



Nauru Bulletin

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Chief Justice Eames welcomes the new legal year

Chief Justice Geoffrey Eames QC officially launched the opening of the 2013 legal year this week (Monday, 4th Mar) at the Nauru Court house.

In his welcome address His Honour said the importance of the independence of the judiciary must be recognised at all times while acknowledging that all three tiers of government – legislative, executive and judiciary, must work together.

CJ Eames said the same principles that are reiterated and introduced each year displays the importance of continuity in the judiciary.

His Honour acknowledged the hard work legal practitioners have



Chief Justice Geoffrey Eames QC at the Nauru Court house officially opening the 2013 legal year

Photo: Nauru Media Bureau

undertaken in the past but highlighted that the expected heavy work load ahead including cases arising out of the Regional Processing Centre will be a demanding year for them.

The Chief Justice also announced that while the judiciary is seeking budgetary support, the Government has indicated its support towards the setup of a new and bigger court house.

“We are extremely grateful to the Government for recognising that a bigger court house is needed,” Chief Justice Eames said.

The brief opening was attended by members of the legal community and the media•

Government, WHO sign health strategy

Nauru has signed up to the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Country Cooperation Strategy aimed to enhance collaboration between the Nauru Government and WHO in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as diabetes.

Nauru’s then acting Minister for Health Hon Riddell Akua and Dr Dong-il Ahn signed the Country Cooperation Strategy in the minister’s office last week (19 Feb).

Dr Ahn and his team had meetings with the Minister and various departments to discuss ways to collaborate ideas and ways to enhance support of reducing NCDs.

“Nauru’s NCD rating is in the top 10 countries in the world with overweight and obesity being prevalent,” Dr Ahn said.

The strategy recommends a multi-sectoral approach across the government departments that will collectively contribute to addressing the issues surrounding NCDs.

“Education is important. Diet, lack of exercise, smoking, alcohol consumption and importation of unhealthy foods all contribute to behaviour towards diet and all these require different sectors hence the need for multi-sectoral approach,” Dr Ahn said.



WHO Director, Pacific Technical Support Dr Dong-il Ahn made his first visit to Nauru last month for the signing of the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy with Minister Riddell Akua

Accompanying Dr Ahn was Technical Officer Dr Ezekiel Nukuro who stated that while medical staffing is adequate, the challenge is to increase the local Nauruan medical staff.

Secretary for Health Dr Lepani Waqatakiwewa was pleased to welcome the team to Nauru and is hopeful for positive action in addressing NCDs in Nauru•

Enrolment and transfer of enrolment to vote

Background

The *Electoral Act 1965* was amended in 2011 in response to reports of election observers. One of the principal objectives was to limit the scope for abuse of transfer of enrolment.

Parliament restricted entitlement to enrolment and transfer so that a person can be enrolled in the District in which they were registered at birth or the District in which they live. For a person to be enrolled on the basis of where he or she lives, evidence is required in the form of two (2) statutory declarations.

Existing voters

If, immediately before 15 April 2011, you were enrolled in a District and it is not the District in which you were registered at birth or the District in which you live, you can stay enrolled in that District. However, if you apply for transfer of enrolment, the new rules will apply.

New voters

If you have turned 20 or become a Nauruan citizen since the last election, to be able to vote at the next election you must apply for enrolment in a District.

Application forms are available from the Electoral Registrar's office in the government buildings. You must make the application yourself. No-one can do it for you.

To enrol in a District for the first time is free.

Transfer of enrolment

If you want to change the District in which you are enrolled, you must apply for transfer of enrolment.

Application forms are available from the Electoral Registrar's office in the government buildings. You must make the application yourself. No-one can do it for you.

It costs \$10 to transfer your enrolment to a different District.

What District can you be enrolled in or transfer to?

You can enrol in or transfer to the District where your birth is registered.

OR

If you live in a different District to where your birth is registered and you have lived there for at least 2 months, you can enrol in or transfer to that District but only if you provide 2 statutory declarations to the Electoral Registrar as evidence to prove where you live.

You must ask 2 people on a list that can be obtained from the Electoral Registrar who personally know you and have personal knowledge of where you live if they are willing to make a statutory declaration for you. The list includes Nauruan Heads of Departments, marriage celebrants, admitted barristers and solicitors, admitted pleaders or registered medical practitioners. Each person making a statutory declaration for you must go and see a Commissioner for Oaths and fill in and sign the correct form before that Commissioner and give a copy to you to give to the Electoral Registrar.

There are serious offences carrying a \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for 5 years for making a false or misleading application or for giving a false or misleading statutory declaration.

What happens when you change where you live?

If you are enrolled in the District where you live (and it is not the District where your birth is registered) and you change where you live to a different District, within 3 months of making the change you must apply to transfer your enrolment to either the District where your birth is registered or the District where you now live. You commit an offence if you do not make the application•

*Article provided by Christine Swift
Deputy Parliamentary Counsel*

Ten asylum seekers to stand trial in April over rioting charges

The ten asylum seekers from the Nauru Regional Processing Centre who pleaded not guilty to rioting and willful damage charges last week (Monday, 25th Feb), will stand trial in April.

The ten defendants appeared before Resident Magistrate Peter Law that morning (25 Feb) and once again had their bail extended until Wednesday, 24th April.

Solicitor-General Steven Bliim represented seven of the ten defendants while local Pleader Pres Nimes Ekwona represented the other three.

At the pre-trial hearing (on 25 Feb), legal discussion included whether all ten should be tried jointly, or whether individuals or small groups of the defendants could be tried at the one time.

Magistrate Law said it was hoped that three to four defendants could be tried together.

The defendants were not required to be in court during the legal discussion and waited in the bus until they were called to appear in order to have their bail conditions explained.

Each was called individually, advised of the bail extension and allowed to return to the bus•



*Asylum seekers wait in the bus
as they are called in to court
individually*

President Dabwido hands over keys to first two homes under the Government's housing scheme

President Sprent Dabwido officially handed over the keys to the first two houses completed under the Government's New Housing Scheme last month (Monday, 18th Feb).

Gabriel Ika and John Deidenang and their families are the recipients of the first two \$40,000 houses constructed in Anibare and Boe districts respectively.

President Dabwido handed over the keys to the first house owned by Mr Ika to his daughter Patricia, then together with Minister Riddell Akua, who is a Member of Parliament for Anibare presented Patricia with a double gas top cooker.

President Dabwido then met the second home owners John and Yora Deidenang of Boe district. They too were presented a double gas top cooker by the President.

The scheme offers an interest-free housing loan provided by the Nauru Government to Nauruan families which is repayable over 15 years.

The provision to construct 26 houses was budgeted for in the 2012-2013 fiscal year for Nauruan families largely to address overcrowding.

To be eligible for the loan, an applicant was required to establish that they were living in an overcrowded household; must be able to demonstrate their ability to repay the loan over 15 years and to provide evidence of land ownership for the location of the house.

Six local construction companies are engaged in the housing project. Jatel Construction was awarded the contract to build Mr Ika's house and Eigigu Holdings Corporation was awarded Mr Deidenang's house.

Both families were delighted to receive the keys to their new homes. Repayments towards the loan will now commence.

In light of concerns raised by the construction companies on the recent increased cost of materials, Cabinet recently approved a ten per cent increase (\$4,000) towards the housing budget. This however is the Government's contribution to the housing project and will not be charged to the home owners above the initial loan of \$40,000.



Top- HE Dabwido and Minister Riddell Akua present Patricia Dabana (Mr Ika's daughter) with a double gas top cooker.

Below- President Dabwido hands over the house keys to proud new home owners John and Yora Deidenang in Boe

Eigigu begins installation of Taiwan lights

Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) began installing energy efficient lights last month (February) to government buildings and residential households.

The 50,000 energy efficient lights are a donation from the Republic of China (Taiwan) Embassy, recognizing Nauru's vision towards energy saving initiatives.

EHC set up five groups of three workers, headed by an electrician to carry out the installation work in the 14 districts and offices.

The teams have completed installing 35 lights at the main government offices and is currently working through the districts of Boe, Baitsi, Ewa, Buada and Yaren.

Each residential household is allocated up to 23 light bulbs and tubes. Households currently listed on the electricity prepaid metre service are eligible to receive the lights.

In the past the Taiwan Embassy has donated over 100 solar street lights and mini solar bars to individual households around Nauru.

The Embassy continues to support Nauru and the community in various areas including health, education and general budgetary support.



EHC staff Corey Denuga, Yoshi Kepae, Sumich Detenamo installing energy efficient lights at the Government offices

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NAURU BULLETIN



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