



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 5-2021/230

20 August 2021

## ADB \$5m grant for urban development planning

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$5 million grant to expand and improve water supply, sanitation, and waste management services in Nauru.

Under the preparatory phase of the project announced 16 August, a team will be established within the government to provide specialist advice, undertake planning, and coordinate funding to address a series of interrelated urban problems.

The Department of Climate Change and National Resilience will work the ADB as the implementing agency while the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) is mandated to oversee sanitation projects.

The \$5m grant will partly fund the assessment, planning, and capacity building needed to implement the proposed Nauru Sustainable Urban Development Project.

This five-year preparatory work aligns with Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2019–2030 and the Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

The planned \$20 million project will increase access to and improve the quality and safety of essential urban services for about 2,150 households – based on projected estimates.



*The five-year prep work seeks to identify the feasibility of a piped water system. Households currently store fresh water in their own tanks*

Secretary for CIE Berilyn Jeremiah says the advantages of the project would ensure cleaner water, minimise water wastage at the delivery stage, and eliminate long delivery times from the water plant to households.

ADB's Senior Urban Development Specialist, Vivian Castro-Wooldridge is the project manager and says the approved water supply master plan includes a piped water supply system.

“The feasibility of a piped water system shall be explored in consultation with the community and several agencies.

“There are still some possibilities to improve

the system without piping to each house (Eg. a ring main) but it is too soon to determine the final scope of the project.

“It is for this reason that the PRF grant is needed before the project – to do the proper studies and consultations to determine the possibilities,” Ms Castro-Wooldridge said.

Nauru does not have centralised piped water. All houses have water tanks and rely either on rain water or desalinated water from Nauru Utilities; while groundwater is not potable.

The project planning team will consider the feasibility of introducing metered, piped water; institutional strengthening and investments to make household sanitation systems safe and effective; and measures to reduce the volume of solid waste, including reuse and recycling.

The team will also develop policies and build capacities that will be needed to manage new facilities and deliver improved services.

The \$5 million grant is sourced from ADB's Asian Development Fund. The Government of Nauru is contributing \$210,000.

Currently, ADB staff are only travelling for essential missions but hopes to be able to have firm dates for Nauru in the near future •

## Australian high commission leads runway resurfacing

The governments of Nauru and Australia plan resurfacing project for Nauru's airport runway and maintain aviation safety standards.

The Australian High Commission is leading the project and says recent inspection of the airport runway indicates some signs of surface degradation.

Acting Australian High Commissioner Andrew Hodges says the runway was last resurfaced in 1992.

“Resurfacing will extend the service life of the runway by another 25 years, (and) maintaining the safety of operations and ensuring the airport continues to meet International Civil Aviation Organisation standards,” Mr Hodges said.

The initial project which involves on-ground work such as assessing the runway and collect information to prepare a preliminary design, commenced in the week of 26 July.

A report detailing the outcomes is expected in October, while other elements of the project, such as an assessment of air traffic control equipment, are yet to commence.

After October the project team will assist with the selection of a contractor to prepare a final design and undertake construction works. The selection process will conclude in early 2022, with construction to follow.

The Australian High Commission views this as a critical project on many fronts.

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## AusComm leads runway resurfacing

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*Resurfacing will extend life of runway another 20-plus years*

“Nauru’s air and sea ports are vital links to the rest of the world, to ensure Nauru’s food and fuel security, and to facilitate Nauru’s exports,” Mr Hodges said.

“With this project, the flights that connect Nauruans with their families around the world will continue. Life-saving overseas medical referrals will continue.

“Also, the freight flights that carry so much fresh food, medicine and other supplies will continue,” Mr Hodges said.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will fund the initial assessment, preliminary design and tender process through the high commission’s bilateral development program.

Future construction work will be carried out in coordination with the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP).

“The Government of Nauru is also providing invaluable support, including historic information about the runway, technical information and the technical expertise of the airport managers. The support of the Government of Nauru is critical for the project,” Mr Hodges said confirming that the resurfacing project was included in Nauru’s National Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan.

“The Government of Nauru suggested it as a possible project under the AIFFP. The project fits into AIFFP’s scope, which covers transport, energy, water and telecommunications projects. AIFFP support to Nauru is provided on a grant basis.”

The Australian government has supported other major infrastructure projects in the past, including construction projects such as the University of the South Pacific Campus and sports complex and support to specific government of Nauru agencies through technical advice and grants.

Most notable of the infrastructure projects is the Aiwo port development project which Australia is a partner, alongside, the Nauru government, the Asian Development Bank and the Global Climate Fund •

### It’s the Law:

- \* Valid driver’s licence
- \* Wear a helmet
- \* Register your vehicle

Motor Traffic Act 2014 [http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru\\_lpms/index.php/act/view/1189](http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1189)

Everyone’s safety is important. Keep Nauru safe!

## Single-use plastic bags prohibited

Regulations banning the importation, manufacture, sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags is in force, but allows shops to use up their existing stock.

The Environmental Management and Climate Change (Ban on Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2021, was put in place 23 April.

It was introduced by the government to help reduce plastic waste and mitigate its harmful impacts on Nauru’s environment.

Banned single-use plastic bags include:

- Single use high density polyethylene (HDPE) bag HDPE;
- Single use low density polyethylene (LDPE) bag LDPE;
- Single use degradable Plastic bags

Bags allowed to be used include:

- Reusable non-woven/woven plastic bag or ‘green bag’ non-woven/woven plastic (polypropylene) or ‘green bags’
- A bin bag or bin liner or garbage bag, or trash bag;
- Biodegradable/compostable barrier bags
- Biodegradable/compostable plastic shopping bags

Penalties include a fine no more than \$10,000 or jail term no more than six months, or both.

Plastic bags that have already arrived and been ordered before the issued date of 23 April are not included in the ban and can still be used until current supplies are exhausted.

An authorised officer from the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Department of Health or Nauru Police Force may seize any single use plastic shopping bags found on the premises and provide them to the secretary for justice to be disposed of appropriately.

CIE wishes to raise awareness about the plastic ban and the negative impacts plastics have on our environment, by re-launching their ‘Eben Omo’ campaign and by working with non-government organisation, Nauru Plastic Free, led by Washington Dogaue •



HDPE Single-use high density bag



LDPE plastic bag



Reusable woven bag



Degradable plastic bag

## Papa Mau re-enforces frontline vigilance

Nauru's stringent 'Capture and Contain' strategy paid off when COVID-positive sea crew were detected while at sea, 25 July.

The crew of the cargo vessel MV Papa Mau completed 14 days quarantine at sea from its last port of call, and then were tested on board the vessel by Nauru health officials.

Initial batch screening results indicated the likely presence of COVID; final test results later confirming positive for 13 of the 14 crew.

At the time, it was understood that none of the crew had any symptoms, and all were well.

All crew remained on board the ship and remained isolated from any contact with Nauru.

As with all incoming carriers, the crew of MV Papa Mau were tested for COVID-19 before any operations may be carried out in Nauru.

Health teams that board ships to undertake sampling for the COVID tests are well trained and experienced and follow strict infection control protocols and use full personal protective equipment (PPE).

In addition to these protections, the normal testing procedures require all Health workers who board the vessel to go directly from the ship into quarantine where they remain until their test results are cleared.

Other workers such as the barge operators and van drivers are considered non-contacts but out of abundance of caution for this particular event, and to give these workers peace of mind, were also placed into quarantine.

In a media update, President Lionel Aingimea says "we have the luxury of being able to observe them for a period" and assures the Nauru public there is no danger and no cause for panic and that "Nauru is still safe and as far as we know, we remain COVID-free."

The crew did not disembark at Nauru, neither was any of its cargo unloaded.

Without proper quarantine anchorage in Nauru, the ship headed back to Suva, Fiji where adequate facilities are available for sea vessels and its crew.

These cases were detected at sea and classified as international conveyance, hence are not recorded as Nauru cases.

President Aingimea thanks the health staff and other frontline personnel for the "great work they are doing, and [to] keep up the good work."

While the majority of Nauru's adult population (18 years and older) are fully vaccinated, approximately 200 have only received their first dose. The 7,128 adults who are fully vaccinated exceed initial targets for the estimated adult population.

The National COVID-19 Taskforce is working to obtain additional vaccines, including vaccines such as Pfizer which can be administered to children as young as 12 years old.

Approximately 60 per cent of the total Nauru population is vaccinated, falling short of herd immunity levels, hence additional vaccines are needed for those who missed out on the earlier roll-outs or are now eligible for the vaccine.

The President thanks Australia and India for their assistance with procuring the vaccines early on and Nauru continues to reach out to them for further assistance in this regard.



*Health workers and port operators are well trained and follow strict COVID protocols*

*[File photo]*

All fishermen are reminded to stay away from any sea vessels at sea. Keep safe and take precautions for your safety and for Nauru.

Nauru remains at Level One – zero cases.

As the Papa Mau did not unload its cargo, it initially caused panic buying.

However, major supermarkets say this is not necessary, insisting there's enough food supply for the next couple months if households shopped as normal.

Government supermarket, Eigigu, and family-owned supermarket, Capelle & Partner warn that hoarding is not the way to go as this will have an unfair distribution of food essentials for all households.

Customer rush-buying in the last week of July following the Papamau incident prompted the two supermarkets to put in place control measures to ensure enough to go around.

The government as well as Nauru Post have operated a few air freighters bringing in frozen meat and fresh produce at subsidised cost to allow households to buy essential food at affordable prices until normal shipping services resume •

Nauru is COVID-free but the general health advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that you protect yourself and others from COVID-19, by staying safe and by taking some simple precautions, such as:

- Physical distancing
- Wearing a mask
- Keeping rooms well ventilated
- Avoiding crowds
- Cleaning your hands, and
- Coughing into a bent elbow or tissue

Also check local advice where you live and work. Do it all!

## H.E congratulates Samoa's first female PM

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea congratulated the Independent State of Samoa on the election of its first female prime minister, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa.

"This is truly a historic moment for Samoa and our collective Pacific region."

The prime ministership of Fiame Naomi Mata'afa was sealed in a landmark decision of Samoa's Court of Appeal on Friday 23 July, ending the 22-year reign of the former leader, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, who, at the time of the election was the world's second-longest serving prime minister.

In a signed letter to the Prime Minister's office, President Aingimea said the election of Samoa's first female PM "has faithfully upheld the principle of democracy, evoking the desire for change by the Samoan people.

"Your Excellency's steadfast position grounded in ethics validated the rule of law and perpetuated the resolve and will of the Samoan people.

"As Your Excellency assumes the highest position within the Government of the Independent State of Samoa, the pride of your family, especially your father, the late Fiame Mata'afa Faumuina Mulinu'u II and first Prime Minister of Samoa will be echoed throughout the country.



*Samoa's first female prime minister, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa*

"Madam Prime Minister, I wish you every success in your new role and look forward to working closely with you not only to foster and strengthen the existing relationship between our two island nations but also for a better Pacific."

PM Mata'afa took her oath at an unofficial ceremony outside Parliament House in Apia, Samoa on 24 May. The court ruling on 23 July, upholds that swearing-in •

## Airport solar panels will offset daytime power demand

Newly installed solar panels will bring Nauru closer to achieving renewable energy goal of fifty per cent.

The inauguration ceremony for 412 newly installed solar panels was held at the Nauru International Airport, 4 August.

The panels, measuring approximately 2 x 1 meters cover the rooftop of the airport terminal building.

The \$400,000 solar photovoltaic system at the airport is donated by the Republic of China (Taiwan) and has a solar power generation capacity of 152.44 kilowatts.

Without battery storage, this solar energy is used in the daytime, and any excess or unused energy is fed back into the main grid.

According to power provider Nauru Utilities Corporation the Nauru International Airport consumes 40,000 kilowatt-hours of power while the national demand is 3.5 million kilowatt-hours, per month.

The energy generated from the airport solar panels will off-set the airport's demand during the day period.

The project was made possible with the assistance of Taiwan Company SpeedTech, Nauru Utilities Corporation, Nauru civil aviation management team and the construction company who installed the panels and connected the systems, Central Meridian Incorporated.

This has been a recent development project to provide stable power supply for the Nauru International Airport, to reduce electricity expenditure and to improve the operation of the airport.

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang says, "Taiwan is a trustworthy friend of Nauru."

"At the same time, Taiwan also has deeply appreciated the support



*Seen behind the VIP delegation are 412 solar panels lining the airport terminal building rooftop*

from Nauru in issues related to international participation."

Finance Minister Martin Hunt says the project will help in terms of reducing electricity expenditure, with an expected 40 to 60 per cent reduction on the main grid power consumption.

"The Transport Department runs on a budget of just over \$2 million. The Civil Aviation division itself at the airport uses about half a million dollars per annum just on power electricity costs alone," Minister Hunt said.

"With the expected reduction of 40 to 60 per cent grid consumption during the day, the figures work out to be a good amount of savings which can be used for other development projects."

With the effects of climate change, the project is vital to progress Nauru's climate resilience and minimise Nauru's dependence on petrochemical fuels - reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by President Lionel Aingimea, members of parliament and guests •

## Forum imbalance unacceptable, president says at 51st summit

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and leaders of the 18-member organisation convened its first virtual leader's retreat out of necessity due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, 6 August.

As Pacific leaders reaffirm the importance of focused dialogue at the political level President Lionel Aingimea reiterate disappointment at the lack of inclusion of the Micronesian sub-region.

“Despite the successes that we and past leaders have reaped for our region, I cannot but express my disappointment with the Forum and its lack of inclusivity and parity towards the Micronesian region.”

This is in response to the ongoing issue of the selection process of the secretary general of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), which the leaders of the Micronesia sub-region are sidelined and the long-standing Gentlemen's Agreement, which recognises rotation of the SG's role among the three sub-regions, was not honoured.

“As a founding member of the Pacific Forum, the imbalance within the Forum is unacceptable and Nauru, in solidarity with our Micronesian brothers, strongly feels that the Forum is unresponsive and indifferent, raising the question on its relevance and role in our sub region.

“Let us hope that during the time left before Micronesia exits from the Pacific Islands Forum, we as leaders can work together maturely and with integrity to address the concerns and issues that has beset our institutional foundation, to successfully manoeuvre our region into new and uncharted waters, remaining united through our shared pacific values and principles,” President Aingimea said.

After opening remarks by outgoing chair, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu Kausea Natano and in coming chair, Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, President Aingimea addressed the meeting of leaders, first, congratulating Fiji for assuming the chairmanship.

Leaders paid tribute to the vision of the founding leaders, and in the context of the theme of the 51st PIF – Security and Prosperity in Unity: 50 Years of the Pacific Island; and like the founding fathers, firmly believe in the Pacific Way of dialogue, “which embodies the principles of empathy, mutual respect and dignity that enables the resolution of these challenges at this critical moment in the our history.”

U.S President Joe Biden reaffirmed the value placed by the U.S on its relationship with the PIF, and Forum members.

President Biden reiterated his government's commitment to global leadership on climate change, highlighting his announcement in April to commit to dramatically reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and to building resilience in vulnerable communities globally.

Under the theme, “Security and Prosperity in Unity: 50 years of the Pacific Islands Forum”, President Aingimea highlighted the establishment of the South Pacific Forum in 1971 by founding members Nauru, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga and Western Samoa.

“With foresight, our founding fathers discerned that as small island states, our voices joined together in unity and solidarity



*Tuvalu hands over forum chairmanship to Fiji*

will resonate beyond our region, safeguarding our pacific values, principles, and integrity.”

President Aingimea acknowledged the work of the Forum, which he says members should take pride in.

“Today, we as leaders will consider for adoption a regional declaration on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change related sea-level rise, another milestone achievement for our region,” President Aingimea said.

The leaders' communiqué outlines several issues of import to the region and reflect on the success, lessons learnt, as well as the strategic imperative of the Pacific Islands Forum in the context of present and future challenges.

Leaders recognise that the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent will be at the heart of the region's ambition and will encapsulate how leaders can best work together to achieve their shared vision and realise shared aspirations.

The 2050 Strategy is a long-term vision for the region and outlines the steps to achieve this vision.

Building on its shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, the region must recognise the connections that the people of this Blue Pacific have with their natural resources, environment, cultures and livelihoods.

This requires that the Pacific organise themselves as one collective if they are to address increasingly common challenges.

Leaders re-emphasised the significant challenges and threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterated calls for global leaders to support the equitable and affordable distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 treatments and vaccines to all Pacific peoples.

The importance of vaccine certification for reopening borders and supporting economic recovery is also recognised.

Leaders welcomed Australia's intentions to establish processes for vaccine certification, including in digital form.

Leaders also welcomed Australia's announcement that it would aim to double the number of Pacific workers in Australia by March 2022, resulting in an additional 12,500 Pacific workers having the opportunity to work in Australia.

In reaffirming that climate change is the greatest threat facing the Blue Pacific, leaders recommit to the goals of the Paris

*Cont pg 6...*

## Forum imbalance, unacceptable

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Agreement; reiterate that COVID-19 must not delay global climate action, but rather promote recovery investments that are climate-smart and in line with a low emissions development pathway.

Leaders also urge all parties to the UNFCCC to ensure that COP26 advances the work in the UNFCCC, recognising its centrality to the Blue Pacific Continent; and support regional approaches to strengthen Forum Island Countries' strategic participation at COP26.

In recognising the threat of climate change-related sea level rise to the Pacific's maritime zones, leaders endorsed the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones, in the face of Climate Change-related sea level rise and its Aide-Memoire.

The 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is the basis for the declaration.

Leaders reaffirm the importance of, and commits to, ongoing and focused dialogue at the level on the issues raised by the Micronesia presidents and other leaders.

The importance of developing a balanced reform package that respects the equality of all members was emphasised. Leaders considered this essential for strengthening the Pacific family.

Among the regional governance and institutional arrangements, leaders endorsed the revised Criteria and Guidelines for Forum dialogue partners and forum observers and endorsed further consideration of the Forum's partnership mechanisms within the context of the 2050 Strategy.

Leaders also endorse the Policy Statement on the Pacific Islands Forum Troika, noting the statement may need further revisions arising from the development of the secretary general selection and appointment procedures.

The Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Program of Investment was also endorsed. It seeks to reduce the human and economic cost of severe weather, water and ocean events across Pacific Island communities.

Leaders also endorse the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021-2030.

Forum chair, Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama advises a face-to-face Forum leaders meeting to be held in January 2022, and to convene Forum related meetings in the months leading up to it.

The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation. Founded in 1971, it comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu •

## Notaries public swear oath of office

Three notaries public swore their oath of office before Chief Justice Daniel Fatiaki and judicial officers, 13 August.

Deputy Solicitor General Bharvna Narayan, Director of Public Prosecutions Ronald Talasasa Jnr, and Director of the Public Legal Defenders office Ravuanimasei Tagivakatini, join the team of notaries which CJ Fatiaki says is "confident you will live up to the terms of your oath should you be called to exercise those functions."



*Chief Justice Fatiaki (3rd) with newly sworn in notaries public DPP Talasasa, Public Legal Defender Tagivakatini, and Solicitor General Narayan in the CJ's chambers*

"With COVID floating around the possibilities of that [exercising their roles] occurring are higher than usual because of the fact that people require documents to be notarised before they can be filed in courts, (and) because there's no travelling makes it even more important."

A notary public is a public officer who attests or certifies writings, such as a deed, to make them authentic and takes affidavits, depositions, and protests of negotiable paper.

CJ Fatiaki congratulated the trio who swear to faithfully exercise the office of notary public for, or between parties; will not add or diminish any contract or instruments without the consent of such parties; and in all things will act uprightly and justly in the business of a public notary according to the best of their skill and ability •



republicofnauru

## Nauru Airlines invest for better

Nauru Airlines' recent upgrade of a passenger plane to the new generation Boeing 737-700 aircraft is an investment to ensure better and dedicated air services for Nauruans.

The new aircraft made a quick stop in Nauru, 30 June, en route from the US and on to Brisbane for registration with the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and a new coat of paint before going into service.

With support from the Government, Nauru Airlines replaced a Boeing 737-300 aircraft to the "newer model, younger and better version" 737-700 series plane.

The 700 plane is very similar to the 300 with 128 seating capacity but with several advantages and difference.

Head of Flight and Ground Operations Anthony Neideck says one of those is the ability to fly longer distances with a larger payload – more passengers.

"This is due mainly to the aircraft having larger fuel tanks, nearly 5,000 kilos additional fuel, more efficient engines and a totally redesigned wing which can fly faster and higher than the -300 which in turn gives it more range too," Mr Neideck said.

How much fuel the 700 plane burns compared to its older version is dependent on a combination of several things including passengers and cargo load but in summary with larger fuel tanks and can fly a little faster and for longer distances.

Chairman of the Nauru Airlines board, Dr Kieren Keke says there are many advantages to upgrading and the government recognises that Nauru needs its national airline well into the future.

"We have seen the challenges when we have not had our own airline, even if for a short period of time.

"The aircraft upgrade that the Government is investing in is not an increase in our fleet, but rather an upgrade to the new generation and better aircraft. As we acquire the new aircraft, Government will be selling the older aircraft that are not converted to freighters."

At this stage the airline's fleet plan is to operate three passenger aircraft and two freighters.

Dr Keke says while the exact numbers may change over time, the combination at this time will provide one passenger aircraft



*The new Boeing 737-700 plane is an investment to ensure better and dedicated air services*

to ensure Nauru has dedicated air services; another to service existing charter contract obligations; and a third passenger aircraft to undertake additional charter work and for new business, thus adding revenue to the airline.

"This [new 700] aircraft also serves as a backup to the other two if needed plus with two freighter aircraft, we can ensure dedicated freight operations for Nauru as well as earn good revenue operating freight charter services in Australia and elsewhere," Chairman Keke said.

Meanwhile, the airline has been busy converting older passenger planes to freight aircrafts in response to the downturn in passenger numbers, owing to the COVID pandemic.

The conversions of the older planes are undertaken in Miami, Florida, USA, by Aeronautical Engineers, where it is put on the USA Department of Transport's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) registry.

Before and after conversion the aircraft is ferried in and out of Miami using pilots and crew who are FAA licenced.

Nauru Airlines uses US aircraft ferry service operator Paramount Global to crew the ferry flights to and from the USA.

On arrival in Brisbane after the conversion, the aircraft is removed from the USA FAA register.

Thereafter, Nauru Air Corporation does the various modifications and upgrades that might be needed then have it licenced under CASA to operate commercial passenger services and to be put on the Nauru Airlines Operators Certificate •

## Public service oath for health staff

Oath-taking for health staff at the RON Hospital continues with 91 staff taking their oaths of appointment on 29 July and 12 August.

The ceremonies were presided over by the acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar and witnessed by Secretary for Cooperate Services Peta Gadabu and legal representative from the Department of Justice.

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 •



## Nauru joins calls for order in Afghanistan

In the wake of political unrest in Afghanistan, the U.S. Department of State issues a joint statement calling for the safe and orderly departure of foreign nationals and Afghans from the country.

Nauru is among ten Pacific Island countries including Australia and New Zealand, who are signatory to the statement on Afghanistan, signed on 16 August 2021.

“Given the deteriorating security situation, we support, are working to secure, and call on all parties to respect and facilitate, the safe and orderly departure of foreign nationals and Afghans who wish to leave the country. Those in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan bear responsibility—and accountability—for the protection of human life and property, and for the immediate restoration of security and civil order.

Afghans and international citizens who wish to depart must be allowed to do so; roads, airports and border crossing must remain open, and calm must be maintained.

The Afghan people deserve to live in safety, security and dignity. We in the international community stand ready to assist them.”

The following reflects the list of signatory countries as of 16 August 2021: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Cyprus, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, The Gambia, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia •

## Road repairs ensures better access

The Department of Infrastructure and Development continue top-of-hill road repairs this month in residential area.

The department is resurfacing the uphill road behind the RON Hospital that leads to the former NPC residential area, and home to numerous locals and official residences of the Australian high commissioner and Taiwan ambassador.

The repairs will ensure better road access for residents who have had to manoeuvre the pot hole-ridden road for many years.

The project is contracted to local company NEB Construction to repair the damaged road which has been the subject of unstable and dangerous driving. In some cases residents who frequent the road are unable to continue the drive uphill.

Director for road development, Mike Dagiario says construction is underway, with the construction crew clearing and breaking up rubble from the road.

After completing the repairs at the top of the hill, the construction

## Taiwan opens promised ICT centre

The Taiwan embassy follows through with its government’s plans to set up digital opportunity centres for its diplomatic allies.

The inauguration, 13 August, of the Taiwan Digital Opportunity Centre and its training program in Nauru fulfils an announcement in 2019 by the Taiwan government.



*ICT staff with Deputy Minister for ICT Debye and Taiwan Ambassador Wang (centre back), are thrilled at the launch of new training centre*

Deputy Minister for ICT Pyon Debye thanks Taiwan for the continued support especially for the funding and resources dedicated to the centre saying the training will benefit the IT department as well as the general public in terms of addressing ICT capacity and development in Nauru.

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang says 15 laptops and related hardware necessary for the setup of the training centre at the ICT offices were shipped across following the signing of the MOU earlier this year between the two governments.

Three rounds of ICT seed training, including introduction to PC hardware and software, website design, devices repair and troubleshoot through virtual classroom events are part of the package.

Taiwan’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Chungkwang Tien joined by video link says as COVID-19 wreaks havoc, digital connectivity is all the more important and essential to build a safer and more prosperous digital ecosystem•



*The infrastructure department repair damaged road and will resume painting road markings*

crew will continue downhill towards the RON Hospital.

The department will also resume repainting the white lane markings on the roads from Anibare to Ijuw. This will be done in the night time when traffic is minimal and gives the paint time to thoroughly dry.

Mr Dagiario thanks the general public for their continued patience and understanding for the ongoing work being carried out •

## New app teaches gardening tips

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) and the Taiwan Technical Mission launched a new gardening app 'Kiāō Oangum' at the USP campus at Yaren, 17 August.

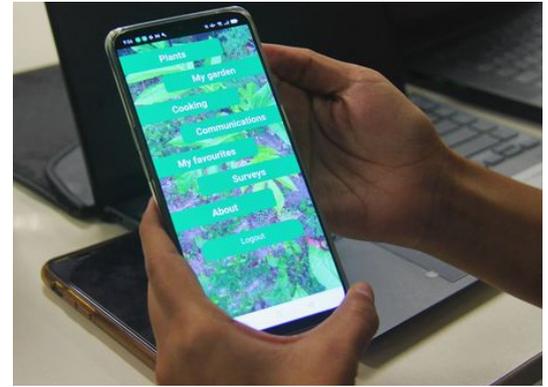
Translated - Plant/Grow Your Food - the app is designed to help people in Nauru start their own gardens and promote a better way of life through locally grown produce. The app can be downloaded on Android devices through Play Store.

The app has a 'My Garden' feature that includes tips for garden building, composting, fertilisation, watering, mulching, and propagation.

This makes the app a useful tool for people looking to learn more about gardening. Users can also send their requests for any other plants or herbs to be included in future updates.

"This application presents an ideal way to share our knowledge on kitchen gardening to the community, to educate them on how to grow their own food and this can be assessed at the touch of your fingertips," Minister for CIE Rennier Gadabu said.

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang said that the app will also help Nauruans know more about nutrition and contribute to a healthier society.



*The new app is next level in gardening tips and a healthier lifestyle*

Nauru is heavily reliant on food imports including fruits and vegetables making them very expensive to buy.

With the newly developed app however, this has given people the opportunity to explore a greener and cheaper alternative.

The app was developed with the team from the Commonwealth of Learning, Taiwan Technical Mission, the departments of CIE and education, and the Nauru Farmers Association.

The event was also attended by Secretary for Education Darrina Kun, Secretary for CIE Berilyn Jeremiah, agriculture students from Nauru Secondary School and others •

### National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016 Coronavirus Travel Restrictions Order No. 02/2021, Effective 4 August 2021

As Minister for National Emergency Services, President Lionel Aingimea issues the following order:

(1) No person shall travel or transit to Nauru from Australia and Fiji until further notice;

(2) A person travelling to Nauru is required to spend a minimum of fourteen (14) days in any of the following countries:

- a) Cook Islands
- b) Kiribati
- c) Marshall Islands
- d) Micronesia (Federated States)
- e) New Caledonia
- f) New Zealand
- g) Niue
- h) Palau
- i) Samoa
- j) Solomon Islands
- k) Taiwan
- l) Tonga
- m) Tuvalu
- n) Vanuatu

Dated 11 August 2021, published in Gazette 124-21.

The Government gazettes can be accessed at <http://naurugov.nr/government-information-office/government-gazette/gazette-2021.aspx> •

### Liquor Control (Forms and Fees) Regulations 2021, under Section 96 of the Liquor Control Act 2017, published in Gazette 114-21

The Regulations provide for the following:

- Application for liquor licence
- Form of licence
- Application for special event licence
- Notice in the gazette
- Area plan for premises
- Application for variation of licence
- Renewal of licence
- Permit for extended hours
- Certificate for a licence of premises not already constructed'
- Application for alternation of limits
- Application for banning order
- Banning order
- Notice of appointment of authorised officers
- Notice to board of alternation to designated area
- Notice prohibiting or restricting entry of any person under the age of 21 years
- Fees

The Act and Regulations can be accessed through RONLAW at <http://naurugov.nr/> •

## Nauru utilities celebrate a decade

Rebranded national utilities provider celebrates 10 years of service to ‘*Makur Dogin Naoero*’, 7 August.

Translated – ‘Working for Nauru’ is the motto for Nauru Utilities Corporation which provides power, water and fuel for Nauru.

Chairman Abraham Aremwa said NUC achievements are evident in the proactive work of his staff, commitment, shared success and customer satisfaction.

He acknowledged the hard working staff who are the backbone of the company and NUC looks to the future by building on the foundations of the past 10 years.

CEO Carmine Piantedosi acknowledged the staff, guidance and advice of the board and paid tribute to the late Tim Aingimea who was deputy chairman.

On the NUC’s formation in 2011, Mr Piantedosi is thankful to the respective ministers and the assistance of donors adding that “NUC expanded and grown into an organisation that it is today.”

The employee of the year goes to Joey Ika in the power department.

Each department and section also had its own best employee:

- Finance - Tinkhanina Aremwa
- Customer Service - Taise Aliklik
- Procurement - Rayvon Dekarube
- ICT - Israel Zacharius
- Human Resources - Glerin Dube and Rina Doguape
- Security & Safety - Chubasco Diringa
- Maintenance - Saunders Grundler

## First aid training for PAs

Seven ministerial personal assistants received statements of attainment for first-aid training conducted by Wilson Security, 6 August.

The one-day training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic emergency life support, and first aid was conducted at the RPC-1 site over different days for each participant during January and February 2021.

The training was offered by the Nauru RPC Corporation through the Cabinet Secretariat.

Participants are Gemima Dowedia, Posie Bop, Florine Garoa, Jaysavin Keppa, Ophelia Caleb, Agnes Denuga, and Sierra Engar, who was on leave at the time the certificates were awarded •



*Joey Ika takes out employee of the year award*

- PS Shift Control - TJ Detsiogo
- PD Overhead - Detroit Jacob
- PD Line Clearing - Nash Iwugia
- PD Underground - Joey Ika
- Electrical - Cody Edward
- PPM - Johnny Raidi
- RE - Nathaniel Zacharius
- Water Production - Loretta Mau
- Water Distribution - Banon Canon
- Best Manager 2021, Corporate/Power - Migail Tatum / Damasus Ika
- Best Team Leader 2021, Corporate/Power - Israel Zacharius / Saunders Grundler
- Best Employee of the Year 2021, Power - Joey Ika
- Best Department 2021, Power - Power Distribution

Keep up the good work NUC! •

## Gazette 119-21: Public Service (Government Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

### Restriction on the use of tint on window

- Restriction on the use of tint on windows of government vehicles. Otherwise, prior written approval from the Chief Secretary must be obtained. Where approval is given, the visible light transmittance shall be: at least 35% for front windows and at least 20% for rear windows.
- Prohibit the use of tint on the windscreen.
- Restriction on the modification of a vehicle.

Penalties apply including recovery of costs by deduction from the employee’s salary.

The Regulations can be found at <http://naurugov.nr/government-information-office/government-gazette.aspx> •

## Olympians debut at Tokyo games

Olympians Jonah Harris and Nancy Abouke were greeted by adoring fans on their return home, 12 August, after representing Nauru at the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Worthy ambassadors Harris and Abouke made their Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020 jointly carrying Nauru's flag with pride and humility.

Under new gender equality rules, the International Olympic Committee allows a male and female athlete to jointly be flag bearers for their national team.

At only 18 years of age, Abouke is the third female to compete for Nauru at the Olympics. She finished 10th in the women's 76kg category with a total combined weight of 203kg, lifting 113kg in the clean & jerk and snatched 90kg.

Harris, 22, made history by being the first Nauruan to participate in athletics at the Olympic Games.

He ran his season best of 11.01s in the men's 100 metres, finishing fifth in heat three of the preliminary round, ahead of fellow Pacific Islanders from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Tuvalu.

Harris and Abouke are revered athletes in their own right having won and set records and personal bests at multiple competitions locally, regionally and internationally.

They are only the 11th and 12th individuals to have represented Nauru at the world class event.

Chef de Mission Gay Uera commends the organisers and volunteers of Tokyo 2020 for staging an "exceptional games", given the circumstances and restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

Athletes and officials were restricted to the Games Village 'bubble', in line with Japan's COVID protocols.

Prior to leaving their home countries, all members of delegations were expected to download and turn on the two Apps designed for the Games to detect close contacts and monitor health checks daily.

Athletes and officials underwent daily antigen or PCR tests for COVID while in Japan.

The participation of these athletes to represent their countries was made possible through the sanctioned and funded chartered Nauru Airlines flight by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC).

Through further assistance from the Nauru Olympic Committee (NOC), Nauru Airlines' tremendous efforts to secure all the required landing permits to Tokyo made the trip possible.

The delegation numbers include Nauru, six, Tuvalu, five, Solomons, eight, and Kiribati, two.



*Harris and Abouke jointly carry the national flag at Tokyo Games Opening Ceremony under new IOC rules*



*(Top) Harris (right) runs 11.01s season best in heat 3 of 100m sprint  
(Bottom) Abouke clears 203kg total*



Nauru maintains strict COVID protocols for all incoming passengers. Team Nauru, along with travel companions, teams from Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu were escorted to government-managed quarantine upon arrival.

Team Solomon will depart Nauru the following day, 13 August, on the IOC/ONOC chartered flight while the rest of the contingent remain in quarantine for seven days, two days longer than the usual, and undergo a total of four PCR tests for COVID before leaving quarantine.

Nauru has been represented at seven Summer Olympic Games since Atlanta 1996, by 12 athletes in three sports – weightlifting, judo and athletics •

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



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