



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru and Malaysia sign health partnership

The Government of Nauru and a private Malaysian medical company signed a memorandum of understanding this week (6 Oct) for the provision of health and medical services notably for heart and lung patients.

The partnership came about following a visit to the Malaysian company Iheal Medical Services by President Baron Waqa and his delegation.

The agreement signed this week (6 Oct) between Acting Health Minister Shadlog Bernicke and Iheal Director Dr David Khoo, offers an opportunity for Nauru and Iheal Medical Services to work together and address patients with heart and lung conditions and receive patient referrals. The centre will also receive laboratory tests taken in Nauru to be analysed, as well as offer human resources development programs for health.

Acting President Charmaine Scotty says the partnership comes at an opportune time following the opening of the new hospital. Mrs Scotty says the agreement



Acting Minister for Health Shadlog Bernicke and Dr David Khoo sign MOU for Nauru-Malaysia Health support

will be beneficial to the community as well as enhance the current services available on island.

Dr Khoo highlighted the importance of patients follow ups after a surgical procedure as being the issue that can be improved the most.

“You [Nauru] have many doctors come and go and there’s no continuity. As a result the patient is often left wondering, what is next,” Dr Khoo said.

Dr Khoo said the care of a patient goes beyond a single procedure adding that ongoing care, follow ups and education so the community can take care of itself.

“I’m hoping that with this agreement that we’ve signed, will be committed to try and help Nauru so we can not only just treat the patient but hopefully give back in the form of continuity of care,” Dr Khoo said.

Health and Medical Services Adviser Lee Pearce is very excited about the agreement as she says is going to take Nauru to another level regarding services.

“The benefits to Nauru are huge. It’s going to take Nauru to another level regarding services that we can provide on the island, and the opportunities for our young workforce that come back on island to participate in Malaysia through the connections for doctors, the nurses,” Ms Lee said.

Ms Lee said the equipment is in the purchasing process and looks forward to performing surgeries on island•

Pacific LEADS program

An information session was conducted at the Chief Secretary’s conference room on 23 September for the introduction of a training program called Pacific Leaders’ Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific LEADS).

The session invited public service officers from the government sector who wish to pursue a master’s degree from the program’s selected courses. Topics ranged from disaster risk reduction, climate change, environment, tourism and economic policy.

Mr Shunichiro Ikeda who is the assistant resident representative of Japan International Corporate Agency (JICA) based in Fiji arrived in Nauru to promote awareness about the Pacific LEADS program



Shunichiro Ikeda presents PacLEADS program

and answer questions raised at the meeting on the application and selection process.

Mr Ikeda also informed the group that applications have closed for the first batch of applications and no applicants applied from Nauru. Mr Ikeda hopes that with his visit he will be able to raise more awareness and encourage more applicants to utilise the opportunity as the selection process restarts for next year.

The deadline for the applications into the Pacific LEADS program closes on 28 October 2016 and applicants are encouraged to visit the website (www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/oceania/Pacific-LEADS.html) for more information on the selection process•

Education Summit 29-30 September 2016

A two day education summit was held at the Nauru Secondary School gym in Yaren district consecutively from Thursday 29 September to Friday 30 September.

Director of Schools Mrs Fay Itaia was the MOC for the session “*Wōra Kereri*” (Our education) in which she introduced key note speakers for the summit.

The opening prayer was delivered by Pastor Stan Dabuae followed by opening speech by Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler, who emphasized the importance of a child’s right to a proper education.

Acting Secretary for Education Mrs Cecilia Giouba followed up with a power point presentation showing a four part - five year strategic plan.

Other key issues pointed out by Mrs Giouba was the apparent retention rates of students from grade one, the poor percentages of student attendance despite government funded incentives, the small number of Nauruan teachers available to teach, the small number of qualified Nauruan teachers and budget issues.

Social planner at the Planning and Aid division within finance Mrs Branessa Tsiode then presented her department’s power point presentation on Nauru’s Economy.

Mrs Tsiode pointed out the significant difference between Nauru’s economies in 2004 to today’s economy.

The 2004 economy was, “just bread crumbs compared to today’s pie charts,” stated Mrs Tsiode

She also pointed out the Regional Processing Center (RPC) as the major contributor to today’s economic pie chart.

Currently, the budget allocation to the education sector is



Acting Secretary for Education Mrs Cecilia Giouba and Special Education Consultant Michael Longhurst prepare for the second day of the summit

considerable due mainly to donor aid and government support.

“Goals that are lagging behind include achieving targets for university enrolment and for public health courses,” as noted in Mrs Tsiode’s presentation.

The presentations took a five minute break as the Fijian choir sang a song followed by a speech by Acting Director of RON hospital Dr Josese Vuki highlighting that, “A wealthy state is a healthy state.”

Special Education Consultant Mr Michael Longhurst delivered his speech titled, “Don’t tell me what’s good for me. I’ll tell you,” and asked the question, “so what do Nauruans really think of education?”

In a special survey conducted by Mr Longhurst, students were asked about schooling.

The major issues from the survey showed that less than 50 per cent of students are not satisfied with their schooling. The reasons included not having much to do during school and the mindset that there is no need for education as one can get a job anytime in Nauru and so what is the point of education and what will students get out of it.

Another issue raised by Mr Longhurst is what education will look like in five to ten years’ time.

While his survey responses shows that the economy will determine that in the future, 14 said that once the phosphate runs out and the RPC has closed, there will be no money for education.

Participants later formed groups to analyse, present and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) based on the seven strategic plan•

Police commemoration day

A police commemoration service was held at the Nauru Congregational church last week (29 September) to remember the men and women who have lost their lives in police service.

The service opened with the procession of the flags of Nauru and the Nauru Police Force (NPF) which followed by the singing of the Nauru national anthem by the combined Nauru Congregational Church choir.

Commissioner of NPF Corey Caleb Nauru Police read a bible scripture followed by the police prayer which was recited by members of the NPF.

Delivering an address on behalf of His Excellency Baron Waqa, Acting President David Adeang honoured the men and women in the police service.

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Flag procession during the Police Commemoration day service

“It is my great honour to pay tribute to all police men and women and offer our respect to those serving, to those who have sacrificed and of course those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while

serving and protecting their nation and people,” Mr Adeang said.

The Acting President ended his address reiterating the importance of the role of the police and thanking the officers for their service.

“Thank you all to the Nauru Police Officers past and present for ensuring our safety, our freedom, our way of life” Acting President Adeang said.

The service concluded with a retreat of the flags procession and light refreshments was served at the centennial hall for the presidential delegation and NPF officers.

Police commemoration day is an annual event to remember those who have died in police service in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region•

The pacific mourns the loss of Nauru's CJ Joni Madraiwiwi

His Honour the Chief Justice of Nauru Joni Madraiwiwi passed away in Fiji on Thursday 29 September following a brief illness. His passing is a loss to Nauru and the pacific region.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Madam Louisa Waqa are in Fiji to attend the funeral, along with the Director of Public Prosecution David Toganivalu and judiciary staff.

The news of his passing has shocked the judicial fraternity and especially the Nauru Government and its judiciary where Mr Madraiwiwi had been working as its chief justice for the past two years.

CJ Madraiwiwi was appointed as Nauru's chief justice on 8 September 2014 along with Justices Jane Hamilton- White and Mohammed Shafullah Khan, filling the void of several months without a CJ.

His Honour was instrumental and committed in expediting the back log of court cases and was especially driven to ensuring a robust and steady judicial system in Nauru and hoped "Nauruans will join the bench in future to serve their own people and provide the national perspective that is their right."

Registrar of the Nauru Supreme Court Mr Filimone Jitoko said that as Nauru's chief justice, Mr Madraiwiwi presided over important land cases as well as simplifying by Practise Notes civil procedures to facilitate the hearing of cases in the Supreme Court.

"He demanded the highest of behaviours from lawyers and Pleaders alike and disbarred from practice those who fell short of His Lordship's standards.

"On the eve of his demise he was already setting up a Committee to be chaired by Judge Khan, with the Solicitor General, the President of the Nauru Law Society and the Registrar of the Supreme Court as members, to review and simplify the Nauru Civil Procedure Rules.

"He endorsed and fully supported the upskilling of the staff of the Judiciary and he was in the forefront of efforts at ensuring that the Nauruan locals were trained through further education, job placements and training to take ownership and leadership in the administration of the Judiciary Department," Mr Jitoko said.

A memorial service was conducted on Nauru today (Friday 7



Nauru's Chief Justice the Late Joni Madraiwiwi

October) concurrently with the funeral service taking place in His Honour's village of Bau, Fiji Islands, which His Excellency President Baron Waqa is attending on behalf of the government and people of Nauru.

The memorial service was held at the Menen Church and was open to the public. Her Excellency Acting President Charmaine Scotty was also in attendance.

The service was led by Reverend Roger Mwareow with the opening words delivered by Apisalome Ligadua and choir sung by the Fiji Community. The scriptures were read by Dan Laqeni and the eulogy delivered by Resident Magistrate Emma Garo and Chairman of the Fiji Community Maritino Nemani.

The judiciary also held a special sitting and memorial the same day (7 Oct) at the Nauru Court House with members of the legal fraternity in attendance.

CJ Madraiwiwi's legal career spans more than three decades.

After working in the Attorney-General's Chambers in Suva between 1983 and 1991, he went on to serve as Fiji's Permanent Arbitrator and Sugar Industry Tribunal until 1997, when he was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Fiji. He resigned from the bench in 2000.

In December 2004 he was appointed Vice President of Fiji and served in that role until December 2006.

On 5 January 2010 King George Tupou V conferred upon His Honour a Life Peerage for service to the Crown and Kingdom of Tonga and was bestowed the title Lord Madraiwiwi Tangatatonga.

He was also awarded the honour of a Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Queen Salote.

His Honour was born in 1957 to Ratu Jione Doviverata and Adi Losalini Uluiviti, and grandson of Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi (1859–1920), a Bauan chief, and a great-great grandson of Ratu Seru Epenisa Cakobau (1815–1883), the Fijian chief who ceded Fiji to Great Britain in 1874.

His Honour is survived by his wife Adi Lusi Tuivanuavou, three sisters and a brother•

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