



Boosting efforts to ensure water security

The Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (DCCNR) is boosting efforts to ensure water security for communities.

The DCCNR's Water Division is leading a number of initiatives to address the matter of water security for vulnerable communities. These include the production and distribution of water tanks, dredging new water wells.

The DCCNR and the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Initiative's (GCCA) Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA) project have been able to provide 171 water tanks to the most vulnerable in the community. The DCCNR expects to disburse an additional 50 water tanks this financial year.

Water tanks are distributed to those in the community that meet most of the water division's priority criteria.

The division makes these distributions based on whether a home has an existing tank, how many people live in the home and whether the home also has vulnerable people.

To further address water scarcity, the department has also dredged ten



WHO says 2.2 billion people do not have access to safely managed drinking water services

underground water wells around the island except in the district of Buada due to its higher elevation.

Originally, each water well was aimed to accommodate three houses, however, the allocation was reduced to one house per well, due to equipment constraints. These gaps will be evaluated and addressed at the next phase of the project.

Director for the Water Division Jaala Jeremiah says despite the team's small size and the challenges it faces, the team has been able to successfully complete much of the assigned tasks.

"It's a small team, so we pretty much have to get a lot done with little amount

of time. But the positive thing is we all work together. It's going really well, it's going on track.

"Obviously, there will also be some short comings that we'll need to address... but we're pretty much ticking off our major activities."

The Department is in the process of signing a grant agreement with the Pacific Community (SPC) to install and repair rainwater harvesting systems, repair concrete water cisterns and train community leaders in using water testing kits.

The water testing kits will be used to test water quality in domestic tanks and provide on the spot water quality information. This helps keep people's source of water safe and free from environmental risks and lessens the risks of potential health risks.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), around 2.2 billion people globally do not have access to safely managed drinking water services; while 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services and three billion people lack basic hand washing facilities •

Sewerage disposal, treatment making headway

The management of sewerage and sanitation is undeniably an ongoing national issue, Minister for Environment Rennier Gadabu told parliament in June.

Septic tanks connected to soak pits and a pilot project to better manage sewerage waste is underway.

The Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture (DEMA) is the environmental policy arm of the government that works with numerous agencies and departments in piloting and establishing good practices to strengthen the management of complex environmental issues.

A contractor is under the employ of the department to see the project through.

Secretary for DEMA Ms Berilyn Jeremiah says sewerage and sanitation is a complex and costly issue to address where there is no one size fits all.

"However it is our ambition to get on top of this complex matter for the benefit of the health of our environment and our people.

"In the past, the appropriate services and management required to address this issue have been working in silo of each other. It is necessary to make key changes to improve the quality of facilities and services to better manage sanitation in Nauru."

She confirms that in regards to the specific works the department has been working with local expertise, the Department of

Cont pg 2...

Sewerage disposal, treatment making headway

...from pg 1

Climate Change and National Resilience, and the Asian Development Bank in developing suitable plans necessary to improve sanitation in Nauru.

One of those is the proposed urban planning master plan which has been drawn up and approved by the working committee to improve national sewerage and sanitation involving the Nauru Utilities Corporation and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation.

Ten new septic tanks were constructed with connections to soak pits. Ms Jeremiah says the majority of these have completed with one septic tank remaining and the contractor finalising the remaining 15 per cent of works involving plumbing connection.

“The general measurements [of the soak pits] as recommended by technical experts is 400mm x 400mm. However, this depends on how deep the groundwater is. If shallow then soak pit should be made longer such as half a metre or in the case where ground water is fresh [then it should be] 2.5m,” Ms Jeremiah said.

Building code for Nauru

The Department of Infrastructure Development is working with multiple local stakeholders, heads of department and the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to develop and implement a national building code (NBC) for Nauru.

A national building code is a set of regulations and standards that apply to the design and construction of buildings within a country with the aim to ensure safety, health, accessibility and sustainability of structures.

A technical working group comprising relevant government agencies and local contractors has been established with PRIF leading the development and implementation of the building code.

Secretary for Infrastructure Development Annalina Solomon says the NNBC will emphasise safety measures in construction to mitigate natural disaster risks by setting a certain structural standard that can withstand strong winds, potential earthquakes and other natural disasters.

“While implementing and adhering to a building code might initially incur costs, it can lead to long-term economic benefits. Improved construction quality can lead to fewer maintenance issues, longer building lifespans, and potentially attract more investment,” Secretary Solomon said.

The NBC would require government oversight and enforcement which includes training and licencing for builders, inspection of constructions, and continuous monitoring of building compliance with the code.

The black water from the soak pits provides good source of nutrients for plants to grow, Ms Jeremiah says.

Additionally, she says, the pits also reduce the amount of pathogens entering the ground water.

The performance or outcome of this pilot project will determine the next steps including expanding the project provided there are funding opportunities in this area of work.

There are also plans to expand the project to other districts.

Ms Jeremiah says previous studies show a high level of E.coli contamination of ground water around the island.

“It is ideal to come up with an effective design for all districts to benefit from and major challenges in achieving this would be cost effectiveness and land availability.”

In the meantime, 30 plastic twin chamber septic tanks are on island and the department has called for expressions of interest from licenced construction companies to be considered for the installation and connection including seeking participation for houses without a septic system •



A national building code will pave the way for safer housing

Minister for Infrastructure Development Rennie Gadabu told parliament that the department will continue to meet targets and place necessary steps to “strengthen housing projects and other critical infrastructure by implementing much-needed policies”.

“With this approach, we envision suitable infrastructure that not only addresses current needs but also serves us for many years to come.”

The first draft for the NNBC will be endorsed by the technical working group this month, August; while the official NNBC and building legislation are anticipated to be approved and in force by early 2024 •

Safety First!

- * *Drive safely* * *Be considerate with other motorists*
- * *Wear your helmet* * *Have your drivers' licence ready for police inspection*
- * *Have a designated driver if you plan to consume alcohol*
- * *Don't drive if you're underaged*
- * *Be responsible and let's all have a safe week ahead*

God bless Nauru!

Speaker calls on new FSM president

Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen attended the inauguration ceremony of the 10th president of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, 26 July.

Mr Wesley was Chuuk State's senator at-large prior to being elected president of FSM on 11 May 2023.

Speaker Stephen was representing President Russ Kun who was in Jamaica for meetings with the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Mr Stephen was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Commerce, Industry and Business Development, Maverick Eoe.

Mr Stephen and Mr Eoe paid a courtesy call on President Simina and Vice President Aren B. Palik at the Office of the President in the capital Palikir, following the inauguration ceremony, and presented a gift to President Simina on behalf of President Kun •



Speaker Marcus Stephen pays courtesy call on FSM President Wesley Simina

Ambassador meets President Tsai

Nauru's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Geneva office Ambassador Chitra Jeremiah is in Taiwan this week to meet with President Tsai Ing-wen.

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Ms Jeremiah is one of four representatives of Taiwan diplomatic allies the Marshall Islands, Guatemala, and Eswatini, visiting Taiwan from 14 to 19 August.

The seven-member delegation includes Ambassador Vuyile Dumisani Dlamini of Eswatini and his wife, Ambassador Doreen deBrum of the Marshall Islands and her husband, Ambassador Ángela María Chávez Bietti of Guatemala and her husband.

Ambassador Dlamini will deliver remarks on behalf of the delegation at their meeting with President Tsai.

The delegation will also meet with the President of the Control Yuan and Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission Chen Chu, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan, the Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, and secretary generals of the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster



Ambassador Jeremiah (5th from left) with her counterparts on arrival at Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan

Photo: Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reduction and Taiwan's development agency the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF).

The delegation will exchange views with Taiwan government officials on a wide range of issues covering human rights, medical and health cooperation, scientific and technological research and development, disaster prevention and control, sustainable development, and efforts by Taiwan to promote its participation in the UN system and expand its international space •

Pleaders join legal practitioners

The Nauru Court convened on 11 August for the admission and swearing in of 11 pleaders to the Nauru Bar as legal practitioners, bringing the total number to 73.

The petitions for the pleaders were moved by their individual legal mentors with no objection from the Nauru Law Society.

Acting Chief Justice Mohammed Khan approved their petitions stating that the "newly admitted pleaders will have an advantage of starting your careers by receiving clear guidance and proper orientation from the very outset as you embark on this journey".

"Being a lawyer is all about making sacrifices without which you will not succeed and I hope that you all will work hard in the development of the legal profession."

Secretary for Justice Jay Udit, on behalf of the Government and the Department of Justice congratulated the pleaders saying that with the new classification, "you are now subjected to the Legal Practitioners Act".

"His Honour has reminded you on the integrity and honesty of legal practice. Whenever your hands or feet become wobbly in the sense



Admission of pleaders take total number of legal practitioners to 73

of doing something which in your moral conscience appears to be wrong, pick up the oath again and read it. It will be a guide and it deserves that solemn regard."

Congratulations to the new pleaders - Carlos Eoe, Amos Horasio Cook, Kosak Kosam, Dane Dageago, Trini Josie Caleb, Lisa-Marie Solomon, Ignatius Shark-O Bill, Aie Ribauw, Cronisa Baguga, Chloe Adeang, and Bernard Grundler. •

Planned dog management on track

Dog management consultants are back on island after a hiatus during COVID to assess and provide assistance to government agencies and communities address Nauru's dog population.

The team's visit is being facilitated by the Australian High Commission and is working closely with Nauru's department of quarantine and dog management unit.



First dog management meetings post-COVID 19

Vets Beyond Borders' Anne Lloyd-Jones, CEO of Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) Dr Brooke Rankmore, and Centre for Health Security advisor with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs Dr Francette Dusan are listening to local concerns and suggestions, and providing the expert advice.

The group discussions with government agencies centred on a five-to-ten year plan of what the group expects to see developed in terms of the dog issue for Nauru.

Ms Lloyd-Jones says the meeting went well.

“There was good engagement by participants and demonstrated understanding that dog and cat management was a shared issue requiring shared solutions.

“The main difference between this and previous consultations is that we're asking Nauru to think about a longer term five-10 year plan.

“And really this consultation needed to occur to check in post-COVID-19 where Nauru was so that when we send a veterinary team within the next few months we know what to expect and can ensure they are properly provisioned.”

The visiting veterinary team aims to provide desexing services.

“Desexing is needed for owned and community animals to reduce the population of unwanted puppies and kittens which end up as strays.

“It also improves dog health and can stabilise populations meaning less fights than when animals are removed only by culling,” Ms Lloyd-jones said.

Discussions included animal health services such as a veterinary presence; education and awareness of dog nutrition, care, and human approach to dogs; training and capacity building such as humanely disposing of carcasses; resourcing, equipment and facilities; policy and legislation compliance; and data and impact reporting •

Smart housing initiative

The Department of Infrastructure has successfully completed three smart houses under the smart housing program for the financial year 2022-23.

The smart house refers to the smarter design of incorporating robust building techniques and design that is specifically tailored to suit Nauru.



Smart housing incorporates robust building techniques and designs tailored to Nauru's needs

Photo: Minister R.Gadabu

The design includes raised columns or stilts to protect homes from flooding; waterproof flooring material that keeps the home cool and easy to maintain; underground water tanks to save space and protect tanks from natural elements such as heat and falling debris.

The foundations are constructed to support double story buildings encouraging families to build upwards; while clear roofing allows natural sunlight to assist families with electrical expenses; and extensive ventilation points to keep the homes cool reducing the need for excessive use of air conditioning.

Another positive of the smart housing program is the additional housing stock and higher quality of domestic dwellings.

In addition to the program, the department acquired 55 container homes, 30 of which have been delivered and completely assembled, while 25 are at various stages of delivery and assembly.

Secretary for the Department of Infrastructure Development Annalina Solomon says the housing programs under the department are used to assist the most vulnerable in the community.

“Families identified as most vulnerable and are at risk are those that are living in overcrowded homes, and those who have no financial means to build their own homes.”

Minister for Infrastructure Development Rennie Gadabu told parliament in June the government recognises “the urgency of the housing crisis and the desire of families to move into their homes”.

“However, we must ensure that the homes we provide meet safety standards.”

In efforts to achieve this, a team from the container home supplier arrived to conduct building installations inspection and provided recommendations for alternate methods of installations for better results.

This program encourages training and development opportunities for local contractors and economic stimulation of the domestic building sector •

UNODC maritime training for police

The Global Maritime Crime Programme under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducted a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) foundation course for seven Nauru police maritime officers, 8-17 August.

MDA courses provide training on how to identify and tackle breaches of laws and regulations relating to marine resources, safe navigation, marine and coastal habitat, piracy, smuggling of contraband and people, terrorism and unauthorised use of radio spectrum.

MDA National Programme Officer Francis Lozano arrived 6 August to facilitate the course which teaches the basics of vessel detection and behavior patterns in the water.

Mr Lozano says the training includes three different MDA tools used to “detect maritime activities in [Nauru’s] waters, the territorial sea or in the exclusive economic zone”.

The three MDA tools skylight, sea vision and starboard contribute to improving maritime transparency for the protection of national waters and the world’s oceans.

These tools are used to help nations with complex maritime challenges by providing a broad array of information defining maritime activities or events.



NPF officers learn to manage complex maritime challenges

As part of their training, officers installed coastal automatic identification system receivers at the maritime unit to monitor vessel activities within Nauru maritime zones.

Sergeant Wilhelm Appi thanked Mr Lozano on behalf of the Nauru Maritime Unit for the training and guidance provided over two weeks.

He said in the vernacular that the training has helped the maritime unit improve their knowledge, skills and capability to monitor vessel activities and provide better maritime security and protect the interests of the nation •

Scotty completes UN mission as first commander

Nauru’s first ever UN contingent commander Superintendent Imran Scotty of the Nauru Police Force (NPF) returns home after successfully completing his one year deployment with the United Nations Police (UNPOL) peacekeeping mission in Juba, South Sudan, 11 August.

Commander Scotty worked alongside Senior Constable Jacaranda Akibwib and the late Sergeant Drusky Dabwadauw. During their time in Juba, the team focused on community outreach and conducted patrols across select parts of the host country.

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 worked with other UNPOL officers to help bring peace and stability to the lives of many people who are affected by military conflicts.

The NPF officers became the first ever Nauruans to be awarded medals from the United Nations for their service in peacekeeping.

The team helped carry out short and long duration patrols. 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 are proud to have represented Nauru on an international scale.

“It is rewarding to explore some new skills and work related processes that we’ve gained from the mission which we could share to our department.



Superintendent Scotty says their experience in the mission has helped expand their own knowledge and skills in policing

“Working in the mission is demanding as the community you are serving is unlike the one we served back home. In the mission, we serve and deal with a community that has been affected by conflicts and wars.

“We were expected to execute our duties with the utmost professionalism to suit the vulnerable community we serve.”

Currently, the UNPOL has over 11,500 active officers from over 90 countries. The Nauru contingent became one of the world’s smallest upon joining the UNPOL and served alongside other contingents from the South Pacific, such as Samoa and Fiji.

After signing a peace agreement in 2009, the civil war between Sudan and South Sudan came to an end and South Sudan gained its independence in 2011. The South Sudanese civil war was the longest civil war in Africa’s history •

First resilient pacific leaders program

Nauru took part in the inaugural Resilient Pacific Island Leaders (RPIL) development program aimed at enabling leadership capacity building with upcoming leaders of the Blue Pacific Continent, from 19 June to 29 July.

Foreign Investment adviser to the presidency department and chairman of the Nauru Fibre Cable Corporation Laben Taldon was Nauru's participant in this very first RPIL program and he highly recommends Nauru attends the annual program for many reasons.

“One key factor is that we all understand the need to develop our human capacity in terms of leadership and regional understanding, improving quality on the human part of our nation's capital is vital to our development and this program enables that through both formal and informal education.”

The six-week program hosted 24 fellows from 19 Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL) member countries, territories, and the State of Hawaii, with a residency in Hawaii and a field immersion in Washington DC.

“One of my core purposes of attending the program was to enhance my professional network across the region; the development of such a network can contribute to the development of Nauru in terms of easing communication and information gathering,” Mr Taldon said.

“It is rewarding to learn that there are a lot we have in common between our small island and the other neighbouring countries on the issues we all are facing and the development we need to progress.

“These commonalities can bring forth a united voice for the Pacific in the international arena which will assist in our developmental progress whether economically or socially.”

The curriculum centred around areas of critical importance to humanity identified in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership and in alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Mr Taldon says the experience was overwhelming yet rewarding.

Adam completes Samoa secondment

Nauru Police Force Inspector Iyo Adam returns home after completing six months' secondment with the Pacific Transnational Crime Network in Apia, Samoa, 14 August.

The Australian Federated Police developed a regional network and established transnational crime units in member states of the Pacific Islands Forum, co-ordinated by the Pacific Transnational Crime Co-ordination Centre (PTCCC) since June 2004.

Inspector Adam departed Nauru in February as the first NPF officer to be deployed overseas under this program which is in alignment with the Partnership of Declaration with the Pacific Transnational Crime Network signed in June 2013.

Alongside other member state police officers they focused on



Trade adviser Laben Taldon says the program enhances professional networking while broadens understanding of regional issues

“The program was very beneficial as it builds confidence and allows participants to delve into issues concerning the region as well as hold discussions among themselves and government officials from across the region on the 2050 strategy of the Blue Pacific continent.”

The program strengthens participants' knowledge and understanding of key regional economic, social, political, health, educational and environmental issues, and cultivate culturally sustaining leadership capacities.

“It was beneficial to the work I'm carrying on and the duties I am held responsible to, reason being it fosters innovative thoughts through the numerous discussions and lectures held throughout the six weeks program,” Mr Taldon said.

“The program enabled me to draw from the perspectives of others with different backgrounds and professions; for that I believe that the program has also enriched my capacity both personally and professionally.”

The program was funded by the US Congress, facilitated by the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) and the East-West Centre of the University of Hawaii •



Inspector Iyo Adam in Samoa during his transnational crime secondment

challenging transboundary criminal activities such as smuggling of drugs and guns, money laundering among others.

Inspector Adam says that during the six month deployment, he gained “skills and knowledge that are beneficial to the development of the organisation I work for” •

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

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

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



Republic of Nauru

Office contact:
Government Information Office
Government Offices
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

Em: gio.nauru@gmail.com
Tel: +674 557-3009/3133 ext. 307
www.naurugov.nr