



Bendigo Bank explores agency banking model

The team from the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank met with the Bendigo bank (Nauru) steering committee this week (Monday 31 March) for briefings on the proposed agency banking model that is being explored by Bendigo bank.

The Bendigo Bank team informed the committee of its decision to explore an agency model at this stage while not ruling out a community bank model in the future.

Bendigo Bank also stated that an agency could be a more viable solution for the island as it is an alternative service they have offered in several Australian communities which have yet to establish a community branch.

The Bendigo bank team is on-island to explore the potential of an agency bank and to meet with various existing business owners to assess the possibility of establishing an agency bank.

In response to interest expressed by the steering committee, the Bendigo Bank will also explore the option of delivering the agency banking service in partnership with the Nauru community.

After its assessment Bendigo Bank will provide its findings to the Nauru Government and the Steering Committee for feedback before a decision is made and how to best proceed with a banking facility on Nauru.

As with past visits the Bendigo Bank team will also offer an opportunity for the community to open accounts.

While on Nauru the team will conduct banking day sessions in order to deliver information packs as well as to distribute bank cards to customers who have initially opened accounts earlier this year. Non-bank account holders will also be able to open new accounts.

During the previous banking days conducted in January, the bank has seen a total of 1400 applications and has processed 1200 new accounts for its Nauru customers•



The Nauru steering committee held talks with the Bendigo and Adelaide consultants regarding the proposed agency banking model

CIE signs grant with Japan Government for further aid

Acting Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Environment (CIE) Mrs Charmaine Scotty signed a Government of Japan grant contract last month (18 March) for a project to upgrade brackish water supply system in eight communities.

Minister Scotty and Second secretary for the Embassy of Japan in Fiji Miss Megumi Enya signed the contract at the cabinet room last week (18 March).

Miss Enya shared a few words on the upcoming project and her confidence that the project would further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the governments of Nauru and Japan.

Minister Scotty reciprocated with words of appreciation to the Government of Japan for their continual support to Nauru especially in the departments of CIE and Fisheries.

This was Miss Enya's first visit to Nauru; she arrived last week (17 March) and departed on Wednesday 19 March.

The Japan Government will be providing Nauru with AUD\$104,000 for the project through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) program.



Acting Minister for CIE Mrs Charmaine Scotty and Second secretary for the Embassy of Japan in Fiji, Miss Megumi Enya signing contract

The project includes a 6,000 litres Poly water tank, solar powered submersible water pump, and solar panel which will be installed in Nibok, Baisti, Ewa, Anetan, Ijuw, Yaren, Boe, and Buada.

Ocean Construction won the bid for construction and they will begin work next month and will take around 10 weeks to be completed•

EU Ambassador visits Nauru



EU Ambassador Mr Andrew Jacobs presenting his credentials to Acting President David Adeang

His Excellency Acting President David Adeang received a courtesy visit from the Ambassador for the European Union (EU) to the Republic of Nauru, Mr Andrew Jacobs last month (Sunday 16 March).

The following day (17 March) Ambassador Jacobs inspected the Nauru Police Force guard of honour before being escorted to the Office of the President to present his credentials to acting President David Adeang.

The acting President Adeang congratulated Mr Jacobs on his appointment as Ambassador for the EU to Nauru.

Over the course of the two day visit, Ambassador Jacobs made several courtesy calls to government officials, including calls to the Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty, the Australian High Commissioner Martin Quinn and His Excellency Timothy Hsiang Ambassador for the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Later that afternoon (17 March), the Ambassador met with several Heads of Department including Secretary of Education, Acting Secretary of Planning and Aid Division, Commerce Industry and Environment, Nauru Utilities Corporation and Nauru Fisheries.

Acting President Adeang hosted a dinner reception later that evening in honour of Ambassador Jacobs before his departure early Tuesday 17 March•

Menen Infant receives new bus from Eigigu

This week (Monday 31 March) Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) handed over a 33-seater bus to Education Minister Charmaine Scotty which was then presented to Menen Infant School.

The bus which is a donation from EHC business partner Radiance International will primarily be used for field trips and general school transportation.

Minister Scotty presented the bus keys to Menen Infant School principal Mrs Sharon Kam.

Minister Scotty explained that work is underway to provide buses for all infant schools in hopes that it will ease the school transportation bus problems that sometimes occur for schools.

The students and teachers were then treated to a bus ride around the island•



The new bus which was donated by the Eigigu Holding Corporation to the Meneng Infant school

CIE reach out to the Nauruan communities

The Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment (CIE) have begun a community outreach program to promote partnership between the communities and future projects of the department.

The outreach program commenced last week (25 March) with the Yaren community where discussions centred on upcoming projects.

The need for community cooperation was emphasized in order to bring success to the projects.

Department officers working in the different fields of agriculture, commerce and industry, and climate change each presented to community members their roles and purpose in the government.

They also discussed important issues such as ozone depleting substance and water related issues and any concerns or issues that community members may have within their respective communities.

The department plans to visit all communities•

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