



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 2-2017/150

7 February 2017

Nauru celebrates 49 years of independence

President Waqa acknowledges the past, highlights improved services and a strong public service

This year Nauru celebrates 49 years of Independence and commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the peoples' return from Truk following exile during the Second World War.

In his national address during the flag raising ceremony on 31st January His Excellency President Baron Waqa recalls the remarkable history of Nauru and reiterated the importance of independence and the struggles of the nations' forefathers.

"Forty-nine years ago, we reached a turning point in our history. The struggles of our forefathers to achieve self-determination through political independence became officially recognised by the world," President Waqa said.

"Today, the meaning of Independence is synonymous with happiness and celebrations. It is a reflection of the people and a time to celebrate our historical development and achievements. We do not only remember our past, but we set ourselves targets for the future."

His Excellency highlighted the achievements of 2016 including the establishment of the Sovereign Trust Fund which is currently valued in excess of \$40 million.



The Nauru Police Force guard of honour stand at attention during the flag raising ceremony

Other achievements of 2016 include improving the ports infrastructure and mooring system, new power generators, a future of fibre optic cable for communications and membership of premier financial institutions the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The President also highlighted the government's focus for the future in projects such as solar energy, land rehabilitation, review of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), restructure of Eigigu Holdings, and other projects to do with climate proofing, coastal erosion, improvement

of water storage and distribution, road infrastructure, and school transportation.

In air transport, Nauru Airlines is set to launch new services to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands and Guam, and possibility of returning to Norfolk Island.

"Capacity building is and will always be our priority. A strong workforce armed with the relevant skills and able to implement Government policies and directives including our national sustainable development strategy or NSDS, is of critical importance.

"Sustainability is the key to any development aspiration and investment in people is paramount."

President Waqa personally encouraged public servants to further their educational training through scholarship opportunities.

His Excellency also congratulated the country's sports men and women of their participation and successes at international competition at Oceania level and the Olympics.

In closing President Waqa thanked the country's close supporters and donor partners Australia, the Republic of China (Taiwan), as well as the governments of Japan, Korea, India, and the European Union.

Tawaki Kam appointed minister

Member of Parliament Tawaki Kam was sworn in as the newest minister in the Cabinet of President Baron Waqa last week (3 Feb) taking up the portfolios of transport, sport and Port Authority previously held by the late Valdon Dowiyogo.

Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler facilitated the ceremony at the cabinet room witnessed by President Waqa, Cabinet ministers and members of parliament.



Cont pg 2...

Ministers Scotty, Bernicke assigned health, fisheries

...from pg 1

The remaining portfolios of health and fisheries previously held by the late minister have also been assigned to Minister Charmaine Scotty and Minister Shadlog Bernicke respectively.

Mr Kam is from the Constituency of Meneñ and was successfully elected into the 21st Parliament following the 8 June 2013 general election and was re-elected at the 9 July 2016 general election.

Minister Kam is proactive in his constituency with assistance in the new government housing scheme whereby residents receive assistance in refurbishing their homes. Most of the assistance has been in replacing roofing from asbestos to metal roofing sheets as well as other much needed housing repairs•

President receives Indonesian deputy minister

Indonesia's Deputy Coordinating Minister for Political, Law and Security Affairs personally presented his government's congratulatory message for Nauru's Independence Day celebrations in a meeting with President Baron Waqa last week Friday 3 February.

Mr Yoedhie Swastono intended to be part of Nauru's 49th Independence Day flag raising ceremony however due to unforeseen circumstances was delayed. Nonetheless the deputy minister was able to personally attend the remaining days of the celebrations and importantly to personally present his government's congratulatory letter to His Excellency President Baron Waqa.

The presentation and courtesy visit on President Waqa took place in the Office of the President.

Mr Swastono departed Nauru for Indonesia on Sunday 5 February 2017•

NPF recruits 23 officers

A new wave of Nauru Police Force (NPF) recruits received their certificates at a ceremony held at the Civic Centre Conference Hall last week (2 February).

The ceremony formally commenced following the opening prayer by NPF chaplain Reverend Roger Mwareow, followed by the playing of the Nauru national anthem.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa expressed his congratulations and formally welcomed the 23 new recruits to law enforcement work.

"Police training is an ongoing program, we have our internal training programs we also cooperate with other police institutions in the region. With the purpose of increasing exposure to how other regional police forces carry out their duties," President Waqa said.

The President also advised police to do their best as leaders in the community.

"I trust that you will fulfill and carry out your duties to the best of your abilities... most of all protecting our community and the weak."

In closing, President Waqa acknowledged the services of officers who have served in the past.

[Cont pg 3...]

NAURU BULLETIN

Australia Day celebrated in Nauru

The Australian High Commission hosted Australia Day celebrations on Nauru, the second hosted by High Commissioner John Donnelly.

The dinner reception was held at the Bay Restaurant and attended by His Excellency President Baron Waqa, Cabinet Ministers and senior government officials.



Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly (centre) hosted Australia Day dinner at the Bay Restaurant and here leads his office team in the singing

Before sharing with guests that "Australia is proud to be a Pacific island country" with much in common such as the strong people-to-people links and shared love of sport, Mr Donnelly took the time to remember friends and colleagues that have passed on including Chief Justice Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi, Miss Nauru contestant Unique-Lee Dick, Minister for Health, Ports and Fisheries Valdon Dowiyogo, and the high commissioner's mother-in-law Anne Harrison.

"We enjoy a broad relationship and work on shared issues at a global, regional and local level," the High Commissioner said.

Mr Donnelly pointed out the progress made with the global challenge of climate change, the regional challenge of irregular people movements and people smuggling.

"Tonight [26 Jan] I'd like to welcome colleagues from the USA, from Cambodia and Afghanistan, who are working with our two countries in the orderly movement of people from temporary settlement in Nauru to permanent resettlement for refugees or, for those found not to be in need of protection, voluntary return," Mr Donnelly said.

The High Commissioner further acknowledged other areas of cooperation including work "together addressing local challenges in healthcare, education and essential infrastructure. Our work on the hospital, on the learning village and through the ADB on the port redevelopment proposal. In addition, our efforts in Eliminating Violence Against Women."

Mr Donnelly acknowledged the good progress made by both countries on such issues further sharing his appreciation of "Nauru's critical contribution and cooperation in all these areas."

In closing the High Commissioner acknowledged the Australians of the Year announced the same day (26 Jan) and a touch of Nauru among the recipients of the award.

"I understand from Richard Brennan [director of Nauru Customs], who attended school in Nauru, that our senior Australian of the Year was Principal of Kayser College in the 1970s•

Introducing the Nauru Media Bureau

Get to know your government departments.
A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Nauru Media Bureau (NMB) comes under the portfolio of the Minister for Telecommunications and Media Honourable Shadlog Bernicke and its head of department is Secretary for ICT Joel Waqa. The NMB has 27 permanent staff plus two interns. It is the umbrella body for TV, radio and print media that covers and reports local government and community news. Its monthly print publication Mwinen ko is sold for \$1 at local retail outlets. Local television and radio news are broadcast daily with additional news streamed from Australia. The media office is located on the ocean side of the government building.

Media Staff

Sharain Hiram – Director of Nauru Media
Kaelyn Dekarube – Assistant Director (on study leave)
Dominic Appi – Acting Assistant Director/Radio Manager
Sera Jeremiah – Radio producer
Rhona Bop – Radio Programmer
Samvic Namaduk – senior Radio announcer
Noella Adam – Radio announcer
Zelda Stephen – Radio announcer
Mick Canon – Radio announcer
Charlena Deireragea – Radio announcer
Johannah Akubor – Chief Reporter/News Presenter
Czarina Togagae – Reporter/News Presenter



Radio manager and acting assistant Director Dominic Appi (orange shirt) with some of his media staff

Slavka Menke – Reporter/News Presenter
Bronson Kamtaura – Chief Technician
Kimmy Dabwido – NTV Productions Manager
Michael Dame – NTV Programmer/Cameraman
Malcolm Aroi – NTV operator
Lise Phillip – NTV operator
Susannah Moses – NTV operator
Jason Harris – Senior Editor (TV)
Quotro Depaune – Editor/Cameraman
Johnny Duburiya – Senior cameraman
Peter Aremwa - Camera man
Lilyann Taumea – Advertising Manager/Mwinen KO
Cronisa Amwano – Mwinen KO photographer and reporter
Gaelyn Dake – Administration officer
Theresa Dake – Assistant Admin officer
Shanella Demingauwe – Trainee reporter (Youth affairs intern)
April Ika – Trainee photographer & reporter for Mwinen KO (Youth Affairs interns)

[...from pg 2]

NPF recruits thank supporters

“Lastly, to all men and women of the Nauru Police Force, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you very much for the service that you provided to our community over the past year. I salute all our police officers, past and present.”

NPF Superintendent Kalinda Blake offered her congratulations to the new recruits.

“The program initially started with 32 applicants. It is the demanding nature of being a recruit officer that the number will always drop off the initial intake,” Superintendent Blake said.

In addition, several NPF officers also received promotions to various rankings including superintendent, senior inspector, sergeant, inspector, senior constable, and probationary constable.

“Today I also acknowledge my 38 fellow officers whom are being promoted to their various ranks, these officers have proved themselves to attain the ranks they are receiving today, all promoted here with us today underwent the first stage of the qualifying course,” Superintendent Blake said.



Probationary Officer Lambrusco Namaduk receiving his dux award from President Baron Waqa

Probationary officer and recipient of the leadership award for the recruitment program Constable Merit Halstead spoke on behalf of his graduating colleagues highlighting the challenges of the training and appreciation for the support of their superiors and family members during the recruitment program, as well as gratitude for the support from the Nauru Government and partners•

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.

NAURU BULLETIN



Republic of Nauru

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