fiji via Kiribati which reads as under:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker and Hon. Members, please allow me to make a brief statement on the historic occasion where on the 7th of this month, Our Airline spread its wings again to our neighbouring countries of Kiribati and Fiji.

After nearly two years of exhaustive work from the highest office, Cabinet, this auspicious House including the Office of the Speaker, the Chairman and Board of Our Airline, the management team and every staff at Our Airline, finally on the beautiful morning of Saturday just after 11 a.m. Our Airline touched down gently at the Bonriki International Airport of Tarawa, Kiribati.

Thanks and appreciation must go to all that are involved including the Governments of Fiji and Kiribati.

On the inaugural flight the government delegation consisting of my wife and daughter, the Minister for Justice and Health, the Secretary for Transport and Telecommunications, the vice Chairman of Our Airline, the board representative of Our Airline and the CEO of Our Airline were all warmly greeted by the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Temate and his Secretary for Transport and the vice Chairman and CEO of Air Kiribati.

There was a welcoming reception which was followed by speeches from both Ministers and the vice Chairman of Air Kiribati on strengthening our commitment to work together to achieve the common goal of having a reliable air service which is also very much affordable. This goal can only be achieved by having the two countries work together closely as partners and with the same commitment and goal. Air Kiribati and the Government of Kiribati are fully committed to working with the Government of Nauru and Our Airline in reaching this common goal.

It was truly a great achievement for this Stephen government who had to work very hard to finally win back this route. As you all will recall, this route was very profitable for Air Nauru before it lost the route due to losing to its one and only aircraft in 2005 to receivers, and to hand this route over to a bigger competitor to service this route everyone knew that it will be almost impossible to get the route back.

This small island of ours and its small airline fought everyone to get it back. We fought whoever stood in our path, from governments a hundred times bigger than us, an airline that is a thousand times bigger and more powerful than our own airline. We even had to fight fuel companies to get our aircraft refuelled. Our Board and management had to fight truck loads of consultants and experts, there was no free kick given only penalties after penalties and finally even the umpires who were against us rewarded Our Airline by giving us a share on the route which we had lost before. We had won not only our right to be counted as a regional airline once again but we have reclaimed our right to provide a better service for all Nauruans to enjoy.

But as the CEO of Our Airline stated this is only half the battle, winning this route, the next is the marketing battle to ensure we stay on this route.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the continued support from this House, this government and the Board, management and staff of Our Airline, but importantly also is the continued support from our counterparts in Kiribati from all levels, will ensure that Our Airline will continue to fly the skies between Nauru, Kiribati and Fiji. Thank you.'

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) moved that the paper be noted.

(viii) Hon. Batsiua (Minister for Health) made an update report to the House on Health Activities which reads as under:-

‘Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide an update of activities in the Ministry of Health since my last statement on 15 October.

Cuban Medical Brigade – *The Ministry is currently finalising logistics for the remaining members, which consist of a paediatrician, obstetrician and laboratory technician who are expected to arrive in December to take up their 2 year posting. This is in addition to the physician and pharmacist who are already here having arrived in July.*

Visiting Medical Specialists – *The AusAID funded Pacific Island Projects managed by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons resulted in the following recent visits – a cardio-vascular specialist from 27 October to 3 November and ENT who is currently here, from 21 to 30 November.*

The cardiac team saw a total of 109 patients with 68 rheumatic, 10 hypertension, 8 ischaemic heart disease, 7 congenital, 6 miscellaneous and 5 each for normal and dilated cardiomyopathy.

In the absence of an echocardiography and expertise to perform the test the visit recommends emphasis in prevention of the progression of rheumatic heart disease is critical. This is considered critical to mitigate against complications later on in a patient’s life.

Taiwan Mobile Medical Team – *The Mobile medical team is currently on Nauru for 2 weeks, 14 – 30 November 2009. The team is made up of a nephrologist, dialysis nurse, surgeon, paediatrician and nurses. The Ambassador and team donated much needed pharmaceuticals and medical supplies on Monday 16 November at Republic of Nauru Hospital.*

The Taiwan permanent medical mission on Nauru has been fully established with a surgeon visiting on a rotation basis for 2-3 months assignment.

I wish to again convey sincere appreciation on all our behalf to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its continued strong support to the health sector and look forward to working closely with them on health matters into the foreseeable future.

Israeli Visiting Specialist – *The ENT specialist arrived on 14 November and will be on Nauru for 2 months and he will work closely with the RACS ENT team that are currently here. The Ministry intends to build upon our important relationship with the Government of Israel to ensure their continued engagement in the health sector so we can continue to benefit from their provision of medical specialists to assist our hospitals, so they can better serve the people of Nauru.*

Staff Training - *Eight students departed for Cuba on 25 September to commence preliminary medical studies, this has brought the number of Nauruan students studying medicine in Cuba to 17. It is anticipated Ambassador Moses will be travelling to Cuba in December to meet the students and address any issues that they may have.*

It is further recognised communications between the institutions the students are studying at with our New York Embassy and Nauru requires strengthening to ensure the students’ academic progress and welfare are monitored more effectively.

To this effect negotiations are underway between Pacific Islands Embassies at the UN in New York and their Timor Leste counterparts for the Pacific to use the Timor Leste focal point for students in Cuba, to also look after other Pacific island students studying in Cuba, including our students from Nauru. In my recent meeting with Ambassador Moses, I stressed the importance of achieving this so we can have some on-ground focal point to better monitor and liaise with our students in Cuba.

The Ministry is currently processing advertisements for its 2010 health trainee intake for the following health areas – nursing, dietician, dentistry, physiotherapy, laboratory and radiography.

The Ministry further expects the return of 7 nursing graduates at the end of this year and positions have been made available for them to commence their employment once they reach plant.

Oxygen Plant – *The plant continues to pose challenges and a compressor has been purchased through assistance from the Government of Italy. The technician arrived in October, installed the compressor and serviced the pumps which became operational. However, as of last week the plant again encountered technical difficulties and was shut down. Parts in need of repair have been dismantled and will be sent to the technician on the next flight to Australia for repair, which is estimated to take 2 weeks. Whilst the plant was operating the Ministry was able to start building a stock of filled cylinders and it is anticipated this buffer stock will be enough to cover our needs, while the parts are undergoing repairs.*

Hyperbaric Chamber - *The technician contracted to service the oxygen plant has volunteered to repair the chamber during his scheduled visits to service the oxygen plant next year. During his last visit the technician performed an assessment of the chamber and we are now awaiting his report so we can progress the restoration work on the hyperbaric chamber.*

At the moment the chamber is not operational therefore members of the public, especially divers should take note of this. I will keep this House informed on the progress of restoring the hyperbaric chamber.

Pharmaceuticals – *The Ministry's allocation for pharmaceuticals and medical consumables is estimated to be \$1.2 million and is second to salaries in terms of budgetary allocation. The Ministry has approved an Essential Drugs List (EDL) to guide its procurement of drugs.*

Under the leadership of the Secretary for Health and other senior staff – some staff members partook in the voluntary cleaning, shelving and a stock taking of all drugs and medical consumables in the pharmacy and stores. It was an enormous task that took them 3 weekends to complete but it was a worthwhile effort as this process resulted in an updated stock inventory of items in pharmacy, more accurate orders being placed ultimately resulting in cost savings.

I wish to commend and thank the Secretary for Health, his senior officials and all volunteers involved in the cleaning and stock-taking exercise at the pharmacy stores, as I have mentioned it was done on a voluntary basis during their own times over three consecutive weekends.

Public Health – District Primary Health Care Workers – *Under the leadership of the Director Public Health and Healthy Island Co-ordinator consultations have been held with communities to create awareness of the 14 District Primary Health Care Workers role.*

The 14 District Primary Health Care Workers have commenced a 3 month refresher course through USP and upon completion anticipate they will possess the appropriate skill sets to strengthen their roles as a conduit between their respective communities and services offered at Nauru General Hospital and the Republic of Nauru Hospital.

The Ministry is finalising arrangements with the Buada Congregational Church Council for the allocation of appropriate facilities for refurbishment and the establishment of a Community Health Promotion Centre in the District of Buada. Upon opening the Buada CHPC will be the first of its kind under our new Primary Health Care Outreach Program and I urge other districts and communities to work with the Ministry of Health for the establishment of similar CHPCs in their respective districts.

A scope of works has further been developed for standardised Health Promotion Centres for the remaining districts and the next steps are to identify appropriate locations and secure funding for construction. The CHPC project is based on a community

partnership approach meaning that the community/districts are responsible for providing a suitable location and Health will be responsible for funding its planning and construction as well as meeting costs to staff and resources for the CHPCs. It will be done on a first come, first serve basis hence communities/districts, which can identify a suitable location first will be prioritised accordingly.

World Diabetes Day – World Diabetes Day is commemorated annually on 14 November and under the leadership of the Director of Public Health, Strategic Health Planner and other Public Health staff, a series of sporting events and activities were undertaken on Saturday 14 November with the primary objective of creating and maintaining public awareness of the key risk factors of NCDs, these are physical inactivity, unhealthy dietary habits, abuse of alcohol and tobacco use.

Digicel Support – The Ministry of Health recognises mobile phones are a key means of supporting its health promotion and prevention activities and has subsequently forged a mutual relationship with Digicel whereby Digicel sends a weekly global text message to all its customers with a specific health message.

Digicel, in support of the World Diabetes Day, sponsored the walk around the island on 7 November, the event was a success with more than 370 participating. Digicel provided prizes Nike running shoes, sports socks and Digicel towel bag). I wish to acknowledge Digicel's partnership and I anticipate this relationship will only strengthen into the future.

H1N1 Vaccine – During the recent 60th WHO Regional Committee Meeting in September in Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and New Zealand donated a portion of their H1N1 vaccine production to WHO for distribution to developing countries.

Nauru was represented at the WHO Planning meeting in October in preparation for the receipt of the H1N1 vaccine for an in-country vaccination campaign. It should be noted WHO will only be donating vaccines to cover 10% of the country's population and the Ministry is using WHO guidelines to identify those who will be vaccinated. The H1N1 vaccine is not appropriate for children under 10 years of age.

Infrastructure – A review of the bids for the refurbishment of Nauru General Hospital has been completed and finalisation of contract formalities is underway with the work proposed to commence in January 2010. The scope of works involve the renovation of existing structures to cater for health promotion, environment health, community health, nutrition, diabetic clinic and meeting rooms. The work is expected to be completed by April 2010.

Organisational Reform – The Ministry of Health continues to pursue its reform and like all government departments a review of the health chapter in the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy has been completed.

A draft of the 2010-15 Ministry of Health Strategic Plan has been completed and following further internal stakeholder consultations I anticipate will be available in the first quarter of 2010.

Directors continue to prepare and submit quarterly reports to allow the Ministry to monitor progress against targets as well as identifying areas requiring support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.'

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) moved that the paper be noted.

(ix) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) made the following statement on the Third Donor Round Table:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, Nauru hosted its 3rd donor round table on the weekend of the 14th and 15th of this month. Donors were well represented with 23 delegations representing countries and various development organisations.

In addition to their participation in their formal round table meetings the visitors had an island tour visiting key sites such as the port, power station, hospitals, schools and topside. Many also made use of the unexpected extra day to visit further sites of specific interest.

There were also many side meetings over the weekend and on the Monday and Tuesday where further specific issues and details were discussed with relevant officials, organisations and Ministers.

All in all the Donor Round Table went extremely well and all visitors commented very positively on the professionalism and quality of the presentations, the way the meeting was run and the overall arrangements and hospitality for the stay.

Government is very satisfied that the donor round table achieved its aims of updating donors on Nauru's progress over the last 3 years demonstrating the immense value of their assistance as well as importantly giving our development partners a clear and in-depth understanding of our ongoing challenges and priorities and how they may assist us.

There is a lot to follow up, many points for discussion that government now needs to progress with various donors and I am confident that in coming months we will be able to update the House on further developments and specific outcomes that will arise directly as a result of the donor round table.

Mr. Speaker, the main point I want to make today in delivering this statement rather than getting into the details of the discussion and outcomes of the donor round table is to highlight the absolutely fantastic work done by so many of our own people to ensure that the donor round table was a success. Many, many people spent many long hours working hard in the background to ensure that all arrangements were well-planned and that everything went smoothly on the day and I am very proud and pleased to say that they delivered with shining colours.

This work involved most departments in government, several SOEs including the Office of the President, Government Information Office, Media, Home Affairs, Culture, Women's Affairs, Chief Secretary's Department, Warehouse, Foreign Affairs, Finance, AMU, DPPD, Police, Transport, ICT, Our Airline, Rehab., Eigigu, DCA, Parliament, Justice Border Control, Meneng Hotel and many others, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In addition there were contributions from several NGOs, communities, the private sector and even our school-children who painted posters thanking the donors.

In particular I would like to thank the non-government speakers who made presentations at the donor round table on behalf of communities, NGSs and the private sector. These were professionally delivered and would be valuable in adding depth to the understanding our visitors developed.

I also wish to thank the general public for the parts everybody played in making our visitors feel welcome and safe in Nauru.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government I would like to thank each and every person involved and who contributed so much to the preparations and running of the donor round table. It was pleasing to note that no request was too much and everyone gave much more than was required and did so without hesitation or complaint despite the long hours involved. Everybody should be rightly proud of their efforts and the results speak loudly of a job very well done. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.'

Mr. Scotty (Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare) moved that the paper be noted.

(x) Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for NMFRA) made the following statement on recent developments with the NM FRA:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make a statement on Fisheries Developments. I wish to inform Members of recent developments with the NMFRA.

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) – Ministers from the Parties to the Nauru Agreement met recently in Tarawa and through what is now known as the Bikenibeu Declaration agreed to –

- ✓ The establishment of a stand-alone PNA Office in Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- ✓ Continued efforts in closing additional high seas areas to fishing to reduce the impacts of the big-eye tuna stocks.
- ✓ Consider further involvement in the tuna industry's activities through crewing, supplying fuel, etc.
- ✓ The establishment and implementation of the long-line vessel day scheme.

The Bikenibeu Declaration seeks to strengthen the management and conservation of PNA's common tuna resources and at the same time it also seeks to maximise the economic opportunities from the sustainable utilisation of the tuna resources for the benefit of the people of PNA countries.

Aquarium Fish – In 2007, the NMFRA sought the assistance of the SPC to undertake an assessment to determine the presence and abundance of marine aquarium fish resources. The assessment showed good abundance of potential marine aquarium trade species.

The NMFRA is taking the next step to determine the economic viability of a potential industry in Nauru. Two experts will be arriving next week to undertake such a study. They will be reporting on the cost and benefits of setting up a marine trade export operations, identifying potential markets and assessing market prices in relation to production costs.

This is potentially a huge industry and we are looking forward to the results of the study.

Corporate Plan - With the recent approval by Cabinet of the new NMFRA Corporate Plan, NFMRA now has its core business officially defined, and a set of objectives that are designed to address the NSDS and the basic functions required by the NFMRA Act and the Fisheries Act within the constraints imposed by the economy since NMFRA was first established in 1997.

The AusAID Fisheries Management Institutional Strengthening Project will be helping NFMRA to develop its capacity to implement the corporate plan, with particular emphasis on fishery management processes, institutional procedures and staff training in 2010. NFMRA will also play its part in assisting the Nauru Fishers Association and other private sector fisheries activities to become sustainable.

Various subsidiary plans will be finalised early in 2010 to help implement specific components of the NFMRA Corporate Plan including a tuna fishery management strategy, a fisheries development strategy and various standard procedures to guide staff in their duties such as licensing procedures and following up foreign fishing vessel incident reports. There will also be a review of staff structure.

Nauru National Observer Program - NMFRA received 'interim authorisation' from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission last month for the Nauru National Observer Program. This means that Nauru observers are authorised to act as official Commission observers throughout the western Pacific. Five Nauruan observers passed through the regional training course earlier this year with flying colours, and observer duty aboard purse-seine fishing vessels could provide a significant source of freelance employment for Nauruans now that every purse-seine boat must have an observer aboard from January 2010. We need to train more observers and we need to organise the regular placement of observers and the Observer Program as a whole needs to be strengthened so it can receive full WCPFC authorisation in 2010.

Fishing companies already pay Nauru to put observers aboard a percentage of their vessels in Nauru waters. This money, currently totalling around USD60,000 is absorbed

into Treasury and in order to actually place observers we need to create a new budget line for the observer program. A proposal is being prepared.

***Western & Central Pacific Commission (WCPFC)** – Last week a negotiation brief was developed for the Nauru delegation attending WCPFC, concentrating on the issues that are most critical to Nauru to supplement the general regional brief provided by Forum Fisheries Agency. Our aim this year in WCPFC is to consolidate the advantages that PNA has gained in the regional fisheries arena, and head off the likely attempts by Pacific rim countries to weaken decisions like the high seas closures. NFMRA staff are currently working on briefings to guide the Nauru delegation in negotiating the highest possible returns from licence fees for foreign purse-seine fishing vessels to operate in Nauru waters in 2010. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.’*

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) moved that the paper be noted.

7. Matter of Privilege

Mr. Waqa (Boe) raised a matter of privilege which occurred in the offices of the Members of Parliament between Mr. Paul Kun and a parliamentary officer.

The Chair will consider the matter and will follow it up with the Speaker of Parliament.

8. Motion – Leave sought for

Mr. Waqa (Boe), as Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee sought leave of the House to move a motion.

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

Leave was granted.

9. Motion – Constitutional Review Committee (Amendment) Bill 2009

Mr. Waqa (Boe), as Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee moved to present the Constitutional Review Committee (Amendment) Bill 2009.

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

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

10. Motion – Second Reading

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

Pursuant to Standing Order 159 further debate is adjourned to a future date.

11. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable debate to proceed forthwith.

Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.
The Bill was read a second time.

12. Motion – Suspension of all Relevant Standing Orders.

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that all relevant standing orders be suspended to enable him to proceed with the third reading of the Bill.
Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.
Question put and passed.

13. Motion – Third Reading

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the Bill be read a third time.
Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.
Question put and passed.
Bill was read a third time.

14. Motion – Leave Sought for

Mr. Waqa (Boe), as Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, sought leave to move a motion.
Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.
Leave was granted.

15. Motion – Referendum Procedures Bill 2009

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved to present the Referendum Procedures Bill 2009.
Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

16. Motion – Second Reading

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.
Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) seconded.
Second reading speech ensued.

Pursuant to Standing Order 159 further debate on the second reading is adjourned to a future date.

17. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved to suspend Standing Order 159 to enable debate on the Bill to proceed forthwith.
Mr. Bernicke (Buada) seconded.
Question put and passed.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

The House then agreed to resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole.

In the Committee

(Hon. Landon Deireragea, M.P., Deputy Chairman of Committees, presiding.)

18. Motion

Mr. Waqa (Boe) as Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee moved that clauses 1 to 11 of the Bill be adopted as a whole.

Question put and passed.

Clauses 1 to 11 were agreed to as a whole.

19. Amendment Motion

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) moved the following amendment motion to clause 12 –

That clause 12 be amended by deleting the word ‘Speaker’ and replacing it with the words ‘returning officer’; and

By deleting the words ‘up to 6’; so that the clause would then read:-

‘The returning officer must appoint scrutineers for the counting of the votes.’

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Clause 12, as amended, was agreed to.

20. Motion

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that clauses 13 to 31 and Schedule 1 of the Bill as a whole be adopted.

Question put and passed.

Clauses 13 to 31 and Schedule 1 of the Bill, as a whole, were agreed to.

21. Motion

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the Referendum Procedures Bill 2009, as a whole, as amended be reported to the House.

Question put and passed.

In the House

(Hon. Deputy Speaker resumes in the Chair)

22. Motion

Mr. Waqa (Boe) reported that the Referendum Procedures Bill 2009 had been agreed to with minor amendments.

23. Motion – Leave Sought For

Mr. Waqa (Boe) Sought leave for the third reading of the bill

Leave was granted

24. Motion – Third Reading

Mr. Waqa (Boe) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill was read a third time.

25. Motion

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that motions 1 and 2 on the notice paper be deferred to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

26. Motion

His Excellency President Marcus Stephen moved that motions 3, 4 and 5 be removed from the notice paper.

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

Question put and passed.

Orders of the Day

27. Order of the Day No. 1 – On the question that the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido on Developments of the Nauru Port Authority, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

28. Order of the Day No. 2 – On the question that the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido on Our Airline Services to Tarawa & Nadi, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

29. Order of the Day No. 3 – On the question that the statement made by Hon. Sprent Dabwido on Digicel, Nauru, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

30. Order of the Day No. 4 – On the question that the statement made by Hon. Mathew Batsiua on update on Health Ministry Activities, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

31. Order of the Day No. 5 – On the question that the statement made by Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke on his recent overseas trips, be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The paper was noted.

32. Order of the Day No. 6 – Civil Aviation Bill 2009

Order of the Day No. 6 was deferred to the next sitting.

33. Order of the Day No. 7 – Republic of Nauru Corporation (Repeal) Bill 2009. On the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

34. Motion – Seeking Leave

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Finance) sought leave to move for the third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

35. Motion – Third Reading

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

Hon. Mathew Batsiua (Minister for Health) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill was read a third time.

36. Motion – Leave of Absence

Hon. Sprent Dabwido sought leave of absence for Hon. Akua, Hon. Amwano and Hon. Dowiyogo who were away overseas on Parliament business.

Leave was granted.

37. 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.

38. Adjournment

His Excellency the President moved that Parliament do now adjourn.

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at 12 minutes past 9 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. Akua
- Mr. Dowiyogo
- Mr. Amwano
- * Mr. Adeang

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament

- Leave of absence
- * Suspension