



Nauru Bulletin

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Eigigu turns 100

The store was named after the legend of the lady in the moon, Eigigu

The Nauru Cooperative Society and the Eigigu brand celebrated 100 years of service to the Nauruan community on 26 June.

the first Nauruan business venture – the Nauru Cooperative Store (NCS), 26 June 1923.

several subsidiaries including the Menen Hotel, Eigigu supermarket, civic centre, garage and transport service, hardware store, and shipping service.



[L] The first locally controlled enterprise on Nauru. [R] Eigigu enterprise building as it stands today on the same site.

Founded by Timothy Detudamo, the idea to establish a cooperative trading store for the Nauruan people was unheard of a century ago and received pushback from foreign administrators.

Detudamo had just returned home after four years in America translating the Bible into Nauruan and was drawn to the idea of establishing the store as well as to improve the political, moral and social conditions of the Nauruans.

The store would give Nauruans the opportunity to purchase goods at cheaper prices than the BPC store and other stores.

Detudamo, Head Chief Daimon and some associates were jailed in 1921 by the British Phosphate Commissioner and administrator for attempting to inaugurate the store and for disturbing the peace.

They were later granted amnesty by the new Australian administrator Brigadier General Thomas Griffiths and released from prison and allowed to establish

This achievement was parallel to doing the impossible of pulling down to earth, Eigigu, the lady in the moon; hence, the brand Eigigu, was born.

A committee was established to administer the store from 4 April 1923, with Chief Detudamo as secretary, Chief Tsiminita, and deputy chiefs Gaunibwe and Tanab. Detudamo was also the chairman of the first board of directors.

A lease agreement was signed on 22 January 1927 between NCS and landowners commencing 1 February 1927 and expiring 31 March 2000, for six land portions in Aiwo and Denig districts.

The original government general store, initially known as the Nauru Cooperative Society still operates from its Denig building for services while the supermarket line has moved to downtown Aiwo district.

Today, Eigigu Holdings Corporation remains a state-owned entity and operates

Minister for EHC Martin Hunt told parliament in June that the company was undergoing a major shift in the cooperative structure in its efforts to tackle ongoing business and economic challenges.

“Eigigu is in the final stages to have two of its subsidiaries namely Eigigu South Pacific Inc., and Eigigu Transport Services dissolved by the end of this financial year 22/23.

“The Board acknowledges that certain adjustments must be made before EHC can proceed into the new financial year 23/24. Subsidiaries that are no longer profitable for the business or conflicts with other subsidiaries’ operations, should cease operations immediately,” Minister Hunt said.

The minister adds that all staff exiting Eigigu will be paid their full entitlement accordingly •

Explosives team work to extract UXO

A 500 pound (226kg) unexploded ordnance (UXO) was unearthed by port construction crew in Aiwo district 7 July.



NPF redirecting traffic at the 400 metre UXO exclusion zone

The UXO was discovered near the site of the old World War II Memorial by construction crew digging to lay underground pipes for the desalination plant at the Nauru Utilities Corporation, and reported it to the Nauru Police Force (NPF).

Upon the initial discovery of the UXO on the afternoon of Friday 7 July, an exclusion zone and evacuation order for people living and working within 600 metres of the site where the UXO was discovered was put in place.

Hours later the exclusion zone reduced to 100 metres but heavily guarded by NPF as a specialist UXO team from Australia was deployed to Nauru on Sunday morning.

Upon their arrival an exclusion zone of 400 metres was enforced.

The Australian government answered a request from the Nauru government for urgent assistance in the safe disposal of the UXO. The assistance is provided through Operation Render Safe.

Operation Render Safe is an Australian Defence Force operation that aims to reduce the hazardous risks of World War II explosive remnants from South Pacific island nations.

Operation Render Safe is led by Australian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams and Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers. Although the operation occurs annually, it can be called upon whenever a Pacific island nation needs urgent assistance.

The adjustments to the exclusion zone will be assessed on a daily basis depending on disarming works by EOD personnel.

Messaging via SMS, radio and social media is pushed out to alert the community of the restrictions.

It is extremely important the public understands the magnitude of the danger the situation poses.

Extreme caution and careful planning is the top priority of the explosives team. The assessment of diffusing and extracting the UXO will not be rushed for the safety of the community, explosives team and existing vital infrastructure surrounding the UXO.

The situation is unfolding when this edition of the Nauru Bulletin went to print.

Meanwhile, on a separate project, the Australian government is carrying out a survey to identify UXOs around Nauru's airport runway in preparation for an upgrade of the runway and the installation of the new undersea fibre optic cable known as the East Micronesia Undersea Cable project •

UXO survey at airport runway

The Australian Government is carrying out a survey of Nauru's airport site to identify unexploded ordnance (UXO) in preparation to upgrade the runway and install a new undersea cable landing station.



Project to detect UXO is underway for runway upgrade

Jointly organised by the governments of Nauru and Australia, the project involves resurfacing the airport runway with financial support from Australia under the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP).

The Australian High Commissioner Dr Helen Cheney is pleased to see preparations commence, contributing to Nauru's development.

"I am pleased to see the commencement of preparation for significant infrastructure projects, delivered by Australia and Nauru.

"Australia will provide financing to upgrade Nauru's international airport. The investment, to be delivered by AIFFP in partnership with the Nauru Department of Transport, includes resurfacing of the runway and upgrade of critical air traffic control equipment."

Consisting of two phases, the operation is run by the Rural Planning Services group (RPS), which is a company that has significant experience in assessing the risks of UXOs and protecting people from such dangers.

The first phase was a survey to scan ground and marine environments, carried out from 12-23 June.

The second phase is yet to commence but will be a physical investigation conducted in partnership with Nauru's Department of Transport and other relevant departments.

The Australian High Commission says there have been substantial efforts in 1992 to identify and dispose of UXOs, making it less likely that any new UXOs will be found on the airport site.

The planned airport project and road works will involve replacement and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure.

In the event UXOs are found they will be dealt with safely and according to best practice to ensure public safety.

Only authorised experts in the field of the disposal of UXOs will be involved. The safety and wellbeing of the community and personnel remains the top priority at all times.

Installation of the undersea cable landing station for the East Micronesia Cable will connect Nauru, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with improved internet connectivity.

"Once built, the East Micronesia Cable will provide faster, higher quality and more reliable internet to more than 100,000 people across the three Pacific countries. The project highlights Australia's commitment to partnerships that deliver on critical infrastructure. Australia is proud to support enhanced telecommunications connectivity and play a part in bringing the Micronesian region closer together," Dr Cheney said •

Budget briefing and policy refresher

Commencing Monday 10 July government-issued vehicles will no longer receive weekly fuel rations according to the government's new vehicle policy 2023-24.

The announcement was made at a budget briefing and policy refresher session on 6 July facilitated by the Department of Finance, to remind staff of policy matters and procedures.

While approximately 377 government vehicles will be affected by the change, estimated savings of \$1 million will be felt in the new financial year on reduced fuel and vehicle maintenance expenditure.

The change is a result of comprehensive assessment towards improving government spending for the coming years in anticipation of reduced government revenue as a result of the winding down of the Regional Processing Centre.

Presentations were also made by human resources, customs, chief secretary's admin section, and the Planning and Aid Division on similar topics of processes and funding, while the significant policy adjustment was on fuel and vehicle.

Funding for vehicle repairs and maintenance will be reduced to one major vehicle service annually at an authorised garage. Annual vehicle registration will continue for all vehicles.

However, exempt from this new direction are the departments of health and medical services, Nauru Police, emergency services, Nauru Correctional Services, Directorate of Civil Aviation, Nauru fisheries, and school buses. They will continue to receive fuel, vehicle servicing and registration.

While this is starting as a blanket plan the next phase will look into identifying individual vehicles in exempt and non-exempt departments and their primary uses.

Deputy Secretary for Finance Andrew Keith says the realisation of so many government vehicles prompted the need for improvement in the management and spending on vehicles.

"The new initiative has been triggered by the realisation that our future revenues aren't going to be as healthy as they have been in recent years and we need to do something about managing that better.

"You know government's keen to see that families are looked after and government's budget policy is really about redistributing money," Mr Keith said.

Secretary for Public Administration and Operations Angelo Dimapilis announced the new vehicle policy and explained that the fuel expenditure in last year's budget totalled \$1.5 million while vehicle repairs and maintenance increased from \$300,000 to \$700,000, totalling \$2.5 million.

Mr Keith says while similar meetings have been conducted in the past this is the first with other agencies such as the Chief Secretary's department and HR.

"Some of the procedures and policies and regulations have drifted and we found for some time in treasury and I know from HR colleagues and PAD colleagues that some of the practices have started to drift away," Mr Keith said, underscoring that changes in processes eventually become normalised, and "this is what we are trying to avoid".

"So we needed sort of a realignment again, bring us back to what the law says, what the policy is saying and what the Act is saying."



Deputy Secretary for Finance Andrew Keith reminds attendees of the treasury policy

The key changes for the 2023-24 compared to previous years includes the RPC moving into an enduring capability state and this new financial year being the first year of reduced RPC funding.

From 1 July a number of local staff are left with having to find alternative employment and other knock on effects from suppliers and some key services ending as a result of the RPC changes.

Participants heard there will be no room for in-year supplementary budgets and advised to view the current budget as "all there is" and to use it wisely.

Mr Keith says 2023-24 fits in to a long term pattern of fiscal and economic post-RPC realignment.

A budget overview graph showed participants a summary of revenue and expenditure trends since 2013-14 FY in a gradual rise peaking in the 2021-22 FY at over \$300 million followed by predictions of a downward trend to 2026-27 FY.

"In some ways we've been so dependent on this [RPC] revenue for so many things, so many parts of the budget that I think it's hard for us to even to know how dependent we are and where. We're going to start to see that during this financial year," Mr Keith said.

Treasury policy reminders included the general rule that ministerial approvals do not negate normal rules for appropriation, payments or any treasury related procedures. Heads of department grant approvals.

Also covered are budget and expenditure management on new project proposals, inter-subhead transfers, travel-related and other payments, and processing payment vouchers.

The HR section in the chief secretary's department elaborated on the process involving job advertisements, applications, approvals, and leave entitlements.

The PAD section of finance presented an overview of actioning annual operational plans (AOP), how to meet key performance indicator targets (KPI), and managing and reporting on donor-funded programs.

The treasury division delivered a presentation on financial systems overview in relation to the FMIS system, access and security.

The customs office walked through processes for clearing customs for shipping and air cargo.

Participants were encouraged that realigning government department financial processes and procedure is vital to keeping the public service on par with policies and the law and holding sessions such as this serves as a reminder of the importance of how the machinery of government should operate •

Alternative pathways for staff as RPC winds down

Regional processing operations on Nauru moves forward to a contingent state following the relocation of the last refugee as planned to reduce the transferee population to zero by 1 July.

The contingent state, named enduring capability, means the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) will remain established with limited facilities in operation.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Martin Hunt reported to parliament in June that 17 refugees were on island at the time; however they have since departed with the final departure over the 1 July weekend.

Working in tandem with the draw down of services is the alternative pathways program focusing on planning for the future for Nauruan staff affected by the new enduring capability model.

“It is a model which is enduring in nature and reiterates the strong bilateral partnership between Nauru and Australia, while remaining a key pillar in support of the Australian government’s policy of Operation Sovereign Borders,” Minister Hunt said at the June parliament sitting.

Although in a hibernation or contingent state the centre will be ready to take in new asylum seekers at short notice the minister added.

With lessons learnt the new population will be confined for a short period for health and other checks, and then allowed to live in the community under a self-agency principle.

The Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) has long campaigned that significant changes will be seen through the draw down of services associated with the RPC moving to the enduring capability state.

“In stating this, I state to the people that your government has been working tirelessly in planning and developing effective management of the country’s finances, workforce and operational logistics affected by the gradual draw down of services,” Minister Hunt said.

Funded by the Government of Nauru, DMA has developed an alternative pathways program which will provide opportunities for affected RPC employees to choose an alternative career pathway through government state owned enterprises (SOE), private businesses, labour mobility schemes, and training through local and international institutions.

RPC Transition Consultant Richard Lewis says over 300 RPC employees have attended the daily information sessions at the Community Resource Centre (CRC) in Yaren, and to date, 173 applicants have registered for the program.

“The participants taking part in the alternative pathways training component have the opportunity to complete courses through the Nauru TVET, the University of the South Pacific degree courses, Pacific Tafe courses and APTC courses,” Mr Lewis said.

A partnership has also been forged with the Fiji National University (FNU).

FNU will provide registered participants short courses with face to face teaching on island at the Nauru TVET centre on Monday 10 July.

Upon successful completion, the participants will receive a Certificate of Attainment.



RPC staff at one of the daily information sessions on alternative pathways for work and further studies

Minister Hunt says, “This program is one of but many initiatives your government is taking in thinking about today while also planning for tomorrow.”

“It is testament to the assurance that there is a plan and your government will do its utmost to leave no one behind, in this new era of regional processing in Nauru.”

DMA encourages all affected RPC workers to take advantage of this opportunity and register for the program as soon as possible.

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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.

Parliament standing orders under review

The Parliament of Nauru has begun the process of reviewing its Standing Orders and inducted 11 members of parliament (MP) to the good practices and rules of Parliament, in Fiji, 26-28 June.

President Russ Kun, Speaker Marcus Stephen and nine MPs attended the three-day meet to review the Standing Orders led by the Standing Orders committee, and the MPs induction program.

The activities are supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance (NAIG) Project.

The Standing Orders have never been reviewed since the Nauru Parliament was established in 1968.

“Our parliamentary system is the foundation of our democratic society, and it is imperative that we ensure our Standing Orders reflect the changing times and the evolving needs of our nation,” President Kun said at the opening.

The Parliamentary Standing Orders serves as the rulebook that governs the proceedings of Parliament, enabling the seamless functioning of debates, discussions and decision making.

“Our Standing Orders should reinforce integrity, accountability and transparency at every level,” President Kun said.

“As representatives of the people, we have a solemn duty to make our legislative processes transparent, inclusive, and accountable.

“The review of our Standing Orders provides us with an opportunity to reinforce these values and strengthen our parliamentary democracy.”

The Standing Orders committee met informally to start the review process.

The Members’ induction covers the functions and powers of the Parliament as contained in the Constitution of Nauru, the parliamentary rules and procedures, including the powers, privileges and immunities, the role of committees, and support services.

The induction comprised of interactive and experience-sharing sessions led by experts from UNDP and resource people from other Parliaments including Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, New Zealand and Australia.

The induction is fully funded by the UNDP through the NAIG Project.

Speaker Stephen says the meeting went very well and members “benefitted immensely from the induction”.

“We must change with the times and adapt to modern technology.

“We looked at some of the problems we have encountered in the past and also looked at the other Standing Committees and how we can improve and strengthen them as well.

“We may consider adding other parliament committees which will strengthen our accountability and transparency to our people,” Mr Stephen said.

The draft Nauru Parliament Strategic Plan 2022-25 was also discussed and finalised and approved by the Members.

“I am very delighted with the outcome [of the strategic plan]. We will now work with our Strategic Plan in the next two years.”

Speaker Stephen said MPs went through comprehensive discussions and exchange of views on the good practices that MPs are expected to do and deliver on,



Seated centre - Speaker Marcus Stephen and President Russ Kun at the induction of 11 members of the Nauru Parliament during the review of the standing orders

He adds that the induction benefits the Members and encourages a vibrant and active Parliament “which essentially will benefit the people of Nauru”.

Clerk of Parliament Ann-Marie Cain says the strategic plan will be a guiding tool for Parliament as it progresses forward as an autonomous institution in its oversight to meet all its goals by 2025.

“It will give access to public and strengthen the role of committee work. This is the start of our journey and with the support of everyone we will be able to achieve its goal,” Ms Cain said.

“Moreover, since the first SO was drafted and approved in 1968, our Parliament today saw the need to better adapt to the ever-changing world and initial discussions has begun. More meetings [are] forthcoming for the full review of the SO.

“Our vision is to enable a strong independent Parliament representative of the will of the people and attuned towards a sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans, to make laws for the peace, order and good democratic governance of Nauru,” Ms Cain said.

“Our gratitude and thanks to the UNDP, the governments of Australia and New Zealand who funded the induction and of course my staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to arrange all travel logistics,” Mr Stephen said.

“It is not over, NAIG will continue to 2025. We have more work to do, not only to strengthen Parliament and its Members but also our own staff who will continue to be up skilled and trained in their roles in Parliament.”

The UNDP has implemented MP inductions across the Pacific, including the Cooks Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A key aspect of such a program is peer to peer learning •



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Immigration tracks down overstayers

The Department of Justice and Border Control's immigration division launched a nationwide operation in March to identify and trace all foreign nationals staying in Nauru illegally.

The department discovered around 96 individuals are in Nauru without valid visas.

It is the responsibility of the immigration division to ensure the protection of Nauruans from external threats, as well as enforcing the laws under the Immigration Act 2014.

According to section 10 of the Act, 'A person who is not a citizen of Nauru shall not enter or remain in Nauru without a valid visa authorising that entry or presence and a person failing to comply with this subsection commits an offence and is liable to a maximum penalty of \$10,000'.

It has been observed that some of those staying illegally in Nauru are now married or have had children with Nauruans or other nationals. Such illegal arrangements will be dealt with in accordance to law.

Minister for Justice and Border Control Pyon Deiyee told parliament in June that the law must be enforced for the safety of the people.

"There is nothing more important than keeping our people safe. The enforcement of our Immigration Act 2014 and any other border control legislation must be strictly enforced."

Acting Director of the Immigration Division Darlene Dabana says the operation came into effect after those visiting Nauru failed to adhere to the visa requirements.

Taiwan deploys first medical team for the year

Taiwan's visiting mobile medical mission from the Taichung Veterans' General Hospital (TVGH) provided medical services and consultations to 322 patients during their first visit this year, 19-30 June.

A total of 29 surgeries were performed including eyelid tumour excisions, pterygium excisions and intravitreal injections, amongst others.

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Lin thanked the Nauru government for its steadfast diplomatic support and continued cooperation between the two nations.

"We are family-like diplomatic allies, Nauru and Taiwan, we have each other.

"I thank Nauru for supporting Taiwan in the international fora and we will do what we can in our domestic affairs in Nauru, and the medical cooperation is part of that."

The team consisted of Dr Yuan-Shao Cheng and Dr Yu-Shan Chien, specialising in ophthalmology and cardiology, and two nurses Chien-Pin Chang and Lan-Sin Jhang from TVGH.

Dr Yu-Shan Chien said that with Nauru's limited medical resources and equipment it has been a challenging experience but it enhanced their understanding of the unique situation that developing countries like Nauru face and how vital Taiwan's support is.

The TVGH was once home to many Nauruans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2021-2022, 104 Nauruan patients travelled to Taiwan for urgent medical treatment.



Acting Immigration Director Dabana urges public to exercise responsibility and adherence with the law

Visitors were granted special COVID-19 visas during the pandemic but this arrangement lapsed when COVID travel restrictions were lifted, and those visitors failed to depart Nauru.

The immigration division informed the public of the visa requirements and warnings, but few individuals contacted the division to make the necessary arrangements.

Ms Dabana encourages the general public to exercise individual responsibility to help ensure everyone's safety and adherence to the law.

Immigration Act 2014 can be found at http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1596 •



[Centre] Taiwan Ambassador Dean Lin and the Taiwan mobile medical team

The pandemic made it impossible to send Nauruans overseas for medical treatment in any of its usual referral countries.

Through the united efforts of Taiwan's ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health and the Bureau of Civil Aviation, they were able to ensure that flight arrangements were prepared, allowing Nauruans to get medical treatment in Taiwan.

Former Taiwan ambassador Dean Wang said at the time that with the collaboration of the two countries, they worked hard to "overcome difficulties" and achieved the "unprecedented" medical charter flight from Nauru to Taiwan.

The medical team departed Nauru on 30 June, but additional mobile medical teams are expected to arrive later this year •

Nauru HGI plan wins new urbanism merit award

Nauru's Higher Ground Initiative (HGI) plan made international headlines when it won a merit award under the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) Charter Awards 2023, in May.

The award recognises the planning and design work for Nauru's HGI designed by Metrocology and CIVIC/URBAN, under the category, The Region: Metropolis, City and Town.

The HGI is a plan for Nauru, one of many Pacific island nations threatened by sea level rise, to move towards a more sustainable future.

HGI steering committee chair Marlene Moses says Nauru is partnering with Metrocology to develop a "generational vision for delivering new housing urban design environmental restoration and food security planning across the entirety of our island".

"This Charter Award is a vital endorsement from CNU that will help us amplify our outreach and secure much needed partners for the work we are undertaking," Ms Moses said.

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience (CCNR) Rennie Gadabu told the Nauru Parliament in June that the HGI steering committee has completed phase one of their work, which is to develop an island-wide master plan.

Mr Gadabu stated technical teams and experts frequently visited Nauru to gather information and consult with relevant stakeholders since October 2022 and as of April this year, the teams presented their findings to the HGI committee.

The committee along with the CCNR department are currently working on Phase II of the HGI which Minister Gadabu says



Site plan for HGI portion 230 demonstrates new model of Pacific sustainability and urban development

[Photo: cnu.org]

"will address food security and environmental projects and investigations".

Phase III of the HGI is the engineering phase which includes a range of technical work critical to the construction launch on land portion 230, the site of the HGI pilot.

It will also provide a detailed design document and bid packages to secure co-financing for construction.

The minister commended the HGI steering committee for "continuing to do excellent work as we move closer to breaking ground on land portion 230 next year" •

High level panel urged to accelerate work on deep sea mining

Nauru urged colleagues at the high level panel on deep seabed mining to work with an increased sense of urgency towards an ambitious, comprehensive and meaningful outcome of the draft exploitation regulation, and ensure the best available environmental standards are followed.

Deputy Minister for Deep Seabed Mining and Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., Delvin Thoma told colleagues in Tonga on 20 June, that, as custodians of vast expanses of ocean and sponsoring states of exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA), their interests are much higher than any other country around the globe.

"We must have ownership of strategies concerning the activities and development of the ocean and its sustainable management. This includes activities concerning exploration and exploitation of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy."

Nauru is a sponsoring state of deep seabed minerals exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and national regulator for activities in the Clarion Clipperton Zone the Area.

"Our commitment to the work of the ISA must therefore match our high priority interest. It is vital that we, the Pacific Islands sponsoring states, must lead the work in setting the standards, not just for exploration, but also exploitation activities.

"We are big ocean states with great opportunities and tremendous progress ahead and I hope to see for our future generations," Deputy Minister Thoma said.



Deputy Minister for deep sea mining and NORI Delvin Thoma says Pacific Islands sponsoring states must lead the work in setting the standards for deep sea bed exploration and exploitation activities

Discussions centred on the roles, commitment, priority areas and concerns, rules regarding the sea, the Pacific Small Island Developing States' (PSIDS), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement in relation to UNCLOS.

Members also queried the capacity development needs identified by PSIDS in the transition from exploration to exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, the adoption of the Mining Code and links between activities in the Area and other development agendas, including maritime security, human rights and conservation of biodiversity •

Human rights council 53rd session

Nauru joins the 53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council which considers issues including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, education, and health, Geneva, 19 June - 14 July.



[Centre] Katherine Belong with first secretaries at Nauru's Geneva mission Moana Dageago and Joanie Hartman

Nauru's delegate, human rights pleader Katherine Belong delivered her first statement on 5 July at the annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights under the theme 'adverse impacts of climate change on the full realisation of the right to food'.

"As we reflect on the gravity of the situation, it is evident that the adverse effects of climate change pose a significant threat to our ability to meet the fundamental right to food for our people in Nauru," Ms Belong said.

"The prolonged droughts, exacerbated by our proximity to the equator and the absence of natural freshwater reservoirs, have severely impacted our agricultural productivity and access to nutritious food.

"The depletion of traditional food sources from both land and sea further compounds our challenges."

Ms Belong highlighted the urgency of concerted efforts and international cooperation to address these issues as the "impacts of climate change know no boundaries and require a collective response".

The government of Nauru has taken proactive steps in ensuring its people have access to food such as legislation enacted to facilitate food shipments, funding schemes providing free school lunches, and a National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Policy ensuring reliable water supply.

"Nauru stands united with the international community in our determination to address the adverse effects of climate change on the right to food.

"We urge states to prioritise international cooperation and support to combat this global challenge", Ms Belong said.

This is the third of two HRC sessions held annually. Ms Belong will also represent Nauru at the 54th session in September •

HR policy reminders

The Chief Secretary's Human Resources (HR) office conducted two policy refresher sessions for government departments, 21-28 June.



HR consultant Meleoni Uera present policy changes and standard processes and procedures

Given the increase in job applications with the public service, the sessions serves to ensure employees remain compliant with policies and standard procedures.

HR recognises staff turnover across the departments as a key element in non-compliance or awareness of HR procedures and policies.

Participants were also updated on changes to policies as the HR office continues to advocate good governance.

Facilitated by HR Consultant Meleoni Uera, the first of the two sessions on 21 June, focused on the fundamentals in recruitment.

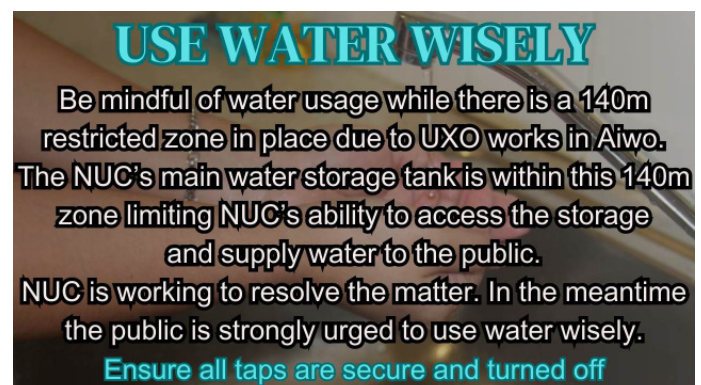
This comprised advertisement, logistics, appointing authority, merit principal, interview process, approval process, and staff induction.

The second session held on 28 June, centred mainly on leave entitlements and their differences and the benefits.

Ms Uera said the sessions are important as they also offer participants the opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions about the processes and what could be done to improve on overall service delivery.

Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu said that while the HR office should monitor the performance and conduct of public servants, it is crucial that everyone exercises responsibility and that all must work together in providing vital services to the public.

Additional refresher sessions are expected in the future, so as to maintain consistent standards throughout the public service •



UN rallies for SDG push

As the United Nations kicks off its communications campaign to rally for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nauru makes steady progress but not without its challenges.

Nauru’s geographical isolation and the reliance on imports, limited infrastructure and human resources are some of the difficulties obstructing full implementation.

The UN SDGs are central and aligned to Nauru’s National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) in addressing Nauru’s key development priorities including climate resilience, quality education and health, good governance, economic growth and development.

The SDGs builds on the Millennium Development Goals. Nauru revised its NSDS to mainstream the SDGs within its structure.

The UN launched the campaign on 5 July, at the halfway mark to the deadline of the 2030 SDGs.

The 17 SDGs are the roadmap for people and planet, calling for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

The goals include ending poverty, building economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery.

Adopted by UN member states in September 2015, the SDGs



officially came into effect in January 2016.

The UN statement on rewarded calls for action, released 5 July, states that “ahead of a critical UN Summit in September, the campaign aims to amplify an urgent call for ambitious new action, showcase the Goals as the blueprint for sustainable progress globally, and galvanize the global public around this shared agenda for our common future”.

“One core campaign component is the call to individual citizens to take action on the SDGs through the UN’s ActNow initiative across all 17 Goals. From using public transportation, to fundraising for schools or speaking up for equality, the platform lists steps that everyone can take to accelerate progress on the SDGs and create better lives on a healthier planet for all,” the statement said.

Nauru will be participating in the SDG conference in September 2023 •

PNA discuss sustainable tuna fisheries

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) met in Honiara from 15-16 June for their 18th annual meeting, with the theme Sustainable Tuna Fisheries for our Economic Growth & Development.

The Parties were represented by ministers from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Tokelau, and Solomon Islands, while the Federated States of Micronesia was represented by a senior official. The meeting was chaired by Solomon Islands’ Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources Nestor Giro.

The eight countries that are party to the PNA and Tokelau control the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery.

Ministers had the opportunity to travel to Noro, a town in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, before their meeting to visit the centre of the country’s tuna industry on the occasion of the celebration of 50 years of the operation of the tuna industry in Solomon Islands.

They also visited the Soltuna processing facility.

In his opening address, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Hon. Manasseh Sogavare highly commended the parties for their tremendous leadership in ensuring the region’s tuna stocks are managed and sustainably harvested and for providing economic and social benefits to its people since the organisation’s inception.

The Prime Minister encouraged the ministers, as custodians of the world’s largest sustainable tuna fisheries, to remain vigilant and innovative in view of threats transpiring from climate change and other external events.

He also called on the ministers to show that PNA know how to catch, process and market their own fish and to become self-reliant in those areas in the same way that PNA has shown how to manage tuna fisheries to generate revenue and conserve stocks •



The eight countries that are party to the PNA and Tokelau control the world’s largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery

[Photo:pnatuna.com]



Reporters at first summit democracy

Pacific journalists and public information officers (PIOs) gathered for a five-day intensive Democracy, Elections and Media workshop in Majuro, 16-22 June.

The workshop, hosted by Majuro-based Pacific Media Institute was held at the College of the Marshall Islands. It was facilitated by PMI co-founder Giff Johnson with a stellar team of trainers consisting of veteran journalists from the Pacific Islands and Australia.

Mr Johnson welcomed the participants including representatives from the Nauru Government Information Office.

Mr Johnson says this is the first time that this calibre of media trainers for this region are coming together, with special emphasis for people who work in government media "as there is almost no professional development opportunities [for them], ever, in our part of the world".

The participants were divided into two groups; journalists and students in the morning and PIOs in the afternoon. Media resource personnel delivered lunchtime presentations for participants on the first four days.

The workshop concluded with a Summit on Democracy - public engagement, communications and the media at the Majuro International Convention Centre, with opening remarks delivered by RMI's President David Kabua and Speaker of Parliament Kenneth Kedi.

Director of the Nauru Government Information Office Joanna Olsson says the workshop for public information officers in our region "was overdue".



Participants and trainers of the first media workshop on democracy, elections and media

"It was an excellent opportunity to refresh our media skills and learn from the best media professionals from the region, and connect with new pacific media colleagues."

Trainers include lead trainer Floyd Takeuchi, Hawaii-based writer and photographer; Jemima Garrett, award-winning freelance journalist and media development consultant; Samantha Magick, Islands Business managing editor; Leilani Reklai editor and publisher of Palau's Island Times newspaper; Lisa Williams-Lahari, Public Affairs Advisor to the Pacific Islands Forum; Georgina Kekea, president of the Media Association of the Solomon Islands; Kalafi Moala, president of the Media Association of Tonga; Anish Chand, Fiji Times, West Bureau Chief; and Rimon Rimon, investigative journalist and freelance media consultant •

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