



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 19-2017/167

12 December 2017

## Nauru-NZ sign partnership agreements

**Energy and education agreements signed on the margins of NZ credentials presentation**

A ceremony was conducted at the cabinet room for the signing of the Energy Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Education Grant Funding Agreement (EGFA) between Nauru and New Zealand last week (8 December).

The EPA and the EGFA were signed by His Excellency Acting President David Adeang and the newly appointed New Zealand High Commissioner to Nauru Nicola Simmonds on the margins of Ms Simmonds presentation of credentials.

The EPA outlined details of the funding arrangement as well as project implementation structures and processes for New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ MFAT) funded renewable energy project.

The project includes the construction of renewable energy generation equipment consisting of the installation of solar photovoltaic electricity of 1 dmegawatt capacity. A demonstration of a water catchment as well as water storage and pumping systems are included in the project.



*Nauru Acting President David Adeang and NZ High Commissioner Nicola Simmonds sign two partnership and funding agreements, 8 December*

The main goal of the EPA is to increase renewable energy generation for Nauru. The project is expected to provide approximately 10 per cent of the renewable energy generation required for Nauru to reach its target of 50 per cent electricity generated by renewable sources by 2025.

The EGFA outlines support for the Education 5 year strategic plan "Footpath IV" as detailed in the Education Annual

Operational Plan 2017-18. A total of \$3,333,750 is expected to be funded throughout the three year term of the agreement.

"It's a pleasure to be able to sign these two arrangements between New Zealand and Nauru. New Zealand has had a long partnership in the education sector which is critical to the future generations of Nauruans.

"The renewable energy sector is important to your [Nauru] own national planning goals around access to renewable energy and will be delivered in the next 18 months and we look forward to future partnerships," Ms Simmonds said.

His Excellency Acting President David Adeang expressed his gratitude on behalf of the government of Nauru thanking Ms Simmonds for New Zealand's support for Nauru.

"New Zealand has long been a good friend to the government and people of Nauru. We thank you for your continued support to helping make Nauru a stronger more resilient economy," Mr Adeang said.

## Second wave of US refugee processing

The United States Refugee Support Centre arrived on Nauru on 23 November to progress the resettlement of Nauru refugees in the United States.

During that time, there have been approximately 40 refugees starting the process with initial interviews, over 300 being invited for follow-up interviews and 109 individuals received a decision from the US. The remaining refugees on Nauru who have expressed interest in US resettlement are waiting for their decisions.

Decisions handed down included both positive and negative decisions. The majority of those receiving a negative decision have the opportunity to request a reconsideration of that decision. While no firm dates are in place, it is expected that the refugees

with positive decisions will leave Nauru to start their new lives in the US soon.

The US will continue to send officials to Nauru to progress the resettlement decisions for the remaining refugees.

The Government of Nauru welcomes the offer by the US to resettle refugees from Nauru, knowing that the refugees recognised by Nauru are deserving of international protection, and the Government wishes them well in their new lives.

In the meantime, the Government of Nauru, continue to provide support and assistance to those who remain on Nauru for now.

Under an agreement between with the Obama administration, the US agreed to take 1250 asylum-seekers from Australia's offshore processing centres on Nauru and Manus Island, subject to the Trump administration's vetting process.

## Parliament 23 November



The Parliament of Nauru convened a sitting on 23 November and three bills out of six were approved by parliament.

The first of the Bills that were passed by parliament was the Public Service (Amendment) Bill No.2 2017, presented by His Excellency President Baron Waqa followed by the Ozone Layer Protection bill and the Supplementary Appropriation bill No.2 2017-18.

The remaining bills - Limitation Bill 2017; Funeral, Burial and Cremation Bill 2017 and the Dog Management and Control Bill 2017 will be debated at a later sitting.

After opening prayers President Waqa offered his thanks to the communities for a successful and strong showing of community participation during the Angam day celebration and Queens Baton Relay.

A number of ministerial statements were also presented mostly progress reporting of the various department and ministry activities.

President Waqa presented the Public Service (Amendment) No.2 Bill which caters for:

- Gazetted public holidays will be considered as regular working days for public service employees who are travelling on official leave on such days;
- Clarification as to the taking and calculation of recreation leave;
- Clarification as to the taking and calculation of long service leave;
- Clarification on deemed resignation and the time frame when an employee may not be re-employed in the public service; and
- Providing timeframes for employees to apply for official and recreation leave.

“In any country, there is the desire to have a public service that is productive and efficient in the delivery of service to the public and the community at large,” President Waqa said.

The president reiterated his government’s commitment to implement its public sector reform agenda, to bring about a public service that performs and is effective and efficient in order to meet both the challenges of today and the future.

“Our workplace dynamics is ever changing hence the need for us to re-align our laws to have the mechanisms to deal with on-going changes and demands of the employees and the organisation,” President Waqa said.

The second bill to be passed was the Ozone Layer Protection bill, also introduced to parliament by President Waqa.

The Ozone Layer Protection bill aims to fulfil Nauru’s obligations under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer.

“The bill establishes a mechanism to monitor and control the importation, exportation, handling and licensing of handlers of ozone depleting substances. Ultimately, this shows the world that Nauru, a grain of sand in vast ocean space, is committed to taking measures towards protecting the ozone layer,” His Excellency said.

In introducing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.2 2017-18, Finance Minister David Adeang said the overall adjustments makes several necessary changes to both revenue and expenditure estimates.

“A total of \$25.58 million has been provided in this appropriation bill for various expenditure line items. The overall impact of the supplementary appropriation bill is a net surplus of \$60,469 which in turn increases the revised budget bottom line surplus to \$123,738,” Minister Adeang said.

Mr Adeang explained that some adjustments to the budget have been made due to unforeseen revenue generated from other government entities.

“The Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017-18 makes an adjustment to the revenue associated with business profit tax and new revenue stream generated by the Nauru Regional Processing Centre Corporation (NRPCC) which were not anticipated during the time of budget.

“A further \$9.3 million was collected from business profit tax. This amount was not anticipated at the time of budget. Throughout the course of this financial year and based on the first full year of actual returns an additional \$9.3 million was certainly realised by Government,” Mr Adeang said.

The minister indicated that the establishment of the new corporation (NPRCC) will generate a substantial amount of revenue for the government in the form of management service fees.

“A total of \$14 million is expected to be received by Government before end of June 2018.”

Under the new adjustments \$5.75 million provided in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will cater for various building, structure and infrastructure projects. This includes the construction of new fencing for the airport runway, a new sports complex, a national museum, new first class lounge at the airport, new State House, and renovation of offices and makeover of the civic centre conference hall.

In addition, \$1.14 million is allocated for the newly established NPRCC for office operations.

Furthermore, a provision of \$1.2 million is earmarked for local staff salary increase.

In light of the upcoming 50th Independence celebrations and Nauru’s hosting of various regional meetings in 2018, the Supplementary Bill has allocated a further \$390,000 for payment of meals, airfares and other costs associated with visiting dignitaries. An additional, \$2.5million has been provided for the refurbishment of the state-owned Menen Hotel in preparation for the 2018 regional events on Nauru.

*Cont pg 3...*

## Parliament *(continued)*

...from pg 2

The Supplementary Bill provides a further \$3.22 million for the health department and purchase of pharmaceuticals as well as meet Overseas Medical Referrals (OMR) costs. The additional funding will also cater for the hospital's electricity and water requirements for the rest of the financial year.

"Allocating this amount to health is essential as it enables health to continue providing the needed health services," Mr Adeang said.

The Bill also makes a number of provisions for the foreign affairs department for Nauru's foreign missions in Brisbane, Suva, and New York providing a total of \$832,000.

"Overall Mr Speaker, the above expenditures have been made possible with the increase in total revenue estimates due to the windfall revenues of business profit tax and NPRCC management and service fees.

"With the passage of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, there will be a slight increase to the budget bottom line from initial surplus of \$63,269 to \$123,738," Minister Adeang said•

## RONPHOS drills to test phosphate

**M**ining company Ronphos Corporation commenced a series of drilling exercises to determine the quality of phosphate in the already mined out phosphate lands on the islands central plateau.

The Ronphos geologist Stan Schmidt and a small team of workers hand carry into the pinnacles the driller, portable generator and other tools to carry out the tedious work of testing and determining phosphate depth and quality.

Ronphos CEO Robert Mencil said for the corporation to continue mining it needs to know what is left with regards to the phosphate, and it needs to know where it is and what grade the phosphate is.

"The drilling is done in specific areas but what we've got is a survey of the whole island done very detailed and from that survey we can identify areas that are most likely to be profitable to mine and so we've targeted those areas to go and drill the depths. We need to know that information first because these are the areas we're most likely to mine first," Mr Mencil said.

The CEO said the last lot of mining and related testing work done was in 2008, but little work done since then. However, Mr Mencil acknowledged that good work had been done since 1980 with some good models formulated from that work.

"And we've added to those models but those models are still based on various assumptions and one of the assumptions being the depth of phosphate remaining between the pinnacles.

"Now the drilling that's been done today (1 Dec) there's only been 27 holes and for Ronphos to be confident that it has a good understanding of what the remaining phosphate is it needs well over a hundred more holes."

Since restarting the program in July this year Ronphos is checking some of the assumptions that have gone into their model.



*Ronphos field team conducting the first series of drilling to test the depth and quality of phosphate*

"Now we have an idea from previous drillings but we need to prove that," Mr Mencil said.

Mr Schmidt says the drilling work proves depth and how much phosphate is between the pinnacles and below.

"We have the pinnacle walls all around us and so what we do is measure how much room is in between the pinnacles and how high they are so we can have a good estimation of how much phosphate is left."

A special hand held apparatus is placed on the soil to take readings of the soil and give an idea of how much phosphate, calcium and impurities such as cadmium is in the soil.

Mr Schmidt says the levels of cadmium vary but the concentration declines further down into the earth.

"Cadmium is water soluble so with the rain and that it will trickle down through the soil and kind of stops around the half metre to the metre mark is where the highest levels [of cadmium] are."

Some international buyers of phosphate are now tightening up on cadmium with increasing concerns about contamination of their farmlands•

## NZ presents credentials

**H**is Excellency Acting President David Adeang received the High Commissioner of New Zealand to Nauru at the formal presentation of credentials at the Office of the President, 8 December.

High Commissioner Ms Nicola Simmonds was met on arrival at the government office by the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade and later for the playing of national anthems and inspection of the Police Guard of honour.

During the presentation of her Letter of Credence Ms Simmonds conveyed to Acting President Adeang the cordial greetings from the Governor General of New Zealand and her appreciation for the hospitality extended to her upon arrival.

Mr Adeang accepted Ms Simmond's credentials and expressed hopes for close collaboration with the high commissioner during her tenure.

The Acting President and the High Commissioner also signed the energy partnership agreement which details the funding arrangements as well as project implementation structures and processes for the NZ MFAT funded renewable energy project; and the education partnership arrangement to support the new education five year strategic plan - Footpath IV.

Ms Simmonds has worked in various postings and capacities around the region and internationally. She is currently the unit manager for Nauru, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Ms Simmonds has a BA First Class Honours and a Master of Science in Geography both from Victoria University, New Zealand•

## Marshall and Freckleton sworn in as Nauru court judges

Additional judges for the Nauru Supreme Court were sworn in over the past weeks and will preside over refugee appeals and asylum seekers cases.

Shane Marshall read the oath in the presence of Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang and members of the judiciary on 20 November while Dr Ian Freckleton swore the oath of office in the presence of President Baron Waqa on 29 November.

Judge Shane Marshall said he looks forward to his new position as judge of the Nauru Supreme Court.

The oath ceremony concluded with congratulatory remarks by the Minister Adeang congratulating Mr Marshall on his appointment into the Nauru judiciary.

Judge Shane Marshall sat on the Federal Court of Australia from 1995 to 2015 and was an additional judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory from 2003 to 2012. In January 2017, His Honour was appointed as acting judge of the Supreme Court of Tasmania prior to taking up the role in Nauru.

Meanwhile, Judge Freckleton is pleased to take up the role and “endeavours to make appropriate and fair decisions” in matters assigned by the Chief Justice in particular those of asylum seekers.

“The cases are hard and extremely important to the persons concerned and it’s important for the Republic and for the individuals that we get the decisions correct and I shall do my very best to ensure that is how it is,” Judge Freckleton said.

Judge Freckleton was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1988 and appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2007 and has appeared in many prominent law cases throughout Australia•



*Shane Marshall signs documents formalising his installment as a Nauru court judge*



*Dr Ian Freckleton swears the oath of office during the formalisation of his installment as a judge in the Nauru Courts*

## Japan ambassador Omura presents credentials

His Excellency President Baron Waqa received the Ambassador of Japan to Nauru for the formal presentation of credentials at the Office of the President, 27 November.

Ambassador Mr Masahiro Omura arrived at the government offices and was met by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Michael Aroi and presented copies of the Letter of Credence, before being received by the Commissioner of Police for the playing of the national anthems and inspection of the Police guard of honour.

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

The ambassador conveyed to President Waqa the cordial greetings from his Majesty the Emperor of Japan and his desires to maintain and promote the friendship and goodwill that happily exist between Japan and the Republic of Nauru.

“On behalf of the government and people of Japan I would like to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your good health and for the progress and prosperity for the republic of Nauru,” Mr Omura said.

The ambassador then presented the letter of recall from his predecessor and his own Letter of Credence appointing him as ambassador.



*President Waqa receives the Japan ambassador to Nauru for the presentation of credentials*

President Waqa expressed hopes for close collaboration with the ambassador during his tenure.

“Nauru and Japan have come a long way in our relationship and your appointment today is another testament of the strength of relationship and friendship and we will continue to work closely together,” President Waqa said.

The ambassador continued courtesy calls and made site visits to Japan’s PEC fund project located at the Nauru Utilities Corporation headquarters.

Ambassador Omura graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo in 1980. He began his career in foreign affairs in the same year. Mr Omura was consul-general to Japan in Seattle USA from 2013•

## British high comm on Nauru tour

The British High Commissioner to Nauru David Ward visited the island as part of regular planned visits, and to discuss preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) under the theme ‘a fairer future.’

Mr Ward’s four day visit [26-29 Nov] is part of his regular planned series of visits to maintain bilateral relations with the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nauru. Mr Ward is high commissioner to Nauru, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



*British High Commissioner David Ward at the Nauru port during his regular planned visits to maintain bilateral relations with the UK and Nauru*

The second reason for the visit is to discuss upcoming international issues and in particular Mr Ward has been discussing with His Excellency President Baron Waqa about preparations for the upcoming CHOGM that will be held in London in April 2018.

At the CHOGM meeting Mr Ward hopes that all 52 member states of the Commonwealth will be able to agree to create a better future.

“A fairer future, a more stable future, a more prosperous future, and a more sustainable future as well looking at environmental, security, economic and trade and governance issues together.

“And thirdly I’m coming here partly because it’s in the interest of the United Kingdom to see that all of our friends and allies all around the world are stable and that they prosper, because that helps makes a stable and prosperous world for all of us. And so I’m very interested in hearing about the state of economic and social development here as well. So it’s partly for me to learn about the country as well,” Mr Ward said.

The high commissioner was taken on a tour of the Nauru Port and a trip out to sea on the barge. Mr Ward sees the visit to the port as beneficial.

The development of the Nauru port has been discussed at international level on how to best support Nauru and best finance the project.

“Coming to the port has helped me to see both the state of the existing port, the requirements for a new port and what the new port will actually deliver in terms of new facilities, savings, opportunities for economic diversification and growth. And all of this within two years has been a fascinating opportunity for me to come here to the port.”

Mr Ward presented his credentials to President Waqa in October 2016 as high commissioner to Nauru. This was his second trip to Nauru.

“I’ve been able to talk to a range of people, visit different sites on the island, hear about all sorts of economic plans, and also this being my second trip to Nauru, get myself a little more familiar with the island, with the way people live, how they spend their days, where they go shopping and where they eat, all this is very useful to me to understand the needs and the expectations of the people of Nauru.”

The High Commissioner departed Nauru for Vanuatu•

## Donnelly ends tenure on high note

His Excellency President Baron Waqa hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly at the Menen Hotel, 30 November.

Mr Donnelly who presented his credentials to President Waqa on 17 December 2015 gave his farewell remarks highlighting some of the diplomatic efforts made during his two year tenure.



*Australian high commissioner John Donnelly highlights Australia and Nauru’s cooperation and project successes at his farewell dinner hosted by President Baron Waqa*

“There’s been lots of legislative changes to the Crimes act, child protection act, mental health and family protection legislation to name a few.

“Marshalling our global diplomatic network to support Minister Scotty at UN and more recently in lobbying in advance of the Green Climate Fund board meeting in Cairo for the Nauru Port redevelopment project.”

Mr Donnelly also highlighted the success of small projects such as the Anibare boat harbour cleanup.

“What a day when we all worked together to pull four skips [bins] worth of rubbish from the boat harbour, restoring this most beautiful spot in Nauru,” the High Commissioner said.

Mr Donnelly added that Australia’s cooperation with Nauru is on a very solid footing at local and regional level.

“Our shared vision on countering climate change and implementing the Paris Agreement. Our shared cooperation on countering people smuggling and the successful resettlement of the first cohort of 29 refugees from Nauru to the USA in September, with more to follow in 2018.

“And our shared cooperation on local challenges in health and education, in public sector reform and essential infrastructure, including with the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Etangit Keramwen - the Naoero Community Sports Complex earlier this month on Melbourne Cup day,” Mr Donnelly said.

The High Commissioner thanked President Waqa for his hospitality and expressed his appreciation for the friendship.

President Waqa offered his remarks and thanked Mr Donnelly for his service to Nauru. President Waqa presented Mr Donnelly a model of a local wooden canoe as a token of appreciation and parting gift.

The farewell reception continued with various dance and song items performed by various local groups and officers from the Australian High Commission•

## Ending gender based violence in the national spotlight: GBV adviser

The Women's Affairs department adopted a cross sector approach to organising this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign and White Ribbon activities across the government departments.

These departments included health, education, justice, media, church groups and the private sector with activities happening almost everyday across the country to address systemic barriers to preventing violence in communities.

The 16 Days of Activism – known as end violence against women (EVAW) in Nauru runs between 25th November, International Day Against Violence Against Women and 10th December, International Human Rights Day. More than 25 years after it first began, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Violence is an established and important international annual campaign to achieve higher visibility to gender-based violence as a violation of human rights, and not just a “problem for women.”



*Smart Kids perform dance moves at the EVAW school event, Centennial Hall on 5 November*

Adviser on Gender Based Violence with the Health Ministry, Ms Sunita Kotnala said this is an important opportunity to put the problem of domestic violence in the national spotlight through awareness raising and concrete action.

“The activities included health community information session in GBV educating community about the negative impact on health of domestic violence on health of individuals and families.”

More than 30 people attended the information sessions in each district.

The Department of Education organised a number of activities in schools as part of white ribbon and EVAW culminating on 5 November at the Centennial Hall with presentations by Nauru secondary, primary and infant school children.

The presentations included skits on bullying in schools and violence against women, 150 word essay on from “Peace in the Home to Peace in the World”, debate on “make education safe for all”, anger management workshop, funny dance by smart kids and collage work by infants. The event was co-sponsored by UN Women, Ministry of Home Affairs, Host International, Canstruct and others. Digicel provided free digiblast of the five key messages with the tagline men talk to men over a period of 10 days.

“The free Digicel blasting created talking points in the community that allowed us to remove the misconception about the white ribbon in Nauru by clarifying that it is a campaign to engage men in preventing violence against many and not a law against men.”

As part of the White Ribbon campaign activities more than 35 men attended the two three-hour male champions workshops organised by Women's Affairs on 16 and 25 November respectively.

Among other activities, one of the highlights of the campaign was the engagement of men through a ‘Men in White’ motorcade around the island culminating in an afternoon tea at the Australian High Commission sponsored by the Australian High Commissioner to Nauru John Donnelly. The recently appointed Deputy High Commissioner Ms Suzanne Wilson-Uilelea announced an entrepreneurship scheme that is under consideration in partnership with the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) to provide opportunities for women's equality. The male champions received certificates for their ongoing commitment to fight violence against women. Radio Nauru FM105.1 had been playing the five key campaign messages on radio in between music programs.

Ms Kotnala said the participation of men in the campaign was outstanding within the community, private sector, government and churches alike.

“The enthusiasm shown by other government departments to host events in partnership with Women's Affairs for EVAW activities by sending participants is heartening and shows their commitment to the campaign theme for this year “From peace in the home to peace in the world”.

“The campaign might have officially ended however we are going to continue with the domestic violence information session because of the great willingness in the communities to learn more about preventing violence in families.”

Ms Kotnala said her department has received requests from government departments to undertake male champions workshops because of the personal benefits for participants as individuals and employees for bringing peace in their communities.

“The male champions radio messaging will continue for some time and we have some excellent posters developed by school children that can be used as key resources about how to stop gender based violence in Nauru. The campaign received very good media coverage and the key messages have become a talking point to broach the difficult conversations about addressing gender based violence in Nauru,” Ms Kotnala said.

**It's the law:  
Wear a helmet, avoid the costs  
Keep Nauru safe**

## DFAT and electoral office assist Fiji voter registration

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) and the Nauru Electoral Commission (NEC) assisted the Fijian Elections Office in conducting voter registration for Fiji nationals in Nauru this week.

Fiji Elections Office official Mrs Aditewa Bolaniwaqa Hauvina arrived in country on Tuesday 5 December to conduct the voter registrations from 6-8 December at the NEC office.

Nauru Electoral Commissioner Joseph Cain said he had been approached by the Fiji electoral supervisor while in Tonga as observers to the elections there, about the impending visit of the official to conduct the registration.

“Nauru Electoral Commission is a member of the PIANZEA (Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand Electoral Administration) network which was set up to establish collaborative assistance and information between members,” Mr Cain said.

“Electoral management bodies in the Pacific have helped each other in the past in terms of training, exchange of information and assistance such as the request received from FEC.

“The Kiribati Election office also assisted NEC with its proxy voting process in the 2016 Nauru general election.”

The Chairman of the Nauru-Fiji Community Mr Maritino Nemani urged all eligible Fiji citizen voters not to miss this opportunity to register.



*Fiji electoral officer Aditewa Hauvina (R) registered 97 Fiji nationals during the voter registration in Nauru*

At the close of registration 97 eligible voters registered over the three days and were required to bring their passports as identification to register.

Mrs Bolaniwaqa said the response has been very good.

On behalf of the Fiji community in Nauru Mr Nemani extends appreciation to the NEC for the use of their facility and Nauru DFAT for assisting in making this possible.

“Overall it has been overwhelming even though a good number of Fiji citizens have not registered. The good turnout is the expression of our national commitment to ourselves and one another and to our country. Elections in Fiji is in 2018 and belongs to the people of Fiji,” Mr Nemani said.

There will be further discussions with the Fiji Elections Office in sending another official to Nauru with ballot papers for voting in 2018•

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## On the Discussion Desk - weekly radio program co-hosted by the Government Information Office and Radio Nauru

### Litter Prohibition Act 1983

On 8 November the Litter Prohibition Act 1983 was deliberated on the Discussion Desk program with guest speaker Superintendent Iven Notte and co-hosts Rhona Bop and Joanna Olsson from Radio Nauru and the Government Information Office respectively.

The Litter Prohibition Act was certified by the speaker of parliament on 14 October 1983 with the purpose of providing for the reduction of litter in Nauru.

One of the first definitions mentioned in the Act is that of business premises, that being inside and outside of the building and surrounding areas of the building within a ten metre circumference, as long as it is not encroaching on another property.

Business owners must ensure that their business premises is free of any litter, refuse or rubbish of any kind whatsoever, as stated in section 2.

All rubbish must be disposed at the rubbish tip and burning of rubbish is prohibited.

Any person throwing or disposing rubbish in an open area is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of \$300. Any covered place open to the air on at least one side shall be treated as being a place in the open air.

The driver of a vehicle is liable for any littering done by passengers of the vehicle and is liable to a \$300 fine.

### Framework for pacific regionalism and small island states

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the Small Islands States strategy was discussed this week on the weekly radio program Discussion Desk, 6 December.

Small Island States (SIS) Officer Nodel Neneiya informed that SIS is a sub-group of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) comprising of seven smaller member states. SIS members include Nauru, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Each country has an SIS officer based in-country whose main role is to bridge communication between the government and the PIF Secretariat in Suva Fiji.

Mr Neneiya elaborated that SIS officers are involved in strategising, implementing work plans and forwarding recommendations to assist the PIFS and the Government of Nauru.

Mr Neneiya highlighted that SIS officers functions are guided by the objectives outlined in the SIS strategy and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR). Mr Neneiya emphasised that the FPR document is not a policy but was developed for Pacific countries to enhance cooperation on issues such as health and climate change.

## Litter Prohibition Act 1983 (continued)



*Superintendent  
Iven Nottle  
speaks about  
the Litter  
Prohibition  
Act on the  
Discussion Desk*

Section 3 states that ‘the driver of such vehicle shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, be deemed to have connived in, or abetted, the commission of such offence and be liable.’

The conductor of a public transport vehicle is also liable under the same provisions as driver.

Section 4 provides for a person to report a littering offence to the police if the offence was not witnessed by a police officer or report made to the police. The witness is required to report the littering offence immediately to the police, and failure to do so shall be liable to a fine of \$300.

Mr Nottle clarifies that all reports made of littering is best accompanied by witness evidence to support the littering claim and report.

Parents are taken to account for any littering done by their child and liable to a \$300 fine.

The minister responsible may publish a public notice in the government gazette authorising the disposing and leaving of anything in any place by or with the consent of the occupier or person of authority of a place.

Section 7 states there is no offence in placing serviceable dustbins or rubbish bins and their contents in a residential, commercial or industrial areas with lids for those properties.

The powers of district constables are no longer in effect as the establishment of district constables has been dismantled. The Nauru Police Force is essentially policing any acts of littering.

The offences and penalties listed in the Act include littering in an open area constitutes a fine of \$300; littering by registered businesses receive a fine of \$1000; littering from a vehicle get a fine of \$300; failure to report littering to police is a fine of \$300; and parent’s fine for their child’s littering is a fine of \$300 •

## Small island states and the Framework for pacific regionalism (continued)



*Small Island  
States officer  
Nodel Neneiya  
talks about  
regional  
frameworks and  
policies*

The document allows stakeholders to submit their concerns and interests through recognised civil society groups, non-government organisations (NGOs) and community leaders. The FPR was formally endorsed in July 2014 by the leaders of PIF countries.

Mr Neneiya added that the SIS strategy is a separate document that contains a list of priorities which operate concurrently with the FPR.

The main thematic issues outlined in the SIS strategy include climate change, health, labour mobility, marine life and air sea transportation.

The three governing principles of the SIS strategy include recognition of the need to sustainably use ocean resources. Secondly, to recognise the contribution of non-state actors as an important part in promoting partnerships and sustainable development. Lastly, the strategy ensures a regional approach is undertaken when addressing the unique circumstances of SIS countries.

Mr Neneiya added that under health, cervical cancer and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were given more priority due to the three year life span for the SIS plan and the various commitments needed for other priorities outlined in the strategy.

Information about SIS strategy and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism can be obtained from the SIS desk based at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, more information about it can be accessed on [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org) •

**You may obtain copies of Acts at  
[www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr) and find the RONLAW link**

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.



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