



Nauru Bulletin

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President Waqa arrives in New York for 69th UNGA historic climate summit and people's march

His Excellency President Baron Waqa, M.P., joined other world leaders in New York this week for the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the international organisation's principal decision-making body, and a historic Climate Summit where he made a high-level address as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

President Waqa received a prime speaking slot at the Summit Tuesday (23 Sep) after United States President Barack Obama and before China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, representatives of the first and second largest economies in the world and the biggest emitters of the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change.

AOSIS was one of the first groups to call for the Summit, which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced at the Doha climate negotiations in 2012. The Secretary-General has long been a champion for SIDS issues and sent his Special Representative, Ms. Amina Mohammed to Nauru last year to see the country's development challenges and the impacts of climate change firsthand. It marked the inaugural visit of a representative of the UN Executive Office to our country.

The President will deliver his national address before the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, where he will touch up on the theme of this year's open debate, "Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda."

President Waqa's statement is expected to underscore how the theme well captures the central challenge developing countries face: unfulfilled promises for sustainable development aid and also the need for a paradigm shift in the way it is delivered.



H.E. President Baron Waqa is at the 69th UN General Assembly

(File Photo)

The two major addresses were just some of the events in a busy week for President Waqa with back-to-back bilateral and multilateral meetings to solidify relationships with Nauru's partners.

On Saturday 20th September, Nauru's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Marlene Moses, addressed a sold out event at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, co-hosted by the international climate advocacy group 350.org. She gave remarks alongside Mary Robinson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute and Worldwatch Institute.

On Sunday 21st September, President Waqa joined many other Pacific Heads of State, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Former Vice President Al Gore, Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York, and the actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo at the People's Climate March, the largest mobilisation of people in the history of the climate movement.

On Tuesday 23rd September, President Waqa gave the keynote address on behalf of AOSIS at a reception hosted by the Government of Germany, themed "Climate Protection: Why We Need Agents of Change," where he called for greater transparency and accountability in the climate negotiations to avoid the debacle that led to the collapse of the Copenhagen climate talks and derailed the negotiations for years.

The previous day he joined other Pacific Island Leaders at an event hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the New York Bar Association, and Columbia University where he presented an overview of one of our regions biggest challenges: the security implications of climate change. The Pacific SIDS have been a leader on the issue at the international level and under Nauru's Chairmanship won recognition of the link between climate change and peace and security at the UN Security Council, considered by many experts to mark an important turning point in the world's response to the crisis.

[Contributed by Nauru's UN Mission, New York]

New taxation reforms introduced in Nauru

As an initiative under the National Sustainable Development Strategy, the Government has introduced new Taxation Laws, which were passed at the last sitting of Parliament on 9th September, 2014. These new laws come into effect on 1st October, 2014.

Under the new tax laws, employees and contractors providing independent services will be required to pay tax at the rate of 10%. The tax will be deducted by the employers and payers. Nauruan citizens (and re-settled refugees) will not pay tax if they earn less than \$1,700 per month (\$20,400 per year). This is soon to be increased to \$8,000 per month (\$96,000 per year).

Staff of the Nauru Customs & Revenue Office will be responsible for administering the new laws. Widespread business and community consultation has been undertaken, and work has commenced on the registration of those taxpayers who will have a tax liability.

Historically, significant payments in the nature of employment and services fees have been paid to non-residents. In many instances, these employees and service providers would contribute taxation to the Treasury of their home country on this income, with no contribution to the Nauru Treasury.

The Deputy Secretary Revenue, Terry Greenwood, explains that it is a globally recognised principle that the country in which the employment is undertaken or services are provided, has the primary taxing rights on that income. Nauru is now exercising that right to tax the income.

The introduction of the Employment & Services Tax Act, together with the Revenue Administration Act, will serve to ensure that the necessary legislative framework is in place to provide the authority for the taxation of employment and services income in Nauru.

[Contributed by Finance Department]

Information on the new customs tariff

The Government of Nauru recently passed the Customs Tariff Act 2014 outlining proposed changes to Nauru Import Duty Rates effective from 1st October 2014.

The main changes outlined in the New Customs Tariff Act are as follows:

- (1) Restriction on the importation of motor vehicles.
 - a. All motor vehicles imported into Nauru has to be manufactured no more than 12 years old. Specifically, all motor vehicles imported into Nauru must be manufactured not earlier than 2002. All vehicles purchased before 1st October 2014 would not subject to this restriction although they might arrive into Nauru after 1st October 2014.
 - b. The vehicle restriction does not apply to motor bikes as well as machinery and heavy equipment.
- (2) Compulsory allocation of the harmonized classification coding for each imported commodity.
- (3) Key changes to Import duty rates includes;
 - a. Removal of import duty on fishing boats, fishing equipment, rice, medical supplies, education materials and water tanks
 - b. Increase import duties on alcohol and tobacco products.

Compliance to the new changes is compulsory and the Customs Act 2014 contains strong provisions for offences and penalties.

Further information is available from the Nauru Customs Office at the airport, Yaren district.

If you are unsure of your obligations or have any questions please contact the Deputy Secretary Customs, Mr. Paul Meredith, on 557 9264 or email silafau.paul.meredith@gmail.com

Toganivalu joins the judiciary as registrar

The new Registrar for the Nauru Court commenced duties this week (Monday 22 September) taking over from Graham Leung who was in the position in a temporary capacity.

David Toganivalu who is from Fiji joins the judiciary weeks after the swearing in of the new chief justice, two judges and the resident magistrate.

The registrar believes the main priority for the judiciary is to assist the judges and resident magistrate with the current backlog of cases.

The registrar is also continuing the work being done to improve and renovate the court house to provide better working conditions as well as assist NZAID with the construction of a strategic plan for the justice ministry.

Prior to his posting to Nauru Mr Toganivalu worked with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Fiji for nine years and also worked as a private lawyer for three and a half years.

David Toganivalu is the new registrar of the Nauru Court



Former registrar Graham Leung is now the Solicitor-General for the Republic of Nauru.

Mr Leung who has over 30 years international experience in his field of work managed his own law firm in Fiji, was former president of the Fiji Law Society, and vice-president of LAW-ASIA.

Minister Scotty encourages students at USP open day and TVET graduation

The University of the South Pacific (USP), Nauru Campus held its annual Open Day last week (19 Sept) with the theme “shaping your future”.

The event doubled as a career day with various displays put on by different workplace organisations.

Minister for Education Mrs Charmaine Scotty, Speaker for parliament Mr Ludwig Scotty, Taiwan Ambassador Chin-Fa Chow, and students from Nauru Secondary School (NSS) and Kayser College attended the Open Day.

Minister Scotty shared words of encouragement to the students and highlighted that the USP campus would soon be relocated to the new TVET building that is undergoing construction.

Guest speakers included current students of the campus Aleysa Tamakin and mature aged student Josephine Dame. Campus Director Alamanda Lauti also spoke a few words on behalf of the USP.

After formalities the guests toured the campus and viewed the various displays by the different organisations.

The USP Nauru Campus was officially opened in October 1987 and is currently located in Aiwo District.

Earlier in the week (15 Sept) Minister Scotty congratulated the first group of students to graduate from Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Queensland – Skillstech white card safety training this month.



Education Minister Charmaine Scotty conferring student certificates at the TVET graduation event

The 43 graduates from Nauru Secondary School (NSS) and various state-owned entities (SOEs) such as Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) and Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) received their certificates from Minister Scotty.

Minister Scotty shared some words of gratitude to TAFE Queensland – Skillstech for their support and congratulated them on their successful training and encouraged the graduates to be proud of their achievements.

“We are all life-long learners; education does not stop at the end of High School but continues throughout our life. Stand proud to be called a learner today and endeavour to prepare yourselves and Nauru for tomorrow,” Minister Scotty said.

The white card-safety training program is intended to provide new or existing building and construction industry participants with the introductory understanding and knowledge needed to commence or continue work in the building and construction industry•

Nauru police undergo public order management training

Six Nauru Police officers are in the final stages of their Public Order Management (POM) training at the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force academy.

The training is funded by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) under the provisions of the AFP/NPF Policing Partnership.

The team is being led by Acting Inspector Jansen Agir and Sergeant Imran Scotty.

Both senior officers have previously completed the level one POM training and will be undergoing the POM Commanders training on this trip which will focus on team leaders and leadership and planning for teams during public order management operations.

The other four officers, acting Sergeant Bragga Namaduk, Senior Constables John Deidenang and Jesse Adun and Probationary Constable Christopher Amwano, will take part in the level one POM training in which they will gain a comprehensive understanding of the methods of instruction including the theory



Director of Police Corey Caleb (centre) with the six officers attending POM training in Honiara alongside the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force

and practice of POM training and expected learning outcomes.

At the completion of the training, the officers would be expected to be able to deliver POM Level One training to the NPF into the future.

The team departed Nauru in early September for the three week training•

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