



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 7-2013/83

13 May 2013

Speaker Thoma urges members to attend parliament

The latest sitting of parliament (last week Thursday, 9 May) was similar to previous sittings in which the speaker said the opening prayer and adjourned the House shortly afterwards due to no quorum.

At both the morning and afternoon sessions on 9 May, Speaker Godfrey Thoma announced there were insufficient members in attendance to enable a continuation of the sitting, highlighting that some members had informed him of their intended absence due to illness.

Following the short announcement during the afternoon session, Speaker Thoma then adjourned the House until Tuesday, 14 May.

The Parliament of Nauru has been unable to conduct any business for several weeks as a result of not having a quorum.

Speaker Godfrey Thoma was elected to the chair on Thursday, 25th April following the resignation of former speaker Ludwig Scotty on 18 April.



Speaker of Parliament Hon Godfrey Thoma, MP urges members to end the impasse

file photo

Article 32 of the Nauru Constitution deals with the various ways a Member of Parliament vacates their seat.

Article 32(1)(d) states that “a member of parliament vacates his seat if he is absent without leave of parliament on every day on which a meeting of parliament is held during a period of two months.”

Every member was present at the 25th April sitting, hence the continuing absence of some still falls within this two month period. However, the two-month deadline will not be reached because the parliament will automatically dissolve on 21st June; the date which marks the end of its three-year term.

Speaker Godfrey Thoma said he will continue to call parliament and hopes that members end the current impasse by attending and ensuring a quorum to enable debate on the President’s advice to dissolve parliament to proceed as required by Article 41 of the Constitution•

Nauru suggests fewer priorities for Pacific Plan

The Government of Nauru has met with members of the Pacific Plan Review team and stressed the importance of reducing the number of priorities under the Pacific Plan to areas that most reflect and address national development needs for Nauru.

His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido met the team last week (Friday, 3 May) and held initial discussions on ways to reduce the number of priorities.

The review team which was led by Dr Nick Poletti (for the Right Honourable Sir Mekere Morauta), Fakavae Taomia visited Nauru from 1 to 6 May to hear views from Government, civil society

and the private sector on regionalism.

A statement by the review team said that Nauru stakeholders concluded that the revised Pacific Plan should have very few key priorities and that they should be resourced to assist members attain their national development needs. This small number of priorities had to be tenable and implemented within both the short and medium terms.

Nauru consultations highlighted that possible priorities for regional cooperation and integration could include fisheries management, transportation, education, health and resource mobilisation.

Stakeholders also suggested that the role of the Pacific Plan in determining resources to support regional initiatives to address national development needs had to be improved in the next plan.

The slowness of regional organizations in addressing national development needs was highlighted as a concern and had to be addressed by a revised Pacific Plan•

NDRM and SOPAC hold committee meeting on disaster and emergency preparedness

A National Disaster Risk Management committee meeting was held last week (Wednesday, 8 May) for discussions on Nauru's Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Pacific Islands Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) consultant Mark Reid, facilitated the discussion on the latest information on strategic disaster planning, emergency management and interoperability.



SOPAC consultant Mark Reid facilitates discussions on disaster and emergency planning

At the briefing, members of the emergency services including some Heads of Department from government were present at the Nauru Police Headquarters in Yaren, where the consultation was held.

The main purpose of the workshop was to hold discussions with representatives from the local Police, Fire Service and other relevant stakeholders from government agencies on interoperability and other challenges that key government agencies might have.

"I am here to give a briefing on emerging global trends and instill a vision in the local stakeholders and agencies to further improve current emergency systems in the context of the region's best practice," Mr Reid said.

He also commented that Nauru's current response systems are working well and are functioning at a required standard.

Mr. Reid has conducted similar consultations in several countries in the region including Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and the Cook Islands•

DFAT continues to up skill and train staff

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's (DFAT) ongoing training opportunities have been beneficial to its staff with the recent training undertaken by three of its staff.

Director of Regional Affairs Mr Klenny Harris attended a national development course on 28th March that was held in the Republic of China - Taiwan.

The course was facilitated by the National Defense University of Taiwan, as part of the Taiwan Government's initiative to promote cooperation and strengthening ties with its diplomatic partners.

Mr Harris along with 17 representatives from other countries heard lectures on the Taiwan Government's continuing development in its social, economic and military sectors.

The course concluded on April 25 and Mr Harris was awarded a Diploma of Completion, a medal of honor and a commemorative plaque.

Additionally, Assistant Director of International Affairs at DFAT, Ms Unique Harris returned to Nauru on March 29 after attending a nine day workshop in Modern Diplomacy for Small Island States workshop, which was held in Malta.

The workshop was attended by 17 Commonwealth states and was facilitated by the Commonwealth Secretariat, to which Nauru is an active member.

One notable issue that small Commonwealth countries shared is the lack of capacity building within their small states. Participants highlighted that it was not uncommon that small states experience a shortage of experienced and qualified local staff in the workforce.

"My role is to absorb the information and share that information with the department, so it may draw the relevant examples from other countries, to address issues affecting small Commonwealth countries like Nauru," Ms Harris said

Meanwhile, Ms Harris' return coincided with the departure of Bob Jones Ribauw last week (29 April) for his one month diplomatic training in India.

Mr Ribauw recently joined the department in the role of Assistant Director of Regional Affairs•



Klenny Harris with his awards for participating and completing the national development course hosted by the Taiwan government

Thirty police recruits join the force

The Nauru Police Force (NPF) is making progress in their goal to have 130 police officers in the force with the graduation of thirty new recruits this month (Friday, 3 May).

As Minister of Police, His Excellency President Sprent Dabwido congratulated the graduates on their accomplishment and noted the growth of the NPF as a further testimony to the Government's commitment to law and order on Nauru.

"I have watched the force grow into what I see today, a force that maintains our law and order and serves the community as a very professional organization. Something which I and the Government are very proud of," the President said.

The Dux award was presented to Daigamwer Obeta while Darryl Namaduk received the Leadership award and Seamer Teimitsi earned the Most Improved award.

Daigamwer Obeta gave a speech on behalf of the graduating recruits, thanking the NPF and their families for their support during the five month course.



The thirty graduates are Jaelisa Adun, Ika Aliklik, Mike Amram, Dogaiy Alefaio, Eliza-May Appi, Wilhem Appi, Jandilla Bagaga, Macpherson Brechtefeld, Glauma Degia, Mary Deima, Sarah Eoao, Eobob Denitage, Linda Deraudag, Brunton Duburiya, Alice Fritz, Goodman Gioura, Febana Harris, Lady-Jane Hilo, Francine Kepae, Pikitta Menke, Rojae Laeo, Darryl Namaduk, Daigamwer Obeta, Liberty Obeta, Timothy Ribauw, Ricco Scotty, Skyanna Simon, Seamer Teimitsi, Marvin Jnr Tokaibure, and Christopher Tsiode.

The recruits took their oaths before Resident Magistrate Peter Law on 1st May where Mr Law reminded them of the importance of their new

positions and to wear their uniforms with pride.

Their training consisted of learning the laws of Nauru, public order management and also undergoing physical training, basic lifeguard training, and police duties and drills.

Also in attendance was Speaker for Parliament Hon Godfrey Thoma, Cabinet ministers, government officials, Taiwan Ambassador Timothy Hsiang, and Australian High Commissioner Bruce Cowled.

The officers will complete a six month probationary period before they are elevated to permanent constable positions. The NPF now has approximately 120 officers•

Justice minister donates vehicles to correctional services

This week (Tuesday, 30th April) witnessed the official handover of two Toyota Landcruisers to the Nauru Correctional Services, by Justice Minister Roland Kun and Secretary of Justice, Lisa Lo Piccolo.

The short ceremony was conducted at the Government office to mark the handover.

Chief Correctional Officer David Detageouwa was in attendance, to receive the donation on behalf of Nauru Correctional Services.

Mr Detageouwa thanked the Minister and Secretary for the donation and their support of Correctional Services.

"I would like to thank the government for their understanding of the circumstances of the Correctional Services and Company 141 agents for making the arrangements for the vehicles," Mr Detageouwa said.

He also stated that the benefits of the vehicles are many and will help alleviate some of the immediate transportation needs of the Corrections Service.

These include the safe transportation of both inmates and officers during emergencies, such as tsunami alerts.

The vehicles are funded from the Nauru Government's domestic budget•



Justice Minister Hon Roland Kun (R) hands over keys to the two new vehicles to Chief Correctional officer David Detageouwa

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.



Republic of Nauru

Office contact:

Government Information Office
Government Offices
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr
Mobile: +674 5573009
www.naurugov.nr