



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 13-2014/110

29 August 2014

Supplementary Appropriation Bill No. 1 2014-15 passed by parliament at August sitting

The Nauru Parliament met last week (Tuesday 19 Aug) where several ministerial statements were presented including the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1 2014-15 and the Litter Act 2014.

The sitting commenced with the opening prayer led by Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty and a message from President Baron Waqa directed at the general public reiterating the importance of spending wisely and investing well at a time when cash flow is substantial.

After question time and ministerial statements, Finance Minister Hon David Adeang sought leave to present the Supplementary Appropriation Bill with changes mostly in the Chief Secretary's department for expatriate staff housing, public finance, and travel and buildings insurance.

In his second reading speech the Minister said the Bill makes further adjustments to the budget expenditure resulting in increases to certain expenditure subheads to the tune of \$4,166,100.

"This additional expenditure will be made available with the increase in licence fees from Fisheries that were not otherwise accounted for during the preparation of the 2014-15 budget. Increase in revenue is estimated to be \$1,650,500.

"However, certain other expenditure items will be reimbursed back to

Government before the end of the 2014-15 financial year. This is approximately \$2,515,600. Giving the total Revenue source of \$4,166,100," the Minister said.

Minister Adeang reminded the House of the \$409,558 budget surplus announced at the time of the Budget adding that the "Supplementary Bill reflects a zero net effect to that surplus."



Minister for Finance Hon David Adeang, MP presented the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No 1 2014-15 at the 19 August sitting of parliament

[File photo]

The additional expenditure items will be as follows:

Chief Secretariat: Additional \$300,000 for house rentals for expatriate staff;

Finance Public Debt: Additional \$114,700 for payment of outstanding membership fees with the South Pacific Commission (SPC);

Finance Other Payments: An increase of \$2,335,800 to assist Nauru Airlines

in procuring its new freighter plane of \$1.5million. This amount will be repaid by Nauru Air Corporation by the end of the financial year; Other payments include clothing for the three new justices and the increase in local staff at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC), initial contracting of local life guards, \$103,000 for insurance for staff travel and government buildings, and \$500,000 certification of the mooring system.

Nauru Police Force: Additional \$637,500 for Community Liaison officers unit and lifeguards to work alongside the NPF in this regard;

Justice Secretariat: Additional funding of \$378,100 to increase its refugee settlement management team and operations managers at the RPC sites and recurring and establishment costs associated with the set up. This will be refunded by the Government of Australia later in the year.

Land Transport: Additional funding of \$400,000 for repairs and maintenance of government vehicles and procurement of new vehicles.

Minister Adeang concluded his presentation of the Bill by reiterating that "the overall impact of the change in expenditures and revenues associated with this Bill is zero. The modest surplus of \$409,588 at the time of the Budget Appropriation Act 2014-15 will be maintained even after this Supplementary." •

Nauru will stand firm in solidifying political commitment at the third international SIDS in Samoa

His Excellency President Baron Waqa, MP will join world leaders at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be held in Apia, Samoa next month (1-4 September).

The Conference will bring to focus the special case of countries including Nauru, in their pursuit for sustainable development in light of their unique and particular vulnerabilities: some of these include - small size of the country; isolation; climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters.

The overarching theme of the Conference is “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”.

As Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Nauru will use the opportunity to once again ramp up global support and political commitment in making positive steps to address the grave concerns and vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

The Conference will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings, and will seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
2. Seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation;
3. Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
4. Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The Conference will be preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August 2014, also in Apia.

SIDS is made up of 15 Pacific island countries, 16 Caribbean nations and eight from the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) region•

Justice hosts UPR workshop

The Justice Department hosted a workshop to review and follow up on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in preparation for the UPR meeting next year.

The workshop was conducted at the Menen Hotel this month (11 August) and attended by representatives from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Rights and Resource Team (RRRT), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The group jointly train and support the Nauru government in submitting their report by working with the various government departments compile information for the UPR report and discuss the challenges in regards to human rights in Nauru.

Nauru had previously provided an extensive report on human rights in the country which was reviewed by the member states of the United Nations (UN) prior to this workshop. At the workshop, the members made further recommendations on improving human rights in Nauru.

After careful consideration the Nauru Government accepted a number of recommendations and has begun implementing them such as the signing of several human rights treaties, and improving situations with reference to violence against women and rights of the child on Island.

The workshop ran for a week (11 -15 August) with participants from the Women's Affairs Department, Nauru Police Force (NPF), Nauru Correctional Services, and Justice Department.

The UPR is a unique state-driven process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States and is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed•

New lawyers take on RPC cases



Local defence lawyer John Rabuku (R) with the four newly sworn in defence team from Australia

This week (Tuesday 26 August), a formal admission ceremony of new lawyers was conducted at the office of the Registrar for the Supreme Court of Nauru.

Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nauru Graham Leung heard the oaths and officially admitted the four lawyers to the Bar, enabling them to practice law in the Nauru Court.

In his statement Mr Leung said that he has confidence the lawyers will show the hard work needed for their cases.

“I have every confidence that each of you will demonstrate the tenacity and intellectual vigor to serve your clients and the interests of Justice. In doing so, you would have helped and contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law in this island nation,” Mr Leung said.

Lawyers, Mr. Ashley Halphen, Glenn William Casement, Stephen Lindner and William Benjamin Lindner will be handling cases relating to last year's riot and destruction of the Regional Processing Center (RPC)•

45th PIFS summit

In July, leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS) met in Koror, Palau for the 45th Leaders' Summit that was also attended by His Excellency President Baron Waqa, MP and his delegation.

The PIFS conference opened with the theme of "The Ocean: Life and Future" highlighting the region's commitment to conservation and sustainable development of its ocean's resources for present and future generations.

The meeting tabled several issues which included climate change, fisheries and the appointment of persons to key positions.

During the conference, leaders agreed and welcomed the appointment of Dame Meg Taylor as the new Secretary General of PIFS and expressed their appreciation for outgoing Secretary General Tui Neroni Slade for his valued contribution during his six year tenure in the position.

Another highlight of the PIFS meeting was the adoption of the new Pacific Plan Framework by Forum members which was reviewed in May this year in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Additionally, most PIFS leaders called for a review of the Pacific Plan and endorsed its recasting of the Pacific Plan as a new



New PIFS Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor of PNG

[Photo: agriculture.caiservicespng.com]

framework for Pacific Regionalism.

PIFS leaders also expressed their appreciation and acknowledgment to Nauru as Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and for the leadership of Nauru's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Marlene Moses who spoke at the conference about climate change and the lack of global leadership in sustainable development.

At the conference Nauru also ratified the Niue Treaty which aims to combat illegal fishing and encourage regional cooperation to protect vulnerable fish stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Pacific Island countries•

Nauru ratifies Niue Treaty

Last month (29th July) the Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) ratified the Niue Treaty at the recent Pacific Islands Forum meeting held in Palau.

The Niue Treaty aims to combat illegal fishing and encourage regional cooperation to protect vulnerable fish stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Pacific island countries.

The agreement also aims to enhance regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries surveillance and sea law enforcement. Beneficially, the treaty allows for Pacific Island countries such as Nauru, to effectively enforce their own fisheries laws.

Chief Executive Officer for Nauru Fisheries Charleston Debye highlights that under the treaty, subsidiary arrangements can be established between Pacific countries in which parties can cooperate in the provision of personnel, vessels and aircraft and undertake fisheries surveillance activities in each other's waters.

"The main return for Nauru is the ability to conduct surveillance

and enforcement utilising assets that the region collectively has at their disposal which Nauru lacks, such as patrol boats and air assets specifically for surveillance. Nauru can be rest assured that it has the capability to monitor its EEZ for IUU [illegal, unregulated and unreported] activities through the use of these assets," Mr Debye said.

Pacific countries that are signatories to the Niue treaty include Cook Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu. The treaty is currently in force with another 12 signatories who have opted for the agreement to date.

Members who become signatories to any treaty by any country indicate their interest to further the treaty-making process and to commit to implementing the treaty.

Ratification comes when a signatory becomes prepared to be legally bound to a treaty and having had the time look into legislation and how the treaty commitments link to its domestic legislation.

All Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members are signatories to the 1992 Niue Treaty•

Recruits graduate from NPF program

The Nauru Police Force (NPF) has recently celebrated the graduation of new recruits at the Centennial Hall and has also acquired new patrol cars from the Australian Government.

This week (25 August) His Excellency President Baron Waqa congratulated the 11 graduates on their accomplishment and noted the growth of the NPF as further testimony to the Government's commitment to law and order on Nauru.

The Dux award was presented to Dimas Kabokia while Christopher Amwano received the Leadership award and Zanita Tom earned the Most Improved award.

Dimas Kabokia gave a speech on behalf of the graduates, thanking the NPF and their families for their support during the five month course.

The day concluded with refreshments provided by the NPF.

Earlier in the month (20 August) Australian High Commissioner



Recruits recite the police prayer at the graduation ceremony

Martin Quinn handed over three patrol cars to the Nauru Government for the further development of the NPF.

President Waqa and Cabinet ministers inspected the vehicles which are estimated to cost around AUD\$180,000. The new additions bring a total of 14 NPF patrol cars.

The NPF plans to replace several defective patrol cars with the new vehicles and will mostly be used for routine checks throughout the island•

Nauru Airlines launches first freighter service

Nauru Air Corporation launched its freighter service last week (22 Aug) to address air cargo back log and offer an increased opportunity for local businesses to utilise for fresh produce and uplift of medical supplies for the island.

The rebranding of the national airline to Nauru Airlines earlier this month welcomes renewed ideas and plans for expansion of services.

In his opening address Minister for Nauru Air Corporation Hon David Adeang thanked President Baron Waqa for his support towards the airline's progress as well as cabinet members and parliament for their understanding and support in helping the airline.

The Minister also expressed his thanks to the NAC Board for taking the airline to where it is now and said there are future plans to expand and broaden the services of the airline in the region.

Nauru Airlines CEO Geoff Bowmaker said the new trading name is the start of a new era and while servicing the region the airlines' focus should always be on serving Nauru first.

NAC Chairman Captain Kevin Power was pleased to officially launch the first freighter plane reiterating the achievements of the airline over the past few years and thanked the government for its support of the airline.

"The Board's focus now is to really get this airline built. The freighter is a milestone in itself. It is the first of the freighter capacity of the airline."

Captain Power echoes the minister's words of the possibility of acquiring additional planes and would look to more destinations in the region.

The airline now has five planes in its fleet•



Minister Adeang (R) talking with Airline CEO Bowmaker and NAC Chairman Power as the 12 tonne cargo is unloaded

Customs Proclamation Notice

[Reference: Gazette No. 107/14]

The general public is advised that as of Monday 11th August 2014, the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Proclamation No.1. 2014 S.L No.8 will be in force.

Proclamation

1) No business shall import any goods into Nauru without an approved import licence issued by the Nauru Customs Division of the Department of Finance.

2) Restrictions and conditions for the issuance of an import license shall be as follows:

(a) An approved import license will be issued to businesses registered in Nauru if the majority shares are owned by Nauruans.

(b) The business must be registered in Nauru hold a valid incorporation certificate and/or business license.

(c) An approved import license may only be issued to a business registered in Nauru where 90% of their employees are Nauruan citizens. An exception will only apply where the business shows cause as to why other than Nauruan employees are employed. Where any doubt arises with respect to this condition.

(c) The Department of Justice and Border Control shall make a determination and that decision shall be final.

(d) The application form for an import license shall be in a manner prescribed by the Customs Division, Department of Finance.

(e) In the interest of the Nauru economy, any import license issued under this Proclamation may have conditions that restrict supply of goods to the Regional Processing Centres; such conditions will be as determined by the Department of Justice and Border Control and Department of Finance.

(f) Any variation sought in regards to the conditions of an import licence shall be directed in writing to the Department of Justice and Border Control and Department of Finance.

3) An exemption shall apply to any goods currently being shipped or in the process of shipment to Nauru, and in any event, any goods shipped after Wednesday, 1st October, 2014 shall be subject to this proclamation•

Runway declared a security restricted area

[Reference: Gazette No. 101/14]

The general public is advised that as of Friday 1st August 2014, the airport runway is declared a security restricted area at all times.

Any unauthorised person attempting to access, cross or conduct any sporting and other activities on the runway will be reported to the relevant authorities and subsequently fined. Any person fined under the Civil Aviation Act 2011 may be liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a 12 month imprisonment term•

Nauru Government rewards its national sports medallists

This week (Tuesday 26 August), a sports awards ceremony was hosted by the Ministry of Sports for the athletes who participated at this year's 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei and the XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

Minister for Sports Honourable Valdón Dowiyogo offered a congratulatory address and thanked the athletes for their hard work in their respective sporting disciplines.

In thanking the athletes, the minister made special acknowledgements to super heavy weight lifter Itte Detenamo who won a silver medal in the men's super-heavy weight division and therefore maintains Nauru's record of winning a medal at every Commonwealth Game since Nauru's first participation in 1990.

"I know Itte that you did your best and we are proud of you winning the silver medal for Nauru. You have maintained and continued the impressive record of Nauru winning a medal in every Commonwealth Games since 1990," Minister Dowiyogo said.

In recognition of his achievement, the Government awarded Itte \$20,000 dollars cash and signed a contract to work for the sports department as a sports development officer.

The medallists from the Micronesian Games also received their cash awards.

The monetary incentive was introduced and passed by parliament earlier this year to reward athletes that win medals at major sporting events including regional meets.

"As you are aware, your Government has introduced a new policy to recognise the medal winners of Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, South Pacific Games, Micronesian Games and World Championships. Your Government is committed to support and encourage Nauruans to compete in sports and make Nauru proud," Minister Dowiyogo said.

Minister Dowiyogo also acknowledged the efforts of the Nauru Team who participated at the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The team won three gold medals, nine silver medals and five bronze medals placing Nauru eighth in the final medal standings.

The president of Nauru Olympic Committee (NOC) Honourable Marcus Stephen M.P., also said a few words congratulating the athletes and especially to Itte Detenamo whom Mr Stephen said has sacrificed much in his life to get to where he is presently.

Dinner was served following the formal part of the evening.



Commonwealth Games silver medallist Itte Detenamo receives his cash award from President Baron Waqa and later signed his contract to be sports development officer with the Department of Sports



Micronesian Games dual gold and silver medallist in the 100 and 200m sprints Lanja Fritz receiving her award from Sports Minister Valdón Dowiyogo, MP

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.



Republic of Nauru

Office contact:

Government Information Office

Government Offices

Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr

Mobile: +674 5573009

www.naurugov.nr