

**Votes & Proceedings
of the
Fifteenth Parliament**

No. 49

**First Sitting of the Tenth Meeting
Thursday, 15th July 2004**

2.00 p.m.

1. The House met at 2.00 p.m. in accordance with the resolution made on Friday, 2nd July 2004.

2. **No Quorum**

Mr. Adam (Buada) informed the Chair of the lack of quorum in the House. The Chair advised the Clerk to ring the bells for five minutes for want of quorum. Bells rung for five minutes.

3. **Quorum Present**

The Hon. Riddel Akua, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, then read Prayers.

4. **Statement From the Chair**

The Hon. Riddel Akua, M.P., Speaker of Parliament, made the following statement -

“Honourable Members,

Before we proceed with normal business of the day, I wish to make a statement regarding the suspension of Hon. Russell Kun from the sittings of the House.

The Members may recall that Hon. Russell Kun, then Minister for Justice, was suspended from the sittings of the House pursuant to the resolution of Parliament passed at the sitting of the House on 9th June 2004. This suspension came due to the fact that Hon. Kun, whilst he was Minister for Justice, made some serious and disparaging remarks concerning the business of the House transacted on 20th and 21st May 2004.

The statement also cast certain reflections on the impartiality of the Chair. This House resolved that Hon. Kun be suspended until such time that the Speaker was satisfied with Hon. Kun’s apology to the Office of the Speaker and also to the House with pledges from the Minister to give effect to Acts and resolutions of Parliament.

The, then, Minister for Justice, in fact tendered unconditional apology on the same day, i.e. 9th June 2004, to the Speaker requesting that the inadvertent mistake may kindly be condoned. Following up on the apology, the, then, Speaker felt that it was insufficient to fully cover the will of the House as nothing had been done to give effect to Acts and resolutions of Parliament.

This Chair, now, feels that since Hon. Kun has ceased to be the Minister vis-a-vis a member of the Cabinet with the removal of the President and the Government on 22nd June 2004, he is not in the capacity to enforce the will of the House and to give effect to

the Acts and resolutions of the Parliament agreed to on 20th and 21st May 2004.

The Chair feels that Hon. Kun has been out of the House since 10th June 2004 and his absence jeopardises his ability to perform as a Member of Parliament and to raise his voice for the redressal of the grievances of his constituents.

I, therefore, rule that Hon. Kun be admitted to the House forthwith.”

The Chair, with the concurrence of the House, suspended the sitting for five minutes and will resume at the ringing of the bells.

Resumed.

5, Letter of Resignation

Mr. Cain (Clerk of Parliament) read out the following letter of resignation from the Speaker, Hon. Riddel Akua:-

“Dear Mr. Clerk,

I tender my resignation as the Speaker of Parliament in terms of Article 34(3)(e) of the Constitution of Nauru.

This has been necessitated due to my heavy pre-occupation with my job in the Nauru Phosphate Corporation as Assistant Harbour Master. For quite some time now, I was finding it difficult to carry on amicably with my two duties as Speaker of Parliament and as Assistant Harbour Master.

My job in the NPC is a full-time job which needs my presence at all time with all incoming and outgoing ships to the harbour. I am also under heavy pressure of the maintenance of the buoy moorings which have become quite obsolete and it is for this reason that I am tendering my resignation.

Yours sincerely, (signed) Hon. Riddel Akua, M.P. Speaker.”

6. Election of Speaker

(The Hon. Dogabe Jeremiah, M.P., Deputy Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair.)

The Deputy Speaker then called for nominations to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Speaker.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke, (Minister for Health) nominated Mr. Kun (Ubenide) to be Speaker of Parliament.

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) seconded.

Mr. Kun accepted the nomination.

There being no other nominations forthcoming, Mr. Kun was duly elected Speaker of the Fifteenth Parliament.

Mr. Kun (Ubenide) having been elected Speaker of Parliament was escorted to the Chair by Hon. Dr. Kieren (Minister for Health) and Mr. Thoma (Aiwo), proposer and seconder respectively.

The Chair suspended the sitting and will resume when the bell rings.

Resumed.

7. Message From the President

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty delivered a message to the House, in vernacular, on his recent overseas travel to the Republic of Kiribati and the outcomes of talks with the leaders of several Pacific Island nations..

8. Questions on Notice

Question No.4 of 2004 - was replied to.

9. Questions Without Notice were asked.

10. Ministerial Statement & Tabling of Papers

(i) His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty made the following statement to the House on the update on GE Capital as follows -

“Honourable Members, since taking office on June 22nd, 2004, my government has been working expediently in order to protect the Republic from what is considered its biggest threat since Independence, namely the attempted foreclosure of GE Capital of the assets that form the security under the GE Capital loan namely -

Nauru House

Royal Randwick Shopping Centre

Savoy Park Plaza Hotel

Downtown on Lygon

Raytheon Building, Houston, Texas

The purpose of this speech is to update Honourable Members as to the status of our attempts to deal with the situation.

It is unfortunate that the relationship between the Republic and the receivers and managers appointed by GE Capital is at best an acrimonious one. Despite the Republic’s best endeavours to deal with the receivers in a commercial manner, the attitude of GE Capital, the receivers and their lawyers, to the Republic, is one designed to leave the Republic in the dark in regards to the financial situation concerning our companies financial status as well as intending to inhibit the Republic’s ability to move forward on a meaningful basis with any intended refinance proposal or financier.

Upon receiving an immediate update concerning the status of Nauru’s attempts to refinance the debt to GE Capital, government, by virtue of Cabinet decision, ratified the Babcock and Brown refinancing proposal as a means of safeguarding the asset portfolio of the Republic. Honourable Members, I am aware the details of this proposal has been discussed in this House previously, so I will not elaborate on them further. The underlying premise behind the government’s support of the Babcock and Brown proposal

was the safeguarding of the remaining assets within the GE poroperty portfolio given the understanding the Mercure Hotel property had been sold for \$80.5 million. The remaining property value being approximately \$245 million.

In good faith and in the interest of moving to resolve the matter, the Babcock and Brown proposal was placed before GE Capital seeking their agreement. Unfortunately this did not eventuate, with a number of issues raised by GE Capital. Justifying their decision that unfortunately had been heard by the Republic for the first time.

As a result, legal action was undertaken against the receivers and managers PPB in the Supreme Court of Sydney last Friday, July 9th 2004. I am pleased to advise the following successful outcomes on behalf of the Republic of Nauru. These include -

- (i) GE and the receivers have agreed that Nauru's chosen refinancier may conduct due diligence and gain access to records and properties for that purpose.
- (ii) There will be no interference with the occupation of Level 50, Nauru House, until well after the time by which Nauru expects to have finalised its refinance in order to pay put the GE Capital loans, namely until 30 August 2004.
- (iii) That even though Royal Randwick Shopping Centre may still be sold before Nauru can refinance the property, if it is sold it will probably be for a record price and there is still a substantial chance that the refinance could precede the sale.
- (iv) It is probably that the Republic of Nauru will now be able to refinance the debt on Nauru House and the other Melbourne properties before they are sold by the receivers.

Whilst we were unsuccessful in terms of obtaining an injunction against selling of the Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, the outcome achieved represents a positive development that Nauru has been unable to achieve since receivers and managers were appointed in April this year.

Honourable Members, the government continues to evaluate the most suitable outcome to Nauru in terms of achieving a satisfactory outcome with GE Capital. It is unfortunate that there is a high level of probability that still exists that we will not retain the Royal Randwick Shopping Centre within our books, however, if it is sold, it will be at a price that will have exceeded all market expectations and quite possibly created a record price.

Honourable Members will be aware at the expedient action undertaken by the receivers and managers with regard to Level 51 and 49 of Nauru House, concerning the Presidential residence and the instrumentalities of the Nauru Corporation and Nauru Phosphate Corporation. Representative of the Trust continue to negotiate with the receivers to reverse their decision, however this is being met with resistance. I will update the House once a complete understanding has been obtained and in the event we are not successful in having the receivers reverse their decision, I will update the House as to the intended course of action in regard to the instrumentalities affected and their relocation possibilities.

Honourable Members, please rest assured that your government is working to achieve an outcome to the Republic that will safeguard to the maximum extent possible, the equity position of Nauru's property portfolio. We will not be shifted from achieving our aims, which we believe to be in the best interests not only of the Republic but also its people. It is only through working together in a unified and commercial manner can we ensure the Republic's next generation does not have to endure the same hardships that

the people of Nauru do today.

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

(ii) The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Foreign Affairs) made the following statement on foreign assistance to Nauru:-

“Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am pleased to report to this august House that with the election of your government three weeks ago, considerable expressions of interest have been received and/or affirmed from friendly countries and organisations to assist Nauru in meeting its present and longer term difficulties.

Last week, a Foreign Ministry official visited Nauru at the behest of the Prime Minister of New Zealand to ascertain from this government how best New Zealand can assist Nauru with its economic and financial issues, with relevance also to New Zealand’s role as current Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum. Cabinet Ministers and government officials had honest and productive talks outlining the present and future needs of our people, and possible strategies for sustainably developing a Nauruan standard of living that permits us all to continue to enjoy our homeland with dignity and security.

We are assured that our talks will be directly conveyed to the Prime Minister, with whom His Excellency the President will be meeting personally on the occasion of the Pacific Islands Forum scheduled for the first week in August in Apia, Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, this week, the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) visited Nauru and met with Cabinet Ministers and government officials to discuss projects to be funded by the Rome-based organisation. Talks included the identification of pilot projects, the deployment to Nauru of four experts and the appointment of a National Co-ordinator to implement and monitor projects for the next two years regarding food security in Nauru. It is envisaged at this time that projects will be primarily smaller scale in the first instance, commencing as early as September, with scope for upscaling in the longer term

This week also, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat visited to discuss how best the Secretariat and the forthcoming meeting of leaders of the Forum countries can best fit their resources and continued goodwill to Nauru in addressing our country’s present crisis. There is already agreement to fund the appointment of a representative of the Forum Secretariat to be based in Nauru to, inter alia, assist coordinate regional and international assistance to Nauru, assist develop strategies by which to obtain foreign assistance, and strengthen linkages between Nauru and the Secretariat especially on matters of sustainable development and good governance.

Again, these talks will be continued and affirmed on the occasion of the forthcoming Forum, particularly at the Leaders’ Retreat where His Excellency the President will be conveying to Forum leaders the wishes of the government and people of Nauru to obtain regional assistance at this our time of need and hardship.

Also, the Australian Foreign Minister has invited your government to meet with him and other officials of the government next week in Australia, in order to discuss how best Australia’s willingness to assist Nauru can be matched to our needs. It is your government’s hope that this invitation can be taken up noting also our onerous

responsibilities on domestic issues and the continued cash flow deficiencies experienced by government.

On the margins of the Kiribati independence celebrations in Tarawa, His Excellency the President received assurances from the representative of the European Union (EU) regarding assistance to Nauru. Later in the year, the EU will be sending an expert(s) to commence work for a project on renewable energy.

Whilst on the matter of the activities of His Excellency the President whilst in Tarawa, it is my privilege to add that His Excellency renewed acquaintances with the leaders of Kiribati and Tuvalu, and had further occasion to discuss issues of importance to our people's. With particular regard to the NPC's outstanding obligations to its workers from Kiribati and Tuvalu, our government is confident that an amicable arrangement can be struck with which to settle all those obligations, based upon continued warm and close relationships between our countries, and possibly under a framework of assistance from key regional and international development partners.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, tomorrow six Speakers representing the Parliaments of Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa will be arriving on a goodwill visit to the Parliament of Nauru. The visit is an initiative of the Forum Parliamentary Assembly recently held in Tuvalu in April, and represents the region's concerns for their brothers and sisters in Nauru.

The Speaker's delegation is testimony to the goodwill which your government and country enjoys with its Pacific neighbours, and we in government have every hope that their visit will be fruitful and after meeting Members of the Parliament of Nauru, succeed in informing our sister Parliaments in the region how best they can assist us, with particular emphasis on issues of good governance.

Mr. Speaker, we can all draw much encouragement from these visits as evidence of the larger pool of goodwill and support from the region and further abroad, from which we can find immediate and longer term solutions to our many difficulties. Indeed, your government has every confidence that together with the support of Honourable Members, and with the understanding of our people, we can find resolution to critical problems facing this small country of ours, swiftly and efficiently. When assisted by countries and organisations expert on issues of sustainable development and good governance, and empowered with resources to match that expertise and goodwill, we can be assured that we have many friends who stand by us as we look forward to a tomorrow brighter than today. Thank you.

(iii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) made the following statement on visiting specialists -

"Honourable Members, for the information of the House and the general public, I wish to inform you of the following medical specialists' visits to Nauru.

From Monday, 16th August through to Friday 20th August, we will have Prof. Kerr, a renal physician visiting with his team.

The team includes Prof. Kerr who is a specialist in kidney diseases including dialysis, diabetic kidney disease, hypertension and children's kidney and urinary problems.

Dr. Alan Saunder is a specialist vascular surgeon who will see patients needing

fistulas created or repaired for dialysis, as well as patients with circulation problems and the related problems it causes like chronic ulcers and foot infections.

Mr. Peter Murphy is an ultrasonographer and radiographer. He will be able to see patients needing any kind of ultrasound and will bring a state of the art portable ultrasound machine that will remain on Nauru for our long term use, donated by Ausaid.

Any persons needing to see these visiting specialists in August are asked to see any one of the doctors at the hospital for a referral.

The department is arranging further specialist visits for this year in conjunction with Ausaid and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

We will have a visiting ophthalmology team to deal with all eye and vision problems, an ENT team to deal with conditions affecting the ear, nose and throat and a cardiologist visit. The dates of these visits will be announced once confirmed. Thank you.

(iv) The Hon. B. Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on the scholarship scheme as follows -

“Honourable Speaker, I wish to inform this august House that government is currently reviewing the Republic of Nauru Secondary Scholarship scheme to ensure cost effectiveness and academic benefit to students are fully maximised.

Speaker, government recognises that the current format of the Republic of Nauru Scholarship Scheme (RONSS) is far too expensive and increasingly becoming a burden not only to the education budget but that of the national budget as well. This system is difficult to justify with its negative returns on the overall investment with regards to student success rate, particularly when overseas secondary scholarship claims about 25% of the recurrent education budget to service only a handful of scholarship students.

The prevailing problem of government’s inability to meet costs of scholarship students’ school fees, etc. and the backlog of outstanding payments to schools are creating huge problems for students. Schools in Australia are refusing to accept students back into school unless outstanding fees are settled. This cannot be acceptable and most unfair to the students concerned and government is fully responsible.

Fiji will remain to be the preferred country of scholarship placement, instead of Australia, as it is cost effective with equally similar academic benefits.

Speaker, while government sees the need to rationalise its secondary scholarship scheme, it remains fully committed in ensuring the scholarship scheme continues.

Speaker, in the meantime, scholarship this year for Year 7 students is cancelled and new arrangements will be announced in the near future.

The Department of Education shall gladly assist with queries should there be any. Thank you Mr. Speaker.”

(v) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Rehabilitation) made the following statement on rehabilitation trials -

“Honourable Members, it is my honour and indeed my pleasure, as Minister responsible for rehabilitation, to inform the House and the good people of Nauru that the rehabilitation trials are on the eve of commencement.

The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation has contracted the services of a company

called "SoilTech Australia" from Melbourne to undertake the rehabilitation trial projects.

The trial project incorporates the following components -

1. bringing in specialised mining equipment
2. repair of equipment owned by NPC and NRC
3. training of Nauruan personnel
4. mining trials on 7 different sites
5. rehabilitation of 1.5 hectares of land
6. road trial
7. nursery trial

The first two components have already begun. SoilTech have already brought in a 21-tonne excavator and some other pieces of mining equipment. More is expected on the next two ships. A large mobile crusher capable of 200 tonnes per hour is expected from England in about 6 weeks.

A SoilTech mechanic has been on the island to assess the parts and repairs needed for the NPC and NRC equipment including the large CAT excavator sitting idle at topside, and is expected back in about 3 weeks with the parts to undertake the repairs.

The trial project will serve several purposes -

(a) The 7 mining trial areas will determine the best method for residual and secondary mining and will provide accurate data on how much phosphate is left, the quality of the residual phosphate, how much can be mined per week and an accurate estimate of the cost of mining the residual phosphate. We will then have an accurate cost-benefit analysis on the viability of residual and secondary mining.

(b) The trial will begin the long term task of regenerating soil to fill the land for rehabilitation and determine the best way to do this.

(c) The nursery trial will include a variety of food plants as well as regeneration of the tomano forest.

(d) The 1.5 hectare land area to be rehabilitated will show the best way to return the mined-out lands to usable lands and will eventually include a housing trial as well as the nursery trial.

It is expected that the actual mining and rehabilitation trials will commence in the next 6 weeks, once the equipment has all arrived and been repaired.

I am also pleased to inform the House that I have been in communication with Nauru's Ambassador to New York, Mr. Vinci Clodumar, and we are discussing options previously raised but never pursued on the possible coral rock industry. I will update the House on this matter as more detail is received.

Ambassador Clodumar has also been advising me on the possible access to further funds for rehabilitation through the various United Nations agencies, in particular the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The remaining NACOS funds will not be sufficient to rehabilitate all of topside so we have begun looking at other sources of funding.

Ambassador Clodumar will also be having further talks next week with "Solar Power International" regarding the possibility of establishing an "Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion" (OTEC) system for Nauru. This system will produce power for our houses and desalinated water for our people using a combination of solar and ocean

thermal energy sources.

Honourable Members, I also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that the position of Chief Executive Officer has been vacant for some time leaving the Corporation without expert and experienced leadership. I am glad to say that the Chairman and the Board have seen fit to expedite the selection and appointment of a new CEO and I expect this to be made in the next few weeks.

Honourable Members, much of this work and these ideas have been on the table for some time, but I am disappointed to say that previous governments have failed to pursue them. We are moving ahead as fast as we can and we hope to see concrete results from these initial projects in the very near future. Thank you.”

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

(vi) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education) made a statement on “Teacher Cash Incentive Programme”, as follows -

“Honourable Members, I would like to inform the House of a cash relief programme for teachers which has just been finalised this week between Government and Ausaid.

The programme was organised under the Ausaid’s sustainable development programme. The programme which is known as the “Cash Incentive Programme” is aimed at teachers, principals and support staff of schools which ensures a nominal amount of \$30 per staff to be paid out each week for the whole term (ten weeks).

Ausaid do not pay for wages but to ensure that teachers and school support staff, as active partners in our efforts for development under the Ausaid MOU, are given cash incentives to improve their morale and thus improve performance across the board.

As you are all aware, salaries are owed to public servants including teachers for up to eleven months, which has impacted negatively on teacher morale. It is affecting teacher performance across the board and authorities within the department are unable to fully address the problem as teachers usually counter with the excuse that they are owed salaries. This programme will ensure that teachers do turn up to work regularly and commit themselves professionally, as it is expected of them.

Payment will commence tomorrow, Friday 16th July 2004, and its disbursement will be under their direct supervision of the Secretary for Education.

Speaker, I thank Ausaid for their kind assistance. Thank you.”

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

(vii) The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) made the following statement on government policy on “Assistance for Private Overseas Medical Treatment”.

“Honourable Members, I wish to inform the House of this government’s policy regarding assistance for private overseas medical treatment.

It is proper to acknowledge that this policy is largely the approach taken by the former government and has been followed to a large extent by the health department for the last year, however, due to ongoing confusion, government has seen proper to formalise the policy and to inform Members and the general public of the policy.

There is a clear need for such a policy as our people still seek medical treatment overseas, largely in Australia but also increasingly in Fiji. Due to current cash flow

problems, these people then spend a large amount of time seeking ways and means to fund the travel and provide cash to cover the expenses.

In the past, Air Nauru tried to assist by allowing all people travelling for medical reasons to pay for their Air Nauru travel by BON cheque. The ingenuity of our people quickly found this loophole and we suddenly had half of every flight full of people claiming to be travelling for medical reasons. It was clear that most of these people never sought medical treatment overseas and the generous assistance of Air Nauru was being abused.

Notwithstanding these issues, there remains the ongoing dilemma for government, on a daily basis, as to how we best use and allocate extremely limited cash. This government continues to operate under the policy I delivered in this House last year relating to government sponsored overseas medical referrals where a person is seriously ill and cannot be treated on Nauru, according to the conditions of the policy, Government will sponsor treatment overseas.

The policy I am laying before the House today relates to those people who do not meet the criteria for government sponsored referral and seek to pay privately for overseas treatment.

There are two categories for patients involved. The first being those patients who cannot be treated on Nauru but do not meet the criteria for government sponsorship. This is usually for less serious or less urgent cases. Government will try to assist these people wherever possible. We will recommend that Air Nauru allow payment by cheque and we will provide cash support as we are able. However, we ask everybody to accept that the supply of cash will depend on its availability and other priorities. Our ability to provide cash is not guaranteed.

Then there are the patients who have conditions that can be treated or managed on Nauru. It is not necessary for these people to have medical treatment overseas but they would prefer it. That is their choice. However, it is inappropriate that government support these cases and so they will not be able to pay Air Nauru by cheque and government will not provide them with cash.

We must be realistic and accept that government needs to ensure that we are able to send those patients who really must be sent overseas and to do so means that we cannot help everybody that prefers medical treatment overseas.

I wish to state that this government continues to further our strategies to improve the health service on Nauru so our people won't have the need to seek treatment overseas.

We are making greater use of visiting specialists to Nauru to undertake more treatment on Nauru. With the arrival of the Cuban medical team, we now have substantially more doctors available on Nauru than we have had for many years. We are continuing to seek other much needed staff for the health department such as dental staff, physiotherapy and radiology. We shall enter into contractual agreements with hospitals in Australia, and possibly Fiji, to ensure that we obtain quality services at a fair price for our people. Through funds released by the reduction in cost of overseas referrals, and with the general assistance of friends such as Australia, WHO, SPC and others, your government shall make ongoing improvements to the local health service to improve our local capacity and further reduce the need to send our people overseas.

Honourable Members, I have attached a copy of the formal policy for your

information. Thank you.

**[GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT
“Assistance for Private Overseas Medical Treatment”**

The following shall replace and revoke all existing government policies relating to government assistance for Private Overseas Medical Treatment, and is effective from 13 July 2004.

The following will apply to all private persons choosing to seek medical treatment overseas at their own expense and does not relate to those patients referred as government sponsored patients and/or escorts by the Nauru Health Department.

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1. At the request of any Nauruan person, the Nauru Health Department, in conjunction with Government Representative Staff overseas, shall assist with arranging appointments with health service providers, hospital admissions, accommodation in the country of choice, and visas and travel formalities to that country. These are all at the patient's own expense.
 2. All private patients seeking medical treatment overseas shall sign a statement that they will cover all their own expenses and will not hold the government responsible for any expense or claim reimbursement from government.
 3. For patients with a medical condition that cannot be treated on Nauru, but that does not fulfil the requirements of the “Policy on Government Sponsored Overseas Referrals”, the government shall recommend that Air Nauru accept payment of airfares by BON cheques and government will assist as able with cashing the patient's cheques.
 4. For patients with a medical condition that can be treated on Nauru, and thus do not fulfil the requirements of the “Policy on Government Sponsored Overseas Referrals”, government will not recommend that Air Nauru accept payment of airfares by BON cheque and government will not assist with cashing the patient's cheques. Given the existing difficulties government has with referring government sponsored patients overseas, it is considered inappropriate that government support in any way those seeking overseas treatment, as their own preference, for conditions that can be treated on Nauru.
 5. For the purposes of deciding whether the condition may or may not be treatable on Nauru, patients shall obtain certification from the Director of Medical Services simply stating accordingly.]

(viii) The Hon. Baron Waqa (Minister for Education), as Chairman of the Committee of Privileges made the following statement to the House:-

“Mr. Speaker, I have to make a statement before this august House in regard to the First Report of the Committee of Privileges of the Fifteenth Parliament on the matter of breach of privilege of the former Deputy Speaker, Hon. Kieren Keke, M.P., and contempt of the House by the Secretary for Justice, Mr. Denzil Seneviratne.

The report on this subject was presented to Parliament on 20th May 2004 and was unanimously adopted on the same day. As per the recommendation at serial No. 21 of the report, Mr. Seneviratne was informed to be available at the Bar of the House to take reprimand from the Hon. Speaker and tender his apology. The Committee, at recommendation No. 22, also stated that if he fails to appear before the Bar or obstructs

the process the Committee will use its compulsive powers to ensure his presence and to furnish the copies of the report to the Bar Councils and Law Societies where Mr. Seneviratne was admitted as lawyer.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the report, Mr. Seneviratne informed the Clerk of Parliament on 7th June 2004 that he would advise his availability to the Chief Secretary in due course. Subsequently, Mr. Seneviratne resigned from the position of the Secretary for Justice on 24th June 2004, thus disabling the House to give him the reprimand.

The Committee of Privileges has no choice now but to disseminate the copies of the report to the concerned Law Societies/Bar Councils. Thank you Mr. Speaker.”

The House was suspended and will resume when the bell rings.

Resumed.

11. Leave of Absence

Mr. Thoma (Aiwo) sought leave of absence for Mr. Rene Harris (Aiwo) who was overseas.

Leave was granted.

Mr. Adam (Buada) sought leave of absence for Mr. Detenamo (Buada) who was overseas.

Leave was granted.

Mr. Gioura (Ubenide) sought leave of absence for Mr. Botelanga (Meneng) and Mr. Namaduk (Ewa/Anetan); and also for Mr. Ekwona (Yaren) and Mr. Stephen (Minister for IDI) who were overseas on government business.

Leave granted.

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty sought leave of absence for Hon. Kinza Clodumar (Minister for Finance) who was overseas on government business.

Leave was granted.

12. Motion

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that motion No. 1 on the notice paper be adjourned to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

His Excellency President Ludwig Scotty moved that motions Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5 be adjourned to the next sitting.

Question put and passed.

12. Motion - Facilitation of International Assistance Bill 2004

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved to present the Facilitation of International Assistance Bill 2004.

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

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

13. Motion - Second Reading

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Second reading speech ensued.

In accordance with Standing Order 159, further debate on the Bill was adjourned to a future date.

15. Motion - Suspension of Standing Order 159

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable the second reading to proceed forthwith.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

16. Leave Sought for

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to move for the third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

17. Motion - Third Reading

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

18. Orders of the Day

The Hon. David Adeang (Minister for Justice) moved that Order of the Day No. 1 be

deferred to the next sitting.
Question put and passed.

The Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Health) moved that Order of the Day No. 2 be deferred to the next sitting.
Question put and passed.

19. **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 Justice) seconded.
Question put and passed.

20. **Adjournment**

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

Question put and passed.

And then the House at forty five 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 -

*Mr. Clodumar

* Mr. Stephen

*Mr. Harris

*Mr. Detenamo

* Mr. Ekwona

*Mr. Namaduk

*Mr. Botelanga

John Garabwan
Deputy Clerk of Parliament