



Nauru Bulletin

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Higher ground initiative master plan launched

The Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (DCCNR) launched the master plan for the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI), 4 August.

The HGI master plan details the plans for Nauru's first smart village, it is a new vision for resilience that aims to address Nauru's socio-economic and environmental issues, through the long-term planning of the migration of people and infrastructure to higher ground.

Minister for DCCNR Rennie Gadabu says HGI was made possible because of the hard work of multiple administrations and that the project will be a positive change for Nauru.

"It is my honour to officially launch the



Minister for Climate Change Rennie Gadabu accepts award for excellent innovative planning, design and visionary work

Higher Ground Initiative master plan for the island.

"The master plan is the result of nearly five years of work through three different administrations. It captures the vision for the future of Nauru that is more

prosperous.

"Phosphate mining brought the country an income but it left us with land where we could not build. That is changing... work is well underway at land portion 230 and very soon we will have ten hectares of topside for development," Minister Gadabu said.

One of the vital aspects of the HGI Project is its concept for a smart village that will incorporate cutting edge technology, equipped with solar panels, grey water filtration, rainwater collection and storm water management apparatus amongst others.

The smart village will comprise modern infrastructure and sustainable neighbourhoods, where people will be able to raise their families in a clean

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New 800 freighter VH-8TG takes flight

Nauru's national carrier unveiled its second 800 series freighter plane VH-8TG, 5 August, in what is another step in modernising Nauru's aircraft fleet and making Australian aviation history.

The aircraft is the first of its kind in Australia being the first Boeing 737-800 freighter on the Australian register.

His Excellency President Russ Kun is pleased that Nauru Airlines can be a part of Australia's aviation history, owning the first B737-800 freighter in Australia, and one that can transport a useable payload of 22 tonnes of cargo for approximately 2,000 nautical miles.

Chairman for Nauru Air Corporation (NAC) Dr Kieren Keke says the airline's fleet is now bigger than ever, with six aircraft and a growing fleet, but with a mixed strategy.

"We focus on core, essential services that ensure Nauru is connected to key hubs," Dr Keke said.

"And a key component within our RPT strategy is to stick to essential routes and only expand into routes that are commercially viable or are supported in some way."

Dr Keke recalls 20 years ago when 'fleet expansion' had a very different meaning.



Nauru Airline's latest freighter aircraft can carry 22 tonnes of cargo for 2000 nautical miles

"Our version of fleet expansion back then was to build from no aircraft to one aircraft.

"To lose the sole remaining aircraft was challenging to say the least," Dr Keke said.

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Higher ground initiative master plan launched

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environment, helping to foster community engagement.

During the event member of the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), Demetri Baches presented Minister Gadabu with the Charter Award, which recognises excellence in the innovative planning, design and visionary work in Nauru's HGI Project.

Nauru's High Commissioner to India Marlene Moses and youth representative Kalvary Porte also delivered statements conveying optimism and hopes for the future; saying that with HGI, it is a chance for Nauru as one of the world's smallest countries to build a thriving community.

The DCCNR outlined its vision for the project through twelve core pillars. These include land rehabilitation, affordable and green housing, food security, water security, energy security, low/zero carbon transport, economic diversification, education and training, good health and well-being, natural restoration, cultural restoration, and good governance.

By working within the scope of the core pillars, the government and its partners aim to incorporate these themes into the implementation phase of the project, ensuring Nauru's continued sustainable development and survival.

With the intergenerational nature of the project, the DCCNR aims to ensure that Nauruans will have the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out both construction and maintenance duties.

Work on HGI is expected to run from the end of 2024 to 2030 •

New 800 freighter VH-8TG takes flight

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He acknowledged with gratitude the Government of Taiwan who in 2006 assisted the airline with that phase of fleet expansion and the acquisition of Nauru's first Boeing 737-300 passenger aircraft, the original VH-INU.

He also acknowledged the Australian Government supporting the island hopper route connecting Australia, Nauru, Tarawa, Majuro, and Pohnpei.

"Thankfully we are looking at an entirely different scenario today when we talk about fleet expansion and I am very excited to be part of these operations and the development we have seen and are progressing with Nauru Airlines," Dr Keke said.

This aircraft is deliberately painted simply and minimal branding, with the plain white body and the Nauru Airlines tail and winglets to display the Nauru branding.

Chairman Keke says the new freighter will increase the airline's ability to not only ensure Nauru has regular essential air freight services, but that its team can operate with its partners and customers delivering more charters and wet lease services.

"This growth in this part of the Airline's business is critical. This is strategic growth with a clear purpose. This growth in our fleet will help ensure we can deliver essential passenger and freight air services for the people of Nauru, that are affordable and that do not require ongoing financial subsidy from the Government.

"We have returned strong results over the last four years which, along with support from the Government of Nauru, as well as key partners like the Governments of Taiwan and Australia, we are now investing back into key assets that will support the business into the coming years."

Chairman Keke says the services in the first 30 years of the national carrier, then called Air Nauru, was essentially funded by the Nauru Government.

This involved long flights across the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, multiple parts of Asia and across to the US west coast and in between.

"Small populations in Nauru and the Pacific Islands, meaning small passenger numbers, travelling on long flights across the ocean was an expensive operation that is not commercially profitable," Dr Keke said.

For the last 18 years or so, the airline has targeted a smaller number of routes that provide key connections, such as hubs in Brisbane and Fiji, and have built another side of its business with wet lease operations and charter services.

Nauru Airlines signed a letter of intent to purchase the aircraft on 17 January and the sales purchase agreement signed on 28 March; before ownership was officially transferred to Nauru on 26 May.

Signing the letter of intent to purchase in January meant the airline was provided access to the technical data.

The event was attended by President Kun and Madam Kun, Cabinet ministers, Board Members, and distinguished stakeholders; the Airline's clients, industry partners, staff, and members of the Nauruan community.

Guests were ushered onto the aircraft for viewing followed by the presentation of Miss Nauru Airlines, Chantel Cain.

Cultural entertainment followed including the parading of Nauru Airlines' crew uniforms •

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.

Nauru disappointed at ISA slow progress

President Russ Kun says Nauru is “extremely disappointed” at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council’s failure to adopt rules, regulations and procedures that will enable seabed exploration in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, also known as the Area.

In 2021, Nauru formally requested the Council to complete and adopt the rules and regulations for exploitation within two years.

This deadline expired in July and “we are extremely disappointed,” President Kun told the 28th Session of the ISA in Jamaica, 26 July.

“We consider the Council’s failure to adopt such rules, regulations and procedures within the prescribed timeline [of two years], constitutes a direct breach of its obligation under the 1994 Agreement.”

President Kun reiterated Nauru’s decision to request the adoption within two years was not taken lightly.

“After consultation at a national level, we made an informed decision based on the facts before us, and with good intent, took what we considered a necessary step afforded to us by the 1994 Agreement.

“However, Nauru acknowledges the significant efforts and work made by delegations over the last two years towards the adoption of the draft regulatory text, not least, the time dedicated to intersessional work,” President Kun said.

His Excellency is also pleased to see the strong political commitment of the Council in its decision last week to complete and adopt the draft exploitation regulations by the 30th session of the ISA.

“Much has been achieved to date in the negotiation process and we must not lose momentum, in our endeavour to produce a world class, robust regulatory framework for the responsible use of polymetallic nodules in the Area.”

President Kun says there is a window of opportunity to support the development of a sector that Nauru considers has the potential to help accelerate energy transition to combat climate change, and realise the financial and other economic benefits of the international community as a whole.

Nauru became the first developing state to sponsor an application for an exploration contract in the Reserved Area of the CCZ, realising the vision of UN Convention of the Law of the Sea



President Russ Kun says less talk and more action is needed for tangible outcomes to support adaptation and resilience

(UNCLOS) that the new industry be accessible and available to developing states such as Nauru.

“Breaking the historical pattern of colonial powers benefitting from the extraction of resources, while developing states without the same capacity are left behind is critical if we are to bridge the North-South divide,” President Kun said.

“We are proud of our role in helping to empower developing states and will continue to advocate for developing state’s rights under UNCLOS.

“To that end, for those delegations who have claimed to protect the environment and preserve the marine biodiversity, I look forward to all your pledges in COP28 as we put people at the heart of climate action – delivering a just transition, enhanced adaptation and climate action for sustainable development.

“We need less talk, and more action that brings about tangible outcomes on the ground to support our adaptation and resilience.”

President Kun urges collective and constructive work to finalise a world class ISA mining code that has a robust environmental standard within the regulatory framework, and assures Nauru’s full support to complete this work.

Nauru also played a key role in progressing the international legal framework by requesting the ISA seek elaboration on Sponsoring State responsibilities, which resulted in the successful Advisory Opinion being delivered from the Seabed Dispute Chamber of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in 2011 •

NAURU UTILITIES CORPORATION

Under its Community Service Obligation, commencing July 2023, NUC has:

- Reduced the power lifeline charge for the first 200kwh of each month from 22c to 17c;
 - The first 200kwh now costs \$34 instead of \$44.
- Reduced the cost of a new domestic meter installation to a fixed rate of \$499.

All meters remain the property of NUC. The fee of \$499 covers the initial cost of installation, and future maintenance and replacement costs.

For more information, contact 5574038.



Officers welcomed after completing first UNPOL mission

Two officers of the Nauru Police Force (NPF) return home after completing their one year deployment in the United Nations' (UN) unarmed peacekeeping mission in Juba, South Sudan, 28 July.

Sergeant Drusky Dabwadauw and Senior Constable Jacaranda Akibwib served with their Contingent Commander Imran Scotty who is currently completing the remainder of his duties in Juba.

The United Nations Police (UNPOL) is an international organisation that leads peacekeeping operations all over the world. It aims to restore and enhance peace and security by supporting member states in conflict or post conflict crises.

The contingent is the first ever team from Nauru to participate in a UNPOL peacekeeping mission and are the first ever Nauruans to receive medals from the UN for their service in community outreach.

During their time in South Sudan, the contingent helped to build peace and security through their work in community outreach and their collaboration with other law enforcement units.

The team also helped carry out Short Duration Patrols (SDPs) and Long Duration Patrols (LDPs). These patrols are strategically carried out to provide situational reports that aim to assess security and humanitarian situations along select areas of the host state.

Contingent Commander Scotty said their experience in the mission has helped expand their own knowledge and skills in policing and that they are proud to have represented Nauru on the international scale.

“Our roles as UNPOL [peace keepers] is generally promoting effective policing strategies by working alongside the local police, sharing skills and knowledge of policing that includes training and interactions with the police and the communities.

“NPF is grateful and proud for the sacrifice and effort done by the first ever team as this legacy has made the NPF and of course our beloved nation so proud.

“Through this we have showcased our capabilities and professionalism and not only that, but this also gives a good significant gesture to our country’s commitments to peacekeeping operations around the world through our UN commitments and mediations,” Mr Scotty said.

He adds the team’s “outstanding performance” will reflect well on Nauru’s status as a nation participating in UNPOL’s peace keeping operations, this can potentially open up further opportunities for more NPF officers to participate in the near future.

Senior Constable Akibwib and Superintendent Scotty also have exceptional experience in peacekeeping

work with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Prior to their service in Juba, the contingent attended pre-deployment training in Ankara, Turkey in February 2022 •



Sergeant Dabwadauw and Senior Constable Akibwib are the first of three NPF officers to attend and complete UNPOL deployment

In memory of Sergeant Drusky Dabwadauw



Sergeant Dabwadauw joined the Nauru Police Force in August 2016 and completed his final mission as one of the first three Nauruans to ever join and complete deployment with the United Nations Police peace keeping mission, and the first to also receive the United Nations Mission in South Sudan medal in recognition of their service to ensuring peace for the people of South Sudan.

He returned home on Friday, 28 July, after successfully completing his one-year deployment in Juba, South Sudan; but sadly and suddenly passed away on Friday, 4 August 2023. He was laid to rest on Saturday 5 August.

Rest in peace.

Financial intelligence unit convenes first private sector meeting

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Department of Justice and Border Control convened the first Private Partners Committee meeting with members of the private sector to address money laundering and terrorism financing risks in Nauru, 28 July.

The global fight against money laundering and terrorism financing requires a collaborative effort from both the public and private sectors.

The Financial Action Task Force promotes a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in ensuring that jurisdictions understand their money laundering and terrorism financing risks across all sectors.

Many Jurisdictions across the world have adopted PPPs and most have been very successful.

It is known that the private sector is most vulnerable to money laundering and terrorism financing from criminals and organised crime. It is critical to protect financial systems from being abused.

Nauru must do the same and correctly identify and mitigate all the risks it faces, not only from money laundering and terrorism financing, but also all other serious and financial crimes that might bring disrepute to Nauru's financial system, social and economic wellbeing.

FIU supervisor Rajas Swamy reiterated that information sharing, data collection and strong partnership between the public and private sectors are key to strong and effective anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism for Nauru.



(Far right) FIU supervisor Rajas Swamy leads the private partners meeting

The Private Partners Committee was updated on the status of Nauru's upcoming Mutual Evaluation and its importance. The Mutual Evaluation is a report assessment of a country's measures to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism.

The FIU will provide the committee with updates on a monthly basis in preparation for Nauru's Mutual Evaluation. The committee will also meet with the Anti-Money Laundering Committee regularly to share and find solutions to any risks identified.

The committee elected the current President of the Nauru Law Society, Ms. Barina Waqa Duburiya as the chairperson of the committee. The committee affirmed its support to the FIU in leading the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing risks for Nauru •

RPC staff take first steps in alternative pathways

The first cohort of 101 participants of the Alternative Pathways program received their certificates of attainment offered through the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productive Centre, 28 July.

The alternative pathways program established by the Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) focuses on planning for the future for Nauruan staff affected by the draw down of operational services at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC).

FNU Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) Secretary Daniel Eoe and Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs Isabella Dageago presented the certificates.

A team of trainers from FNU arrived on Nauru on 10 July to facilitate the three-week training offering five short courses including basic cookery, domestic electrical installation, household and sanitary plumbing, baking and patisserie, and garment construction.

DMA Secretary Daniel Eoe acknowledged the graduates who took this opportunity with great enthusiasm.

"It makes me very proud to say congratulations to the first graduating class for FNU through the alternative pathways program."

DMA Secretary Eoe says although this program was created to assist RPC employees, the introduction of FNU in Nauru



Deputy Minister Isabella Dageago presents certificate to Alternative Pathways graduate

has created the opportunity for other departments to discuss customised and focused trainings.

Mr Eoe thanked the Minister for DMA Martin Hunt, the Government of Nauru, and the Australian Government for their support, and the FNU trainers and delegation for providing the courses, and the alternative pathways team and DMA staff for their tireless effort "to get everything across the line and ensure we got to this point" •

Nauru Air records profit and good progress

At the 6 June sitting of the Nauru Parliament, the deputy Minister for Nauru Air Corporation (NAC) reported a net profit of \$8.5 million for financial year ending June 2022 for NAC and its subsidiaries.

Deputy Minister Asterio Appi tabled the annual report and the audited financial statements year ending June 2022 of the corporation, SUNCo Pty Ltd Holding Inc., and the Nauru Leasing Corporation.

Mr Appi was pleased to inform the House that Nauru Airlines “continues to be the benchmark for Nauru’s state-owned enterprises by having its annual financial accounts and independent audits all up to date”.

He says the reporting is in accordance with the Public Enterprises Act 2019, the Nauru Air Corporation Act 1995, and the Corporations Act 1972.

“Its [Nauru Airlines] primary aim is to deliver these [passenger and freight] services at the highest level of safety and to operate to the best international aviation standards.

“The corporation aims to deliver air services for Nauru in a commercially sustainable way,” Mr Appi said adding that the airline’s safety record remains untarnished.

The airline’s key outcomes for financial year ending June 2022 include increased passenger services to twice weekly flights connecting Nauru to Australia carrying 2,039 passengers.

Freight to Nauru delivered 1,137 tonnes of freight on 99 flights, equating to nearly two flights every week, versus the Government CSO sponsored committed once a week freight service.

The second converted B737-300 freighter aircraft, VH-YNU, was brought into service at the start of the financial year following the sale of the ageing freighter VH-VLI.

The New Generation B737-700 passenger aircraft flew its first commercial flight to Nauru on 31 March 2022.

The airline recorded a profit of \$8.5m for FY2022; total equity increased to \$18.96m; while gross revenue was up by \$18m to \$66.9m, and freight charter revenue up by \$9.8m.

Mr Appi said the main challenges included reduced passenger numbers due to the impacts of COVID-19 and fuel costs increased approximately 78 per cent from 72c in July 2021 to \$1.37 in June 2022.

The airline’s overall cost increases and CPI impacts, including salary costs, including labour shortages across the industry, in particular ground handling impacted the airline’s performance.

Delay in getting the new B737-700 aircraft, VH-INU, into service, and prolonged C-Check heavy maintenance on VH-XNU, resulted in two months with only one passenger aircraft operating.

Keeping the older B737-300 aircraft in service, securing parts, and obtaining heavy maintenance was also an ongoing challenge.

Despite COVID impacts, Mr Appi said profits recorded for financial year ending June 2020 were \$300,000; \$4.7m at June 2021; and \$8.5m at June 2022, while years 2017 to 2019 recorded losses.



Total 2022 revenue includes government community service obligation subsidy and grant support

“The 2022 positive result is a direct reflection of rapidly adapting to challenges posed by COVID, and improved strategic planning and prioritisation at the board level, strong and active management by the senior executive group and effective implementation by all staff,” Mr Appi said.

The total revenue in 2022 includes a Nauru Government Community Service Obligation subsidy of \$4.84m to support freight services to Nauru which essentially covers the cost of the return journey of the empty flight after delivering freight to Nauru.

The total revenue also includes \$1.2m in grant support from the government, the majority of which supported the salaries for Nauruan staff of the airline on secondment to other organisations during COVID.

Looking ahead Mr Appi says the board has confidence that the airline is strategically well positioned to take up opportunities on multiple fronts to build a stronger business, from additional freight operations, new passenger routes, longer term charter and wet lease operations for other providers.

Ongoing investments include aircraft fleet upgrades, better IT systems, enhanced freight management systems, and develop its engineering capacity and hangar facilities.

However, Mr Appi warns that while the airline needs smart planning, “we also need to recognise risks and prepare as best we can for managing them”.

“There remains uncertainty around the ongoing level of services required from the airline into the future in relation to the Regional Processing Centre and there may be other unexpected impacts on the industry of the airline,” Mr Appi said •



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Trainee teachers pursue courses

The Department of Education’s focus for the new calendar is to achieve its objectives and ambitions in the identified key areas of literacy, numeracy, early years and learning recovery.

Contributing to the department’s targets, a total of 32 trainee teachers have undertaken training courses for Certificate III in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at the University of the South Pacific Nauru campus, and teacher training project at the University of New England (UNE), Australia.

Of the 32 trainees, seven graduated in June while the rest are completing their course.

Minister for Education and Training Richard-Hyde Menke told Parliament in June that upon completion of the course the trainees will merge into the teaching workforce lowering the teacher-student ratio of 1:40 at Nauru Secondary School and 1:15 at infant schools.

“This will allow opportunities for personalised and tailored attention to our students,” Minister Menke said.

Education Staff Development Manager Kutan Ribauw says education employees are given opportunities to upgrade their qualifications through USP programs.

“My aim for training development is to provide pathways for trainees to achieve a recognised certificate and later upgrade



Teacher trainers entering the workforce will reduce ratio of 1:40 at secondary and 1:15 at infant schools

their qualification to the required qualification by our department which is a diploma.”

The Education Department encourages Nauruan men and women to join the teaching workforce as there is a need for more local teachers especially in the primary and secondary schools •

DO NOT DELAY TREATMENT

If you experience any symptoms please visit the nearest health center

IT CAN CAUSE DEATH

MALARIA SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Headache
- Chest Pain
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea

TIME TO CONSUME WATER

- When you first wake up
- Before eating some food
- Before going to sleep

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Republic of Nauru

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