



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru remembers 48 years of independence and 70 years of the return from Truk

Every 31st January is special in the history books of Nauru - it commemorates the nation's independence from colonial powers and the more hurtful memories of wartime.

This year marks the 48th Independence Day and 70th anniversary of the people's return from exile on Truk following the Second World War.

The flag raising ceremony was held on 1st February due to the actual Independence Day date falling on a Sunday.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer by Reverend Labi Harris and a hymn by the Independent Church choir followed by the unveiling of the plaque commemorating Nauru's 48th Independence Day and to honour and remember all Nauruans who perished on Truk during the Second World War and those that survived and returned home.

The Nauru flag was then carried to the flag pole by Regina Canon, Donna Adams, Emily Robertson, and Celestine Buraman – all born in Chuuk during the exile, a minute silence was observed followed by the President's inspection of the Police Guard of Honour.

In his national address His Excellency President Baron Waqa remembered those that suffered and survived the war and thanked God for His everlasting guidance and protection of the Nauruan people.

"This celebration and remembrance today is about us, our history, our struggles and pains which we have overcome together with God's merciful grace, with the underlying theme of Nauru bwiema," President Waqa said.

While the President acknowledged the different interpretations of independence in this day and age, he highlighted that "independence is about our duty to the nation and we ought to ask ourselves how we can serve and do our bit."

The President adds that his Government has learnt from the successes and

Funds have been earmarked for in-house training and scholarships at regional tertiary institutions.

Transportation – air and sea are also top priorities for the Government.

With all the Independence celebrations and successes President Waqa did not fail to acknowledge the refugee and asylum seeker community on Nauru and the implementation of the open centre policy giving greater flexibility in the movement of refugees on Nauru.

The recently revised Public Service Act that was passed at the January parliament sitting included reforms to increase efficiencies, accountability and service deliveries.

"This new and revamped Public Service Act will strengthen the Public Service and make it more robust," President Waqa said.

President Waqa also appealed to landowners to work with the Government when land rehabilitation of the topside area commences later this year to enable the area habitable again.

The construction of the solar farm at topside is expected to commence next month (March) and completed by May will provide more than 15 per cent of electricity to the main grid and result in considerable savings in diesel fuel.

At the conclusion of the President's speech and the reading of congratulatory messages from world leaders, the march past led by the Nauru Police Force concluded the official proceedings of the flag raising ceremony•



Nauru Police Force leads the march past in front of the Government office

failures of the political past and that the "Government will continue to strive to improve the quality of life for all Nauruans," which includes the paying back of all pending salaries, outstanding rentals and land lease payments, RONWAN, and investment in a long term trust fund for the future generation.

The trust fund would have amassed \$30 million by mid-2016, thanks to the contributions from the governments of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Australia.

The President said training and upskilling of the human resources is one of the most important undertakings.

"We need a skilled workforce to take us forward into the future to grow and sustain our economy."

Parliament passes bills including the revamped public service act

The Parliament of Nauru opened the new year with a special sitting last month (Thursday 28 January) and message from the President urging a brighter outlook and performance from fellow parliamentarians.

Opening remarks were made and Questions without Notice before the first break for a special morning tea break to welcome the new year.

Twelve bills were presented and passed at the sitting including an amendment to the Public Service Act which added public service values and a public service code of conduct.

In presenting the bill His Excellency President Baron Waqa said “public servants carry a heavy load and these values and code of conduct are not intended to create burdensome rules that would be difficult to follow.”

“The values and code of conduct enshrined in the Bill are intended to build confidence between the government, the public servants and ultimately the people of Nauru.”

Other significant changes to the Bill include the resignation of at least three months for employees who intend to submit nominations as a candidate in Nauru’s general elections, as well as provisions to leave such as maternity and paternity, official leave, and the retirement age.

Public servants will no longer be expected to retire at the age of 60 unless on medical grounds.

“This Bill creates provisions for public servants to continue to serve beyond that age and this has been done because we strongly believe that many of our public servants who have reached that age still have much more to give to the Government and to the people of Nauru,” President Waqa said.

Other bills presented and passed at the sitting are the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Act 2016; Refugees Convention (Validation and Amendment) Act 2016; International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Institutions Act 2016; Motor Traffic (Amendment) Act 2016; Nauru Air Corporation (Amendment) Act 2016; Port Authority (Amendment) Act 2016; Nauru Utilities Corporation (Amendment) Act 2016; Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (Amendment) Act 2016; Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (Amendment) Act 2016; RONPHOS (Amendment) Act 2016; Public Service Act 2016 and the Supplementary Appropriation Act 2015-2016 no. 4.

These documents will be available on www.naurugov.nr/RONLAW •

Nauru *bwiema* celebrates 48 years

The combined celebrations for Nauru’s 48th Independence Day and the 70th anniversary of the people’s return from Truk concluded after two weeks of continuous celebrations of culture and art.

While traditional sporting events kicked off the celebrations from 18 January, the church service on Independence Day Sunday 31st January marked the official opening at the Orro Congregational Church.

The theme of the celebration was tribal and communities erected model villages along the road as the float procession took place on the second last day of the celebrations on Saturday 6th February.

The second week of celebration hosted the tribal choral competition on Tuesday 2 February, in which the song Sailing, Sailing back home by Vinton Benjamin was the competition song. The Eamwit tribe were declared winners for the choral competition.

The Youth Talent Show was held on Wednesday 3 February, followed by the much anticipated Miss Nauru 2016 beauty pageant. Miss Chief Secretary, Lucina Detsiogo was crowned the winner followed by first runner-up Miss Foreign Affairs & Trade, Kellen Adeang, and second runner-up Miss Eigigu Holdings Corporation, Unique-Lee Dick. The contestants’ talent show was held on Saturday 30 January.

Friday 5 February was the School drama show and an around the island float parade on Saturday 6 February.

The church service at Christ the King Catholic church on Sunday 7 February marked the official closing of the two-week celebration.

The Independence Day Steering Committee would like to acknowledge and thank its many sponsors for their support of the events and prizes throughout the festivities•

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Miss Chief Secretary's Department Lucina Detsiogo was crowned Miss Nauru 2016 during Nauru's 48th Independence Day celebrations

Government partners with TechOne for transformation

The Government of the Republic of Nauru has extended its partnership with leading enterprise software provider TechnologyOne, selecting the vendor's Human Resource & Payroll whole-of-government solution to support transformation.

"Nauru is in the midst of rebuilding and part of our main reform agenda is to look at government processes, streamline them and strengthen our capabilities," said Senior Government Human Resources and Capacity Development Advisor Maritino Nemani.

"We have already engaged with TechnologyOne for our financial management system, and they have proven that they can deliver and meet our expectation. The system has made life simple for our employees, and has made our financial processes much easier, more efficient and report accountability.

"Engaging TechnologyOne again for our government payroll system will give us one provider, one point of contact and will be much more cost effective.

"We're confident in the strong relationship we have with TechnologyOne, and implementing the HR and payroll solution enables us to extend that relationship."

TechnologyOne Human Resource & Payroll system will replace the government's existing MYOB solution.

"The MYOB solution has served us well so far, but we have simply outgrown it. As we are going through a period of transition and growth, TechnologyOne's solution will set us up for the future with emphasis on accountabilities, disciplines and governance," Mr Nemani said.

"It has a lot of capabilities and functionality that the MYOB system did not have. It's also much more user friendly for employees, particularly for generating reports, which we weren't able to do previously. It has functions that will improve HR's capabilities to identify employee discrepancies in regards to salaries and awareness for greater accountability on officers administering their respective pay.



Secretary Corporate Services Ms Peta Gadabu (top left) in discussions with TechnologyOne team and Nauru Finance ahead of the transition from MYOB

"The TechnologyOne system will enable our people to perform their work more efficiently and provide a better service to the people of Nauru, because all the information is in a single system.

"This will position us well for transformation, as we must keep up with the fast-paced development and change many other countries are experiencing right now."

TechnologyOne's Executive Chairman Adrian Di Marco is pleased with the result his company has provided for the Nauru Government.

"This win is a testament to the strength of our solution for government. The Government of the Republic of Nauru is a great example of an organisation that has benefited from the TechnologyOne enterprise vision, and building upon a modular approach to adapt and improve processes in step with their needs.

"A single enterprise solution reduces the complexity of dealing with a number of specialist vendors and ultimately lowers the total cost of ownership," he said.

"As well as benefiting from the power of an integrated enterprise solution, the Government of the Republic of Nauru has bought into a solution which adapts and evolves, positioning them well to harness the full value of emerging technologies."

The Government of the Republic of Nauru is expected to go live with TechnologyOne Human Resource & Payroll in April 2016, as it prepares to kick off the 2016 financial year with the new system•

Harris and Uepa receive NPS scholarship

The recipients of the Nauru Public Service Scholarship Award (NPSSA) met with the His Excellency President Baron Waqa for the official send-off meeting at the office of the President on Friday 22 January.

Mr Aqua Harris and Mrs Yatimi Uepa are awarded this year's government scholarship that is aimed at developing capacity building in the public service.

At the meeting, President Waqa congratulated the two awardees and encouraged them that "study is not an easy thing to do and they should make use of the lecturers, tutors and fellow students in their field of study."

In response, the pair thanked His Excellency and the human resources management team for their selection and are grateful for the opportunity. They assured that they will do their best in their studies to return as outstanding ambassadors of the public service.



President Baron Waqa congratulates recipients of the Nauru Public Service scholarship Ms Yatimi Uepa and Mr Aqua Harris

Mr Harris qualified for the NPSSA scholarship upon his selection as the employee of the year for 2015. Mrs Uepa applied for the scholarship and underwent the selection process.

Mr Harris and Ms Yatimi Uepa have departed for Fiji to commence studies at the University of the South Pacific, Laucala campus•

CJ declares commencement of legal year

The opening of the legal year was marked with an official gathering of the judiciary and the legal fraternity last month, Monday 18 January.

In his speech to declare the opening of the new legal year, His Honour Chief Justice Jone Madraiwiwi spoke of contemplated changes in the near future for the positive progress and growth of justice.

CJ Madraiwiwi said that the Supreme Court will assume an additional responsibility in hearing appeals from the Refugee Appeals Tribunal in March and emphasised the addition of new pleaders to the legal profession as a promising result.

“There is also a need to revise the Civil Procedure Rules which are outdated,” CJ Madraiwiwi said.

His Honour said reforms in jurisdictions such as England, Australia and New Zealand now focus on simplicity and efficiency instead of merely prescribing the procedure to be followed.

“What matters is accessibility to justice and the accompanying imperative to provide it expeditiously and efficiently.”

The structure of legal fees, formulated some forty years ago, will also be revised.



His Honour Chief Justice Jone Madraiwiwi declares opening of legal year

(file photo)

The sittings of the Supreme Court will also be restructured “so that an increased bench is gainfully deployed when on island.”

“However, this ideal result is only attainable with the full involvement of the legal profession,” the CJ said.

In conclusion CJ Madraiwiwi said he is “confident that working together in a spirit of collegiality and respectful engagement... can improve and better what has gone before. Not for ourselves, but for the people of the Republic of Nauru.”

His Honour declared the commencement of the new legal year•

UN holds training for aspiring women parliament candidates and media

A training workshop was held this month (Friday 15 January) for aspiring women candidates for the parliamentary elections.

The workshop was hosted by the United Nations Joint Presence office Nauru (UNJPO) in conjunction with UN Women an entity of the United Nations gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Ellie van Baraan a regional communications and media specialist with UN women facilitated the workshop which focused on assisting the participants to get comfortable and confident with media.

“Today is about working with aspiring political candidates to help them become more comfortable and confident speaking to media,” Ms van Baraan said.

One of the points of the workshop focused on assisting participants develop good key messages that were clear and persuasive.

“Key messages and being able to express them in a way that is clear and persuasive is really important. So what we’re working a lot on is coming up with a sort of a checklist of what you should be including when you’re talking about your key messages and what you stand for,” Ms Van Baraan said.

Prior to that training reporters and staff of the Nauru Media Bureau, Government Information Office and Home Affairs department were invited to attend a two day training workshop that focused on reporting around women in politics and leadership.

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The media personnel were equipped with a range of ideas to promote gender equal reporting and finding solutions for current difficulties.

The one day training was held at the RONPHOS conference room•



UN Women Regional communications and media specialist Ellie van Baraan facilitated the workshop on how to be confident when confronted with the media

Eigigu launches money transfer agency - ExpressMoney

An opening ceremony was conducted on Friday 8 January at the Civic Center conference room for the new money transfer Agency XpressMoney.

The additional money transfer agency officially opened its doors to customers on Monday 11 January after being listed as an official agency of Xpress Money.

Chairman of Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) David Aingmea delivered his opening address followed by a prayer by Pastor Stan Dabuac.

In his speech the Minister for EHC Honorable David Adeang expressed his appreciation in signing the contract for the new facility that has taken nine months to come to fruition.

The Minister also said the new money transfer agency will add to already operating money transfer agencies and expand options in Nauru to transfer money.

“Having an additional money transfer facility in Nauru expands our options to transfer money in and out. Xpressmoney offers competitive rates allowing transfers to individuals or to bank accounts to your credit or debit card and even to your mobile.”

XpressMoney has a network of over 170,000 agents in over 150 countries including New Zealand, Australia and also the pacific including PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Palau.

The new facility will be operated by local staff and is based at the main Eigigu Holdings Corporation office in Aiwo district•



Eigigu Holdings Corporation officially commenced money transfer transactions on 11 January

Finance staff rewarded for outstanding performance in 2015

The Ministry of Finance confirmed its commitment to providing staff incentives for outstanding performance, when an award for outstanding staff member of the year was presented by the Secretary for Finance, Martin Hunt, at the recent annual Christmas party.

The Director of the Nauru Revenue Office Mrs Bereka Redfern, was the recipient of the award and prize of return airfare for two to Fiji, generously donated by Nauru Airlines.

Mrs Redfern received the award for her outstanding contributions to the continued successful operations of the NRO.

“Bereka was often required to work under extreme working conditions, and confronted with many challenging situations. Successful outcomes were always achieved, and without complaint,” Mr Hunt said.

Her efforts in ensuring the business as usual operations of the NRO during the fit-out of the Bendigo Bank Agency were exceptional. Mrs Redfern is considered to be a very worthy recipient of the award•

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

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