



Nauru Bulletin

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Micronesia returns to Forum strong

Waqa appointed secretary general at special leaders retreat

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders penned their decisions of the special leaders retreat held in Denarau, Fiji on Friday 24 February, in the Forum Communique which includes reaffirming their commitment to uphold the Suva Agreement, recognising it as the basis for reforms to strengthen the PIF moving forward, notably in regards to requests by leaders of the Micronesian Presidents Summit (MPS).

Forum leaders also welcomed the Republic of Kiribati for its return to the PIF and signing the Suva Agreement in accordance with the Denarau Addendum.

Kiribati's decision to return was cemented by the visit in January of then Forum Chair and Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, whose exemplary and reconciliatory efforts in re-engaging with Kiribati at the highest political level to reconcile and renew relations through the Pacific Way, were acknowledged by Kiribati.

Mr Rabuka's first international engagement since becoming prime minister was to Kiribati to meet with President Taneti Maamau on the issue of returning to the Forum.

Leaders also endorsed and appointed Micronesia's candidate, Baron Waqa of Nauru as the next Secretary General of the PIF in 2024.

It was now Micronesia's turn to nominate the next secretary general of the premier regional institution and so at the 21st MPS in Pohnpei in early February, the Micronesian presidents decided after much consultation to endorse Nauru's candidacy for the next secretary general starting in 2024.

President Russ Kun, with the approval of Cabinet, nominated Mr Waqa for the position, which was presented to the Forum leaders at the special retreat, and was ultimately endorsed by the Forum leaders.

This will be the first time Nauru will head the region's premier political and economic policy organisation.



[L-R] President Russ Kun, President of Kiribati Taneti Maamau and PIF Secretary General-elect Baron Waqa

Mr Waqa was elected as a member of the Fifteenth Parliament of Nauru for the Constituency of Boe in 2003, and then became the 14th president of the Republic of Nauru from 2013 until 2019, holding numerous ministerial portfolios as a cabinet minister and as president.

He was chair of the PIF from 2018 to 2019 in which time Nauru hosted the 49th Pacific Islands Forum in 2018 during Nauru's 50th anniversary year of Independence; and also chaired the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) from 2013 to 2014 during his presidency.

In 2019 he received the BrandLaureate Hall of Fame lifetime achievement award, granted by the Asia Pacific Brands Foundation (APBF), in recognition of his work and leadership on climate change in his role as AOSIS chair.

As AOSIS chair, he led small island states deliberations across various platforms including at the Conference of Parties (COP) talks.

He is a teacher by profession having undertaken his training at Nasinu Teachers College in Fiji, then attained a Bachelor of Education at the University of the South Pacific, and a Master of Educational Policy and Administration at Monash University, Australia.

Micronesia's appointments and office establishments in regards to the Suva Agreement and the MPS's Palikir Communique were acknowledged by leaders.

In this regard Kiribati will host the new Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands Forum, while the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner will be established in Palau, and Dr Manoni of the Marshall Islands appointed to the position of Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

Leaders discussed, reaffirmed and strengthened a broad range of initiatives and concerns relating to the protection of the Blue Pacific Continent, its people and land; raised strong concerns of the potential threat of nuclear contamination; as well as to strengthen the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) to better align to national government processes and directions.

Leaders also discussed building stronger ties with the United States with the possible establishment of a new special envoy office in the US, which would give the PIF better access and coordination with the US government and within the United Nations in New York.

The special leaders retreat was attended by Heads of State, government, and territories from the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

French Polynesia was represented by its vice president, and New Zealand by its deputy prime minister. Australia and Papua New Guinea were represented at ministerial level.

Leaders will meet again in October for the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in the Cook Islands •

Waste management consultation project

The Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture (DEMA) conducted its first community consultation pilot project on waste management in Ijuw District, 17 January.

The department’s ultimate goal is to inform and educate the public on segregating their rubbish at home.

This will be done through community consultations on waste management, sorting and separating waste to enable recycling and proper disposal in the hopes that it will encourage more people to adopt such environmentally friendly practices.

Waste management helps reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills, which is also important as viable lands are becoming less available as well as reduce the risks and dangers to personnel working at the dump site.

Jointly collaborating with the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC), DEMA will primarily focus on the management and segregation of aluminium cans, card boards and papers and green waste.

Waste and Chemical Manager Grace Garabwan, highlighted the importance of the project in terms of minimising fire outbreaks at the dump site, saying that it not only has health implications but wider environmental implications as well.



Members of Ijuw community attend consultation with DEMA

“Concerns and issues such as ongoing fire outbreaks and constant toxic fumes from the dumpsite is causing high health risks not just [to] workers and people near the dumpsite, but to our surrounding environment.”

Through the project, Ijuw community’s segregated waste will be collected once a fortnight with DEMA also providing garbage bags and three skip bins for the three waste categories at an allocated collection point.

The project is expected to continue for the next six months •

East micronesia cable

The Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Nauru signed a joint communique and announced the implementation of the much-anticipated undersea cable project that will link the three Pacific nations, 30 January 2023.

The East Micronesia Cable Project aims to deliver secure and reliable telecommunication infrastructure for better internet connectivity for the three nations by connecting with the HANTRU-1 cable existing in Pohnpei (FSM).

The Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) is partnered with Japan and the United States to provide funding and support for this new submarine cable project.

Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Pyon Deiye signed the joint communique with the Secretary of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure for FSM, Carlson Apis, and the Minister of Information, Communications, Transport and Tourism Development for Kiribati, Tekeua Tarati, after a meeting with officials from Australia, the United States of America and Japan held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Through this collaborative arrangement, FSM, Kiribati and Nauru are committed to maximise the benefits of social and economic derived from the project by managing diverse telecommunication sectors and establish quality and secured infrastructure.

The three nations will continue to work together and support one another during the implementation of the EMC project to ensure that the objectives and goals are achieved on schedule •



Secretary Apis, Minister Deiye and Minister Tarati pose with their delegations

[Photo: FSM National Government]



UNFPA Pacific renews its commitment to the partnership with Nauru under MCP7

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) new Director for the Pacific based in Fiji also in charge of 13 other Pacific countries, Mr. Iori Kato, presented his introductory letter from the UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem, to the Government of Nauru, to the Acting President, Hon. Mr. Rennie Gadabu, MP on 15 February 2023.

Nauru is one of 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) covered under the UNFPA Pacific new 7th Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027 (MCP7), which was endorsed by the UNFPA Executive Board in New York on February 4, 2023. Mr. Kato’s recent visit to the Republic of Nauru solidified UNFPA Pacific’s commitment to the continuation and potential expansion of its support to the Government and people of Nauru under MCP7, contextualizing population and development needs in line with national policies, laws and priorities.

Mr. Kato and his UNFPA Pacific delegation met with Hon. Minister of Health Mr. Timothy John Ika MP, and visited the Republic of Nauru Hospital maternity ward and antenatal care unit, discussing potential areas of collaboration on safe motherhood and reproductive health, family planning, midwifery services, to name a few. He also had opportunities to meet with Hon. Minister of Education, Sports & Postal Services, Mr. Richard-Hyde Menke MP, and other officials from foreign affairs and trade, internal affairs and youth, women and social development, statistics, police, as well as development partners based in Nauru including the Australian High Commission.

“I am extremely grateful to the Government of the Republic of Nauru for the recent opportunities granted to me and the UNFPA Pacific team to meet and discuss with key senior officials across the sectors relevant to UNFPA’s mandated areas. UNFPA is keen to establish a bigger footprint in Nauru to provide more direct and effective support, under the guidance of the Government,”



UNFPA Director Iori Kato presenting his introductory letter to Acting President Rennie Gadabu

recollects Iori Kato, UNFPA Director for the Pacific. He added, “UNFPA looks forward to continuing to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of Pacific small island countries under MCP7 2023-2027 and beyond, assisting the Pacific governments in advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and achieving gender equality, especially for the vulnerable women and young people including those impacted by health pandemics and climate-induced disasters. For Nauru and other 13 PICTs, UNFPA stands ready to assist the countries in harnessing the demographic dividend, towards realising the SDGs by 2030 and the regional 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.” •

Source: UNFPA press release

ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

- Buckle up**
 Wear your seat belt at all times. Wear a helmet when driving a motorcycle.
- Observe the speed limit**
 Speed limit: 50kph
 Driving past schools, churches and hospital: 20kph.
- Pedestrian crossing**
 Drivers should slow down at traffic stops and give way to pedestrians at a zebra crossing.
- Never drink and drive**
 Have a designated driver if you plan to drink. Don't operate a vehicle when you're intoxicated.

Carry your driver's licence and ensure your vehicle is registered and roadworthy.



Hill to Hill Clean up

Starting Point: Ijuw
Date: 3, March 2023
Time: 4pm



The public is invited to join the clean up campaign organised by the Tourism office, MNOC and WASDA

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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