



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 9-2014/106

24 June 2014

## Nauru declares public holiday for world refugee day

The Government of Nauru declared Friday 20th June a public holiday in honour of World Refugee Day, and in recognising and welcoming the refugees that are now living in the Nauru community.

Sixty refugees have been granted refugee status since the first refugee status determinations were handed down last month (20 May) with the latest group receiving their status determinations this week (Monday 23 June).

Their refugee status and temporary settlement on Nauru enables them to enjoy the freedom to move around the island, make friends and take part in community events – 44 are in family groups, 15 are single adult men and one single adult female.

The government facilitated a program for world refugee day commencing with a walk around the airstrip at 7.30am, followed by a friendly soccer match.

Food and handicrafts were also on display and on sale throughout the day at the Centennial Hall.

A state dinner was hosted by acting President and Justice Minister David Adeang that evening (20 June) where the refugees were invited.

In his speech the acting president said that world refugee day is a reminder of those that have fled their countries in search of a better life.

“World Refugee Day is a day to speak

up and be the voice of those everywhere who have no voice. It is also a day to raise awareness and remind people of their responsibilities to help those who have lost their homes, land and livelihood and will never be able to go to their home again.

people all over the world.

Nauru ratified the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees on 17 June 2011.

The ratification is in line with the government's list of priorities that address the signing of the various UN conventions on human rights issues.



*Refugees dancing to traditional music at the centennial hall on World Refugee day*

“For Government and people of Nauru it is a day also when we re-affirm our commitment to protect and assist refugees.

“Our Government's commitment plays an important role, and so does the commitment of the range of organisations and community groups that support refugee resettlement. Providing warm welcome and giving refugees the foundations on which to establish a future is something that we are all committed to,” acting President Adeang said.

World Refugee Day is observed in recognition of refugees and displaced

The Waqa Government is committed to ensuring that refugees living in Nauru live a decent and happy life in the community.

Many countries have held their own refugee days, and one of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on 20 June in several countries.

The UN General Assembly, on 4 December 2000, adopted resolution 55/76 where it noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and that the

Organisation of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.

The General Assembly therefore decided that from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

The Nauru Government continues to hand down refugee status determinations to asylum seekers residing at the Australia-run Regional Processing Centre (RPC).

Currently there are 1209 asylum seekers at the Regional Processing Centre•

## President calls for prayer for victim's families after weekend drowning

The tragic drowning accident at the weekend (22 June) of a refugee and a Nauruan that attempted a rescue has gripped the community with sadness.

A second Nauruan rescuer that was admitted to hospital in a serious condition is now recovering.

All three are male. The incident happened at one of the popular swimming spots, Gabab channel in the early evening of Sunday 22 June.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa issued a statement this week (Monday 23 June) expressing his governments deep sympathies to the families of those affected by the drowning accident.

In his statement President Waqa asked that people pray for the families of the victims and for the person who is still trying to recover.

“We are devastated that we have lost a new member of our community, and applaud the bravery of those who attempted the rescue. We mourn the loss of one of those rescuers and our thoughts are with the second [rescuer],” President Waqa said.

The funeral for the Nauruan that passed away will take place this week (Wednesday 25 June). The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection is looking after the arrangements for the deceased Pakistani refugee•



*Warning sign at the opening of the Gabab channel warns of strong currents and directions on what to do in case of being swept out to sea*

## Seawall to be erected in Anetan

The Government of Nauru has approved a provision of \$150,000 to construct a seawall in Anetan District in the northern part of the island, in response to the climate change crisis affecting the Pacific.

The aim of the project is to prevent further coastal erosion and ocean incursion to houses, land and the main road as has been the case in Nauru, in particular the recent road flooding in December 2013 at the northern and north-western side of the island.

Construction has already commenced and is estimated to be completed by the end of June. The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) has been assigned to undertake the work.

The seawall is expected to be erected from the Tsiode residence to Jarcinta store in Anetan•



*Anetan residents clean up debris off the main road after the sea water wash up on 20 December 2013*

## Learning village completes first stage of construction

The first phase of construction work of the learning village is now complete with the automotive and marine technical training centres.

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

The second phase of construction will comprise of a public library, relocated USP campus, conference/meeting room, and study rooms.

The design and planning of the learning village was done by Australian company Alexander and Lloyd Architects and local construction company Central Meridian Inc., was contracted to build it.

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 construction of the learning village commenced June last year•



*The automotive and marine technical training centre of the new learning village is the first completed stage of construction*



## Chief secretary runs labour mobility workshop

The Chief Secretary's department hosted a two-day Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP) workshop focusing on labour mobility, earlier this month (11-12 June)

Senior contract manager of the Australian Department of Employment, Douglas Hay conducted the workshop and discussed labour mobility priorities and provided technical assistance in areas such as education, maritime, horticulture among others.

The workshop aims to encourage capacity building of Nauru's public sector organisations with existing responsibilities for the management of labour mobility, as well as identify labor management opportunities, establish labor mobility priorities and a work plan to meet those priorities, and to understand the requirements of private sector employers.

The general public and community representatives attended the workshop on Wednesday 11 June.

Day two was reserved for government departments and state-owned entities.

The workshop was held at the University of the South Pacific Nauru campus and was funded by the Government of Australia.

While on island Mr Hay also provided an update on the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP). This work was in collaboration with the Australian government, Nauru's department of foreign affairs & trade and Chief Secretary's Department. All three parties will continue to work together in this regard.

Another conference is expected to take place in the Australian Gold Coast to further discuss the PSLP and SWP•



*Douglas Hay, Senior contract manager of the Australian department of employment at the workshop on labour mobility in Nauru*

## Nauru correctional officers benefit from Wilson security training



*Wilson security personnel demonstrate some of the response skills learned at the week-long training that Nauru Correctional officers also took part in*

The Nauru Correctional officers took part in a resistance training program that was conducted by Wilson Security, the security company working for the Regional Processing Centre (RPC).

The Nauru Correctional Centre offered its training room to Wilson Security to use and in turn were offered the opportunity to take part in the training.

Ten correctional officers took part in the week-long training that involved a team leader Course, negotiators course, and a crisis response course.

All courses were a mixture of theory and scenario based training.

Chief Correctional Officer David Detageouwa said the training is very beneficial to his officers and are fortunate to be part of it.

"It was a good exchange and we certainly are grateful to acquire the extra training as part of our negotiating skills and capacity building program," Mr Detageouwa said.

The training ran from 10-18 June•

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

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



### Office contact:

Government Information Office  
Government Offices  
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr  
Mobile: +674 5573009  
www.naurugov.nr