



# Nauru Bulletin

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## President Waqa highlights progress and plans for Nauru during Independence Day address

This year's 47th Independence Day anniversary also marks the 69th anniversary of the return of Nauruans from exile on Truk Island.

In His Excellency's national address on 31st January, President Baron Waqa recalls the challenges and hardships in Nauru's history and encouraged a future of prosperity.

His Excellency also touched on a number of issues and plans for the government and Nauru and on top of the list of issues the government will be addressing is the enacting of stricter laws and regulations to address crime and introduce breathalysers.

The president highlighted a number of significant developments and future projects to improve the various services and infrastructure on the island including reiterating the government's ongoing plans to recommence banking services through Australian bank the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

The government will also establish a trust fund that aims to secure the long term financial security for Nauru and prepare Nauru for the future. The government has set aside \$10-million for the trust fund.

The government has also lodged its application to be a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The membership would assist the government in accessing development funds as well as assist in private sector development.

The supply of fuel and management of the tank farm has been awarded to Vital Energy Guam Incorporated (Vital). The arrangement to transfer management of the fuel farm from Nauru Utilities

Corporation to Vital is expected to be completed by this month (February).

The government's vision and target to produce 50 per cent of its energy needs from solar energy by 2020 will commence in July.

A number of solar panels have already been installed on various government buildings funded by the Taiwan government.



*His Excellency President Baron Waqa inspects the Police Guard of Honour at the Independence Day flag raising ceremony*

A 500 kilowatt solar farm funded by the United Arab Emirates will be installed at topside and is expected to contribute significantly to the reduction in diesel fuel costs for current power generation.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has funded and will maintain two reverse osmosis plants for water production which will significantly assist Nauru Utilities in its supply of water for Nauru and the Regional Processing Centres for the foreseeable future.

Transport services will be acquiring three additional school buses while a large retired bus will be released to commence a community bus service.

The purchase of two new barges through Japanese aid is in the pipeline for ports and sea transport as well as improvements to infrastructure, tooling, training and staffing.

The government is also embarking on the recommencement of its own shipping service between Brisbane and Nauru. This initiative is envisioned to significantly reduce freight costs and ensure a more reliable service for Nauru.

Nauru Airlines' fleet of five aircrafts makes way for plans to expand the airline's route into the Federated States of Micronesia and further.

Efforts are underway to enhance coastal fisheries through the deployment of additional fish aggregating devices as well as boosting the aquaculture sector through milkfish farming.

Other significant future developments will be the construction of a modern correctional facility and the provisions of a temporary court house, both assistance projects under the Australian DIBP.

RONPHOS will be working on Project Zero Dust to reduce phosphate dust emissions through the commissioning of two new phosphate drying kilns.

The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) will be purchasing machinery to enable the completion of the sea wall projects around the island and to commence land clearing for the solar farm project and reforestation project.

President Waqa concluded by reiterating his acknowledgement and gratitude to the countries and donor agencies that have provided support and assistance to Nauru.

## Taiwan donates more solar products to health and will commence repair work on existing structures

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) made a formal presentation of its latest donation and installation of a solar power system for the Naoero Public Health Centre.

The Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow and the technical team from Taiwan solar company Speech Tech explained what the equipment does.

Ambassador Chow was pleased to hand over the system to Health Minister Hon Valdon Dowiyogo and jointly unveiled the display screen that will show various information associated with measuring the kilowatts absorbed from sunlight and the measurements of the amount of CO2 prevention in kilograms.

Minister Dowiyogo expressed in his Nauruan language the government and people's deep appreciation for Taiwan's ongoing support in all areas.

Ambassador Chow was pleased that his government is able to contribute to the government's target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

The solar system at Public Health comprises 92 solar panels and two converters.

The solar energy that is generated from the panels feed into the DC converters for AC power which then feeds into the Utilities main supply.

The solar energy is consumed before the mains power.

The team from Speed Tech were on island for a few weeks to install the Public Health solar system and do repair work on damages done on the solar system at the government office and Kayser College.

Vandals broke solar panels and cut the information cable that connects the digital display panel to the sensor box on the government office roof top.

Damages to the government and Kayser College systems are valued at USD\$150,000.

The Taiwan government will also do repairs this year to the solar street lights and this is valued at USD\$100,000•



*Minister for Health Hon Valdon Dowiyogo and Taiwan Ambassador to Nauru Joseph Chow unveil the screen that displays the measurements and information generated from the solar panels*

## Japan provides NPGA grant assistance to Nauru

His Excellency President Baron Waqa and the Japanese Ambassador to Nauru Mr Takuji Hanatani jointly signed the Exchange of Notes for Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) for the provision of Japanese small and medium enterprises products to Nauru, at the Japanese Embassy in Suva Fiji on 21 January 2015.

The NPGA is valued at 100-million Japanese Yen (approximately AUD\$1.05-million). The funding assistance will enable the procurement of machinery and equipment including some with specialised technology for fisheries and fisheries science.

The products will support the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) in its efforts to collate biological information on the most important coastal food fish species in order to ensure sustainable management of such fish species and contributing towards food security for the people of Nauru. The water quality testing equipment will also be used to culture milkfish production.

The NPGA provides funding assistance from the Government of Japan to Nauru with annual assistance in the supply of fuel as well as improvements to the fisheries sector and water related projects.

President Waqa acknowledged the long relationship between Nauru and Japan since the establishment of diplomatic relations 47 years ago.

“Assistance provided to Nauru over the years has been invaluable to our development. The assistance provided by Japan during our economic crisis not too long ago will not be forgotten especially through the provision of fuel supplies which was critical to ensuring power supplies to essential services such as hospitals, schools and government services. Assistance provided for the development of the Anibare Boat Harbour is also much appreciated,” President Waqa said•

## Health acquires new equipment with donations from Digicel

A formal presentation of medical equipment purchased by the health Ministry and donations from telecommunications provider Digicel was held on Tuesday 27 January at the Republic of Nauru (RON) Hospital.

The Department of Health recently bought a Support and Maintenance (SAM) cart. The computerised machine will enable the hospital to solve or diagnose biomedical equipment problems remotely hence reduce the need for expenses related to flying in biomedical technicians.

Critical for the SAM cart is a dedicated internet line that was donated by Digicel at the presentation.

The internet line will enable the swift communication of equipment problems in real-time to support staff from the Opritech bio-med technicians in New Zealand.

Digicel also donated a transport ventilator that will enable the hospital to medivac critically ill patients to either Brisbane or Fiji.

Nauru is the first pacific island country to have this SAM cart technology•



*The swift and efficient communication of equipment problems from this new support and maintenance (SAM) cart purchased by Nauru Health will be made possible with the use of Digicel's donation of the dedicated internet line*

## New settlement services provider offers integration and awareness programs for refugees

Settlement services provider, Connect is working with the Government of Nauru Settlement Team to assist refugees that have received positive determinations and are living in the local community.

Earlier this month (February) both settlement teams offered a program to assist with refugee's integration and awareness about their new surroundings.

“Connect is working closely with the Government of Nauru (GoN) Settlement Team and other service providers to offer a solid foundation of cultural knowledge for refugees living in Nauru to equip them for productive, positive and integrated settlement experiences,” Connect Community Engagement Manager Nikki Wynne said.

The program which commenced on Wednesday 4 February is part of a three-part induction package provided to the new refugees that includes an initial household induction, an island bus tour with tips and hints for Nauru life (led by one of the GoN Settlement Team with Connect), and a comprehensive three day Settlement Lifeskills Orientation program.

“We will do our best as Nauru Government representatives and work alongside Connect to assist the refugees in any way, to make them feel welcome and know that they are safe here on Nauru.

“The Nauru Community are keen to welcome refugees who can contribute to the community in a positive way,” Settlement Manager for Nauru Government Suzie Scotty said.

The Lifeskills program provides refugees with a detailed understanding of the law, culture, customs and systems in Nauru as well as outlining the services offered by Connect and the GoN Settlement Team and the rights and responsibilities people now have that they are living in the community.

Connect Settlement Services and the GoN Settlement Team have worked closely to develop the program and arrange the space at the Public Health Activity hall and the many guest speakers.

Presenters include representatives from Connect, the GoN Settlement team, Public Health, Nauru Police, Women's Affairs, Transfield Services Accommodation and Nauru Fisheries offer their expert insight on different topics in the program.

Attendees are awarded a certificate of attendance once the program is completed•



*Connect Community Engagement manager Nikki Wynne (centre) with her team of community engagement liaison workers (L-R) Fahad Ahmed, Taimur Khan, Adnan Dayre and Mozhdah Khakbaz*

## Government hands over 18th house under the new housing scheme

Acting President Hon David Adeang handed over the keys to the 18th house constructed under the Government's new housing scheme on 21 January.

Francis and April Tannang of Yaren district were abroad when the house was completed, however their daughter Lisa-Marie was there to receive the keys and officially open the doors for inspection by those in attendance.

The house was built by Eigigu Construction. Lisa-Marie who is a qualified tiler with Eigigu had a hand in the final look of the house by laying the tiles for the house with two other colleagues.

The scheme offers an interest-free housing loan provided by the Nauru Government to Nauruan families which is repayable over 15 years. Each house is valued at \$44,000.

The house was constructed by Our Construction. Eight houses remain for construction under the new housing scheme•



*Lisa-Marie Tannang unlocks the front door to her family home on behalf of her parents who were off island during the handover*

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