



# Nauru Bulletin

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## President Baron Waqa delivers first Independence Day national address at 46th anniversary

His Excellency President Baron Waqa delivered his first national address as president at the 46th Independence Day flag raising ceremony on 31 January, and welcomed everyone to the commemoration of Nauru's achievement of being a sovereign state.

President Waqa thanked and acknowledged Nauru's international and regional development partners and organisations for their continued assistance; in particular Australia and the Republic of China (Taiwan), and regional organisations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the various UN agencies.

Further thanks was extended to the government of Australia for assisting to establish Nauru's refugee status determination process which is vital to the improvement of processing of asylum seeker claims; as well as to the government of New Zealand for their assistance in providing a new funding agreement for the improvement of "an effective and efficient Justice System

with strong functioning law and order in line with Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy."



*His Excellency President Baron Waqa makes his first national address as president during Nauru's 46th Independence day flag raising ceremony*

President Waqa also announced the government's plans to move ahead this year to replace older aircrafts in the *Our Airline* fleet as well as to add a freighter component to the airline's activities.

The freight component is expected to be named *Nauru Airline*.

The Nauru Police Force also received notable recognition for their involvement in controlling the riots at the Regional Processing Centre, while although much structural damage was caused to the centre, there were no injuries and fatalities.

While much development has been made in the transport sector in terms of air and land transport, the shipping sector is progressing to secure regulated services between Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

"It is through the Central Pacific Shipping Commission that regulation of shipping into Nauru and the other three countries will be conducted," President Waqa said.

"What this means in terms of benefits is that we could enjoy cheaper freight rates and consumers will be able to save a bit more money from their trips to the supermarket."

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## Nauru welcomes Fiji president on state visit

President Baron Waqa, his government and the people of Nauru welcomed Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau last week (12 Feb) on his state visit to Nauru.

The Fiji President was welcomed by a warrior dance on arrival at the Nauru International airport on Wednesday 12th February.

A state banquet held the same evening in his honour was held at the Menen hotel where President Nailatikau expressed his sincere thanks to Nauru's President Baron Waqa for his regional leadership and support for Fiji.

"Our relations with Nauru have been excellent. You [President Waqa] have understood the particular challenges we have faced in Fiji and the new course we have set for ourselves."

Ratu Epeli also offered thanks for His Excellency's strong support for the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and Nauru's work as a member of the governing council.

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*Ratu Epeli Nailatikau inspects the Nauru Police Guard of Honour*

## President Waqa says government will continue to pay financial dues ...from page 1

The president underscored the importance of education thus the government's decision to increase the annual secondary scholarships awarded to students from ten to 15; and the funding support provided to five privately sponsored students to complete their studies at the final secondary level. The government also introduced the new scholarship scheme to Australia where the top year nine students have the opportunity take up studies in Queensland; four students will be placed in Queensland schools this year.

As the phosphate industry still brings in revenue for the country, the Government plans to enhance the work of RONPHOS by installing new drying kilns, crushing and screening plant at the number 3 unit. Importantly, the installation of the new kiln will drastically reduce phosphate dust emission resulting in cleaner air and reduced pollution for Aiwo and the surrounding area.

In Majuro, a new lease agreement with landowners and new tenants is being drawn up for the Eastern Gateway Hotel as well as undertake clean-up, construction and maintenance work for the premises to return it to a reputable establishment.

In conclusion, His Excellency reassured the people of Nauru that the Nauru Government is endeavouring to pay out pending salaries, superannuation and personal savings from bank accounts held with the former Bank of Nauru.

"It is my pleasure to say that we will accelerate payments of these dues throughout the year so that people can access their funds for needs and investment purposes.

"Also ladies and gentlemen, my Government has committed to paying all RONWAN dues to landowners in the coming weeks and months."

Various events took place in celebration of the 46th anniversary of Nauru's independence, including district cleaning, choral competition, sporting events and a Miss Nauru Independence beauty pageant•

## President Waqa expects Nauru-Fiji relations to strengthen ...from page 1

"Together, we are building a new regional structure to give ordinary pacific islanders a bigger voice.

"The PIDF, unlike the Pacific Islands Forum, includes representatives of civil society groups and business. This means that the views of the grassroots are being heard as never before. And unlike the Pacific Islands Forum, the PIDF is a genuinely pacific island grouping, relatively free from outside influence.

At the joint press conference on Thursday 13 February, President Nailatikau said the state visit was to show Fiji's appreciation for Nauru's support and its contribution to Fiji's journey to getting where it is today as it looks towards the elections in September.

President Nailatikau adds that Fiji will be looking at expanding their professional assistance to Nauru including the Fiji Volunteer Teacher Scheme that Nauru has signed up to for two years beginning in 2013.

"The relationship that has formed right from the start continues to flourish and keeps strengthening and with his visit this time I think it even strengthens further that tie and relationship and friendship that exists between Nauru and Fiji," President Waqa said.

The president expects the relationship and cooperation between the two countries will continue as the leaders continue to discuss issues pertaining to mutual interest and cooperation.

"In so many ways, Fiji is already assisting in a number of areas in education. We have a lot of Fijian workers who are here in our justice department, in the health sector and in accounting. We [Nauru] will continue to need people from Fiji as they are a much bigger country, they have a much broader selection of workers and professionals which we lack," President Waqa said.

Ratu Epeli's three-day state visit program included a police honour guard parade at the government office, a meeting with President Waqa and his Cabinet and Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty as well as other members of parliament including Opposition MPs.

Madam Adi Koila Nailatikau had a separate program for part of the visit where she visited Nauru College and toured the Women's Safe House and the Republic of Nauru hospital.

The presidential couple also had a private meeting with the Fiji community before a farewell dinner on Thursday night.

As ambassador of HIV in the pacific, President Nailaitkau also had the opportunity to share his message to youths about the disease, stressing the message is plain and simple – "simply not to get HIV and AIDS."

"That's the first thing. Everybody knows what you have to do to avoid getting HIV and AIDS. They all know it and the big thing that I push is what the UN is pushing in the pacific and in other parts of the world – protection, protection and use of condoms.

The official delegation departed early Friday (14 Feb) morning back to Fiji. The president and his delegation were in Kiribati prior to visiting Nauru. The state visit was part of a pacific island tour by the Fiji President to strengthen cooperation and relations with the region•



*Fiji President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau's state visit to Nauru is part of a pacific island tour to strengthen relations and cooperation with the region*

## CIE hosts logical framework approach workshop

Last month (Monday 20 January) the Department of Commerce Industry and Environment (CIE) hosted a capacity building workshop titled Logical Framework Approach (LFA) for government employees and members of the community.

A team from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) travelled to Nauru and conducted the four-day workshop aimed at assisting participants to write effective funding proposals to access climate change funding.

Team member and facilitator Mr Martin Pritchard said the LFA is a set of tools and techniques designed to help people write effective proposals to access climate change funding.

“The idea behind it is to encourage Pacific small island states to write more funding proposals to access climate change adaptation funding,” Mr Pritchard said.

The workshop was funded by the European Commission and is implemented through SPC and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) focused on building capacity within government and community representatives around the region.

Mr. Pritchard hopes the skills will be used by participants to get access to direct funding from donors for community based projects.

“Over the four days we hope that they [participants] would build the confidence to develop their own funding proposals using the LFA,” Mr Pritchard said.

The workshops ended on Friday 24 January and participants were awarded a certificate of completion in recognition of the learned skills using the LFA method of planning. The team continued on to the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau for the next set of LFA training•



*Martin Pritchard says the LFA is designed to help people write effective climate change funding proposals*

## Taiwan mobile medical team make first trip for the year

Another team of Taiwan medical professionals are on island as part of the ongoing medical services provided to the people of Nauru by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

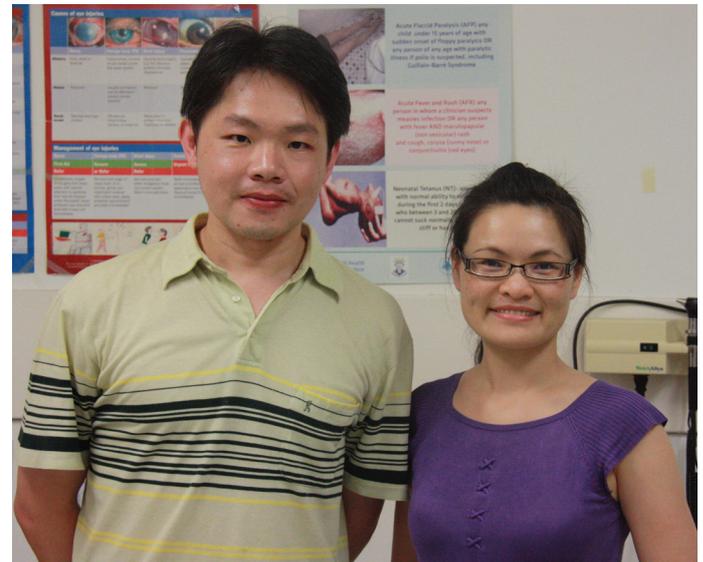
The mobile medical team consists of ophthalmology Mr Chia-Jen Chang, pediatric cardiologist Mr Ming-Chih, Lin, cardiologist Mr Kuan-Ju Chen and nurse Ms Ying-Yu Lai (nurse).

The team arrived this week Monday 17 February and commenced work the following day with President Baron Waqa as the first patient to attend the general consultation.

The team is expected to see a list of patients who have made appointments with the hospital staff prior to the team’s arrival to Nauru.

The twice-yearly medical visits are made possible through the funding and support of the Taiwan International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF).

They will depart next week Friday 28th February•



*Ophthalmologist Mr Chia-Jen Chang and nurse Ying-Yu Lai saw their first group of patients at the Naoero Public Health Centre on Tuesday 18 February*

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

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