

**PARLIAMENT OF NAURU**  
**DRAFT HANSARD**  
**Sixteenth Parliament**  
**First Sitting of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Mr. Speaker, Hon. Valdon K. Dowiyogo, M.P., took the Chair and read Prayers.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members of the House, I welcome you this extraordinary meeting of the House which has been convened to commemorate the historical and unprecedented visit of His Excellency Mr. Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China, Taiwan.

At the outset I wish to further remind all Honourable Members and this august House in particular, that under our parliamentary Standing Order No. 191 of the Parliament of Nauru, states and I quote –

*“Only the Speaker shall have the privilege of admitting distinguished strangers to a seat on the floor of the Chamber.”*

It is therefore, my highest privilege to admit and accord seats in this Chamber to His Excellency President Chen Shui-bian, Honourable Ministers of the Republic of China (Taiwan), legislators of the Legislative Yuan and other distinguished members of the presidential entourage.

For the purpose of integration of the traditions of the two legislatures, I have not prescribed the actual dress code of white collared shirts, ties and dark trousers. Formal suits are most acceptable.

President Chen will also be given the honour to address this august House, which further binds the historic friendship between the people and the Parliaments of the Republic of Nauru and Republic of China (Taiwan).

I will now request the Deputy Clerk to usher in the distinguished guests/visitors first and thereafter the Clerk will usher in His Excellency President Chen Shui-bian. Thank you.

**Presidential party enters Chamber, followed by His Excellency President Chen Shui-bian.**

**Mr. Batsiua (Boe):** Your Excellencies, on behalf of the Speaker of Parliament, the Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo, M.P., I wish to read out this statement.

Honourable Members of this august House and legislators of the Legislative Yuan and distinguished guests, on behalf of the Parliament of Nauru, people of the Republic of Nauru and my own personal behalf, I extend a very hearty and warm welcome to you, Your Excellency, to this historic meeting of our Parliament. I also acknowledge the presence of the members of the presidential delegation who are very much a part of this ceremony seated here in the Chamber and the public gallery.

We are all aware that the warm ties of friendship between the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of China trace its bonds from the days of our founding father, the late Hammer de Roburt. During the days when Nauru favoured the non-alignment policies and Nauru, being not part of the international multi-lateral organizations, the ties between Nauru and Taiwan were ever-binding with their respective diplomatic missions successfully operating in both countries. These ties were made even stronger with our parliamentary arms of the government in the form of visits of our M.P.'s to Taiwan and their counter-parts visiting Nauru whilst attending meetings such as Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union and other Asia Pacific conferences.

Our relations entered into new and unprecedented era with the re-establishment of the ties between the two countries in the year 2005. I am proud to state that the re-establishment of the ties was overwhelmingly supported by the Members of our Parliament which showed the resolve of our government's decision.

Your Excellency, I hope that you and your delegation have a worthwhile, fruitful and pleasant stay on this Pleasant Island and that you leave our shores with fond and happy memories during your short visit here on Nauru.

With these words, I now invite Your Excellency, on behalf of the Speaker, to address this august House and I am confident that your message will truly manifest the warmth and camaraderie between our two Parliaments, governments and the people. Thank you.

**H.E. President Chen Shui-bian: (Interpretation of Presidential Message)**

Hon. Speaker of Parliament Dowiyogo, Your Excellency President Scotty, Hon. Foreign Minister Adeang, Parliamentarians, Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests, members of the Taiwan delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

It is a great honour to me to lead a delegation to Nauru at the invitation of Your Excellency President Scotty. This official visit is particularly meaningful as it has been my dream to visit each of Taiwan's diplomatic allies during my term of presidency. By setting foot on this beautiful island today, I have fulfilled my dream.

As the first Taiwanese President to visit Nauru, I feel particularly honoured to deliver a speech before your Parliament for the Parliament is the most important of democratic institutions and parliamentarians are the helmsmen of democracy.

On behalf of the twenty three million people and government of Taiwan, I would like to extend my warm greetings and sincere gratitude to all distinguished Members of your Parliament as well as to the government and the people of the Republic of Nauru.

The Parliament of Nauru is a mature democratic institution that has played an extremely important role over the past 38 years since Nauru became independent in 1968. I, myself, was a parliamentarian during 1989 and 1994 and during my two terms in that role spoke out for the people and strived for the promotion of democracy.

My dear friend, President Scotty, was Speaker of the Parliament from the late 1990's to the year 2000, therefore on our nation's respected growth to democracy President Scotty and I have played the parts of reformers and guardians much like the parliamentarians here today.

While geographically our two countries may seem far from one another Taiwan's indigenous people and the Nauruan people share the same Austronesians roots. As such there is some familiarities in our cultures, ancestry, languages and customs. This is why people from Taiwan feel a certain closeness when meeting people from Nauru and friendships between them are formed so easily.

I have therefore invited two indigenous parliamentarians to join me on this official visit, so allow me to introduce them. First, Mr. Chen, Ying representing the ruling Progressive Democratic Party and the Yuguma Tribe and the other Mr. Komod, representing one of the Opposition Parties, People First Party and the Amis Tribe.

The fact that these two parliamentarians each represent different political parties and tribes demonstrate that Taiwan is a democratic country with diverse cultures and ethnic groups, even so in the same arena we share the same will and one voice.

The past two days had been particularly historic for Taiwan and its Pacific allies for we have seen leaders and delegations from the seven countries, including President Scotty and his delegation, attending the First Taiwan Pacific Allies Summit in Koror, Palau. After the summit the leaders of all seven countries signed the Palau Declaration in which the aims of the 2005 Pacific Islands Forum Pacific Plan were adopted as its primary goals. These goals are economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security, and will be attained through partnerships working for mutual prosperity.

The summit exemplifies Taiwan's willingness to contribute to the international community and work with its diplomatic allies. We aim to fulfill the goals of the Palau Declaration in the most efficient manner so as to gradually enhance the capabilities of Taiwan and its Pacific allies. Our seven countries expect to realize democracy, peace, freedom and human rights thus becoming models for these universal ideals in the international community in the twenty first century.

Taiwan and Nauru are also working closely together, having signed an agreement promoting co-operation in agricultural technology. Taiwan's agricultural mission to Nauru has established demonstration agricultural, aqua-cultural and livestock farms which in the future will produce various vegetables, fruits and fish products. Personnel from the mission will also provide instruction to local farmers on a one-to-one basis and I sincerely believe the people of Nauru will benefit greatly from this.

Furthermore, as a way of reinforcing human resource exchanges with Nauru, Taiwan also offers full scholarships to three Nauruan students every year for university education in Taiwan. Various on-the-job training courses and professional lectures are also provided. There are already a number of Nauruan

students studying in Taiwan and we will continue to work on such human resource exchanges in the future. I believe that on their return to Nauru these students will be important catalysts in the development of your country.

I would like to take this precious opportunity to extend my gratitude to your government on behalf of the government and the 23 million people of Taiwan for your firm support of Taiwan's bid to join the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other international organizations. I also look forward to your continuing support of Taiwan in the international community in the future.

The greatness of a country does not lie in its dimensions or population size, but rather in the strength of minds of its people. Taiwan and Nauru are both small countries, yet our peoples have unlimited power. The future of our two countries is thus, full of hope and opportunity.

Once again I would like to extend my gratitude to Your Excellency President Scotty, Hon. Parliament Speaker Dowiyogo, I also wish prosperity upon your country and health and happiness to President Scotty, Parliament Speaker Dowiyogo, Foreign Minister Adeang, Ministers and parliamentarians and of course to the people of Nauru. Thank you.

**(Applause)**

**Mr. Scotty (President-Anabar/Ijuw/Anibare):** Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, before I move to adjourn the House, I would like to make a brief statement to reciprocate the encouraging address delivered by our distinguished guest, His Excellency Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China.

I am at a loss of words in expressing my gratitude to His Excellency for the kind words spoken by him which portrays the true bonds of intimacy and friendship between our two friendly countries. Never in the annals of the history of our two countries has our relationship reached such a high magnitude. I would like to state in no uncertain words that this visit would further strengthen our historical ties and relationship. Right from the very inception, when we re-established diplomatic ties last year, it was my innermost wish that His Excellency visits Nauru with his delegation. The day has come true!

With these words, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament, I would like to move that the House be now adjourned sine die.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, I shall put the question. The question is that the House do now adjourn sine die.

**(Question resolved in the affirmative)**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House is now adjourned sine die.