



Nauru Bulletin

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24 November 2021

Parliament November

The November sitting of parliament spoke much to the pressing and immediate issue of the weekend's opinion poll on the membership of parliament and whether it should be reserved for Nauruans and their descendants who became citizens before independence in 1968.

The Speaker, Marcus Stephen opened the 9 November sitting with the Lord's Prayer followed by opening remarks by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea on the very topic of the membership of parliament.

Nauruans went to the polls the weekend following parliament sitting, on Saturday 13 November, to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the question: *Should the membership of Parliament including the Office of the President and Ministers be reserved for Nauruans and their descendants who became Nauruan citizens in 1968 when the Constitution came into force?*

While arguments for and against the survey question were debated in parliament, the majority argued for the yes campaign.

The survey question has garnered mixed



Parliament chambers

reactions in parliament as well as from the public ahead of polling day.

Ministerial Statements

NORI

President Aingimea presented the first ministerial statement on the activities of Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., (NORI), and its parent company, The Metals Company (TMC).

While NORI has been awarding funding for

local community projects it has also been supporting sporting events and granting annual preliminary and science-based program scholarships for studies at the University of the South Pacific as part of the agreement between Nauru and TMC.

NORI-sponsored USP undergrad Sankey Deluckner, is on his way to joining a NORI vessel in 2022 to undergo training at sea - the first step to realising his aspirations to be an operator and technician of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) then eventually on to a post-graduate degree.

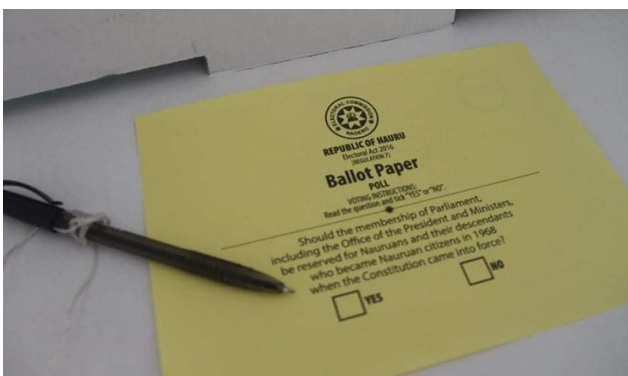
On the international front, TMC's giant nodule harvesting vessel, Hidden Germ, arrived in to the Port of Rotterdam in The Netherlands and is undergoing refitting and modifications before sailing into the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in 2022.

It will then begin trials on the collector vehicle and the harvesting of polymetallic nodules.

The target date for commercial operations to begin is by the fourth quarter of 2023.

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Majority vote 'yes' in survey



The majority of eligible voters voted yes to the opinion survey asking - *Should the membership of Parliament including the Office of the President and Ministers be reserved for Nauruans and their descendants who became Nauruan citizens in 1968 when the Constitution came into force?*

Nauruans went to the polls on Saturday 13 November to cast their yes or no vote.

A resounding 71.2 per cent voted yes. Nauruans wanted those seats in parliament reserved basically for Nauruans who fall before the day of independence, as per the poll question.

This is not a referendum; the survey gauges public opinion and offers the government an insight to that public opinion.

Of the 7,903 registered voters - 6,490 cast their vote; 4,572 for 'yes'; 1,850 for 'no'; and 68 invalid votes •

Angam 89 years on

The widely respected and honoured Angam Day was commemorated this year on what is the 89th anniversary of the survival of Nauru's population.

Angam means jubilation, celebration, triumph and coming home. This day tells the story of the resilience of the Nauruan people and their triumph through hardships and determination to reach a population of 1,500 to save the Nauruan race from extinction.

The introduction of indentured labourers for the phosphate mining also brought foreign disease and then in the 1920s influenza ravaged the population.



President Aingimea pays his respects on Angam day

In order to survive as a race, the island's administrators, leaders and elders chose 1,500 as the number the population must reach to sustain the Nauruan race. The birth of the 1500th Nauruan baby would be celebrated.

Nauru attained Angam twice in its history -- first, with the birth of baby girl Eidagaruwo on 26 October 1932 after the drop in population following the Spanish flu.

Then again, a decade later the Second World War plunged the population to a threatening low prompting another race to reach 1,500.

At the end of WWII, Nauruans returned from exile from Truk in what is now the Federated States of Micronesia. The population dropped once again to around 646.

On 31 March 1949, with the birth of Bethel Enproe Adam, Nauru reached Angam a second time.

The annual ceremony, held on 26 October was conducted this year at the new World War II Memorial in Aiuo district, from 6.30am.

The service opened with a prayer by Father Keleto Lemo, followed by the national anthem, and the laying of wreaths led by His Excellency the President, Hon. Lionel Rouwen Aingimea.

Hymns were sung by church choirs and short remarks delivered by representative of the Young at Hearts, Cagney Scotty.

The closing prayer was rendered by Reverend Roger Mwareow •

Parliament November

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UNPOL

The Nauru Police Force has identified five officers to take up UN peace keeping mission in Ankara, Turkey next year. Police agencies from Kiribati, Vietnam, Angola and St Tome, are also joining the mission.

The officers that will be deployed are Superintendent Imran-Khan Scotty, Sgt Wilhelm Appi, Sgt Drusky Dabwadaw, Sgt Priscilla Dake, Sgt Shannon Kanimea; and reserve officers Sgt Thubalkain Dabuau and Snr Constable Jacaranda Akibwib.

The government's Desperate Imagination meeting in 2020 with the heads of mission identified Nauru's key development issues and priorities for the way forward, when the opportunity for peace keeping came about.

Further interactions with the NPF, Nauru's mission in New York and the UN Police Office (UNPOL), opportunities arose and Nauru accepted the UNPOL's invitation for peace keeping missions.

The pre-deployment training will run from 14 to 25 February 2022 in Ankara. Each deployment will take at least a year with the possibility of extension into South Sudan and Cyprus.

Health

New developments in the ministry of health include the Nauru Health Strategy 2021-25 which Minister Isabella Dageago says is progressing well.

A series of four one-day participatory workshops were conducted with key ministry staff and partner government departments.

The final draft is expected to be ready in December for review.

The ministry's diploma in nursing program is set to start on 29 November with 20 Nauruans selected to undertake the three year course.

"This program is a strategic approach for the current gap in our nursing workforce," Minister Dageago said, underscoring the current nursing positions are predominantly taken up by expatriates due to the low numbers of qualified Nauruan nurses.

The program will be delivered across three consecutive years with 20 intakes each year.

"This will replenish our nursing staff with 60 qualified local nurses by 2026," Minister Dageago said.

The ministry currently has 78 patients and 46 escorts in four countries on overseas medical referrals. A number of these patients who have completed their treatment await repatriation flights which are difficult due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Pinktober campaign saw an increase in women accessing breast and cervical cancer screening services with a referral pathway for high-risk cases.

The three new vaccines announced at the last parliament sitting, pneumococcal, rotavirus and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, are ready to be administered at the end of November.

World Diabetes day was celebrated locally to the theme 'Access to Diabetes Care' with the diabetes team visible in the community and workplaces to raise awareness about diabetes care.

Diabetes prevalence in Nauru stands at 21.4 per cent according to the World Health Organisation STEPS survey of 2016.

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Sports

The 'No School No Play' junior football competition was opened by Minister Maverick Eoe on 16 October at the Blues Sports oval in Anetan. As the title says, school attendance is a prerequisite for participation in junior football competitions.

This year there are eight mini grade teams for U11's, and five junior teams for U14's.

"Sports and physical education is a vital subject of every child's education to promote exercise, physical development team work, sportsmanship, and discipline which all contribute to all students' efforts towards achieving excellence," Minister Eoe said.

Over 200 young students will be involved in weekend sports interaction in this 7-week junior football competition that will end on 4 December.

Meanwhile, the minister says work on community gyms and sports courts are progressing well with some nearing completion.

The eighth session of the International Convention Against Doping in Sports held in Paris, was attended virtually by Nauru's secretary and director for sports. This is the second occasion that Nauru is attending the event.

Nauru's attendance maintains dialogue and collaboration with other state parties towards harmonised anti-doping activities at the global level; thus gives the department the vision and guidelines to further develop local programs geared towards anti-doping in sports.

NRC

A week-long fire outbreak at the island's main dumpsite which started on 3 November consumed 500,000 litres of water by the fifth day, "is becoming an all too common event," the Minister for Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) Reagan Aliklik says.

The minister says it is the predictable result of disorganised and largely unregulated system of waste collection and disposal, and suggested that should NRC be empowered to manage the island's waste collection such outbreaks could be minimised and the current system improved.

A stakeholder meeting was subsequently held which determined that the best way forward was to provide on-site water supply for immediate fire extinguishing.

As such the Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) will provide a 12,000 litre water tank to the dumpsite, the fire department to provide hoses, and water pumps will be provided by the Department of Multicultural Affairs.

A long term strategy to address the issue will be submitted for government's consideration.

NUC

In utilities, Minister Wawani Dowiyogo says key factors that are contributing to the improvements at Nauru Utilities Corporation include the commissioning of the 1.125 megawatt solar plant in November 2019 as well as the completion of the network upgrade program and progress made in the implementation of the NUC strategic plan to 2020.

NUC reported a net profit of \$35,322 in 2020 compared to a loss of \$3.2 million the previous year.

NUC's main profitability is mainly due to a stable diesel fuel price



Nauru utilities' core expenses are fixed for fuel, labour, repairs and maintenance totalling \$5.5 million.

and increase in solar energy penetration into the national grid during the period.

The company recorded net earnings before tax of \$6.3 million, three per cent above forecast, for the first quarter of the 2021-22 financial year.

The earnings are made up of electricity sales totalling \$5.45 million, an increase of 13 per cent, and \$85,000 in water sales, reflecting a 16 per cent increase.

NUC's core expenses are fixed for fuel, labour, repairs and maintenance totalling \$5.5 million.

Water production increased by 40 per cent on average with 72.7 million litres produced for the period; with delivery making up 69.9 million litres – an average increase per month of 21 per cent.

The increase is owing to the extended drought period that's resulted in a decrease in rainfall from 66 millimetres to 13mm from July to September.

The demand for water is approximately 76 litres per person per day.

The overall water deliveries increased by 17 per cent with a monthly average of 1.5 million litres a day, or up to 19 deliveries per water tanker per day or approximately 110 water deliveries per day.

Monthly water storage capacity is maintained at approximately 4.6 million litres or eight days' supply based on rationing.

Minister Dowiyogo says although water sales and revenue have increased by approximately 16 per cent, delivery costs have increased exponentially due to the true cost of delivery not being recovered.

Water losses over the period increased to 14 per cent due to storage leaks and increased non-revenue water.

In energy, diesel generators supplied 9.6 million kilowatt hours (kWh) to meet customer demand of 3.2 million kWh a month.

Generator availability and maintenance compliance are both within acceptable performance targets with 86 per cent and 96 per cent achieved, respectively.

Energy losses were reduced from 11 to five per cent.

Total diesel purchase over the period amounted to \$2.7 million with an increase from 99 cents a litre in July to \$1.02 in September.

Electricity customers continue to increase with 40 new connections a month on average; totalling 3,892 customers connected to the main grid.

For the quarter, 1.1 million kWh or 10 per cent of energy is generated from solar energy installations.

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NUC's 30 per cent low carbon fund rebate has paid out a total of \$48,769 to customers that have purchased approved energy efficient whitegoods; however 14 applications were paid out this period totalling \$5,252.

Department for People Living with Disability

New developments with the disability department include the receipt and distribution of 300 packages of personal items including summer clothing, to the Able Disable Centre, the women's safe house and the health department.

The items were donated by US-based non-profit organisation Simply Help Foundation in partnership with the Embassy of Taiwan.

A first 100-metre wheelchair dash was held alongside the Tour De Nauru cycling race in September with 10 participants. The event was a step forward in promoting and advocating for social inclusion for people living with disabilities.

Cerebral palsy day on 6 October was also celebrated with events including a live radio talk program and an awareness walk from Western Bay to the Centennial Hall.

Since July 2021 the department took on home modification projects from the ministry of health to improve mobility access around the homes of people with disability. At the time, two home modifications were underway, and three completed.

WASDA

Minister Dageago offered a brief update of the ongoing work of the Department of Women's Affairs and Social Development, notably the 3-day national consultation held in late September on ten core policy documents.

The minister said feedback from the consultations will guide the department in progressing the policy documents.

Meanwhile, during October, the department commenced discussions on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) state report.

RONPHOS

Minister Reagan Aliklik reported that phosphate company, Ronphos, has exported four shipments of phosphate since September, totalling 108,900 metric tonnes, to customers Samsung, Agrifield, and Kalyaan.

Exports to Australia and New Zealand are still in discussions given the hesitations with the condition of the Nauru port mooring system.

Meantime, the world market for phosphate rock is slowly increasing but still influenced and tempered by the rising cost of sea freight.

The minister advised that the next quarterly payout for rent and permanent installations is due in January 2022, and royalty for June 2021 quarter was paid in the week following the parliament sitting from sales of the current phosphate shipment.

The work on the higher ground initiative (HGI) on land portion 230 in Meneñ is divided into four blocks for easy processing.

Mining and extraction of 37,000 metric tonnes of phosphate has been extracted from block one.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Health Minister Isabella Dageago says half of the 1,000 doses



Women's affairs department conduct national policy consultations that will realise people's rights

of AstraZeneca vaccines donated by Australia arrived in early November with the remaining expected once the first batch has been administered successfully.

The Pfizer vaccine which Australia has also donated is expected to be delivered later this year, and will be administered to the 18 to 12 year olds.

Like Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Pitcairn Island, Niue, Tokelau and the Federated States of Micronesia have maintained strict border measures and are the only countries to maintain COVID-free status.

Current global figures demonstrate that the COVID-19 virus is still very active causing extended lockdowns, border closures, unemployment, mental and psychological breakdowns.

"To beat this pandemic, countries around the world are aggressively rolling out their vaccination programs, with some countries having made vaccination mandatory," Minister Dageago said underscoring that 50.9 per cent of the world population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The minister adds that while Nauru has achieved excellent vaccination coverage with the 18 years and over population, it only represents just over 60 per cent of the total population.

Herd immunity is not yet achieved.

"If we have 80-90 per cent total population immunised, then we expect to have good herd immunity to be able to impact [the] spread of the virus as well as protect the un-immunised."

Education

Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke acknowledged landowners who have offered 14 land portions following the department's request for land for community play centres, saying the show of support will improve the environment and condition of student learning in the early years.

The lands are being assessed against criteria to meet building requirements and processes.

Over the third school term break, 48 teachers underwent a first aid course offered for free by Wilson Security Services through the Nauru Regional Processing Centre Corporation (NRPCC).

The teachers are now certified in basic first aid and CPR skills, which the deputy minister says is value-adding to a "skill that makes a significant difference in the workplace particularly in the care of young children."

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Other capacity building initiatives include a five-day virtual school leadership workshop in October for principals, deputies and teachers, conducted by regional agency, Pacific Community.

The workshop placed emphasis on building awareness and common understanding of features in school leadership standards in the region, showcase different appraisal instruments and reporting profiles for school leaders.

Areas needing improvements in the school systems were also looked at with a view to develop suitable action plans for resolving issues.

A recent review of the ministry's key performance indicators reinforced the benefits and importance of internet connectivity to student learning outcomes.

With the assistance of the ICT department, the schools have reached 80 per cent connectivity, and anticipate full coverage by years' end.

At the celebration of World Teacher's day, 6 October, 11 schools from primary, secondary and TVET level each nominated their teacher of the year, as a gesture in recognising and appreciating the challenging and demanding work they perform each day to educate Nauru's future.

Finally the deputy minister congratulated the 20 students awarded this year's government secondary school scholarship saying "They join a long list of Nauruan scholars that precede them."

"Before the term 'sustainable development' was coined, Mr Speaker, our past leaders instituted this scholarship scheme as one way of ensuring that Nauru maintained the faculties of sustaining our society and engaging on par with the rest of the world.

"I encourage our young students to aspire to their greatest potential so that they can give back to Nauru in a way that these scholarship awards were intended – to serve Nauru's best interest," DM Menke said.

BILLS

Justice Minister Maverick Eoe tabled the Extradition (Amendment) Bill 2021 and states the amendments to the Act are simply to bring the Act up to date and make it consistent with the provisions of other relevant laws of Nauru.

"The Extradition Act 1973 makes provision for the return from the Republic to other countries of persons accused or convicted of offences in those countries, to regulate the treatment of persons accused or convicted of offences in the Republic who are returned from such countries and for related purposes."

The Bill amends the Act in two ways – the first being a broad clause empowering cabinet to make regulations which may make provisions for all matters which may be necessary or convenient to give effect to the Act, including regulations to amend the schedule to include new offences.

The second amendment inserts three new offences in the schedule relating to computer and related offences, cybercrime and related offences, and sexual offences involving children •

Acts and relevant documents can be found at http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/

Taiwan assist second medical referrals

In these times of COVID, where countries have shut their borders to international arrivals, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) continues to extend a helping hand by generously allowing entry for a second group of Nauruan patients for medical treatment.

The second medical charter to Taiwan, 26 August, transported 34 patients and 19 escorts for treatment at Taichung Veterans General Hospital.

The charter is part a long standing agreement between the Nauru Ministry of Health Overseas Medical Referral and the Taichung hospital.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) also donated two dialysis machines which were on the return of the first medical flight.



Ambassador Wang address patients and escorts prior to their department for treatment in Taiwan

The Taiwan Embassy facilitated a pre-travel orientation briefing with the group at the Public Health Centre the day prior to departure, 25 August.

A planned stop in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia encountered a problem with refuelling.

Overnighting in Yap posed a problem for the crew who would have exhausted their legal flying time and passengers who required medical attention and therefore rest.

This prompted a diplomatic request to nearby Palau to grant landing rights for the Nauru Airlines flight and for its crew and passengers to disembark and overnight.

Palau, better equipped with accommodation and aviation requirements, granted the plane and its COVID-vaccinated passengers entry.

The group departed the following day for Taiwan and stayed in hotel quarantine on arrival for 14 days before moving to another hotel with the remaining members from the first medical cohort.

Adhering to COVID measures, the group remain in their rooms, unless for medical reasons or special personal requests.

Accompanying the group were Dr David Bill and nurse Jane Short.

Dr Bill returned with the first cohort while Ms Short remained in Taiwan with the patients as coordinator.

On the return flight, 30 August, over 50 passengers - 35 patients from the first OMR cohort and their escorts – arrived safely and underwent five days quarantine in Nauru •

Staff complete epidemiology training ADB grant to expand, improve water, waste management services

Nine health professionals completed the first of five modules of a Post Graduate Certificate in field epidemiology via teleconference at the RON Hospital, 23 August.



Nine health staff undertook the training in epidemiology, data collection, analysis and interpretation

The first module focusing on Outbreak Investigation ran from 16 to 23 August.

The nine participants work in the various specialties of the ministry of health.

The course involved training in the field of epidemiology, data collection, data analysis and the interpretation of data.

Nauru Public Health Assistant Director for non-communicable disease (NCD) Control, Don Kadir says, “Nauru is very fortunate to have this opportunity.

“Individuals are able to acquire a post graduate level qualification and at their own convenience.

“The Ministry of Health will benefit tremendously in this as we will have qualified local individuals in the area of epidemiology,” Mr Kadir said.

Training was conducted via Zoom teleconference at the Nauru Health Professionals Training Institute (NHPT) based at RON Hospital; and facilitated by Pacific Community (SPC) Epidemiologist Dr Jocelyn Cabarles, Dr Louise Fonua, and Dr Jojo Meriles who are based in Fiji and New Caledonia.

While SPC is conducting the course, it is part of a three-tier program designed and accredited by the Fiji National University called Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific (SHIP).

Upon successful completion, participants will have a FNU-certified qualification in epidemiology, which makes up tier one of the SHIP program and will be able to move on to tier two.

The first tier is Data for Decision Making (DDM) course, also known at FNU as the Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology.

The second tier is a Postgraduate Diploma Course which includes advance statistics and operational or implementation research; while the third tier is a Masters program.

Mr Kadir confirms that successful completers of the full SHIP program become epidemiologists.

This is a five-module course, each module conducted face-to-face, over a week for a period of one year.

The course was proposed to commence in 2020 but delayed due to COVID-19. This five-module course will be conducted over the next 12 months •

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Nauru signed a \$5 million grant to help fund the preparation of an ADB-supported project for boosting urban services in Nauru, 31 August.

Nauru’s Minister of Finance and ADB Governor Martin Hunt and ADB Pacific Department Director General Leah Gutierrez signed the grant agreement, which will partly fund the assessment, planning, and capacity building needed to implement the proposed Nauru Sustainable Urban Development Project.



Finance Minister and ADB Governor Martin Hunt and ADB Pacific Department Director General Leah Gutierrez signed the grant agreement for urban development

“Growth in Nauru’s urban areas puts stress on essential services, including water supply and sanitation,” Minister Hunt said.

“There is a critical need for this urban project, preparation is key, and we appreciate ADB’s support in planning and developing it.”

The proposed \$20 million project will increase access to and improve the quality and safety of essential urban services for about 2,150 households on the island.

“The public health and well-being of people in Nauru depends on having better access to safe water, sanitation, and effective solid waste management,” Ms. Gutierrez said.

“ADB is supporting the Government of Nauru in the planning of this urban project, which will also focus on improved resilience and sustainability, particularly in the face of climate change and exposure to natural disasters.”

ADB will use its project readiness facility to fast-track project-developing engineering designs and procurement plans. The ADB project team will also develop policies and capacities to manage the new urban 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.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members - 49 from the region •

Digicel gifts data to disability

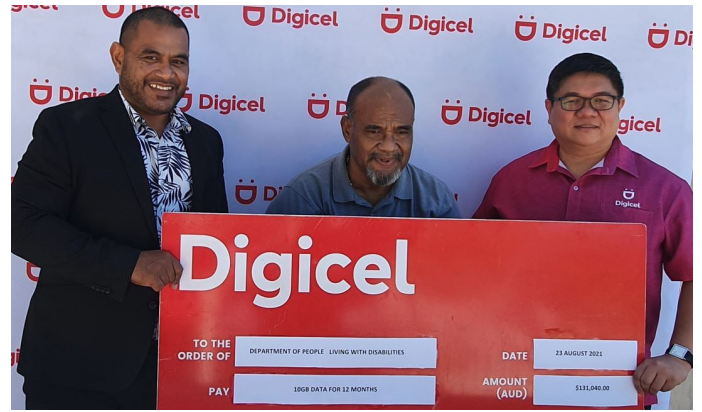
Digicel Nauru continues its sponsorship to the Department of People Living with Disability with a presentation of \$131k worth of data, 23 August.

“This is a timely gift and part of our social corporate responsibility where we are giving 130 randomly selected people living with disabilities 10GB data monthly for 12 months which is worth \$131,040,” Digicel Nauru CEO, Christopher Manaog said.

“We hope to empower people living with disabilities through ICT and staying connected with their phones and laptops.”

Deputy Minister for Health, and Telecommunications, Pyon Deiye thanked the CEO his Team “for this grand gesture.”

Last year Digicel presented the same token to 100 selected recipients.



Digicel cheque for 10GB worth of data presented to Secretary for people living with disability Riddell Akua (centre)

Digicel Nauru was established in 2009 and continues to upgrade its services, contributing to a strong ICT sector, and social and economic development •

Digicel donates community police post

Digicel Nauru donates first community police post at the Civic Centre in an effort to boost police presence in the community, 22 September.

Strategically located in central downtown Aiwo district, location to many services including the post office, Eigigu Supermarket, Digicel Nauru headquarters, Nauru utilities office and the Bendigo Bank, amongst many others.

Formerly a Digicel café, the refurbished container unit was recently outfitted to accommodate the police post and serves to improve the NPF’s community outreach and promote a feeling of inclusivity and safety to the general public.

As Minister for the NPF, President Lionel Aingimea thanked Digicel CEO, Christopher Manaog for their contribution towards bettering public safety.

“To the police force, it’s just one more step for us to show Nauru and the region why we are the best.

“It is more than a place where people can see the presence of police, but it is an outreach where people can come and ask questions, people can come and ask for assistance, people can come and get the necessary help that they need even if it’s not an emergency.”

On behalf of Digicel, the board and management, CEO Christopher Manaog said he is “deeply honoured to be able to contribute to Nauru Police Force’s mantra of safety, safety, safety.”

“We have been supporting the NPF in their community initiatives and we will continue to do so when we can.”



Discussions with land owners in the Location area are also on-going for another police post

Mr Manaog says the donation is the biggest of its kind and was done for the greater good of the people of Nauru.

Police Commissioner Iven Notte wants the people of Nauru to have increased access to district police posts, “for stronger community partnerships and improved service delivery.”

“Your support drives Nauru Police Force to do better and to work harder with our partners to deliver safety, safety, safety, to the people of Nauru.”

Discussions with land owners in the Location area are also on-going for another police post.

Police presence especially during traffic blitzes have proven successful with reduced traffic offences such as drink driving, under-aged and reckless driving and general noise reduction on the roads during the night •

Reminder: Declare your intention to run as a candidate in 2022

It costs nothing. If you decide not to run your declaration will simply lapse. If in doubt declare!

The declaration process will close on 30 November. After this if you try to be a candidate you will face heavy fines and/or imprisonment.

Please remember: You do not have to resign from a government position to declare your intention to be a candidate.



Telstra buys Digicel Pacific for US\$1.6b

President Lionel Aingimea welcomed the announcement, 25 October, by Australia's telecom provider Telstra that it is taking over Digicel's business in the South Pacific region for US\$1.6 billion, plus up to an additional US\$250 million subject to business performance over the next three years.

Telstra partnered with the Government of Australia to take over the Pacific business.

President Aingimea offers appreciation and congratulations to Telstra and its chief executive Andy Penn for continuing this valuable service, and thanks Digicel for providing the much-needed service since it established its Nauru operations in 2009.

“Nauru was without a telecommunications provider for many years and Digicel's presence brought internet and phone connectivity linking the government, businesses, Nauruans and foreigners to the rest of the world and opened up vast opportunities for business, research, education and telemedicine.”

Since its launch in 2009, Digicel Nauru now has over 2,000 post paid phone customers and 10,000 prepaid.



Digicel Nauru set up shop in 2009 and has over 10,000 customers

According to Digicel, the transaction, which remains subject to customary government and regulatory approvals, is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2022.

The business will be owned and operated by Telstra and will be overseen by a Telstra controlled board which will also include current owner Denis O'Brien and two independent directors.

The Digicel Pacific business was founded in 2006 and operates in six markets in the South Pacific including Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Tonga •

President addresses UNGA

President Lionel Aingimea called on the United Nations and member countries to re-commit to the vision of the 2030 Agenda; mitigate the effects of climate change; and make COVID vaccination affordable and accessible for all, at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

President Aingimea addressed the UNGA virtually on 4 October, acknowledging that the past year has been a turning point for the UN, with disasters and conflict, multiplied by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“In order to overcome these adversaries, we must remain hopeful, and the hope for our shared humanity must inspire bold action.

“The obstacles facing the global community now in many ways mirror the history of Nauru.

“We (Nauru) have survived epidemics that decimated our population, rebuilt and recovered from the scourge of the World Wars, overcome exploitation, and have experienced great prosperity and great loss.

“Recognising that we are all bound together, we must all work to change course and deliver on the promise of multilateralism: an effective and robust United Nations that is fit for purpose, capable of tackling the challenges of today and the future, to build a safer, sustainable world for generations to come.

“A world that realises the promise of peace, human rights and sustainable development for all and shifts away from the current trend of increasing violent conflict around the world.

“Previous approaches have not left the world safer, and it is time to re-commit to the vision of the 2030 Agenda.”

President Aingimea says the forum reflects the views of member states and has the capability to chart the path towards a resilient, just and equitable world.

“Nauru as one of the smallest member of the UN family and one of the most vulnerable, is committed to multilateralism as our only way forward together, though we must open our eyes to the reality of its current failures and act to implement our historic



President Aingimea tells the UNGA that the obstacles facing the global community in many ways mirror the history of Nauru

agreements across many issues like sustainable development, climate change, development finance, and more.”

With the COVID-19 pandemic spreading rapidly across the globe, Nauru's isolation is further exacerbated with border closures.

“It is clear that no one is safe until we are all vaccinated everywhere. Yet, despite this knowledge access to [COVID-19] vaccine remains elusive and uneven.

“We cannot afford to leave anyone behind. Therefore, we support the Secretary-General's proposal for an Emergency Platform, and a global vaccination plan.”

President Aingimea expresses gratitude to “our genuine friends Australia, India, Japan and Republic of China (Taiwan), for their ongoing assistance [in COVID matters].”

On climate change, the President reiterates that it's the “greatest threat to our shared future, to people, the planet, peace, and prosperity.”

The 2030 Agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity •

Micronesian president's communiqué

Micronesian presidents conclude three-day summit reaffirming their position with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and strengthening trade, security and COVID concerns.

The 20th Micronesian Presidents' Summit, chaired by Nauru President Lionel Aingimea, was held virtually from 30 August and concluding on 2 September, with the outcomes document, Naoero Communiqué.

The communiqué strengthens cooperation on several areas related to regional security in regards to climate change and sea-level rise, transnational crime, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The five presidents agreed to develop a subregional strategy to address these issues to ensure the continued security and safety of the people of Micronesia into the future.

Member countries are represented by their respective presidents – President Taneti Maamau of Kiribati, President David Kabua of the Marshall Islands, President David Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia, and President Surangel Whipps, Jr., of Palau.

The first withdrawal of MPS from the PIF will take effect in February 2022, a year after the first letter of denunciation from the PIF was deposited earlier this year by the Republic of Palau.

Presidents note the importance of positioning the Micronesian subregion at the international level, and therefore the need to commence work to formalise the legal status of the MPS and establish the secretariat in Nauru.

Presidents noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the progress of the Micronesian Transport Bubble Working Group and therefore extended its mandate.

Of note is the socio-economic impacts of COVID in their respective countries and progress of the vaccination efforts nationally to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the Micronesian subregion.

Strengthening trade through shipping and air services is important for the subregion however, the presidents stress that transportation costs and unreliable transport services contribute to the challenges the subregion face in attracting trade and investment.

Presidents recognise the importance of establishing subregional network and tasked their officials to develop initiatives in subregional shipping and air services agreements that will ensure member countries are not susceptible to fluctuating and inflated cost, and spasmodic servicing.

In regards to the protection of maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise, the presidents reiterate the importance of preserving national baselines and maritime zones and therefore agree to advocate the declaration of such on the various platforms including at the United Nations and at COP26.

As members of the Micronesian Transnational Crime Unit, the FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau extended an invitation to Kiribati and Nauru to join the unit, in recognition of the importance of sharing information and resources to combat transnational crime.

In waters owned by the eight Pacific countries of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) alone, supplies 25 per cent of the



Micronesian leaders sign communiqué (Top-L-R) Nauru President Aingimea, FSM President Panuelo; RMI President Kabua, Kiribati President Maamau; and Palau President Whipps

world's tuna, an estimated \$2 billion worth of fish every year; the implications of IUU fishing to Pacific livelihoods is well understood.

The MPS leaders will therefore work to develop a subregional strategy addressing the issue of transnational crime and maritime security to complement existing national legislation and policies.

The presidents are pleased with the progress of establishing the UN Multi-Country Office (MCO) in the FSM; however concerns remain about its long term funding support through the UN. The leaders conclude that more consultations will be conducted in this regard.

Leaders also reaffirm their support and appreciation of the SPREP Northern office located in the Marshall Islands.

Established on 1 November 2019, the office will help support the strategic goals of SPREP's Micronesian members comprising the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau.

The operations of the office will enable members to benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change, healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems, improved waste management and pollution control, and the commitment to and best practice of environmental governance.

Pacific nations hold climate change as the single greatest threat to the Pacific peoples and livelihoods; and the presidents express grave concerns with the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report which warns "a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable."

The Paris Agreement – the legally binding international treaty on climate change, set a goal to limit global warming preferably at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Presidents reaffirm their international commitments to the Agreement and to consider carbon neutrality in shipping through an equitable greenhouse gas transition to zero emissions no later than 2050 leaving no one behind.

The Marshall Islands' ongoing effort in the creation of a special procedure mandate holder on human rights and climate change at the Human Rights Council received support and appreciation from the MPS leaders.

Nauru will continue in its role as interim secretariat until formalities to establish the legal status of the MPS are in place.

FSM will host the 21st Micronesian Presidents' Summit •

Op-Ed: USP 'shaping pacific futures' in the 21st century

By President Lionel Aingimea

The University of the South Pacific (USP) with over 50 years wealth of experience in higher education, stands as a pinnacle of Pacific Regionalism given that it is jointly owned by the governments of 12 Pacific Island countries: The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. All member countries of the USP have the right to an equal voice in the decisions and operations of the University. Over the past two years, the very notion of 'Pacific Regionalism' has been under severe threat as USP has been embroiled in governance related issues.

A USP education is valuable for creating opportunities for the citizens of our Pacific region. A university is the place to test ideas and pursue truth. It is also where academic freedom is fundamental to the freedom of expression and human rights. These are ideas that I have advocated and championed throughout my life.

Above all else, in the Pacific it is about empowering the building of communities beyond your own borders and for changing the future of the region. For me, my greatest task and greatest reward is how to serve the people of Nauru and to make a difference. It was precisely that vision that the forefathers of USP had in establishing our regional university. Personally, for me, God and my USP education laid the foundations of who I am today. As a strong believer of values led education, my ethics and value system have taken me to the pinnacle of my career as the President of Nauru.

As I have recently completed my term as Chancellor, I note that I have had to work through some of the most trying times that USP has faced in its history. I am so proud to be a part of this great Pacific institution. We have successfully struggled to bring about change at the heart of the University instituting reforms that will make USP stand out in the future amongst the best universities in the world. Equally, I have been determined to protect our beloved institution and have fought hard to champion good governance and show leadership particularly at a time when the very future of USP remains at stake.

With over 30,000 students in its care, USP represents our collective voice for the Pacific region. With ongoing vulnerabilities to the environment, climate change, disaster risk, economic shocks and now a pandemic that is redefining the nature of business, closure of borders, the drastic and necessary global move to digitalization platforms, the role of USP is crucial to the future human resource needs of the Pacific. The provision of research and technical support to many regional challenges have been mitigated by the role that USP plays for not only its member Countries but the Pacific as a whole.

For more than half a century, the University has educated generations of Pacific scholars. How USP handles its affairs at this critical juncture, will define its future and set a course for the next fifty years. The ongoing 'USP Saga' has tested our unity as a region. Our integrity, values and respect for equal voice at the table, will determine the standards that can be collectively harnessed for the good of the Pacific going forward. Each member country faces its own trials, tribulations, limitations,



and vulnerabilities. Nevertheless, the USP issues present both challenges and opportunities for paving a new path for our future generations.

The Council-sanctioned Auckland based accounting firm BDO, uncovered underlying issues relating to longstanding matters that require robust action. The BDO report recommended that these issues be swiftly resolved and subsequently the USP Commission was appointed to assist the University to deal with the myriad issues. Currently, USP is dealing with the Commission's recommendations, and it is vital that the outcome resolves the governance issues and enhances the regional nature and character of the institution.

In 2020, the Vice-Chancellor & President, Professor Pal Ahluwalia recommended to Council a bold stance aimed at restructuring and reorganising the University in response to the pandemic and funding challenges. As it is unclear when COVID-19 will end, this is the time to adjust and 'set our house in order'. If anything, the outcomes of the University's issues have called us, as custodians of the Pacific, to also reflect and reignite what 'Pacific Regionalism' means to us.

For me, this is the beginnings of inculcating a new paradigm, a renewal, a renaissance for our region – indeed it is about developing a New Pacific Consciousness for the 21st century. This is a period of great challenges but equally it is an era where we break the shackles of the past to determine our own future.

As part of the new generation of Pacific leaders I am deeply aware of our challenges, but equally I am cognisant of our rich legacy which is why a new Pacific renaissance, and a new Pacific Consciousness is essential to deal with our seemingly intractable issues.

This new consciousness demands that we formulate strategies and mechanisms aimed at delivering our people as well as our Governments from past practices and ways of doing things that have often made us vulnerable. It is about allowing our voices to be heard on the world stage. I believe that Micronesia is leading this Pacific renaissance through finding pathways that are designed to be transformative by rejecting orthodox hegemonic worldviews. We are at the cusp of a new dawn where our voices are calling for critical dialogue rather than passive acquiescence.

It is this New Pacific Consciousness that we want USP students to embrace. They will have to carry the torch of this Pacific renaissance and work with us to imagine how we define our future. I am extremely grateful that as Chancellor I had the opportunity to transform USP, and to be part of the journey of "Shaping Pacific Futures" •

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Statement by President Aingimea on the occasion of USP global ranking

Nauru has been a proud founding member of the University of the South Pacific (USP). At the time of USP's establishment in 1968, Nauru stood tall recognising the importance and value of a regional university. Since that time, many Nauruans have, and continue to attend USP. Today, that long-standing commitment as one of the owners of USP has been rewarded in an unprecedented manner. USP has for the first time in its 53 year history been ranked by one of the most prestigious ranking organisations of the world, The Times Higher Education Rankings (THE).

USP has entered global rankings to now be part of an elite group that sees it ranked amongst the top 10% of universities in the world. This is truly a remarkable achievement when we take into account our developing regional context. Today is a day when the 12 member countries that own the USP can rejoice and see the resources and efforts that they have invested in this great Pacific institution being justly rewarded. This ranking is a resounding endorsement of regionalism.

Nauru, Palau sign air services agreement

The presidents of Nauru and Palau signed an air services agreement that would see the start of traveling between the two Micronesian countries and beyond, 2 September.

President Aingimea says the signing of the agreement symbolises the profound relationship and friendship between Nauru and Palau, "but also for the greater Micronesian sub-region."

"Not only will the air services agreement strengthen the connectivity between our two island nations but provides an opportunity to augment economic benefits for both the benefit of our mutual countries.

"Nauru is committed to enhancing its role in the transportation sector sub-regionally, regionally and internationally," President Aingimea said.

President Surangel Whipps, Jr, says his country looks forward to the day when air services can be restored, recalling a medivac incident in 1987 when then, Air Nauru, answered the call to operate the flight from Palau to Manila.

"As small island states and large ocean states, one of the things... we understand is without these connections to the outside world, we're really isolated, and a lot of times we're at the mercy of airlines and companies that maybe their interests may not be aligned with our interests," President Whipps said.

He adds that establishing the ASA is an opportunity to "work together as Pacific brothers" and to see Nauru Airlines be a successful carrier and enhance services for the people.

The two leaders recognise the opportunities that each can offer in linking Asia, the west and the south.

Meanwhile, Nauru is undertaking domestic measures to improve national aviation and maritime connectivity services.

Nauru port is being upgraded to meet international standards while Nauru Airlines' recent purchase of a Boeing 737-700 aircraft will accommodate longer flight times, reaching farther destinations.

I have a deep personal association with USP, as a student witnessing first-hand the power of forging life-long relationships with colleagues from across the Pacific. I have been a member of staff at USP, as a Lecturer in Law, and have been part of the team dedicated to delivering a quality education to our students. Finally, as President it was a privilege to serve as Chancellor of USP. My term as Chancellor was marked by the work we had to do to provide USP with the good governance, it well and truly deserves. As an alumnus of USP, I stand tall with all the staff, students and alumni who have contributed to the success of USP through this ranking.

It gives me enormous pleasure to congratulate Professor Pal Ahluwalia who has championed USP's entry into the THE Rankings along with his Senior Management Team. This ranking speaks volumes about the high calibre of research and academic output that USP has produced. I express my deep gratitude to everyone for their commitment to achieve this recognition. Over the last two years, our staff and students have sacrificed a lot, and to each and every one of you, on this wonderful occasion, I once again offer my heartiest congratulations. I look forward to celebrating this milestone with all of you •



Nauru is committed to enhancing its role in the transportation sector sub-regionally, regionally and internationally

Preparatory work is also underway to resurface the airport runway that would strengthen aviation safety and compliance and position Nauru for increased air transportation activity into the future.

The agreement states that Nauru and Palau are mindful of the close ties that bind the two countries, and their desire to provide a framework for the conduct of air services.

The two countries also recognise the strategic role of international air transportation in the sustainable development of island economies, and especially through the promotion of trade, commerce and tourism.

The two countries are also conscious of the need to improve the level, quality and efficiency of air transport services within and beyond their respective countries.

Secretary for Transport Nodel Neneiya says the agreement is a step forward in sub-regionalism.

"The air services agreement signed today (2 Sept), offers mutual economic benefits for both countries in terms of air transportation services.

"It shows a united front and demonstrates strengthened Micronesian sub-regionalism between the two states," Mr Neneiya said.

President Aingimea also expressed thanks to President Whipps for granting permission to Nauru Airlines' mercy flight to land and overnight. The flight, carrying 34 Nauruan patients and escorts was bound for Taiwan for medical treatments, was unable to stop in Yap State for refuelling •

President dedicates public service day to frontliners

President Lionel Aingimea offer thanks, respect and support to front line workers, dedicating the 11th Public Service Day in their honour.

Nauru has been blessed to still be among a handful of countries to be COVID-free and the government has been openly thankful and supportive of front line workers and the general public for the support and understanding of the government's COVID measures.

Nauru celebrates this year's Public Service Day under the 2021 theme 'Diversity and Inclusiveness in the Workplace' in high spirits and a fun-filled week-long sports program concluding with a prizes and awards ceremony, 10 September.

The coveted department of the year award was once again claimed by the Nauru Police Force triumphing over rival justice and border control.

On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day by adopting resolution 57/277.

Nauru's public service day celebrations is aligned in the spirit of the UNGA resolution but also with the closing of the annual reporting period for departments and is why the annual reports are a critical part of the judging criteria to determine the best department of the year.

This year 19 annual reports were submitted compared to 12 last year.

President Aingimea opened the main event on 9 September with the cutting of the ribbon at the Sports Complex before an inspection of the department display stalls.

All departments converged in the Sports Complex for stall displays, quizzes, demos, free food and giveaways, and novelty sports including synchronised marching and tug-o-war.

At the closing dinner reception, President Aingimea highlighted the importance of the public service to the people.

"The Public Service is about serving the Republic for the benefit of the public. Including not only those whom you like, or family members or friends, but also to those who are different from you, to those who are not like you, to those who oppose your views.

"A public servant, as is government, is a servant of the people. But you are the executing arm of the laws and policy of the government."

President Aingimea reflected on devotional scriptures shared by Reverend Barassi Botelanga a day earlier which spoke to the duties and obligations of public servants and employers.

The first from Colossians 3:22, reads, 'Let every employee listen well and follow the instructions of their employer, not just when their employers are watching, and not in pretence, but faithful in all things. For we are to live our lives with pure hearts in the constant awe and wonder of our Lord God.'

Then in Colossians 4:1, 'Employers, treat your workers with equality and justice as you know that you also have a Lord and Master in heaven who is watching you.'

"Using those scriptures as a foundation we all understand that there will be challenges in the work you do as public servants,"



Public Service Day 2021 theme is 'Diversity and Inclusiveness in the Workplace'

President Aingimea said underscoring the challenges of juggling family commitments, work, and education.

The President said the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 causing economic downturns, grief, divisions in communities, and uncertainty – are a reality that COVID is “something we need to live with.”

"I encourage all public servants to keep abreast of these changes and what the new normal are and have a keen eye for innovative changes that we can do here," President Aingimea said.

This year, the President says initiatives taken to focus on deliverable areas include the new recruitment processes that are aimed at addressing efficiency in terms of recruitment timelines, as well as maintaining the integrity of the recruitment system.

The introduction of biometric clocks for all departments in an effort to improve service delivery to the public; and changes to the pay cycles reflecting real time in wages are part of those deliverables.

In the pay cycle ending Friday 17 September, all public servants received a one-off three-day bonus because of the changes to the pay cycle, which will now reflect real time payments.

UN Public Service Day celebrates the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlights the contribution of public service in the development process; recognises the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

The UN's theme – 'Innovating for a new era: Leveraging the role of technology for the future public service'.

The UN highlights the role of public service and public servants during the COVID-19 pandemic: For the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be achieved, effective delivery of public services is needed, including in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If not contained, the pandemic will jeopardize meeting the 2030 deadline, by diverting resources from development efforts to crisis response. The public servant sits at the heart of ensuring effective response to the crisis, whether as a frontline worker in healthcare, or in devising strategies and plans to mitigate its impact •

NORI funds Yaren primary shelter

Yaren Primary School students now enjoy outdoor playtime under shelter from the hot sun, thanks to the hard work of its PTA and Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI).

The shelter was erected at the start of the term (July) but formalities for its handover were conducted on 15 September by NORI country manager Peter Jacob.

Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke acknowledged NORI's assistance of \$10,000 and the PTA which fundraised \$7,700 for the construction of the shelter.

DM Menke also acknowledged NORI's wider assistance in other fields of education at the community level which address truancy, reading classes and USP courses, noting two additional USP scholarships will be funded by NORI next year.

PTA representative Jennifer Harris said the shelter was a suggestion among the PTA made two years ago and thanked NORI and the PTA for making it a reality.

“We look forward to more projects as PTA members to support our children, support education, [support] YPS, for the success of our children's learning in whatever means we can support.”



Yaren primary's shelter is the first completed community project sponsored by NORI

Mr Jacob says this is the first completed project of the NORI community initiative. NORI calls for community projects to fund valued between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in areas of education, environment, women empowerment, healthy living, and marine life. Seven applications were received this round.

NORI is a subsidiary of Canadian company The Metals Company. TMC is on a mission to source the minerals required for the clean energy transition by collecting polymetallic nodules from the Clarion Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean.

Nauru primary launch NORI-sponsored water pipe project

Nauru Ocean Resources Incorporated (NORI) launched its \$10,000 water piping project for Nauru Primary School (NPS), 12 October.

The new water pipe system will help ensure that rainwater is directly stored in the water tanks.

NORI's Country Manager Peter Jacob said that the aim of the project was to help NPS have more water and generally, to assist the people in the community.

President of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) Tryphosa Keke said the PTA applied to have their project be considered by NORI and was happy for their assistance.

NPS principal Sylvanna Vorbach thanked NORI and the Whanau Construction crew led by Project Manager Mark Menke for the newly installed water pipes as they were “essential” to the children's school life.

According to the United Nations schools will not be able to operate without water, as it is vital to maintain proper sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition and other school related activities •



NORI calls for applications for community projects from the public twice a year

Public service oath-taking

Oath-taking ceremonies took place for 64 public servants on 27 August, 15 September and 19 October.

The ceremonies were all held at the Office of the Chief Secretary for staff at the Nauru Media Bureau, human resources unit, ICT, and the land management amongst others.

The ceremony that was presided over by the acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar and witnessed human resources representative .

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 •

Simple help for people with disability

The Department of People Living with Disability (DPLD) received packages of charitable goods donated by US-based non-profit organisation Simply Help Foundation, 15 September.

In partnership with the Embassy of Taiwan, Ambassador Dean Wang presented the items to Minister for DPLD Isabella Dageago, at the DPLD office in Meneñ District, and are being distributed to their intended recipients.

The items of over 300 packages contain a variety of summer clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, wallets, backpacks, stationary, toys, as well as N95 face masks, eye goggles and face shields.

“This department was established for the sole purpose of providing assistance and aid to any persons living with disabilities,” Minister Dageago said.

“I would like to extend our sincere thanks, and gratitude to the Republic of China (Taiwan) Embassy and the Simply Help Foundation for their kind donation. These donations will go a long way in making people’s lives easier than it was yesterday.”

Ambassador Wang expressed his delight “that we have this occasion to make our longstanding partnership even closer and to provide much needed support to communities in this country.”

The Ambassador said the Simply Help Foundation forged a long term partnership with Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to



The items were packed and shipped directly from Los Angeles, USA

send containers of charitable items to people who are in need around the world. Nauru for this year was one of 14 countries selected to receive the donation.

Acting Secretary for DPLD, Rioli Deduna, conveyed a message from the founder and president of the Simply Help Foundation, Tina Bow - “We wish you, Nauru people a happy and safe life in this pandemic time. We care for all of you from the United States.”

The items were packed and shipped directly from Los Angeles, USA •

Six awarded Taiwan scholarship

The six successful awardees of the annual Taiwan tertiary scholarship departed for Taiwan, via Brisbane and Singapore and have settled in to their new schools and homes for the next five years.

Prior to departure Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang hosted the awardees and their families to a farewell lunch and awards ceremony, 16 September, at the Taiwan Embassy in Aiwo District.

The awardees were briefed on the flight path, COVID-19 safety measures and what to expect on arrival in Taiwan.

Ambassador Wang encouraged the awardees to do their best and persevere through the challenges; and that he looks forward to them returning, ready and equipped with the knowledge in their selected fields to further assist with the development of Nauru.

With the current impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, every measure is being taken to ensure the safety of the students to reduce any risk of contracting COVID.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Asterio Appi, who was one of the first three Nauruans awarded a Taiwan scholarship in 2006 said a lot of work went into planning the travel arrangements.

“A lot of disagreements and agreements, but the bottom line is that we have managed to secure a safer, quicker and more direct route with the collaborative effort of both Taiwan and foreign affairs Nauru.”

Former director of the USP Campus Nauru, Alamanda Lauti said that Minister Appi was her student before he received a Taiwan



All measures are taken to ensure the safety of the students to reduce any risk of contracting COVID.

scholarship and later becoming a member of parliament, and so encouraged the scholarship recipients to remain optimistic and to look forward to the “light at the end of the tunnel”.

Taiwan alumnus Kawaii Debye and Jaala Jeremiah also shared their experiences and talked about the importance of responsibility, independence and determining one’s own purpose.

The six awardees are Cabrini Ephraim, Chanique Debye, Daiziel Detudamo, Jonty Demauna, Milani Batsiua and Sonjin Aroi.

They are initially enrolled at the Ming Chuan University, Taipei for Mandarin language training for the first academic year, after which they will branch out to their respective major fields of study •

Indian high commissioner

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea virtually received the credentials of India's High Commissioner to Nauru, Manpreet Vohra, accrediting him as the high commissioner of the Republic of India to the Republic of Nauru, 20 September.

President Aingimea congratulated the High Commissioner and expressed his confidence in the ability to promote continued cooperation, and strengthen relations between India and Nauru.

High Commissioner Vohra, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in August 1988, said that the two countries have always had similar views about the world, viewing it as one family.

“Excellency, I bring you my government’s greetings, wishes and assurances that in Nauru’s march towards development, peace and prosperity, you will always have a strong and reliable partner in India.”

President Aingimea extended his compliments on the appointment.

“I would like to extend to you, your Excellency, my congratulations on your appointment as High Commissioner to Nauru and express my full confidence in your abilities to further promote and enhance the positive ties that happily exist between our two countries.”

Public health wins UN NCD award

The Ministry of Health NCD Team took out the United Nations award for exemplary commitment to tackling non-communicable disease and continued efforts to press on despite many challenges, including those presented by COVID-19.

The announcement was made at the meeting of the Friends of the Taskforce on the occasion of the UN General Assembly which was run virtually, 22 September.

This was the first time the NCD team was nominated for such an award. The Ministry was nominated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Fiji office.

Public Health Assistant Director for NCD Control, Don Kadir is proud to be leading a team of dedicated staff saying the award is testament of the hard work by individuals and key NCD stakeholders in recognising that NCD is an issue.

“NCD is caused through an individual’s lifestyle. Appropriate lifestyle changes will enable the individual to avoid, delay or manage NCDs.

“Being diagnosed with an NCD is not the end. An individual still can live a healthy life through appropriate changes like being physically active, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and being mindful of our diet.”

Mr Kadir hopes the award will bring wider recognition and participation from stakeholders to join the NCD Taskforce and working group activities.

In the past year, the team launched and developed programs including a Toll-free mental health line 1010; management booklets on cardiovascular disease (CVD); campaigns targeting second-hand smoking, and cessation services; and strengthened implementation of the package of essential NCD (PEN) services through staff training.



India's High Commissioner to Nauru, Manpreet Vohra, presented his credentials virtually

The high commissioner has served his country in the foreign service at the level of secretary in Ulaanbaatar, Oxford University, and New Delhi then as counsellor in London, and ambassador in Kabul, Lima, and Mexico City.

The Government of the Republic of India has assisted Nauru with various programs in the past, including through training Nauruans in information, communications and technology and its donation of 10,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, medical personal protective and US\$1 million to Nauru through the UN Development Program/World Health Organisation (UNDP/WHO) earlier this year •



Public health roving expo promoting awareness and education about diabetes and NCDs

The department constantly reviews its strategies on how to engage more with government and private organisations, communities and faith-based organisations in NCD activities.

“Our plans on tackling NCD in Nauru has been quite innovative and strategised. We have developed the new draft NCD Strategic Plan 2021-2025. This will give the overall direction for NCD activities over the next five years,” Mr Kadir said.

The team is finalising the mobile platform - mDiabetes initiative with Digicel to educate people about NCDs.

By doing so, Mr Kadir says “Nauru will be first in the Pacific to use the mobile platform to that extent to provide NCD awareness.”

Also in the pipeline are major health surveys such as global school health and WHO NCD steps survey to ascertain individual behaviours and progress on prevalence on NCD risk factors •

Revamped electoral commission

The number of electoral commissioners increased to three upon the swearing-in of officer bearers, 24 September.

Three electoral commissioners and an acting registrar swore their oaths of office presided over by Chief Justice Daniel Fatiaki, and witnessed by President Lionel Aingimea and department staff.



Electoral commission reinforced with three commissioners at the helm

Cabinet at its meeting on 21 September approved the appointments of the all-female staff, including two additional electoral commissioners, bringing the total to three, and an acting registrar.

Sylvanna Deireragea continues her appointment as electoral commissioner until the expiry of her current contract; while Corinne Joram and Cronisa Baguga are promoted from deputies to electoral commissioners until the expiry of their existing contracts.

Their initial contracts commenced in March 2020 for a four-year term.

Bhavna Narayan was appointed to the new position of acting registrar of the Electoral Commission for a period of two months.

The Commission continues to grow as an institution and works hard to continue to serve Nauru and its people with transparency and professionalism.

Know more about the Nauru Electoral Commission <https://election.com.nr/> •



Agreement to secure region from maritime people smuggling

In a joint statement, the Australian and Nauruan Governments announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to establish an enduring regional processing capability in Nauru, 24 September.



The MOU provides a framework for a continuing regional processing presence in Nauru

Regional processing is a key pillar of the Australian Government's strong border protection policies. Under Operation Sovereign Borders, people who attempt to travel to Australia illegally by boat are turned back, or transferred to a regional processing country for assessment of asylum claims.

The new memorandum of understanding provides a framework for a continuing regional processing presence in Nauru and demonstrates both countries' continued commitment to countering maritime people smuggling.

"This is a significant step for both our countries and I thank President Aingimea for his ongoing commitment to regional leadership in stamping out the threat of maritime people smuggling," Minister Andrews said.

"Australia's strong and successful border protection policies under Operation Sovereign

Borders remain and there is zero chance of settlement in Australia for anyone who arrives illegally by boat.

"Anyone who attempts an illegal maritime journey to Australia will be turned back, or taken to Nauru for processing. They will never settle in Australia."

President Aingimea says "Although, this Memorandum of Understanding extends the bilateral arrangement, which has already been in existence since 2012, it now creates an enduring form of offshore processing.

"This takes the regional processing to a new milestone. It is enduring in nature, as such the mechanisms are ready to deal with illegal migrants immediately upon their arrival in Nauru from Australia."

In addition, the President also reaffirmed that "Nauru has worked together with Australia to ensure that those who are successful in their asylum applications are settled in third countries and not in Australia."

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the MOU was signed in a joint ceremony taking place online between His Excellency the President and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Lionel Aingimea and Australia's Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews •

Adopt a tree, reforest topside

The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation launched the ‘Adopt a Tree’ initiative giving away 1,000 indigenous plants and fruit trees kick starting a massive project to rehabilitate Nauru’s mined out phosphate lands, 27 September.

Launched at the residence of, and on the occasion of Sir Hammer DeRoburt Day, 25 September, the birthdate of Nauru’s founding father and first president, whose vision was to rehabilitate the land.



500 fruit trees and 500 indigenous plants identified for the reforestation project

NRC, the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, and the Nauru Farmers Group Association, partnered to take Nauru’s reforestation forward.

Minister for NRC Reagan Aliklik says many of Nauru’s indigenous plant species are disappearing.

The replanting is earmarked for land portion 230 in Meneñ that is being prepared for the government’s higher ground initiative which is anticipated will be ready in a years’ time.

NRC chair Marlene Moses says the company is mandated to rehabilitate the land and aims to return the land to the people in its original state; to provide a lush and liveable environment for Nauru’s children.

Ms Moses says the project realises the vision of the late former president DeRoburt which include independence, the Constitution, owning our own phosphate industry, and rehabilitation.

The NFGA identified 500 fruit trees and 500 indigenous plants, as well as classify plants nearing extinction and needed saving.

Each family or organisations are given two plants to nurture for a year, giving them the opportunity to be part of Nauru’s reforestation efforts.

NFGA and NRC staff will inspect the plants over the year until they are suitable for replanting.

The replanted trees will feature the names of the family or organisation that ‘adopted’ the tree.

Sir Hammer DeRoburt Day, formerly known as National Youth Day, is 25 September but as it fell on a Saturday this year, the following Monday became the public holiday •

USAid, SPC launch governance project

The U.S government is committing \$19.8 million in PROJECT Governance to empower the voice of women, youth and other marginalised groups in 12 Pacific Island Countries (PICS) including Nauru.

This new activity, “Promoting Just, Engaged, Civic-minded and Transparent (PROJECT) Governance,” was launched on 28 September by the United States of America, through United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and partnering with the Pacific Community (SPC).



PROJECT Governance provides small grants to civil society organisations in 12 countries to support local initiatives

Over five years, PROJECT Governance aims to foster consensus and inclusion in local communities and build understanding and inspire participation in the democratic process.

The 12 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) that will benefit from PROJECT Governance are: The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

“PROJECT Governance is a great way to support our partners in the Pacific by encouraging open and democratic structures that will provide a voice to all citizens,” Elise Tokumasu de Silva, Chargé d’Affaires, ad interim, said.

PROJECT Governance will provide small grants to civil society organisations in the 12 participating countries to support local initiatives that provide technical assistance on government transparency, accountability, and corruption prevention. It will also support organisations that promote human rights and enhance the role of media in fostering transparency and accountability.

SPC hosted the launch event at the Pacific Community attended by President of the Federated States of Micronesia, David W. Panuelo, regional organisation representatives and dignitaries of the PICS and embassies. The Honorable Fiame Naomi Mata’afa, Prime Minister of Samoa provided recorded remarks •

Micronesian pride welcomed on Nauru shipping first anniversary

Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) celebrated one year of service and officially welcomed the handover of cargo vessel MV Micronesian Pride, 1 October.

Floating just off the reef overlooking the celebrations, Micronesian Pride signalled its presence with a five-shot blast that's customarily sounded as a wake up call or warning call.



Nauru shipping seeks to deliver competitive and transparent freight rates.

[Supplied]

Nauru had been without its own cargo vessel for over 20 years and so the acquisition is a welcome one.

“The purchase of the Micronesian Pride is the first step in a serious plan to grow the Nauru Shipping Line into a stronger regional shipping service dedicated to serving Nauru and extending shipping services to our central pacific neighbours in to Australia,” President Lionel Aingimea said.

The vessel was chartered by NSL from January to April 2021 then underwent maintenance before the purchase through grant funding by the Government of Indonesia.

When COVID-19 hit, Nauru was left, at one point without a sea freight service for three months.

“A nation’s food security and well-being rely on regular and cost-effective sea freight services.

“Your government then acted, with a resolve, to fix the problem and to make Nauru self-sufficient. NSL was born,” the President said.

While challenges lie ahead with COVID-19 rules on shipping, President Aingimea says NSL seeks to deliver competitive and transparent freight rates.

Deputy CEO of NSL Adalane Ika thanked her staff, the board of directors and the government for their confidence adding “now we will set sail and look forward to the journey ahead and exploring future horizons.”

The 110 metre vessel has a reported speed of up to 14 knots in good weather conditions and can carry 364 20 foot containers including 50 reefers.

The Micronesian Pride arrived on Monday 27 September and commenced discharging cargo the following day •

Pinktober highlights breast cancer

At 10.00am on the morning of Friday, 1 October, the Department of Health kicked off its Pinktober walk for life event from the Aiwo tennis courts to the Nauru Public Health Centre (PHC), Denig, to promote breast cancer awareness month.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), ‘cancer is a large group of diseases that can start in almost any organ or tissue of the body when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body and/or spread to other organs.’



Pinktober kicks off with morning walk

Health Minister Isabella Dageago, Secretary for Health for Health Chanda Garabwan and Director for Public Health Stacey Cain led the 40-plus participants on the 1.5km walk, donning pink T-shirts and ribbons demonstrating their support for the cause.

The program continued on arrival at the PHC activity hall with survivors of breast cancer sharing their experiences.

The speakers spoke about their determination to live and not giving up hope in the fight to be cured of the disease and how important it is to seek medical assistance as soon as possible.

Minister Dageago says 38 Nauruan women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 41 were diagnosed with cervical cancer from 2016 to June 2021.

“Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths for women, the other cancer issue being cervical cancer.

“We honour those who have lost the battles to cancer, those who are still battling cancer and those who survived cancer.

“Our Pinktober program aims to raise awareness on early detection of cancer. Early detection is key to winning against cancer especially against the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in women.” •

Law books launched

The Department of Justice launched new publications of consolidated laws of Nauru in a ceremony held at the USP Nauru Campus in Yaren, 1 October.

Global provider of legal, regulatory and business information and analytics, LexisNexis, worked with JBC to produce the publications which are available in the court's library and on the LexisNexis website advance.lexis.com/

“Throughout the process, we have worked together to determine the structure that will allow easy use within the hard copy and digital formats,” Law Reform Commissioner Jennifer Williams said.

Minister for Justice Maverick Eoe said this was a momentous occasion and that he too feels optimistic about the impacts the publications will have on the department and the public.

Chief Justice Daniel Fatiaki noted that the law is the “foundational tool” to which the country works with and congratulated the department and the government for having achieved a historic feat.

Secretary for Justice Jay Udit remarked how delightful it was that despite the challenges the department faced towards developing the publications, they were ultimately successful in their goal.

President of the Nauru Law Society Vinci Clodumar was pleased to see the department was able to unveil the new publications after waiting so long for their development.

During parliament on 27 May, Minister Eoe moved the revised written laws bill 2021, to which Parliament unanimously passed.

With the completion of the project, the publications now consolidate all the laws of Nauru from 1905 to 2021. This translates to 116 years' worth of laws.

The publications are available for the public to read in the court's library and the loose leaf format of the laws will be updated annually.

The publications were initially presented by the Australian High Commission on 24 September.

The Australian Attorney General's department in Canberra



The publications are available for the public to read in the court's library

donated the materials to assist Nauruan law practitioners and to increase the department's capacity to carry out its duties.

Then acting Australian High Commissioner Andrew Hodges hopes the donation will help in making a difference and ultimately contribute to the public.

“The publications of the laws of the Republic of Nauru are in bound form, all the laws are collected together in one place, and makes it easy for legal practitioners, government officials to... find the laws there,” Mr Hodges said.

“One of the biggest difficulties for pleader students has always been a lack of resources,” Minister Eoe said.

The legal source books contain subject matters on constitutional law, administrative, property, intellectual property, family, land, and criminal law amongst others.

The conference kit includes a flat screen television set, a laptop, speakers, and a camera. The equipment will be utilised by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to conduct webinars, Zoom meetings and training.

It is also a requirement under international standards that countries must upgrade and equip their FIUs with new technologies •

Taiwan day

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrated the 110th anniversary of its national day, 7 October.

President Lionel Aingimea congratulated Taiwan and proposed a toast to the deep friendship and mutual respect shared between Nauru and Taiwan.

Ambassador Dean Wang hosted the dinner reception at the Meneñ Hotel attended by His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, Madam Aingimea, Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker of Parliament and the Chief Justice.

Ambassador Wang highlighted the greatest cooperation undertaken this year were the two successful medical missions for Nauruan patients to Taiwan who received treatment at the Taichung Veterans General Hospital.

Guests were entertained over dinner while a 15-prize raffle was being drawn •



Ambassador Wang hosts Taiwan 110th anniversary in Nauru

Food safety for caterers, restaurants

The Department of Health hosted a session for food safety with, caterers, street vendors and other members of the general public in the Tomano Room at Meneñ Hotel, 7 October.

Participants were advised about the sorts of measures they could take when preparing and consuming foods and to encourage better diets to reduce the number of people affected by Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).



Food Inspector Iivan Aingimea says the food safety session also looks at proper food storage, pest control and temperature storage

Food Inspector Iivan Aingimea says the food safety session also looks at proper food storage, pest control and temperature storage.

Discussions centred on drafting food regulations for Nauru, which could help address issues related to food safety.

After the discussions, the participants outlined the following key points:

1. There is a need to progress the draft for the Nauru Food Regulations.
2. Stronger enforcement of policies in terms of expired goods, storage and handling of goods.
3. The general public should have better understanding and awareness on the operations of the Food Safety Unit.

The afternoon session was devoted to Chinese restaurant owners. The majority of restaurants on Nauru are operated by Chinese cooks •

CONSERVE WATER
Every Drop Counts



World food day

The Department of Commerce Industry and Environment (CIE) held a public event for World Food Day at the Centennial Hall, 15 October.

With the theme for this year “Our actions are our future” school students were invited to attend the event with the focus on promoting gardening, environment and nutrition in Nauru.



This year's food day incorporated cooking demos, free seedling giveaways, health checks and competitions

CIE also collaborated with the Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (CCNR), the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) who also provided free seedlings to attendees; while Nauru Public Health conducted general health checks.

CIE, CCNR, TTM and Digicel sponsored prizes for school banner, gardening and livestock competitions.

Prior to the main event at centennial hall, a youth workshop was held at the USP Nauru Campus in Yaren, 7 October.

The workshop was also a side project of the Department of CIE facilitated by Assistant Director for Agriculture, Petlisa Jacob with the Nauru National Youth Council (NNYC) and NGO Youth Ammo.

The goal of the workshop is to empower the youth and promote awareness on the importance of agriculture and protecting the environment here in Nauru.

Students from Nauru Secondary School also participated and interacted with other attendees ensuring that the young students are included.

The students worked together to answer two key questions: “What are the challenges youth faces accessing food?” and “How can youth increase food availability?”

The participants presented their ideas to address the issues, and proposed to increase awareness on the matter, to encourage and teach more people about agriculture, the environment and planting trees.

NNYC representative, Gem Dowiyogo said their group has been collaborating with more people to help invite youth to get involved and support the cause.

World Food Day is an international day celebrated annually on 16 October to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1945 •

Shining a light on mental health

In recognition of World Mental Health Day, 10 October, the Department of Health and Medical Services launched its program earlier in the week, Monday, and held information sessions throughout the week at various locations.

On 5 October, the department set up an information booth outside the government office where staff and the public had the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts about mental health.

In the days leading up to the main event, many other such sessions were held at Capelle and Partner supermarket in Ewa District, the Western Bay area in Boe District, Civic Centre and Centennial Hall in Aiwo District and the Community Resource Centre at Yaren District.

Public health screening was offered at the Centennial Hall.

The department asks the general public for their support and understanding in this matter, so as to make a meaningful and positive impact to those in the community who may be suffering from a mental illness.



An information booth outside the government office offers guidance and support for mental health issues

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilise efforts in support of mental health •

New additions to police fleet

The Nauru Police Force was in receipt of four new vehicles fully equipped with a radio communications system and seven hand-held radios, 15 October.

The vehicles - two Ford Fortuners were donated by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and two Hyundai Tucson SUVs – one each from the Nauru Post Office and Eigigu Holdings Corporation - will enhance the performance of NPF's Close Personal Protection Unit (CPPU).

Minister for Police, President Lionel Aingimea said the vehicles will be used by the police in a manner that keeps “safety, safety, safety as a priority for our country... safety of the people, safety of property, safety of the police force.”

“Once again on behalf of the people of Nauru and the government of Nauru I would like to really thank the government of Taiwan, the Post Office and of course ESC.”

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang, Eigigu Solutions Corporation CEO Darren Howard and Nauru Post chairman Alvin Harris were presented certificates of appreciation.

Taiwan also signed a bilateral agreement with Nauru and is committed to donating two patrol boats to promote and build Nauru's maritime patrolling capability •



New police cars for the president's close personal protection detail, commissioner and deputy

India reaches billion doses milestone

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea congratulates India on having administered one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine, on Thursday, 21 October 2021.

“The Government of India has been there for Nauru since the start of the pandemic with a donation of 10,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in April 2020, as well as supply of PPE and USD\$1 million to Nauru through the UNDP/WHO which is funding a lot of equipment and technical assistance.”

India's COVID-19 vaccine donation ensured 100 per cent coverage of the adult population of Nauru.

“India has always been generous and willing to share their vaccines with the rest of the world and Nauru is privileged to have received this kind assistance.”

This milestone achievement means a portion of India's almost 1.4 billion population has either had one or two doses of the vaccine.

On behalf of the government and people of Nauru, President Aingimea wishes the best for India in her journey to full vaccination coverage and congratulates His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this milestone achievement •

Biometric clock staff training

The Human Resources office conducted training on the use and benefits of the newly introduced biometric clocks for timekeeping purposes, 8 October.

As the clocks are being transitioned into the public service, the newly introduced pay cycle now reflects real time attendance rather than on assumption time.

The previous system paid out salaries on Wednesdays, inclusive of assumed attendance on the following Thursday and Friday.

HR consultant Meleoni Uera said that the introduction of the biometric clock was to improve attendance and productivity in the work place, which generally improves service delivery.

“The national vision aims to have sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans,” Ms Uera said.

In the initial roll-out ten clocks were installed at the Office of the Chief Secretary, and at the departments of treasury, education, foreign affairs and trade, the judiciary, Nauru Emergency Services, police station, the airport, office of Births, Deaths and Marriages, audit, RON hospital, public health centre and the customs office.

An additional 25 biometric clocks that have since arrived from Australia are being installed in other areas.



The biometric clocks intend to improve staff attendance and productivity

The additional clocks include units specially adjusted for certain departments and offices which require shift work such as the Nauru Police Force and the RON Hospital •

Labour mobility readiness training

The first ever work readiness program for the Australian Labour Mobility Scheme was conducted preparing Nauruans for what lies ahead in this job opportunity and living away from home.

The 10-day program was held at the USP Nauru Campus, 11 October.

The work program is a joint initiative with the labour Mobility Unit of Nauru’s Department of Foreign Affairs, the Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), Australian employer Simfresh, Australia Pacific Labour Facility and the Australian High Commission in Nauru.

The aim of the work readiness program is to enhance quality up-skilling of Nauruans, to refine and promote specialised skills for Nauruans and to reintroduce safe workplace practises and ethics and career goals settings.

The readiness program will provide Nauruan workers with the information and skills needed in Australia to be successful. This includes managing finances and understanding the Australian culture and working conditions.

Speaking to the attendees, Minister for Foreign Affairs Asterio Appi said, “Labour mobility has increased access to employment in developed economies and presents an opportunity to the Nauruan population.”

Australian High Commissioner Dr Helen Cheney says the program “will help Nauruans to become a part of the Pacific Australian Labour Mobility Scheme, which includes the seasonal worker program and Pacific Labour Scheme.”

“These programs enable Pacific workers to take up jobs in rural and regional Australia with approved employers who have been unable to find suitable Australians to fill vacancies in their businesses.”



Work readiness program to enhance quality up-skilling

Pacific Labour Facility, Skills development Manager Brett Thompson who also on behalf of Simfresh says Simfresh is very “excited” to work with Nauru.

Mr Thompson looks forward to further building the relationship and cooperation so everyone benefits.

APTC Specialist Adviser for TVET projects, Sandy O’Brien worked remotely from home in Australia to deliver training in ‘Introduction to Australia’ and ‘Safety and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)’.

On day 2 of training, 12 October, Nauruans Agassi Jones and a colleague joined the Zoom meeting from their employer Sim Fresh’s office in Gol Gol NSW, sharing their insights of what it’s like to work in Australia and the expectations.

The Government of Australia has employed more than 10,600 Pacific and Timorese workers since September 2016 and is now committed towards having another 12,500 Pacific workers by March 2022 •

Indonesia hosts second pacific expo: It's time for the Pacific

The 2nd Pacific Expo - "It's Time for the Pacific" - opened virtually on Wednesday 27 October, against the backdrop of a global health pandemic which Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Asterio Appi says demonstrates the innovativeness of the region.

"While the Pacific region has fared relatively better than most countries in weathering the [COVID-19] pandemic, we have nonetheless to some extents have had our societies and our economies impacted," DM Appi said in his opening statement delivered virtually.

"The theme therefore is not only relevant but appropriate requiring our region's collective efforts in instigating the process for economic recovery through promotion and facilitation of trade through the expanded and advanced use of digitalisation."

DM Appi says hosting the expo virtually acknowledges that the new norm of doing business in "not business as usual" as it compels countries like Nauru to "adapt and establish innovative policies to capitalise on the bounce-back and avoid being left behind."

The deputy minister stresses that the new norm must not marginalise the development aspirations of our region, and looks forward to working together to strengthen institutions, improve connectivity, generate trade, and develop cross-border solutions to shared problems to promote prosperity through economic development.



The Government of Indonesia, supported by countries and territories in the Pacific, convened the 2nd Pacific Exposition: Virtual Exhibition on 27-30 October. Nauru's participation is led by Nauru Tourism.

Forums during the Expo include Health, Trade, Investment & Creative Economy, Tourism, and Fisheries.

"We will once again put the Pacific people at the heart of the discussions as we look to navigate the new normal as part of our joint effort to contribute to economic recovery in the region," the Expo website says •

Successful search, rescue

Nauru was again host to a 16-crew Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft on a search and rescue mission for two i-Kiribati fishermen who were eventually located 230 nautical miles from Nauru.

The RNZAF Lockheed P3-K2 Orion departed NZ on 5 October and began the search covering 7,300 square nautical miles before overnighting in Nauru.

The search resumed the next day resulting in the rescue.

As per Nauru COVID-19 protocols, the crew provided a 72-hour PCR COVID test and negative results prior to arrival; were fully vaccinated and remained in quarantine at the Budapest Hotel while in-country.

Airport operations were strictly no contact and all air and ground staff donned personal protective equipment (PPE).

Nauru is pleased to be able to offer assistance and be part of this search and rescue mission.

A similar mission was conducted in February.

New Zealand's search and rescue area is one of the largest in the world, covering 30 million square kilometres •



Successful search mission for two i-Kiribati fishermen

[Supplied]

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

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Republic of Nauru

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