



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Nauru court imposes \$1-million fine on foreign boat for illegal fishing

The Nauru District Court has fined a Spanish fishing vessel and its crew \$1-million for illegal fishing in Nauru's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in a court ruling on 26 September 2013.

The Shipping Company Albacora Uno, together with the corporate owner and operator, and the vessel's master Jose Arrua Ispizua and fishing master Sergio Iturraspe Iraculi, were charged with six counts of illegal fishing activity in Nauru waters, in contravention of sections 23(1), 24(2) and 24(5) of the Nauru Fisheries Act 1997.

Mr Ispizua and Mr Iraculi each pleaded guilty on 24 September to the offences of allowing and engaging the use of the vessel for fishing activity without having a licence and whilst the vessel was within Nauru's EEZ.

The Corporate owner and Operator of the vessel was also fined for failure to ensure the vessel stored or secured all fishing equipment on board the vessel whilst the vessel was within Nauru's EEZ.

In its ruling the Court "accepted that the plotters on board the vessel appeared to show that the vessel was within the Kiribati EEZ and not within the Nauru EEZ."

"It is noted however, that section 24(5) of the Fisheries Act disallows the defence of 'mistake of fact' so far as any error concerning location of the vehicle. The culpability arising from the location of the foreign vessel is therefore one of strict liability.

The fine was reduced from the maximum possible fine of \$1.6-million to \$1-million, taking into account that the

Master and Fishing Master claim they had no knowledge of the breach because they relied on the plotting equipment on the vessel which indicated they were in Kiribati waters. Together with the minimal time (about 45 minutes) they were in Nauru waters and that there was no apparent catch from Nauru waters – each were facts taken into account to reduce the fines which could have been imposed.

While the Court noted the claims, it nonetheless accepted the pleas of guilty and the defendants concede it is their responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the equipment.

The prosecution was led by Director of Public Prosecutions Wilisoni Kurisaqila and Rueben Kun for the defence.

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## Our Airline launches third aircraft VH-PNI

Nauru's national carrier Our Airline launched the newest aircraft to its fleet last week (9 Oct) bringing the total number of Nauru's small fleet of Boeing 737s to three.

The Boeing 737-36N registration VH-PNI arrived on Nauru at 1.15pm to a welcome crowd.

The ceremony to officially launch the new aircraft was held at the Nauru airport and it offered an opportunity for the public to catch a glimpse of the new aircraft.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency President Baron Waqa, Madam Waqa and the Minister for Nauru Air Corporation David Adeang as well as members of the Nauru Air Corporation (NAC) board.

The Boeing 737-36N is similar to the other 737 aircrafts in many aspects, but is sixteen years newer than the existing aircrafts.

The new aircraft has equal capacity as the other planes in the fleet with 134 passenger seats and a cargo capacity of three tonnes.



*Our Airline's third aircraft VH-PNI made its first flight to Nauru on 9 October*

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## Nauru Court sends clear warning to protect its fish resources

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While the District Court is empowered to order forfeiture of the vessel along with any catch on board under Section 33 of the Fisheries Act, it did not do so citing exceptional reasons.

Illegal fishing by foreign vessels exploits tuna and other fish for profit which is unfavourable to the Nauru Government's revenue and expenditure targets.

Tuna and other fish are valuable resources both for the country and the livelihood of the Nauru population.

The Nauru Government issues fishing licenses to foreign fishing vessels which generates significant revenue from the license fees. The fees contribute to government revenue and enables government to meet expenditure targets.

The fine is payable within the month (October)•

## Third plane adds to weekly flights

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NAC Chief executive officer Geoff Bowmaker said that having a third aircraft has many advantages as it will reduce the disruption to flights; allow quick recovery of flights if one of the aircrafts undergoes maintenance and open market opportunities for which NAC has not operated in a long time such as mining charters.

Mr Bowmaker added that NAC plans to have the flights operating four days a week by the end of October with one of those flights being chartered by Transfield Services.

Mr Bowmaker said the new aircraft will begin operations along the normal routes as well as open up capacity for Our Airline to operate its chartered flights in to other markets•



*NAC CEO Geoff Bowmaker says the airline plans to operate four flights a week by the end of October*

## New 300 solar panel RO unveiled

The Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) has unveiled the island's solar powered reverse osmosis plant that is expected to produce 100 cubic metres of potable water daily.

The ceremony took place last week (8 October) at NUC headquarters with His Excellency President Baron Waqa and several cabinet ministers in attendance to cut the ribbon officially opening the new facility.



*President Waqa cuts the ribbon unveiling the new 300 solar panel reverse osmosis plant*

After brief remarks by President Waqa, Secretary for CIE Elkoga Gadabu, Minister for NUC Hon Shadlog Bernicke and Minister for CIE Hon Aaron Cook, a tour of the facility followed. This included a tour of the control room and water storage facilities.

The new system is powered by 300 solar panels which have been installed on the roof tops of the former Noddy's factory and the NUC water storage shed.

The system is expected to produce a steady and continuous supply of clean drinking water for the island. In addition, the system is much quieter and any surplus energy produced by the solar panels will be injected into the main power grid to supply the power needs of the island.

The new system will produce approximately 100 cubic metres of drinkable water per day which will be stored onsite in 300 cubic metre tanks ready for delivery.

The new installments were established under the auspices of the Government of Japan in collaboration with the Nauru Government and the Pacific Environment Community Fund•

## Taiwan celebrates 102 years

His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Madam Waqa joined the celebration of the Republic of China (Taiwan) 102nd National Day festivity at the Anibare Restaurant last week (9 Oct).

Taiwan Ambassador Mr Timothy Hsiang welcomed the guests and shared a few words about Taiwan's current economic standing and offered his appreciation to the Nauru Government for its continued support to Taiwan on the international platform.

President Waqa responded with as much appreciation for the Taiwan Government for all their aid in various areas, notably in health.

Cabinet members and various government officials attended



*Taiwan Ambassador and Mrs Hsiang welcome guests to their country's 102nd national day celebration on Nauru*

the event which concluded with various cultural performances from Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu and a solo flute performance by Dr Chang Li Hsin of the Taiwan Mobile Medical team.

Like last year the celebration was held a day before the actual date of 10 October, allowing Taiwan nationals on the island to enjoy this special day•



## Nauru and Japan governments sign fuel procurement agreement

Mr Takeshi Komorida from the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) signed the Agent Agreement with Acting Secretary for Finance Javan Tamakin sealing a 100-million Yen agreement between the two Governments for the procurement of diesel fuel under the Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) program, last month (30 Sept).

Mr Komorida who is the adviser to the JICS Third Procurement Management division was accompanied by Mr Akihito Hokiguchi from the same division, met with the Nauru Utilities Corporation CEO Thomas Tafia following the signing.

Over the next two days they met with Minister for Utilities Hon Shadlog Bernicke for the signing of the formal Minutes of Discussion between JICS and Utilities regarding the technical specifications for fuel supply and the associated tender process.

The Government of Japan has provided diesel fuel to Nauru under the NPGA since 2005 where they have offered 100-million Yen (approximately AUD\$1-million) each year with the exception of 2008 when 200-million Yen (approximately AUD\$2-million) was given as aid in kind.

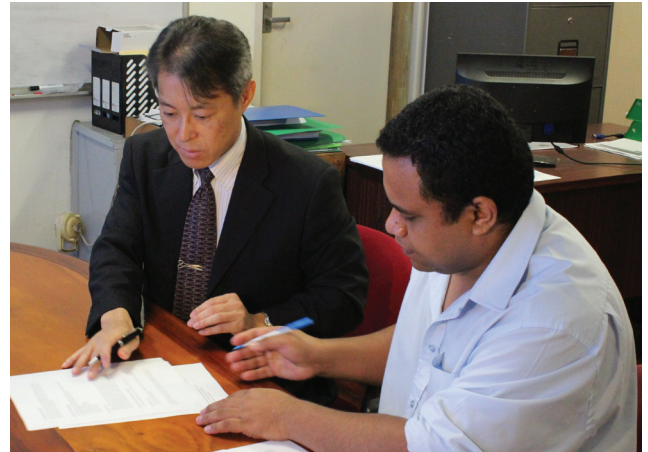
JICS is the implementing agency of the Japanese NPGA program and both Mr Komorida and Mr Hokiguchi were on Nauru to finalise the signing of those documents.

The funds provided for under this agreement will be kept in Japan with the nominated bank until such a time when the procurement process is completed.

JICS will work with the A/Secretary for Finance through the Planning Aid & Development Office and the Tank Farm Manager to progress the tender; selection before the end of October 2013 and delivery of fuel upon confirmation of the tender.

Other aid projects which the Japanese Government has funded include provision of solar water pumps, tanks and accessories for brackish water wells in the communities, communal portable water tanks, water delivery trucks, solar water purifiers, renovation of the fire station and construction of the Anibare fish market.

Mr Komorida and Mr Hokiguchi arrived Nauru 26th September and departed Wednesday 2 October•



*A/Secretary for Finance Javan Tamakin (R) and Takeshi Komorida of the Japan International Cooperation System sign new fuel procurement agreement at the planning and aid office*

## President Waqa inspects police headquarters

His Excellency President Baron Waqa is making courtesy visits to departments under his portfolio beginning with the Nauru Police Force last month (18 Sept), where the president was accompanied by Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty.

The visit to police headquarters allowed the officers to make brief presentations of the functions and operations of each division.

Following welcoming words, President Waqa inspected the police honour guard then both His Excellency and Mr Scotty were escorted into the station by acting Director of Police Corey Caleb.



*A/Director of Police Corey Caleb guides H.E President Waqa and parliament Speaker Ludwig Scotty on a tour of the Nauru Police station*

Several divisions of the NPF gave briefings detailing information of its functions and challenges faced.

Briefings included a presentation about Police Pro, which is a police computer system that is used to record cases and compile data on investigations conducted by the police.

The Intelligence Unit also presented a briefing on current updates with the unit, followed by the riot team who ended the briefing session by providing information on the training of its officers.

In the briefings many challenges were highlighted including a lack of support for training officers and funding to purchase new equipment for the units.

Following the information session, the President and the Speaker of Parliament were escorted on a tour of the NPF premises by the acting Director of Police followed by afternoon tea.

The visit to the NPF follows a number of other departmental courtesy visits under the president's capacity as minister for police•

# Morrison delivers new policy as he makes first visit to RPC as minister

Australia's Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison visited all three processing centre sites on Nauru last week (9 Oct) to deliver a hard and clear message to asylum seekers that the rules on illegal boat arrivals are now stronger and tougher.

The minister said the strong policy is put in place to prevent people from attempting to arrive into Australia illegally by sea.

"People who arrive by boat illegally in Australia will not be resettled in Australia."

"We [Australia] are increasing the level of police and other cooperation in the region and those arranging these voyages will be arrested and prosecuted with crimes related to people smugglers," Mr Morrison said.

Currently there are 801 asylum seekers on Nauru awaiting their refugee claims to be processed; 312 of them are in family groups.

In the meantime, there are ongoing discussions for asylum seeker children to start attending school in Nauru as well as discussions with community leaders about potential future outings for asylum seekers.

All claims for asylum will be processed under Nauruan law. If a claim has a positive outcome, that asylum seeker will remain on Nauru until a resettlement country other than Australia, is nominated; and any negative outcome will also see the asylum seeker remain on Nauru until arrangements are made to have that person moved back to their home country.

The minister said the new rules also applied to those already in Australia.

"It will not matter if they are family or friends, they will be prosecuted and their Australian visa cancelled, regardless whether they are refugees or not."

With the aide of interpreters Mr Morrison spoke to two groups of asylum seekers at the two camps accommodating families and single adult males.

"People smugglers told you lies and you should tell your friends and families not to believe those lies because you will not get what you came for."

Mr Morrison encouraged those who wished to return home do so with the assistance of service providers at the RPC and the

International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Throughout his visit, Mr Morrison was accompanied by Nauru's Minister for Justice and Border Control David Adeang, the Australian High Commissioner Bruce Cowled and senior staff from both delegations.

The official delegation also inspected the staff accommodation blocks being constructed in Anibare District, before a meeting with local government officials at the parliament conference room.

Mr Morrison then met with members of the Opposition at the Australian High Commission before departing later in the

afternoon (9 Oct) on a Royal Australian Air Force plane back to Australia.

Minister Morrison was accompanied on this visit by Chief of Staff Robert Correll and DIAC First Assistant Secretary and Regional Processing Centre Support Ken Douglas. They arrived in Nauru yesterday (8 Oct) afternoon, inspected the RoN Hospital and later attended a dinner reception hosted by His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Madam Waqa.

This is Mr Morrison's first trip to Nauru as an Australian government minister•



*Australia's Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison is met at the Nauru airport by Nauru officials last week (9 Oct) to deliver his government's new policy on illegal boat arrivals*

## Notice for year eight scholarships, 16-19 October

Students and parents are reminded of the Year 8 scholarship examinations scheduled for this week. Dates and times as follows:

Wednesday 16th Oct	: English	9.00am - 11.00am
Thursday 17th Oct	: Maths	9.00am - 11.00am
Friday 18th Oct	: Science	9.00am - 11.00am
Saturday 19th Oct	: Social Science	9.00am - 11.00am

There will be bus pickups from Kayser College and Nauru College at 8.00am each morning for drop off at the exam venue at the Civic Centre Conference hall, and again to return students home after each exam day.

For students who are making their own way to the exam must arrive at the venue before 8.15am each day. Good luck•



## Australia extends visa privileges for Nauru passports

Australia has extended visitor visa privileges to Nauru passport holders enabling Nauruans multiple entry and multiple year grants.

Foreign Minister David Adeang made the announcement on Friday 27 September following intense negotiations with the Government of Australia.

“The new traveller facilitation arrangements for Nauru passport holders will provide a more streamlined approach to the visa application process. Applicants considered low risk with a need to travel regularly will be able to apply for a visitor visa that enables multiple entry and multiple year grants.

Nauruan visa applicants will now be able to apply for the new electronic Visitor Visa (subclass e600) using a 24/7 internet lodgement facility. This will mean faster lodgement and faster visa assessment for Nauruan nationals who have access to the internet. The visa is also available for paper-based applications where there is no access to the internet.

For previous Australian visa holders who complied with their visa conditions, the documentary requirements for both the electronic and paper-based Visitor visa applications have been significantly streamlined.

The new arrangements are effective from 20th September 2013. The Government of Nauru is appreciative of the new arrangements, given the frequent travel of nationals between the two countries and their close and continuing bilateral ties•

## Nauru celebrates world teachers day



*Secretary for Education  
Dr Maria Gaiyabu  
encourage teachers to  
stay committed to the  
profession*

Nauru teachers assembled at Nauru College this month (4 October) for an awards ceremony celebrating World Teachers Day.

Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO Mrs Jerielyn Teleni gave a joint message from UNESCO thanking teachers and reiterated the importance of continued support and professional development of teachers, highlighting these were important factors in building concerned citizens of tomorrow.

Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu addressed the teachers stating the difficult task that teachers undertake and urged them to stay committed to the profession.

Following their remarks, awards were presented to teachers that

performed admirably in areas of attendance, punctuality, best class teacher and best teachers' team.

Ms Roserio Taumea and Mr Taniela Laqenis from Nauru College were awarded the best teacher attendance and best teacher punctuality awards respectively. Ms Edna Demauna from Aiwo Primary School received best class teacher.

Finally, Aiwo Primary School was presented with the Teacher Day's shield for the best teachers' team.

The theme for this year's World Teachers Day is “A Call for Teachers.”•

## New homes handed over to owners

Another two families received the keys to their new homes this month (4 Oct) by His Excellency President Baron Waqa under the Government's interest-free new housing scheme.

The families of Mrs Anne Scotty of Menen district and Mr Ramrakha Detenamo of Boe district are the proud owners of the two houses.

Mrs Scotty's house was built by DJ Constructions and Mr Detenamo's house by Jaytel Constructions.

The houses which are the sixth and seventh houses to be constructed under the scheme, took several months to build and are valued at \$44,000 each.

The scheme offers an interest-free housing loan provided by the Nauru Government to Nauruan families which is repayable over 15 years.

The provision to construct 26 houses was budgeted for in the 2012-2013 fiscal year for Nauruan families largely to address overcrowding.

The initial funding of \$40,000 was increased by ten per cent (\$4000) earlier in the scheme following concerns raised by construction companies on increased cost of materials•

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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