



Nauru Bulletin

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20th parliament dissolved, June elections to follow

Nauru is preparing for general parliamentary elections next month (22 June) following the dissolution of the 20th parliament last week (Thursday, 23 May).

Weeks of inactivity in parliament due to no quorums ended on Thursday (23 May) when, although again there was no quorum at the sitting, the period of seven days prescribed in Article 41(4) came to an end, and the speaker was therefore required to dissolve parliament.

Article 41(4) requires the speaker to dissolve parliament seven days after the advice to dissolve has been referred to parliament. The president's advice to dissolve, issued on 15 April 2013, was not properly referred to parliament until 16 May, when members had the opportunity to consider and debate the advice.

When the country goes to the poll on 22nd June, 19 parliamentary seats in the eight constituencies will be contested. This will be the first time in Nauru's history when parliament will have 19 members.

The increase from 18 to 19 members follows the successful passing of an amendment to the 1965 Electoral Act during a parliament sitting in July 2012. The additional member will be placed in Meneñ district, taking its representation in parliament to three.

The amendment was originally part of the package of constitutional reforms proposed by the Constitutional Review

Committee following the Constitutional Convention and introduced as the Constitution of Nauru (Parliamentary Amendments) Bill.

The other crucial component of this part of the scheme to improve the stability of the parliament was the election of an independent speaker from outside the parliament. These proposed constitutional amendments were finally defeated in parliament in June 2012.



Ballot boxes are readied for polling day on June 22

The Electoral Act amendments increasing the number of members for Meneñ were pursued separately and passed in July 2012.

The proposed parliamentary amendments to the Constitution (those amendments not requiring a referendum), including those for an external speaker, were reintroduced to parliament in 11 separate Constitutional Reform Bills in February

of this year. However, these Bills lapsed on the dissolution of the parliament. If they are to be pursued in the 21st Parliament they will again need to be reintroduced.

In the meantime, the Nauruan public is making headway in registering their names to vote.

On Saturday, 1st June the electoral rolls will close at midday.

Nomination of candidates will also open at midday on 1st June and will close a week later on 8th June.

Nominated candidates have until 5.00pm on Friday, 14 June to withdraw their nominations by notice in writing.

The polling booths will open on Saturday, 22 June from 11.00am until 6.00pm.

The Parliament of Nauru met twice last week (Tues 21 and Thurs 23 May) but only briefly as there was not enough numbers to form a quorum.

The members in attendance at Tuesday's (21 May) sitting were Acting President Roland Kun, Frederick Pitcher, Landon Deireragea, Dr Kieren Keke, Dominic Tabuna and Mathew Batsiua.

The members present at Thursday's (23 May) sitting were Acting President Roland Kun, Dr Kieren Keke, Dominic Tabuna, Landon Deireragea and Mathew Batsiua. President Sprent Dabwido, Minister Riddell Akua and Minister Aloysius Amwano were off island on official business•

RPC - Two returnees and 17 new arrivals take total on island to 430

Two asylum seekers at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) on Nauru have opted to return home aboard the return flight at the weekend (Saturday, 25 May) which brought 17 new arrivals to Nauru.

Travel arrangements for the two Iranian men to return home were organized by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).



The 17 new arrivals comprise 13 Palestinian, two Iraqi, one Saudi and one from the United Arab Emirates – taking the number on island to 430.

The men arrived aboard a chartered Airbus A319 at approximately 2.30pm (Nauru time) and like all previous arrivals they completed brief immigration formalities before boarding minibuses and transported to the Centre where they are now settling in.

The transfer from aircraft to Topside was without incident•

Police consultant facilitates intelligence training

The Nauru Police Force (NPF) has engaged the services of Australian Federal Police Intelligence Officer Noel Morrison to conduct training on the various aspects of intelligence.

The training involves the different types of criminal intelligence, the difference between information and intelligence, reporting processing, dissemination and writing intelligence reports.

Mr Morrison is based in the Australian capital Canberra and works for the AFP's International Deployment Group (IDG).

This training is the first of its kind for the NPF.

Mr Morrison said that at the conclusion of the training the NPF officers are expected to have a level of knowledge and intelligence skill in the practices and procedures of intelligence and the intelligence cycle. Adding value to information and inform the decision making process as well as how to process and disseminate information reports are also part of the training.

The officers are also expected to be proactive in seeking direction, collect information and reporting in the form of an intelligence report.

Mr Morrison arrived last month (22 April) and will stay until June. His visit is funded by the AFP's Pacific Police Development Program (PPDP)•



AFP's Intelligence officer Noel Morrison is with the Nauru Police conducting intelligence training

Family donates nebulisers

A Nauruan family has donated two new nebulisers to the Health Department that will assist in providing medical assistance to asthma patients at the Republic of Nauru (RON) Hospital.



Health Minister Shadlog Bernicke and Ms Maree Bacigalupo accepting the donation from the daughters of Tawaki and Rubyka Kam

Minister for Health Shadlog Bernicke received the donations last week (Tuesday, 21 May) in his office from the daughters of Tawaki and Rubyka Kam. The Minister accepted the donation from the two girls and Secretary for Health Ms Maree Bacigalupo was grateful explaining that the nebulisers were very much needed at the hospital.

A nebuliser is a drug delivery device used to administer medication and is inhaled into the lungs. It is commonly used for the treatment of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Asthma has the highest number of patients in Nauru which effectively places pressure on the availability of nebulisers at the hospital's outpatient and emergency department.

The Kam family said there are several family members that suffer from asthma and they saw the need for extra nebulisers at the hospital.

The donation takes the total to five nebulisers at the hospital•

Health to partner with Fiji pharmaceuticals

Eight Pacific countries including Nauru hope to maintain strong cooperation with Fiji, particularly in the area of health as they consider proposals from the Fiji Ministry of Health.

Fiji's Ministry of Health has made presentations and put forward proposals to the eight countries for the procurement of affordable pharmaceutical equipment, drugs and medical referrals.

The agreement may prove to be cost effective for Nauru, as Fiji is easily accessible via direct flights and its familiarity with Nauruans.

Nauru currently has arrangements with Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia for the procurement of medical consumables, which costs significantly higher compared to what is being offered by the Fiji Pharmaceutical Service (FPS).

FPS has indicated that it purchases directly from the manufacturers, significantly reducing costs. In the past Nauruans needing medical treatment are usually referred to Australia. The agreement suggests that medical expertise will be flown in to conduct initial check-ups and then appropriate referrals made. This may point to an increase in patients being referred to either Fiji or India for treatment.

"If it can get off the ground, it will have great benefits for Nauru and other small island countries," Nauru's Secretary for Health, Maree Bacigalupo said.

Nauru's High Commissioner to Fiji, Jarden Kephass affirmed his confidence in the institutions and health services that Fiji has, stating that it would be beneficial for small countries like Nauru.

"There are a lot of great things in Fiji's health sector which we are interested in and it will surely help the smaller islands such as Nauru," Mr Kephass said to the Fiji Times.

While Tuvalu is currently procuring pharmaceuticals from Fiji, the Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati missions have agreed with arrangements for FPS to procure medical equipment and handle referrals to Fiji.

Members from the respective high commissions also attended the opening of a warehouse in Suva, which the FPS will use to store its medical equipment•



Secretary for Health Maree Bacigalupo

Health professionals address chronic kidney disease

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) has become one of the major public health issues on Nauru and the health department is working on addressing its early detection.

The health department is currently in the implementation stage of the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Strategic plan, which focuses on early detection strategies and screening programs as a means to reduce the high incidence of CKD and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) on Nauru.

Last year (2012), a nephrology task force was invited by the government to collect data on CKD and ESRD.



Renal specialist Dr Noa Yanay is leading a Nauru medical team in collecting data and addressing kidney related diseases

Dr Noa Berar Yanay, a specialist from Israel, led a team of Nauru health workers – Dr Alani Tangitau, Nemesia Capelle, Min Tanuvasa Lene, Dr Setareki Vatucaawaqa and Dr Lepani Vakatakiwewa, to collect and produce data on the prevalence of CKD and ESRD on Nauru.

The data showed that Nauru has a very high rate of kidney failure compared to its Pacific neighbours.

Dr Noa's work with the taskforce recently received recognition from the international community, in relation to the work they have done on kidney related issues in Nauru.

Dr Noa will be presenting the work of the taskforce at an international nephrology conference in the near future.

"A number of agencies have been sourced to provide funding and technical assistance for Nauruan cases. But individuals can avoid CKD and ESRD if they change their lifestyle by exercising, eating right, avoid smoking and drinking in moderation," Secretary for Health, Maree Bacigalupo said.

Donor agencies namely, AusAid, the World Health Organization (WHO) and project Twenty One Two One, which is a collaboration between WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), are working closely with the health department to improve its nephrology service for ESRD patients•

Save our Earth - CIE celebrates world biodiversity day

22 May 2013

The Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment (CIE) celebrated World Biodiversity Day at the Centennial Hall, Aiwo district last week (22 May).

The day began with a canoe racing competition sponsored by Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) and several stalls were also set up at the venue by departments and non-government organisations (NGOs).

Cultural handicrafts such as fans, garlands and carvings made by locals were also displayed and judged.

Several infant schools also participated in the children's drama competition.

Biodiversity is a variety of all living forms of life on earth including all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems which they live and interact.

There are two biodiversity units within CIE and they work on the two projects titled Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) and Nauru Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Their main goals are to review the NBSAP and to assess the fauna and flora in both marine and terrestrial areas of Nauru.

Project officer for IIB Asterio Appi along with project officers for NBSAP Tyrone Deiye and Erana Aliklik have just completed their assessment report on the flora of Nauru and are now beginning work on the assessment of fauna.

The department is also expecting the arrival of twelve scientists next month (17-27 June) to conduct a survey on the fauna of Nauru.

NBSAP is a biodiversity roadmap, which was completed in 2011. Its three-year project to review and update the NBSAP began last June•



Visitors browse traditional Nauruan wear made mostly out of dried pandanus leaves and dried bark of wild hibiscus



The international event woven into a patchwork design

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

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