



Nauru Bulletin

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Japan donates fire trucks, keeping Nauru safer

First responders can now access all areas

Nauru Emergency Services (NES) has taken delivery of two 'domestic' firetrucks granted under the Japan Government Grassroots Human Security Projects program (GGP), the week commencing 19 January.

NES Secretary Roy Harris says the grant, valued at \$385,292, covers the two fire vehicles, plus spare parts, insurance and shipping, and training for Nauru fire and emergency first responders, facilitated through The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy (SPJD).

SPJD Overseas Cooperation Program Chief, Kasuhiro Morita and Automotive Mechanic Takashi Shiozawa will work alongside NES staff over the week to ensure comprehensive operations and equipment maintenance procedures are delivered as part of the GGP grant package.

The receipt of a 4000 litre fire engine and a 7000 litre water truck as back up means NES fire and rescue personnel can now access incidences in the small streets and lanes



Japan's SPJD Program Chief Kasuhiro Morita and mechanic Takashi Shiozawa train with Nauru's fire fighters as part of the \$385,292 Japanese grassroots grant package, 22 January

off the main ring road that were otherwise difficult or impossible to reach using the large airport tenders.

"These two trucks are smaller than the two versions here [which are] tenders designed for aviation only.

"We were using the big tender to respond [to a fire emergency] and the vehicle's just too large on the road.

"This Japanese vehicle donation will alleviate that problem," Mr Harris said, adding that the donation also means Nauru is fully compliant with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards that require a fire vehicle on stand-by during any aircraft movement.

When asked about Nauru's contact with Australia regards to the devastating bushfires over the Christmas period, Mr Harris said that "we've been in touch with Brisbane fire emergency and Tassie (Tasmania) since December to offer service from us".

"Government has approved 10 fire fighters from here (Nauru) to go and help."

Mr Harris related President Lionel Aingimea's offer to Australian authorities that Nauru has "10 qualified rescue fire service boys that have been trained under Tasmanian standard. We would like to offer our service back to Australia. We have 10 on standby, ready to go" •

Heads of mission assemble for inaugural meet

Nauru's heads of its foreign missions around the world assembled in Nauru earlier this month for a two-day conference with the Nauru Government, heads of department and state-owned entities to work on better collaboration and ways forward beyond 2020. The meeting was held at the Civic Centre conference hall, 7-8 January.

Desperate Imagination, the theme of the conference expands to the wider vision of a trade component of the meeting and to bring industries to Nauru.

"I must stress that the very concept of desperate imagination is not about hopelessness but about the desire to think outside the box and to help with driving the nation towards sustainability... hence attract direct foreign investment," President Aingimea said in his closing remarks on 8 January.

President Aingimea chaired the meeting along with deputy chair and Deputy Minister Asterio Appi.



President Aingimea opens inaugural heads of mission meeting with a message of hope and drive towards sustainability

In his opening address the President said the "economy is changing", and encouraged the heads of mission, national entities and like-minded stakeholders to work together at the national level to collate and tabulate ideas with which to present to the regional and global community, and to present them with

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Heads of mission assemble for inaugural meet

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the aim of gaining foreign direct investment from which Nauru will benefit.

Day one was dedicated to statements by the President, ministers, and deputy ministers to present their line ministries' vision for 2020; while the heads of mission presented an overview of their respective offices and the opportunities available for assistance



Ministries in bilateral session with Nauru's Ambassador to Taiwan and Japan Jarden Kephas

to the ministries and their departments. For instance, the Geneva mission sits with the European Union, hence the availability of EU opportunities and funding.

Day two was committed to the honorary consuls to present the roles of their office and the opportunities available to them in their respective countries for further assistance to the ministries.

The conference provides the platform and opportunity for HODs to connect with HOMs and engage in bilateral talks on challenges and needs for the departments. Break out sessions with the HOMs and honorary consuls were held at the end of both meeting days to dissect the challenges and assistance sought by the departments and state owned entities.

Following the opening prayer was the singing of the national anthem and address by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea recognising that the capital generated from fisheries is maturing while phosphate sales no longer dominate the fiscal landscape and revenue generated from the Regional Processing Centre continues to decline.

"These three important entities contribute to 98 per cent of the entire budget for the Republic of Nauru, and their gradual decline in purely monetary terms presents a dilemma to the nation," President Aingimea said, posing the question of ways to ensure sustainability for Nauru, post 2020.

"Any form of investment to Nauru is to be studied for its veracity to make a lasting and positive impact on the national competence in... enhancing the quality of our peoples' lives through human capital development; increasing our financial independence; and ensuring the longevity and continued regeneration of resources within our environment," the President said.

President Aingimea highlighted the two industries on Nauru - primary being the extraction and collection of natural resources, hence phosphate and Ronphos; and secondary being Nauru Fisheries, Bendigo Bank, Digicel, private business Capelle, Eigigu Holdings, Nauru Post and the Regional Processing Centre.

The President also spoke about a paradigm shift from a manufacturing perspective to look to the greater regional and

global manufacturing community and seek guidance on setting up their factories on island and to ensure these endeavours are given every chance to succeed. The example of a tuna cannery was used.

"My challenge to this group is to embrace a paradigm shift. A paradigm shift is to break away from traditional methods on how to get things done. To change the way in which we see and do things that will benefit the nation, a nation with mostly finite resources. We must reinvent the way we seek to do business in order to attract foreign investment into the national economy.

"We need to work smarter. However, I understand that some of you may not be comfortable with the fact that we are venturing into the unknown. Let us support each other with words of encouragement. I will only say this once. I want goers and not stayers," President Aingimea said.

An area of branching out opportunities is labour mobility of skilled operators with decades of experience that would only require the proper training and qualification to bring them up to employable standards. This prospect would provide an earning for their families as well as ease the strain on the national economy.

The President requested HOMs to put trade very high on their agendas when they return to their missions, "this is a must for the sake of the nation," and reiterated that the government's continued practice of social welfare, "continues to drain the national purse".

"It is time to change how we conduct ourselves as a nation. My challenge to everyone here is to put into place the structures and processes necessary to attract all forms of foreign direct investment that will drive out of its dependence on the present industries," President Aingimea said.

In that vein, the President stressed: enabled, trained and made in Nauru to become bywords for enduring quality in the regional and global community and marketplace.

"This is sustainability," the President said empowering the heads of mission to make it happen.

The key *Desperate Imaginations* outlined in the outcome statement and Guiding Vision 2020 for the meeting include sport tourism as a viable commercial activity in the creation of major sporting events to bolster visitor numbers and generate economic activity across the business sector and general consumer spending.

Health tourism was identified as a potential commercial activity and key healthcare service provider with the vision of a 'Pacific Health Model' providing high standard quality health care for Nauruans as well as for the region.

The idea of a tuna cannery and processing centre was developed by the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.

Plans to develop farming to achieve food security and reduce dependence of imported goods centres on hydroponic and aquaponic farming, and livestock farming that includes poultry, piggery and goats.

The fourth point is a water tank manufacturing plant. With the main water supply for households being stored in individual water tanks, the plant would reduce the cost of importing water tanks as well as create local employment.

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Establishing an insurance service that will contribute to foreign investment plans was another vision of the line ministries.

The higher ground project which is to restore the mined out lands in the centre of the island will create land needed to build housing, development of agriculture and space for major infrastructure. The government regards the importance of the project as the flagship strategy to combating the adverse effects of climate change and a key initiative for the survival of Nauru.

The desperate imagination for the port harbour is to see it as a sub-regional hub for major shipping activities, including trans-shipment of cargo and fishing vessels, as well as provide business for the private sector in supplies, refuelling, lodging, and recreation.

As deputy chair, Deputy Minister Asterio Appi observed the feedback that the meeting was valuable in bringing together the heads of mission and heads of department in looking at the visions and challenges of the ministries and HODs as well as highlight their targets and visions outlined in the Nauru National

Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS).

“We’ve also learned so many things, amongst themselves [heads of department]. That there is a great need for coordination and there is no better place to learn that than on ground, when you bring HOMs that sits in mission abroad that works with various international organisations,” Deputy Minister Appi said.

HOMs are given a new mandate to help achieve the targets in the NSDS and the theme intended to diversify Nauru’s economy and the need to plan ahead and seek opportunities for the future.

“The HODs are taking advantage of the fact that HOMs are here and in that particular example of teacher recruitment, the education is in a dire state whereby they are lacking teachers, and if any HOM who are here can assist immediately, it’s an added advantage that they are here,” DM Appi said.

DM Appi said it was time to start maximising the returns and benefits from Nauru’s missions abroad and be the true representative of Nauru and the head of state, reiterating that the meeting was an opportunity for HOMs and HODs to meet and create synergies.

The heads of mission meeting will be an annual event •

Health calls emergency coronavirus meet

The Ministry of Health called an emergency meeting, 26 January, to provide an update on the global status of the coronavirus (2019-nCov) epidemic and put in place immediate measures and recommendations as appropriate, as well as to place the country on high alert.

Acting Secretary for Health Chanda Garabwan and Deputy Secretary and Director of Medical Services Dr Ola Ajayi called the meeting with relevant personnel of Nauru’s ports – air and sea, and customs to check for signs of illness with passengers and restrictions on disembarking, government lawyers to advise on visitor names and their recent travel routes, the acting Chief Secretary, and the Government Information Office.

“We have a duty to protect ourselves, and we have a duty to protect our neighbours”, was the prevailing sentiment at the meeting.

The discussions centred on ramping up public awareness in schools, with the government heads of department, the airline, Digicel and local media.

Precautions will include providing advice to the public including to stay at home if you are sick, and to wear a mask if you are coughing.

The use of an infrared detecting device is being discussed which will assist authorities at the borders in detecting unwell passengers.

Immigration has been directed to look into travellers especially arriving from China where the coronavirus originated; and recommendations for a travel ban to Asian countries.

The Nauru Public Health Centre was identified as the venue to host anyone deemed to require being quarantined. Health authorities are taking all possible action to address the issue and protect the Nauru population.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) issued a travel advisory on 24 January requiring all visitors to RMI complete



Ministry for Health called an emergency meeting to address immediate measures in response to the coronavirus epidemic

a special health screening form to assess potential signs and symptoms and exposure to the virus, before or on arrival into RMI.

The advisory also states that any traveller with travel originating from or transiting through China must spend at least 14 days in a country not affected by the virus, otherwise entry will be denied, with no exceptions.

According to the World Health Organisation and the Centre for Disease Control, the common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

If you have concerns, call the Acting Director for Public Health, Stacey Cain on 5573072 •

Eigigu procurement presents 250k dividend

Eigigu Procurement Pty Ltd, presented a dividend of \$250,000 for financial year ending 2019 to parent company Eigigu Holdings Corporation, Friday 10 January.

Eigigu Procurement (EPL) Chairman Baston Cecil presented the official letter declaring the dividend amount and payment to EHC Chair Loni Cain at the EHC office, Civic Centre, Aiwo.

Mr Cecil read out the letter advising Ms Cain “that having concluded the 2019 financial year, in a strong financial position, the board of Eigigu Procurement Pty Limited as a result, declare a dividend of \$250,000 to our shareholder Eigigu Holdings Corporation.

“The outlook for Eigigu Procurement into the financial year 2020 is positive with ever-expanding customer base and product offering, the board and management look forward to the continued support of yourself [Ms Cain] and the Eigigu Holdings team,” Mr Cecil said.

Responding in the vernacular, Ms Cain thanked Eigigu Procurement for its contribution noting that the dividends will go to all its subsidiaries to assist in their operations in order to move EHC forward.

In its mission statement, EPL aims to be the procurement agent of choice for Nauruan businesses, government departments and other organisations. In doing so, EPL aims to generate income for its shareholders, the people of Nauru.



EPL Chairman Baston Cecil (L) presented the official letter declaring the dividend amount and payment to EHC Chair Loni Cain at the EHC office, Civic Centre, Aiwo.

Eigigu Procurement intends to develop its Nauruan staff and equip them with the skills and experience to further their careers in whatever endeavour they choose.

EPL was established in 2016 and is one of nine subsidiaries of Eigigu Holdings.

Its main markets are the regional processing centre, state owned entities, government departments and the private sector, and utilises sea freight, airfreight, and domestic Australian logistics.

EPL is an accredited non-packer/exporter of red meat, and licenced by the Australian department of agriculture to export poultry, fresh fruit and vegetables, and grain; as well as a motor vehicle trade dealer •

Eigigu holdings responds to call for children’s Panadol

One of the largest state owned entities, Eigigu Holdings Corporation, donated 400 bottles of children’s liquid Panadol to the RoN Hospital in response to the hospital’s urgent call for assistance to meet the supply shortage, 15 January.

Eigigu Group CEO Hansome Adumur and board members presented the medicine on 17 January to acting Secretary for Health Chanda Garabwan.

EHC Board member Twiggy Phillip spoke on behalf of the CEO and board in saying that the company received the call for assistance earlier in the week and was pleased to be able to assist. EHC mobilised its suppliers in Brisbane Australia to have the consignment uplifted on the flight which arrived in Nauru on 16 January.

“So because Eigigu Holdings Corporation is one of the biggest SOEs on island, we are pleased to assist on matters such as this. So on behalf of Eigigu Holdings Corporation and our Minister, Honourable Martin Hunt, please accept our humble donation,” Ms Phillip said.

On behalf of the Minister for Health Isabella Dageago and the children of Nauru, the acting Secretary for Health Chanda Garabwan thanked Eigigu for its swift response and “for their kind donation in assisting the health department in their time of need”.

“The medicine will really benefit the children who will be accessing our health services, thank you [Eigigu] for being part of the health care service as we want to strengthen our ties,



Group CEO for Eigigu Holdings Hansome Adumur (L) hands over 400 bottles of children’s panadol to acting Secretary for Health Chanda Garabwan in response to urgent call for supplies

our local community ties so this is one of the ways that we are moving forward on, so thank you Eigigu,” Ms Garabwan said.

The sudden onset of the flu in recent weeks as a result of heavy rain exhausted the hospital’s supply of children’s liquid Panadol prompting an urgent call for assistance by Eigigu •

Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:

- Clean hands with soap water or alcohol-based hand rub*
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow*
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms*
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs*
- No unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals*

2020 legal year opens

The 2020 legal year and Nauru courts were officially opened by His Honour Justice Mohammed Shafullah Khan on 13 January in a ceremony held at the Nauru Court House in Yaren District.

Justice Khan emphasised efficiency as the cornerstone for the New Year as he reminded attendees of the 2019 opening address of the Chief Justice, in that to achieve efficiency, there needs to be simplified court procedures and processes that are easily understood and followed, hence confirmed that the review of the Civil Procedure Rules and the working draft anticipated to be finalised in the first quarter of the year.

At the start of 2019 and 2020, workshops were conducted by the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI) on the themes of court efficiency and efficiency impact, respectively, with this year's workshop aimed at improving the overall efficiency of the courts.

His Honour also commented on the Criminal Procedure Act 1972 that in "my view needs to be reviewed and amended".

"Its inadequacies become apparent when we conduct criminal trials and this leads to unnecessary delays in attending to preliminary matters and in some instances causing procedural unfairness to the parties," Judge Khan said.

His Honour also brought attention to the conduct of recording the interviews of suspects by the police, especially those done in the Nauruan language and referring to a 1975 comment made by a former CJ suggesting that a system of tape recording statements was adopted to "prevent falsification and obviate the risk of allegations of falsification".

Judge Khan noted this observation however has not been implemented.

Judge Khan also stated that the wider police cohort could do with further training in investigating child sex abuse cases, as the absence of proper training leads to difficulties in court.

His Honour spoke on the importance of professional development and continuing legal education for legal practitioners, and highlighted the need for a court complex to accommodate counsel and witness rooms, judges' chambers and perhaps even an office space for the Nauru Law Society.

"As we embark on another year, we should all strive to do our very best to serve the people of Nauru by providing them access to justice," Judge Khan said.

Minister for Justice and Border Control, Maverick Eoe, referred to the accomplishments of the last decade and acknowledged that year 2020 will have its new set of challenges.

"Our legal profession is ever changing and evolving. A lot is expected of us especially by the public to whom we owe a duty of care."

Minister Eoe looked to the Nauru Law Society to take an active role in protecting the integrity and dignity of the Nauru courts, "by taking this issue [of uncompromising attacks on the judiciary by the international media and legal practitioners] with their counterparts in other countries, so that the misconception is clarified".

"It is a befitting time to also remind us all as legal practitioners that it is also our individual duty to protect the judiciary as officers of this court," Minister Eoe said.

Minister Eoe also highlighted the importance of the role of the courts in the economic and social development of Nauru, with



His Honour Justice Shafullah Khan (centre) opens the 2020 legal year emphasising efficiency in the courts

regards to putting meaningful and enforceable laws in place to ensure commercial certainty, as well as noting the importance of empowering private individuals to contribute to economic development by engaging in business and investments.

"I affirm the executive branch's commitment to provide all assistance to the judiciary in the administration of justice and upholding of laws of the Republic.

"As we look forward to this New Year and new decade, it is my wish that we can all have a vision for the decade meeting the challenges and requirement of the National Sustainable Development goals," Minister Eoe said.

David Aingimea who assumed the role of president of the Nauru Law Society on 3 September 2019, reiterated the Society's support of the judiciary.

"The Nauru Law Society is unequivocal in its support of our judiciary, and reiterates its position that at all times, the judiciary has maintained its integrity, and we are proud of the fact that we have judges of high calibre and standing presiding in our courts."

Mr Aingimea brought to attention the need to change with the landscape, in language and rhetoric in these current times of political correctness and environmental sensitivity.

"Our laws need to keep up with these realities. And our parliament has endeavoured to meet those challenges, but they also bring in new challenges to the law society as it grapples to ensure its membership is receiving the education it requires to adapt to such changes," Mr Aingimea said underscoring the importance of continuing legal education for law society members.

Mr Aingimea also put forward that the courts take a tougher stance on legal practitioners who attend court unprepared, ultimately disadvantaging other parties and adding additional expense as a result of the delay.

"Our standards in court need to be maintained, so that all parties are treated fairly. And our legal practitioners need to step up to those standards."

Mr Aingimea highlighted the many years the Nauru Law Society "hung onto life by the unselfish dedication of a few practitioners".

"I wish to put on record our deep appreciation to Mr Vinci Clodumar, and to his predecessors like the late Leo Keke, who kept the society alive and functioning for many years.

"I look forward to the NLS working together in 2020 with judiciary and with the ministry for justice to ensure the initiatives and visions for 2020 are attained," Mr Aingimea said.

The event was attended by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea and members of the legal fraternity •

Public service appeals board formed

The three members of the Public Service Appeals Board have been endorsed by Cabinet following the voting and election by members of the public service for the third and final member.

The three board members are Chief Justice Filimone Jitoko, as chairman, appointed by the president under the Nauru Constitution, Camalus Reiyetsi who is nominated by the cabinet, and Elkana Capelle who was voted by members of the public service on 29 November 2019.

Mr Reiyetsi's and Mr Capelle's appointments are for three years while the chief justice as the chairman holds consecutive terms.

As the member representing the public service, Mr Capelle was sworn in before the acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar and the Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu on 7 January. However, Mr Capelle and Mr Reiyetsi will both be sworn in by the Chief Justice at a later date.

Mr Reiyetsi is the senior oceanic fishery officer with Nauru Fisheries and Mr Capelle who is the ICT server administrator and acting director for the department, was one of four nominees from the public service.

The role of the public service appeals board is to assess and determine a complaint filed by a public servant arising from an employment decision handed down by the office of chief secretary.

Taiwan charity sale goes to able-disable centre

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) raised \$3000 at the weekend in its ninth charity sale with all proceeds donated to the Able-Disable Centre (ADC).

The charity sale was held on Saturday 18 January and despite stormy weather, 6000 eggs or 200 trays were sold in less than an hour. The sale is the first for the year but ninth charity sale in all.

Ambassador Dean Wang handed the envelope to teacher-in-charge of the ADC Queenie Teabuge who received the funds with gratitude and appreciation for the Embassy's recognition of the needs of the Centre. Ms Teabuge said the funds will be spent on resources and equipment that are greatly needed at the Centre.

In the past the embassy has sold vegetables as well as eggs in their charity sales and donated money raised from these charity sales to the various non-government organisations and sporting federations around the island, intended to assist them in their development needs.

The embassy has also donated items such as hospital beds, dengue fever kits, and Olympic pins to the Nauru Olympic Committee as well as financial contributions to the Nauru Government's trust fund, projects, and general budgetary support •



Elkana Capelle (centre) will serve on the Public Service Appeals Board alongside Chief Justice Filimone Jitoko and Camalus Reiyetsi who was nominated by the Cabinet

Under the Constitution, section 108, a public service employee is entitled to appeal against employment decisions made against them or another employee.

Section 109 states that in starting an appeal, the appellant may lodge a notice of appeal with the chief secretary within seven days of having received notice of the decision or within 21 days of the notice if the appellant did not receive the notice, under section 108 of the Constitution.

The chief secretary must supply a copy of each document that is intended to be submitted to the Board in response to the appeal at least seven days before the appeal is heard, and there must be a quorum of two members, one of whom must be the chairman, at a hearing •



Taiwan Embassy donates another \$3000 to the Able Disable Centre making it the ninth charity donation by the embassy

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Republic of Nauru

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