



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 6-2017/154

5 April 2017

President Waqa on Australian state visit

His Excellency President Baron Waqa makes the first state visit to Australia by a Nauruan president in over two decades

His Excellency President Baron Waqa MP departed for Australia today (5 April) for a historic state visit, the first by a Nauruan president for over 20 years.

First Lady Madam Louisa Waqa and senior officials are accompanying the President on the four-day visit.

President Waqa will meet the Prime Minister of Australia the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP and the Governor of New South Wales, David Hurley, in Sydney.

In Canberra His Excellency will tour the Mount Majura

Solar Farm and discuss renewable energy with senior management, visit

the Australian War Memorial to lay a wreath, and be officially welcomed at Government House by the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove.



His Excellency President Baron Waqa enroute to Australia for state visit

The program will also include meetings with several senior ministers and Opposition MPs and the Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey.

The invitation by the Australian Government to His Excellency reflects the close relationship of the two nations over many years and the ongoing friendship and cooperation between Nauru and Australia•

PACER plus negotiations platform for trade

PACER Plus discussions ended on 20 March with negotiations nearing conclusion and the agreement expected to be ratified this month (April).

Dr Edwini Kessie Chief Trade Advisor to the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor (OCTA) for the Forum Island Countries led the consultations which invited various stakeholders from the private, non-government organisations and government sector Nauru.

Dr Kessie remarked that discussions were productive and active.

“It was a very good seminar, I think the participants were very active they wanted to know more about PACER Plus and I think they understood what PACER Plus means for them, means for the country... most of them believe it is a platform which Nauru can mount to modernize the country and improve the living standards of the people of the country,” Dr Kessie said.

Dr Kessie also highlighted that the discussions have revealed some challenges that could hinder Nauru benefitting from the agreement.

“For Nauru to benefit from the agreement... [Nauru] needs to address supply side constraints which prevented them from taking advantage of market access opportunities to strengthen their productive capacity. So in the case of Nauru the seminar revealed that the top priority for the government is to develop

their port,” Dr Kessie said.

From the discussions with stakeholders telecommunications and financial services were identified as additional priorities that would contribute to vibrant private sector.

Dr Kessie is confident that PACER Plus will complement other trade agreements that Nauru has ratified in the past and will not come into conflict with those agreements.

It was outlined that PACER Plus agreement does not only cover trade in goods but also trade in services, investment, labour mobility, and developmental assistance.

Dr Kessie added that if Nauru ratifies PACER Plus it will encourage investment as a benefit. The agreement provisions Nauru’s commitment to good trade practices subsequently encouraging investors to invest in the country.

In terms of labour mobility it is expected Nauru could benefit from revenue in the form of overseas remittance.

Additionally, the skills obtained from working overseas will be an added benefit for the Nauru economy.

It is expected that all 12 Pacific countries including Australia and New Zealand will meet in April to ratify the agreement in Tonga.

The PACER Plus discussions were held at the Menen hotel•

President Waqa receives Indian HC

His Excellency President Baron Waqa received the letter of Credence of Vishvas Vidu Sapkal formalising his appointment as High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru, on 23 March.

On arrival at the government office Mr Sapkal met with Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Michael Aroi before being received by the Commissioner of Police for the playing of the national anthems and inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour.

Mr Sapkal was then escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials.

“As High Commissioner of India it would be my constant endeavour to work for further strengthening and expanding the friendly relations between our governments and peoples. We also look forward to further cooperating in multilateral fora on issues of common concern.

“We share the common commitment to work for the inclusive social and economic development of our peoples. India is happy to share its developmental experiences and work with Nauru in the framework of South-South Cooperation.

“Nauru has made considerable progress in the area of economic development and we congratulate you in this regard.”

In response His Excellency was “happily reminded of the close relationship which our two countries have enjoyed and nurtured over the years.”

“This friendship is based on our common desires for lasting peace, security and economic prosperity for our people and to strengthen this relationship through collaboration and cooperation on a bilateral basis as well as on a multilateral level and trust that this will further enhance during your tenure.



Indian High Commissioner to Nauru Mr Vishvas Sapkal inspected the construction of Anetan seawall with President Baron Waqa during his visit to present his Letter of Credence

“Nauru has benefited immensely from India’s generous assistance and support,” President Waqa said.

His Excellency further thanked the Government and people of India and to High Commissioner Sapkal for the task and responsibility of strengthening and further promoting the special bonds of friendship between Nauru and India.

Following the presentation of credentials was a private meeting then courtesy calls on the Speaker of Parliament Cyril Buramen and Cabinet Ministers.

The High Commissioner also made a brief stop at the Able-Disable Centre to donate US\$600 before heading to the north side of the island to Anetan for the unveiling of the name board of the seawall project of Anetan in which the Government of India has contributed considerably towards for the construction of the seawall and expansion of the raised land previously eroded by ocean waves.

Mr Sapkal also took a tour of the Nauru Port before a dinner that evening (23 Mar) hosted by President Waqa. The High Commissioner departed Nauru on 24 March•

HR explains the public service act on the discussion desk program

The Public Service Act 2016 was recently discussed on the weekly local radio show Discussion Desk, highlighting topics of common concern and import.

Co-hosts of the weekly show Dominic Appi from Radio Nauru and George Joram of the Government Information Office spoke with Secretary for Corporate Services within the Department of Chief Secretary Ms Peta Gadabu and Manager of Benefits and Payroll systems Marcus Aremwa on the importance of the Public Service Act.

Ms Gadabu explained that the Public Service Act is an important guide for public servants on how to conduct themselves as employees of the government, also highlighting provisions for disciplinary action if employees fail to adhere to the Act.

Also discussed during the live radio show, was the role of the Chief Secretary of the public service.

Ms Gadabu explained that the Chief Secretary’s main role is to oversee the overall supervision of the Public Service including the power to employ or dismiss employees from the public service.

Mr Aremwa spoke on issues covering staff benefits such as accumulation of leave, maternity and paternity leave, and recreation leave for teachers.

Entitlements for maternity leave were recently amended and paternity leave added to the Act.

Mr Aremwa also highlighted that female employees are entitled to full salary during their maternity leave up to their fourth child and half pay for subsequent pregnancies.

Moreover, Ms Gadabu outlined the differences between temporary, permanent, and contract employees.

Temporary employees face immediate dismissal for failure to perform at work while a permanent employee will be subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with the Public Service Act.

In concluding the radio program Ms Gadabu explained that retirement according to the new changes to the Act is no longer mandatory at age 60 years. The new amendment provides that retirement is now voluntary provided the employee is productive and is in good health.

Mr Aremwa added that furlough under the act has been renamed “long service leave” and an employee is eligible for long service leave after working for a period of 10 years.

For more information on the Public Service Act 2016 please visit www.naurugov.nr and find the RONLaw link.

Tune in to the Discussion Desk every Wednesdays 9.30am on FM105.1 •

Taiwan facilitates home affairs donation from charity Simply Help

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) gifted a container of goods to the Department of Home Affairs in a brief ceremony at the Home Affairs office on 22 March.

Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow officially handed over the container and remarked that it was an honour to make the donation to Honourable Charmaine Scotty as minister for Home Affairs.

“It is my honour on behalf of Simply Help Foundation to present gifts to Minister, those gifts are from Simply Help Foundation, totaling 395 items,” Ambassador Chow said.

The donation includes clothing, utensils, toys, shoes and stationary totalling USD\$123,000.

Ambassador Chow said every year the donations are organised by volunteers and contributors of the charitable foundation Simply Help, an overseas based charitable foundation. Donations are then sent to Taiwan Pacific allies.

Ambassador Chow indicated that the container is just the beginning and more donations will be arranged to arrive in Nauru in the near future.

In her remarks Minister Scotty thanked Ambassador Chow for the donation and expressed her appreciation to Taiwan.

“For this I thank Ambassador and his government and all the people of Taiwan including all the Taiwanese people on Nauru that always show their interest in bettering the quality of life for us Nauruans,” Minister Scotty said.



Minister Scotty receives donation on behalf of home affairs from Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow

Minister Scotty said the donation will be put to good use in Home Affairs community projects.

“It has come to the right place because Home Affairs looks after our community and this can be used as incentives for projects that we do with the communities,” Minister Scotty said.

Simply Help Foundation was founded in 2000 by Tina Bow who is also its executive director.

The charity’s main goal is to help alleviate poverty as well as help people gain access to basic necessities of life through charitable donations. The foundation also tries to provide basic educational opportunities to empower people to succeed on their own•

Executive committee firm up plans for 50th celebrations at second meet

The executive committee for the 50th Independence Day anniversary celebrations had its second meeting to firm up preparations and budget allocations for the separate sub-committees on 28 March.

Historical information and artefacts will be collected to form a display booth to showcase the history of Nauru over the past 50 years.

A murals committee will arrange the painting of murals around the island.

A logo and theme competition has been launched to seek out the best logo and theme for the golden anniversary. The winning logo will be used to brand all official anniversary items, events and merchandise.

There is no limit to the number of entries which may be submitted by the same individual and must be originals. The theme is limited to ten words and should reflect the blessings of God and the development of Nauru. The contest is open to Nauru citizens only. A media (video and audio) committee will be responsible for live telecast of events as well as prepare a collection of video and audio recordings from previous events dating back to 1968.

The fireworks committee will commence the fireworks display for Christmas 2017 in the lead up to Independence and Constitution days 2018.

The finance committee headed by Finance Minister David Adeang will provide budget provisions for the celebrations.

The choir committee will organise competitions for choir, solo, dance songs, iruwo, and original compositions.

Entertainment will be provided by local and overseas artists and so far the entertainment committee has secured George Baker and his band for the celebrations.

Anniversary memorabilia will consist of souvenir items for visitors and guests to the island. Banners, posters, the Nauruan bible and hymn books, and philately first day covers are among the items earmarked for souvenirs.

Traditional sports are common events at national celebrations, and so the 50th anniversary will see a display of nine favourite traditional sports.

A fishing competition will also feature the different forms of fishing such as trawling, canoe, rod, spear, net (ekaraida) and diving.

The infrastructure committee has selected community members including church members, and representatives from the government departments and state owned entities to assist with and coordinate rubbish clearing, infrastructure maintenance and ensure buildings are refurbished and or removed for the upcoming year-long celebration.

District beautification has been scaled down to focus on general cleanliness around the districts and beaches, tree planting around the island, outside homes and public places.

The department of Foreign Affairs & Trade will be responsible for official guests and invitations and looking after them while on island.

Two brass band instructors from Taiwan are currently on island to train up members of the Nauru Police Force brass band, an additional two instructors will soon join the team to assist with the training.

For further information regarding the different sub-committees for Nauru’s 50th Independence Day Anniversary please contact the chair and vice chairs (on page 4). They can be reached by phone via the government office switchboard, 5573133.

[Cont pg 4...]

Introducing Education department

Get to know your government departments.

A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Department of Education is the gateway to a future of educated and informed young people. Providing Australian standard curriculum and the opportunity for overseas schooling through government scholarships are avenues to improve student learning and development.

The department is headed by Dr Maria Gaiyabu with support from her team of office staff and teachers in all ten schools.

Secretary for Education- Dr Maria Gaiyabu

Executive secretary- Claire Temaki

Secretary General UNESCO- Jerielyn Teleni

Director for School- Fay Itaia

Director for C.A.S.E- Melissa Ika

Director for Administration- Cecilia Giouba

Secondary Manager- Rosario Taumea

Primary Manager- Sharon Buramen

Early Childhood Education Manager- Sharon Kam

Manager for Exams, School Inspections- Leonora Depaune

Manager for Statistics- Purcella Engar

Scholarship Manager- Lucinta Seymour

Asset Manager- Richard Menke

Finance Manager- Angelisa Namaduk

Building Manager- Bob Agigo

Assistant Teacher Evaluation & Monitoring- Louisa Waqa



Staff Development Officer- Kutun Ribauw

Disability Coordinator- Emmaline Caleb

Assistant Liaison Officer- Stanley Dabuae

Administrative Assistant- Benna Fritz

Courier- Iturin Jockane

Assistant Statistic Officer- Tanine Jeremiah

Assistant Finance Officer- Daniel Appin

Assistant Building Officer- Tonto Selo

Assistant Asset Officers- Don Debao, Kate Detageouwa

Curriculum Support Officer- Helene Ika

Statistic Support Officer- Inza Detabene

Management Secretary- Leilani Buramen, Illana Doguape

Bus Drivers/Conductors - Ataro Detabene, Ivy-Anna Garabwan,

Jaison Dake, Donovan Dabwido, Teneaki Dengea, Bosco Cain,

Nora Akubor •

[...from pg 3]

Sub-committee chair and vice chair for 50th Anniversary of Nauru's 2018 Independence Day celebrations

Sub-Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
History display booth from 1968-2018	Peter Jacob	Joanna Olsson
Murals	Hon. Charmaine Scotty	Jemima Dowedia
Logo and Theme for 50 th anniversary	Sasikumar Paravanoor	Ophelia Caleb
Media – video and audio	Joel Waqa	Johannah Akubor
Fireworks	Hon. David Adeang	Michael Angelo Dimapilis
Finance	Hon. David Adeang	Martin Hunt, Andy Cain
Choir	Erie Menke	Joy Heine
Entertainment	Tara Detogia	Trent Dabwido
Memorabilia	Ophelia Caleb	Sasikumar Paravanoor
Traditional Sports	Rayong Itsimaera	Brenda Ribauw
Fishing	Hon. Ranin Akua	Murin Jeremiah
Infrastructure	Hon. Tawaki Kam	Mahlon Brechtefeld
District Beautification, Food Planting	Clarissa Jeremiah	Viuli Amoe
Official Guests and Invitations	Michael Aroi	Elizabeth Jacob

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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