



Nauru Bulletin

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No change to RPC plans

Nauru's Acting President and Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang says the Friday riot which destroyed most of the facilities at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) does not change Nauru's commitment to hosting the Centre.

"Australia hasn't asked for changes and we haven't put any forward, so yes it's business as usual," the acting president said.

"There will of course be extra measures taken now to enhance security protocols and features associated with managing the RPC and these are being addressed, together with a consideration of greater effort to enhance the determination process and communicating with the asylum seekers about this process and the state of their determination."

Nauru will also be shortly assuming greater control and responsibility of the Centres through Administrative Arrangements supporting the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing the processing of asylum seekers.

The administrative arrangements will assist the Government of Nauru in particular to stay on top of operational issues over the RPC including the welfare of asylum seekers.

The riot that erupted in flames and

violence at the RPC at the weekend (19 July) destroying buildings and food supplies for the camp is estimated at \$60-million.

Mr Adeang toured the site this week (22 July) with cabinet ministers and members of parliament and saw the destruction first hand.



Acting President David Adeang, MP (R) visited the site following the 19 July riot at the Regional Processing Centre on Nauru

The wreckage is being bulldozed and cleared to make way for rebuilding which is estimated to be ready in six months.

All eight accommodation blocks each housing between 44 to 88 people, office

blocks, and medical facilities were burnt to the ground, including half the new kitchen which had just been commissioned three days before the riot.

Up to 400 asylum seekers are still at the Centre and now living in tents until more suitable accommodation can be erected. They are receiving food and medical treatment.

Court proceedings for 152 asylum seekers in police custody are underway.

On 24 July the District Court of Nauru denied bail for the men, however bail hearings commenced a day later (25 July).

The initial charges are unlawful assembly and riot, with additional charges expected including arson on public buildings.

The latter charge would require a hearing in the Supreme Court with a committal process in the District Court initially.

The asylum seekers appeared before Resident Magistrate Peter Law in groups of ten to 12.

The asylum seekers are being represented by court appointed lawyers. Each group was aided by an interpreter.

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Australian immigration minister Burke arrives in Nauru

Australia's Minister for Immigration, Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, Tony Burke and a small delegation will arrive Nauru today (26 July) to meet with the Nauru Government and visit the Regional Processing Centre.

Mr Burke and his delegation will be briefed by the Australian High Commission and members of DIAC before making his first courtesy call on Nauru President Baron Waqa followed by Justice Minister David Adeang.

The delegation will then visit the two sites of the RPC before departing Nauru later in the afternoon.

Riot at processing centre left \$60-M damage bill

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Director of Police Kalinda Blake said police were on standby at the Centre around 2.00pm on Friday (19 July) afternoon.

The riot began at approximately 6.30pm and ended around 11.00pm. Police were stood down at 5.00am the following morning.

On the night of the riot (19 July) the Government established a body of Reserve Officers consisting of Transfield Security personnel, other security service personnel and all other deputised to respond to the RPC riots in Nauru to be called the Nauru Police Force Reserve. It is estimated around 250 local men were outside the Centre following the call for assistance.

No police or security personnel were injured during the riot however two asylum seekers received medical attention for minor injuries.

Acting President and Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang said in a television interview shortly after midnight (20 July) following the riot that plans were underway to house and look after the asylum seekers.

Mr Adeang said that updates made to him on Friday (19 July) afternoon reported approximately 60 asylum seekers wanted to hold a protest at the airport and to seek answers from the Government of Nauru as to the status of their refugee claims.

Since then the situation escalated leading to fires being started at the centre.

“As far as we know they (asylum seekers) are not happy with their processing,” Acting President Adeang said.

It is estimated that the majority of the 544 asylum seekers are involved in the riot.

“If the figures are correct, that more than 500 are involved, that will hinder any decision of an open camp.”

“They (asylum seekers) break our (Nauru) laws and they will face our laws,” Mr Adeang said.

Earlier this week (15 July) Mr Adeang met with community leaders to discuss an open centre. While there were obvious reservations by some, the meeting ended in good spirits and the community leaders were happy to see the draft plan for an open centre that has been drafted by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Discussion on the matter is ongoing•



The new kitchen was commissioned three days before it was destroyed by fire during the 19 July riot

Bail hearing begins for rioters

The Nauru District Court began proceedings this week (24 July) to lay charges against 152 asylum seekers arrested over the riot at the Regional Processing Centre on Nauru last week (Friday 19 July).

The asylum seekers appeared before Resident Magistrate Peter Law in groups of ten to 12, when bail was formally denied.

However, bail hearings are scheduled from 25 July for a week.

The charges so far are riot and unlawful assembly. Additional charges including arson on public buildings are expected.

The asylum seekers are being represented by court appointed lawyers. Each group was aided by an interpreter.

The first case or group of ten, heard on 25 July was represented by lawyer Vinci Clodumar.

In his opening statement the Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Wilison Kurisaqila advised the court that charges against one of the defendants was withdrawn.

That defendant was escorted out of the court room and back to the processing centre.

Mr Clodumar submitted bail applications for the defendants based largely on the living conditions in the prison cells. He requested that bail be granted so the detainees can be cared for properly, either at the RPC or other suitable environment.

Mr Clodumar argued that “the Constitution of Nauru guarantees the right to assembly, peacefully of course. They [detainees] retired when they realised the protest was not peaceful anymore.”

DPP Kurisaqila responded that the charges are serious and reminded the court that while the living conditions were not ideal, the destruction of their accommodation at the centre and their living conditions in prison were of their own doing.

Magistrate Peter Law advised the prosecution that “if the state cannot accommodate the detainees, there will be no choice but to grant bail.”

After some discussion on the prison living conditions, Mr Law adjourned the court for a short time to allow the DPP and Mr Clodumar along with a prison officer to inspect the cells.

When court resumed, Mr Law ruled that the defendants will remain in custody until 5 August.

He advised that bail may be granted on 5 August on condition that the defendants agree to enter into an agreement of good behaviour; to obey all orders from RPC staff including service providers; that they do not approach any prosecution witness and to attend court on 2 September 2013.

The specified August date also allows time for alternative accommodation to be set up.

An RPC staff member has been tasked as Prison Liaison Officer to look after the welfare and well-being of the detainees.

The nine remaining detainees of that first group remain in custody•



Asylum seekers entering the Nauru Court house this week (24 July) to hear charges of unlawful assembly and riot

The clean up continues at the RPC



Kiribati community celebrate 34 years of independence

Acting President Hon David Adeang joined the Kiribati community on Nauru in celebrating the 34th Independence Day of their country last week (12 July) at the Location community hall.

The official program began with the raising of national flags of Kiribati and Nauru following by an opening speech by the president of the Kiribati community welcoming the Acting President and distinguished guests to the official celebration and festivities.

In response, Mr Adeang shared words of appreciation highlighting the significance of the day for the people of Kiribati.

"It is an important milestone in the history of Kiribati's development and one that every i-Kiribati should rightfully be proud of.

"I would also like to acknowledge and thank you for the contributions that you have made to our own country's development, and will no doubt continue to make throughout your stay in Nauru," Acting President Adeang said.

The i-Kiribati community displayed a show of entertainment and prepared morning tea and lunch for their guests.

Mr Adeang was accompanied to the event by Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler.

In 1892 Kiribati was called the Gilbert Islands and was a British protectorate until it gained self-rule in 1971 and became independent as Kiribati on 12 July, 1979.

The i-Kiribati people have been coming to Nauru since the 1800's and there are currently around 200 residing on Nauru•



Acting President and Minister for Finance and Foreign Affairs, Hon David Adeang at the Kiribati Independence Day celebrations on Nauru

Local consultancy teams carry out roof inspections

The department of Commerce Industry and Environment (CIE) conducted a consultation meeting with community representatives last week Friday (19th July) to brief community representatives about the Global Climate Change Alliance-Pacific Small Islands States Project (GCCA: PSIS).

CIE Project officer for the GCCA PSIS Ms Claudette Wharton chaired the meeting to discuss the objectives of the project and facilitate input from community representatives.

The project will be carried out in two stages: the inception stage and the implementation stage.



Claudette Wharton is CIE project officer for the GCCA:PSIS

The GCCA:PSIS project is currently in its inception stage which involves planning, recruitment of a project officer and contracting a local roof consultancy team.

Thus far, the project has been meeting its expectations at the inception stage. The roofing consultancy team is currently

carrying out roof inspections and identifying households in the communities with damaged roofs.

The implementation stage is set to begin early next year, once a list of households have been identified for roof refurbishment and cost estimates completed.

The GCCA:PSIS is an initiative funded by the Secretariat of Pacific Community to assist small island countries combat and adapt to the effects of climate change by increasing rainwater harvesting capacity of households during the rainy months and potable water supply during the dry months.

The GCCA: PSIS project is expected to end in December 2014.

HRL recognises staff performance with quarterly awards

The Human Resources and Labour (HRL) section within the Chief Secretary's department announced the winner of its first quarterly award since its commencement in April this year.

Ms Monsheree Dageago from the Leave Management Unit is the first recipient of the 2013 HR QUAD II Award.

She is recognised for her excellent work ethic and positive behavior in the workplace. Ms Dageago received a gift and certificate on behalf of Human Resource and Labour (HRL) as a token of appreciation and recognition of her good work.

Senior Human Resource Advisor, Maritino Nemani and Director of HRL Peta Gadabu developed the award program, following discussions earlier this year, to focus on three Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The three KPI's are absenteeism, punctuality and performance, which are considered as the most challenging.

The award program is set up to encourage and motivate good behaviour and performance, to which the department can deliver better outcomes.

Mr Nemani stated that there has been a turnaround in attitude.

"The change is a transitional one and its implementation is still at its early stages. The key is to constantly measure our performance and positively work towards a continuous improvement process and capability system of managing human resources complexities and policies," Mr Nemani said.

Mr Nemani hopes that the award system will flow through to other departments.



Monsheree Dageago receives the first HR employee award

Taiwan magicians perform for Nauru school children

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is pleased to announce that a team of three magicians arrived in Nauru this week (24 July) to perform for Nauru school children.

The originally planned four-day performances was cut short to a one-day event due to the delay in flights this week.

The shows were instead condensed into four sessions at the Centennial Hall on the morning of 25 July and at Kayser College in the afternoon.

The visit and shows is to further enhance the cultural exchange between Nauru and Taiwan following the successful performances of the hand puppetry show in 2011 and kite show in 2012.



Parents warned about truancy

The Education Department is reinforcing the Education 2011 Act making it compulsory for all school-aged children to attend school.

Following the Education Department's school data collection, they estimate around 100 children have been frequently absent and more than 300 have not enrolled in schools at all.

Chief Liaison Officer Mr Ralph Hiram has made island visits issuing warning letters to parents whose children have not been attending school.

The letter warns parents that by failing to bring their children to school they will be taken to court and issued a fine of \$50 which will increase if they continue not to comply.

Mr Hiram is also making recommendations to implement the re-entry program into Nauru College and Aiwo Primary School.

The re-entry program assists truants to return to school and catch up on their studies•

Science lab at Nauru College completed

Construction of a new science lab at Nauru College has completed and is expected to assist students and improve positive learning in science subjects.

The lab contains a preparation room where chemical formulas can be conducted along with an emergency shower room for any accidental chemical spills.

The science lab cost around \$130,000 in building materials and they are currently waiting for tiles which are said to arrive on the next shipment.

The construction contract was awarded to Central Meridian Inc., in November 2012. Construction commenced immediately and was completed this month (July).

The Education Department is also planning to refurbish a former accommodation house for nuns beside the Yaren Catholic church into a small housing facility for expatriate teachers•



The new science lab at Nauru College

Helga-Bara Bragadottir begins work at UN joint presence office

The United Nations Joint Presence office recently appointed Ms Helga-Bara Bragadottir as the new Country Development Manager for the United Nations in Nauru.

Ms Bragadottir arrived in Nauru at the end of June, and is currently on a one year assignment. She is the third International UN Volunteer to be posted in Nauru with plans of recruiting a local staff member to take up the role of country development manager at the conclusion of her time in Nauru.

The Nauru UN Joint Presence Office (JPO) was established in 2010 with the first UN Volunteer Mr Rainer Kleffel, followed by Ms Tatiana Prokhorova.



Ms Helga-Bara Bragadottir is the third UNV to be posted to Nauru

As Country Development Manager, Ms Bragadottir oversees the joint presence and acts as a liaison officer. In addition to representing the four participating agencies, she also extends support to other UN agencies in implementing the overarching United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017.

Ms Bragadottir's role entails supporting policy dialogue, providing program management and coordination, as well as to facilitate technical input and advocacy on behalf of the participating agencies.

"The UN Office gives us all an opportunity to build on and strengthening further collaboration of the UN agencies, government of Nauru, and other stakeholders. It is a pleasure and privilege to be part of that." Ms Bragadottir said.

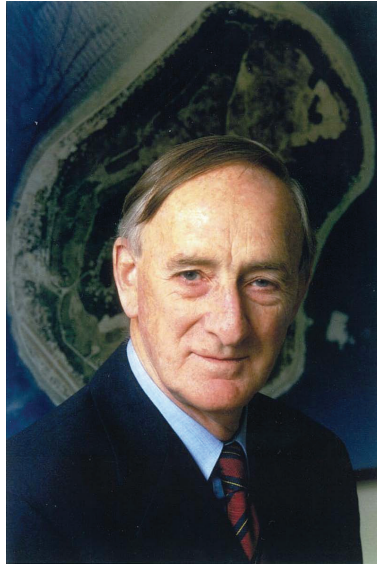
The motivation to create UN offices in the Pacific came from a request that a number of Pacific Island Countries lodged with the UN Secretary-General to extend the UN's footprint and presence in the Pacific. In turn, the SG endorsed the proposal and cleared the way for the strategy.

To date eight such JPOs have been set up on the basis of reciprocal hosting agreements among the four participating agencies, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and UN Women.

In each of the eight countries, one of the four agencies hosts the joint presence office, and represents all four agencies. In Nauru it's UN Women that hosts the office.

Ms Bragadottir was brought up in Iceland, an island in the North Atlantic. Prior to taking the position in Nauru, Ms Bragadottir lived in Suva from 2006-2012. There she worked for UNDP Fiji Multi Country Office as Governance Analyst, and following that with the Pacific office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a Disaster Law delegate. In both posts, her work entailed working in and travelling to various Pacific Island countries•

Nauru remembers former chief justice Barry Connell (7 June 1928 - 21 May 2013)



Former Chief Justice of Nauru Henry Barwick (Barry) Connell passed away recently (21 May) at the age of 85 in Melbourne Australia, after a long illness.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa said the government and the country are saddened to hear of his passing.

“It is with much sadness that we lament the passing of the late Barry Connell who was a highly valued and good friend of the whole country.

“As a former Chief Justice he distinguished himself as one of the finest we have known, acting with consideration and integrity. He identified himself with us consistently through both good times and bad.

“On behalf of all Nauruans we extend our deepest sympathy to his family at this time of loss,” Nauru President Baron Waqa said.

Mr Connell had a distinguished career working for the Government of Nauru which began in 1971.

He was appointed Chief Secretary and Secretary for External Affairs in late 1971 as well as Secretary to Cabinet.

Mr Connell was further appointed as Counsel assisting the Commission of Inquiry established by former president, the late Hammer De Roburt, to look into the rehabilitation of the mined out phosphate lands of Nauru. He further represented Nauru in The Hague at the International Court of Justice in 1991 in the case concerning Nauru’s phosphate land.

The legal team which represented Nauru in its case seeking compensation for the rehabilitation was led by Professor Sir Ian Brownlie Q.C. The case was settled in favour of Nauru with significant compensation being paid.

Those who were fortunate to have met and worked with Mr Connell describe him as a gentleman whose dedication to Nauru was immense.

Mr Connell was working from Melbourne Australia as Vice Chairman of the Board of the Nauru Air Corporation, director of the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and a trustee of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust.

Mr Connell was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nauru in February 2001 and retired in 2006.

Mr Connell is survived by his wife, Marlene, daughter Jacqueline, grandchildren Samantha, Thomas, Warwick and Georgina and stepchildren•

The Nauru Bulletin thanks Helen Bogdan for supplying the photo and much of the background about Mr Connell

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

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Republic of Nauru

Office contact:

Government Information Office

Government Offices

Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr

Mobile: +674 5573009

www.naurugov.nr