

Votes and Proceedings of the Twentieth Parliament

No. 26

**First sitting of the Seventeenth meeting
Friday 21 December 2012**

10.00am

1. The House met at 10.00am according to the resolution of the House made on Tuesday, 6 November 2012.
2. Hon. Ludwig Scotty MP, Speaker of Parliament, took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. **Statement from the Chair**

The Chair made a statement to the House which read as follows: - *"Honourable Members, before we start our Parliamentary business for today's sitting, I'd like to make a brief statement to the House concerning a few Parliamentary matters.*

First of all, I would like to note the sad news that, 2 days after the last sitting of Parliament, Leo Depagadogi Keke passed away in Brisbane. Leo Dep was the first Nauruan to graduate in law and was elected to Parliament in 1976. He served as an Honourable Member of this House for 4 years. During that time Leo also served the people of Nauru as Minister for Justice in the Dowiyogo and Harris Government. On behalf of all Members, I pay tribute to Leo's dedicated service to the Republic and his distinguished Parliamentary and legal career, and I extend the deepest condolences of this House to Leo's family for their sad loss. The house will observe a minute's silence in Honour and memory of Leo Keke.

I would like to inform the House that earlier this month I received and accepted a letter of resignation from the Clerk of Parliament, John Garabwan. As Members are aware, the Clerk had been in poor health and is presently recuperating from a serious operation. He is not yet certain of his prognosis, and because he was unsure when he would be able to return to Parliament, he has tendered his resignation. John served the Parliament of Nauru for many years as Deputy Clerk, and assumed the position of Clerk in January of this year when our long-serving Clerk Freddie Cain sadly passed away. I'm sure that all Members would wish to join with me in thanking John for his long and loyal service to Parliament, and in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

At present, the position of Clerk remains vacant. One week ago, on Friday 14 December, I issued an advertisement for the position of Clerk, and applications for the position will close on 18 January 2013. Candidates will be selected on merit through a competitive recruitment process. Anyone who is interested in the position can direct questions to the Parliamentary Counsel, and can submit an application to my office before 18 January 2013.

I am pleased to inform Honourable Members that the Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Gabrissa Hartman, gave birth to a healthy baby boy yesterday at 5:00pm, which is why she is not with us in the Chamber today. I extend my congratulations, on behalf of all the Members and staff of Parliament, to the Deputy Clerk and her family on this happy event. I

also extend my congratulations, on behalf of Members and staff, to the Executive Secretary to OPC, Magra Garoa, who gave birth to a healthy baby girl in November.

I also wish to inform Members that the position of Assistant Clerk, which was created at the beginning of this financial year, has now been filled on a probationary basis by Ann-Marie Thoma, and as you can see Ann-Marie is present in the Chamber today serving as the Acting Clerk in view of the vacancy in the Office of the Clerk and the absence of the Deputy Clerk. I have every confidence that the new Assistant Clerk will serve Parliament well in that capacity, and congratulate her on the appointment.

The Assistant Clerk recently participated in a workshop on Parliamentary procedures and Parliamentary Committees held in New Zealand, and I believe she benefitted greatly from that opportunity.

Parliament's Director of Hansard, Noleen Reiyetsi, and Hansard Manager and Assistant to PAC, Sukie Adeang, have just returned this week from a two week attachment to the Parliament of Victoria, which is Nauru's twin Parliament under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Parliament Twinning Program. Noleen and Sukie promoted to their new leadership positions at the start of the financial year and having received their report on the recent attachment I believe that they have benefitted enormously from this opportunity. They will now be able in the New Year to apply what they have learned about Parliament administration, and in particular managing the workflow of Hansard production, to improve the way in which our parliament Secretariat and Hansard office operate in Nauru.

Their attachment was funded through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Education Trust Fund, which provides opportunities each year for staff training and capacity building. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the CPA Education Trust Fund for their generosity, and also to the Presiding Officers of the Victorian Parliament and Clerk of the Victorian Parliament, Ray Purdey, for their generous support and devotion of their time and resources to making the attachment so worthwhile.

I have also received from the Parliamentary Counsel the Annual Report of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, which is required under the Legislation Publication Act 2011, and I table that Report in the House today. I would like to commend the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, which includes the Legal Publication Unit which maintains RONLAW, for their productivity throughout the year.

Members are advised that I have today initiated a new procedure to ensure that Minister's secretaries are able to get necessary documents into the Chamber without delay. One of Parliament's Executive Secretaries, Charity, will sit outside the Chamber throughout today's sitting and has been authorised to enter the Chamber. This should aid with the timely delivery of Ministerial statements and other documents required for the sitting.

I wish to thank the entire Parliament staff for their good work throughout 2012, and may they enjoy the festive season and come back refreshed and reinvigorated for the year ahead in 2013.

And finally, I would like to wish Honourable Members and their families, all the staff of Parliament, and the people of Nauru a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2013. As Members will notice, the Chamber has been decorated for today's sitting to put everyone in a festive mood and remind them of the Christmas spirit. I hope that spirit of 'goodwill' will be evident throughout today's Parliamentary proceedings. Thank you."

Hon. Aloysius Amwano MP (Ubenide) moved that the paper be noted.

The Chair, with the consensus of the House, suspended the sitting and to resume at 2.30pm.

Resumed

4. Notices of Motion

a) Hon. Aloysius Amwano (Ubenide) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament he will move *“That the report by the Lands Issue Commission be tabled and deliberated for adoption”*.

Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo (Ubenide) seconded.

b) Hon. David Adeang (Ubenide) gave notice that at the next sitting of Parliament he will move *“That pursuant to Article 24 of the Constitution, that this House has no confidence in the President and Cabinet.”*

Hon. Milton Dube (Aiwo) seconded.

c) HE President Sprent Dabwido gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Leadership Code Bill*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

d) HE President Sprent Dabwido gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Ombudsman Bill*.

Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport& Telecommunications) seconded.

e) Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for Commerce, Industry& Environment) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Ozone Depleting Substances Bill*.

HE President Sprent Dabwido seconded.

f) HE President Sprent Dabwido gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Equal Opportunity Bill*.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport& Telecommunications) seconded.

g) HE President Sprent Dabwido MP gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Births, Deaths and Marriage (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) seconded.

h) Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport& Telecommunications) seconded.

i) Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Maintenance (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

j) Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

k) Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Guardianship of Children (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

l) Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Crimes Bill*.

Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) seconded.

m) Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for Fisheries) gave notice of his intention to introduce at the next sitting of Parliament the *Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (Amendment) Bill*.

Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) seconded.

5. **Questions without notice** were asked.

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

a) Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Education) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Education as follows: -*"Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to be able to provide this ministerial statement on education to Parliament. As the School year has come to a close I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the highlights as well as advise Parliament of some of the significant activities planned for education in 2013.*

However, before doing this, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the teachers in our schools and the staff of education department for their continued commitment to improving the quality of education and learning outcomes for all students. It gives me great pleasure to announce that I have just signed the curriculum licensing agreement with Queensland Department of Education. This curriculum license allows for Nauru Secondary School to deliver Queensland senior secondary curriculum. Students who successfully complete year 11 and 12 course requirements will then be eligible to receive the Queensland Certificate of Education. This senior schooling qualification is recognised internationally. This senior certificate will allow our students to apply directly to the Australian Tertiary Entrance centre for application to Australian universities. This certificate is also accredited and recognised by regional universities.

This initiative provides so many additional pathways for our students. Students can choose from a diverse range of learning options, be it academic or TVET, learning projects, apprenticeships and traineeships and university subjects and diploma modules. For example, students can undertake TVET courses, receive their Australian Certificate I or II as well as earn credit towards their Queensland Certificate of Education, thus earning two separate qualifications.

With this exciting opportunity also comes a responsibility from students and parents. It is important to note that the cost of the license agreement is being funded by our donor partners. The Queensland Studies Authority, who are responsible for accreditation and certification have very specific requirements that students must meet in order to be eligible for the Queensland Certificate of Education. Some of these mandatory requirements include:

- *90% attendance at school*

- *Literacy and Numeracy requirements – achieve a set standard either sound achievement in English or Maths subjects or a pass in a QSA recognised literacy/numeracy course*

- *Completing core courses of study at a sound level of achievement or higher including completion of CET certificates, II, III or IV.*

Another important advantage that the QCE offers is that our students work will be moderated against work of students in Queensland schools. This will provide

Clear feedback to our teachers and our students on their progress and achievement but will also provide assurance to parents that the marks achieved by students here are directly comparable to those of students in Queensland undertaking the QCE.

To ensure that our students have the best start possible next year and are appropriately supported, the Department of Education has recruited a number of Australian secondary teachers to work at NSS. The school will also be supported by planned visits.

I am confident that this initiative will open many more doors to learning pathways for our students, with greater access to Australian, New Zealand or regional tertiary institutions, compared to the PSCC.

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Department of Education has indicated that 2012 has seen a considerable shift and improvement in teacher practice across the sector as a result of the ongoing professional development support in schools. This also translated to changes in data. For example this year we saw 70% of students pass the yr 8 English Scholarship exam, compared to less than 30% last year. The intensive support in literacy programs and teaching in schools is considered to have been a factor in this improvement. Next year will see an intensive focus on numeracy in all schools.

For this improvement to continue we need to see higher levels of student and teacher attendance. I trust that parents and teachers alike heed this message.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to report on a sector within education which is often forgotten by many in our community. The progress and achievement of our students at the Able Disable Centre has been nothing short of astonishing. Students who have little if any academic achievement are now starting to read and actively engage in learning. This is due in total to the dedicated staff and the Technical Advisor.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to close with a message to all parents – Learning is the key to a better future. To learn- students need to be at school. I seek all the community's support for education and ensuring that we all work together to ensure the best future possible for our children, because ultimately – they are the future."

Hon. Baron Waqa MP (Boe) moved that the Statement be noted.

b) Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for Fisheries) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on recent developments within the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority as follows:- *"Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to report on recent developments within the Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority.*

Firstly, Nauru sent a team consisting of the Minister for Finance, CEO of NFMRA and myself to Taiwan to discuss possible joint venture on a purse seine operation with a Taiwan Company well established in the fishing industry. Talks have been ongoing for some time now with this particular Company and we are currently finalising the documents to establish the venture.

Once the documentation is complete, it would take approximately 8 months to build and complete a new vessel bought by the joint venture company. We envisage that this joint venture operation will commence late 2013.

It is a great opportunity for Nauru to re-establish itself in the harvesting of its own resources for financial benefits and we are looking forward to the fruition of this venture. While in Taiwan, we took the opportunity to meet with the Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Purse Seiners Boat-owners and Exporters Association where we concluded an agreement on the conditions of fishing access to Nauru's EEZ for 2013. This agreement is financially favourable to Nauru.

Secondly, I also had the opportunity to join the Nauru delegation, which consisted mainly of fisheries personnel, to the Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission held in Manila recently. The work of the Commission is mainly to adopt management measures that will ensure the sustainability of the various tuna stocks. The meeting in Manila addressed some of the concerns relating to tuna harvesting but certainly more work needs to be done in this area.

During the meeting in Manila the NFMRA managed to finalise agreements with bilateral partners for fishing access in Nauru waters for 2013. I am pleased to announce that the total amount of revenue to be realised before the end of this month is \$US8.5 million.

Lastly, on returning from the various meetings we took the opportunity while transiting through Brisbane to have a meeting on the strengthening of the NFMRA. A consultant from the Forum Fisheries Agency - Mr Marcus Pelto as well as the former fisheries Adviser - Dr Tim Adams joined the meeting to consider ways of improving the organisation to better deliver its obligations. A proposal is currently being finalised to effect the necessary changes to enhance the NFMRA. Best wishes for the festive season. Tubwa."

c) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on the UNFCCC COP18 DOHA Climate Change Conference as follows: - *"Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I recently represented Nauru and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the 18th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Doha, Qatar from 2nd to 8th December, 2012.*

I was accompanied by my distinguished colleague, the Honourable Marcus Stephen, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment and I am deeply grateful for his unwavering support throughout the conference.

This was the first conference of the parties (COP) since Nauru assumed the chair of AOSIS earlier this year, chairing a coalition of 44 small island countries.

AOSIS ministers came together in DOHA to express unified support for the climate imperative necessary to ensure the survival of our island nations.

Recent science reports are very alarming.

Despite 20 years of efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, emissions continue to increase and at a faster rate than before, putting us now on a path to a 3, 4 or 5 degree increase in global temperatures. This is far greater than the maximum increase of 1.5 degrees that science says we must aim for if we are to ensure survival of small and low lying island states.

A 3, 4, or 5 degree temperature increase will lead to major sea level rise, loss of nearly all our coastal reefs, frequent and more severe storms and global problems with food and water shortages and changes in disease patterns.

While much work remains to be done to strengthen the international climate regime, we made important progress in DOHA.

First, the COP adopted amendments to the Kyoto Protocol, which locks in emissions reduction commitment for many developed countries from 2013 through 2020. The new amendments are far more environmentally and legally credible than originally proposed by our negotiating partners – overwhelmingly due to AOSIS advocacy.

Second, the Doha outcome also represents a significant step towards an international mechanism to address the loss and damage caused by climate change – a long standing priority for the vulnerable countries that will be most affected.

Third, we saw unparalleled levels of coordination between AOSIS and other vulnerable groups namely; Africa and the least developed countries. This has laid a strong foundation for more active and effective collaboration in the future.

These are large achievements since the AOSIS chair transitioned to Nauru in January this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to be clear about what Doha did not achieve.

Our developed country partners did not raise the ambition of their mitigation commitments - their targets for how much they will reduce green house gas emissions - to a level approaching what the scientific community says is essential to prevent dangerous climate change.

There were also no concrete commitments on climate finance, or clarity on how developed countries will reach their goal of mobilizing US\$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

In short, the larger political dynamics have not shifted in any significant way. Most of the developed world partners are still failing to take the lead in addressing the climate crisis, as they are obligated to under the convention.

This is particularly dire for pacific islands, as the window to keep global temperature rise below 2 degree Celsius is closing fast - let alone 1.5 degrees, the stated goal of Nauru and over 100 other countries. Both of these goals could be unachievable as soon as 2017 unless there is a significant change of course.

Therefore, it fell on AOSIS to once again demonstrate leadership by making a detailed proposal for a work plan to address pre-2020 greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation ambition), which formed the basis of the eventual DOHA outcome.

Mr. Speaker, 2014 must become the political decision point when the global community of nations makes a major and credible commitment to real greenhouse gas reductions to bridge the gap between where we are heading and where science says we need to be.

2014 will see the conclusion of the mitigation ambition work plan, a review of commitments under the Kyoto protocol, and a high level climate change summit hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General.

We cannot wait to see how the post Kyoto protocol regime from 2020 will work. If major changes are not made by 2014, it will be too late by 2020.

However, it is clear that our negotiators alone cannot change the larger political dynamics at play. The next two years will require greater increased political engagement of all AOSIS governments both inside and outside the climate negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that the developed countries know that their failure to cut greenhouse gas emissions and provide new funding to address the climate crisis poses an unacceptable risk to our islands. Until they feel political pressure at the highest levels, they will be unlikely to take the steps necessary to re-configure their economies and energy systems in ways that are compatible with our sustainable development and our survival.

There is some encouragement amongst all this doom. There are a number of the big developed countries who are making cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions and who are

working to protect the interests of small island nations and other vulnerable countries, including Australia, the European Union and Taiwan. But the effort of a few is far from enough and we need the rest, especially the likes of the United States, to similarly address the climate crisis with the same attitude.

Mr. Speaker, Nauru has taken a position of leadership among vulnerable countries. And I am of the view that we have laid an impressive foundation during our first year as chair of AOSIS. We now have a unique opportunity to build on these efforts in 2013 and establish Nauru as a global leader on this critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to acknowledge the fantastic work of our very hard working and committed Nauru team.

Ambassador Marlene Moses has brought together a very impressive and capable team in New York to support us in our role as chair of AOSIS. From our lead negotiator from Fiji, our Deputy lead negotiator from Tonga, our many scientific, legal, media and other advisors, our technical staff, our own Nauruan officials based both in New York and from Nauru, and post-graduate students from USP, Minister Stephen and I had a truly formidable team of support in DOHA.

Prior to my arrival in DOHA, our team had already been hard at work for over a week, setting the ground work for the ministerial and high level negotiations. This had been preceded by work undertaken in New York and around the world since the beginning of the year.

In DOHA, the team literally worked around the clock and had many sleepless nights, including the last day of negotiations which ran for over 30 hours straight, beginning on Friday morning and closing late on Saturday night.

I cannot stress enough how vital this team of e:aterts, and officials have been in providing us with the information and support we need, as well as being able to work and coordinate our efforts with the other 43 countries in AOSIS and indeed all countries.

I am sure that the house will join me in sending our deepest gratitude to the whole team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

d) Hon. Roland Kun (Minister Finance & Sustainable Development) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Revenue Policy as follows: - *"Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of our nation the Government is committed to advancing the objectives of Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 – 2025 as revised in 2009; the NSDS.*

An important economic objective of the NSDS is the Introduction of a broad based revenue system which is efficient, equitable, simple, reliable, transparent and aligned to international norms.

We need to do this to be able to provide increased resources to fund improvements in our fundamental priorities. These include better health care, education, care of our elderly and also developing our infrastructure such as communications, financial services, transport systems, sustainable energy and water services.

To support these important priorities and in accordance with our NSDS commitments, the Government is announcing today the commencement in the New Year of an initiative to significantly advance revenue policies for Nauru.

This work will be undertaken by the Nauru Revenue Office with technical assistance from the International Monetary Fund Regional Technical Assistance Centre, better known as the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre. The scope of the work will be conventional taxation options including direct and indirect taxation.

Taxation policy development is necessarily a complex process and will extend

over many months. The first phase is preliminary investigation and consultation. This will occur during the first quarter of 2013. It will encompass an examination of our business community including State Owned Enterprises, stakeholder engagement and later, public consultation on broad initial proposals.

This early work will focus on issues and possible options for business taxes linked to profits of businesses and State Owned Enterprises and their abilities to make increased contributions to our infrastructure and economic environment which they each use and need for their daily operations. Personal taxes will not be within the scope of this work.

Further development work will continue after completion of this preliminary investigation and consultation phase.

Mr. Speaker we are at an early stage of this important work and we look forward to the New Year and working together with business owners, other stakeholders and the wider community on this important tax reform initiative for the benefit of Nauru.

The Government will make further announcements as we progress this initiative during 2013. Thank you Mr. Speaker.”

e) Hon. Marcus Stephen (Minister for Commerce, Industry & Environment) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Eigigu Holdings Corporation as follows: “Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today as the Minister for Eigigu Holdings Corporation, to give this august House an update on activities and projects underway or proposed to be undertaken by EHC.

As this house is aware, opportunities arising out of the processing centre have been many and has provided besides employment in certain sectors, various opportunities for commercial enterprises like EHC to benefit.

I am pleased to report that from the outset of the RPC arrangements, EHC began to pursue contracts that would see it benefit from both the accommodation and construction revenue stream. In this endeavour EHC was able to secure a contract with the department of immigration and citizenship (DIAC) which is for the provision of extra accommodation for DIAC staff.

A successful negotiation with an Australian supplier has resulted in the current construction by EHC of 140 single units converted into 70 bedsitters, which is in line with DIAC requirements.

The construction is now into day 19 and significant construction has already been completed and I am pleased to report that it looks likely that the units will all be ready and functional by mid January 2013. It was hoped that these units would be functional by end of this month but the delay of the Neptune vessel (now expected after Christmas) bringing unit contents, has made that timeline difficult to match. I invite you to also view the progress at the Meneng Hotel site.

I am also able to report that the EHC board is actively pursuing more arrangements for the provision of accommodation facilities that will see EHC receive construction and management rights over those facilities. This will assist EHC greatly in its revenue stream and provide employment opportunities to many Nauruans.

In addition, the EHC Board is also entering into arrangements with reputed construction companies like reeves, with the view to providing sub contracting services in relation to the main RPC facility construction.

I am also pleased to report the launching yesterday by EHC of its new water bottling plant. This plant will supply 500ml and 15litre fresh purified water under the “Fresh” label. Much of the bottled water imported into Nauru is R.O processed, so it made

good commercial sense to extend the current Hotel R.O unit to also provide cheap bottled water. The water is produced at very strict hygienic standards and each batch of water product is lab tested and only released after lab clearance is given. It is envisaged that a larger range of water products will come online as the plant grows. It currently employs six staff comprised of 5 Nauruans and one expatriate.

I encourage members and the public to support Nauru's own fresh water product.

EHC is also tackling problems associated with its Majuro properties and the legal problems associated, and I will update this house with developments as they become known. There is to be a court hearing early in January 2013 and a team from EHC will be visiting Majuro for that purpose.

Over the past six months, EHC has been able to tackle several problems associated with the civic centre complex. I am pleased to announce that the roofing problem over the main conference hall has now been addressed. The main water tank under the car park has now also been fixed along with roofing gutters and other roofing related problems. My thanks go to those involved in the work. More maintenance touching several areas of the civic centre complex is to be carried out and it is the desire of the EHC board to improve many of the areas of the civic centre complex over the next 12 months.

It is quite obvious that EHC will be experiencing an increase in its revenue stream. I ask that everyone be patient at this stage to allow the revenue stream to flow and then to allow the EHC board to begin to clear its long standing obligations touching pending salaries and land rentals amongst others. There is also a need to commit funds to fix up our Majuro obligations. I am also happy to announce that today at 11a.m. the current land rentals are being released to landowners. Thank you."

Hon. Baron Waqa MP (Boe) moved that the Statement be noted.

f) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Health Department Highlights 2012 as follows: - *"Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I am pleased to present to Members a statement of some highlights of the Ministry of Health for year 2012.*

The Ministry of Health continues to operate under the goals and targets of the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 that are operationalised through the Strategic Health Plan 2010-2015. Furthermore, the Mission of the Ministry is based on the principles of Primary Health Care, where it aims to promote; protect and maintain the health of all people of Nauru through both preventive health care programmes and appropriate clinical services.

Health Acts and Legislation

Mr. Speaker, the Administrative Arrangement Act 2011, assigned 11 pieces of legislation for the direct administration of the Minister for Health and the Department of Health. With resources and mechanisms available to it, my Ministry continues to monitor and enforce relevant regulations as required during the year. In relation to improving health governance and legislation, I am pleased to announce that some key new legislation are in the final stages of drafting and shall be brought before the House in the new year; primarily relating to Public Health and related matters. These bills are aimed at further improving health protection and health service provision in the country. Furthermore, a bill to legislate drugs and medicinal supplies is being progressed by the Ministry for later presentation in this august House.

New Budget 2012/2013

Mr. Speaker, health care in Nauru is provided solely by Government with significant funding assistance and technical contribution from the Australian Government and other development partners, including Taiwan, WHO, SPC, Israel, Global Fund and others.

The approved budget for the Ministry of Health for the current Financial Year is ready welcomed as it represented a 28% increase in provision when compared to the previous financial year. The additional \$940,465 in the allocation, has allowed for generous provisions for at least the following activities namely; overseas medical referral, disable persons housing, vehicle purchases and human resource development. Furthermore, with complementary funding from the Australian Government, the new financial year budget has also catered for the strengthening of the preventive health focus of the Ministry. Some key activities for implementation in 2013 include the purchase of a mammogram for breast screening services and portable renal dialysis for RON Hospital apart from strategies to improve cancer surveillance and legislation enforcement.

Furthermore, preventive health activities including community participation in health care are expected to be strengthened through the re-organisation and realignment of public health service and structure including the introduction of community health nursing zones.

Health Status Report

Mr. Speaker, for the calendar year 2012, the Ministry has noted no significant changes in health risk and disease development in the country. We remain vigilant to potential disease outbreaks particularly, dengue fever and other infectious diseases. Screening and control measures for preventable diseases are ongoing. Management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiac disease continues to be offered from both its health facilities.

Mr. Speaker, international measurement of health system performance can be deduced from certain indicators particularly mortality and morbidity statistics. The infant mortality rate is a widely used indicator of a population's health status because it is associated with education, economic development, and availability of health services. For the past five years" I am pleased to report to this august House that the infant mortality rate (IMR) for Nauru has been steadily declining. For example, the IMR increased from 1992 to 2000 and peaked at 89.2/1000 live births in 2001. By 2010 the IMR had dropped to 24/1000, for 2011 at 20.6/1000 and as we come towards the end of 2012 the estimated IMR is 14.9/1000: a very welcome improving trend. Needless to mention, my Ministry will continue to place a lot of emphasis on newborn and child health especially as we strive to meet our MDG target for an IMR of 7/1000 by the year 2015.

In relation to maternal mortality, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is pleased to announce that for the past 2 years there has been no maternal death recorded in Nauru. This is indeed a great achievement for the nation as we are probably the only country in the region with zero maternal deaths for the past 2 years. Our strategies on improved maternal and neonatal care will continue to be a focus along with infant programmes on immunisation, breastfeeding and nutrition. I wish to highlight, that in respect of immunisation, Nauru is probably the only country in the world with 100% coverage for nearly all of the last 6 years.

Mr. Speaker, whilst our key mortality indicators are improving, disease morbidity due to non-communicable disease continues to be major challenge for the

Department and a country as whole.

Disease Control / Diabetes

The Ministry's strategies for communicable and non-communicable disease control are specifically outlined in the annual operational plan of the department. At the outset, the Ministry under its Health Strategic Plan had committed itself to screening at least 70% of the adult population for abnormal blood sugar level by the year 2015. On this target, the Ministry is pleased to record that by the end of this year, a total of 91% of the target population have been screened with 64 cases of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes and 18 newly diagnosed cases with high blood pressure identified.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting and significant to note that the prevalence of diabetes and impaired glucose tolerance has been decreasing over the years in Nauru. In 1976 and 1994, diabetes prevalence was reported to be 28.1 % among 25-64 year olds and through the NCD STEPS Survey in 2004, the prevalence dropped to 22.7% for the same age group. For 2012, we have on register a total of 871 cases of diabetes and adding the newly diagnosed cases of 64, brings the nation's total number of registered diabetics to 935. Based on our recent 2011 census population for the same age group, our diabetes prevalence rate can be estimated at 14%. Further screening work will be carried out by the Ministry to update prevalence figures in 2013.

Whilst we acknowledge that some positive changes are happening in our community with regards to diabetes control, follow up and care of diagnosed patients remains ever important especially in the community setting. Chronic disease complications are still unacceptably high and for this reason Mr. Speaker, my Ministry has plans to strengthen community health nursing and health services in 2013 not only for diabetes but also other chronic illness care, disabilities, rehabilitation and domiciliary case management.

Overseas Medical Referral

Mr. Speaker, my Ministry will continue to depend on overseas referrals for certain secondary and tertiary care of patients that cannot be treated locally. Ibis year, the Ministry completed its revision of the 2004 Overseas Medical Referral Policy so as to accommodate changing demands and situations in relation to patient referrals. On the summary figures for overseas medical referral of patients, a total of 39 Nauruans were sent overseas in the financial year 2011/2012 and for the current financial year 2012/2013, a total of 41 Nauruans have so far benefitted from this referral scheme. In analysing the top 3 reasons for overseas medical referral in the current financial year, heart conditions account for 41 % of the referrals followed by eye diseases at 32% and cancer management at 26%. On the choice of country and hospital for referral, my Ministry continues to explore options available for medical referral noting of course the need to ensure access to quality medical care. Ibis year, we have established patient referral channels with a hospital in Manila, Philippines. Furthermore, we are about to refer our first group of heart patients to a reputable cardiac hospital in Malaysia. Indeed Mr. Speaker, expanding overseas referral hospital options will definitely result in more patients being able to be referred for quality care from the same budgetary provision.

Human Resources

Mr. Speaker, the health workforce is a critical component of our health system.

In its health strategic plan the Ministry has a target directed at local capacity building of staff for key roles in the Department. A major local achievement of the current workforce was completed this year with 22 staff graduating with Certificate 4 on Leadership and Management in Health Care from the USP campus. Ongoing training in key support service areas such as Pharmacy, Laboratory and Physiotherapy continued during the year. In relation to undergraduate staff training, I am pleased to announce in this august House that two weeks ago, Nauru recorded two milestone achievements in welcoming both its newest and the first Nauruan female to qualify as a medical doctor and also a graduate with Bachelors in Public Health. My Ministry congratulates and welcomes Dr Angelique Grundler-Makuru into the family of health practitioners and wish her success during her Internship year in 2013 and as she prepares to join us later here at RON hospital. Also, the Ministry recognises the achievement of Ms Christal Vorbach for graduating with Bachelors in Public Health. Needless to mention, my Ministry continues to support undergraduate students and staff in training institutions around the region and outside of the region such as Cuba - where 7 medical students remain in training.

Health and Refugees

Mr. Speaker, for 4 months now, Nauru has been home to a number of asylum seekers. The Department of Health has pledged itself to assisting in the health care of the asylum seekers. Two joint advisory and operation committees between my Ministry and the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) have been constituted and are in operation. Moreover, through ongoing consultation with the RPC health service provider, namely International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), protocols for refugee screening and hospital care have been agreed to and implemented. Health statistics wise Mr. Speaker, of the 410 received so far in the Nauru RPC, 90% of the asylum seekers are noted to be fit and healthy with no current medical condition. The remaining 10% of our guests have some medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension or have had past history of other diseases. The Joint Health Advisory Taskforce has advised me that there is no need for isolation of the current asylum seekers based on medical grounds. In relation to hospitalisation, there have been 3 cases of voluntary starvation by refugees and I am pleased to share to this august House that following the transfer of one case to Australia in November the remaining 2 cases have terminated their hunger strike. My Ministry will continue to work with IHMS in the provision of health service to the asylum seekers.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, on behalf of my Ministry, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners and stakeholders who have contributed and support our health service and health agenda for the year. Whilst there is a long list of development partners who have given generous support to Nauru's health system, I wish to extend our special appreciation to the Australian Government for its significant financial support, as well as to Taiwan for the numerous health team visits and great technical and other support provided.

Mr. Speaker,

I also wish to acknowledge the tremendous dedication and untiring service of all the great people we have working in the Health Department, in all areas and levels. It remains a source of great satisfaction for me to continuously see the great work our Health Department staff do. Without the hard work and commitment delivered by our staff, we would not be able to see any improvements and certainly it would be our people who, would otherwise suffer. I am certain all Members will acknowledge that

those that work in health services sacrifice a lot and give way above the call of duty in their care and compassion for our people. And I am certain that all Members will join me in expressing our gratitude for all they do and commit to supporting them in all ways we can.

And as appropriate during this time of the year, I would like to wish all; good health and a blessed and safe festive season.

I thank you Mr. Speaker.”

g) HE President Sprent Dabwido (Minister for Police & Emergency Services) tabled the *Motor Traffic (Fees) Regulations 2012* and made the following statement: - *“Mr. Speaker, s required by the Interpretation Act 2011, I wish to table in the House today the Motor Traffic (Fees) Regulations 2012 made by Cabinet on 13 December 2012 and notified in the Gazette on 14 December 2012.*

The regulations are consequential to the enactment of the Motor Traffic (Amendment) Act 2012. That Act removes fees from the Act and contemplates their inclusion in the regulations.

The fees are also increased. The last time the fees were increased was in 1997. All fees have been increased by 50%. In addition, provision has been made for pro rata adjustment of the fees if a registration or licence is granted for a period that is less than or more than 1 year.

It should be noted that there is a higher fee for registration of a commercial motor vehicle. The term is defined to mean a prime mover, a hire car or a motor vehicle (other than a motor cycle) that is used primarily for the carriage of goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

h) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Activities 2012 as follows: - *“Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, as we come to the end of another busy year, let me take this opportunity to provide you with some of the achievements for the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade for this year 2012.*

Starting January 2012, Nauru took over the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) which is a coalition of 44 island countries from around the world that share similar development and environment challenges. It is the Pacific’s turn to assume the Chair and Nauru was endorsed by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) group to take up the Chair on behalf of the Pacific. Nauru’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Head of Mission of our New York office, Ambassador Marlene Moses represents Nauru as the Chair of AOSIS and is ably assisted by Ms. Margo Deiye and Ms. Lara Daniel from Nauru and other experts from around the Pacific region. Even though chairing AOSIS is a huge undertaking for Nauru, Ambassador Moses was excellent in providing leadership for the AOSIS group during the RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in RIO and a the recent 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in DOHA. As Chair of AOSIS, Nauru will also be coordinating the 2014 Conference on Small Island Developing States which will be hosted by Samoa. I am pleased to inform members that Cabinet has agreed to further strengthen the New York Mission by adding an Attaché position to the New York Mission on rotation from DFAT, which will be filled in the new year.

The importance of our High Commission in Suva has grown significantly and will continue to grow in the years to come. Fiji has become an important trading

partner for Nauru with direct air and shipping services to and from Fiji. As you are aware, we have been sending our top students to further their high school education and tertiary education in Fiji. Also we have been sending patients to Fiji for specific medical referral and attention. The number of Nauruans residing in Fiji either as students, patients or residents has continued to grow with the total number now close to 250. In order to assist High Commissioner Jarden Kephias and the Suva Mission with the handling and coordination of students and patients. High Commission as Third Secretary and joined the Suva High Commission in November this year.

Ambassador Ludwig Keke, Head of Mission of our Taiwan Embassy, had another busy year continuing and maintaining the good relationship we have with Taiwan. Our relationship with Taiwan continues to strengthen with now 10 Nauruan students studying in Taiwan sponsored by the Taiwan Scholarship scheme. The Taiwan Embassy had been actively coordinating with Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Nauru visits of the Taiwan Mobile Medical Teams and the Taiwan Youth Ambassador's, and also in assisting officials from Nauru visiting Taiwan to attend meetings or conferences. Ambassador Keke actively coordinated the visits of His Excellency the President when attending the inauguration of His Excellency President Ma Ying-Jeou in May earlier this year and the visit of Speaker of Parliament Hon. Ludwig Scotty and his delegation in October to attend Taiwan's National Day celebrations (10-10). I am pleased to inform members that Cabinet deemed it necessary to further strengthen our Mission in Taiwan and approved to add a First Secretary position to the Taiwan Embassy from next year. An officer from the Department of Foreign Affairs has been identified to take up the position starting in the new year.

The Brisbane Consulate General headed by Consul General Chitra Jeremiah had a special year this year due to new developments in Nauru's relationship with Australia. The reopening of the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru' in August of this year: had a direct impact on the Brisbane Consulate office with the increase of enquiries and visa processing requirements in relation to the Regional Processing Centre. This will now be an ongoing responsibility given the permanency of the Regional Processing Centre. Also in July Nauru signed the MOU with Australia to participate in the Australian Permanent Seasonal Workers Program. We have successfully had two groups recruited under the scheme with 5 Nauruans recruited to work at Coffs Harbour (2 Females and 3 males) picking blue berries and another 5 Nauruans (all males) have been recruited to work in Emerald picking grapes. I am pleased to say that the 2 groups have settled in and are improving as they gain experience. Trade Officer, Trent Dabwido is working closely With the SWP Steering Committee to secure more, positions for Nauruans to be recruited to the Seasonal Workers Program. The added importance of Brisbane as the hub for trade, shipping, air services, job opportunities and as a gateway to and from Nauru will increase the responsibility of the Brisbane Consulate office in promoting and protecting Nauruan citizens and Nauru's interests, over the next few years.

The Department continues to work: on maximising the potential of our Consulate General in Bangkok. Cabinet has recently approved some internal restructuring of positions within the Consulate, including the addition of a new rotational posting from DFAT for a Consular Agent. This along with further focusing of its role and increased engagement with the Government of Thailand will enable us to further trade opportunities in Thailand and South East Asia. There are also ongoing and additional training opportunities and other development programs that are being progressed with the Government of Thailand as well as looking to better utilise the Bangkok office in our dealings with other regional and international organisations,

such as UNESCAP which has its headquarters in Bangkok.

This year has been an active year for the 'Department of Foreign Affairs at the International scene. Nauru continues to punch above its weight and this would not be possible without the coordination and guidance from the Department's Head Quarters in Nauru. As members would be aware, there was a major restructure of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Secretariat in 2010. Since that restructure, the Secretariat has slowly grown in strength and maturity over the years. It is for this reason that Cabinet felt it is now necessary to provide more resources to the department given the added activities as earlier stated. Cabinet decided to further restructure the Department of Foreign Affairs with emphasis on building capacity by providing more opportunities to the department of Foreign Affairs staff to be posted to our overseas missions.

Specifically starting from next year, new positions will be created in the following Missions;

New York Mission -Attaché

Suva High Commission -Third Secretary (Welfare)

Taiwan Embassy - First Secretary

Bangkok Consulate Office Consular Agent

These new posting opportunities will provide more international exposure and training opportunities, which will go a long way towards enriching the skills and experience of the department's staff.

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade will now have 2 Desk Officers, half of the Assistant Directors and half of the Directors on overseas posting at any one time. This experience, along with the skills gained in the Department on island and with planned training and development programs for our staff, will ensure that we continue to develop a capable and effective cadre of official to strive Nauru's needs in our dealings with our neighbours and the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, on that note I want to commend all the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs, those in Nauru and those in our Overseas missions for their hard work and dedication to serve Nauru and the people of Nauru. I wish them all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to another productive year for 2013."

i) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Sport) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Sports Department Progress 2012 as follows: - "Mr Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, as we come to the end of 2012, I believe it timely to reflect on progress we are making in the field of sports in Nauru. I am pleased to say that we continue to see increasing development of sport in general, particularly with increased community participation in sport and physical activity as well as pleasing performances at the international level.

Mr. Speaker, Earlier this year, we were proud to see Nauru's flag carried into the Stadium at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Like many other countries, Nauru did not win any medals at the London Games but it was the first time Nauru had an athlete competing in Judo at the Olympic level and the fact that a nation of 10,000 people is able to reach the highest international standards shows that Nauruans continue to excel in sport.

Nauru continues to be well represented at other international sports events which the recent AFL football and Powerlifting results demonstrate.

AFL Nauru sent the Senior National Team, the Nauru Chiefs to Fiji from the 12th to 28th November to play against the Fiji Senior team in a 3 Test Challenge Series in

Suva. Nauru won all the tests quite comfortably with. Nauru winning the first Test by 100 points, the second Test by 40 points and Nauru won the third Test by 72 points.

The Junior National AFL Team, the Nauru Stars, is currently in Fiji having just finished competing in the AFL Oceania Youth Cup against Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Final results have just come in with Nauru coming second overall-losing to Fiji in the final. The Team is reported to be safe and unharmed after the cyclone which hit Fiji and Samoa. The team will arrive home on Boxing Day.

Nauru Powerlifting recorded excellent results at the recent Oceania Powerlifting and Bench Press Competition held in Sydney, Australia from the 7th to 9th December 2012. The strong team of 29 lifters grabbed a tremendous haul of 28 medals including 15 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze. They broke 1 World Record, 11 Commonwealth Records, and 18 Oceania Records. Bronco Deiranauw, competing in the Junior 74 kg category was outstanding in breaking the World Record in the Dead lift. Bronco becomes the first Nauruan to ever hold a World Record, a formidable achievement which we can all be truly proud of and Government wishes to give him our heartiest congratulations.

Mr. Speaker,

Two Federations have so far been successful in gaining funding assistance from Government through the Sports Federation Grants scheme. The Nauru Powerlifting Federation was given a grant of \$14,206.80 which was received by federation President Mr. Jason Wharton from the Secretary for Sports Mr. Rayong Itsimaera on Wednesday 5 December 2012. Nauru Weightlifting Federation was awarded a grant for \$20,000.00. These two grants are being used to support our best lifters competing at international events which directly stimulates and develops the respective sports as well as promotes Nauru internationally. However, I wish to stress that the overall allocation of \$150,000 for Sports Federation Grants can be used by our national federations to support their sport in a variety of ways, for community level sports, national competitions as well as for elite athletes on the international scene.

Mr. Speaker,

Government has a multi-pronged approach to the development of sports in Nauru in terms of encouraging and supporting participation and development of all sports at the community level, the national level as well as the elite and international level. I am pleased to note the involvement of other stakeholders, including the communities and schools, the many sports federations and! the Nauru Olympic Committee. Another key stakeholder is the Epon Keramen program. This AusAID funded program, jointly delivered with the Nauru Government, has been a great success and continues to grow exponentially. This program is developing sports administrators, officials, coaches as well as players and athletes and the response from communities has been tremendous. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the team in the Epon Keramen program for their great work. I also wish to acknowledge and thank Australia for their funding and technical support for the Epon Keramen program.

Along the same vein of promoting and supporting community sport and physical activity, the Department of Sport has ongoing projects to revive and promote Nauru's traditional games. Activities undertaken this year include the Independence Day traditional games of Itsibweb (Ball game played by both men and women), Karaduga (Stick throwing game for men), Ibibwo (Women's ball game) and Ekabarere (Men's wrestling). In July there was an Exhibition of Itsibweb and Karaduga games at the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Solomon Islands, followed by another Exhibition of the Itsibweb ball game at the Nauru College's "Indigenous People's Day" cultural show program in August. In September, a one day Traditional Games workshop was

conducted at the USP Nauru Campus which provided awareness of the history and rules of the game as well as demonstrations and instructions on how to make the equipment used in traditional games (Itsibweb ball, Ibibwo ball, Karaduga throwing stick) by traditional methods of cutting, carving and weaving.

Mr. Speaker,

Whilst there have been a range of positive developments in sports, there remain a number of projects and activities that we still want to see further progress on.

Government has budgeted \$120,000 for the construction of 2 District courts this financial year. Unfortunately to date, I understand that we have yet to have been able to identify land in the targeted Districts to enable these to be built. I would encourage community leaders to work with landowners on securing land so we don't lose the opportunity of building new facilities for the benefit of our children and communities. Similarly, progress in the planned Indoor Power Sports Complex has been dragging due to delays in land lease arrangements. I hope that we can soon look to spend the budgeted \$300,000 for this complex which will provide a facility for the development of powerlifting, weightlifting, boxing, judo and wrestling.

Despite earlier commitments from Cuba, communication on the deployment of a Cuban Boxing Coach has been slow. This is something that we are following up through Foreign Affairs and our mission in New York.

Lastly, in the new year the Department will also be working on the planning and preparation work required to enable us to move onto the next stage in the building of a new multipurpose Sports Oval. Given the lack of proper facilities for AFL, Rugby as well as for athletics, both track and field, this project will address a current major deficiency which is holding back the further development of many sports."

j) Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) tabled and delivered a Ministerial Statement on Meetings in Morocco as follows: - *"Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, I recently attended two meetings in Morocco. One was the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the People of Syria which was held in Marrakech, Morocco on the 12th of December. The other was the 1st Meeting between Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco and Pacific Island States.*

The Meeting of the Friends of the People of Syria was attended by over 130 Countries, including around 60 Ministers, the Syrian opposition, and officials of several international and regional organizations and NGOs. It was a strong illustration of the international community's support for a Syrian led political solution to the crisis in Syria. The aim of the meeting was to support the Syrian people in their struggle to meet their legitimate aspirations for democratic transition, dignity and development, and to ensure further support aimed at alleviating the immediate suffering.

The Conference received a Royal Message sent by H.M. King Mohammed VI, as well as statements from many countries. The Pacific had a group message delivered on our behalf by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu. The Chairman of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces also presented his report to the meeting. We heard details of the grave situation in Syria, the killing and violence, the massive displacement of people both within Syria and now flowing over into neighbouring countries, and the widespread destruction of homes, cities and infrastructure.

The Meeting ended with conclusions aimed at ending the suffering and human rights violations in Syria, encouraging a Syrian led political solution, and looking forward to reconstruction and peace building.

The Meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco and Pacific Island States, held in Morocco's capital, Rabat, was an historical first and was a concrete means of furthering our relations with Morocco. Amongst the many issues discussed, Morocco has committed 10 scholarships each year for Nauruans to attend University and tertiary training in Morocco. Morocco also committed technical and other assistance with our phosphate mining industry. Morocco has also offered to send experts to assist Nauru in a range of fields including fisheries, agriculture and water supply. Given Morocco's current role as President and non-permanent Member of the UN Security Council, I was very pleased with their agreement to support our efforts regarding climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I was accompanied to these meetings in Morocco by Hon. Mathew Batsiua, Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade and Ambassador Marlene Moses. Travel and most costs associated with attending these meetings were funded by the Kingdom of Morocco. Thank you."

7. Motion No. 1 - Statute Law Revision Bill 2012

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that motion No.1 *Statute Law Revision Bill 2012* be deferred and remain on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.
Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport & Telecommunications) seconded.
Question put and passed.

8. Motion - Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre) Bill 2012

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) moved to present the *Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre) Bill 2012*.
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

9. Motion - Second Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.
Second reading speech ensued.

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

10. Motion - Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.
Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.
Question put and passed.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
The Bill was read a second time.

11. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

12. Motion – Third Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

13. Motion - Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2012

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that motion No 3 *Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2012* be deferred and remain on the notice paper for the next sitting.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

14. Motion- Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2012

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved to present the *Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2012*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

15. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

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

16. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

Hon. D. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

17. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

18. Motion – Third Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

19. Motion - Accommodation Registration Bill 2012.

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved to present the *Accommodation Registration Bill 2012*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

20. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

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

21. Motion – Suspension of all Relevant Standing Orders

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

22. Letter of Recommendation

“Accommodation Registration Bill 2012

Article 60 of the Constitution of Nauru

I, Sprent Dabwido, President of the Republic of Nauru, as Chairman of the Cabinet and in pursuance of a resolution of the Cabinet, notify Parliament that the imposition of a Bed

Tax proposed by the Accommodation Registration Bill 2012 is recommended to the Parliament by the Cabinet.

Dated this 21 December 2012

(signed) Sprent Dabwido, President and Chairman of the Cabinet"

23. Motion - Leave Sought for

Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Finance) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Leave was granted.

24. Motion - Third Reading

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

25. Motion - Public Service Bill 2012

HE President Sprent Dabwido MP noted that he had, under Standing Order 103, provided amending notice to A/Clerk to change short title of Bill from *Public Service Bill* to *Public Sector Bill*, and then moved to present the *Public Sector Bill*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill presented was and read a first time.

26. Motion - Second Reading

HE President Sprent Dabwido MP moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

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

27. Motion - Public Health Bill 2012

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved that motion No 7 be deferred and remain on the notice paper for the next sitting.

HE President Sprent Dabwido seconded.

Question put and passed.

28. Motion - Disposal of Human Remains Bill 2012

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved that motion No 8 be withdrawn from the Notice Paper.

HE President Sprent Dabwido seconded.

Question put and passed.

29. Motion - Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012-2013

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) sought leave to present the *Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012-2013*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

30. Motion - Second Reading

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

Pursuant Standing Orders 159, further debate on the Bill was adjourned to a future date.

31. Motion - Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved that Standing Order 159 be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

32. Letter of Recommendation

*“Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012-2013
Article 59(3) of the Constitution of Nauru*

I, Sprent Dabwido, President of the Republic of Nauru, as Chairman of the Cabinet and in pursuance of a resolution of the Cabinet, notify Parliament that the purpose of the withdrawals from the Treasury Fund as proposed by the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012-2013 is recommended to the Parliament by the Cabinet.

*Dated this 21 December 2012
(signed) Sprent Dabwido, President & Chairman of the Cabinet”*

33. Motion - Leave Sought for

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill

Leave was granted.

34. Motion – Third Reading

Hon. Roland Kun (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

35. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to present the *Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (No 2) Bill 2012*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Leave was granted.

36. Motion - Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2012

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved to present the *Criminal Procedure (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2012*.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

37. Motion – Second Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

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

38. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

39. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dominic Tabuna (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

Leave was granted.

40. Motion - Third reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

41. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) sought leave of the House to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

42. Motion - Consular Privileges and Immunities (Amendment) Bill 2012

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved to present the *Consular Privileges and Immunities (Amendment) Bill 2012*.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

First Reading

The Bill was presented and read a first time.

43. Motion - Second reading

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Second reading speech ensued.

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

44. Motion – Suspension of Standing Order 159

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved that all relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable the second reading debate to proceed forthwith.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

45. Motion – Leave Sought for

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Riddell Akua (Minister for Transport) seconded.

Leave was granted.

46. Motion - Third reading

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Roland Kun MP (Minister for Finance & Sustainable Development) seconded.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a third time.

47. Order of the Day No. 1 - Ronphos (Amendment) Bill 2012

On the question that the Bill be read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

48. Motion - Leave Sought for

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) sought leave of the House for the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport & Telecommunications) seconded.

Leave was granted.

49. Motion - Third Reading

Hon. Dominic Tabuna MP (Minister for Justice) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport & Telecommunications) seconded.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

50. Orders of the Day. No. 2 - Shipping Licences Bill

On that the question that the Bill be read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The Bill was read a second time.

51. Motion - Leave Sought for

Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport & Telecommunications) sought leave of the House to move for third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Marcus Stephen MP (Minister for Commerce, Industry & Environment) seconded.

Leave was granted.

52. Motion - Third Reading

Hon. Riddell Akua MP (Minister for Transport & Telecommunications) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

53. Motion - Fixing the Date for the Next Sitting

HE President Sprent Dabwido MP moved that the House at it's rising do now adjourn until a time and date to fixed by the Chair.

Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade) seconded.
Question put and passed.

54. Adjournment

HE President Sprent Dabwido moved that the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the House at 11.00 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. Aloysius Amwano MP (Ubenide).

Ann-Marie Thoma
Acting Clerk of Parliament