



Nauru Bulletin

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Another group of asylum seekers choose to return home

The number of asylum seekers on Nauru is now 387 following yesterday's (12 Nov) movement of 24 new arrivals and 14 returnees.

The travel arrangement for the return of the 14 Sri-Lankan men has been organised by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

The 24 new arrivals yesterday morning comprise five Sri-Lankans, eight Afghans, seven Iranians and four Iraqi men.

Meanwhile, a group of transferees at the processing centre are engaging in a peaceful protest. They have also indicated they have stopped eating meals.

However, service providers including the Salvation

Army which has been contracted to assist with support measures for the asylum seekers, are monitoring the situation, and food and water are available to them at all times.

Also, the Nauru Police Force investigation into the property damage last month (October) caused by a small group of asylum seekers is ongoing.

Nauru observes two minutes silence to remember the war dead

Nauru observed two minutes silence as members of the Nauru Government, diplomatic missions and the public remember the war dead on Remembrance Day at the weekend (Sunday 11 Nov).

A four-man police memorial guard stood to order around the cenotaph throughout the official ceremony in front of the Government offices.

As the flag flew at half mast, His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido led the wreath laying ceremony.

The Armistice Day Ode was then read by Justina Akubor from the office of the Chief Secretary prior to the playing of the 'Last Post',



Guards stand at attention as the national flag is lowered to half mast

the playing of the national anthem.

Originally called Armistice Day, 11 November is commemorated each year to remember the war dead following the First World War.

The signing of the armistice was done on 11 November 1918 and was observed by Germany and its Allies.

The red Flanders poppy has been used as the flower to remember and honour the fallen.

followed by two minutes silence at 11.00am.

Reverend Roger Mwareow said a prayer before the Reville was played and the national flag hoisted to full mast. This was followed by

Its symbolism became accepted throughout the allied nations as the flower of remembrance to be worn on Remembrance Day.

Parliament sitting - 6 November

The Parliament of Nauru convened a sitting last week (6 Nov) when a number of bills were tabled and passed.

The parliamentary bills enacted on the day were:

- * Public Finance (Control and Management (Amendment) Act 2012
- * Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act 2012
- * Currency Act 2012
- * Private Security Act 2012
- * Geneva Conventions Act 2012
- * Chemical Weapons Conventions Act 2012

The initial question regarding the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust Fund was the amount remaining in the RONWAN Fund, when payout is expected and where the money is from.

Minister for the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust, Hon. Marcus Stephen was unable to give a definitive answer until a firm date was settled and proper advice and information was received from the Chairperson the NPRT.

Finance Minister Hon. Roland Kun responded to a question raised about the now repealed Provident Fund, in which he stated that the government is looking at commencing payments at the end of the year but would not speculate on the exact date of commencement.

Minister Kun also responded to a question of paying out the superannuation funds in

which he stated that providing there is sufficient cash flow within treasury funds, the plan is to also have a payout by the end of the financial year.

In a small island such as Nauru, the availability of land space is increasingly becoming a concern to landowners and the government.

Members raised concerns that the government and foreign agencies are approaching land owners about purchasing land either for long leases or complete ownership. One of the concerns were the benefits to either party.

His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido stated that it is not unusual for governments to own land.

“Governments own land to enable progress and development therefore minimise land disputes.”

President Dabwido also highlighted that benefits to the landowner whom some are currently leasing their land for 15 cents a year.

“Why don’t we sell now? Government to own it and the landowners can benefit from the money now.

“We (government) are asking for land that landowners might not be able to develop, such as the mined out lands.

“We are not asking for coconut land because they

are easier for the landowner to develop,” the President said.

Members also questioned the salary levels and working conditions of local workers at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) as well as the health and wellbeing of the asylum seekers.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke assured members that the asylum seekers were being well looked after and the agencies responsible for them keep a very close watch.

The Salvation Army has been contracted to assist with support measures for the asylum seekers while Transfield is responsible for catering, logistics and security. The International Health and Medical Services Australia is responsible for health care.

Minister Keke also advised that the Government of Australia funds the RPC hence is responsible for contracting the companies that provide services to the camp. In that regard, Nauru has no involvement in the selection of companies or the determination of wages.

Parliament statements and the Bills and Acts tabled and passed on 6 November have been circulated separately via email.

**Governments
own land to
enable progress
and development**

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma visits Nauru



Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma met with Government officials and MPs, here speaking with Minister for NPRT Hon. Marcus Stephen

The Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma made his first official visit to Nauru last month (29 - 31 Oct) on his way to neighbouring island Kiribati.

Mr Sharma made courtesy calls to His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido, the Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty

as well as government Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Most of the discussions evolved around the country's national development priorities. Areas of interest included democracy, good governance and public administration, human rights, climate change, gender equality, economic development, debt management, and information and communication technology.

The meetings provided the Secretary General an updated perspective of how the Commonwealth is viewed in Nauru and how the Commonwealth could provide greater assistance and relevance to the country.

Mr Sharma briefed the President and Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Dr. Kieren Keke on current Commonwealth priorities and plans to reform and renew its agenda.

“Our goal is to ensure that the Commonwealth remains responsive

to the needs of its citizens and is more impactful in its activities,” Mr Sharma said.

At last year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Australia, leaders agreed to a number of recommendations by an Eminent Persons Group to reform and renew the Commonwealth.

The reforms were to sharpen the impact, strengthen networks and raise the profile of the Commonwealth and to achieve greater practical commitment to the 2009 *Affirmation of Commonwealth and Principles*.

Mr Sharma also informed the government of Nauru about the development orientation desired by the Chair at next year's CHOGM in Sri Lanka and invited Nauru's input in drawing up the agenda for discussions at the biennial summit.

The Commonwealth General Secretary was accompanied by his wife Mrs Babil Sharma and three officials. The delegation departed on 31 October for the Republic of Kiribati.

Taiwan donates second set of solar panels

and begins distribution of energy saving lights

The Republic of China (Taiwan) Embassy in the Republic of Nauru handed over the second set of solar panels at the government office last month (23 Oct) enabling 30360 watts of electricity to be generated by the system.

The second set of grid connected solar power system which is worth USD\$100,000 was installed just three months after the first set on 18 July.

The first set of 66 solar panels is able to generate 15180 watts. The solar power generated from the entire system feeds back to

the main power grid at the Nauru Utilities.

The solar power system was installed by engineers from Taiwanese company SpeedTech who are also the manufacturers of the household mini solar bars and the solar street lights around the island.

The display board shows current reductions of carbon monoxide, temperature of the panels and also the amount of sunlight the panels absorb in watts and watts per square metre.

During that same month (October) the Taiwan Embassy had also commenced auditing government offices for the installation of energy saving bulbs and tube lights. This separate donation of 50,000 light bulbs and tubes will also be installed in Nauru households.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) has been a big supporter of Nauru's vision and will continue to cooperate closely with Nauru on energy saving issues.



Taiwan funded solar panels installed on the roof tops of the government office building has a capacity to generate 30360 watts of solar power

Regional agencies assist Nauru with climate financing options



Team leader Ryan Medrana (R) with Kevin Petrini and Exsley Taloiburi (L-R) with Nauru Climate Change Adaptation officer Liluv Itsimaera

At the invitation of the Government of Nauru, a team of officials from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) were on Nauru late last month (Oct) to undertake further work on a climate change financing study.

The team leader - Climate Change Advisor Ryan Medrana arrived on 29 October with Regional Climate Policy Specialist Kevin Petrini and Climate Change Coordination Officer Exsley Taloiburi.

The purpose of the study was to increase Nauru's access to international climate change

resources and improve delivery of support to communities. Nauru is the first country to agree to undertake such a review.

Preliminary findings during an information session showed the need to improve access to available international funds and a full assessment on national institutional set up on finance.

Nauru's secretary for Commerce, Industry and Environment Russ Kun welcomed the country study.

"Nauru welcomed the opportunity to take part in identifying options suitable for Nauru to access funds and improving linkages to various international funding sources.

"We anticipate that this study will assist our nation and people, and eventually, the region, in our shared struggle to address climate change as the greatest challenge of our time," Mr Kun said.

During the ten day visit, the PIFS-UNDP team held meetings with government departments, representatives from the community, the private sector and development partner AusAID.

In 2011 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders reviewed a paper prepared by the PIFS that contained an initial assessment of several options to improve the access and management of climate change resources for its member states.



Leigh Howard explains the possibilities of success in new and demanding markets

Civil servants and private sector learn innovative business ideas

Last month (18-23 Oct) a two person team of the *Blue Ocean Strategy* group conducted several days of seminars and workshops introducing the concept to public servants and the private sector.

Leigh Howard and Luciano Pezzotta from Blue Ocean Strategy were invited by His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido to the island to present and provide an insight into innovative business ideas and successful strategic moves into new markets and demands.

The first two days (18-19 Oct) were set aside for government staff and the following week (22-23 Oct) members of the private sector and state entities were

invited to a similar seminar and workshop.

Leigh Howard stated that Blue Ocean Strategy can work well for the public sector and has proven success in several countries despite their lack of resources and smallness.

"Luciano and myself both reside in Malaysia where there's a major Blue Ocean Strategy execution plan underway by the Malaysian government and we've seen across the board both top-down and bottom-up involvement in the public and private sector in a Blue Ocean Strategy for an entire government and an entire country," Mr Howard said.

"To measure the learning outcome is to empower the participants, to challenge the common beliefs and implicit assumptions they have in delivering the services of producing the products they do on a daily basis in order to rethink and redesign their approaches to their daily operations in order to provide better value at lower cost," Mr Pezzotta said.

The analogy of a blue and red ocean is that a blue ocean signifies uncharted market territory and reaching out to clients who are not in existence today. A red ocean depicts an existing market space where competition is intense and profits are diminishing.

Nauru students receive Taiwan art awards

Earlier this month the Taiwan Embassy in Nauru hosted an awards presentation for Nauruan school children for the 43rd World Schoolchildren's Art Exhibition which was held in Taiwan in August 2012.

A bronze prize and four selection prizes were awarded to Nauru students.

Minister for Education Roland Kun, Minister for Transport Riddell Akua, Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu along with heads of department attended the auspicious occasion.

The students received their arts certificates along with small gift tokens sponsored by visiting Taiwan gynecologist Dr Hwang Sheau Feng.

The exhibition is open to students world-wide and has several award categories.

Thirty thousand drawings and paintings from 53 foreign countries were reviewed.



Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu congratulates Enuwudu Justen

Prize recipients

Enuwudu Justen

Selected (Aiwo Primary School)

Rikishi Demaunga

Selected (Aiwo Primary School)

Group Year 4

Bronze (Kayser College)

Jodelia Agigo

Selected (Kayser College)

Prep Class Room 3

Selected (Meneñ Infant School)



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If you would like to receive an e-copy of the *Nauru Bulletin*, please send a request to director.information@naurugov.nr

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