



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 19-2020/223

30 November 2020

## Parliament sitting, October

### **Supplementary appropriation budget seeks additional \$52.8 million, approved**

The Nauru Parliament passed the first Supplementary Appropriation for the new financial year seeking additional revenue of \$52.8 million and the same in expenditure, leaving a surplus balance of \$20,000, 23 October.

With the passing of the Bill, the approved 2020-21 budget recognises \$263.3 million in revenue, \$263.2 million in expenditure, with a surplus balance of \$60,000.

In presenting the supplementary budget, Minister for Finance Martin Hunt explained the updated estimates take account of the government's decision to support Nauru Airlines to replace its ageing aircraft as well as some additional changes since the June budget.

Twenty-three bills, including the supplementary appropriation bill were tabled and passed by the Parliament.

Minister Hunt detailed the revenue items of the first supplementary budget for 2020-21, recognising \$34.9 million as additional revenue raised through a new loan with EXIM Bank supported by the Republic of China (Taiwan) to support Nauru Airlines to purchase a replacement aircraft.



*A number of changes to legislations are made to conform with the times and address emerging issues*

Taiwan also pledged additional support of \$3.4M to cover repayment of principle and interest charges related to the EXIM Bank loan.

Additional fishing revenue of \$8.1M reflecting pledges for fishing days was received since the last estimate update; and one million from fuel levy that was previously used by fuel provider, Vital, to maintain the tank farm.

The supplementary also recognises \$5.3M in additional donor support for the government's

COVID-19 measures such as Australia's \$2.8M contributing to the cost of maintaining transport connectivity by air and sea; \$1.5M from Taiwan supporting hospital building works and purchase of medical equipment and test kits; and \$950,000 from the Asian Development Bank supporting COVID costs including for quarantine and purchase of essential medical supplies.

Expenditure items include \$34.9M is provided for purchase of a replacement aircraft, while \$3.5M is provided to meet the EXIM Bank loan for the aircraft purchase.

To support the work of the COVID-19 Taskforce, \$3.3M is provided including provision for significant building and construction works at the hospital, bringing the total expected spending on COVID-19 through the Taskforce in 2020-21 to \$9.3M.

The Nauru Community Housing Scheme is allocated \$4.5M to address overcrowding and sanitation issues, while \$2.3M is provided to cover the relocation and construction of permanent housing for residents of Location settlement due to disruption and safety related to the development of the Nauru port.

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## Pleaders course 2021 intake, now open

The Department of Justice is inviting expressions of interest for the Pleaders Course 2021 intake.

The Pleaders Course will commence on 2 January 2021 and will be completed by December 2021. This course is for the legal training of persons interested in developing a career in becoming pleaders or advancing their studies to a degree in law.

Expressions of interest are invited from those persons who have a genuine interest in law and intend to practice as pleaders to serve the Government and the public with dedication and commitment. Female applicants are encouraged to apply.

Application forms can be obtained from the Department of Justice.

The completed forms are to be submitted to the undermentioned by Saturday 5 December 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications and spaces are limited to 20 persons only. Persons who were previously enrolled in and failed the Pleaders course are not eligible to apply.

For any additional details, contact:

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Health is allocated \$1.6M for overseas medical referrals, equipment and pharmaceuticals, and meals for health care workers.

The newly created department for climate change is allocated \$636,000; \$143,000 of its new budget is funded through the reallocation of existing provisions from the Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment, for which it was previously under; and \$278,000 for the purchase of 50 community water tanks.

Another new department for people with disability is also allocated \$163,000.

The Department of Infrastructure is provided \$603,000 for additional staff establishments, completion of road works and donations to districts to support household concrete foundations, cesspits, and roofing works.

The state-owned entity, Nauru Fisheries is allocated \$586,000 to purchase new trailers and outboard motors for communities and to construct a new work shed.

RONPhos is provided \$417,000 to cover debt arrears to the Nauru Maritime and Port Authority.

The sports department is assigned \$400,000 for additional building works on community gyms and all-purpose courts.

The refurbishment of the court house is provided \$250,000 to support remote working and purchase of video conferencing equipment.

The media department is provided \$186,000 to its expansion and funding of additional staff and equipment as well as to engage the services of consultants Mercer PR.

The Nauru Police Force is given \$176,000 to purchase new ceremonial uniforms, communications devices, and overtime for police recruits that are providing security at the COVID-19 quarantine sites.

The Department of Transport is provided \$150,000 to pay off outstanding debts to Eigigu Transport Services, purchase of office equipment and cover additional overtime and store items due to the increased flights; tightened security of navigational aid equipment at the non-directional beacon site.

The ICT department is provided \$139,000 to support repair to the burnt office, purchase staff uniforms and new equipment to improve server efficiency.

Remaining expenditure items include \$87,000 allocated for museum conservation projects; \$50,000 for furniture for the refurbished safe house; \$20,000 for the Electoral Commission to conduct civic education and curriculum projects; and \$10,000 for the Nauru Parliament to make local donations.

Finance Minister Hunt concluded the Bill's presentation with the provision of \$922,000 for the Nauru Trust Fund.

“With the passing of this Bill, the approved 2020-21 budget will be revenue of \$263.3M and expenditure of \$263.2M, with a surplus balance of \$60,000,” Minister Hunt said.

The tabling of other bills commenced with the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Bill 2020, by President Lionel Aingimea that would seek to rectify emerging issues faced by the registrar since the Act was implemented in 2017.

The intention of the change is to ensure that the records are properly recorded in the various BDM registers.

A consequential amendment therefore impacts the Funeral Burial and Cremation Act by inserting the term funeral officiator and its



*A number of Bills seek to make allowance for the use of audio-visual equipment in court given COVID restrictions chocking on the efficiency of the courts*

definition.

Funeral operators are approved by each organisation to officiate funerals, yet it is currently not defined in the Act.

Marriage officers and funeral officiators are appointed under the BDM Registration Act, and are normally the same approved person and largely religious ministers.

Minister for Justice Maverick Eoe tabled the Passports (Amendment) Bill 2020 addressing changes made to Clause 5 which requires that record keeping for all travel documents be kept separately and maintained as a requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The new clause now requires the records to be kept permanently and not to be destroyed without the prior approval of the Cabinet.

Another amendment is to define the ‘minister’ and ‘secretary’ in the Act for clarity to ensure that the validity of any travel document is not put into question.

Minister Eoe continued on to table the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill 2020 which amends Section 2 of the Act by inserting the definitions of ‘minister’ and ‘secretary’, which are defined in the Administrative Arrangements Act 2011 and Administrative Arrangements Order 2020. The amendment would be so that the consolidated version of the Act refers to such titles.

An amendment to the Family Court Act was also tabled by Minister Eoe by deleting and substituting ‘the Clerk’ and its definition with ‘Deputy Registrar’ and definition which the Minister says “accurately reflects the position of the court officer in the Family Court.”

Finance Minister Hunt tabled an amendment to the Public Finance (Control and Management) Act 1997 rectifying the anomaly of the administrative head of the Nauru Police Force and to whom the financial responsibilities also lay.

Under the 1997 Act, the administrative head of the NPF is the secretary for justice until the position changed in 2003 when the NPF was separated from the JBC, and the commissioner of police took on the role of head of department for the NPF.

This Bill also assigns all financial responsibilities to the commissioner, although it is noted he has been carrying out these duties for some time.

President Lionel Aingimea then tabled the Naoero Postal Services Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2020 for additional services to allow Nauruans to “choose from a wider range of services... at reasonable cost.”

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The amendments include changes to some definitions such as post box to include pillar box, wall box, parcel locker or any other box or receptacle provided by the post office for the purposes of providing postal services.

The definition of postal stamp is amended to ensure that both Republic of Nauru and Nauru may be used on Nauru postage stamps; and inserts in alphabetical order, postal service, means transmission of any postal article by post and any system of collection, despatch, conveyance, handling and delivering of a postal article.

Section five is amended to reflect the commercial objectives and financial independence of the post office, which are incidental to or related to the delivery of postal services practiced internationally in this era.

Section six is also amended to clarify the powers of the corporation for the provision of its services; while section 21 ensures the corporation has the exclusive right to print and issue postage stamps in and for the Republic.

Section 23 is deleted and section 39 expands the offences of opening and tampering with a post box to include defacing a post box or postal property; and a new section 40A allows all monies payable to the and received by the corporation to be paid into an account approved by the Cabinet.

Minister Hunt tabled his second Bill being the Nauru Superannuation (Amendment) Bill 2020 allowing superannuation members over the age of 55 and still employed to access their voluntary account funds as often as they like, subject to the minimum of \$500 per withdrawal.

For members that are aged 55 and no longer employed may apply to the Board for withdrawal of all or part of their benefit.

Minister Eoe tabled the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) No. 2 Bill 2020 which largely makes provisions to allow the court room to use audio visual means for interpreters to translate, expert witnesses to testify from outside the jurisdiction through audio visual link, and those in remand or serving prisoners to attend court virtually.

COVID-19 has rapidly escalated the innovative use of digital technology with virtual meetings replacing in-person meetings.

Minister Eoe says various laws made for the purposes of COVID-19 “forbid the attendance of such accused person from attending the court in person.”

While it is a temporary measure, attendance by audio-visual means addresses administrative efficiency.

The Minister notes the amendments provides for a fair trial within a reasonable time. Further to this, Clause 149D provides the power to the court to adjourn proceedings as a result of the failure of internet services for one reason or another.

Complementary to this Bill, is the Oaths, Affirmation and Statutory Declaration (Amendment) Bill 2020 also tabled by Justice Minister Eoe essentially seeking to amend sections four and 13 of the 1976 Act to allow witnesses and interpreters to give their oath or affirmation from overseas.

For too long have delays to court proceedings or acquittals resulted due to the requirement of bringing in professional or expert witnesses to be present in court.

The affidavit evidence which is a written document will now also be an oral testimony in court through audio visual link, with the advantage of the witness being cross examined by the opposing parties.



*Police enforce the Motor Traffic Act ensuring no drink driving, vehicles are registered and drivers carry valid licences*

Finance Minister Hunt tabled the Motor Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2020 which seeks to implement and enforce the provisions of the 2014 Act ensuring drivers are not under the influence of alcohol.

The Bill allows police officers to carry out the impairment or sobriety test which includes checks involving walk and turn, eye, pupillary, balance, finger to nose and one leg assessments as well as road side breathalyser tests, all of which will be tendered as evidence.

If an alleged offender disputes the breathalyser test, they have the right to elect to have a blood test, for which will override the breathalyser test.

The Bill also makes it an offence to decline to undergo a breathalyser test or fail to give sufficient breathalyser sample or to follow the directions of a police officer.

The responsibility to request for a blood test lies with the alleged offender.

Minister Eoe tabled the Nauru Court of Appeal (Amendment) Bill, again stipulating that COVID-19 restrictions has affected the operations of the courts resulting in the full court not being able to sit once this year.

The full court consists of three Justices of Appeal however getting them through different borders and quarantine has proven extremely difficult.

Minister Eoe stressed the importance of the Court being able to sit even from outside the jurisdiction, thereby the proposal to enable proceedings through audio visual means.

By doing so the Registrar of Courts will manage the Court during the sitting and legal practitioners can attend the sitting in the ordinary manner and make submissions.

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### **Time to renew your business licence**

Authorised officers of the Business Registration and Licensing Section (Department of Justice) will be conducting regular on-site inspections of all businesses.

Business proprietors or licencees must display their business licences in a conspicuous place on the business premises and must provide a copy of the licence to an authorised officer on request.

For enquiries, contact: Mele Lemaki on 5573077 or meletulemaki@gmail.com

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In the administration of the justice system, the Minister says the chief justice will be given priority to ensure that every court must sit in the Republic to ensure circumstances where it is necessary for the justice system to serve its requirements of fair trial and expeditious disposal of cases.

Finance Minister Hunt then tabled the Revenue Administration (Amendment) Bill to offer clarity to the Act which provides harmonised procedural rules applicable to the administration of the taxes covered by the Act.

This would ensure Nauru remains compliant with international or global communities for tax requirements of transparency and accountability, including that of the Council of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The addition to section 9(1) empowers the secretary for finance to require 'any other person', notably a non-resident person, to register for a Tax Identification Number (TIN).

Justice Minister Eoe tabled the Supreme Court (Amendment) No.2 Bill, which like earlier Bills presented by the Minister, pertains to the tendering of evidence in court and the operations of the court, with an extra push towards a virtual court room realising the new normal as a result of COVID-19.

The Bill will allow judges to hear or make orders for a cause or matter from outside Nauru in 'exceptional or urgent circumstances', thus, the transition to audio visual court proceedings.

The registrar of courts will determine what falls under 'exceptional or urgent circumstances'.

There is also provision for the recording of evidence given through audio visual link, which will be kept in the Courts by the registrar; noting that no other person is permitted to take a recording of court proceedings without first seeking permission from the registrar.

Contempt proceedings for breach of court orders or directions in virtual hearings are also provided for.

The Bill encompasses changes including insertion of a new paragraph in section 4 to include a constitutional and administrative division and a new subclause in section 37 for the supervisory jurisdiction of the court to review the manner and process of how a decision is reached.

Minister Hunt followed with the tabling of the Business Tax (Amendment) Bill making technical changes to the 2016 Act that will serve to ensure Nauru is not seen to administer a foreign income exemption regime, and will be compliant with OECD and international standards.

Minister Hunt explained that at the time of enactment it is not always possible to predict every consequence or unintended outcome of the application of the provisions of legislation.

The amendments will serve three purposes.

Any doubt as to who is required to file a business profits tax return is removed and the secretary for finance authorised to request lodgement of a return if required to be lodged.

The amendment also ensures the amount of instalments of business profits tax is paid progressively during the tax year instead of waiting until year end for payment.

Additionally, credit will be allowable for any foreign tax paid if the income is also subject to tax in Nauru, thus ensuring tax is paid only once and not twice on the same income.



*The October parliament sitting passed a number of amendments, mostly to align with the 'new norm' imposed by COVID-19*

The passing of the Bill ensures Nauru tax law to be consistent with international standards.

Nauruan residents will not be affected as the tax-free threshold is not being changed.

In tabling the District Court (Amendment) Bill, Minister Eoe advised the Parliament that District Court is one of the most busiest court in the hierarchy of the court system with the majority of cases being dealt with by this court.

The Bill therefore addresses the issue of appointing a second resident magistrate and clarifies the provision for the appointment of magistrates and resident magistrates.

It also addresses the minimum qualification requirements, the tenure of the appointment including the retirement age and provisions for considering complaints of misconduct or inability on the part of the magistrate to perform the duties and functions of the office.

Provision is also made for the transfer of a cause or matter from the District Court to the Supreme Court, in particular if an issue arises involving the interpretation or effect of any provision of the Constitution.

Echoing previous Bills and the need to adjust to new norms imposed by COVID-19, presenting evidence by audio visual link and recording of such evidence is also provided for.

Clarification is also made that the judicial vacation does not apply to the District Court; it therefore remains open for normal business allowing for it to preside over any charges filed during the judicial vacation.

Minister Eoe tabled the Crimes (Amendment) No.2 Bill noting an increase in sexual offences and as such new sentences in the Bill are very severe to serve as deterrence and to protect women, children and the vulnerable.

The Minister demonstrated reasons for the need to impose harsher punishments by outlining a brief list of unnamed sexual offenders who got off on much lighter sentences than the law prescribes and said "this is not what the society expects."

As such, for the offence of rape, which carried a maximum sentence of 25 years imprisonment, is now amended to life imprisonment of which at least 15 years imprisonment is to be served, without any parole or probation.

The Bill also revisits some offences and sentences for reconsideration including specific provision on the unlawful possession of a firearm and intimidation, threats and harm to police officers as they carry out their duties.

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The amendments to the Bail Act 2016 tabled by my Minister Eoe proposes that conduct, especially relating to sexual offence cases and assaults on police officers, and measures are in place to control such conduct and to secure a fair trial without interference or influence by any person.

A third category allows for an accused person to be remanded in custody, unless they can demonstrate exceptional circumstances as to why they should be granted bail.

The amendment is drafted to ensure there is a balance between the protection of the victim as well as the community and that of the right of the accused person to be treated as innocent until proven guilty.

A consequential amendment is also included for the Administration of Justice Act for the purposes of contempt of court. Both the Bail Act and the Administration of Justice Act are now consistent with each other in respect of the provisions for contempt of court.

Minister for Customs, Martin Hunt tabled the short Customs (Amendment) Bill that seeks to rename the Republic of Nauru Customs Office to Nauru Customs Services, stating this is aligned with internationally recognised form of naming the customs office.

Minister Eoe tabled the 2020 amendment to the Quarantine Act 1908 seeking to revise the inconsistency of currency used in the Act, as was consistent of the times, by replacing pounds and schillings to the Australian dollar.

Some changes were also made to penalties and fines in the Quarantine (Amendment) Bill as well as a new section for fixed penalty infringement notices allowing a quarantine officer to issue such a notice should there be a breach by a traveller at a quarantine declaration point.

Minister Eoe continued to introduce the Registration of Associations Bill allowing non-for-profit organisations and the like, to register and have the legislative recognition and foundation in Nauru's laws.

The Minister explains the broad objectives of the Bill will allow such informal bodies to tap into donor funding which they might not have been able to in the past due to their inability to prove their legal existence in the country.

The secretary for justice will be the registrar of associations.

An association is eligible for registration under the new Act if it has a minimum of seven members, was formed and carried on for a lawful purpose and established for a number of reasons as stipulated in the Act including educational, charitable, religious or benevolent purposes, promotion of certain purposes and conservation.

The Bill excludes bodies like trade unions and organisations that are eligible to register under other laws and must be able to demonstrate that any money, grants, donations or funding are not designed to financially benefit its own members.

Foreign organisations which operate as non-profit organisations will also be required to apply for a certificate of compliance.

The intention of the legislation is to ensure that international organisations do provide assistance to the people of the Republic, but keeping in mind that some organisations are likely to affect the social and economic fabric of Nauru's society and government.

The final paper, the Environmental Management and Climate Change Bill introduced by Minister Rennier Gadabu, enforces Nauru's commitment on climate change issues regionally, internationally



*The Quarantine Act is amended to allow quarantine officers to issue penalty infringement notices if a traveller breaches quarantine rules*

and locally to ensure that Nauru has both sustainable land and sea environments.

The new Act, managed by the secretary for CIE echoes Nauru's outspoken stance on environmental and climate issues in the international fora and recently, the President's speech at the UN General Assembly, which states, "We take our international obligation to reduce emissions very seriously, but as a small and vulnerable country, our overriding priority must be resilience."

Minister Gadabu explains a principle purpose of the Bill is to ensure the government is better able to honour its obligations under international environmental conventions to give effect to any such convention or protocol.

Key environmental doctrines are enshrined in the Bill such as the 'precautionary approach' which is where an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment which the Minister advises should be taken even if scientifically it is not fully established.

The other doctrine is the 'polluter pays principle'; whereby those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

Minister Gadabu notes this is a framework law that would allow for the making of regulations to deal with a wide range of environmental related issues, but would not affect other governing authorities such as Nauru fisheries and marine related issues which remain the responsibility of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.

The Bill also provides for the monitoring of environmental impacts as a result of substantial development projects; controls pollution and waste management; and provides for the establishment of a climate change and environment protection fund.

Minister Gadabu concluded that wide public consultations with the community, private sector, and the Nauru Law Society, played an important part in shaping the bill •

*Copies of the Acts presented at the sitting and all other Acts can be found at [http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru\\_lpms/](http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/)*

## Location resettlement underway

Location residents living in the ‘red zone’ in close proximity to the new port project construction site have their work cut out for them as they rush to secure land for alternative housing the government is offering to build in exchange for the port’s use of their land.

Deputy Minister for Nauru Port Russ Kun, deputy CEO of Nauru Port Anton Jimwereiy and port officials met with Location residents on 30 October, to explain and discuss the \$2.3M-approved relocation and resettlement project.

A total of nine residential blocks, currently occupied by 189 people from 58 family groups living in these blocks, on the edge of the construction site are asked to secure land by the end of December 2020 and to relocate to their new homes by June 2021.

The Nauru government is offering families two bedroom houses that are expected to be built during January to June 2021.

While the ‘red zone’ is potentially unsafe for residents in light of the nearby heavy port construction, the current state of the Location housing is also hazardous.

## Department heads discuss COVID plans

Heads of department (HODs) met to discuss COVID emergency staged response plans (SRP) to prepare for ‘when the virus arrives’, 17 November.

As global infections hit 60 million with 1.4 million deaths and new global cases hovering close to 600k daily, ‘when’ rather than ‘if’ the virus arrives, is what the World Health Organisation has warned and is being echoed by the COVID-19 Taskforce.

The Nauru Government is planning leaps and bounds to get ahead in preparations.

Department SRPs are formulated in line with the national SRP and the government’s expectations.

The meeting was attended by acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar and 20 HODs with several later engaging in separate discussions to formulate their department response plans.

Detective Superintendent Anthony Stafford of the Australian Federal Police led the meeting and stressed the importance of having SRPs for departments. SRPs for families were also encouraged.

Points raised include: who steps in should an HOD, the president, speaker or ministers and other critical personnel be affected by COVID to maintain the running of government and essential services; are staff equipped to work from home; and how would health and utilities be delivered to the community, are some of the concerns raised.

The discussion looked at the tiers of leadership and responsibilities with the Office of the President at the top, with support and advisory bodies such as the National Disaster Risk Management Council, Ministry of Health and the National Coronavirus Taskforce which is authorised to oversee and manage all aspects of the government’s capture and contain strategy to ensure the safety of the Nauruan community and the virus from entering Nauru.



*Location residents look forward to brand new homes by mid-2021*

The current structures of the settlement were built by the British in the early to mid-1900s when Nauru’s phosphate industry was run by the British Phosphate Commission.

The settlement was used to house indentured Chinese labourers and Caroline Islanders initially and later other Pacific Islanders that were brought to Nauru to work the phosphate mines •



*Heads of department given deadline to complete their department’s emergency staged response plans for COVID-19*

An emergency SRP outlines what and how an organisation will do things including how departments will self-isolate and what provisions will be needed to sustain isolation.

Communications is an important aspect of emergencies and HODs were advised to prepare an updated list of important phone numbers and identify which positions are important in an emergency situation.

A staged response is intentionally brief, simple, clear and concise, providing a format that can be read and understood quickly.

A five stage planning process looks at planning, preparedness, and prevention; containment; harm minimisation; and recovery.

A SMEAC (Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration (and logistics), Command and Communications) planning format used by military and many emergency services around the world was introduced to HODS, to assist their planning.

While it is not possible to plan for every contingency, a risk matrix is supplied for departments to assist them in prioritising their decision making and planning •

## Climate finance workshop builds public-private sector collaboration

Stronger public-private collaboration and better understanding of how global climate change financing works are key takeaways from a sub-regional private sector workshop on climate change finance.

The workshop, co-hosted by the Government of Nauru, Nauru Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Islands Forum, was held on 11–12 November and involved over 70 participants from government and the private sector across the Micronesian countries (Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Palau).

For meeting Chair, Nauru's Director of Commerce and Business Development, Creiden Fritz, the workshop has begun a frank dialogue between the public and private sectors. This could also lead to further opportunities to strengthen access to climate change finance through effective public private partnerships.

The workshop aligns to Forum Economic Ministerial decisions recognising the importance of engaging the private sector in climate change and disaster risk finance.

In her opening remarks, Nauru's Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Environment Berilyn Jeremiah, emphasised the importance of engaging the private sector to achieve tangible benefits for overall resilient and sustainable development.

"This workshop provides an opportunity to learn from each other and discuss ways in which we can collectively strengthen public-private sector engagements in climate change finance," Ms Jeremiah said.

Pacific Islands Forum Deputy Secretary General, Dr Filimon Manoni said the private sector can be a driver of economic growth if given the opportunity, a sentiment echoed by many national delegates at the meeting.

"This requires genuine and ongoing dialogue with the private sector and not only in the form of consultations, but accompanied by meaningful engagement with the private sector as articulated in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)", Dr Manoni said.

## COVID update

As COVID-19 global confirmed cases increase, Nauru is taking additional steps to remain coronavirus-free.

Additional testing protocols have been introduced to further strengthen Nauru's borders.

The main change is testing on arrival for all incoming passengers.

The 3-layered testing protocol involves:

- \* 1st test ~ 72 hours before scheduled flight to Nauru
- \* 2nd test ~ upon arrival at the Nauru quarantine facility
- \* 3rd test ~ on the fifth day before being allowed into the community (provided the test result is negative of COVID)

Travellers to Nauru are required to remain in their rooms in quarantine until the result of the second test is confirmed to be negative, after which they will be allowed to move around in the quarantine facility.

It is mandatory that all quarantine residents maintain social distancing and wear a face mask at all times when outside their rooms.



(L-R) CIE's secretary Berilyn Jeremiah and director of commerce and business development Creiden Fritz, co-hosts the Micronesian private sector workshop on climate change finance

Participants highlighted that whilst COVID-19 triggered engagement with the private sector out of necessity, the experience has provided opportunities to continue partnerships in the context of climate change. There have been efforts to improve understanding of the national resilience landscape in order to engage more constructively in climate finance.

Participants also learnt about regional and global climate finance opportunities, lessons learnt from access modalities and the experience of national and regional accredited entities, and support available to the private sector.

The workshop was funded through the European Union's Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project. Other supporting partners include PIPSO, UNFCCC Secretariat, ADB, Micronesian Conservation Trust, Fiji Development Bank, SPREP, SPC, Vanuatu Resilience Business Council, USAID Climate Ready Project, and the Adaptation Fund Secretariat •



COVID practice drill at Nauru airport

The Nauru Government will operate repatriation flights between Nauru and Fiji in December and January for Nauru students, Nauru nationals and Fiji nationals.

Regular flights for freight and passengers continue their operations, while cargo, phosphate and fuel ships also continue their schedules, and all abiding by Nauru's COVID-19 testing measures.

The Taskforce has successfully conducted ten community practice drills to date with the final being the nation-wide drill that is being planned with the date to be announced •

## 16 Days of Activism kicks off

The United Nation's 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence campaign kicked off in Nauru with a round-the-airstrip walk, 25 November.

The campaign runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The Minister for Women and Social Development Affairs, Isabella Dageago and the Australian High Commission were joined by supporters on the walk for the UN's 2020 UNiTE Campaign theme, 'Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!'

The department will soon release their program that is lined up to address and promote the event.



(R) Minister Isabella Dageago joins the 6am walk kicking off the UN's 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international event started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

It is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

According to the UN, as the COVID-19 pandemic ravishes countries forcing people to retreat inside homes, global reports show an alarming increase in the already existing pandemic of violence against women.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

"Accompanying the crisis has been a spike in domestic violence reporting, at exactly the time that services, including rule of law, health and shelters, are being diverted to address the pandemic," stated the UN Secretary-General's report, "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19".

The global campaign has gained traction in more than 187 countries, with participation from over 6,000 organisations and a reach of over 300 million.

It is underpinned by feminist values, human rights principles and the belief that a world without violence is possible.

When the campaign was initiated, its aim was twofold: to raise awareness of GBV and to recognise violence against women as a human rights violation •

NAURU BULLETIN

## Remembrance day, 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary

This year marks the 102nd anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, ending four years of the First World War.

Also known as Remembrance Day, the Government and people of Nauru honoured the annual event with a wreath laying ceremony at the government office in Yaren.

The flags of Nauru, Australia and New Zealand were lowered to half-mast and the first wreath laid by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, followed by representatives from government, the diplomatic corps, private sector, NGOs, civil society and the community.



President Aingimea leads the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony

Master of ceremony Dagaban Harris read the Ode of Remembrance followed by the playing of the Last Post, two minutes' silence and the Reveille, by Inspector Sakiusa Tikotani.

The Armistice was signed at 5.12am on 11 November 1918 in Compiègne, France, but was agreed the ceasefire would take place at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Lest We Forget: is the phrase is used in Remembrance Day ceremonies as a caution against forgetting those who died in war.

Nauru commemorates the end of war as it recalls its own struggles and suffering of the Second World War when Japanese occupying forces took over Nauru and exiled 1200 Nauruans to Truk (now Chuuk) island.

Approximately 737 survived Truk and returned at the end of WWII on 31 January 1946. Forty nine Nauruans that experienced the harsh realities and cruelties of war, the invasion and occupation of Nauru and exile to Truk are still living today, among them, the oldest Nauruan Esther Roland who turns 93 in December •

CONSERVE WATER  
Every Drop Counts



## Nauru transitions to ultra-low sulphur diesel

A 2019 Government of Nauru cabinet decision endorsing a new standard for sulphur in diesel has led to the transition to cleaner fuel use commencing in 2020.

On 18 June, 2020, the Department of Finance in conjunction with Nauru's fuel operator and supplier, Vital Energy, transitioned the Nauru fuel terminal from one of its primary products, 500ppm (sulphur - parts per million) diesel to the new maximum of 10ppm Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD).



The proactive move to 10ppm demonstrates that the Nauru Government is taking its global and regional environmental responsibilities seriously and is enabling local market to keep up with international vehicle technology trends.

The government recognises that sulphur reduction is happening in all fuels, including petrol.

Current specification is 50ppm but some countries in the Pacific (Fiji) are planning for petrol to go to 10ppm as well. Nauru will monitor this move for the future.

The lower sulphur standard aims to reduce new light vehicles maximum allowable emission of hydrocarbons by up to 50 per cent, noxious oxides (NOx) by up to 70 per cent, and particulate matter (PM) by up to 90 per cent.

The current diesel standard in Nauru is suitable for the requirements of older specification Euro2 engines that were manufactured in the mid-1990s. The move confirms that the new fuel standard is more suitable for the majority of modern engines running in the country.

Transitioning to ULSD 10ppm will give Nauru a huge opportunity not only to proceed with clean air initiatives but also to kick-start their use of modern technology-based equipment that supports a cleaner environment. This is because ULSD was designed specifically for modern EURO 4 and 5 technology.

One of the greatest benefits of the upgrade is that it brings our small Republic one step closer to a cleaner and greener Nauru, by reducing the amount of harmful emissions released into Nauru's atmosphere.

By reducing the levels of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter in the air, the improved air quality will translate into improved health for the Nauruan people, which Nauruans and the government can all be proud to support this change for the better •

## President receives Czech credentials

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea virtually received the credentials of Ambassador-designate of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Nauru, Mrs Jana Šedivá, 2 November.

While Nauru's involvement with the Czech Republic has been minimal, President Aingimea highlighted the \$27,000 donated by the Czech Republic in 2016 for the water project, Water for Life, and anticipates further broadening future involvement and cooperation of both countries.



*Virtual meetings maintain connections across the diplomatic platform*

"You've got a strong economy and we also understand that your exports far exceeds the imports because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated measures," the President said.

"We understand that this is a necessary thing to do because of what COVID-9 is doing to us."

President Aingimea offered Nauru's assistance in COVID-19 matters given the success thus far in keeping the virus outside Nauru.

The President also highlighted the connection in mutual ally, the United States that in regards to policy Nauru regards the US "a very close friend and ally of the Republic of Nauru who assisted us in achieving our independence way back in 1968."

Despite the distance between Nauru and the Czech Republic, Ambassador Šedivá said the bilateral relations has remained strong and is confident of the potential to explore cooperation especially in trade and technological innovations.

Nauru and the Czech Republic established diplomatic relations on 19 February 2007 and Nauru is accredited to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila, Philippines.

Ambassador Šedivá is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Philippines with concurrent jurisdiction to Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. She is based in Manila, Philippines.

The Ambassador's beginnings in the diplomatic field was at the Diplomatic Academy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Czech Republic in 2000, followed by a stretch with the department of Asia and the Pacific before a posting at the Czech embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Subsequent postings followed until her current accreditation commencing 2019.

Owing to travel restrictions posed by COVID-19, virtual meetings and presentations of credentials have become commonplace enabling official government business to move forward •

## Taiwan grants another 7 scholarships

The seven recipients of the annual Taiwan tertiary scholarship departed for Taiwan to commence their first year in Mandarin studies followed by their choice of study pathway, 30 October.

At the pre-departure luncheon, 27 October, hosted by Ambassador Dean Wang and embassy staff, the students received a briefing on what could be expected living in Taiwan and importantly encouraged to stay focused on their studies and to seek assistance when needed.

Ambassador Wang congratulated the students and encouraged them to work as a team and look out for each other over the five years in Taiwan as they experience homesickness and personal difficulties and most of all to do their best and complete their studies.



*The 2020 Taiwan scholarship recipients embrace the opportunity to further their tertiary studies in Taiwan*

The awardees also took advice and words of encouragement from Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke to persist and achieve the goal to graduate. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Asterio Appi, who is a Taiwan alumnus, echoed the same message and urged parents to support their children through this journey.

Another alumnus Kawaii Deiyee shared her experience while Department of Foreign Affairs officer Duchene Itaiia offered advice on document certification and consular assistance.

The initial year of the scholarship is dedicated to Mandarin language studies before the course proper.

The students will study the following: Kalamena Canon - commerce and economics; Zeth Jose - engineering; Slavka Menke - journalism; Danton Dabwido - computer studies; Angel Halstead, Helleni Buraman and Zilma Daniel will all study nursing.

The Government of Taiwan has awarded 65 scholarships to Nauruans since 2006, 15 have successfully graduated.

Jaala Jeremiah is the latest graduate this year having commenced her studies in 2015 first taking up the pre-requisite Mandarin studies and later pursuing four years in Diplomacy and International Relations at the College of International Studies at Tankang University in New Taipei City.

Jaala currently works as an intern with the Department of Climate Change and Resilience.

Nine scholarships were initially awarded this year, however two pulled out for personal reasons •

## President visits solar farm site

President Lionel Aingimea and cabinet ministers visited the completed stage one site of the ADB-funded solar farm at Topside, 30 October.

The Nauru government-funded \$4.7M agreement to clear and level the 8.6 hectare land is now in its third stage.

The agreement to rehabilitate the land was signed in July 2019 by Nauru Utilities Corporation and the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation who are carrying out the land clearing,

Stage one of land clearing is the completed solar farm site; while stage two is on higher ground towards the back and is also complete; and stage three to the left of the completed sites is still under excavation works.



*Nauru Utilities maintains the solar farm including regular wash-downs to ensure maximum solar absorption*

The 3000 solar panels on site are maintained and cleaned from dust build-up by NUC staff on a regular basis to ensure maximum solar absorption.

NRC chair Peter Jacob handed over the cleared land, stages one and two to NUC CEO Carmine Piantedosi who thanked NRC for delivering the project and donor ADB.

“It’s been a partnership between NUC and NRC. Also thanks to the government for their contribution to the project. It’s been a really important and a valued contribution.

“Thank you also to the donors, ADB who are still facilitating this project with us and developing the six megawatt solar [farm] for Nauru,” Mr Piantedosi said.

Mr Jacob says discussions and planning for proposed projects and land use around Topside are ongoing.

Accompanying the President on the site visit were Ministers Martin Hunt, Rennier Gadabu and Deputy Ministers Russ Kun, Richard-Hyde Menke and Jason Bingham Agir •



<https://www.facebook.com/republicofnauru>

## Children's day celebrated

A fun-packed week celebrating and promoting World Children's Day was successfully organised by the Child Protection Unit under the newly recreated Ministry for Women and Social Development Affairs.

The week-long program, 16-21 November, celebrates the global event, themed, 'Investing in our future means investing in our children', with the main highlight events culminating on the actual date, 20 November.

The full program mostly held at the Aiue Boulevard consists of dramas, COVID-19 awareness, Tiktok challenge, powerlifting competition, round the island and airstrip relays, choral competitions, novelty games, stall displays, judo and karate demonstrations, flexible games for persons with disabilities, dance and disco, food stalls and awards on the final day.



*Children perform Christian action songs to their peers celebrating World Children's Day*

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

November 20 is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights •

*To learn more about children's day, visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>*

## Taiwan hands over correctional farm

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) officially handed over the Correctional Centre farm to the Nauru Government, 16 November.

The farm which consists of vegetables, pigs and chickens is an initiative of President Lionel Aingimea back in November 2019 and followed through by the Taiwan embassy's technical mission (TTM) in a bid to teach the inmates farming and technical skills that would prepare them for re-entry into the community.

The inmates learn to grow vegetables and raise poultry which are part of their daily meals also.

Currently, there are eight varieties of vegetables, ten pigs and 200 chickens which produced 110 eggs daily and from July to October, 150kg of vegetables was harvested.



*Taiwan Ambassador Wang hands over the correctional centre farm to Justice Minister Eoe on behalf of the Nauru Government*

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang was pleased to hand over the facility to Justice Minister Maverick Eoe following the cutting of the ribbon.

Twelve inmates also received certificates for successfully completing four lectures in chicken and pig-raising and gardening by the TTM.

President Lionel Aingimea and Ministers Eoe, Rennie Gadabu and Deputy Minister Richard-Hyde Menke tasted some of the produce and toured the facility and expressed their gratitude to the Taiwan embassy for the enormous effort and dedication in building the facility to the standard it is •

## Report unregistered dogs

The Department of Justice & Border Control is seeking community assistance to report stray and wild dogs.

The Dog Licencing Authority is actively exercising its powers under the Dog Management and Control Act 2017 to address the issue of the dog population which is a cause of danger to public safety.

The Authority is seeking the community's assistance in reducing the stray and wild dog population on the island for the purposes of public and health safety.

You can assist by reporting sightings of any wild or stray dogs around your residences to the following hotline numbers:

Amy Tsitsi - 557 9244/558 5505

Paulinus Ika - 557 2966

Chamrock Agir - 558 2936

Please note that it is an offence to interfere with, obstruct or abuse authorised officers performing their duties under the Dog Management and Control Act 2017. This offence carries a fine and term of imprisonment.

## USP students graduate despite COVID

COVID restrictions did not deter twenty four students of the University of the South Pacific from receiving their certificates, diplomas and degrees in a ceremony held at the Nauru campus, 20 November.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, who is also Chancellor of the USP, was joined by Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke and Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney in conferring the 25 certificates to students of the Pacific TAFE and USP.



*(seated) High Commissioner Tierney, President Aingimea and Deputy Minister Menke were pleased to confer awards to the 24 USP graduates*

In his remarks, DM Menke said the “tears, laughter, late nights, all these make us who and what we are today.”

“You are contributing to the capacity building with the investments you have made through your studies.

“Receiving the certificates this morning is a reflection of your passion and success.

“This is an example of the vision and hope and opportunity to inspire others in our community to follow in your footsteps,” DM Menke said.

USP Nauru campus director Alamanda Lauti told graduates the award ceremony is a reflection of their journey and accomplishment and is a proud moment where determination and confidence has led to this personal accomplishment.

Irene Waidabu, received her Bachelor of Arts in Law/Management and Public Administration shared her “new reality” as a USP student in a foreign country four years ago.

Irene expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Australian government for the scholarship opportunity and the Nauru government for their support and dedicates her achievement to her “very supportive husband”.

Despite being scared of her new reality, married with two young children, Irene was not deterred. Instead was more determined.

“As the eldest of four children I wanted to be a good role model to my younger siblings and to my children and wanted to make my parents proud.”

The ceremony was part of the Nauru campus open day with special guests from Nauru Secondary School taking part in tours and received advice on study choices •

## Graduates achieve cert IV in management and leadership

Public servants and Nauru RPC Corporation employees received their certificates after completing two weeks leadership and management training, 11 November.

Deputy Minister for Multicultural Affairs responsible for the NRPC Asterio Appi congratulated the 45 graduates of the Certificate IV in Leadership and Management training delivered by Australian professional development providers HS Business School through the NRPC.

“We (government) are particularly proud of everyone,” DM Appi said underscoring it’s the government’s desire to support training initiatives for Nauruans and today was another reflection of the commitment to do that.

“Your task now is to utilise this training you have received. Not just within your workplace but within our community as well.”



*Nauru emergency services director Barassi Botelanga is one of 54 public servants to graduate with the Cert IV in leadership and management and one of 3 scholarship recipients*

The 31 police, five Nauru Emergency Services, and nine NRPC trainees each completed 12 units of intensive training over two weeks, topped with 100 per cent attendance which trainer Mick Stewart says is “absolutely mind blowing.”

Three scholarships to pursue related training were also awarded to the NPFs Dinamo Appin, NESs Barassi Botelanga, and NRPCs Monica Harris, to commence in 2021.

Police Commissioner Iven Notte says the training addresses the NPFs priorities of leadership and organisational improvement while NES Secretary Roy Harris said the selection of the NES “fantastic five” was difficult but the skills acquired will further develop NES and Nauru.

The qualification is recognised within the Australian qualification framework •

### It’s the law:

Drive safely  
Speed limit 50km/h  
Wear a helmet

Renew your driver’s licence and vehicle registration

Consider your fellow motorists and pedestrians  
Keep Nauru safe!

## Oath-taking continues

Staff of Nauru Media Bureau, ICT and Education swore their Oaths of Affirmation and Secrecy in official ceremonies conducted by the Office of the Chief Secretary.

Twenty three media and 17 ICT staff took part in the ceremony on 20 November while 25 Education Department staff conducted theirs a week later on 27 November.

Administered under the Public Service Act 2016 and the Official Information Act 1976, all public servants take the oath, whereby they 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 ceremonies are presided over by acting Chief Secretary Sasikumar Paravanoor and witnessed by Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu and a legal representative from the Department of Justice •



*Sixty five staff from ICT, media and education take the public service oath*

## Media building launched

The new \$1.4 million government-funded Nauru Media building equipped with advanced TV and radio studios and office space was officially opened, 27 October.

Deputy Minister for Media Pyon Debye thanked former media managements for “spearheading this project from the ground up to its completion,” as well as to Reliable Construction company for working to get the project completed given the circumstances posed by COVID-19.

DM Debye encouraged staff with a quote by American motivational speaker Marie Forleo: “Success doesn’t come from what you do occasionally, it comes from what you do consistently.”



*Nauru media secretary Kaelyn Dekarube says the new building would boost staff work performance*

President Lionel Aingimea cut the ribbon to the new building that will transition from the current analogue system of radio and TV to a digital system offering a much more reliable service to the people of Nauru.

Acting Secretary for Media Kaelyn Dekarube says the new building would greatly contribute and improve staff performance compared to the working conditions staff had to endure in the old building •

**JOB OPPORTUNITY  
APPLY NOW!**

Numerous job opportunities are available. Apply now at the HR office, Government Office, Yaren or contact 5573133 or browse our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/republicofnauru/posts/>

## AustComm hosts AFL Nauru womens lunch

Minister for Health Isabella Dageago and Australia Awards Alumnus Dr Angelique Makutu delivered inspirational messages around health and nutrition to 50 women's AFL Nauru players from the six teams at an afternoon tea, 12 November.

The event was hosted at the residence of the Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney, in celebration of the Nauru women's AFL season and to partner with the health department to deliver important messages about healthy lifestyles and nutrition.

A series of video messages from Adelaide Crows women's players who visited last year - Chelsea Randall, Angela Foley and Nikki Gore, were also screened to boost morale and confidence in the local players.

The women's season ends this week with grand final day on Saturday 5 December •



*Australian high commission partners with Nauru health in hosting 50 women footballers to lunch and share messages about healthy lifestyles and nutrition*

## Government awards 29 secondary-level scholarships to Australia

The Government of Nauru and the Department of Education congratulates the winners of the 2020 government scholarship.

Both groups of winners, Year 8 and 9 students, are awarded a secondary level scholarship to study in Brisbane, Queensland, Australian commencing in 2021.

The six Year 9 scholarship recipients are:

Aiwo Roland  
Holly Canon  
Regina Dabana  
Eunice Hiram  
Sawani Benjamin  
Nsdsia Adeang

The 20 Year 8 scholarship recipients are:

James Giouba  
Mishiel Teboua  
Tiimaro Bwenaiti  
Jori Teimitsi

Narsha Eoe  
Launi Bernadette Fritz  
Jad Denuga  
Joash Falluga Giouba  
Fabianna Adama Ribauw  
Blessing Grace Ledua  
Alvarez Appi  
Stephon Waqa  
Dana Deireragea  
Tangaga Fabria Ribauw  
Aika Detageouwa  
Teruari Enoka  
Aliana Scotty  
Tyson Starr  
Mina-Ily Harris  
Igor Gadoengin

This year the Nauru Government has changed the country of study for recipients of the Year 8 scholarship from Fiji to Brisbane, Australia •

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*Correction: NB#18, 28Oct2020, the anniversary of the return from Truk is 74 years, not 75.*

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