



Nauru Bulletin

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22 August 2013

Hospital fire destroys most of medical supplies and records

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Clean-up is underway at the Republic of Nauru hospital site that was partially destroyed by fire last week (15 Aug).

The cause of the fire which started approximately 6.30am on 15 August is still under investigation; however, it destroyed the medical store and pharmacy building, medical records office and the radiology unit.

Several patients from the acute and emergency wards had to be moved from the RON Hospital and away from debris and smoke, to the Public Health Centre down the road. Those patients are well and in a stable condition.

Several services such as the accidents and emergencies; general out-patient



Essential services have been relocated to the public health centre following the 15 August hospital fire

department; laboratory; pharmacy; triage and holding section; men's, women and children's wards, have been relocated to the Public Health Centre with temporary work stations set up.

Public Health centre nursing staff Isabella Dageago said services are unaffected and staff rosters will continue as they are with the added support of nurses from the Public Health centre.

Secretary for Health Dr Setareki Vatucaawaqa said the hospital has sufficient medical supplies for the next week and the hospital "will be operating in this mode for the next few days," until emergency supplies are flown in to the country.

Chief Pharmacist Leweni Mocevakaca has confirmed a consignment of dialysis supplies had arrived over the weekend with a larger consignment of other urgent supplies expected this week.

First asylum seeker family groups arrive in Nauru

The first group of asylum seeker families to Nauru arrived this week (21 August) aboard a chartered flight of Nauru's national carrier Our Airline, from Christmas Island.

The 26 new arrivals are of Iranian nationality and consist of seven families - seven adult males, seven adult females and 12 children under the age of 18.

Like previous arrivals the group completed brief immigration formalities before boarding mini-buses to take them to the third Regional Processing Centre site at Topside, separated from the single male groups.

The transfer from aircraft to Topside was without incident.

The group received an induction to the facility by service providers and are providing support to settle them into their new environment.

A separate group of 30 male asylum seekers who had been residing at the RPC departed on the outbound flight a few hours later to the Curtin Detention Centre in Australia.

The transfers bring the total number of asylum seekers on island to 474.

Sixty-six asylum seekers of mixed nationalities have opted to return to their home countries since the first arrivals 11 months ago•



The first family group disembark the flight that brought them from Christmas Island to the Nauru RPC

Bail hearings conclude for asylum seekers

The District Court of Nauru concluded bail hearings in the week of 25 July – 1 August for the 152 initially charged with riot and unlawful assembly arising from an incident on 19 July. Thirty-four of them have had their charges withdrawn against. Bail was granted to the remaining defendants except two, who remain bail refused.

There have been no further charges laid.

A bail review was conducted on Thursday 8th August for two asylum seeker defendants who were refused bail, having been on bail for charges arising from a previous riot on 30th September 2012. The two defendants remain bail refused.

The first riot is set down for trial in the District Court today, 22 August 2013. The trial continues when this edition went to print.

All of the bail hearings were conducted by three court appointed lawyers and translators provided interpretation for the defendants.

The Magistrate stated when determining bail that the “Court considered issues raised by the legal representatives including the presumption in favour of bail, the seriousness of the charges, the prospect of re-offending, the oppressive and cramped nature of the detention in which 152 asylum seekers were detained along with 16 serving prisoners in the Nauru Correctional Centre.

The asylum seeker defendants who were granted bail were returned to RPC 2 from 29 July - 8 August, on strict conditions. So far there are 116 asylum seekers on bail and each of them have been returned to RPC 2 and they remain separated from those not involved in the July 19 riot.

The bail conditions required each of them to enter an agreement to be of good behaviour and not commit any offence; to reside at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) and obey all directions of RPC staff including Wilsons Security, I.H.M.S., D.I.A.C. and administration staff; not to approach, contact, harass, abuse or threaten any prosecution witness; and to attend Court on 2nd September 2013 and as required thereafter•



Asylum seeker defendants entering the Nauru Court house in groups for the bail hearings

Donations continue to pour in for RoN hospital

...from pg1

Meanwhile, other offers of assistance have also come through. The day after the fire (16 Aug), the Rotary Club of Nauru donated cash and bottles of children's liquid panadol and shovels to aid the clean-up effort. The Taiwan Embassy in Nauru and several individuals also made cash donations to the hospital to the total value of \$1,310. The Australian government has also made financial donations towards urgent medical supplies.

When this edition of the *Nauru Bulletin* went to print, several other donors are in contact with the Ministry of Health. They include the Canberra-based Pacific Medical Supply Workers Buddy Network, Nauru community in Fiji, Wesley Hospital in Queensland, the governments of Turkey and Israel, World Health Organisation, and the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

While medical supplies remain a priority, the Government of Nauru and the Ministry of Health have set up a working group comprising Health Minister Valdson Dowiyogo, caucus member Tawaki Kam and senior medical staff.

The group had meetings this week (19 Aug), and again on 21 August with construction company Canstruct and the Australian High Commission to discuss rebuilding options.

The Nauru Government extends its gratitude for the support on the day by the Fire and Rescue service, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship, RonPhos, Nauru Utilities Corporation, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, Nauru Police, Digicel and members of the public•



Acting director of public health Dr Samu receives donations from the secretary of the Rotary Club of Nauru Rhoda Lee, to assist the hospital fire relief effort. Rotary Nauru also handed over cash donations from individuals

CJ admits pro bono lawyers to assist in RPC cases

Chief Justice Geoffrey Eames AM QC admitted two Melbourne based lawyers to practice law in Nauru at an official ceremony this week (19 Aug).

Sam Norton and Simon Kenny who are offering their legal services pro bono, gave their oaths at the Nauru Supreme Court before CJ Eames, Resident Magistrate Peter Law and court staff.

The lawyers will represent asylum seekers facing charges pertaining to riots arising from the Regional Processing Centre in September 2012 and 19 July 2013.

“You are both admitted for the purpose of taking instructions and representing persons who are facing charges arising out of incidents in the Regional Processing Centre in September 2012 and 19 July 2013,” CJ Eames said.

“The judiciary is very grateful to you both for offering your services. There have been a number of other practitioners in Australia who have likewise offered to provide pro bono representation in Nauru and we welcome those expressions of interest.

“It is an essential pre-condition to ensuring fair trials that the defendants have competent legal representation. I am confident that you and the Nauru pleaders, who have practiced in Nauru for many years, will ensure that that is the case,” the Chief Justice said.



(L-R) Resident Magistrate Peter Law with Sam Norton, Simon Kenny and Solicitor-General Stephen Bliim in the Nauru Court house following the admission ceremony

CJ Eames concluded by stating that proposals have been made by himself and the Resident Magistrate to the Government of Nauru for the construction of a new court building to better execute legal services to the public.

“We must look to wealthier nations to provide this practical support to the judiciary and people of a small but proud Pacific country, which wishes to maintain the highest standards of justice,” CJ Eames said.

Mr Norton and Mr Kenny will be meeting with asylum seeker defendants this week.

The lawyers arrived in Nauru this week (19 Aug) and are expected to depart on 30 August•

Associate to CJ begins three week tenure

The Nauru Supreme Court has consulted the services of Ms Catherine Kusiak who arrived this month (1 August) to begin her role as Associate to Chief Justice Geoffrey Eames AM QC.

Ms Kusiak’s duties include maintaining court records, issuing court orders, proofreading and conducting research on judgements and liaising with solicitors to ensure court lists are completed smoothly and thoughtfully.

During her three week tenure Ms Kusiak will conduct training for court staff and court clerks.

“Training is done on most days and is ad hoc. I basically show them what we do in Australia and then see what can be used here,” Ms Kusiak said.



Resident Magistrate Peter Law welcomes the presence of an associate stating that this is of great benefit because the associate will assist in research for cases listed before the court.

Mr Law said that through the arrangements under the December 2012 supplementary budget, the judiciary was able to secure funding for an associate to attend and assist the presiding Justice for each session in the current financial year.

Ms Kusiak is from Melbourne, where she worked as an Associate to Judge Anderson of the County Court of Victoria•

Consultants to assess court library

Two consultants were on Nauru last week (12-15 Aug) to assist court library staff in making improvements to the library and resources.

Ms Alexandra Digan and Ms Karen Collier are librarians from the Australian Federal Attorney-General’s library and were on Nauru under the Pacific Law Library Twinning Program.

The consultants conducted two workshops specifically for legal practitioners in Nauru and courthouse staff on how to conduct legal research using library resources. Court librarian Zella Dowiyogo also had some training on proper management of the library.

Additionally, Ms Digan and Ms Collier donated nine books, four laptops, and a label printer to the library.

The consultants said most of the library books need updating as well as to introduce a cataloguing system and a book loaning system to reduce the loss or unreturned books.

The AusAID funded Pacific Law Library Twinning Program aims to assist in the development and provision of legal library services, collections and staff in the Pacific region.

The program involves 14 Australian and New Zealand law libraries twinned with 22 counterparts in Nauru, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa•

Australian opposition immigration spokesman visits RPC

The Australian opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison visited the Nauru Regional Processing Centre (RPC) last month (29 July) and inspected potential additional sites for the Centre's expansion.

Mr Morrison and his delegation were met on arrival at the airport by the acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Michael Aroi and Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea.

Mr Morrison had a closed door meeting with Nauru's President Baron Waqa, Minister for Justice David Adeang, and government officials.

Speaking to local and international media at a joint press conference at the RPC1 site Minister Adeang welcomed Mr Morrison and extended Nauru's assistance to provide deterrence to the regional problem of people smuggling.

"I'm saddened to receive Scott (Morrison) under these conditions where we were not able to prevent the mass destruction of a facility that both countries and peoples have invested a lot in.

"With our mutual efforts by both governments we will rebuild this centre very quickly and provide that deterrence that is so sorely needed," Minister Adeang said.

Mr Morrison said Nauru still remains the first option for regional processing.

"Nauru has always been the [Australian] Coalition's preferred and first site for offshore processing.

"We will use whatever additional capacity can be created in Papua New Guinea obviously but Nauru still remains our plan A when it comes to offshore processing here and those issues do have to be worked through with the Nauruan government particularly after these events here and they have to focus very much on the security issues and the intelligence gathering capacity and the powers that are available to provide that security.



Justice Minister David Adeang (R) and Australian Opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison are guided through the fire wreck at RPC1 by DIAC personnel

"We have very positive plans for how we might expand that capacity here," Mr Morrison said.

Mr Morrison and his delegation toured the ruined site of the first processing centre which was destroyed by fire following the July 19 riot. Following the first site tour, the delegation visited RPC 2 where most of the asylum seekers have been moved to while cleaning is taking place at RPC 1.

Later that afternoon Mr Morrison's delegation visited and inspected sites that might potentially be used to accommodate an expansion of the processing facility.

Over the course of the two day visit, Mr Morrison met and spoke with DIAC officials, Canstruct management and service providers on immediate and future plans for the Centre.

On separate occasions, Mr Morrison met with members of the Opposition as well as Justice Minister David Adeang, Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea and acting Director of Police Kalinda Blake. He concluded his official meetings with President Baron Waqa, cabinet ministers and caucus members.

Mr Morrison and delegation departed on Tuesday 30 July•

Eigigu introduces helix pins in concrete works

Last week (13 Aug) Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) invited stakeholders for consultation meetings at the Tomano Room to introduce a new innovative product called Helix steel pins.

The Helix steel pin is developed by the University of Michigan to create concrete structures that can withstand the effects of earthquakes.

Through arrangements between Helix and EHC, Nauru has become the first island from the Pacific region to trial and to incorporate the Helix pins in its concrete works and structures.

Brisbane based Helix consultant Rueben Ramsey met with local engineers, community leaders and construction personnel to present information and to promote the benefits of using Helix pins.

The helix pin is a twisted steel wire about twenty five millimeters in length. The pin is electro-galvanized making it highly resistant to corrosion and rust.

Currently, EHC has already begun incorporating helix pins into

concrete works in the construction of several houses they have built around Nauru.

At the meetings Mr Ramsey highlighted that mixing the subscribed ratio of pins into concrete mix will yield the same amount of strength as reinforcement bars or wire meshing, which is traditionally used in concrete foundations.

Mr Ramsey also highlighted that the helix pin has the backing of several engineering companies worldwide affirming the benefits and durability of the product.

As part of his consultations Mr Ramsey held onsite demonstrations using the helix pins at the Eigigu Enterprise office in Denig before departing on Wednesday (14 August)•



Helix pins consultant Rueben Ramsey says the pins yield the same amount of strength as reinforced bars or wire mesh

Tsunami monitoring equipment upgrade expected to last up to 15 years

The upgrading of the sea level and tsunami monitoring equipment at the Aiwo boat harbour has been completed as part of the Observation Network Upgrade Project (ONUP).

A team of five from the Australia Meteorology Bureau and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) arrived last month (24 July) to start work on upgrading the 20 year old deteriorating equipment.

The project's main objective is to maintain the existing capacity to measure, record and transmit high quality sea level data up to another 15 years.

The team has installed new solar panels for better access to power, a 10-metre mast for the wind sensor, and upgraded the satellite communications system, and water-level sensors.

There are three water-level sensors which all help in monitoring sea level; the acoustic/sound pulse measures for water depth, radar which bounces off the water's surface determines the height, and an underwater pressure sensor determines the water pressure.

The three independent readings together will be able to read accurate sea-levels and report in one minute intervals.

The equipment hut which collects and processes the data from the sensors, has been relocated to a secure space on the same premises.

The equipment upgrade cost approximately \$150,000. The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) are planning to construct fencing around the water sensors to prevent it from vandalism and damage.

The Australian government sponsored ONUP is anticipating the refurbishment and upgrade of the weather stations of 14 Pacific nations by the end of this year.

The team left on August 8 for Tuvalu, which will be the last of their Pacific islands visit.



Stamy Criticos (centre) with his tsunami monitoring team at the Aiwo harbour. They left Nauru on 8 Aug for their last Pacific stop - Tuvalu.



UN joint presence re-established in Nauru

[This press release is provided by UNJPO Nauru]

UN Women Representative and United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i., Elzira Sagynbaeva, and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative a.i., Akiko Fujii have arrived in Nauru today (12 Aug) for an official visit to Government Officials and to re-establish the UN Joint Presence office. The Joint Presence office focuses on assisting the UN to strengthen collaboration and to better respond to needs identified at country level by working with key Government and Non-Government partners.

The motivation to create a UN Joint Presence in the Pacific was based on an appeal from Pacific Island countries to increase UN footprint in the region. The Joint Presence is set in partnership by four UN agencies: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Women (UN Women). In addition to representing these agencies, support is also extended to other UN Agencies in implementing the overarching United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017 (UNDAF).

"The primary objective of Joint Presences is to improve the effectiveness of the UN in countries, with country level implementation, monitoring and reporting of the agencies' programme areas strengthened in line with the UNDAF" said Ms Sagynbaeva.

The UN has Joint Presence offices in eight Pacific Island countries. In each of the eight countries, one of the four agencies hosts the office. The office in Nauru is hosted by UN Women and co-funded by UNDP and UN Women and plans are underway to recruit a local staff member to join the office in 2014.

During the two day visit, Ms. Sagynbaeva and Ms. Fujii will be meeting President Baron Waqa, Minister for Home Affairs, Charmaine Scotty, and Ag/Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Michael Aroi, and other government and civil society representatives. Discussions will center around ongoing UN support to Nauru and future collaboration.

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Regional nature conservation office hold consultations on low carbon project

Consultants from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Oceania Regional Office (IUCN) arrived last month (24th July) to hold consultations with stakeholders regarding the Low Carbon Islands Project.

The project is part of an initiative by the IUCN to build sustainable markets for renewable energy and energy efficient products.

The meetings were chaired by IUCN representatives Anare Matakiviti and Larissa Brisbane to identify issues in regards to Nauru's energy usage and formulate the appropriate measures to lower Nauru's energy consumption.

Energy Programme Coordinator Anare Matakiviti said that Nauru is mostly reliant on fossil fuel to generate its power and if measures are put in place to reduce energy usage, the financial surplus may be injected into other areas of Nauru's infrastructure.

Mr Matakiviti further said the reduction of Nauru's energy bill can be achieved through a range of approaches such as turning off unused electrical appliances, installing insulation to keep the heat out and the procurement of energy efficient cooling units.

Moreover he added the reduction of Nauru's energy bill will not only depend on practical measures, but also the changing of attitudes and behaviors towards energy usage.

Mr Matakiviti adds consultations have been encouraging and well received. Planning is on the way for the next phase of the project.

Nauru became a member of the IUCN in 2009, and is one of only three Pacific countries on the Low Carbon Islands project. Other countries implementing the project are Niue and Tuvalu.

The Low Carbon Islands project is funded by the Global Environment Fund•

Public Service Day ceremony 29-30 August

Day 1 - Thursday 29 Aug 2013

9.15 am	Opening prayer
	Welcome & Introduction (MC)
9.30am-4.00pm	Department Display
12.00 pm	Sizzling BBQ (invitation to all)
12.30-1.30pm	Quiz
2.00 pm	Sport Activities/Novelty
	- Egg & Spoon Race
	- Sack Race
	- Balloon Race
	- Tug of War
5.00 pm	End of day

Day 2 - Friday 30 Aug 2013

7.45 am	Rally in front of Government Offices
8.00-9.30 am	*Walk for Pride (Around the airstrip)
10.00 am	Guest arrive
10.15 am	Arrival of H.E President Baron Waqa, M.P
10.20 am	Welcome speech by MC
10.30 am	Opening Prayer (Rev. Roger Mwareow)
10.35 am	Address by His Excellency the President
10.45 am	Speech by Chief Secretary
11.00 am	Presentation of Awards & Prize Winners
	- Public Service Employee of the Year
	- Public Service Department of the Year
	- Winner - Best Display
	- Winner -1st Male & Female -Walk for Pride
	- Winner - Quiz competition
12.00 am	Acknowledgements by Chairperson PSD
12.05 pm	Closing Prayer (Fr. Simon Kokoria)
12.10 pm	Light refreshments served
12.15 pm	Ceremony closed

*Note: All donations received will be distributed between the Rotary Club of Nauru and Nauru Disabled Peoples' Association

**Join in the Walk for Pride and
donate to worthy causes
Friday 30 Aug, 7.45am**

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NAURU BULLETIN



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