



Nauru Bulletin

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Christmas message from His Excellency President Baron Waqa

*Ekamawir me eketsi omo ea kamie
memak dogit edae n Kritimet.*

Greetings and best wishes to you all for the Christmas season.

As the festive season approaches let us remember the reason for the season. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was born as a symbol of hope, love and peace.

We come together at Christmas for family, food and laughter. Let us make this Christmas a good one for all to enjoy before we head into the New Year with renewed hope, friendship and aspirations. Enjoy the festivities with loved ones and remember to keep our community and roads safe.

The past year has been a mix of successes and ongoing challenges that



your government endeavours to address and achieve.

As your government continues to do the good work for its people, we expect understanding and appreciation and a realisation of the hard work and rewards we all reap when we, as a nation, move forward and achieve our goals.

Some of those achievements include the restructure of government salaries and numerous payments for various entitlements.

We have been blessed with talented people, both locals and expatriates, who work for the public service and state owned entities that have played a part in achieving these goals.

As we head into 2015, I trust we will all strive for a better year for family, country and most of all for God.

We have experienced riches and hardship which I hope have taught us to embrace the future with better foresight.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God bless•

Government back pays public service salaries

The Waqa Government is back paying salaries to the start of June 2013 when it assumed office. The payment was made on Monday 22 December and is part of the governments' commitment to restore public service salary to a market compatible level.

Secretary Corporate Services and Acting Chief Secretary Ms Peta Gadabu said it is the Government's intent to normalise staff salary recognising that employees had made sacrifices to endure very low salaries for many years.

Hence, public servants were advised last week (Friday 19 December) that the Government of Nauru, through the Department of the Chief Secretary would be initiating the payment.

The Chief Secretary's Human Resources division were tasked to work on this special assignment that included the calculations for all back payments and preparation of the pay slips the week prior to the distribution date, Monday 22 December.

While the initial payments are made for current employees the department of Human Resources is also progressing entitlements for former employees of the public service who were in employment during the period of 1 July 2013 to 30 August 2014 with the Public Service.

Employees were strongly encouraged to collect their individual payments and not on behalf of another employee.

Third party collection is strictly not allowed unless written and signed authority is provided on the day of distribution.

Collection of the cheques were made from Civic Centre Conference hall and cashed at the Revenue Office•

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2015 from GPO. Thank you for your contributions throughout 2014



Parliament, 22 December

The Parliament of Nauru convened its last sitting for the year on Friday 22 December with several announcements including the back payment of public service salaries and fisheries salaries, updates on the work of government and travels and several amendments to legislation.

Minister for Justice David Adeang presented the Supplementary Appropriation Bill #4 2014 for \$4,868,716 largely to cover overseas medical referrals, purchase of equipment and vehicles, civil aviation and mooring maintenance.

The amount is expected to be revenue derived from the fisheries vessel day scheme.

Minister Adeang also tabled the Constitution of Nauru Citizenship Amendment Bill 2014 largely to amend Article 73 which automatically grants a stateless child born in Nauru to have Nauruan citizenship. Minister Adeang said addressing the issue now would curb any future problems that might be encountered with the current article.

The bill will sit for 90 days before it is considered by parliament.

Minister Adeang also presented the Asylum Seekers Regional Processing Centre Amendment Bill 2014 which proposes to allow the minister to give a settlement provider the task of looking after other vulnerable people and not limited to children.

The original Act gives the justice minister the authority to assign a body to look after only unaccompanied minors.

President Baron Waqa presented the Liquor Amendment Bill 2014 that will see changes in rules and penalties related to alcohol consumption and trade.

During question time a number of issues were raised including the back payment of public service salaries that was made on the morning of the parliament sitting (22 December).

The back payment to 1 June 2013 until the pay period ending August 2014 totals approximately \$3-million. June 1 is when the Waqa government took office. The assignment was headed and driven by the Chief Secretary's department Human Resources division.

Minister for Fisheries Valdson Dowiyogo announced his department will also be receiving back payment of salaries.

In response to the recent shortage of fuel, Mr Dowiyogo responded in his capacity as Minister for Transport that 29 tanktainers were off loaded over the weekend effectively normalising fuel supply for the island.

Several members raised the question of the hospital's redevelopment as well as the upgrade and maintenance of other health facilities.

Health Minister Valdson Dowiyogo outlined the three phases of the \$11-million redevelopment of the hospital. Phase one is expected to commence in February 2015.

Minister Adeang responded to a question about business opportunities with the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) confirming that new arrangements will be set up to benefit the broader community and businesses that wish to engage in business arrangements such as the supply of goods and services to the RPC. This would include the high demand in the supply of fish products by local fishermen.

Mr Adeang said unlike previous arrangements, the new set up will be improved and all decisions for business arrangements will eventually filter through Cabinet.

Minister for the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust (NPRT) Shadlog Bernicke announced the delay in the second and final payment of the RONWAN capital is owed to the delayed sale of the last property in America. Negotiations are ongoing.

The telecommunications service by Nauru's sole provider has raised concerns urging the government to address the service and fees charged by the company, with suggestions of introducing a second telecommunications provider.

Minister Bernicke said recent talks with Philippines phosphate fertilizer company Philphos were inconclusive however said the Nauru delegation will return to the Philippines for further discussions with the company.

Minister for Land Management Charmaine Scotty will look into government land ownership in response to a query about whether government owned land in the aerodrome area. While the minister is confident government does not own land in the suggested area she urged the member to provide land portion numbers for the concerned area to assist in the enquiry.

Other issues raised are the tightening of loopholes in the tax import system, provision of safety equipment for fishermen, baby sitting services for working mothers, the handling of confiscated firecrackers, strengthening of the education sector including the retention of teachers, supply of water tanks, and restrictions on exceptionally loud music around confined residential areas that is posing a disruption particularly for school aged children during school term and exam time.

Ministerial statements presented on the day of the sitting will be circulated via GIO email distribution•



Parliament of Nauru

Police cautions against reckless behaviour over festive period

As we approach the holiday season the Nauru Police Force (NPF) would like to wish everyone in Nauru a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

The NPF will be commencing the special roster on 20th December until mid-January 2015. The NPF will be maintaining a highly visible police presence during that period to ensure law and order is maintained and that you are able to enjoy the festive season and go about your business with your family and friends.

The NPF hope that you enjoy the holiday season but ask that you behave in a socially responsible manner at all times, and would like you to consider the impact that anti-social behaviour has on all of us as a community.

To that end, the NPF will be targeting specific offences of drunk and disorderly in a public place, fighting, indecent behaviour, domestic violence and offences under the Motor Traffic Act

including driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol.

DUI offences are of particular concern to the NPF. This year, too many lives have been lost due to fatal motor vehicle accidents where alcohol was a contributing factor. I will be instructing the Police to conduct regular traffic blitzes looking for drivers and riders who are intoxicated and creating a risk to other road users, and those offending will be dealt with according to the law.

Should you require Police assistance during the holiday period or for that matter at any time, please contact the Police on the emergency hot line number 110. We expect an increase in calls for police assistance during this period and would ask for your patience whilst we respond to calls in order of priority.

Once again, on behalf of all of the NPF, I would like to wish you a happy and safe festive season•

President Waqa makes second annual trip to Taiwan

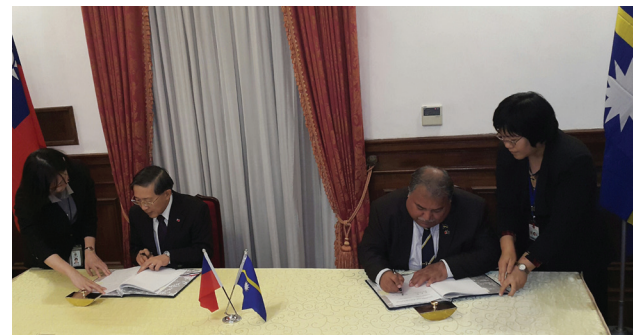
President Baron Waqa led a delegation to Taiwan earlier this month (1-6 December) in what is His Excellency's second annual trip to the country.

The delegation visited several places of commercial, technological, educational and cultural interests in the cities of Taipei and Taichung, including a visit to solar manufacturer SpeedTech technologies and a visit to Taichung Veterans Hospital where His Excellency had his medical check-up.

SpeedTech introduced the solar mini bar lights for household use as well as by solar street lighting and solar lighting in schools.

President Waqa and his delegation were hosted to dinner by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou and had engaged in mutual and constructive discussion with Taiwan's Foreign Minister David Lin.

At the meeting with Mr Lin, President Waqa signed a Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) that commits Taiwan to assist Nauru through cash grants to fund various projects including clearing an old debt for an aircraft loan, and committing cash to a new trust fund.



President Baron Waqa and Taiwan Foreign Minister David Lin sign MoU that would assist Nauru through cash grants

The delegation also visited the International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF) headquarters, which coordinates Taiwan technical aid projects to its allies and other countries.

"The projects coordinated through ICDF are projects essential for our basic and subsistence development such as agriculture.

"This is an area that Nauru needs to better understand and appreciate given our overwhelming dependence on imports for so much of our basic food needs," President Waqa said.

The delegation also met with Nauruan students studying in Taiwan•

President hosts Christmas banquet

His Excellency President Baron Waqa hosted the annual President's Christmas banquet at the government office court yard this week (23 Dec).

The special guests were the senior citizens who thoroughly enjoyed the evening with entertainment by a live band.

Special additions to the annual banquet were Christmas gifts provided by His Excellency and Madam Waqa.

Each guest received raffle tickets that would put them in the draw for one of 15 gifts. Additional two gifts were later supplied by a representative of Taiwan solar company SpeedTech and Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty•



President Waqa greets guests at the President's Christmas Banquet on 23 December

CJ formally closes the legal year

His Honour Chief Justice Joni Madraiwiwi formally closed the Supreme Court of Nauru for the year and adjourned proceedings accordingly at a brief ceremony on Friday 12 December.

Chief Justice Madraiwiwi, Justice Jane Hamilton-White, Justice Mohammed Shafiullah Khan and Resident Magistrate Emma Garo took their places at the bench before the commencement of the official ceremony at the Nauru Court house.

Speaking on behalf of the judges of the Supreme Court of Nauru, CJ Madraiwiwi expressed their “gratitude to the Government of Nauru for its support and am hopeful that it marks a new beginning between the Executive and Judiciary.”

The Chief Justice thanked staff and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of pleaders in upholding the rights of ordinary citizens before the Courts.

Solicitor-General and acting Secretary for Justice Graham Leung said the “end of a year is a good time to take stock, to look back and reflect on how things might have been and to look forward to how matters can be improved.”



Solicitor General and then acting Secretary for Justice Graham Leung (right, standing) responds to CJ Madraiwiwi's statement on behalf of the Government

The president of the Nauru Law Society Vinci Clodumar offered a response that also highlighted matters on the rise before the courts.

The Supreme Court of Nauru will sit in January, June and December 2015. A schedule of the full year will be issued in due course by the Office of the Registrar•

Refugees in the local community

As at 18 December 2014 the Government of Nauru handed down 471 refugee status determinations, 378 of those were positive and 93 negative determinations.

Of those individuals there are 236 in family groups, 91 adult men, 28 adults females, 27 unaccompanied refugee minors.

There are two unaccompanied minors (asylum seekers) residing in community housing in Nauru.

There are five refugees who are in Australia temporarily.

As at 12 December 2014, 52 school aged children are enrolled in Nauruan schools. It is expected that all refugee children will be enrolled in Nauruan school, except for the unaccompanied refugee minors who will attend school at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC).

All refugees reside in community housing or residential accommodation blocks. Extra residential blocks are being constructed to accommodate additional refugees.

Refugees residing in the Nauru community are integrating well with several taking up employment opportunities and business initiatives.

Approximately 50 refugees are currently employed by state owned enterprises and private business, while a number of other refugees are in casual work including babysitting, gardening/ housekeeping, labouring, beautician, dress making and painting.

There are a few others running their own restaurant and selling food and items at the local weekly market•

UNJPO concludes 16 days of activism

The United Nations Joint Presence Office (UNJPO) in Nauru in collaboration with the Women's Affairs Department and United Nations (UN) Women hosted the 16 Days of Activism program to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls which concluded earlier this month (10 December).

The theme “Orange your neighbourhood” involved several competitions such as best orange decorated department, school and local house, a drama competition, and best orange float.

Five departments and local houses competed in the “Orange your world” competition and on the last day (10 December) prizes were awarded to the winners; Education department and Lana Eobob respectively.

The schools were judged according to their grade levels and Nauru Secondary School (NSS) won the senior level while Nauru Primary School (NPS) won the primary level and the Able Disable Centre won the infant level competition.

A special award was also awarded to NSS students who had conducted a mock parliament session at the parliament house where they depicted how gender equality issues could be initiated and debated in parliament.

The 16 Days of activism campaign marks the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls beginning on 25 November and ended 10 December on International Day for Human Rights signifying that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights.

This is the first time the 16 Days of Activism to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls is introduced and hosted to the Nauru public. The UNJPO hopes to continue the event next year•

Miss Nauru welcomed back home

Miss Nauru Kauai Oppenheimer returns to Nauru today (24 Dec) having won the special award of Miss Internet attracting over 10,000 votes cast in her favour at the Miss Pacific Islands beauty pageant.

The Government of Nauru sponsored airfares, accommodation and other expenses for her pageant participation that was held this year in Samoa from 14-20 December. She is the third Miss Nauru to contest the title.

Prior to her departure for the regional event, the Justice Minister David Adeang, in his capacity as acting President welcomed Miss Nauru Kauai Oppenheimer to the Office of the President on Wednesday 10 December to offer the government's best wishes in her representation of Nauru at the pageant before being driven to the airport in the President's vehicle.

Miss Nauru had visited several schools around the island where she spoke with school children and teachers prior to her trip.

The float which carried Miss Nauru also won the best float award•



Miss Nauru Kauai Oppenheimer in her evening gown at the Independence Day pageant in January 2014

Student internship program commences

The Nauru Government's six week Student Internship Program (SIP) commenced on 8 December with 50 senior level students enrolled in the program.

All government and privately funded overseas students that have recently returned from their studies in Fiji began their internship on 8 December and Nauru Secondary School (NSS) students followed suit on 15 December.

Forty one students elected to undertake their internship with various government departments while nine have elected to work with State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

SIP was initiated in 2008. The program gives form 6 and 7 students an opportunity to work in their chosen field of work. It is paid work experience that has worked successfully and benefitted the students over the years•



Raemyna Itsimaera begins her first intern placement

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Republic of Nauru

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