



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru's foreign minister resigns from office

Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Health and Sport has resigned from Cabinet.

Dr Kieren Keke's resignation was announced by Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty at the start of yesterday's (7 Feb) parliamentary sitting. No reason was given for the former minister's decision.

It had been anticipated that the Opposition would move a motion of No Confidence against the government under Article 24, as foreshadowed at the last sitting by Opposition member David Adeang. However, when he failed to bring on the motion immediately after Opening Prayers – and part way through Question Time – Dr Keke rose on a point of order to ask why the motion had not been raised.

Mr Adeang responded that his group was prepared to wait until after Questions before proceeding, but Dr Keke argued that the matter, being the First Order of the day should proceed. Mr Adeang then sought to have the motion deferred until the next sitting and after some debate, the Speaker agreed to let the House resolve the issue by putting it to a vote.

The result of the ballot was in favour of dealing with the No Confidence motion immediately, the numbers 9 for and 8 against.

Shortly after the Speaker ordered Mr Adeang to withdraw the motion or proceed henceforth. The motion was then struck from the Notice Paper.

The remainder of the sitting dealt with a Supplementary Appropriation Bill presented by Finance Minister Roland Kun with the House adjourning late in the evening after a spirited Adjournment Debate.

*Hon Dr Kieren Keke
resigned from cabinet
as minister for Foreign
Affairs & Trade, Health
and Sport*

File photo



Nauru responds calmly to tsunami alert

Nauru received a tsunami warning this week (6 Feb) which tested a number of agencies response plans including the Nauru Police Force.

The alarm was first raised at 2.30pm whilst the Commissioner of Police Richard Britten was engaged in a meeting with President Dabwido, that a tsunami was likely to reach Nauru at 3.00pm.

A number of calls were made immediately to find out the situation including contacting Australia to confirm if the tsunami had been tracked and if so, what was its height, speed and direction.

"Time was of the essence because the initial forecast was that the tsunami was expected to arrive in Nauru at 3pm and it was already 2.30pm.

"Not wanting to create panic, it was important to convey the correct information to the public at the right time," Mr Britten said.

An official warning had not been released by the Police Commissioner who is also the National Disaster and Risk Management Coordinator, but parents moved quickly and started to collect children from schools while others had begun moving to higher ground.

Following further updates the time had come to make a decision and issue an alert. Within 40 minutes of receiving the initial information, the warning was issued to move to higher ground.

The Police Commissioner contacted Nauru Television and Radio Nauru to interrupt transmissions as well as ask the telephone provider Digicel to

send out a warning to all mobile phone users.

"Whilst the radio and mobile phone networks were a good way to convey the message, a number of people would still have been unaware of the situation. Further work is needed to ensure that the message is conveyed to as many people as possible in a timely fashion," the Commissioner said.

Police directed traffic and vested schools to ensure they had commenced evacuation procedures while the Correctional Centre commenced moving prisoners to higher ground.

The Commissioner urged the public to listen to the radio for updates which were issued every 10 to 15 minutes.

Mr Britten was pleased to learn that people heeded the warning and evacuated to higher ground to the married quarters in Aiwo.

"Some shops closed which again is a compliment to those ensuring there staff was safe. The areas of great concern are Utilities with the power and the RON hospital.

"Given the short notice we received about the tsunami meant some critical areas were left to fend for themselves and we need to ensure all critical infrastructure is accounted for and has emergency plans in place.

"My compliments to the people of Nauru for treating the warning seriously and complying with directions given. My compliments also to Digicel, NTV and Radio for assisting in conveying this very important message to the people in a timely manner," Mr Britten said.

The Commissioner will be calling a meeting with the Security Council to share and assess the outcome of the event to enable the formulation of a clearer response plan.

Produced by the Government Information Office

Nauru celebrates 45 years of Independence

Nauru celebrated 45 years of Independence last week (31 Jan) with the official flag raising ceremony in front of the Government office complex.

Two minutes' silence was also observed to remember the 67th anniversary of the Nauruans' return from Truk Island following the Japanese occupation of Nauru during World War II.

In his second Independence day address to the nation on 31 January His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido initially spoke in his native language thanking the Nauruan people for entrusting him with the high office of the president.

He assured his people of his full commitment to taking Nauru forward and doing the best for her and its people.

However, he made it clear that to succeed he needed the people's support and asked that they use the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Independence to embrace one mind to stand for Nauru to do what is right for the children and people of Nauru.

Later in his speech President Dabwido addressed the wider audience in English.

"This day, 45 years ago, we declared to the whole world that we are ready to stand on our own two feet and become a true member of the international community."

"Those 45 years have come and gone in a flash and throughout, Nauru faced many challenges. Indeed, a look at our history will show that we have tasted both good fortune and bad luck."

He added that "some will call this a necessary process that each democratic nation has to go through as part of its development."

"But regardless of the situation, as a nation, we should be prepared for any and all challenges to ensure that we have control of our future."

President Dabwido turned to the importance of Nauru's natural resource, phosphate and the significant role it has played in Nauru's wealth and economy.

"Unfortunately, Nauru is now experiencing what our forefathers warned us about and that is the reality that our phosphate is fast running out."

He reassured the people that the government continues to make every effort to explore and find other sources of revenue.



His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido and Madam Nita Dabwido applaud the march past at the 45th Independence Day flag raising ceremony

Secondary mining is still being experimented, pinnacle exported as marble slabs is an option being explored which President Dabwido says with the right marketing it "may potentially become a huge money-maker for our country."

President Dabwido acknowledged the fisheries sector as the "quiet achiever for Nauru," having more than double the revenue earned last year to just over \$10-Million.

"The challenge now is to safeguard and protect our fish stock and ensure that it is not threatened by over fishing."

The cost of living and cutting expenditure are also being addressed with national salaries and electricity accounting for \$10-Million each.

A renewable energy power station is being explored to address the fuel generated electricity supply to the island which is heavily subsidised by government by \$7-Million.

Small scale industries such as Nauru Air Corporation and Eigigu Holdings Corporation have also made modest achievements which President Dabwido stated must not be neglected as they "provide essential services to our people and are an integral part of our nation."

The reopening of the regional processing centre has prompted the national airline, *Our Airline*, into making arrangements to purchase a third aircraft to cater for the increase in demand.

In 2012 Eigigu Holdings Corporation had been proactive in pursuing commercial opportunities. They are the re-opening of the Supermarket, introducing the first automatic teller machine to the island, opening a cement patching plant and water bottling plant.

However despite the success stories of the past year, President Dabwido warned that the winds of change can just as easily turn Nauru's fortunes around.

He urged Nauruans to be prepared for the challenges ahead and not lose sight of its goals as set out in the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

"We must be prepared to accept that some plans will work while others will not."

"As a nation, we must travel down this road together. Let us do so with courage, boldness, determination, foresight and wisdom. Above all, let us do this with God's Will First."

President Dabwido concluded by thanking all Nauruans and foreigners alike who have come to call Nauru their home as well as development partners, notably Australia and Taiwan for assisting in Nauru's development and the support provided to the Government.

"No matter how big or small your role, you have all played a part in turning our country around."•



Dux students Niga Haulagi and Anushka Cain (R), Olympian weightlifter Itte Detenamo (L front) and Truk returnee Gaeouwa Daao carry the flag to be raised at the Independence ceremony

Nauru Police salutes the President during the march past



President unveils war memorial

Nauru President Sprent Dabwido unveiled a war memorial on his country's 45th Independence Day (31 Jan) anniversary to commemorate Nauruan survivors that returned from Truk Island (now Chuuk) after almost three years in exile.

The monument located near the Aiwo harbour where the returnees disembarked 67 years ago, pays tribute to the memory of the Nauruan men, women and children that were forcefully moved to Truk Island by Japanese forces and perished there.

"This monument which I just opened is dedicated to the memory of those 460 plus Nauruans, including the non-Nauruans who accompanied them.

"It has been specifically built to ensure that we do not forget this sad part of our history and always remember our people who now lie in Truk and will never return home.

"This monument will have different meaning and serve different purposes for the people of Nauru.

"I am sure that every person here today will carry in their hearts their own special meaning of this monument," President Dabwido said.

Around 1200 Nauruans were forcefully moved to Truk by the Japanese forces. Following their surrender to the Allied Forces, only 737 Nauruans made it back home in 1946 and an estimated 460 died on Truk.

Following President Dabwido's speech, the public was called to scatter some soil collected from the Truk island of Fioto, and then led the laying of wreaths.

A mix of sand and soil from Truk was scattered in a section of the monument which contained sand from Nauru, while flowers were scattered in the centre pool to remember the lepers who were put on a leaky boat and pulled out to sea by the Japanese. It is believed they either drowned or shot at sea.

The compartment holding the two soils would then be sealed.

The Truk Memorial Committee and a representative of the Hartman family went to Chuuk in mid-January to inspect the sites where Nauruans are believed to have lived and died.

The group led by Committee Chairman Hon Godfrey Thoma visited Fioto - one of two main islands where Nauruans are buried. Fioto is owned by the Hartman family and permission was granted to the group to land and collect sand and soil from the island.

Without permission to land on the other main island of Sioto, the group could only look on from their boat and threw flowers in the ocean instead.

The event was opened with a prayer by war survivor and Truk returnee Pastor Labi Harris. In an emotional prayer Pastor Harris gave thanks for the survival of the Nauruan race and for the continued blessing on Nauru and its people.

Every aspect of the monument holds a significant meaning as explained by Private Secretary to the President, Kim Aroi.

The shape of the main structure represents the mountainous islands of Chuuk State and the hollow cross at the centre is positioned to face Chuuk.

Ms Aroi explained that a similar monument will be erected on Chuuk positioned to face Nauru. It will feature a filled cross to symbolise the unity and mutual understanding of pain, suffering and survival of both countries and people.

*Truk Memorial -
the war monument
constructed
to remember
Nauruans who
died on Truk*



The scripture reading placed next to the cross is the same as the one placed in front of the Government office on the 60th anniversary of the return from Truk.

The mango tree painted onto the monument wall has leaves in three colours signifying children, the older people and elders. The number of leaves is 465 with a single leaf falling off the branch. The count of 465 is believed to be the number of Nauruans to have died on Truk, the single falling leaf represents the unaccounted for, acknowledging that some babies were born during exile.

The opposite side of the wall is a map painting of the islands of Truk with markings of where Nauruans have been and died.

Around the pool are three benches with four slabs, hence 12 slabs in total. Ms Aroi explains the number 12 carries a lot of meaning - the 12 tribes of Nauru, 12 pointed star and the 12 apostles.

Other features will be added to the monument including a sculpture and the 465 names to be written on the monument wall.

Independence Day as usual is celebrated with numerous sporting events, card and board games and after a decade, hosted a Miss Nauru Independence beauty pageant. The crown is now held by Miss Nauru Media, Marlaina Aroi.

State banquet with a difference

His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido hosted the Independence Day state banquet with a difference this year, with an open invitation to a barbeque at the Aiue Boulevard in Aiwo.

While there were formal invitations sent out, President Dabwido extended the invite to members of the community in attendance of the opening of the Truk Memorial earlier in the day (31 Jan).

The function was a casual event with four barbeque stalls for all and an extra stall especially prepared for VIPs and elders who were served their meals.

Entertainment from a live band and dance groups highlighted the evening.

With stormy weather frequenting Nauru, the events of the day (31 Jan) were relatively blessed with dry weather.



*Head cook Floyd
Kakiouea (centre)
and staff handling
one of the barbeque
stalls*

Nauru enters into license agreement with Matson shipping

His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido signed a new shipping license agreement with U.S Company Matson this week (6 Feb) with the first shipment expected early next week.

The license agreement will initially be for 12 months with a regular shipment between 23 to 30 days expected for Nauru.



H.E Dabwido with Michael Jones (L) and Vic Angoco (R) of Matson Shipping after the signing of the license agreement

Matson's ports include America, Hawaii, Guam, Auckland, and the Pacific islands of Nauru, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Tahiti, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu, Tarawa and Majuro.

Matson takes over the service from Auckland based Reef Shipping after it went into receivership late last year.

"Entering into a licensing agreement is the better option for Nauru as we can be assured of a shipment each month and we are able to negotiate terms with the shipping company as well as offering our businesses options with products from new countries," President Dabwido said.

The move to include Nauru in Matson's shipping schedule was a matter of transition and continuation of Reef's core trade lanes.

Matson's Senior Vice President for the Pacific, Vic Angoco said he is looking forward to working with the Nauru Government and serving the community.

"For us it's not just about getting paid but serving the community and to be part of the community. Nauru is an island and we want to expand the package to serve light sized communities such as Nauru.

"Acquiring Reef's assets made it a little easier for us (Matson) to move into new island markets," Mr Angoco said.

Matson's Strategic Development Manager and former All Black Michael Jones is confident the partnership will be a strong one.

"It's a partnership, and the most effective way to stabilise shipping services is to enter into a licensing agreement. We will do our best to deliver the service and serve the community," Mr Jones said.

In addition to the signing of the license, a casual welcome and launch reception was hosted by agents Capelle & Partner at the Bay Restaurant on Tuesday 5th February.

Mr Angoco and Mr Jones understand the challenges at the Nauru port but said that is a hurdle they will work with because they (Matson) are committed to delivering the service for Nauru.

Matson has been in business for 131 years and recently set up office in Auckland New Zealand several weeks ago•

School year starts fresh with new recruits

The commencement of the new academic year began with a teacher orientation and workshop program on the implementation of the new school curriculum.

Dr Pep Serow, consultant for mathematics and Tanya Wendt Samu consultant for social science conducted the teacher workshops held between 21 and 30 January.

The department expects replacement consultants for English and Science soon.

The consultants assist the teachers in assessing the new curriculum as well as guidance on professional development and lesson plans.

This year the Education Department recruited eight teachers from Fiji with an additional six retired Fijian teachers who are recruited under the Fiji Government's Volunteer Service Program.

"For 2013, with our theme to moving forward I have high hopes and expectations, I urge all students and teachers to work hard, be effective and dedicated to achieve our educational goals," Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu said.

The conclusion of the workshop was combined with a certificate ceremony for teachers that had completed a past program sponsored by UNESCO and the South Pacific Board of Educational Assessment (SPBEA).

The four workshops centred on teacher competency and teacher effectiveness and is accredited by the Kiribati Teachers College. The teachers were awarded their certificates by Dr Gaiyabu•

Ms Kalesi Raratabu with her grade two class on the first day of school (4Feb)



Procurement bids under review by finance

The Ministry of Finance is currently reviewing and evaluating the two proposals to take up the Government's procurement services.

The two companies bidding for the estimated \$50-Million of annual procurement for Nauru are Charles Kendall & Partners and Crown Agents.

The bids were opened in a public forum last week (22 Jan) in front of representatives from the two companies and Nauru Government representatives including Finance Minister Hon Roland Kun, and AusAID's Procurement Diagnostics Advisor Mr John Rawden.

The Government invited proposals in early December 2012 and the deadline for submission of bids was 22 January.

The bids are currently being evaluated and it is expected that a result will be known within two weeks•



Finance Minister Roland Kun (centre right), with finance staff and representatives from the two bidding companies witness the opening of the two procurement bids

Photo: M. Bryde

Court mediation training concludes first workshop

The Court recently concluded a three-day workshop on mediation last week (24 Jan) that is designed to enhance the skills of local legal practitioners.

The workshop is designed for legal practitioners and individuals who can be available to conduct mediation work referred by the Court.

Resident Magistrate Mr Peter Law welcomed the participants and introduced the workshop consultant Mr Ian Irving.

Mr Irving, an experienced mediator for the Federal Court of Australia began the workshop by explaining the meaning of mediation and how it should be conducted.

He also showed a power point presentation that described mediation and the role, qualities, and skills of a mediator.

The participants discussed with Mr Irving the most common types of disputes in Nauru and how they are settled.

The workshop proved beneficial for the various representatives from Government departments and non-government organizations (NGOs) as they exchange court room experiences and sought Mr Irving's views on how they could have handled the situation more effectively.

A second workshop scheduled for 25 January was cancelled as Mr Irving had to fly out a day earlier to Australia to attend to urgent family business.

Mr Irving has 11 years experience in court mediation and spent seven of those years as a mediator for the Federal Court of Australia. He was sponsored by AusAid through their funding provided to the Federal Court of Australia for special programs.



Court mediation consultant Ian Irving at the first workshop with local legal practitioners

HIES concludes round five of survey

The Bureau of Statistics recently completed the fifth round of reporting for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) on 24 January for the districts of Nibok and Uaboe.

Thirty-nine households were selected in those two districts to participate in the survey.

The survey is broken up into 16 three-week rounds and participants are expected to record daily income and expenditure data into a diary.

At the end of each three-week round the households are required to submit their daily recording of what they have earned and spent over that period for analysis.

"The three-week period of recording household spending activities is essential to achieve quality data where a total of 16 rounds are required to complete the survey," Statistics officer Mrs Dira Ephraim said.

After analysis, names of the participants who complete the three-week package survey were eligible to enter the lucky dip draw for a chance to win \$150 shopping voucher as a token of appreciation for their full participation in the survey.

Round five concluded on 24 January and the lucky dip raffle for that round was drawn on 2 February at the Central Market. The raffle winner was Mrs Corrina Deduna. The ticket was drawn by market vendor, Julie Olsson.

HIES is a project initiated and managed by the Bureau of Statistics and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Government of Nauru.

The project commenced on 10 September 2012 and is expected to conclude in September 2013.



Corrina Deduna (left) is the lucky winner of the \$150 HIES survey Round Five shopping voucher

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

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Republic of Nauru

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