

**Votes & Proceedings  
Of the  
Sixteenth Parliament**

**No. 36**

**First Sitting of the Twenty-Ninth Meeting  
Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**2.00 p.m.**

1. The House met on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in accordance with the resolution made by the House on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006.
2. The Hon. Valdon. K. Dowiyogo, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.

**3. Statements from the Chair**

*'Honourable Members I have the pleasure in acknowledging the presence in the gallery today, of representatives from the UNDP who have come to Nauru to my invitation to formulate a project to strengthen and support the Parliament.*

***The mission team comprises:***

*Ms. Charmaine Rodrigues, Team Leader and Leaders and Legislative Strengthening Expert from the UNDP Pacific Centre in Suva, Ms. Claire Thoms, Governance Analyst from the UNDP Country Office in Suva, and Mr. Warren Cahill, Project Manager of the Solomon Islands National Parliamentary Strengthening Project which is a project that I have seen in operation and is similar to the project proposed for this Parliament.*

*The team has been here now for 8 days of intensive meetings which have included meetings with the President and several meetings with me and the Clerk and the staff of the Parliamentary Secretariat. Importantly the team also undertook half day consultations with Members last Tuesday and with civil society representatives including members of district committees on Friday. The team has also benefited from briefings with a large number of other stakeholders including representatives of government, public officers, former members and other representatives of relevant bodies.*

*The mission will complete its information gathering today and depart tomorrow. However I have been informed that it is expected that a draft Project plan will be circulated early next month for feedback and comment. It is also hoped that at least one of the team will be able to return to Nauru to discuss the plan in more detail. Once the document is agreed the usual formalities will be required in terms of sign off prior to the process of seeking support from donors in terms of funding the project. I am optimistic that we will be able together to progress matters quickly so that the mobilization of funds can occur in the second half of this year and the project commence as soon as possible.*

*On behalf of myself and all members of the staff I wish to thank the UNDP staff for undertaking this mission and wish them speedy progress and success in their work towards developing a project to strengthen and support this Parliament.'*

4. **Notice of Motion**

(i) Mr. Marcus Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament, he shall move a motion on the Equal Distribution of the Grassroot Funds from the Republic of China.

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

(ii) Mr. Godfrey Thoma (Aiwo) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament, he shall move a motion on the urgent repairing of the Yaren sea-wall.

Mr. Tabuna (Yaren) seconded.

(iii) Mr. Godfrey Thoma (Aiwo) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament he shall move to present the Nauru District Council Bill 2007.

Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) seconded.

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

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

(a) His Excellency the President Hon. Ludwig Scotty made the following statement to the House on 'Nauru Police Force Recruiting Program:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable members, as Minister for the Police, I want to make it known for information of the House and the general public that the Nauru Police force is to conduct its first in country recruit training program this year. Staff from the police training academy has prepared application forms for interested persons who have a good educational history and report with a minimum of year five standard schooling.*

*Being responsible for the Police I am pleased to support this recruitment program as it will achieve a number of objectives. Firstly the police force through this program will provide employment opportunities for those genuine persons who wish to have a career in the service of the Republic and to uphold and enforce the laws of the country. The police force is now going through some major changes and a career in the force at this time will place them in a good position for advancement in years to come. I would encourage those persons who believe that they have the required skills and educational background to apply.*

*This recruiting program is a good sign for our nation as it would be undergoing a vigorous training regime and it would demonstrate that those people with initiative and the drive to succeed can have a future in the highly disciplined force on Nauru and in this case the proud service of the Nauru Police Force.*

*I am pleased to say that the police force is also undergoing many changes as part of the government's Law and Justice Reform Program. Resources are being improved with additional vehicles, uniforms and gears being ordered, and other program implementations are under way or being planned with some of these programs being delivered with the assistance of our pacific neighbours, donor entities and friendly distant countries.*

*I am also pleased to advise that plans are now being developed for the long awaited new police headquarters building which will be located at the site of the old*

*works department building. The spacious rear of the site will be used as a training depot and parade grounds that will also house police vehicles. The new building on the old derelict site will eliminate the now eyesore sight and will proudly display the proud police logo for all to see and seek immediate police protection whenever the need arises.*

*The Commissioner of Police and I are also looking to expand the policing services into the districts and we have been working together to identify a suitable site in the “Location Compound” as a first step. I am glad to say that we have found such a spot that will house a police depot with a holding cell that will be manned around the clock. Identifying other strategic spots elsewhere on the island will follow suit in order that police services are brought to within reasonable distances to district communities.*

*We are hopeful that once established the police posts will provide a better response to the increasing crime levels that are occurring in the location area and elsewhere around the island. I have particular concern for the crime rate that is occurring on our Chinese nationals where serious assaults and robbery have become rampant. It is very difficult for me to bring myself to believe that these atrocious cowardly acts are done by Nauruans.*

*The new police recruits and the improved services, as they come on line, will greatly add to improvements in our law and order efforts to ensure that everyone on Nauru can live in peace and safety.*

*In ending this brief statement, I would like to take this opportunity to humbly appeal to all members of this parliament, to district community leaders, as well as church leaders and parents of children and to everyone of us on Nauru to persevere in our efforts to make our beloved country a better place for all to live, in, as we are all bound in our Christian belief under our motto of “God’s Will First”.*

*Thank you.”*

(b) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement to the House:-

*‘Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am pleased to advise that at the request of your government the deployment of the Secretary of Finance, Mr. Jonathon Kirkby, and that of the Economic Advisor, Ms. Carla Adami has been extended by the Australian Government to early 2008.*

*Without this extension their deployments would have come to an end at end of June 2007.*

*This extension is a welcome improvement on the arrangements as it provides continuity in a very challenging and often changing working environment. The continuity should serve us all well given the forthcoming elections later in the year.*

*I am further pleased to advise that the Australian government has deployed a new Budget Advisor, Ms. Angela Baum, who joins us from the Australian Government’s Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM & C).*

*Ms. Baum brings with her double degrees in Commerce and Economics from the University of Newcastle, a Graduate of Diploma from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, and a Masters in Public Policy from the Australian National University.*

*Her impressive CV also includes experience working for the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet, preparing briefs and other material for the National Budget, Mid Year Economic and fiscal outlook and Senior Ministers' Review.*

*In short Mr. Speaker, your Government welcomes the new addition to the Finance Team deployed under the facilitation of Australian Assistance Act 2004, and I express on behalf of Government our gratitude to the Australian Government for the high standard maintained in the calibre of their deployments to Nauru.*

*I note that in other parts of the Pacific, Australia is encountering some difficulty from the host Governments where it is providing assistance to those countries where good governance is recognised challenged to their longer term security and development.*

*On the other hand, I am pleased to register Nauru's welcome of such assistance. Under the leadership of His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty, Nauru is making the best use of the support that is needed to assist secure a more self-sustaining and viable future for the people of Nauru. Indeed, we are convinced that without such support our agenda for change would come to a rapid halt and all our efforts would come to nought.*

*Let me therefore take this opportunity to welcome Angela to Nauru, and to thank Jonathon and Carla for agreeing to stay with us a bit longer.*

*Thank you.'*

(c) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker, academic year 2007 is well and truly underway. Government has several plans and initiatives to be implemented for this year, if not yet commenced. I am pleased to say that what has been mapped out in the Footpath strategy is being implemented with steady progress. I would like to apprise this august house on a few ongoing activities and developments in our Education System.*

### **1. School Buses**

*Your government is aware of the ongoing concerns of student transportation and having them arrive at school on time. Of course, there are varying factors that span beyond the departments concerned and into the homes, but we are not discouraged. In fact, we are attempting to get schools to start on time at 8.00 a.m. buses in recent weeks have been attempting to get students and teachers to school before 8.00 a.m. and would finish their runs by then. It is hoped that it would encourage students to rise early and discourage chronic late goers to catch the right buses.*

*Some students are missing the buses because the buses are earlier than last year, but buses need to start their rounds at 7.00 a.m. in order to have all students arrive at school by 8.00 a.m. I also had complaints that students go to school without breakfast because parents do not have time to prepare their breakfast. It is therefore important that parents and guardians do adjust themselves to this arrangement. We did consider school start at a later time, but I have not noticed any desire to do this.*

### **2. Early Childhood – Parent Meetings**

*The Early Childhood section of the Department of Education has been conducting a series of workshops on Parent Education after school. The courses are designed to help parents in bringing up their children. We will extend these workshops to cater for young*

mothers and fathers and provide them with basic parenting skills including teaching reading, nutrition, culture, child discipline/character building with Christian morals. Government encourages all parents and guardians to take part in these workshops as they provide them with the necessary tools to help enhance their children's academic capacity to perform throughout their schooling years and beyond.

### **3. Truancy**

Our Liaison Officers have been conducting meetings and doing surveys to find out the reasons for 36% of our students (over 800) were habitual truants in 2006. After this is done, we intend to analyse the results of the surveys to guide us in addressing the problem. This project is expected to pick up momentum over the coming weeks when visits to community committees will commence. This will attempt to bring them onside, in partnership, in the move to alleviate truancy levels overall.

### **4. School Repairs**

Mr. Speaker, honourable members would have noticed the heavy commotions going on at most schools with renovation work being carried out by private contractors. Our effort in the renovation project is basically centred on basic safety issues first. We are strengthening building structures, fixing electrical and plumbing problems, repairing holes in walls and ceilings, painting inside and out, repairing and refitting windows, fixing some roofs and guttering, and putting two doors on classrooms, which is a fire safety requirement.

I am pleased to inform honourable members that the new roofing machine has been ordered and is currently being custom built for us in Brisbane which will allow us to re-roof all our schools. When this is done we will be able to put new gutters on, collect the rainwater in new tanks and provide a reliable running water supply for schools.

We are currently employing over 45 tradesmen, security and labourers each week contributing to over \$10,000 per week in cash into our economy by way of wages. We also spend considerable sums of buying local building materials.

We have just recently started renovating Boe and Anetan Infant School simultaneously, and of course, Aiwo and Yaren Primary are still continuing.

Mr. Speaker, on my tour of schools currently under renovations last week, I was impressed to see how hard the boys worked and the standard of workmanship demonstrated.

### **5. Student Literacy results**

I have received two independent Reports on Literacy levels in our students. The results show our students are below regional benchmarks. The department is going all out to address this issue.

We are investing in more reading books. Over \$60,000 worth of readers has been ordered and should be arriving soon, and during talks recently with the British High Commissioner, he has kindly offered to provide 5000 pounds about \$23,000 for books for our schools. We are also providing over 100 of our teachers with a course in teaching reading and comprehension and as incentives to students, we are providing prizes for the best readers in our schools. We have increased the time in schools that is devoted to literacy and put on some extra trainee teachers to act as reading tutors. We are also

*renovating libraries and purchasing library display and storage furniture and equipment. These are some of the short term strategies to address this. They would be supplemented by our mid to longer term plan in strengthening our over all education system through the reform of our curriculum and building our professional capacity. The Literacy Benchmarking exercise will be repeated within the year. Also this year, benchmarking will be carried out for numeracy.*

## **6. ICT Education**

*The Department has engaged an ICT (Computers in School) expert for two years to promote and manage the use of computers in our education system. I welcome Mr. Marcus Tanner from Australia who arrived in January. With the Nauruan New Basic Curriculum, ICT is crucial as a learning medium. We are purchasing new equipment to complement the 50 computers already donated by Taiwan. Again I would like to thank the Republic of China, Taiwan for the kind donation.*

## **7. Scholarship Students**

*Honourable members would be happy to hear that our 47 secondary scholarship students have settled in well in Fiji. I thank Our Airline for slotting us into their busy schedule to transport our students back to school in Fiji.*

*Our under graduate scholarship students are settling in after some problems in travelling to their Universities due to some misunderstanding between the donors and students regarding travel and transfer arrangement.*

*I am pleased to announce that Taiwan is again providing two undergraduate and two post graduate scholarships. Applications are now open and for the undergraduate scholarships, applicants will be given a qualifying exam. These will be held on Wednesday April 11.*

*I am also happy to inform that the Ambassador from Turkey visited recently and have offered two university scholarships to commence in 2008. The scholarship is open to all Nauruans and is available in any area of University study. There are a number of highly respected Universities in Turkey that offer their courses in English.*

## **8. Staff Development**

*The Department is sending three teachers to an Early Childhood conference in Honiara next week. We see Early Childhood as a vital area of education and research shows that money spent on early childhood save money that needs to be spent at the other, more expensive, end of the education system i.e. upper secondary. The Department is conducting an extensive review of its Early Childhood Programme to ensure Nauru has the best possible start to school for our infants and younger students. We are concentrating on Literacy, Numeracy and learning the rules of “the game of school” so that when these students enter primary education they are properly prepared for learning.*

*Today our infant teachers are holding a workshop on improving skill in teaching reading at Boe and Kayser. These follow recent workshops held by these teachers in preparing themselves to be better teachers.*

**9. Able Disable Centre**

*The Department recently sent our TIC of the Able Disable Centre Mrs. Enat Akubor and a student to a Disability conference in PNG.*

*The Department is offering two new classrooms at Aiwo to the Able Disable Centre. The new toilets at Aiwo have a disable toilet cubicle in each of the boys and girls toilets.*

*A meeting of parents of Able Disable students will be held soon to discuss the Department's offer.*

**10. Nauruan Language Use in Schools**

*The Department currently is preparing a Policy paper on the use of Nauruan language in school. The department is being assisted by a number of consultants from both locally and overseas.*

*The support this work, NZAID has funded the purchase of some photocopying machines that will allow the department to produce its own booklets, written in Nauruan.*

**11. Welder Training Course**

*With the financial assistance from Taiwan, the Department is offering a welding training course in Australia for 12 people. Targeted trainees are people with skills in welding and fabrication. They will be tested and assessed for suitability for this programme by the trainer who will be arriving next week to conduct the selection.*

*Trainees will travel to Australia for a months' training. If successful, they will be certified to operate specialised welding equipment. Part of the deal with the Training provider is that they will offer to find jobs in Australia for the successful trainees.*

**12. Healthy Schools Programme**

*Our Department officers have been following up a course provided by WHO in Hong Kong by preparing to incorporate Healthy Schools items in our curriculum. Teachers met last week to prepare the programme and yesterday invited Health Department officers to a meeting to discuss their assistance in programme.*

*The Dentist has started a programme of checking the dental health of students. This week he is at Kayser College and will continue to move around to the other schools.*

*Mr. Speaker and honourable members thank you for your attention.'*

(d) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Finance) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I last updated the house on reform efforts being undertaken within the utilities sector in December. However, due to the speed with which reform efforts within the Utilities sector is progressing, I believe it is again timely to update the House on the efforts currently underway within the Utilities sector.*

*However, first I would like to discuss the disruptions to power supply that we all experienced during February – due largely to delays in getting spare parts in from Australia. No one was more aware of the problems than the staff within Utilities who worked tirelessly to repair the rental generators. It was an unfortunate experience and one that we will hope will not have to be repeated. However, due to unavoidable delays*

*in sourcing the replacement parts for the rental generators, Utilities staff were at one stage providing the island with power using only two of the five rented generators. This is not an ideal situation, and trying to manage ensuring 24 hour power for the two hospitals and power for emergency services – which I think you’ll agree is essential – meant that power supply to all other consumers was affected. However, we now have three rental generators in full service, with the parts for the fourth expected to arrive from the UK within the next month.*

*I would like to publicly commend the staff and management of Utilities for their hard work and commitment to improving what can be a difficult and uncompromising sector.*

*I am also very pleased to be able to publicly announce that Utilities management have been successful in negotiating with the contract provider the urgent deployment of a new rental generator. This is a significant win by Utilities Management and one that took a great deal of effort and negotiation. I can now confirm that a KTA 150 1MW rental generator has been put on the cargo ship that left Brisbane this week, and we can expect it to arrive in Nauru around the end of March. This additional (fifth) generator will provide Utilities with a much needed reliable generator and ensure improved reliability of Nauru’s power supply.*

*I would now like to turn to the other aspects of reform and progress within the Utilities sector. Since I last updated the House, I can also confirm:*

- In January this year, the GON was successful in getting Australia to reconsider its position on limiting diesel funding for power generation in Nauru to AUD 3 Million. As a result of Nauru’s proven commitment to reforming the Utilities sector, Australia agreed to Nauru’s request to increase diesel funding for power generation by AUD 2 million this financial year. This also reflects the improved confidence that Australia has in this Government and the Government’s commitment to reform. In January this year we took delivery of AUD 500,000 worth of diesel (using this additional AUD 2 million in funding) and just last week we took delivery of another AUD 750,000 worth of diesel. Supply stocks are now at an all time high and security measures have been improved significantly to limit any opportunity for misappropriation of that stock. We will be taking a further delivery of AUD 1 million worth of diesel provided by Japan towards the end of this month.*
- Work to refurbish our 4 permanent generators (2 Paxmans, 1 Ruston and 1 Caterpillar) continues to progress well, with 3 of the permanent sets expected to be up and running by May. Where possible, Utilities will endeavour to bring the units online ahead of schedule. It is worth noting that once the operability of the permanent generators can be guaranteed, we will be able to discontinue the rental of the Cummins generators and have them returned to Australia.*
- Work to refurbish the Multi-Effect Distillation (MED) Desalination Plant continues to progress well. Technicians from Australia have been working with staff from Utilities to progress this refurbishment work. For example, all motors and pump assemblies, individual pump/motor sub-frames and the main effects tank have been completely grit blasted to remove all corrosion and coated with an epoxy paint to provide protection from the elements and ensure many years of continued service. Work on the MED plant is expected to be completed in May –*



- although commissioning will not be done until the permanent generators are running reliably and producing steam.*
- *One seawater intake pump and the associated submersible pumps have been successfully refurbished and now running well. A new motor for the second seawater intake pump has also been ordered from Australia.*
  - *New security measures are being put in place across Utilities. Already the fencing at the tank farm has been repaired, and lighting equipment has been sourced from Australia to provide for security lighting for the tank farm and the Utilities compound. Lighting has also been ordered for the inside of the powerhouse. These items are expected to arrive in April.*
  - *A comprehensive range of tools and equipment (including safety gear) has been sourced and paid for and will also arrive on the April ship.*
  - *Work by Meridian PTY Limited to re-clad the power station and install roller-doors on the sea-sides of the building is now 95 per cent complete. The remaining 5 per cent of work to be done is a small section of roofing at the east end (front) of the powerhouse and the installation of louvres at the west end of the building.*
  - *Building the capacity of the staff within Utilities is another key priority. The trade school located adjacent to the Utilities is being refurbished by Utilities staff. It will provide basic training for mechanical , electrical, plumbing, carpentry/building and welding/boiler making and will be open for all Nauruans. It is expected that the refurbishment of the trade school will be fully completed by end of April. As organised by the Department of Education, a boiler maker/Welding course will be held at the trade school facility and will be attended by 2 Utilities staff members and 7 other Nauruans from different organisations.*
  - *Utilities staff are also refurbishing an existing building on the Utilities compound. This building will house the security and billing offices.*
  - *Ensuring a safe working environment for staff within Utilities is another key priorities for Utilities management. Already 22 Utilities staff have attended a training course on Senior First Aid and CPR, run by Utilities and the Hospital. This course provided participants with training on how to deal with broken bones/falls/cuts/electric shock etc. Due to the overwhelming number of applicants, another course is scheduled to be run in the coming months.*
  - *The two hospitals are now connected to 24 hours of mains power supply, as are the police and emergency services and the radio repeater station for marine/police and emergency services. Government offices and three schools have also been provided with guaranteed power during core hours (9 a.m – 5 p.m. for Government offices and 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. for Nauru Secondary School, Nauru College and Yaren Primary School). The three schools provided with guaranteed power were selected only on the basis of what was practical given the current state of distribution lines. Power supply to these schools is basic and essentially provides only for the operation of fans within class rooms.*
  - *Utilities management and staff are working with core state enterprises (for example, Rontel) to get their back-up generators online – ensuring that they automatically switch on when the mains power goes off. This will minimise*

*downtime for communications. Utilities have also reconfigured the Rontel main switch board resulting in no down time or equipment damage due to power fluctuations and/or power outages.*

- *The Cherry Picker arrived in Nauru on the last cargo ship and has already been used to assist Utilities staff to undertake tree lopping around power lines, thus limiting opportunities for trees and branches to interfere with power lines and create potential fire hazards. All operators of the Cherry Picker have been formally trained in the safe use of this equipment. When not in use by Utilities, the Cherry Picker will be available for hire.*
- *To assist with the implementation of the load shedding schedule and the ongoing maintenance of power distribution lines, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is also being provided to assist Utilities with the purchase of a much needed crane truck. The crane truck will enable Utilities to service and replace transformers, replace power poles and cross-arms and also undertake repairs to the desalination and power plants, as required. Like the Cherry Picker, the crane truck – when not in use by Utilities, will be available for hire. All three of these items will arrive in Nauru on the next cargo ship between 19-29 March a trained crane operator/rigger will come from Australia to train in the correct and safe use of the equipment.*
- *Finally, the European Union have agreed to assist Nauru in the implementation of its Utilities Reform Strategy. In particular, we have just confirmed that the European Union will assist by providing Nauru with inter alia a locally recruited energy officer (to be recruited in the next few months), with a small scale grid connected solar power for some public buildings (yet to be identified), the recruitment of a locally engaged energy officer will be very useful to residential consumers of power as this person will be able to work within communities and through community groups to support households in identifying ways in which to manage their electricity consumption.*

*I think you will agree that a lot of work has been undertaken over the last few months, but to give full effect to this Government's Utilities Reform Strategy – a lot remains to be done.*

*The Aid Management Unit and Utilities Management continue to work in close association to seek funding from various donors to ensure the effective implementation of Nauru's Utilities Reform Strategy. Reform is not an easy or quick process. It is one that will take many years to have full effect, but I think you will agree when I say that we have been successful in achieving some sound improvements within the sector to date.*

*Thank you and I look forward to again being able to update the House and Public on the continued implementation of the Utilities Reform Strategy in the coming months.'*

(e) His Excellency, Ludwig Scotty, as acting Minister for Health made the following statement to the House:- *'An update of the Health Ministry.*

***Staff Recruitment:***

*1) There has just been a local recruitment of seven (7) permanent Nursing Aides that have been recruited into the Ministry as of 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 and two (2) temporary Nurse Aides. There is 1 newly recruited trained Nurse from Tuvalu.*

*2) There are plans under to recruit qualified Nurses from Fiji to help alleviate the current severe nurse shortage at the RON hospital.*

*3) A Dr. Si Thu Win Tin – Director of Public Health arrives today recruited from Myanmar and is to be on a three (3) year contract.*

*He is to be in charge of all Public Health Matters currently being based at Nauru General Hospital.*

***Visiting Specialist:***

*There is on island an eye specialist Dr Jambi Garap, who arrived on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March and leaves on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2007. Dr. Jambi brings her own specialized equipment for surgery and eye glasses for the specialized need of the patients.*

***Medical Supplies:***

*There a current shortage of medical supplies based on SUPPLIER issues and this is being currently worked out by the Minister for Health & Secretary for Health & Medical Services with the Suppliers, who are overseas on Health related matters for Government. This matter is being dealt with urgently by the Ministry and hopefully resolved any time soon.*

***Trainees:***

*There are currently:-*

*(a) Four (4) Nurse Trainees at the Kiribati School of Nursing in their first year of training. The Program is for three (3) years for a Diploma of Nursing.*

*(b) There are three (3) Nurse Trainees at the Fiji School of Nursing doing their first year of training and there are three (3) Nurse Trainees at the Fiji School of Nursing doing their second year of training.*

*The Fiji School of Nursing is a three (3) year diploma programme.*

*(c) there is a trainee at the Fiji School of Medicine in her second year.*

*(d) there is one Radiographer in his first year and*

*(e) there is one Physiotherapist doing his third year of training.*

*There are now four expatriate doctors (including one dentist) on the island and two expatriate radiographer.*

*The Health/Medical departments are expecting other professionals to arrive and supplement the manpower shortage in our hospitals.*

*I am happy to inform that a new updated ambulance has been received by the RON Hospital compliance from the Capelle families. I express governments great appreciation to this kind gesture for the benefit of all Nauruans from Mr. & Mrs. Oppenheimer.'*

f) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, give the absence of Parliament Sitting since last year, I take this opportunity to report on some activities and developments in the Foreign Ministry.*

*In January we were visited by the British High Commissioner, H.E. Roger Skyes, for his presentation of credentials to H.E. President Ludwig Scotty.*

*The following week we were visited by the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Namekawa, for the signing ceremony of an aid package that would provide 45 water tanks for the communities on Nauru. Ambassador Namekawa also attended the flag raising ceremony on Independence Day.*

*In February we were visited by the US Embassy's First Secretary, Mr. Brian Siler, who was obtaining an update on developments in Nauru since the Donor Roundtable Conference of 2005.*

*Also in February, we were visited by the Turkish Ambassador for the presentation of his credentials. Accompanied by the Ambassador was the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Turkey, to discuss matters related to the United Nations.*

*In February, your Government engaged with the Australian Government on MOU talks in Brisbane, to which I was accompanied by Ministers Frederick Pitcher and Roland Kun.*

*In brief, I am pleased to report that again the Australian Government found no scope to find unfavourably on Nauru's progress on Reform commitments under the MOU. On the other hand, we on the Nauru side found some disappointment in Australia's commitment to support our Reform efforts with resources pledged and mutually agreed to at the last MOU talks. It is crucial that funds committed under the MOU be released in a timely and responsive manner in order to assure timely progress on development and good governance activities mutually agreed to under the MOU. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and, it appears to be the case that for as long as we are at the mercy of the Aid Bureaucracy in Canberra, we will not likely be the recipients of a significant portion of the Australian aid promised under the MOU.*

*Whilst your Government has certainly not surrendered to this possibility, I advised that we should be prepared to accept the possibility that we may forego approximately AUD3.5 Million of aid that was promised us in the MOU.*

*I advise however that with the support of the Finance Team and the Aid Management Unit, your Government is continuing discussions with the Australian Government on this matter with the hope of finding some resolution when next I meet Australia's Foreign Minister, later this week in Vanuatu.*

*But it is not all bad on the Australian front.*

*I am pleased to report for instance that Canberra has offered to assist us on the Philphos matter by tasking their Ambassador in the Philippines to approach the Government of the Philippines to seek ways and means of finding some resolution for Nauru on the matter of repayments from Delphi Holdings. I will report to this august House when next we meet, progress on this very challenging financial issue.*

*Further on the MOU, I am pleased to report that at the request of your Government, Australia agreed to provide another AUD2 Million under the MOU to fund the purchase of diesel fuel for Utilities. At the kind and direct intervention of the*

*Australian Foreign Minister, we averted certain disaster in January when we received a shipment of fuel that month that enabled continuity of power, this shipment was valued at AUD0.5Million*

*We have since received, as of last week, another fuel shipment valued AUD0.75Million, and expect to receive the final shipment valued AUD0.5Million before end of Financial Year.*

*With the funding from the Australian MOU, I am pleased to report that the new Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade has, since last week, assumed his duties. Mr. Iosefa Maiava, formerly the Deputy Secretary General at the Forum Secretariat, is known to all the Aid Agencies, Regional Organisations and Diplomatic Missions in Suva and to many if not all the Diplomatic staff in the Pacific Region for his excellent service to the region as PIFS staff member since the 1990's. His reputation precedes him and may not require an introduction to this august House. But let it be recalled that when Nauru sought emergency support from the Forum in 2004, it was Iosefa Maiava who led a Regional Team to Nauru and met with the Scotty Government to assist find a way forward through the madness of the crises that we inherited from the Harris Government.*

*As we continue to find Economic and Financial Stability in a still challenging environment, your Government is pleased to have on our side the services of Iosefa Maiava. He will be an asset for all of Nauru for the next 12 months and I hope Honourable Members will join me in helping him feel welcome on Nauru as well as to ensure his stay with us is as enjoyable and rewarding as it will be for us.*

*Already we have commenced the long planned review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and in this regard, we commenced this task today on the arrival of a Consultant engaged by the PIFS. Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, former Foreign Minister of Fiji, an experienced and skilled diplomat for Fiji and the Pacific Region, will be conducting this review and providing a report to Government in about four weeks.*

*Whilst I am on this subject, I am pleased to also report that the National Planning Specialist engaged under the Forum's Pacific Regional assistance to Nauru (PRAN) framework has commenced since last week. Mr. Paula Uluinaceva is the Former Secretary of Finance in Fiji and is another asset to Nauru who brings him considerable experience and skill to assist Nauru at this critical time. Mr. Uluinaceva will be progressing the work commenced by Iulai in the Finance Ministry's Development planning and policy division. In particular strengthening the work of the National Development Committee (NDC) and the functions of the DPPD itself, better linking the work of HOD's to the NSDS, commencing preparation of Sector Specific Development Plans to facilitate Donor Consultations and donor support, updating progress on NSDS objectives, and making preparations for the next Donor Roundtable Conference in Nauru (Tentatively scheduled for late July).*

*In other developments, the Government of Cuba is sending their Ambassador based in Indonesia, to present his credentials later this month. We are confident that this will augur an improved working relationship with Cuba particularly in the discussions to recommence the assistance earlier given Nauru in the Medical field.*

*Our Ambassador to the United Nations, Ms. Marlene Moses, is also expected to be presenting her credentials to the Cuban Government later this year.*

*Mr. Speaker, I report also that our High Commissioner in Fiji, Mr. Kennan Adeang, presented his credentials to Fijian President Iloilo on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, and*

*that our Ambassador in the Republic of China (Taiwan) presented his credentials to President Chen on 7 March.*

*Together with Taiwan's Foreign Minister, His Excellency James Huang, I will soon be joining Ambassador Keke in the official opening of the Embassy in Taipei scheduled for 27 March. As may be recalled by this august House when I presented last year the Supplementary Bill, the Embassy is established to not only further strengthen our relations with an important ally but also to commence the important work of commencing talks with prospective Taiwanese employers of Nauruan Labour. I am advised that several such members of the Taiwanese Business Community have been invited to the opening of the Embassy and in this regard, your Government through Ambassador Keke will be supporting in this endeavour by resourceful businessmen known to and engaged by your Government.*

*Your Government is also giving close consideration to the possibility of formally establishing a Consular Office in New Zealand given the engagement of a good number of our people for seasonal, 68 of our people will be commencing employment as fruit pickers for a period of no less than 2 months, with good prospects for a number of them to continue further depending on issues such as worker productivity and bilateral arrangements with the Government of New Zealand. Given its importance to the Long Term Development of Nauru and as an NSDS priority to assist secure employment for Nauruans in External Labour Markets, Government has assigned a Government Official to undertake a temporary Consular/Welfare role in Palmerston North, the place of employment for our fruit pickers. Depending on the longer term prospects for the continuity and sustainability of this employment program, I will report to this august House as to Government's consideration of a Long Term Posting to New Zealand.*

*Before I end this brief statement, let me take this opportunity to report that the small Nauruan Community in New Zealand appears to have risen to the occasion and will be donating some warm clothing for our people when they arrive.*

*Your Government recognises this support and welcomes the generosity of our fellow Nauruans in New Zealand. Your government appreciates this assistance and I am sure that this will continue to be a feature of this program in what will be an eye-opening and challenging, yet rewarding, working environment for our people.*

*Thank you for your attention.'*

(g) The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR) made the following statement to the House:-

*'Mr. Speaker, I wish to augment the statement provided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and provide a brief report on the outcome of the NACOS meeting held concurrently with the MOU talks.*

*The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NACOS Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held in Brisbane on 21<sup>st</sup> February under my chairmanship. The Nauruan delegation consisted of Hon. David Adeang, the Hon. Roland Kun, Mr. Vinci Clodumar, CEO of the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and Mr. Gordon Atkinson, lead consultant for the GAA group who are engaged by NRC to carry out final investigations on the rehabilitation of the mined out lands and recovery of the secondary phosphate.*

*The major matters consisted at the meeting were:*

**A. Final Audit Report on the Payments made to Nauru Under NACOS and RADCA.**

*In August 2006 AusAid commissioned an audit to confirm all past payments from the annual Article 4 NACOS allocations to NRC, to third parties on behalf of NRC, and to the Trust account. The audit was funded by AusAid and no NACOS funds were used.*

*The initial report in September 2006 found underpayment of \$431,145. Most of the underpayment came from calculation errors using the GDP price deflator. Following another review of This brings the total owed to NRC as at the 2006 NACOS payment, the auditor calculated a further underpayment of \$224,313.32. This brings the total owed to NRC as at 30 June 2006 to \$651,408. This amount will paid into the NACOS Trust Account in the coming months.*

**B. Finalisation of RADCA Exchange of Letters (EOL)**

*The two governments had agreed in July 2006 that a review of RADCA was long overdue and should be undertaken with the objective of strengthening and enhancing the working relationship between the two co-ordinating authorities, streamlining the processing of an agreed work program and projects while at the same time addressing the core issues pertaining to operation of the unspent NACOS trust funds.*

*Much of these issues have been addressed and will take the form of an exchange of letters (EOL) between the parties acknowledging the amendments without actually changing the treaty document.*

*Nauru also requested that the operation of the trust account for unspent NACOS funds (totalling over \$20m to date) revert back to Nauru under sole signatory authority. Australia recognized Nauru's right to demand this under RADCA, but would only agree to such an arrangements if the funds were used according to agreed work programs and projects. To this end Australia and Nauru agreed that risk management consultants would be engaged to assess and mitigate the risks that the funds would face under sole signatory and to develop a verification mechanism to ensure the funds are spent properly.*

**C. Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Work Program**

*The JCC was updated on the implementation of the main Joint Review recommendations. Amongst the useful updates, I am pleased to advise the House that requirement of engineers to strengthen the management of the engineering department and provide capacity to implement the work program is in progress. Ambit Recruitment Group has been engaged to carry out the recruitment of the Engineering Manager and the Project Engineer.*

*Furthermore, Implementation of pre-requisites under chapter 5 of the Work Program Review report is in progress. The GAA group is investigating the initial procurement of mining plant and equipment worth \$2.2 million to commence a full production run in which one of the trial pits would undergo a full rehabilitation process of removing the pinnacles and secondary phosphate extracted; followed by the backfilling of the voids and "designed" topsoil laid. The production run will provide the necessary data and information for the Group to finalize selection and specifications of the remainder of the mining plant and equipment and place orders with suppliers. The aim is to place the orders by May and delivery to Nauru by September/October 2007. Trial control blasting would also be undertaken using special explosives that would be*

*imported. The high speed explosives would cut rather than blow the rocks and therefore reducing the contamination of the secondary phosphate.*

**D. Ground Water Investigations and Coral Stone Cutting Projects**

*Mr. Speaker, the meeting also discussed and progressed two Special Projects for NRC. The first was the Ground-Water Investigation Project. The project document was submitted to AusAID at the end of 2006 and I am pleased to advise the House that funding for the investigation of the quality and quantity of water that can be pumped without breaching the fresh-water lens of the underground water has been approved and disbursed to NRC. The project is estimated to cost \$767,000 over 3 years and it is expected that mobilization of the drilling rig and drillers will commence in May 2007. Further information will be given by NRC when more details become available.*

*The second special project is the Stone Cutting project – which relates to the investigation of whether the Nauru coral stone has the characteristics and properties to be used in the building industry such as floor and wall tiles, blocks and polished floor marble. I had the opportunity to meet one of the principals of Cut & Core – the company that NRC has engaged to carry the investigative work during my recent trip. A “logistics” and assessment trip will take place from 29 March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April on Nauru during which Cut & Core experts will undertake field studies of the rocks on site and so some trial cutting to determine the properties of the rock. Cut & Core experts will undertake field studies of the rock. Cut & Core have some experience with the Nauru coral stone as they were engaged to remove the pinnacles in the court yard of Nauru House last year. Again further information will be given by NRC when more details become available.*

*Mr. Speaker, the meetings were very successful from Nauru’s point of view, and we look forward to the implementation of the many projects under NRC in the coming months. I wish to thank the CEO of NRC and its Board for their ongoing vigilance in progressing the work of NRC, and for their support in the high-level meetings. Thank you.’*

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

(h) Mr. M. Batsiua (Boe) as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, tabled the Report of the Independent Constitutional Review Commission. and made the following statement

*‘I am pleased to be tabling today the Report and Recommendations of the Nauru Constitutional Review Commission. The Commission was appointed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitution, taking into account the views of the public expressed at public consultation meetings and in written submissions, and to make recommendations for amendments to the Constitution.*

*The Commission comprised Ruby Thoma as Chairperson, and Leo Keke and Guy Powles as Commissioners, the Commission worked hard for three months to produce its substantial report. I wish to express the gratitude of the Standing Committee for the outstanding efforts of the Commissioners in fulfilling their important task.*

*The Report is to be made available to the public, and is to be printed in Australia and freighted to Nauru. In the meantime, the Report will be available on the*



*Naurugov.nr.website. People can also obtain an electronic copy of the Report by visiting Parliament and either burning the report to disk or saving it on a flash drive.*

*The Commission Report recommends a number of amendments to Nauru's 1968 independence Constitution, which are primarily aimed at improving the transparency and accountability of institution.*

*Some of the more noteworthy recommendations of the Report include:-*

- *the popular election of the President, rather than a President elected by Parliament,*
- *the appointment of a Speaker who is not a Member of Parliament, to avoid the deadlocks that have plagued our Parliament in the past,*
- *the abolishment of the appeals to the High Court of Australia and the provision for an appellate division of the Supreme Court of Nauru,*
- *the establishment of a Public Service Commission; and*
- *numerous recommendations to amend the finance provisions of the Constitution including strict requirements to account for all public revenue and expenditure.*

*These and all other recommendations contained in the Report will be debated by a Constitutional Convention, which is the subject of a Bill being introduced to this House later today. Any decisions made by the Convention to amend the Constitution will then be submitted to Parliament in accordance with the procedure for constitutional amendment prescribed by the Constitution.*

*On behalf of the Committee I'd like to gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme in Suva, which is funding the constitutional review process and provided all funding for the Constitutional Review Commission. The Commission also received assistance from the Australian Consulate in Nauru, for which I wish to express thanks.*

*Once again I thank the Commissioners for their work, and thank the people who contributed their ideas and opinions to the Commissioners through public consultation meetings and written submissions.*

*Last but not least I also wish to express the Committee's gratitude to Ms. Katy LeRoy the Constitutional Consultant who continues to be the engine driving this whole process. Without her invaluable contribution, expertise, intuition and guidance this whole review would have derailed a long time back. A special word of thanks also goes to the two administrative assistants, Mrs. Winnie Tsitsi and Mrs. Fimosa Temaki.*

*Thank you.'*

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

## **Resumed**

### **7. Motion – Leave sought for**

Mr. M. Batsiua (Boe) as Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, sought leave of the House to present the Constitutional Review Committee (Amendment) Bill 2007.

The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR) seconded

Leave was granted.

8. **Motion – Constitutional Review Committee (Amendment) Bill 2007**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) – Chairman CRC, moved to present the Constitutional Review Committee (Amendment) Bill 2007.

The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR) seconded.

**First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

9. **Motion – Second Reading**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. Frederick Pitcher (Minister for CIR) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

(Under S.O. 159 further debate on the second reading was adjourned to a future date.)

10. **Motion – Suspension of Standing Orders**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that S.O. 159 be suspended to enable debate on the second reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

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

The Chair upon queries of some Members suspended the sitting and to resume when the bell rings.

**Resumed.**

The question on the Motion suspension of S.O. 159 was put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

11. **Motion – Leave sought for**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, sought leave of the House to move for the third reading of the Bill.

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Leave was granted.

12. **Motion – Third Reading**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

13. **Motion – Leave sought for**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, sought leave of the House to move the Constitutional Convention Bill 2007.

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

Leave was granted.

14. **Motion – Constitutional Convention Bill 2007**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved to present the Constitutional Convention Bill 2007.

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

**First Reading**

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

15. **Motion – Second Reading**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

(Under S.O. 159 further debate on the second reading was adjourned to a future date.)

16. **Motion – Suspension of Standing Orders**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that S.O. 159 be suspended to enable debate on the second reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

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

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

17. **Division of the House called for**

Mr. Stephen (Ewa/Anetan) and Mr. Harris (Aiwo) called for division.

Bell was rung for one minute.

The House divided.

| <b>Ayes</b> |             | <b>Noes</b>  |             |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Mr. Scotty  | Mr. Adeang  | Mr. Thoma    | Mr. Harris  |
| Mr. Waqa    | Mr. Pitcher | Mr. Adam     | Mr. Stephen |
| Mr. Kun     | Mr. Tabuna  | Mr. Jeremiah |             |
| Mr. Dabwido | Mr. Buramen |              |             |
| Mr. Batsiua | Mr. Akua    |              |             |

**Total – 10**

**Total – 5**

**18. Motion – Leave sought for**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

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

Leave was not granted.

**19. Motion – Suspension of all relevant Standing Orders**

Mr. Batsiua (Boe) Chairman CRC, moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable leave of the third reading of the Bill to proceed forthwith.

The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read the third time.

**20. Motion – Fixing the Date for the Next Sitting**

His Excellency, President Ludwig Scotty, moved that Parliament at it's 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.

**21. Leave of Absence**

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.

**22. Adjournment**

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

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at fifty-six minutes past eight 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 Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke\*

**John Garabwan  
Deputy Clerk of Parliament**

\* Leave of Absence

