



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 4-2013/80

20 March 2013

Nauru staff receive training as refugee status determination officers

The Department of Justice and Border Control has begun training of five Nauruans to work as refugee status determination officers at Australia's Regional Processing Centre (RPC) on Nauru.

Nauru has seconded a number of experienced Australian officers to its Department of Justice and Border Control to commence the assessments and, over time, to train Nauruan officials in making refugee status determinations.

The first set of training was delivered early this week by officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNHCR Senior Protection Officer Ellen Hansen and Liaison Officer for the Pacific Kate Gordon arrived on island this week (18 Mar) at the request of the Nauru government to provide the officers an overview of international key systems as well as technical advice and capacity building that are in line with the Refugee Convention.

Their visit is part of the UNHCR's usual capacity building program in the Pacific region, however they will not be engaged in the processing of asylum claims.



UNHCR Senior Protection Officer Ellen Hansen (R) and Liaison Officer for the Pacific Kate Gordon (L) conduct training for the five refugee status determination officers before going for further training in Melbourne this week

Additionally, the five trainees will depart today (20 Mar) for Melbourne Australia for further training which will cover all aspects of the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process. This includes both procedural and substantive (legal) elements.

The trainees will also meet their mentors from the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

The DIAC officers will mentor them over the next six months.

The training will include practical observation days, when they will accompany their DIAC mentors to detention centres in Australia, and observe RSD interviews.

Interviews for the asylum seekers are expected to commence the week of 25 March, provided that applications are completed by then.

With the guidance of their mentors, the five RSD officers will be responsible in assessing application forms for refugee status determinations and conducting interviews with asylum seekers and assess all other relevant information, such as the country situation of the applicant's home country, in order to make a recommendation on granting refugee status.

They will also be required to undertake other duties as may be required for the effective completion of the refugee status determination procedure•



CJ Geoffrey Eames QC orders Speaker to reconvene parliament

File photo: Nauru Media Bureau

CJ declares April election null and void

The Nauru Supreme Court last week (Friday, 15 March) ruled the dissolution of parliament unlawful and declared the writ published in the Government gazette setting April 6th as the date for a general election, as null and void.

Chief Justice Geoffrey Eames QC handed down his ruling last week (15 Mar) and has ordered the Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty to convene a sitting of parliament within 28 days of the ruling.

In light of the ruling, the electoral roll for electoral transfers and registration of voters will remain open until a new date for a general election is set•

CIE and Fisheries sign Japanese grant assistance

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) and Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFRMA) have signed a grant contract formalising Japan's assistance for procurement of solar water purifiers and construction of the Anibare Fish Market.

CEO of NFMRA Charleston Deiye, Secretary for CIE Russ Kun and the Second Secretary for the Embassy of Japan Ms Kanako Hiraoka, signed the grant contracts for the two projects at the Foreign Affairs office last week (14 March).

Ms Hiraoka shared a few words of gratitude at the warm hospitality extended to her and mentioned the strong relations between the two countries as well as her confidence that the two projects would benefit the people of Nauru.

"I am confident that these two projects will be completed successfully and become good models of our cooperation and friendship immensely valued by the governments and people of Japan and the Republic of Nauru," Ms Hiraoka said.

The Japan Government will be providing Nauru with AUD\$ 185,000 for both projects through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) program.

The water purifiers will be installed in 35 locations around Nauru targeting local communities and schools.

The solar water purifiers are a new system of delivering clean drinking water that enables underground lens water to be pumped up, sterilized and distilled using solar power.

The fish market will provide a safe, hygienic and central location for local fishermen as well as to improve the distribution of seafood which is expected to add a healthier alternative to peoples' diet.

This is Ms Hiraoka's second trip to Nauru. She arrived last week (13 Mar) and departed on Monday 18 March.

Japan has been assisting Nauru's socio-economic development through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) project.

The government of Japan has funded 19 projects since the first project in 1998 which was the improvement of the community boat harbour in Anibare•



The Embassy of Japan's Second Secretary Ms Kanako Hiraoka is greeted by Nauru officials before the signing of agreements for the construction of the fish market and procurement of solar water purifiers

OCTA conducts national consultations on PACER Plus

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser held national consultations last week (13-14 Mar) on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus which is a proposed free trade agreement between the 14 Forum islands countries, and with Australia and New Zealand.

Legal Trade Adviser with the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser Mr Adeshola Odusanya, conducted the consultations.



Under PACER Plus Nauru's interest is largely in labour mobility, where Nauruans can be given access by Australia and New Zealand for both skilled and unskilled individuals, to be able to live and work in Australia.

OCTA Legal Adviser (Trade) Mr Adeshola Odusanya in Nauru conducting National Consultations on PACER Plus

Nauru's Director for Trade with DFAT Peter Jacob said a

small group of countries including Nauru will discuss labour mobility further in a meeting next month (April) in Port Vila.

While Nauru's main export is raw phosphate, under the Rules of Origin in a free trade agreement, Nauru has an opportunity to value add to its phosphate and generate more revenue.

"Another thing under the Rules of Origin and cumulation we can import materials to be manufactured into goods on Nauru and then exported to Australia and New Zealand, quota free and duty free," Mr Jacob said.

Cumulation is the process whereby parts of a product are sourced from different countries, and assembled in another, for instance Nauru. The final product would then be called a Nauruan product.

"Also under PACER Plus and given our capacity limits in implementing changes such as tariff liberalisation and effective border control inspections through customs and quarantine, we would require Australia and New Zealand to provide assistance especially in training, and advise on opportunities for revenue collection if for example, we decided to liberalise tariffs."

Owing to flight disruptions last week Mr Odusanya was only able to present some components of PACER Plus; these being an overview of PACER Plus negotiations, Rules of Origin, Customs Procedures, Labour Mobility, Sanitary and Phytosanitary and briefly touched on Trade in Goods•



World Water day will be celebrated in Nauru this week (Friday, 22 Mar) with this year's theme of International Year of Water Cooperation.

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) is organising a day-long program on 22 March to generate awareness and appreciation of the importance of freshwater.

The Department invites the public to join in the celebrations on the day by submitting and or presenting one or all of the following competition categories.

WORLD WATER DAY 2013 (Water Cooperation) Celebration Competition

1. Short Film Clip

Target: Open category
 Theme: "Water Cooperation"
 Condition: (a) Video length be restricted to 20-30 seconds
 (b) Clip to be presented on Video Disc
 Prizes: 1st - \$500
 2nd - \$300
 3rd - \$200

2. School Drama

Target: Prep to Years 3 (Ages 6-9yrs) either in Class group or Year level.
 Theme: "Water Cooperation"
 Prizes: 1st - \$500
 2nd - \$300
 3rd - \$200

3. Poster or Model Designing

Target: Year 4 to Year 10 (12 years - 16 Years)
 Theme: Rain Harvesting System/How to Save Water
 Conditions: (a) Entries can either be individual or as group work.
 (b) All entries must carry:
 • Name of participant
 • Year Level
 • School Name
 (c) All project work to be prepared at their respective School
 (d) Entries will be displayed and judged at the Centennial Hall
 Prizes: 1st - \$500
 2nd - \$300
 3rd - \$200

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a way of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and promoting the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in response the United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater each year.

This year 2013, in reflection of the International Year of Water Cooperation, World Water Day is also dedicated to the theme of cooperation around water and is coordinated by UNESCO in collaboration with UNECE and UNDESA on behalf of UN-Water•

Women's Affairs office opens new safe house

The Department of Women's Affairs recently opened the refurbished safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence and abuse.

The new facility was unveiled by His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido last week (7 March) at the Government office site in Menen District.

The new facility comes with six rooms, three bathrooms, laundry, kitchen and common room. It has been relocated a few metres from the original set up and has been named *Eoag n Eratequo* (House to Strangers), a fitting title for a place that welcomes women and children of all nationalities.

The first woman to have sought refuge with the Women's Affairs office fled a violent home with her children. She was not a Nauruan citizen and so this incident set in motion the vision and determination by the Office of Women's Affairs to set up a crisis centre or safe house.

Secretary for Home Affairs Mrs Charmaine Scotty said the idea and importance of such a support service was first brought to the government's attention in 2009 and since then the department has had ongoing support towards the setup of a safe house.

"Since that time [2009], government's recognition of the need for this support service to be developed has grown and has resulted in the House to Strangers- *Eoag n Eratequo* being set up with other related support service being developed and assisted along with donor funds and sponsorship from Nauru's development partners," Mrs Scotty said.

The support services provided at *Eoag n Eratequo* include counseling. The staff receives counseling training offered through the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC).

Mrs Marjorie Deireragea was employed in 2010 as the safe house counselor. She was also the first employee to attend a course at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii.

In his remarks President Dabwido congratulated the Department for the successful set up of the new safe house and encouraged them to keep to their goal of promoting gender equality.

President Dabwido cut the ribbon and welcomed the attendees to join him inspect the new facility.

Also in attendance were honourable Ministers Aloysius Amwano and Shadlog Bernicke, Australian High Commissioner Mr Bruce Cowled, the Taiwan Embassy's First Secretary Mr Alex Yeh and Nauru Commissioner of Police Mr Richard Britten.

During refreshments the Department welcomed the female attendees to join them in singing the hymn One Day at a Time.

In 2009, the Government of Nauru assigned a temporary safe house with a budget of \$2500 which has recently been increased to \$3500.

The Safe House receives financial and moral support from the Nauru Government, the Australian High Commission, Nauru Health Department, the Canadian Fund and Ms Barina Waqa•



His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido, MP cuts the ribbon officially opening the refurbished safe house facility for victims of domestic violence and abuse

Nauru commemorates International Women's Day

His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido declared Friday 8 March a public holiday to commemorate International Women's Day and to celebrate the progress and achievements of Nauruan women.

The day began with an interdenominational church service at Orro Congregational Church in Aiwo. President Dabwido and Madam Nita Dabwido and Cabinet Ministers attended the service.

Following the service the public was invited for refreshments at the Centennial Hall as well as to browse the various stalls on display.

There was also a 15 minute drama presentation by a group from the Assemblies of God church with the theme, "Sharing the caring for the future".

It was a joyous occasion for women in Nauru and a reminder of the importance of the role of women in the community. The Department of Women's Affairs was especially pleased given the successful establishment of the new safe house facility the previous day (Thurs, 7 Mar).

Celebration and recognition of International Women's Day in Nauru was first launched in 2005 and the inception of the Women's office in 1997 was prompted by the 1995 Beijing Conference.

Thousands of events around the world occur throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide•

Government hands over third house constructed under housing scheme

The third house to be completed under the Government's New Housing Scheme was handed over earlier this month (6 Mar) to home owner Masina Adire.

Ms Adire received the keys to her new home in Anetan by Member of Parliament Hon Landon Deireragea.

The company that built her house, Our Construction, is led by Frankie Teabuge.

The Nauru Government's New Housing Scheme is interest-free housing loans provided to assist Nauruan families get ahead with constructing and owning their own houses. The loan is repayable over 15 years.

The provision to construct 26 houses at \$40,000 per house was budgeted for in the 2012-2013 fiscal year for Nauruan families largely to address overcrowding.

However, 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 on top of the initial loan of \$40,000.

Six local construction companies are engaged in the housing project•



Masina Adire receives the keys to her new home by Anetan MP Hon Landon Deireragea



Health department furnished with extra bikes to assist district nurses

The Department of Health received fourteen new motorcycles from the Transport Department last week (14 Mar) and will be used by the district nurses to assist in their health rounds in their respective districts.

The handover took place at the government office courtyard. His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido and Cabinet ministers were presented for the handover.



After inspecting the motorcycles, the Transport Minister Riddell Akua handed the keys over to President Dabwido who then presented them to Health Minister Shadlog Bernicke.

The transport department purchased twenty motor cycles in total, and 14 were donated to the health department. The remaining six will be included in the government's transport pool.

The Japanese-made motorcycles were purchased by the Transport department for \$40,000•

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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