



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Angam: triumph and jubilation

**Angam celebrated at the 88th anniversary memorial service**

President Lionel Aingimea laid a wreath at the foot of the cross at the Chuuk Memorial in Aiwo, at the 88th Angam day memorial service, 26 October.

“Today is a day we remember and celebrate life,” President Aingimea said acknowledging the survivors of exile and those that remained on Nauru and endured the harsh conditions of war.

The story of Angam is about the Nauruan peoples’ struggle, resilience and triumph over the hardships of hunger, illness, greed, the cruelties of war, and the threat of extinction - twice.

October 26 is Angam day. Jubilation, triumph, celebration and home coming are words that describe Angam.

The year 2020 is also the 75th anniversary of the return of Nauruans that were exiled to Chuuk during the Second World War by Japanese forces.

The two events are intertwined. Angam came about following the 1920s Spanish influenza which prompted a nation-wide population recovery effort.

Today, a handful of war survivors, which



*President Aingimea describes COVID-19 as having the same destructive force as the Spanish flu and WWII which decimated Nauru’s population*

very few remain, affectionately called Young at Hearts, attended the Angam memorial.

“Both events that led to Angam devastated the population of Nauru. Both events call into question whether we as a people will survive,” the President said.

“By God’s grace, we’ve survived. “

President Aingimea describes today’s world event of COVID-19, as having the “same destructive force” as the Spanish flu and the Second World War.

“But in that and through this, we still remain strong.”

President Aingimea acknowledged the hardships endured by Nauru’s war survivors and that the admiration of the government and their families remain strong.

The President wished them a life without harm and the protection and guidance of God. War survivor Agnes Eininiga Debao shared a light-hearted story from wartime.

As is now traditional on Angam day, the President gifted all Young at Hearts with a food hamper as a token of love and appreciation for having lived through such devastation and enabling the Nauruan race to live on.

The 1920s influenza took the lives of many Nauruans, reducing the population to what was considered an unsustainable population level. In order to survive as a race, it was decided 1500 would be a sustainable level; hence the race began to reach 1500.

On 26 October 1932, Eidagaruwo was born. She was the 1500th Nauruan. There was jubilation for Angam was reached.

*Cont pg 2...*

## COVID practice drill set for 29 Oct

The National COVID-19 Taskforce Emergency Planning Team (EPT) met twice in the last fortnight to discuss the third COVID-19 drill scenario, that’s scheduled for Thursday, 29 October.

The scenario will be an aviation incident which covers a symptomatic passenger in-flight; a bird strike before landing; and fire with the aircraft engine. The three facets will trigger the COVID Taskforce, the emergency services and an emergency evacuation at the airport.

Assisted by Wilson Security personnel, the planning team touched on their COVID-19 operations and response plans and drill exercise, and identified the responsible agencies and roles for the drill.

The level and complication of each scenario increases with each

drill. This enables the COVID Taskforce and relevant agencies, to be mentally prepared for several different scenarios.

Nauru remains COVID-free but the Nauru Government through the taskforce remain vigilant in its preparedness for COVID-19.

As with past practice drills, public messaging will be disseminated by the taskforce and the Government Information Office via email, social media, radio, TV and text blasts.

The public is advised to follow instructions as they are issued and to remember, this is a practice drill.

Agencies involved in drill plans are the Nauru Emergency Services, Nauru police, Wilson Security, Nauru Airlines, civil aviation, customs, quarantine, immigration, multicultural affairs, health, and the Government Information Office.

Meanwhile, scenarios four to 10 are already on the table for discussion •

Produced by the Government Information Office

## Angam: triumph over extreme hardship ...from pg 1

Sadly, the Second World War again decimated the population.

Head Chief Timothy Detudamo was among the 1200 Nauruans that were led to exile in Chuuk in 1943. Just over 700 returned, and so the population needed to be brought back up to 1500 to sustain the Nauruan race.

Angam baby Eidagaruwo was among those exiled to Chuuk and perished due to malnutrition and yaws - a chronic childhood infectious disease which affects skin, bone and cartilage.

The second attempt to bring the population back up to 1500 was attained with the birth of another baby girl Bethel Enproe Adam on 31 March 1949.

However, the birthdate of the first Angam baby remains to be celebrated annually.

This year will be the final time Angam will be celebrated at the current site of the Chuuk Memorial.

Agreements for the port redevelopment were agreed to in past years that the site be demolished to make way for the new port and movement of equipment and machinery.

Parts of the existing memorial will be extracted and used at the new site at the Aiue Boulevard •

## Digicel presents \$1.3m dividend

Telecommunications provider Digicel Nauru presented government the first dividend this financial year for \$1.3 million, the largest amount thus far, 14 October.

On behalf of Nauru, President Lionel Aingimea and Deputy Minister for Telecommunications Pyon Debye accepted the \$1,318,809.60 dividend cheque from Digicel Nauru CEO Christopher Manaog, for the financial period April to September 2020.

President Aingimea said this is not the only thing that Digicel brings to the island referring to the recently improved Digicel services.



Digicel boss presents \$1.3m dividend cheque to the government

“We really have to thank Digicel for its continued support for the government and especially for Nauru in regards to the dividends that you guys [Digicel] are paying.

“It is not just dividends that Digicel brings to the island. You’ve improved your services and also those improved services have included assistance to the Nauru Police Force, assistance to our COVID response and now assistance to mental health [services] that we have on island.”

The President says the government is grateful in having a partner, such as Digicel, that understands what is happening on island, thus enables both Nauru and Digicel to go forward on many fronts.

Mr Manaog says Digicel “is always delighted to give back to the local shareholders as we are very confident this will benefit directly, the Nauruan people.” •

**COVID-19 Taskforce**

# Practice Drill #3

at the airport

**Thursday, 29 Oct 2020**

**Commencing 11am**

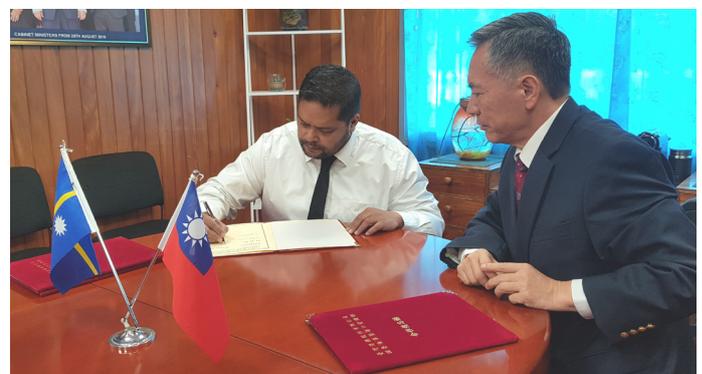
## Nauru, Taiwan sign port MOU

Deputy Minister for Nauru Maritime and Port Authority (NMPA) Russ Kun co-signed a memorandum of understanding between the NMPA and the Taiwan International Port Co., Ltd, to support the operations of the port once it is operational, 15 October.

The MoU is to enhance the relationship between the two entities and to further realise the opportunities for future communications regarding port operations and management; personnel training and development.

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang said he is pleased that Taiwan is able to assist Nauru in this new development and industry for Nauru into the future in terms of the ongoing management and operations of the port. Taiwan continues to work closely with other Nauru government and state owned enterprise initiatives for the advancement of Nauru.

The MoU would see training opportunities for Nauruans on island and in Taiwan •



Deputy Minister for Nauru port Russ Kun, signs MoU with Taiwan company to support operations, training and development

## Foreign minister Appi shares Micronesia's travel aspirations, press for forum SG

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Asterio Appi presented Nauru's intervention at the recent Forum Foreign Ministers' virtual meeting (FFMM) on regional efforts around COVID-19 and the pressing issue of the election of the secretary-general of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), 14 October.

Deputy Minister Appi's first intervention addressed COVID-19, recognising the huge impacts on small and fragile economies of the Pacific.

"COVID-19 has exposed our inherent challenges and key amongst these is the tyranny of distance exacerbated by lack of reliable sea and air transportation.

"These as we all know have impacted greatly on the movement of goods, services and people in these unprecedented times resulting in interruption to food supplies, critical health and medical supplies.

"Movement of our nationals has also been affected by it repatriation or for health related purposes as it is common in our cases," Deputy Minister Appi said.

Given the COVID-free status of the Micronesian countries, DM Appi reiterated the inspiration and support of a Micronesian travel bubble following the successful special meeting of the Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) in Palau in early October.

The minister highlighted the establishment of a transport bubble working group by the MPS leaders to consider issues relating to safe transportation both in shipping and air services. A draft proposal is expected by 1 November.



*DFAT deputy minister Asterio Appi presents Nauru's intervention on travel bubble and selection of the next forum SG*

His second intervention focused on the election of the PIF-SG, and expressed Nauru's dissatisfaction with the forum officials committee outcomes on this, therefore proposed that FFMM members assist leaders in reaching a decision on the selection of the next SG "without being burdened and bogged down with the technicalities of the process."

The FFMM discussed COVID-19, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Oceans, Maritime boundaries, climate change, the independent report of the review of the Pacific Islands Development Program, and updates on the special rapporteur on human rights and climate change, PIF annual women leaders meeting, wellbeing of Pacific seafarers, and international candidacies •

## C'wealth foreign ministers share COVID strategies, climate commitments

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Asterio Appi shared Nauru's successful COVID strategy, climate change concerns and racial discourse, at the 20th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' virtual meeting, 15 October.

The virtual meeting held on the evening of 14 October (Nauru time) carried over to the early hours of 15 October when Minister Appi presented his intervention against agenda item 2 which addresses the Commonwealth's response to global challenges on COVID-19, climate change and racism.

In respect to COVID-19, foreign ministers shared practical ways in which the Commonwealth can advance its commitments to approaches to the global COVID-19 recovery plan.

In this regard, DM Appi shared Nauru's national response against COVID-19 and offered Nauru's support and endorsement of the Commonwealth's statement on COVID impacts and challenges; and emphasised that COVID-19 "should not in any way constrain our efforts in meeting our climate change objectives and targets."

The Commonwealth's statement, issued 14 July, states the commitments and aspirations of member countries which include contributing to the global health response including safe and affordable vaccines for all, addressing the social and economic impact of the pandemic on our societies and economies, especially on the most vulnerable; tackling trade disruptions; and protecting the future for small and vulnerable states.

DM Appi reiterated the strong stance of the Pacific that "climate change remains the greatest threat to the livelihoods and future of our people," and as a small island developing state, Nauru is at the forefront of climate change impacts heightening the risk towards food security and health.

The opportunity prompted the deputy minister to call on the global community for climate action and the strengthening of multilateral partnership.

"Our key priority at the national level in mitigating and adapting to climate change effects is to relocate key infrastructure and resettle households and communities to a higher ground."

Nauru's higher ground initiative requires rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands resulting from decades of phosphate mining.

DM Appi also extended Nauru's support by joining the *Say No More* campaign to tackle domestic and sexual violence, which echoes the work being done nationally.

This was the first ever virtual meeting of foreign ministers from across the Commonwealth. The meeting would usually take place alongside the United Nations General Assembly but was held virtually this year due to the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic •

## World food day: Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) hosted a World Food Day event to celebrate and promote local produce and farmers, 16 October.

This year's theme is 'Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together'.

CIE's agriculture division displayed a wide selection of local fruits and vegetables as well as the potted kind and the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) who plays a significant role is assisting CIE in its agriculture programs in the communities, displayed an assortment of fresh and locally grown fruits and vegetables and cooked up sweet potato balls for tasting.

There were kitchen garden competitions for young and adult growers, judging of the school banner and king cucumber competitions.

UN World Food Day calls for global solidarity to help all populations, and especially the most vulnerable, to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, and to make food systems more resilient and robust.

This will require improved social protection schemes and new opportunities offered through digitalisation and e-commerce, but also more sustainable agricultural practices that preserve the Earth's natural resources, our health, and the climate.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) says it is "time to build back better", stating that in recent decades the world has made significant progress in improving agricultural productivity.

"Although we now produce more than enough food to feed everyone, our food systems are out of balance," FAO states.



*Local farmers displayed a wide selection of locally grown fruit and vegetables*

"Hunger, obesity, environmental degradation, loss of agrobiodiversity, food loss and waste and a lack of security for food chain workers are only some of the issues that underline this imbalance.

"As countries begin to develop and implement COVID-19 recovery plans, it is an opportunity to adopt innovative solutions based on scientific evidence so they can build back better and improve food systems, making them more resistant to shocks." •

## Health career expo

Senior students of Nauru Secondary School (NSS) spent the day at the Health Career Expo 2020, taking a keen interest in the displays and demonstrations of the various booths and explanations provided by the different divisions of the hospital and public health centre, 15 October.

The nursing staff demonstrated suturing and resuscitation techniques, and gave students an opportunity to perform the procedures themselves.

Doctors and nurses spoke to the young crowd on health issues as well as personal experiences from local doctors, nurses and trainee cadets.

The first Nauruan female doctor, Dr Angelique shared her experience as a medical student and then as a professional and the importance of being a Nauruan medical practitioner for Nauruans.

To reinforce her point, Dr Angelique called for a show of hands from doctors, nurses, lab technicians and other health professionals on site, drawing to the conclusion that there are not nearly enough Nauruan doctors and nurses for the Nauruan people.

Dr Angelique quizzed students on the National motto, God's will first, and drew from this that as health professionals, everything must be in step with God's will.



*Students had a go at hands on first aid and medical procedures*

"God's will is all about saving lives," Dr Angelique said.

"And everyone [here], people working in health they try to do exactly that. They have that one goal, to save lives. To treat patients, to save lives."

Dr Angelique warned that the medical profession is not for the faint hearted, that sacrifices are expected, "but the journey is not impossible."

Several speakers took to the lectern to share their experiences and the love of the job with the simple shared message that the health profession is a wise career choice emphasising that more Nauruan medical practitioners are needed for the Nauruan people •

## COVID NY 'went into a coma'

The onset of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) came down hard on most societies and for New York, "a city that never sleeps, it suddenly went into a coma."

Nauru's New York-based Ambassador to the International Seabed Authority and Ambassador-designate to the United Nations Margo Debye said this is her personal experience of lockdown in New York City.

Ambassador Debye observed that initially no-one knew enough about COVID-19 and travel restrictions were not yet in place.

"We never really looked at how many had COVID. We looked at how many died from COVID.

"Everyone watched it happening in China and Italy but no-one expected it would come to the shores of New York. Like we were ignorant. That's how I saw it.

"But when it came, it came with a bang in New York City. The scariest of the experience was the death toll soared, beyond expectation," Ms Debye said.

The daily shrieking sound of the ambulance siren was now a constant reminder of COVID-19 hitting home.

Although she recalls that while New Yorkers were slow at the start of the pandemic back in March, once things fell into place COVID messaging and daily briefings streamed the headlines and through phone texting, television and social media.

The public heeded warnings to socially distance, wear face masks, and sanitise. But this led to people fearing each other.

It's an experience she won't forget.

A handful of Nauruans work at Nauru's mission at the United Nations; even they became afraid of each other.

"We were told we may not have symptoms but we may have COVID."

No more than two people were allowed in elevators and families and workplaces told to designate one person to do the errands; minimising the number of people needing to leave the house and potentially be exposed to the virus.

"Everyone was afraid of each other. You were afraid of the other person in the elevator.

"But honestly, no-one was prepared. At that point we still didn't know anything, we weren't advised about any recovery."

Initially there were limited personal protective equipment (PPE) and consumers were urged not to buy the N95 respirator masks, but to reserve them for first responders.

The public was encouraged to remove clothing as they entered their front door, wash clothes and shower immediately, and surfaces wiped down every night.

Ms Debye said people responded to what they could control and do at home.

All deliveries were unwrapped, and repackaged into new packaging. Some people opted to stay in hotels to prevent the spread of the virus to their family members.

Consumers frantically bought sanitisers and surface cleaners, clearing shop shelves.

When New York shut down, so did the United Nations. UN missions and employers were asked to release their staff and enable working from home.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, yet due to COVID-19, the statements and debates of world leaders that



*Ambassador-designate to Nauru's UN mission Margo Debye says the NY public eventually heeded to health warnings and advice*

would otherwise be presented in-person at the annual session and the highly visible general debate, were instead pre-recorded and streamed out to the world.

"That's historic!" Ms Debye said.

UN missions were well informed on developments and advice, and internally shared information if a staffer had COVID which enabled contact tracing.

Suddenly, the new norm of virtual meetings, online school instructions, online shopping and deliveries was amplified.

"I think initially there was resistance from small businesses to letting their staff work from home, to shut down, as that would kill their business.

"I think [the] fear of no end in sight, no cure in sight."

Customers stopped buying and businesses failed but soon innovative business ideas came about including the surge and demand for delivery services with orders requiring a week or two advanced notice.

New York State continued to provide free school meals that parents could collect each day. Free student iPads were distributed to enable online learning. Teachers would check up on students and their wellbeing if they did not log in for the days' lesson.

This was the new norm and teachers were also learning. Students were suddenly allowed to spend hours on line each day.

"If you don't get on line you don't get instructions for school. We all realised that everything is now online until there is a vaccine," Ms Debye said adding that the reorganising of services meant the environment was being enabled so New Yorkers did not need to go out as much.

Leaving the protection of home meant covering up with hoodies and PPE.

"We rarely left the house, for say one or two months. We'd go on the balcony for sunshine," and people self-isolated at home for 14 days after returning from travel.

"It wasn't law, it was just the things you needed to do, [so you are] responsible for the rest of the community.

"You're no longer just one person," Ms Debye said. "It's you and all the others around you when you go outside."

Paramedics were no longer allowed to perform first aid because of COVID-19; job losses resulted in mental health breakdowns and landlords requested not to increase their rent to avoid evictions and homelessness.

New York reopened in July and so did the United Nations. Ms Debye says people understand and are coping better. COVID testing is underway, but cautions that while there is still no cure, prevention is the best option for now •

## Nauru police pay homage on remembrance day

Police Remembrance Day was honoured with a special church service to commemorate and remember the officers of the Australasian region including Nauru who lost their lives in performing their duties, 14 October.

Following the arrival of His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, who is also the minister for police, was the trooping of the flags of Nauru, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

Reverend Roger Mwareow and police chaplain led the service at Orro Congregational Church with a sermon emphasising the importance of police work, hence remind the officers to do their jobs with obedience and according to law.

The names of 10 fallen police officers since October 2019, from Australia, Fiji, NZ, and PNG were read out, followed by the playing of the Last Post, 30 seconds silence and the Reveille by Esson Temaki.



*Nauru police pay homage to fallen officers of the past year from neighbouring Fiji, NZ, PNG and Australia*

Police Remembrance Day is commemorated annually on 29 September across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific •

## Fiji celebrates golden jubilee

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea was chief guest at Fiji's 50th Independence Day anniversary celebrations hosted by the Fiji community in Nauru, 10 October.

The Fijian community celebrated in their usual magnificent style and colour with an array of food and live entertainment.

President Aingimea congratulated Fiji on this historic occasion and highlighted the long relationship that exists between Nauru and Fiji since independence.



*President Aingimea is presented the tabua or whale's tooth, a sign of respect and honour in the Fijian tradition*

The President expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Fijians in Nauru for the sacrifice of leaving their homes and families to contribute to Nauru's national building.

Fijians are employed in various government departments, state-owned enterprises and the private sector; notably, in health, education, judiciary, utilities and land management, to name a few.

The celebration was laid out in orderly fashion, first with the flag raising ceremony, and national anthems, followed by garlanding of the President and observance of traditional Fijian protocols including the kava ceremony and presentation of the *tabua* - a sign of respect and honour in the Fijian tradition.

The program also included gifts exchange and the cutting of the celebration cake jointly by President Aingimea and chairman of the Fijian community Atunaisa Baleimatuku •

## Taiwan celebrates 109th national day

This year marks the 109th national day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and a celebration bursting with red and blue was hosted by Ambassador Dean Wang at the Meneñ Hotel, 9 October.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea congratulated Ambassador Wang and embassy staff on the occasion and extended warm greetings and sincere congratulations to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and the people of Taiwan.



*Taiwan Ambassador Wang address guests at the dinner celebration for Taiwan's 109th national day*

His Excellency reaffirmed Nauru's pledge of family and friendship to the ROC-Taiwan.

"It is a bond that is steep in history, steep in how we help each other and steep in the respect and the love that we have for each other," President Aingimea said before proposing a toast to the prosperity of Taiwan and Nauru.

The President thanked Taiwan for the numerous contributions, support and assistance offered Nauru across the many sectors, which contribute to the well-being of Nauruans. These include assistance in health, education, budget support, airline, renewable energy, police and prison, poultry and vegetable farming and community engagement and assistance.

The national day, 10 October, is celebrated as the birth date of the Republic of China (official name of Taiwan). It is a day the Taiwanese call the Double Tenth Day or Taiwan National Day. Some refer to it as the National Day of the Republic of China •

## Free-to-air PacificAus TV launched

The free-to-air PacificAus TV was launched in a ribbon and cake cutting ceremony by Deputy Minister for Media Pyon Deiyee and Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney at the front of the Nauru Media office, 16 October.

Nauru Television which has been licenced by Australian commercial television networks, sporting organisations and international distributors, is the local broadcaster of this new and reinvigorated programming.

The new and improved channel include programming that covers drama, entertainment, factual, children's shows, and sports; such as Neighbours, Love Child, Lego Masters, travel guides, homes and garden shows, food and cooking, The Voice, border security, paramedics, 60-Minutes, Brain Buzz, Totally Wild, and many more •



*Deputy minister for media Pyon Deiyee cut the ribbon at the launch of the Australian funded free-to-air PacificAus TV*

## Direct funding for Nauru post

Deputy Minister for Nauru Post Richard-Hyde Menke and the Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney signed a direct funding agreement worth \$50,000 for the development of Nauru's postal services on World Post Day, 9 October.

"It is pleasing on this day that I recognise the bond and assistance that the Australian government is able to offer to the Nauru government during these difficult times," DM Menke said.

"The direct funding agreement that we have signed today will provide the Naero Postal Services Corporation with further insights and procedures to assist it along its path towards becoming the model for all the Pacific postal operators."

HC Tierney said there was no better day to sign the agreement than World Post Day and to continue the partnership with Nauru Post.

"The funding that we [Australia] are committing today follows on from the funding of last year to enable the post office to continue to operate at an international standard, continue building capacity including through the engagement of the highly experienced Australian consultant Chris Glosser," the High Commissioner said.



*Deputy minister for Nauru post Richard Menke and Australian high commissioner Angela Tierney sign \$50k direct funding agreement*

High Commissioner Tierney says she looks forward to Nauru and Australia working together in international bodies such as the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the best outcomes for the region.

On the same day, a plaque to commemorate the courage and bravery of all postal workers throughout the world was unveiled in Berne, Switzerland by UPU director general Bishar A. Hussein •

## Oath continues with JBC

The oath-taking by public servants continues with the Department of Justice & Border Control swearing their Oaths of Appointment and Secrecy in an official ceremony at the JBC offices, 16 October.

Due to various commitments of the different sections of the department, over 80 JBC staff are expected to take the oath over several days.

Public servants swear to render true and faithful service as an officer of the public service; never unlawfully communicate official information; and not use official information unlawfully for personal or others' gain.

The ceremony was presided over by acting Chief Secretary Sasikummar Paravanoor and witnessed by Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu and legal representative Kerry Kwan •

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