



Nauru Bulletin

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President Waqa focused on improvement

His Excellency President Baron Waqa assumed office after winning the presidential vote thirteen to five at a sitting of parliament last week (11 June) with an added strong backing of the six newly elected members of parliament.

In his parliament presentation shortly after being elected president, His Excellency thanked his constituency, the people of Nauru and his fellow colleagues for entrusting him with the distinct honour and responsibility to lead the government.

As president, Mr Waqa wants to ensure a better quality of life for the people of Nauru.

In this edition of the *Nauru Bulletin*, the president reiterates his gratitude and obligation to Nauru.

“Firstly, I would like to thank the good people of Nauru for a quiet and smooth election weekend. While it was a swift election, the results spoke for themselves that we all wanted to start afresh.

“The past few months of political instability have been trying times for the government and the people of Nauru. Although we have all grown tired of the instability and the power struggle that has been going on, change is here.

“You, the people of Nauru cast your vote, your choice at the elections, and with a resounding outcome.



His Excellency President Baron Waqa, MP

“You have elected six new parliamentarians; among them is the second woman member of parliament. They are fresh minds with fresh ideas.

“While we must continue the good work of past governments, we must strive to better the lives of Nauruans.

“The underlying objective for my government is to continue to improve the quality of life for our people. We have been through some very tough times over the past ten years, but I would like to see the lives of Nauruans improve and the services provided to you to also improve. I would also like to see Nauruans work with us and participate in decision-making processes.

“The work ahead will not be easy but our new MPs are very close to their

communities and I am sure there will be partnerships within the next three years and I encourage my government to work together with the community.

“Our well-being and our economy are among the top priorities of this government. We will strive to ensure transparency and accountability to safeguard the services and financial future for you,” President Baron Waqa said.

A former teacher and academic President Waqa has his goals set on bettering education among other things, for a positive and educated future generation.

With the ever growing population and constant hurdles governments the world over face regarding land issues, the Waqa government has established a new portfolio for Land Management.

This new department will focus on managing and possibly acquiring land for the government, thus, ensuring the effective running of government services for its people.

President Waqa began his political career in 2003 when he was successfully elected in his constituency of Boe into the Fifteenth Parliament. He also served as minister for education, utilities, telecommunications and public works under the leadership of former president Ludwig Scotty•

Nauru court dismisses habeas corpus challenge

The habeas corpus case challenging the legality of asylum seekers being detained at the Regional Processing Centre on Nauru has been denied in a ruling handed down this week (Tuesday, 18 June) by Judge John von Doussa QC.

The applicants alleged that they are being unlawfully detained at the regional processing centre (RPC) on Nauru, and therefore sought an order for their release from the RPC. The hearing commenced last week (10-12 June).

(continued page 3)

Elections summary

The counting process for the 2013 Nauru general parliamentary elections held at the weekend (Saturday 8 June) was completed in just over 24 hours resulting in six newly elected members.

Charmaine Scotty who is the second woman to enter the Nauru parliament is among the new group comprising Aaron Cook, Squire Jeremiah, Tawaki Kam, Russ Kun and Ranin Akua.

A returning member is Cyril Buraman. Mr Buraman returns to the parliament after five years.

The nineteen member parliament is new to the setup, with the additional member placed in the Constituency of Meneñ, bringing their representation to three.

Election day ran in its usual peaceful way. Polling opened at 11am and closed at 6pm on Saturday 8th June.

The first lot of ballot boxes started arriving around 6.30pm at parliament house, where 44 scrutineers await to begin the vote counting.

The Government Information Office and Nauru Media Bureau were on standby throughout the counting process to do live updates on television, radio and the website.

The first results came on Sunday 9th June at 2.45am for the Constituency of Buada. Most other results were announced every two hours or thereabouts, except for the two largest constituencies of Menen and Ubenide. The counting for Menen started around 4am on Sunday but a recount prolonged the counting to approximately 4.30pm the same day. Ubenide also

had a recount which concluded at 7.30pm.

For several months the electoral roll remained open for registration of first time voters and transfers. A transfer refers to a voter wishing to transfer their district of registration in order to vote for candidates in that district.

At polling day, 5528 votes were cast; 5349 formal and 179 were informal votes.

The electoral office records state that 523 out of 6051 eligible voters did not cast their vote.

In the past voters were allowed to transfer districts as often as they wished. However, that changed when the Electoral Roll Act 1965 was amended, restricting transfers to only between a person's registered place of birth or current residence.

Proxy voting was an option for Nauruans residing outside of Nauru. A person eligible to vote but residing overseas and wishing to vote was to nominate a proxy whereby the proxy would fill in the ballot paper on their behalf at polling day. Accordingly authority forms must be completed and witnessed by assigned officers.

A ballot paper is informal or invalid if a voter does not fill in all boxes correctly according to their order of preferences; if a voter writes anything that reveals their identity; if a voter's writing is unreadable making it difficult to ascertain what the preferences are and if the presiding officer does not sign the back of the ballot paper•

Charmaine Scotty - second woman parliamentarian

The 2013 general elections welcomed several new faces into parliament including the second woman parliamentarian after 17 years.

Mrs Charmaine Scotty's landslide victory in her electorate of Yaren is a milestone for Nauru politics and the women of Nauru.

To hoist her success, President Waqa has made her a cabinet minister; her portfolios are Home Affairs, Education, and Land Management. Minister Scotty says she looks forward to a working partnership with her male counterparts.

"My mandate is for a stable government for the next three years; and for my district, parliament accountability to the people and more awareness of the regional processing centre. And if anything turns sour I would quickly let them [parliament colleagues] know," Mrs Scotty said.

"Parliament is voted in by the people and they [parliament] need to understand that they are there to serve as well as lead the people."

She attributes her successful win to family, friends and the overwhelming support from her community and around the island.

"I've had overwhelming support all round the island, from women, and young and older men. We're coming out of the dark and having an understanding and appreciation of having a woman in the parliament," Minister Scotty said.

"It's taken this long for women of Nauru to have confidence and the support of the community."

Prior to the elections, Mrs Scotty was Secretary for Home Affairs for a number of years. As minister she aims to promote women, culture, language, and gender equality.

"Nauru has been losing out on culture, we need to revive it. In regards to language, I'll work hard to establish a language commission," Mrs Scotty said.

In her other portfolio of education Mrs Scotty said she will focus on re-entry programs focusing on youths who left school early or were truants and give them a sound education for their future.

This is Mrs Scotty's fourth attempt at running for the elections after coming a close third place in the two elections of 2010 and that of 2007.

She began her career in the public service in 1990 as a teacher for nine years until her transfer to Secretary for Sports, Youth and Women's Affairs, Health and Home Affairs.

The first woman in parliament was Ruby Dediya who served as MP for the Constituency of Ewa/ Anetan from 1986 to 1996•



Charmaine Scotty is the second woman MP and the first woman minister

Baron Waqa wins presidency 13-5 votes

Member for the Constituency of Boe Honourable Baron Waqa was elected as the president of Nauru defeating former finance minister Roland Kun 13 votes to five, at a sitting of parliament last week (Tuesday, 11 June).

President Baron Waqa first entered parliament in 2003 in the fifteenth parliament. Over the years, he has held the portfolios for health, education, Rontel and public works.

Prior to the election of the president the election of speaker and deputy speaker was conducted.

For the speaker's position, former president and speaker Ludwig Scotty and former finance and foreign minister Dr Kieren Keke were nominated for speaker. Mr Scotty defeated Dr Keke 14 votes to five.

New MP Ranin Akua was elected unopposed to be deputy speaker.

Earlier that day (11 June), the twenty-first parliament of Nauru was sworn in to office by Supreme Court Judge John von Doussa QC, in parliament chambers.

Judge von Doussa witnessed the ceremony and signing of oaths by all 19 Members of Parliament•

President appoints two new MPs to cabinet

Cabinet ministers were sworn in to office last week (Wednesday, 12 June) at the Office of the President. The brief ceremony was conducted by Acting Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler.

The public announcement however, was made by His Excellency President Baron Waqa the following morning (13 June) at the first sitting of the 21st parliament.

Two of the five ministers are newly elected MPs – Mrs Charmaine Scotty and Aaron Cook.

President Baron Waqa will hold the portfolios of Chairman of the Cabinet, Minister for the Public Service, Foreign Affairs & Trade, Climate Change, Police & Emergency Services.

Hon David Adeang is Minister Assisting the President, Finance & Sustainable Development, Justice, Eigigu Holdings Corporation and Nauru Air Corporation.

Hon Valdon Dowiyogo is Minister for Health, Transport, Sport and Fisheries.

Newly elected MP Aaron Cook is Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment as well as Ronphos and Nauru



President Baron Waqa (front centre) with cabinet ministers (L-R) Valdon Dowiyogo, Charmaine Scotty, Shadlog Bernicke, Aaron Cook, David Adeang

[Photo: Rod Henshaw]

Rehabilitation Corporation.

Also newly elected MP and the second woman parliamentarian Mrs Charmaine Scotty is Minister for Home Affairs, Education, and Land Management.

Hon Shadlog Bernicke is Minister for Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust, Telecommunications, and Nauru Utilities Corporation•

Habeas corpus challenge dismissed

(from page 1)

In handing down his ruling Judge von Doussa dismissed the application on the grounds that the asylum seekers are being held on Nauru for the purpose of processing their claims for refugee status.

The asylum seekers are granted regional processing visas (RPV) to be on Nauru while their claims are being assessed. Conditions of the visa specify that they reside at the Centre. They are also allowed supervised trips and activities outside the Centre.

“In the present case the visas granted to the applicants, and in particular their current RPVs, are stated to be for the purpose of determining their claims for refugee status, and for purposes that will have to be addressed leading up to their removal from Nauru when their applications for refugee status have been finally determined,” von Doussa said.

“It is well recognized that the process of investigating and determining claims for refugee status may take a protracted time. Nevertheless, at the end removal will occur either to another country for resettlement, or to their country of nationality.

“So understood, the provisions of the Immigration Act and the regulations which permit the detention of RPV's are valid as the detention is for the very purpose of ultimately “effecting ...lawful removal from Nauru” of the holder,” Judge von Doussa said, citing the Constitution of Nauru, article 5(1)(h).

The application for habeas corpus also argues “that there is long and unreasonable delay in processing their claims and in arranging their removal.”

Judge von Doussa concluded that “this is an interesting argument that I think should be left for decision should excessive delay occur. I do not think such a point has yet been reached. However, if the excessive delay occurs after the favourable determination of refugee status another question will arise. The visa conditions can then allow much greater freedom of movement. Depending on how far the present restrictions are eased, they may not impose detention.”

Legal counsel for the asylum seekers Julian Burnside QC was assisted by Jay Williams and representing the Secretary for Justice was Stephen Donaghue•

Election results - 8 June 2013

Constituency of Buada

Roland Kun, 235 [elected]
 Shadlog Bernicke, 233 [elected]
 Bingham Agir, 203
 Sean Halstead, 154
 Vinson Franco Detenamo, 153
 Arrow Depaune, 140
 Ace Capelle, 139
 Ishmael Fritz, 131

Total formal votes cast: 512
 Total informal votes cast: 13
 Total Votes cast: 525

Constituency of Boe

Mathew Batsiua, 279 [elected]
 Baron Waqa, 224 [elected]
 Bryan Star, 194
 Abraham Aremwa, 172
 Lidira Ephraim, 152
 Kinza Clodumar, 138

Total formal votes cast: 474
 Total informal votes cast: 10
 Total Votes cast: 484

Constituency of Anabar (Anabar, Ijuw, Anibare)

Ludwig Derangadage Scotty, 255.300 [elected]
 Riddell Akua, 242.500 [elected]
 Tyrone Deiye, 208.700
 Jaden Adun, 204.367
 Melissa Ika, 165.117
 Paul Nubwit Doguape, 136.717

Total formal votes cast: 495
 Total informal votes cast: 15
 Total Votes cast: 510

Constituency of Yaren

Charmaine Scotty, 303.067 [elected]
 Dr. Kieren Keke, 211.167 [elected]
 Dominic Tabuna, 187.467
 John Daigon Panen Julius, 170.333
 Omeri Agigo, 142.667
 Brian Amwano, 131.900

Total formal votes cast: 468
 Total informal votes cast: 6
 Total Votes cast: 474

Constituency of Aiwo

Milton Ross Dube, 310.450 [elected]
 Aaron Stein Cook, 251.017 [elected]
 Dantes Ingin Tsitsi, 228.433
 Godfrey Awaire Thoma, 205.800
 Pamela Eibutsina Scriven, 170.950
 Lance Agir, 136.567
 Preston Thoma, 134.633
 Tazio Gideon, 119.383

Total formal votes cast: 682
 Total informal votes cast: 17
 Total Votes cast: 699

Constituency of Anetan (Ewa, Anetan)

Cyril Buraman, 321.819 [elected]
 Marcus Stephen, 299.493 [elected]
 Landon Deireragea, 264.029
 Aloysius Gonzaga Namaduk, 185.562
 Begg Adire, 177.245
 Haseldon Buraman, 168.400
 Paul Ika, 164.095

Total formal votes cast: 610
 Total informal votes cast: 20
 Total Votes cast: 630

Constituency of Meneñ

Sprent Arumago Dabwido, 374.758 [elected]
 Lyn-Wannan Tawaki Kam, 356.112 [elected]
 Squire Jeremiah, 303.370 [elected]
 Lionel Aingimea, 272.512
 Rykers Solomon, 253.298
 Elvin Brechtefeld, 237.266
 Doneke Jim Kepae, 228.710
 Clint Deidenang, 191.806
 Sambruce Akibwib, 188.619
 Jerielyn Teleni, 186.341
 Nemo Levi Agadio, 185.627
 John Taumea Agadio, 172.250
 Nickos Simon, 166.315

Total formal votes cast: 904
 Total informal votes cast: 37
 Total Votes cast: 941

Constituency of Ubenide (Denigomodu, Nibok, Uaboe,

Baitsi)

David Adeang, 427.680 [elected]
 Valdón Kape Dowiyogo, 388.999 [elected]
 Russ Joseph Kun, 373.357 [elected]
 Ranin Akua, 357.949 [elected]
 Aloysius Amwano, 309.684
 Julian Itsimaera, 309.271
 Frederick Pitcher, 282.819
 Samuel Hansome Adumur, 267.771
 George Giovanni Gioura, 252.633
 Vyko Adeang, 207.965
 Renos Agege, 194.381
 Arde Ricky Bam, 189.442
 David Corey Dowiyogo, 180.847
 Darned Dongobir, 172.084

Total formal votes cast: 1204
 Total informal votes cast: 61
 Total Votes cast: 1265

Construction of learning village commences

The Ministry for Education held an official cement pouring ceremony to mark the commencement of construction for the new Technical Vocational Education Training centre (TVET) in Yaren district.

Minister for Education Mrs Charmaine Scotty, Minister for Telecommunications Mr Shadlog Bernicke, and Australian High Commissioner Mr Bruce Cowled attended the ceremony held this week (Tuesday, 18 June).

Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu offered welcome words and expressed her appreciation for the Australian Government's continuous support for Nauru. She also thanked landowners for their generous offer to the Nauru Government.

Mr Cowled commended the Education Department for their ongoing hard work in seeing the important pieces of social infrastructure taken through the construction stage.

Following introductory words, the concrete was poured and Minister Scotty and Mr Cowled alternated leveling out a portion of the concrete.

The design and planning of the learning village was done by Australian company Alexander and Lloyd Architects. Local construction company Central Meridian Inc., is contracted to complete the centre by early 2014.

The Australian Government through AusAID funded just under \$1.5-million dollars for the construction of the centre with an additional contribution of just over \$2.7-million dollars towards the second phase of the learning village development.

The completion of the centre will complement the existing TVET facilities at Nauru Secondary School (NSS) and will provide practical training and tuition in technical trades; specifically automotive and marine technical training.



Minister for Education Charmaine Scotty levels out a portion of the concrete marking commencement of construction for the TVET centre

Scientists conduct research on Nauru's marine and land ecosystems

The Nauru Rapid Biodiversity Project (BIORAP) got underway this week (Monday, 17 June) to conduct research on Nauru's marine and land ecosystems.

The BIORAP team consists of 11 scientists with specialist knowledge and expertise in sea and land ecology, the project was tendered by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The team arrived on 17 June and work got underway the same day with a small introductory meeting conducted in the Parliamentary Conference room.

Team leader and coordinator Bruce Jefferies presented a powerpoint talk highlighting the main objectives of the work the team hopes to accomplish on Nauru.

The team's work is twofold. Firstly, they will collect and record what ecosystems are active on the island. Secondly, the team will assess the condition of those ecosystems and to determine the health of these ecosystems. Moreover, the team will also assess the scale of intrusive species that have threatened or upset Nauru's ecosystems.

There are hopes of new species being discovered with data set to be collected on the Nauruan reed wobbler (itirir), which is said to be endemic only in Nauru.

The researchers, in coordination with the Department of Commerce Industry and Environment (CIE), recruit members from government agencies such as the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) and Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) whose local knowledge of the land and marine species will be valuable to the research.

The team will evaluate and wrap up the work done over the past ten days, prior to their departure on June 27.



BIORAP management and coordinator Bruce Jefferies leads the team research and presentation as pictured above

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

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Republic of Nauru

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