

**Votes & Proceedings
Of the
Sixteenth Parliament**

No. 34

**First Sitting of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting
Thursday, 9th November 2006**

10.00 a.m.

1. The House met on Thursday, 9th November 2006 at 10 a.m. in accordance with the resolution made by the House on Tuesday, 17th October 2006.

2. The Hon. Sprent Dabwido (Deputy Speaker of Parliament) took the Chair and read Prayers.

3. **Statement from the Chair**

(i) The Chair made the following statement to the House as under:-

'Honourable Members, before we proceed with our normal business of the day, I wish to inform that there is a house-keeping matter to be addressed.

I have received a letter from the Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, Hon. Mathew Batsiua, that a vacancy has been caused in the Committee due to the resignation of Hon. Terangi Adam from the membership of the Committee. I will read the letter for the information of the House:-

'Mr. Sprent Dabwido, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Parliament House, Yaren.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, RE – Vacancy in the Constitutional Review Committee.

I wish to bring to your kind notice that Hon. Terangi Adam, M.P., had tendered his resignation from membership of the Constitutional Review Committee which was addressed to my predecessor, Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke, M.P.

The Committee at its sitting held on 6th November 2006 considered the resignation and resolved to accept the same with an early replacement so that the work of the Committee is not hampered due the vacancy in the Committee.

I, the Chairman of the Committee, on its behalf, therefore request you to kindly announce the vacancy in the House at the next sitting of Parliament in order to fill up the same.

With kind regards, you sincerely (signed) Mathew Batsiua, M.P., Chairman, Constitutional Review Committee.'

Nominations

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) nominated Mr. Buramen (Ewa/Anetan) to be a member of the Constitutional Review Committee.

Mr. Kun (Buada) seconded.

Mr. Buramen accepted the nomination.

There being no other nomination forthcoming Mr. Buramen was appointed a member of the Constitutional Review Committee.

(ii) **Statement from the Chair**

The Chair made the following statement to the House on 'Progress of the Parliamentary Support Project for the Parliament of Nauru':-

'Honourable Members, I have been advised by the Hon. Speaker to brief this House in regard to the progress of the parliamentary support project for the Parliament of Nauru, and I quote:-

“Honourable Members, based on the input received from the Members of Parliament, Ministers and His Excellency the President himself, I conveyed my consent on 19th October 2006 for the Terms of Reference for formulation of a project in support of parliamentary development in Nauru.

In response, I have received a reply from Mr. Richard Dictus, Resident Representative of UNDP. The reply states –

‘Dear Mr. Speaker, Subject – Parliament of Nauru Support Project.

Thank you for your letter dated 19th October 2006 endorsing the TOR for the formulation mission of a Nauru parliamentary support project.

In order to have this mission completed along with final project document by the end of 2006 and to be in line with existing budgets, I would like to propose that we field this mission with existing UNDP contracted staff, that are currently working on parliamentary strengthening projects in a few of the Pacific Island Countries that we serve.

To this effect then, we propose that the team leader be Mr. Warren Cahill, who currently is the Project Manager, for the Solomon Islands Parliament Strengthening Project. He will be joined with another team member, whom is yet to be selected depending on availability; however this person will be selected from our following project staff. CV’s are attached for your reference.

- 1. Alifereti Bulivou - Project manager, Fiji Parliamentary Strengthening Project.*
- 2. Jude Devesi - Induction & Training Co-ordinator, Parliamentary Strengthening Project, National Parliament of Solomons.*
- 3. McAnthony Keah - Project Manager/UNV Legislative Development Specialist, Republic of Marshall Islands, Support to Parliament Project.*

By using our existing staff we can ensure that you are getting a team with relevant, direct Pacific experience and expertise whilst enabling us to field a mission this year. If we were to advertise at this stage and run a selection process we would not be able to field this mission until 2007. Hence, I would like to ask for your endorsement of this process we have proposed.

I would also like to advise that Shashikant Nair has taken up an international position with UNDP in New York and introduce Claire Thoms, Governance Analyst who will be co-ordinating all Governance Projects from the Fiji Country Office.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly. Your sincerely (signed) Richard Dictus, Resident Representative.’

4. Message from the President

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty, M.P., made the following statement to the House:-

‘Mr. Speaker, for information of Hon. Members, I disclose the recent reassignment of certain business portfolios of Ministers –

- 1. The portfolio of Police and Prisons is now under my charge as the Minister for Police and Prisons;*
- 2. The portfolio of Utilities authority is now under the charge of Hon. Adeang as Minister for Utilities.*
- 3. The portfolio of Telecommunications (RONTEL) is now under the charge of Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke as Minister for Telecommunications.*

The said re-assignments of ministerial responsibilities are done under powers provided by Article 23 of the Constitution.

5. Questions on Notice

Question No. 13(v) of 2006 was replied to.

6. Questions Without Notice – were asked.

7. Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

(a) His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty made a statement as follows:-

‘Mr. Speaker, for information of Honourable Members I would like to lay on the Table of the House the speech made by the Ambassador Designate of the Russian Federation to Nauru, His Excellency Alexander Blokhin on presentation of his credentials last Monday, 6th November.

Also attached is a copy of my response to His Excellency at the same ceremony.

His Excellency Ambassador Blokhin has indicated his government’s desire to further forge the co-operation and relationship between his country and ours with the intention of delve into business transactions in many spheres of work.

I have agreed with the Ambassador that more intimate and consistent communication is needed to ensure our co-operation efforts are realised. Ambassador Blokhin has indicated his everready assistance to our desire on co-operative measures.

Speech by Ambassador Blokhin

Dear Mr. President, I am happy to be here today to present credentials by which His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, has accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Nauru.

Russia has enjoyed most friendly relations with Nauru since they were first established on December 30, 1987.

In spite of enormous geographical distance between our countries the Russian Federation realises the importance of the South Pacific and the broader Asia-Pacific region which is home to more than half of the world’s population and which provides for two thirds of the global GDP. Nowadays, Russia in both geographical and economical terms is an integral part of the region and its major supplier of energy resources, goods and services. We are becoming more and more involved in regional affairs through participation in Asia-Pacific regional organisations, such as APEC and ASEAN. Russia has also applied for the membership in the newly founded East-Asia Summit.

Russia highly estimates the efforts of the South Pacific countries to build a sustainable economic and political environment and enhance co-operation within regional organisations, such as Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Community and others.

We believe that the Republic of Nauru, being a respected representative of the ‘young’ small island nations, is an important contributor to the regional integration processes. We appreciate the involvement of Nauru as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Community, the Asian Development Bank as well as its admission to the United Nations family in September 1999.

Russia welcomes the decision of the Government of Nauru to accede to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and two Additional Protocols making these Conventions the first ever universally accepted international treaty.

Dear Mr. President, we are assured that global warming and environmental protection are among the main challenges which the international community is bound to face in the XXI century. We are fully aware that global warming caused by the growing emission of the greenhouse gases, coming from coal fuel power plants and other polluters will have a most devastating impact for the Pacific island countries. In this regard Russia highly appreciates the efforts of Nauru and other Pacific region governments as ‘early’ signatories of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With Russia’s ratification of the Protocol on November 2004, according to “ Annex I” the treaty was brought into force and finally became effective in February 2005. One hundred and sixty three countries of the world have currently signed and ratified the Protocol which we believe is a major universal effort of the international community to combat global warming. Today the Russian government is working on the instructions of President Vladimir Putin to bring the Russian laws in accordance with our Kyoto Protocol obligations.

Mr. President, the growing number of terrorist acts which have recently unfolded in different regions of the world prove that international terrorism is an imminent threat to the peace and security in the world. Nowadays every region and practically every country could become a target for the international terrorists who act beyond the borders trying to further expand their criminal activities. Russia fully supports and promotes all international initiatives to combat the threat of terrorism and favors the unanimous commitment of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders to develop a model of Regional Cooperation and Counter-terrorism Assistance and Response before 2007 Forum Regional Security Committee and Leaders' Meeting.

Dear Mr. President, I would like to assure you that Russia believes in the bright future of this beautiful country. After the difficult years of 2004-2005 Nauru is showing clear strong-willed intention to pursue the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the policy of good governance. These efforts of the government of Nauru are supported by all countries across the region.

Let me once again extend most sincere gratitude for your warm welcome. May I also use this opportunity to express my confidence that the friendly relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Nauru will be maintained and strengthened in the future.

(b) His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty, M.P., made a statement as follows:-

'Mr. Deputy Speaker I wish to present to Members of this august House a report on my recent undertakings as Leader of this beloved nation.

Two weeks ago I traveled to Nadi, Fiji to attend the 37th Pacific Islands Forum and related meetings. Accompanying me on this trip was the Minister for Finance, Foreign Affairs & Trade and the Minister for Health, Sports & Transport.

On Monday 23 October, I attended the 15th Smaller Island States (SIS) Leaders' Summit whereby I presented to Leaders a proposal to strengthen air services in the region by regionalizing Our Airline. I am pleased to report that SIS Leaders wholeheartedly supported Nauru's proposal and have now tasked the Forum Secretariat to assist Nauru in further progressing the regionalization of Our Airline through technical and other support. I have attached for Members' information, a copy of the Summary of Decisions of the 15th SIS Leaders' Summit.

In the afternoon of that same day, I also attended the Pacific ACP Leaders Meeting. In attendance were members of Forum Island Countries excluding Australia and New Zealand. This meeting was basically to provide Leaders with an update of ACP issues.

On Tuesday 24 October, Leaders had their retreat which was followed by the Forum Proper on the next day. I provided Leaders with an update on Nauru and its progress, in particular the activities that have been undertaken under PRAN, that is, the Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru and further sought Leaders' agreement to the extension of PRAN for another year. I am pleased to report to Members of this House as well as the general public that the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have agreed to extend PRAN for another year hence we can look forward to further assistance in our recovery efforts from our regional neighbours as well as from donors in the international community. I attach as Annex 2 to this report, a copy of the Forum Communique for Members' easy reference.

For Members' information, the 18th Post Forum Dialogue as well as the 14th Taiwan (ROC) – Forum Countries Dialogue was also convened during that week. Both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Transport attended those meetings hence I expect that they will be providing you with reports on these meetings.

Aside from these meetings, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my delegation and I also had some bilateral discussions with Leaders and officials of several countries, more specifically; the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Solomon Islands and Tuvalu on the possible joint venture of Our Airline. I will let my two Ministers provide you a more detailed report on these discussions, however I would like to mention that the proposal for a joint venture scheme was well received and supported by all the countries mentioned earlier. In fact, I believe that the Forum

Secretariat is currently organizing a date and venue for officials of these aforementioned countries to get together and progress this issue further.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I resume my seat, I would just like to make a brief mention of my trip to the Marshall Islands last week, Friday 2nd November to Sunday 4th November. Whilst this is not strictly related to the Pacific Islands Forum meetings, it is however related to the concept of the regionalization of Our Airline. In fact, it was during our meetings in Nadi that I received an invitation from the President of the Marshall Islands to visit RMI personally to further discuss the joint venture of Our Airline as well as other possible collaboration on air services. Although the discussions are still at an early stage, I believe the preliminary talks in RMI were altogether successful and very positive. The Minister for Transport will provide you with a more detailed report on this.

Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

(c) The Hon. D Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement to the House on ‘RON Utilities–The Benefits of Reform’

‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in October, you were advised of the Government’s development of a strategy for utilities reform in Nauru. The Strategy is a wholly comprehensive reform package that seeks to address the operational, institutional and financial shortcomings associated with Utilities in its current form. While the strategy will soon go before Cabinet for formal approval, it was presented to donors at a meeting in early September 2006, where it was well received. This involved a meeting with Australia, Japan and the ADB.

As a result of the strategy, Australia has agreed to consider a proposal from Nauru for additional diesel funding for this financial year. This is an extremely positive development, as prior to Nauru’s development of the Utilities Reform Strategy, Australia had decided to limit diesel funding to Nauru and indeed commence decreasing the level of funding it would make available. Given our economic decline, Nauru is particularly reliant on donors; financial assistance this financial year to ensure the ongoing provision of essential power services.

By implementing the reforms outlined under the government’s strategy we look forward, over the next 12 months, to a return to regular and reliable supply of power on the island. While load shedding will still be necessary given our economic climate, a clear and transparent load-shedding schedule will be drawn up and will be well-communicated to the public. This will mean, for instance that families can plan their meals and cooking according to when power will be available. Over the next two years, with the roll-out of prepayment systems, as detailed under the strategy for reform, families will also be able to choose the affordable amount of power they access and when.

A key part of the reform strategy – and critical to its success in the immediate term – is the recruitment of an interim utilities manager. Together with our existing Utilities Supervisor, the interim utilities manager will be responsible for ensuring the restoration of regular and reliable power to Nauru over the next 12 months, as well as ensuring the continued refurbishment of Nauru’s existing generators (1, 2, 7 and 8) and the smooth implementation and oversight of Nauru’s utilities reform strategy. The interim utilities manager will also be responsible for working closely with the Utilities Supervisor to develop an appropriate load-shedding schedule and to build the technical and operational management capacity of all staff within utilities. It is anticipated that the interim utilities manager will arrive in-country in early December 2006 with contracts currently being finalised.

In the meantime, forward planning and effective load-shedding will mean Utilities will be able to work to accommodate important family public holidays that are of national importance – such as Christmas – ensuring that there will be power available to everyone on this day, by increasing load-shedding on other days and in the lead-up to Christmas.

One of the recommendations of the utilities reform strategy is a program of capital replacement. This recommendation acknowledges the aging condition of our existing four generator sets, but also acknowledges that donors will be reluctant to buy Nauru a brand new power station. Instead, the strategy – as presented to, and accepted by donors – recommends that utilities refurbish the existing power station building and undertake a program of ongoing capital replacement that begins with the

purchase of at least two new generators. Work is already underway on the recladding and refurbishing the power station – which is essential before any new equipment can be housed in the station, and an application to donors to request financial assistance with the purchase of two new generator sets is also under operation. However, any such application will be made on the basis that Utilities management is closely involved in the selection and purchase of the equipment, thereby ensuring that any new equipment purchased will be suitable to Nauru's conditions and the power station operating environment. There are a number of other reform initiatives underway within the sector. These include the recent purchase of a refurbished cherry picker that will provide for ongoing maintenance of our power distribution cables; the recladding of the power station which is a project that has already commenced and is in fact due for completion on or about 9 December 2006; and overseas training for Nauruan workers at the power station, all of which is made possible through funds from the bilateral MOU with Australia.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform Parliament that tomorrow, the Government will be paying land rentals for the 2005-06 financial year for land occupied by the Central Utilities. These rentals were not paid in 2005-06 as the result of cash-flow problems experienced by the then Nauru Phosphate Corporation.

Cash payments at the 2005-06 rate of 30% will be made for land occupied by the power station, the desalination plant, the tank farm and the associated pipelines.

Individual landowners are invited to pick up their cheques at the Department of Finance on Friday for a total of approximately \$73,000.

Land rentals for the 2006-07 financial year, at the rate of 35% will be available later this financial year.

As I have already said, the full implementation of the utilities reform strategy will take time, will need to be undertaken in phases, will need to be supported by the donor community, but most importantly will need the continued support from all sectors of Nauru. I will inform this august House of salient details of the Utilities Reform Strategy as it rolls out, with the expectation that by the end of the next 12 months we will see a return to regular and reliable power supply – with significant benefits to families and businesses in Nauru. Thank you.'

(d) The Hon. F. Pitcher (A/Minister for Health) made a statement to the House on 'Activities Within the Health Ministry':-

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I wish to provide the House with an update on activities within the Health Ministry,

1. Donated Medical Equipment

It is with great pleasure that I inform Honourable Members that a number of donations of essential medical equipment are due to arrive in the near future. Firstly Mr. Des and Mrs. Sophie Oppenheimer are donating an ambulance to the Nauru Ministry of Health. This ambulance is fully fitted with state of the art resuscitation equipment and will ensure that first line resuscitation is able to be undertaken on all emergency patients. It is anticipated that the ambulance will arrive on the January ship.

Secondly the Ministry of Health has been advised that equipment for the dental clinic which includes a new dental chair and is awaiting transportation from Brisbane. This equipment has been donated by His Excellency Prince Peter Lemessos of the Knights of Malta. It is hoped that this equipment will be arriving on the December boat. The Ministry of Health wishes to convey its appreciation both to His Excellency Prince Peter as well as Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer.

2. CAPITAL WORKS

I am happy to inform the Honourable Members of a number of capital work projects which are planned for the remainder of the Financial Year.

- *Flood Mitigation, Water & Sewage Works*

It is anticipated that this work will commence by the end of the month. Essential equipment is on the boat which is expected to arrive this week. Once this equipment is unloaded work will commence. A community awareness program will be conducted in the next week or two notifying the communities of disruptions and changes to traffic flows, parking etc whilst this work is undertaken

3. POHLN

Honourable Members, as stated in the last parliamentary statement the computer laboratory for the Pacific Open Health Learning Network (POHLN) has been completed. This week saw the arrival of the 5 computers for the laboratory. In the next couple of weeks a technical assistant from Fiji will visit the island to install the computers and to conduct training for staff. This laboratory and equipment is part of our strategy to ensure retention of our staff, it will also be an important mechanism in staff development and training.

4. WORKFORCE ISSUES

***Israeli Medical Team** - It is with great pleasure that I notify Honourable Members of the arrival of the two doctors from the Israeli Medical team. Dr. Dani and Hadar Yardeni arrived last Thursday. Both are settling in well and are providing much needed paediatric services, including paediatric surgery. Dr. Dani is also performing much needed general surgery on adult patients. The Government of Nauru is grateful for the assistance from the Government of Israel for this ongoing support.*

5. PUBLIC HEALTH

*5.1 **NCD Strategy** - A successful two-day workshop was conducted recently to finalise the NCD strategy and diabetes plan. The final draft report has been received from SPC this week. It is hoped that this NCD strategy, diabetes plan and the stepwise report will be printed and released early in the New Year. This is a great achievement for the Department to have these reports complete and will provide the direction for the delivery of services over the next 5 years targeting Nauru's biggest health problems – diabetes and non communicable diseases.*

*5.2 **Primary Health Care Workers** - All districts, except for Nibok, have submitted their nominations for the District Primary Healthcare Worker positions. Department staff are following up with the Nibok community and once their nominations are in the interview process will take place. It is hoped that these new recruits will commence duties in early December, commencing with a three month training program before delivering services in their districts.*

6. SPECIALIST MEDICAL VISITS

The renal vascular team is currently on the island. This visit is another of the ongoing program of specialist visits funded by AusAid and co-ordinated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

A specialist consultant from WHO is also visiting the island providing advice on the management of TB patients. TB is becoming an increasing problem in Nauru with more and more cases of TB being seen. We have also had a couple of deaths from TB during the last year. In the Department's efforts to seriously and effectively address the TB problem, the Department requested special assistance from WHO so we are very happy to have the TB specialist consultant working with us this week.

7. RECENT BREAK-INS AND VANDALISM AT THE HOSPITALS

It is regretful that I have to advise Honourable Members of a further spate of break-ins and vandalism which had occurred at both hospital sites. Equipment such as air conditioners, chemicals, paint, louvers and window frames have been stolen.

As a result of this a number of security officers have been terminated. Public Health staff conducted a media campaign regarding the break-ins but no further information had been forthcoming.

I would like to call on all members of the community to assist in stopping these criminals stealing from what is your health service. Every time these people steal from the hospital, in some way or another they are hurting your health.

I would also call on all Members to support the Health Department by re-enforcing the message throughout your constituencies that break-ins, stealing and vandalism at the Health Department will only hurt our people and harm their health. Thank you.;

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made the following statement to the House: - *'Mr. Speaker, as I advised the House at our last sitting, there is continued strong interest among students in obtaining a secondary scholarship. I can now advise that, following the marking of the students's exams, the government has awarded fifteen scholarships for students to study in Fiji from 2007. The names of the students are – Wayman Harris, Anoushka Cain, Iyorab Adeang, Aleysha Tamakin, Bertha Eoaeo, Vito Denuga, Iniki Uera, Jonas Starr, Grace Garabwan, Garrik Akken, Linford Kepae, Helen Airam, Priscilla Scotty, Penda E. Fritz and Tinkabel Buramen.*

I wish to congratulate these students and to wish them good luck in the coming years. This will be the second group of 15 students that we have sent to Fiji and they will benefit from the experiences of the first group. As I advised previously, I have sent my Scholarship Officer to Fiji to review the operations of the Fiji Scholarship Scheme and I will soon receive that formal report. This next group will find studying in Fiji a lot easier than the first group. When this year's group goes to a school, they will have a fellow Nauruan who will be experienced in the ways of the school and be able to guide the new students.

Tonight my department has organised a meeting of scholarship winners to congratulate them and start the process of enrolling this year's scholarship winners in schools in Fiji. We have already reserved places in schools and this year's operations are proceeding smoothly.

Schools are currently preparing for the end of the year and preparing their students for exams. I can advise that school this year will conclude on Friday 15th December and recommence in the week beginning Monday, 29 January 2007.

On the matter of advising the House of dates of upcoming school events, I am pleased to advise that there will be an education conference held on Friday 8 December to Monday 11 December. The conference will be to review the progress in our curriculum reforms. The format of the program will allow teachers to present various aspects of their work and to reflect on the successes and problems they are having. My department has invited a number of education specialist in curriculum to attend the conference as facilitators and assist our teachers in reflecting on their work.

Mr. Speaker, I will be make a separate statement on the progress of our curriculum reforms, but I must mention here the Market Day held by Yaren School last Monday. The Market Day is a rich task that students complete as part of the curriculum. As many Members would have noticed, for students to participate in the event, they acquire skills in maths, communication, literacy, teamwork, culture, and other skills. The students learnt many valuable lessons in participating in this learning experience.

I want to congratulate the Principal of Yaren School, Ms. Lenora Depaune, and her dedicated group of teachers for presenting such a marvelous event. I do not know yet how much money was raised by the students, but I have been informed that Chubb Security was on hand.

Tomorrow I will receive an interim report from Mr. Peter Baki, a consultant from PRIDE, on the progress of his assignment to present an updated Policy and Procedures Manual for the Department. Mr. Baki will complete hi Policy and Procedures in mid December, but his interim report shows that he has gone back to basics and completely rewritten the Manual. He has taken the approach that what

happens in our education and training department must achieve the government's goals as expressed in the NSDS and the country's aims as expressed in the Constitution.

I wish to record the department's sincere appreciation on the work and leadership that Mr. Baki is providing.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of addressing the physical state of our schools, I reported the last time that we met, that we would soon be opening a new 5-classroom block at Aiwo. I can advise that the President has now officially opened the block. AusAid, who provided the materials and funding to build the block are extremely impressed with the work of the team of workers, under the leadership of Hon. Cyril Buramen, who completed the work. So much so, Mr. Speaker, that AusAID has provided another two containers of building materials for the team to continue work on AusAID projects. Currently the team is renovating Nibok Infants and soon they will move onto Boe.

Next week, Hon Buramen will be going to Brisbane to source materials that this team will need to compete the W.A.T.E.S program (Water and Toilets in Every School program). This AusAID funded program will be provided running water and flushing toilets in every school.

In two weeks time, the Department will have a Design team from AusAID here to prepare the architectural plans for the Learning Village.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of computers and ICT in our schools I want to record the Departments appreciation to ARMS for the generous donation of four computers and associated equipment, including the supply of four UPS Unites (Uninterruptible Power Supply Units).

I also want to sincerely thank your friends for Taiwan who have donated 50 computers and associated equipment to our schools. In addition, Taiwan is providing a group of technicians and trainers who will install the machines and provide in-service to teachers on how to use the programs on the machines, and how to maintain the units. In the next few weeks a team of workers will go around to each school to ensure that the computer rooms are secure.

In terms of staff development, I advise that the Director of our CASE unit, Tryphosa Keke, is currently completing an Advanced Degree in Education Administration at the UNESCO institute in Paris. We thank our friends at NZAID for supporting that initiative. The Department is currently implementing an EMIS (Education Management Information System) called Pineapple. It is a bundle of computer software especially developed for SIS by PRIDE. Next week one of my officers will be going to Fiji to receive training in the use of some software developed by UNESCO to track the progress of countries in implementing the EFA agenda. Currently I have an officer in Palau who is attending a TVET workshop organised by PRIDE.

I have also two consultants here at present conducting in-service for teachers in Rich Tasks and in assessing rich tasks.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I will be making another statement on our Curriculum reforms at another time.

Thank you.'

(f) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) made the following statement on 'Forum 2006 – Nadi' to the House:-

'Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I had the privilege of accompanying His Excellency the President to the recent meeting of Pacific Island Forum Leaders held in Nadi on 25 October, 2006.

The Nauru delegation to the Forum, under His Excellency's leadership, has attended these meetings for the 3rd time since assuming office, and has always striven to come out with national benefits to Nauru.

I am pleased to report that this Forum has been successful for Nauru, as with the other Forum meetings preceding it.

At the outset, the Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru (PRAN) framework through which the Forum and member countries can extend assistance to Nauru has been agreed to again by Leaders, who also welcomed the developments in Nauru since the last Forum meeting.

At this August House is aware, the PRAN framework since its inception in 2004 has prompted some countries to extend assistance to Nauru through a framework without which that assistance may not have been so readily available,

Unlikely countries to have assisted us have included our neighbouring island countries, who have extended the assistance they could provide given their own difficult development challenges. For this, your government has been most appreciative.

At the recent Forum meeting, Japan was the first to announce its continued support for Nauru through the PRAN, contributing AUD200,000 to the PIFS to strengthen Nauru's development planning capacities.

This joins the formal announcement and ceremony in Nauru later this month, of Japan's assistance to Nauru in the Utilities as well as the food security sectors. The Japanese Ambassador in Suva will be visiting Nauru on 23-24 November for this purpose.

At the Forum, a series of bilateral meetings were held with Leaders and/or Foreign Ministers of Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu regarding the proposed partnership in Our Airline.

Preceded by Nauru's initiative at the Smaller Island States Summit to task the PIFS to facilitate such discussions, the meetings were successful with all countries agreeing to take the next step to have officials meet as a working group with the view to finding practical steps to work towards realizing the concept of sub-regionalising Our Airline. The PIFS is now coordinating and facilitating these meetings, with the first such meetings scheduled in the 2nd week of December, in Majuro.

I am pleased to advise that on the encouragement of Prime Minister Helen Clark, the Nauru delegation had a bilateral with New Zealand's Immigration Officials regarding New Zealand's announcement to employ unskilled labourers from the Pacific to work in the horticulture and viticulture farms of New Zealand. The Kiwi delegation welcomed very much Nauru's offer to assist find a cost-effective solution to the movement of labourers from that part of the Pacific serviced by Our Airline, to New Zealand, and they advised in return to seek the Prime Minister's approval to include Nauru in the group of 'kick-start' Pacific countries that would be commence sending their labourers to New Zealand by April 2007.

Nauru also had a bilateral with the Taiwanese delegation led by their Vice Foreign Minister. Amongst other things, Taiwan has agreed to increase modestly the annual grant aid to Nauru in the amount of USD500,000. We continue to work together to endeavour to contract a Taiwanese commercial bank to Nauru, as well as to encourage employers in Taiwan to engage Nauruan labourers in Taiwan. In this regard, we agree that establishing Nauru's Embassy in Taipei would be the best step to facilitate these endeavours.

The bilateral with Fiji was productive insofar as it was clear to us that Fiji would not agree to open up the Tarawa/Nadi sector to Our Airline as it was not in the commercial interests of Air Pacific. However, it was clear that the support requested by Nauru in the release of health and medical workers from Fiji for employment in Nauru, was a mutually beneficial endeavour that should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

Other developments include a Development Assistance Framework between the Pacific Islands and Thailand promoting skill and knowledge transfer; as well as a framework of assistance for the Forum Islands from India, including training, scholarships and annual grant aid to each Forum Island country.

Other meetings held on the margins of the Forum included those that will take tangible steps towards the substantial improvement of telecommunications and media in Nauru, in months rather than year. These meetings were held with the business rather than diplomatic or donor community.

As with last year, the PIF's requested that Nauru join the Forum Panel of Ministers to engage in a dialogue with the Forum's Dialogue Partner. In this regard, I had the privilege of joining Ministers from Fiji, RMI and Palau, together with the PIF's Deputy Secretary General in dialogue with Canada, India, Philippines and Thailand.

With this brief report, I thank Hon. Members for their attention.'

(g) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on the ‘University of the South Pacific Council Meeting’ as follows:

‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I would like to make a brief report on my recent trip to Fiji for the University of the South Pacific Council Meeting. It was convened in Suva at the Tradewinds Conference Hall between the 1st and 2nd November.

One of the items on the agenda specifically related to Nauru. This was in regards to our outstanding debts to the university. Although Nauru was mentioned together with two other member countries, it had debts outstanding since 2003. This was mainly for unpaid member contributions.

Mr. Speaker, paper C63/3/2.1 to the Council, attached for Honourable Members’ reference, highlighted concerns of the university for our continued non—compliance in this regard. The recommendation to Council was that students from Nauru were to be precluded from being admitted in 2007 unless payment for the debts outstanding are received by the University. The amount owing to the University currently stands at F\$171,703.39.

I should mention that the matter was deliberated on quite intensely, with almost all members around the table showing support for Nauru. The strongest voice against the University taking this hard stance on Nauru was from the Solomon Islands who themselves have been subjected to the same treatment by the University previously, which saw all their students returned home.

Mr. Speaker, Council did finally resolve that Nauruan students would not be suspended from the university in 2007 but will allow us to work with the University on a payment schedule that would be presented to Council at its next meeting in May.

Government is indeed committed to settling this debt and will not allow its students to be embarrassed by an action this severe, especially, when it is through no fault of their own. Already, the Finance Department are in direct communication with the University to progress arrangements for the debt to be settled. Thank you.’

(h) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made a statement on ‘FATF/AML Update’ as follows”-

Hon. Members, no more monitoring by FATF for Nauru – another milestone in AML initiatives. You are aware that Nauru was taken off the black list of NCCT (Non co-operating Countries and Territories) by FATF (Financial Action Task Force) last year in October 2005. I am happy to inform you that due to the consistent efforts put in by the NCC, we have achieved another milestone in this direction.

The Chairman of the NCCT Review Group on Asia-Pacific has informed the Chairman of NCC, Nauru that the FATF decided in the Plenary meeting in early October 2006 in Vancouver to terminate the formal monitoring period of Nauru. The FATF would encourage that the Nauru authorities keep on continuing efforts to sustain its AML/CFT regime.

Awareness Program on AML for stake-holders on 06 December 2006

A program of awareness-raising among ‘cash dealers’ and other stake-holders (including Capelle’s, MM’s, police, Justice Department, Finance Department, Customs and others) in the first week of December.

A member of the AML Assistance Team from Canberra (Mr. Peter Ritchie) will be in Nauru during the week 04-08 December 06 and will assist in undertaking this process. The week will start with a broad information session on AML and overview of the AML Act.

Throughout the week the FIU Supervisor and Mr. Ritchie will be visiting AML stake-holders one on one to discuss the Act and their specific reporting obligations. It is anticipated that these meetings will provide a good opportunity to work with cash dealers in determining appropriate systems and processes for undertaking AML reporting of suspicious transactions, for example.

A procedural manual with necessary forms is also being drawn up with the assistance of the Australian AML Assistance Team (AMLAT).

Progress on Insurance and banking regulatory reform.

A draft Insurance Act has been prepared by Mr. Peter MacSporran and has been provided to government (Minister for Health) for consideration.

Mr. MacSporran has also been requested to develop an updated Banking Act, modeled on Vanuatu's legislation. This is underway.

Workshop on Money Laundering Typologies at Jakarta: Nov. 13 – 17 organised by APGML.

The FIU Supervisor will be attending an Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APGML) typologies workshop in the week of November 13 – 17 in Jakarta, Indonesia. One of the main sessions will be on 'Alternative Remittance Providers' and will discuss the types of transactions that can occur and how to monitor them in the context of your country's operating environment. With no bank on Nauru, this will be a particularly worthwhile workshop.

Travel, accommodation and other expenses are funded by the APGML, Sydney.

Office for FIU

An office space for the FIU is still under organisation, with resolution pending. The Chief Secretary's department is being consulted.

FIU-specific Software

The Australian FIU, namely AUSTRAC (Australian Transaction Reporting and Analysis Centre) has agreed to provide their database software called FIB Lite (FIU in a Box) specially designed for small and medium FIU's like Nauru. The software enables systematic recording and analysis of suspect transaction reports. AUSTRAC has also indicated that their representatives are likely to visit Nauru in February/March 2007 to install the database.

(h) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on 'Curriculum Reforms', which reads as under:-

'Mr. Speaker, a few months ago I advised the House that I had commissioned an independent review of our curriculum reforms. The review was done by Dr. Priscilla Puamau from PRIDE.

I can now advise the House that today I have received the draft report. I am currently having my officers review the draft before I officially release the report.

However, I can tell the House that the report is very solid piece of research that makes 42 recommendations. The recommendations come under the headings of –

1. Curriculum and Rich Tasks at the Preschool and Primary levels and at the Secondary school level.
2. Productive pedagogies.
3. Assessment and reporting.
4. Capacity building/professional development
5. Physical/material resources
6. Community support
7. CASE unit
8. Cultural/Pacific Fit of Curriculum
9. Teacher Quality
10. Other issues.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have time to read the whole report to the House, but I will note some of the points in the executive summary –

"The DoE and government are to be commended for the decision to develop a curriculum that is distinctly Nauruan in flavour and far reaching in vision. They are to be congratulated for putting together a reform package that would change the face of education in the nation and empower teachers

and students alike in the teaching and learning process. It was a bold decision to simultaneously develop and trial something new, without a clear picture of the end result.

Historically, the process of curriculum reform in Nauru has entailed aid donors, primarily from Australia and New Zealand, 'dictating' the terms of engagement, including recruitment of non-Pacific consultants to develop the curriculum so that a 'copycat' version of what happens in the home country becomes the flavour of the time until the next donor comes along. In this historical process, the voices of the local people are muted or ignored and there is no sense of ownership by the people of Nauru.

The same outcome would have been true in contemporary Nauru given that the director is non-Nauruan, given that the two consultants are non-Pacific, and given that the AusAid and NZAID agencies have pledged technical and curriculum support. However, this process has been tempered by several factors; the refusal by Education Queensland to allow the Nauru DoE use of the Queensland Rich Tasks, the insistence by the Director of Education to have culturally inclusive curriculum, culturally sensitive consultants and Nauruan DoE senior staff who wanted a curriculum that was owned by the people of Nauru, that was relevant, that valued Nauruan knowledge and culture.

I was impressed at the achievements to date – a total of more than 35 draft RT's had been developed for implementation in the three pre-primary years and seven years of primary and at least 30 at the secondary school level as well. This is a landmark achievement, particularly at the pre and post primary levels. Teachers are particularly commended for their dedication and hard work and commitment to the spirit of curriculum reform. They, with the assistance of the two consultants and the Curriculum, Assessment, Statistics and Examiners (CASE) unit, have developed the RT's from scratch. They have worked against all odds in producing something out of nothing – limited resources and equipment, little to no access to the internet, dysfunctional libraries and computer laboratories, limited personal funds (A\$140 a fortnight), and in many cases, limited capacity in terms of training and teacher qualifications.

I was equally impressed at the total commitment to the reform agenda exhibited by the five staff of the CASE unit. (Director – Tryphosa Keke, Manager Secondary/TVET – Floria Detabene; Manager-Primary – Monalisa Bagadouwe; Manager Early Childhood Education – Sarina Tamakin; and Manager Assessment – Pearl Dageago). Their professionalism and belief in what they were doing have been a key reason why implementation is proceeding so well. They have been responsible for driving the RT's and moderation concepts. They have been relentless in pursuing teachers and principals and have contributed significantly to monitoring the work of teachers in teaching the new curriculum in their schools.

All these have been achieved despite the many enormous challenges posed for teachers and students. These challenges include –

- *untrained and unqualified teachers, particularly at secondary level. An estimated 4% of teachers have a recognised teaching qualification.*
- *Dysfunctional libraries, laboratories and computer laboratories.*
- *Little or no access to internet facilities.*
- *Capacity of DoE professional staff in RT's, productive pedagogies and assessment a few steps ahead of teachers.*

There is a clear support for RT's to continue from the interview participants. However, it is crystal clear that teachers are struggling because they are constrained by the lack of capacity and the lack of resources, two critical factors in the success of any new initiative of such a magnitude. There is no escaping the truth that if Nauru is to have quality learning, they must have fully qualified and competent teachers as the first step. This is a fact that needs to be urgently addressed. It is also clear that a multi-pronged approach is needed to address the other issues; of resources (print and electronic), community awareness programs for parents, and the finer details of RT development and implementation,"

Mr. Speaker, the report is some 40 pages and needs careful analysis. However, Members will gather from the above extract from the executive summary that we are on the right footpath, but that we have a long way to go.

In the coming days I will be updating the House with my responses to the recommendations but at this stage I wish to express my department's sincere appreciation to PRIDE and Dr. Paumau for the work done in producing this report.'

(j) The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Fisheries) made a statement on 'Visit by Fisheries Officials' which reads as follows:

'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members – Background – The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority currently has a three-member consultant team on the island undergoing a scoping study on institutional strengthening of the NMFRA.

For the Members' information, government had requested the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to assist Nauru to undertake the scoping study. The scoping study is being financed by the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project that is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Purpose of Visit

The object of the study is to advise the government on the scope of institutional strengthening for the Authority in the following areas –

- (a) Assess the present status of the capacity of the Authority. This will include an assessment of the adequacy of the organisational, leadership and management, human resources management, administrative and financial management, standard of physical assets, communications and information technology.*
- (b) Look at licensing and managing relations with fishing interests, including access agreements, fishery monitoring, control and surveillance, statistics and analysis of statistical information.*
- (c) Assess policy formulation and implementation.*
- (d) Assess community empowerment and skill development for inshore fisheries, conservation, management and aquaculture.*
- (e) Make recommendations on institutional changes needed including the structure of the Authority, and the level and pattern of human, financial and other resources needed.*

In undertaking this work, the team shall take into account the National Fisheries Objectives and Strategies 2003-2022, the Nauru Aquaculture Development Plan and the draft NMFRA Policy Framework.

The consultancy team is headed by Mr. Robert Feraris – team leader; Mr. Gordan Anderson – AusAid, and the FFA Team Co-ordinator – Mr. Darren Cameron. The consultancy team arrived on Monday 6th November 2006 and will be in Nauru until Friday, 17th November 2006. So far they have met with me as Minister of NMFRA, the Chairman and Board of Directors of NMFRA and management of the Authority. Further meetings are planned this week and again next week with various government bodies, instrumentalities and NGO groups. Thank you Mr. Speaker.'

(k) Mr. Batsiua (Boe) as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee made a statement on 'Progress of Constitutional Review Committee'

'Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to make a statement in regard to the progress of the Constitutional Review Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Constitutional Review Committee will be concluding the second phase of the constitutional review process today, with the final public consultation meeting being held this evening.

The second phase of the constitutional review process has involved a series of 42 public consultation meetings over the last 5 weeks. There have been 2 meetings in every district, including Location, as well as meetings for government departments and other workplaces and interest groups. In total, over 600 people have attended these meetings. The aim of these meetings was to provide the public with information about their Constitution, and to gather opinions and ideas from the public in relation to their Constitution.

The meetings were conducted by a team which included the constitutional consultant, Ms. Katy LeRoy, who has been assisting the Committee since the beginning of the review process, and Mr. Kevin Balm, a public consultation consultant who was engaged specifically for this phase. They were assisted by a local team made up of people who were successful in their applications for the positions. These people are Fimosa Temaki, Gabrissa Hartman, Lavina Akken, Virgita Debaio, Espen Fritz, Anita Koroa and Chet Tatum. The Committee is very pleased with the work of the team and would like to acknowledge their important contribution and thank them for their hard work and dedication over the last 5 weeks.

All views expressed by the public at the consultation meetings have been recorded in detailed meeting notes which will be provided to the Constitutional Commission, which is to commence work on phase three of the process in December. The Commission will also consider all written submissions. I take this opportunity to again reiterate that written submissions can still be made until 17th November. The Commission will make its report and recommendations by the end of February 2007.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the United Nations Development Program – Suva Office, and the UN Democracy Fund in New York, which have provided the funding that makes the constitutional review process possible.

Once again on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank those who have worked so hard on the public consultation phase, and also to thank all participants who have shown interest and taken the time to provide the team with their views on the Constitution. This is the first step in ensuring that if there are to be any amendments to the Constitution, they will reflect the views and wishes of the people of Nauru. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.'

8. Motions

(i) Mr. Harris (Aiwo) moved that his motion No. 1 on the Notice Paper be adjourned to the next sitting day.

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

Question put and passed.

(ii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) moved that motion Nos. 2 and 5 be adjourned to the next sitting day.

The Hon. Godfrey Thoma (Minister for Justice) seconded.

Question put and passed.

(iii) His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty moved that motion Nos. 3, 4 and 6 be adjourned to the next sitting day.

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

9. Motion – Leave Sought for

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

10. Motion

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) as Chairman of the Select Committee on NPRT Financing Irregularities moved the following motion –

'Mr. Deputy Speaker, this House is aware that the Select Committee on NPRT Financing Irregularities was first constituted on 17th February 2005. Since then the Select Committee has made a steady progress and has taken oral evidence as well as written statements from several witnesses considered to be important for the Select Committee inquiry;

That the current life of the Select Committee will expire on 26th November 2006.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Select Committee is yet preparing the background material for drafting of the reports such as getting the translation of the several hundred pages of the transcripts of the evidence taken thus far;

The Select Committee will also endeavour to seek the post evidence replies from the witnesses and concerned departments/instrumentalities once the translation work is done;

The Committee has to perform its onerous duty of reporting back to the House for which the time until 26th November 2006 is evidently not sufficient.

I, on behalf of the Select Committee and anticipating that there might not be a Parliament sitting between today and 25th November, therefore seek extension of time for the Select Committee for another period of 4 months beyond 26th November 2006.'

Mr. Buramen (Ewa/Anetan) seconded.

Question put and passed.

11. **Leave of Absence**

(i) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) sought leave of absence for Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) who is overseas on government business.

Leave was granted.

(ii) Mr. Buramen (Ewa/Anetan) sought leave of absence for Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) who is also overseas on official business.

Leave was granted.

12. **Motion**

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty, moved that all Orders of the Day be adjourned and made Orders of the Day at the next sitting day.

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

13. **Motion Fixing the date for the next Sitting**

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

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) seconded.

Question put and passed.

14. **Adjournment**

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at fifty minutes past four 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

- *Dr. Kieren Keke
- *Mr. Stephen
Mr. Adam
Mr. Dowiyogo

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament

* Leave of Absence