



# Nauru Bulletin

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## New visa category for processing asylum seekers

The Government of Nauru has imposed a new visa category for processing of asylum seekers that is designed to take into account their needs and resources while on Nauru.

The new fee of \$1000 per month for each asylum seeker stems from new laws and regulations passed by parliament this month (10 Oct).

The reason for the new fee, apart from the cost of processing, takes into account the needs of processing asylum seekers on a small island such as Nauru. It will address the impacts of water and electricity supply also.

Under the previous processing system the cost for asylum seekers' visas varied dramatically and towards the end of the centres life in early 2008 the visa fees had reached \$7500 per month for each asylum seeker.

In a recent interview with international media Nauru's minister for foreign affairs Dr Kieren Keke has stated that both governments of Nauru and Australia cannot put a timeframe on when the

processing will begin or how long it will take.



Asylum seekers on Nauru has reached 356

*File photo*

“The processing time will be determined by the processing itself. Ideally we'd like to start processing immediately but it is better to do it properly rather than a rush and make mistakes.

“Australia shares our concern on delays but agrees that systems must be firmly established,” Minister Keke said.

In response refugee advocate claims in the media that asylum seekers were being ill-treated and suffering from sickness and inadequate medical and mental health facilities, the Minister said such allegations were grossly exaggerated and were far removed from reality.

“The centre has an extremely well-equipped and expertly staffed medical centre where an important focus is on the mental well-being of the asylum seekers.

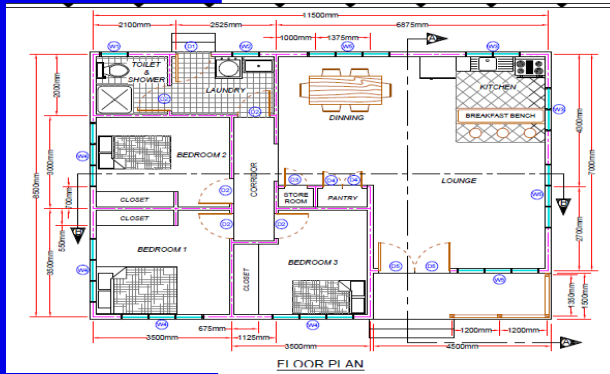
“From the Government of Nauru's viewpoint advocates are welcome to come here,” Minister Keke said.

“The last time we (Nauru) hosted such a centre access to the asylum seekers by advocates was restricted.”

Talks are still ongoing between the Governments of Nauru and Australia to organise administrative infrastructure including the secondment of experts in the handling of refugee processing along with additional legal assistance to ensure the actual processing is conducted according to best practice.

The total count of asylum seekers on Nauru has reached 356 with 232 from Sri Lanka, 22 Iraqis, 26 Iranians, 58 Afghanis and 43 Pakistanis.

# New home owners awarded housing loan



The twenty-six successful applicants of the Nauru government's housing scheme were announced this month (11 Oct) kick starting the planning and construction process.

The recipients of the loan program were invited to the Chief Secretary's department to discuss details of the program including when construction is expected to begin and expectations of both government and the home owner.

Two applicants from each of the 14 districts were to be selected however, only 26 applications were deemed successful. The district of Denigomodu only had three applications – one application was incomplete and the other two had land issues, hence the district was not awarded a housing loan.

The signing of contracts between the Justice department and the recipients of the loan scheme. Construction is expected to begin soon.

The new housing scheme is a loan project whereby the successful applicant is awarded a house to the value of \$40,000. The loan is repayable over a 15 year period.

The housing scheme was announced earlier this month whereby funding would be provided for the construction of 28 new houses for Nauruans.

The design consists of three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen lounge and laundry.

The two most important areas for evaluation and selection are over crowdedness in the current dwelling and the applicant's ability to repay the loan.

Another criterion is to ensure the land intended to be built on is secured and ownership is established.

The new housing scheme is a new project which the government had included in this financial year's budget to assist Nauruans own their own homes. With the assistance of loan repayments, the scheme is expected to continue into the next budget where other Nauruans will have the opportunity to apply.



Irene Detsiogo, 81 years old, at her home accepting her head garland and gifts

# The spirit of Angam lives on

Eighty years on and the spirit of Angam is still remembered and celebrated with sporting events, song and district beautification.

The word *Angam* means jubilation and celebration to have triumphed over all hardship.

Twice in the history of Nauru has the population dropped owing to disease, war and death.

The Nauruan people set themselves a goal to increase their population count to 1500 in order to ensure that their race should not die out in the years to come.

Thirteen years later on 26 October 1932 the 1500<sup>th</sup> Nauruan baby was born – a baby girl called Eidagaruwo.

There was great triumph and feasting for "Angam" was reached. The date has since been celebrated every year.

However, the jubilation was short lived as the arrival of the Second War World once again nearly wiped out the population.

The population target of 1500 was again set and in March 1949, the second Angam baby was born. Her name was Bethel Enproe Adam. However, the birth date of the first Angam

baby remains the official Angam day – 26 October.

This year the government organized gift baskets and \$50 for those aged 80 years and over.

The district beautification which is sponsored by the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation was won by Anabar with Ijuw and Uaboe in second and third place.

The home and school beautification competitions are the newest categories but results were not available at time of publication of this edition.

# Nauru launches its first MDG progress report

Nauru's first progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was launched this month (Oct 24) following broad consultations locally and with development partners.

The Nauru National MDG report – Status Progress 1990-2011 has been made possible by the efforts of the Nauru MDG Taskforce, working under the Ministry of Finance and closely guided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The UNDP Environment Program Analyst Ms Emma Mario read remarks on behalf of UNDP Fiji Resident Representative, Mr Knut Ostby offering his congratulations to the Government of Nauru on producing its initial national report.

Mr Ostby reiterated the importance of the eight Millennium Development Goals that were universally agreed in 2000 by world leaders to tackle poverty across its many dimensions.

In response, Nauru's acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Michael Aroi thanked Mr Ostby for his continued

encouragement and for mobilizing UNDP technical experts to assist and provide guidance to the Nauru MDG Taskforce.

He also thanked Patrick Tuimalealififano from UNDP and Ms Tatiana Prokhorova from the UN Joint Present Office for developing the first draft of Nauru's MDG Report.

“The Nauru Progress Report 1990-2011 is the result of broad consultations with decision makers at all levels, as well as the general public, parliamentarians, the media, Government, UN agencies and other development partners, the private sector and NGO's.

“This report provides the baseline of where Nauru is at now in regards to Nauru's progress on the Millennium Development Goals targets .

“It will be a useful document to guide Government and policy makers in their decisions in developing activities for accelerating Nauru's progress towards achieving its MDG targets by 2015,” Mr Aroi said.

The Progress Report aims to inform the people of Nauru about progress on the MDGs and to identify what more can be done to achieve both national and millennium development priorities as articulated in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2005-2025.

## MDG citation

MDG 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

MDG 4 - Reduce child mortality

MDG 5 - Improve maternal health

MDG 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

MDG 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability

MDG 8 - Develop a global partnership for development

The MDG's remain a high priority for the government of Nauru and is committed to translating this at the household level▪

*Copies of the report will soon be distributed to government departments, schools and state-owned entities but in the meantime copies may be obtained from the Statistics Office*

## Pacific leaders' decision explained at national level

Smaller Island States Programme Officer Mr. Taomia Fakavae was on island earlier this month (Oct 15 -19) to conduct a consultation workshop between representatives and officials from the Smaller Island States (SIS) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

Government line ministries and state-owned entities met at the Menen Hotel for the one week workshop where Mr Fakavae presented and explained key decision following the 2012 Smaller Island States Leaders and Forum Leaders meeting in the Cook Islands in August.

Mr Fakavae also spoke about the role and implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) as well as provide an overview of the upcoming Pacific Plan Review 2013.

An introduction was also made about the added responsibilities which the SIS Pacific Plan Desk Officer Mr Michael Aroi will be undertaking.

Besides the regular reporting on the pacific plan implementation Mr Aroi's duties will increase following the implementation of SIS Leaders decision in August.

The participants also discussed and identified short term priorities of the SIS Development Fund Programme Based Approach (SISDF) which would be integrated into Nauru's work plan.

Mr Fakavae will conduct similar workshops in the other SIS member countries then the finalising of the program budget, arrangements and funding guidelines that will be based on proposed modalities for its implementation.

Members of the SIS include the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu▪



**Michael Aroi**  
SIS Pacific Plan Desk Officer

# Correctional officers train in basic ops

This month twenty officers of the Nauru Correctional and Prison Service underwent training in basic operations that would up skill them in areas of operations, first aid, conflict and emergency situations.

The two week training which is usually taken up at the University of the South Pacific Nauru campus concluded on 18 October and was conducted by Simon Rinakorovatu.

The training covered operational which includes reporting, document preparation, security, asset protection and response techniques and first aid.

The fire and rescue segment of the training was demonstrated by staff from the fire department.

Evacuation plans and procedures, personal presentation specifically in effective communication skills, managing conflict through negotiations and guideline to act within the law were all covered.

Twenty correctional officers including the seven new recruits took part in this training which was funded by New Zealand aid.

The training is one of a number of training initiatives under the departments' training and development program.



Five of the seven new recruits take notes on the second last day of training.

*L-R Sandy Angabate, Vitromich Limen, Tiana Waidubu, Jett Demauna and Jasper Uepa*



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