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Department heads relook performance, output

The revamped heads of department (HOD) meeting this month touched on renewed vision, leadership, and adapting to the ‘new normal’ brought about by COVID-19, 29 June.

The monthly HOD meetings are usually chaired by Deputy Minister for the Public Service, Asterio Appi however, this month is specially attended and chaired by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea marking a new beginning in strategic planning and direction for HODs.

Acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar welcomed HODs and highlighted the main points of the meeting including the roles, responsibilities and expectations of HODs before the opening address by President Aingimea underscoring that progress “will be a slow recovery from this pandemic” but having HODs together at this meeting during these times was a good start.

“We must take advantage of this isolation and work together and utilise this period wisely to improve our economy and protect our people [from COVID-19],” the president said.

“Every HOD should have the vision of



President Lionel Aingimea chairs the June heads of department meeting urging leadership and renewed approach and direction

leading the department... to aspire to be the department of the year.”

Several other issues were brought to attention which required improvement include the proper implementation and timely completion of projects; COVID-19 being an excuse for why projects are incomplete and virtual meetings being the ‘new normal’.

The president said the number of times documents submitted to his office lacking the expected 100 per cent in content and quality, “is too frequent to mention”.

“For too long good enough is seen as standard. Not anymore. Good enough is not good enough anymore. The norm now to be expected from all HODs is to be at 100 per cent.”

President Aingimea said the success of the department is dependent on leadership and HODs must show leadership in punctuality, performance, dedication and attitude, underscoring that problems within the departments need addressing.

“If the HOD lacks this stand, then it’s time for the HOD to change.”

The president referred to the heads of mission meeting in January titled ‘Desperate Imagination’ urging HODs to use that platform to further aspire to move Nauru forward, and referenced the infamous quote by former US president John F Kennedy, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

“Unfortunately, most times than not, it does not apply here. We ask what Nauru can do for us, instead of what we can do for our home. That mindset has to change. That attitude has to change.

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Second COVID drill set for 17 July

Director of Nauru Emergency Services and COVID Taskforce Co-ordinator Barassi Botelanga presented the operational response plan for the second COVID-19 practice drill scenario to Taskforce chair Dr Kieren Keke and stakeholder members, and set Friday, 17 July for the second drill.

The presentation to Dr Keke who attended via video link on 3 July, which follows on from Drill 1, staged on 14 May in Ijuw district, Drill 2 uses lessons learned to design a new scenario more complex than the first, across a number of districts, with multiple situations unfolding concurrently, requiring “military precision and timing” according to Wilson’s Security drill co-ordinator.

One of the key outcomes of Drill 1, now a focal point for testing, fine tuning and improvement in Drill 2, is communications. That

is, communications within and between teams on the ground, and then how those communications are received, filtered and fed back through the taskforce team at the command centre.

It was decided for Drill 2 to select actors who are recognisable and role models in the community, in part, to help ensure that community engagement in the drill is high and the community understand, comply with and support the work being done to prepare and practice for a potentially real-life situation – an infected person or persons loose in the community.

It is also hoped that these ‘celebrity’ Nauruans will avoid public confusion this time. After Drill 1, actors involved in the scenario found that many people in the community believed that the

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Department heads relook performance, output

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“As HODs you have so much trust and responsibility placed on your shoulders. Can Nauru say that that trust is properly placed? Can Nauru say that that responsibility can be relied upon?”

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of meetings and official business. With firm travel restrictions and social distancing measures in place, face-to-face meetings are a thing of the past. However, new technology is adapting to the changing world and how people interact and official business conducted.

The president urged HODs to “attend those meetings, go on line, find out what’s happening, and be informed” and “truthfully ask if their work can be done better.”

Each HOD was given a few minutes to present their department’s report and progress. Several acknowledged and were encouraged by the vision to move forward and not allow their performance and work possibilities to be hindered by the limitations imposed by coronavirus.

Deputy Minister for the Public Service Asterio Appi delivered closing remarks before President Aingmea’s departure, first stating that “the future is here”.

“Welcome to the new normal in the COVID-19 era,” and urged everyone to “school up” on video conferencing tools like Zoom.

“Adapt to the new normal. Virtual meeting is now the new normal. It is imperative in our view that heads of department be aggressive to the new normal.

“I would also like to encourage HODs to be current. It is expected of you,” Deputy Minister Appi said, encouraging HODs to seriously consider establishing accounts and necessary applications to enable virtual meetings to happen and keep abreast of developments abroad.

Mr Appi reflected on the meeting room filled with Nauruans and expats that have worked for Nauru for an extended period and likened that to patriotism.

Mr Appi reflected on projects “looking good on paper” but the implementation telling a different story in that COVID-19 has been an excuse used too many times as a reason why projects cannot be implemented.

“The expectation from us of you is very, very high. And I anticipate that this will be reflected within the department as your true performances.”

Mr Appi concluded that his ‘desperate imagination’ is for the public service to have enough absorptive capacity to “absorb all of what is out there”, in terms of knowledge, new developments, including all the external assistance flowing through from Nauru’s foreign missions •

It’s the law:

Owner not to permit unlicensed person to drive motor vehicle:

(1) The owner of a motor vehicle shall, before permitting any person to drive the motor vehicle, require the licence of that person to drive a motor vehicle of the class to which that motor vehicle belongs to be produced as proof that that person is so licensed.

(2) If subsection (1) of this section is not complied with the owner of the vehicle shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500.

Nauru Motor Traffic Act 2014, Part 3, Section 34

Second COVID drill set for 17 July

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Drill 2, due to be staged 17 July, will be more complex, requiring clear lines of communication and military precision and timing

scenario was real, and that the actors were actually infected with coronavirus.

The drill plan itself outlines the scenario, the situation, aim and mission plus the execution-actions: in this case, five actions. Each action is then outlined in a scenario serial, making it easier to control, much like an act in a theatrical play. Each scenario serial lists the time, sequence of events, stakeholders involved and the actions they are to take, and a column for the role of the taskforce at that point in the drill.

At the end of the serial, appointed assessors from each stakeholder conduct an assessment of their own teams’ performance. However, in order to emulate a real-life emergency, the drill does not pause for assessors to evaluate – this is done in the field as the action continues. Each stakeholder will have previously met to determine their teams’ performance criteria and response plan for the drill.

Drill designers use a GANTT chart to project manage the drill. The chart illustrates the breakdown of the drill as a project, with start and finish dates, relationships between project activities and tracking of tasks as an achievement percentage against milestones.

At the close of the presentation, Dr Keke praised the plan and members set 17 July for the drill to go live.

Before that date, taskforce members were reminded of the Council’s obligations under the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016, Part 4, Section 19 (1), to “establish Disaster Management Committees within the communities in Nauru.”

So far, only half a dozen of the 14 community committees required nationally have formed. These committees are key to communication, essential in any disaster, and the focus of Drill 2. Committees are required, under Section 19 (2), to comprise five categories: church leaders, traditional leaders, youth leaders, men and women’s groups and other suitable persons.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, responsibility to facilitate those committees has been transferred to the taskforce. One taskforce member reported that “the taskforce is working towards approaching the various MPs to submit the representatives for these five categories from their districts to enable the taskforce to facilitate pulling them together and getting them set up as the formal link between CCC [the taskforce] to community.”

In closing, Dr Keke said that Drill 2 will certainly “prompt a lot of thinking” as Nauru continues to work hard to keep coronavirus-free •

COVID-19, six months on

It has been six months since the global outbreak of coronavirus and three months since Nauru declared the state of disaster and partially closed its borders and commenced quarantine measures.

In these short six months, the landscape of human interaction and business activity changed dramatically and as most of the world are infected by coronavirus, a handful are fortunate to be virus-free and vigorously protecting their borders.

Nauru is one of those countries still virus-free and in the words of President Lionel Aingimea “by the grace of God, we are blessed” and continuously gives thanks for Nauru’s position during this pandemic that nears 12,000 confirmed cases including 545,481 deaths according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), on 9 July.

But the president warns, “This situation is not getting better, it’s getting worse” and while Nauru does not feel the direct effects of COVID and still enjoy large gatherings, we “must remain vigilant in protecting our home and borders”.



Health officials received fisheries observer arriving at the Aiwo boat harbour

[file photo]

The latest developments on Nauru include the second emergency drill being planned by the Nauru National Emergency Services and COVID-19 Taskforce which is earmarked for Friday, 17 July. The public will be advised accordingly as the date nears.

Nauru Airlines in partnership with service provider Canstruct, recently introduced ‘wellness packs’ on board their flights. Each passenger receives wipes for hand and surface sanitation and face masks. The airline recommends passengers wear a face mask throughout the flight and a fresh one on arrival.

In March, when Nauru went into partial lockdown, all island flights were suspended except for the fortnightly Brisbane flights. All incoming passengers were initially required to go into two weeks government managed quarantine, until the on-island testing regime commenced at the end of May.

On-island testing significantly reduced quarantine time to five days. Passengers would be swabbed and tested on day five and once cleared with a negative result, are free to go home.

The Nauru government continues to monitor global trends and measures taken by the medical community and other countries in how they manage their borders and in-country.

There have been three repatriation flights from Fiji which brought home Nauruans and a handful of expats that are employed locally.

Several breaches have occurred at the two designated quarantine residences. Arrests were made, remand time was spent, charges and fines handed down. Fines and penalties for flouting quarantine rules are not taken lightly with jail terms of up to 12 months and fines up to \$10,000 •

Prison farm teaches sustainable life skills

President Lionel Aingimea visited Nauru’s Topside correctional facility for a presentation from Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) on their prison farm project, 10 July.

The president was joined onsite by Justice Minister Maverick Eoe, Justice Secretary Jay Udit and others as Ambassador Dean Wang and his team walked guests through the project, led by the TTM team.

First, a 3D virtual sketchup presentation held in the prison meeting room took guests on a simulated tour of the project followed by a physical tour of the farm and livestock facilities then ensued, with Ambassador Wang and Secretary Udit demonstrating their ‘green thumbs’ by planting seedlings, led by TTMs agriculture experts.

The presentation, narrated by TTM dietician James Yu, explained how the farm is divided into two parts: inside the prison grounds, where seven vegetable beds have been built, and outside, where two chicken houses, two piggery and compost house are situated on a concrete foundation.



President Aingimea (standing middle) looks on as Ambassador Wang and JBC secretary Udit replant sweet potatoes at the correctional centre farm

The garden beds are two concrete bricks high and, due to the harsh, hot and dry conditions on Topside coupled with poor soil water retention, are lined with plastic sheeting to retain water and allow overflow in heavy rainfall conditions. Shade cloth is erected over the entire area to shelter crops as they grow.

Crops have been selected to maximize a healthy dietary input for inmates, and include sweet corn, long bean, sweet potato and pak choi.

Outside the fence, the livestock housing includes storerooms for tools and feed. Chicken houses can accommodate 200 layers, and the piggery will house 10 piglets. Roofs are triple-insulated to keep livestock cool and have interconnecting plumbing and guttering to harvest rainwater for storage in two rainwater tanks.

A double chamber underground septic tank and drainage system completes the design, with catchment canals around livestock accommodation directing liquid and solid waste, thereby minimising water lens contamination – a significant environmental problem in Nauru.

The farm commenced construction mid-April, and is due for completion in October, with the aim that “all trainees [inmates] are able to learn farming skills and assure the food security of all inmates,” Mr Yu said.

The presentation concluded with a video of highlights of farm construction, with Ambassador Wang, the TTM team members and prison inmates working side by side to dig the ground and form the beds before planting them out.

Come harvest time, Mr Yu will continue the program, teaching the inmates how to prepare and cook their farm-fresh produce •

Police present new era parade and discipline sequence

The Nauru Police Force presented the first new era Nauru Police Parade and Discipline Sequence at the government forecourt before President Lionel Aingimea, 30 June.

Joined by Madam Ingrid Aingimea, ministers, the diplomatic corp, secretaries and heads of department, staff and the general public, President Aingimea, as minister for police, introduced “the new era in the Nauru Police Force... new direction, new strategic plan, new vision” aspiring “to be not only a professional police force, but also to be the best in the region,” with an emphasis on police pride, public safety and changes to be expected in sex offender laws.

Preparations for the parade have been ongoing for a number of weeks in the lead up to the display.

Police arrived, marching in formation, and assembled in front of the Office of the President. After a rendition of the chorus *I Know the Lord*, and the reciting of the police prayer, police presented arms.

The police band then played Nauru’s national anthem, *Nauru Bwiema*, before President Aingimea inspected the guard and the marching display was performed.

The president addressed the parade, saying that the new era of the professional Nauru Police Force will be an era where wearing the police uniform brings pride to those who wear it, as well as advancement through hard work and academic diligence, but also a worthwhile career path that will mean being an NPF officer “you are Nauru’s finest.”

President Aingimea added that 1 July marks a new direction, new strategic plan and new vision for the NPF and their foundational work that “falls within the ambit of the motto to ‘serve and protect’ is safety.”

“The safety of the public, the safety of property, the safety of the police officer should always be the foundational imperatives in our duty of serving and protecting,” the president said.

He added the overall safety principle is the genesis of the laws that the government will be changing, in particular, two “major changes” to laws relating to sex offences.

“The new laws will include and not limited to making it extremely difficult if you are a sex offender, to be bailed. That any remand period is not to be taken as a discount in any sentence.”

The due process of laws governing juvenile sex offenders will also change whereby being a juvenile will no longer be an element of mitigation.



President Aingimea inspect the Nauru Police guard, parade and discipline sequence

In a strongly-termed example, President Aingimea said a juvenile who can “drive a motorbike and use that motorbike as a means of enticing a young girl and then raping her is no juvenile.”

“The sentences are lengthy enough on sex offenders but we will take out all that which has been used by many to have a sex offender walk away with a lighter jail term,” the president warned.

The following day, 1 July, also marks the new special salary scale for teachers, health care workers and police officers.

The government’s overall vision for the NPF is to be the “best officers, the most professional police officers, the most respected police officers, and the most hard working police officers.”

Laws will also be amended to ensure police officers are protected in the execution of their duties, but there will also be strict penalties for officers who abuse their power and “bring disrepute to the uniform” and to fellow officers.

Recruitment will also change, elevating the minimum school leaving level and advancement in pay and rank based on years of experience as well as qualification.

“Gone are the days of nepotism, deceit, dishonesty, unfair practice, gone are the days of this being a job because I cannot get another job elsewhere,” the president said.

The 30 minute police parade and discipline sequence was outfitted with 80 police officers including members of the brass band. The parade will be a three-monthly event •

Nauru police prayer

*God, our heavenly father, bless Nauru, the Nauru Police Force and all its members.
 Guide us as we deliver policing services to the communities of Nauru,
 Without fear or favour, as we uphold and maintain the laws of the Republic.
 Help us to be honest and faithful servants of the Government of Nauru,
 For the benefit of all people who make up the communities of our blessed Nauru,
 And we ask that you watch over us and guide us as we work to better ourselves,
 And improve the lives of those we serve so that our communities can live in safety and security.
 Amen.*

President Aingimea, wants strong USP

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea commenced his term as the twenty-eighth chancellor of the region's premier institution, the University of the South Pacific, 1 July.

The chancellor is the titular head of the University in which President Aingimea is the 28th head of state or government to hold the title and the third president of Nauru to do so.

The president says the chancellorship means "it brings what Nauru can contribute to USP" and a chance for Nauru to "put our stamp in how we think USP should be governed."



President Aingimea becomes 28th USP chancellor and wants a strong university and improved governance

"It is my intention that as chancellor it is not just a figure head, that as chancellor I will get really involved in improving and pushing USP that will make USP proud. That will make people want to go to USP.

"The USP needs to have strong staff, strong students and supported by a strong council.

"The vision I see is one where staff can work in an environment without fear and without intimidation, where they can deliver what is needed either in business houses or what is needed in industries.

"I want us (USP) to be at the level of excellence that is on par with the best universities in the world and I believe we are one of the premier universities in the world," President Aingimea said, adding however, that the governance of the university needs to improve.

"If the governance element of USP doesn't improve then it gives way to corruption, it gives way to nepotism, and it gives way to an environment where people are too frightened to speak and you'll have basically low morale and a code of ethics that is thrown out the door."

While the term of chancellor commences 1 July, President Aingimea will be officially installed at the USP's main campus in Suva, Fiji, once COVID-19 travel restrictions ease.

H.E Aingimea is serving his first term as Nauru's 15th president. He represents the constituency of Meneñ. Prior to becoming president, he served as secretary for justice and border control under the Ministry for Justice and Border Control.

Former presidents of Nauru that have held the title are the late Hammer DeRoburt from 1974 to 1976 and Marcus Stephen from 2009 to 2010.

The main role of the position is to confer degrees at the graduation ceremony and chancellors are appointed by the USP Council from heads of states or heads of governments in alphabetical rotation amongst the 12 member countries of the USP.

The term for chancellor was for three years until the change in the University Charter and Statutes altered the term to one year appointments •

Nauru phosphate turns 50

President Lionel Aingimea attended the 50th anniversary of phosphate Handover Day at the Aiue Boulevard, 1 July.

With Madam Ingrid Aingimea and cabinet ministers, the President attended the celebrations, which signifies the changing of ownership and management of Nauru's phosphate from the British Phosphate Commission (BPC) to the Nauru Phosphate Corporation in 1970, and later rebranded to RONPhos in 2005.

RONPhos Executive Director Newman Rykers welcomed guests to the celebration recalling the great wealth phosphate brought Nauru and expressed his pride in being part of the company which he describes as being "the backbone of the economy of Nauru."



RONPhos celebrate 50 years of Handover Day at the Aiue boulevard

"Ownership is something that is very important to a country as small as ours. The handover not only opened a door but it fulfilled a vision and ended a struggle. A struggle that began with our forefathers on their road to independence.

"For while independence was gained in 1968, they had yet to regain ownership of the mining rights of their phosphate," Mr Rykers said.

The BPC handed over the operations for approximately AU\$20 million over three years to 1 July 1970.

Speaking later on the 50th anniversary and the future of RONPhos, President Aingimea said, "the plans RONPhos has in place to move forward positively... they're thinking outside the box.

"We've come to a stage where world phosphate prices we're competing with. I have faith in the minister (Reagan Aliklik) and the leadership group for RONPhos. I'm looking forward to seeing the positive work that will be coming out of RONPhos."

RONPhos is a state-owned enterprise established on 1 July 2005 by an Act of Parliament, succeeding the Nauru Phosphate Corporation and taking on all its assets and liabilities. RONPhos' work resulted in the creation of another organisation, the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, which supports the work of RONPhos to rehabilitate mined-out lands.

The discovery of phosphate on Nauru and its subsequent mining and export has a rich history, touching the lives of every Nauruan, dating back to the late 1800s.

"Our history, culture and the way of life as we know it all have a narrative of phosphate," Mr Rykers said.

Throughout the 1980s, phosphate brought wealth to Nauru and her people placing Nauru as one of the highest GDP per capita countries in the world, with assets then valued at over \$1 billion.

Secondary phosphate mining continues on Nauru, with pre-COVID projected production levels of over 200,000 metric tonnes annually.

Explore the history of phosphate mining in Nauru at the Naoero Museum in Yaren, open weekdays, 9.00am to 5.00pm •

Rare time on land for fisheries observers

Regional fisheries observer trainer Elton Clodumar led a workshop updating qualified and experienced fisheries observers who are currently land-based due to COVID-19 restrictions, 30 June.

Participants are reviewing the latest paperwork, regulations and protocols in preparation for their return to work as coronavirus restrictions are relaxed and lifted around the world.

Speaking to the *Nauru Bulletin*, Mr Clodumar explained that Nauruan observers are deployed throughout the Pacific region and Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is the agent for local observers through the national program.

Fisheries observers are at the front line of protecting our fisheries.

“We are the eyes and the ears out there just to record anything we see and what happens,” Mr Clodumar said.

Fisheries observers collect accurate and unbiased information from commercial fishing vessels. This data may later be subject to scientific review or court interrogation. In many cases, the observer is the only person able to verify data supplied by fishers.

The focus of this workshop is to keep up to date with the required forms that change every two years in line with legal requirements coming from organisations like the Tuna Commission. As yet, fishing boats are not Wi-Fi enabled, so all observational recording is done with paper and pencil in a hard-copy workbook.

“A workbook would represent a trip. The main part of this is getting my guys collecting the right and the correct information. Accuracy is important for data uses. Most of the data goes back to Pacific Community (SPC). This is the science group of the Pacific. So, they analyse most of our information. If it’s a compliance issue, then it goes back to Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).”

According to Mr Clodumar, there are 200 to 300 observers in the Pacific region at any one time, with purse-seine vessels at 100 per cent coverage, meaning that an observer is on board every ship, every time they go to sea.

Personal safety for fisheries observers is an issue, with recent assaults, unexplained fatalities and disappearances raising the alarm. Since 2017, each program must ensure that observers have two-way communications, a flotation device, personal beacon and an emergency action plan, but observers need to act with professionalism and commonsense to avoid being compromised.

The recent death in March this year of i-Kiribati fisheries observer Eritara Aati Kaierua, who died while on board a Taiwanese flagged ship that had been fishing in Nauru waters, is one example.

“There’s only one observer per vessel. You have to be careful about how you record, where you record... it’s confidential stuff so I keep on updating my guys, you can’t just leave your information lying around anywhere, and don’t endanger yourself by taking photos of infringements right in front of everyone.”

Depending on the size of the vessel and other variables, fisheries observers can be at sea anywhere from a day to three months.

The role is not only observing infringements, violations and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity, but with training, can also include collecting samples for scientific research.



Elton Clodumar (front centre) trains fisheries observers in keeping current with fisheries forms and legal requirements which may later be subject to scientific review or court interrogation

“We are given kits to store and collect certain samples from tuna species.

“The most common samples are the otoliths – the earbone of the fish, plus muscle tissue, gonads, stomach with the contents, liver, blood and tissue.”

The role offers opportunities for advancement, and SPC informs potential candidates.

“You could go on to become a debriefer, a trainer of observers, a port coordinator, a debriefing coordinator or even an observer manager. Many observers step sideways into other fisheries-related jobs. Some have become fisheries compliance or enforcement officers, some have become senior fishery managers and others have used their income to fund further education or start their own business,” Mr Clodumar said.

The challenge is that the work is offered on a contract basis, trip by trip, so it is irregular, and in the situation now of global coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns, fisheries observers are forced to find alternative means to continue putting food on the table for their families.

In fact, improved job prospects and safety at sea for fishing observers was the key focus of the 114th Forum Fisheries Committee meeting held in Honiara in late June.

The 17 members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) discussed how the observer role can be made more sustainable, how the analytical skills of observers be better utilised by the industry and how to integrate online technology into the role.

In addition, members pushed for the development of minimum standards for observer insurance support to investigate observer safety issues, including providing information, technical and legal advice.

Finally, to get the industry online, FFA members committed to 100 per cent adoption of electronic reporting for fishing vessels operating within members’ Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and the high seas by 2022.

To become an observer, talk to Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA). You can visit the Association for Professional Observers (APO) on Facebook: a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that strengthens observer programs through advocacy and education •

Taiwan embassy hosts alumni dinner, celebrate dragon boat festival

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) hosted its annual alumni dinner for students and officials that have been invited to Taiwan for tertiary studies and professional tours, 25 June.

Since 2006 Taiwan has awarded 58 scholarships to Nauruans for studies at tertiary institutions and one under the International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF), with a total of 21 graduates so far.

The alumni dinner was scheduled on a date celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Double Fifth Festival. It is a holiday that involves racing dragon boats, drinking realgar wine and eating sticky rice dumplings in Taiwan.

While there was no dragon boating or realgar wine drinking, Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang enlightened guests by explaining the meaning of the festival and showed a video to demonstrate this important event.

Ambassador Wang welcomed guests and acknowledged the presence of Minister for Health and Education Isabella Dageago, deputy ministers and expressed sincere thanks to Minister Dageago, the Nauru government, and the COVID-19 Taskforce “for your job and effort to make Nauru COVID-free,” adding his office is happy to be of further assistance in providing financial support and medical supplies and equipment to Nauru for COVID prevention.

In response Minister Dageago reinforced the unchanging solidarity and friendship between Nauru and Taiwan amid a changing world due to COVID-19.

The minister further expressed the vast support financially which Taiwan has given Nauru over the years as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the reciprocating support Nauru



Taiwan Ambassador Wang welcome dinner guests recognising 14 alumni years and the strong friendship between Taiwan and Nauru

affords Taiwan on the international fora.

The most recent platform Nauru has voiced its support for Taiwan was at the 73rd World Health Assembly – the first ever to be held virtually, on 19 May, where delegates adopted a landmark resolution to bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

“That’s when we really showed our support to Taiwan, stating that we will be with Taiwan in whatever way,” Minister Dageago said.

Also in attendance were deputy ministers Pyon Deiyee and Asterio Appi.

Nauru established diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) on 4 May 1980, and except for a short change in alliance from 21 July 2002 to 14 May 2005, Nauru remains one of Taiwan’s most staunch ally •



Dragon boat festival in Taiwan

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