



# Nauru Bulletin

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## President Dabwido withdraws notice to dissolve parliament

Nauru's President His Excellency Sprent Dabwido, MP, announced today (12 April) that he has withdrawn his notice, in which he submitted to the Speaker of Parliament on 1 March, advising that parliament be dissolved.

The announcement is made at the eve of the expiration of a Supreme Court order handed down last month (15 March) ordering the Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty to call a sitting of Parliament and cancel the April 6 elections.



*H.E. Sprent Dabwido, MP in the Presidential Office during his Address to the Nation*

The President said the Speaker is a man of integrity and by withdrawing the notice to dissolve parliament avoids subjecting the Speaker to Contempt of Court and any legal consequences.

President Dabwido expressed his disappointment over the Court ruling and his concerns that the separation of powers has been disregarded.

His Excellency said he will now sit with the Speaker and discuss a date for a parliament sitting and assures the Nauruan people that their wish to have fresh elections will not be ignored•

## Renewable energy, the wise option for Nauru

The Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) hosted a community awareness presentation on a renewable energy program designed for Nauru.

Renewable energy specialist, Dr Herbert Wade conducted the presentation which focused on solar energy for Nauru at the Menen Hotel earlier this week (8 April).

Dr Wade highlighted the benefits of renewable energy and discussed ideas and suggestions on ways to control or minimize the use of diesel fuel which is costing the Corporation around \$7-million a year.

"Today, solar energy can generate electricity at about the same cost as diesel fuel and tomorrow when diesel fuel is more expensive, the solar energy cost will be the same or even less than today," Dr Wade said.

Mr Wade has been working with Nauru Utilities for the past two weeks addressing the benefits of reducing the importation of diesel fuel as well as ways to replace half of the current power generators with a renewable energy system.

Proposals to install large scale solar generators would be in line with the Government's goal to have 50 percent of its energy derive from renewable sources such as solar and wind power.

That target would require large scale financing from international sources and up to approximately ten hectares of land to place the solar panels.

The areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, power and petroleum were identified as the pillars for the roadmap which paved the way for the first National Energy Policy Framework (NEPF) in 2009.

Dr Wade has visited Nauru periodically since 1985 and departed Nauru this week (10 April)•



*Dr Herbert Wade is expected to return to Nauru for further talks on solar power generation for the island*

## Nauruan baby makes healthy recovery post-op

The Ministry of Health recently welcomed back baby Schorfield Aremwa after a successful medical referral to Taiwan under the Nauru Government's overseas medical referral scheme.

Schorfield was referred for overseas medical treatment and was treated at the Taichung Veterans General Hospital in Taiwan.

Baby Schorfield was born with spina bifida – a birth defect in the spine and spinal cord.

The eight hour operation under the leadership of surgeon Dr Jiang Ming Tseh involved draining fluid from Schorfield's back.

Mother Pancy Aremwa is thankful to the Nauru Health Ministry and support team for arranging her son's medical referral and to the Taiwan medical team and hospital for their support and hospitality throughout their stay and recovery period in Taiwan.

The pair were accompanied by nurse Vai Keppa who remains close to the family in assisting with the rehabilitation and care for the toddler.

Mrs Aremwa says her son is recovering and eating well and while does not need to take medication post operation, he still needs to undergo physical rehabilitation daily.

The Government of Nauru's overseas medical referral system refers patients for overseas treatment if their condition requires specialist treatment and surgery.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that causes damage to nerve signals to parts of the body as well as affect a wide range of muscles, organs and bodily functions•



*Mum Pancy and baby relax after a rehabilitation session at home*

## Civil servants gain training on public governance and admin

The Chief Secretary's department in conjunction with the Singaporean Civil Service College (CSC) held a five-day training workshop focused on enhancing the knowledge of civil servants on public governance and administration.

Mr Koh Gim Liong who is a consultant at the CSC in Singapore conducted the workshop last month (19-26 March).

Mr Liong provided an overview of Singapore's experiences in public governance and administration and their approach towards governance and policy-making.

He used an interactive forum approach where the participants were able to share, explore and discuss public sector reform concepts and issues.

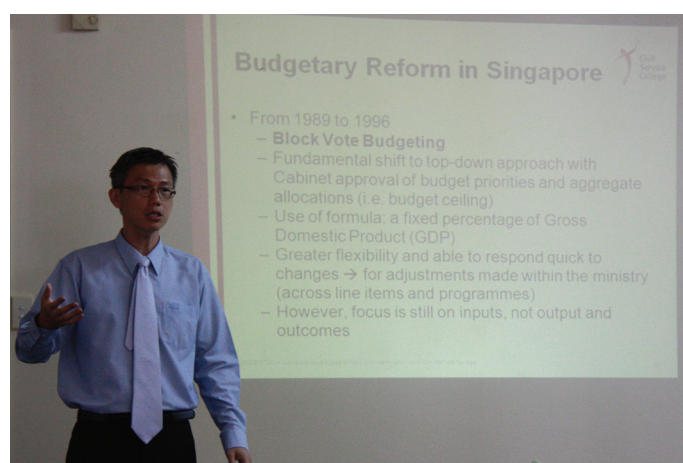
The workshop covered topics on the Principles of Governance, Fiscal Sustainability, Human Resources Systems and Standards, and a clean governance framework.

The participants had the opportunity to work in groups and discuss the challenges Nauru faces and what key strategies they could adopt to overcome them.

There were participants from the various government departments of Chief Secretary, Finance, Education, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Singapore CSC is a Statutory Board under the Public Service Division (PSD) that brings together public service officers from diverse backgrounds and provides them opportunities to plug into a service-wide network to exchange views and build shared ethos and perspectives.

Nauru is the first Pacific Nation that the CSC has visited and the Chief Secretary Department is working on having workshops by the CSC on Public Governance and Administration on a yearly basis•



*Mr Liong at the workshop on public governance and administration*



## Teachers participate in workshop for students with special needs

The Education Department held a teacher's workshop on the implementation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) centring on students with special needs in main stream schools.

The IEP is structured to enable teachers plan and implement learning programs for students who are not able to, for a variety of reasons, follow the general curriculum progression in the formal school set up.

Ms Angela Spalding who is a Special Education Advisor along with the Nauru Disability People's Association (NDPA) conducted the workshop last month (27 March) at the Able Disable Centre (ADC) aided by a power point presentation highlighting the value of IEP.

Office Manager for the NDPA Mrs Winnie Tsitsi offered welcoming words, introduced her team and shared with the participants the Association's plans and goals.

"In the NDPA Strategy, one of its policy objectives in the key area of Education is to advocate for mandatory requirement for educators to possess the necessary skills and resources to handle students with disabilities or special needs," Mrs Tsiti said.

Ms Spalding then asked the teachers to split into smaller discussion groups where they shared ideas, views and responses throughout the group discussion time.

Aside from the group workshop, the teachers visited nine schools giving them the opportunity to be directly involved in the program. It is anticipated that direct involvement during actual school time would encourage the teachers to acquire the necessary skills intended for their students with special needs.

The Republic of Nauru ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2012.

In November 2012 the NDPA had conducted an Awareness workshop with the communities focusing on their responsibility to identify the needs of people with disabilities within their community.

At present the Education Department is discussing setting up a register and a Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) for every school.



*Special Education Advisor Angela Spalding (standing) assist teachers during the program implementation workshop for students with special needs*

## DFAT leads aid for trade consultations

The Trade Division within the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) last month (March) hosted three days of national trade consultations on Aid for Trade (AfT) under the European Development Fund 11 (EDF 11).

The consultations are part of a series of ongoing trade related workshops being conducted by DFAT to enhance a wider understanding of trade overall.

Director for Trade within DFAT Peter Jacob says that Aid for Trade aims to provide ten priority project proposals for each of the Forum Island Countries (FICs) to be used as a guide when negotiating with donors and to identify which areas they could assist with.

"The priorities could be in the areas of port improvements, power station equipment upgrade, instalment of customs automated systems as well as placements of experts in-country to address critical area needs."

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade will coordinate with stakeholders in terms of prioritising the projects for Nauru.

"It was realised that under the multilateral free trade agreements being negotiated between Forum Island Countries (FICs) and with the European Union on one hand, and with Australia and New Zealand on the other, many of the FICs have limited capacity to export to these markets largely due to constraints in infrastructure and lack of enabling frameworks such as ports, communications, transportation systems, customs and quarantine regulations, policy papers, among others," Mr Jacob said.

A broad range of important issues were covered over the three days including identifying strategies for recovering revenue losses anticipated from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) such as the introduction of new taxes.

The status of small and medium enterprise was also addressed in order to provide additional programs and opportunities arising from the EPA and other trade agreements to set up programs such as incubation programs.



*Director for Trade Peter Jacob says the trade consultations are part of a series of workshops to enhance a wider understanding of trade overall.*

## Human resources adviser focuses on positive tangible outcomes

Maritino Nemani joined the Chief Secretary's department last month (4 Mar) as the Senior Human Resources Adviser and hopes to see positive and real tangible outcomes not only in human resources but in all departments working under the Chief Secretary.

Mr Nemani is recruited under the Australia-Nauru Partnership for Development which recognises the commitments to strengthen, maintain and improve the effectiveness of public sector capacity development.

"My primary focus is on HR and Public Administration under Chief Secretary. Enhancing capacity building across the Nauru Public Service (NPS) departments - as outlined in the National Sustainable Development Strategy document; and ensuring that we develop a high performance work culture built on the foundation of trust, tolerance and understanding without prejudice and treat

each other with respect."

Mr Nemani's extensive work experience in numerous countries, organisations and governments has given him the understanding and appreciation of the vast difficulties and challenges of the workplace.

"There is huge potential here in NPS, however there needs to be a change in attitude to work and with people both internally and externally, discipline and best practices.

"This can include employee engagement, collaboration, commitment and team work to name a few. I am beginning to see this happen already in HR which is excitingly positive," Mr Nemani said.

Prior to his posting in Nauru he was the Head of Human Resources and Employment Relations for the Pacific Region with Foster's Group Australia.

He has also lectured Human Resources

Management and Strategic Management at the University of the South Pacific (MBA program) in Fiji, University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology in Auckland; and was pursuing his PhD studies and research publication at Massey University, Auckland, prior to coming to Nauru.

Mr Nemani's two year contract is funded by the Australian Government•



*New senior HR Advisor Maritino Nemani hopes to instill best workplace practices*

## Another two families receive the keys to their new homes

Another two new home owners received the keys to their houses this week (12 April) that were constructed under the Government's New Housing Scheme.

Shawn Brechtefeld of Yaren District and Jovina Fritz of Buada District along with their families are the recipients of the first houses under the scheme to be constructed in the two districts.

Minister Dominic Tabuna and Minister Shadlog Bernicke who are members of parliament for Yaren and Buada respectively, presented the keys to the two families.

Eigigu Holdings Corporation was awarded the contract to build Mr Brechtefeld's house and Boda Line Construction was awarded Mrs Fritz's house.



*Shawn and wife Eigigu were so ecstatic about their new home that they treated family and friends to a huge feast*

The scheme offers an interest-free housing loan to construct 26 houses which was budgeted for in the 2012-2013 fiscal year for Nauruan families, and is repayable over 15 years.

The purpose of this scheme is to address overcrowding in the homes of Nauruan families. To date, five houses under the government's housing scheme have been completed.

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•



*Mrs Jovina Fritz gladly receives the keys to her newly constructed house from Minister Bernicke.*

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

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NAURU BULLETIN



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