



Nauru Bulletin

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President signs renewable energy assistance package with UAE

President Baron Waqa signed the cooperation agreement between Nauru and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the weekend (Saturday 17 January), for a UAE grant of AUD\$5-million towards a 500kW solar power plant.

The agreement was signed between President Waqa and the UAE's Minister of State His Highness Dr Sultan Al Jaber.

The signing took place on the margins of the Fifth International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The assistance program will provide for the implementation of a solar energy farm that will supply more than 15% of electricity supply needs for Nauru.

In His Excellency's speech at the 5th IRENA Assembly, the President conveyed sincere appreciation to the government and people of the UAE for supporting Nauru's development endeavours.

"Issues concerning climate change and power generation are at the forefront



President Waqa and the UAE's Minister of State Dr Sultan AL Jaber after signing the assistance package

of development priorities and limited resources are allocated to best address some of these important issues."

President Waqa also announced that Nauru has adopted its Energy Road Map for 2014-2020.

"The document itself provides a guideline to implement goals with development partners and donors for the development of the energy sector in Nauru, especially in achieving a sustainable energy policy and development strategy," President Waqa said.

Through collaborative approach between the Government of Nauru and its development partners, it is expected that the energy targets for the Road Map will be to provide 24/7 grid electricity supply with minimal interruptions; 50 per cent grid electricity supply to come from renewable energy sources; and a 30 per cent improvement in energy efficiency for the residential, commercial and government sectors.

President Waqa also acknowledged other countries such as Japan, Germany, Taiwan and the European Union for assisting with Nauru's renewable energy sector.

Work on the solar energy farm will commence around July 2015 and completed by the end of the year.

Gulf Business news reports that the Emirates will fund solar-powered projects in the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and the Solomon Islands through its \$50-M renewable energy fund.

CJ officially opens the legal year

His Honour Chief Justice Joni Madraiwiwi formally opened the legal year at a ceremony in the Nauru Court House this week (Monday 19 January).

The Chief Justice, Justice Jane Hamilton-White, Justice Mohammed Khan and Resident Magistrate Emma Garo took their places at the bench for the ceremony that was attended by Acting President and Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang, members of the legal fraternity, the public and media.

In his opening address CJ Madraiwiwi reaffirmed the courts commitment to providing justice.

"This is an appropriate occasion to affirm our commitment to dispensing justice in a more timely manner and to making it more accessible to the people of Nauru."

The Chief Justice also highlighted the observations made by the President of the Nauru Law Society Vinci Clodumar at the closing last year of the likelihood of increases in land cases given the Court is fully functioning once more.

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Min Justice launches pleaders' course

The Department of Justice launched the Pleaders course on Friday 16 January with 33 students enrolled in the six month course.

Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea delivered opening remarks and the keynote address delivered by Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang.

"You [students] will be following footsteps that saw Nauru be the first pacific island country argued by a Nauruan pleader to use human rights arguments using the universal declaration of human rights in any court.

"Footsteps that saw the Nauruan legal practitioners as pioneers in establishing the South Pacific Lawyers Association, and the South Pacific Human Rights Lawyer Association, and footsteps that saw the establishment of Pacific Island law officers' network," Minister Adeang said.

The course lecturers include Solicitor-General Graham Leung who will teach constitutional law.

Chief Justice Joni Madraiwiwi and the other justices will also deliver lectures throughout the course.

The other lecturers include Registrar of the Nauru Supreme Court David Toganivalu, Resident Magistrate Emma Garo, Public Legal Defender John Rabuku, Director of Public



Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang offers words of encouragement to students of the Pleaders Course at the launch on 16 January

Prosecutions Wilisoni Kurisaqila, Senior Government Lawyers Joseph Daurewa and Unaisi Daurewa, and Principal Legal Officer Barina Waqa.

The subjects that will be taught are constitutional law, ethics, family law, evidence, criminal law, criminal procedure, contracts, and land law.

Students were handed their first reading material for the weekend in preparation for the first class *Introduction to Law* on Monday (19 January)•

Taiwan donates police lanyards

The Ambassador of China (Taiwan) Joseph Chow donated ten aquilettes or lanyards to President Baron Waqa for use by the Nauru Police Force.

The aquilette is a hand woven cord worn over the shoulder as part of police or military uniforms. In Nauru the aquilette is worn by the president's aide-de-camp, Director or Commissioner of Police and police inspectors.

The donation was made on Monday 12 January at the Office of the President•



President Waqa receives 10 police uniform lanyards from Taiwan Ambassador Chow

Legal year opening

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"The expeditious resolution of such cases will also require strengthening and better resourcing of the Nauru Lands Committee," the CJ said.

His Honour also made mention of the new pleaders course inaugurated last week by Minister David Adeang, noting that it had been three decades since the last pleaders course was conducted.

Following the Chief Justice's speech, remarks were made by Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea and Mr Clodumar.

A full bench of three will hear matters in January, June and December. Additionally, the schedule of judges ensures that there is a judge on island every month for at least a week at a time or possibly longer, depending on court commitments•



The court room observes silence during the prayer at the opening of the legal year 2015

Nauru engages new settlement agency

The Nauru Government has engaged a new agency to manage the settlement and welfare of refugees living in the Nauru community.

Connect Settlement Services made up of AMES and MDP are organisations that have extensive experience in working with the Australian government including providing settlement services to refugees in Australia over a long time.

While both AMES and MDA have not worked directly with the Nauru Government they have provided training of settlement officers and Refugee Status Determination Officers.



Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea says settlement agency, Connect, will work with the Nauru settlement team to undertake the various community activities for the refugees

Connect's role is to provide settlement for refugees as they leave detention and until they are operating independently. This includes orientation to Nauru and its laws and customs, health and well-being, financial assessment, links to community, volunteering and work experience.

Connect is also responsible in providing English language education for refugees, vocational education, skills training and English language support in schools.

Connect is also working with the Government of Nauru settlement team to undertake projects such as community building, operating a community hub, community engagement activities (sport, music etc), and provide micro-finance for small businesses (if required) being established by refugees.

"In case management we (Nauru) believe we have a different model to Save The Children. We believe we should assist refugees to become resilient and independent of services as soon as practicable," Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea said.

"Connect partner, AMES has over 50 years' experience in teaching English and vocational skills to refugees. Connect will work more collaboratively with the Nauru Government settlement team to ensure both refugee and Nauruan communities are working in harmony."

The Minister for Justice David Adeang has legal guardianship over unaccompanied minor refugees however he may delegate some of his responsibilities as guardian to the director of Connect Settlement Services.

Connect has commenced working with the Government's settlement team to establish links to the community. It has also employed six local people to assist in the overall settlement work. The number of workers is expected to increase.

Connect commenced duties on 30 December taking over from Save the Children whose contract ended on 31 December. Their contract is initially for one year and can be extended for a further year by the Australian government•

Customs welcomes new deputy secretary

The newest addition to the Customs office is the Deputy Secretary for Customs Richard Brennan. His employment is part of the Nauru Government's effort to implement the roll out of the customs law – the Customs Act 2014 and Harmonised Tariff index.

The Act and the index have both been operating since October 2014 and the customs office is currently adjusting processes to meet this new Act.

"Customs has three core functions being Revenue Collection, Trade Facilitation and Community Protection through the enforcement measures in the Customs Act," Mr Brennan said.

"Customs also collects trade data for government under a modern system of customs operations."

Richard Brennan joins Customs as deputy secretary and leads the government's effort to implement new customs laws



Mr Brennan indicates that in order to become an effective customs service Nauru Customs "must move away from the paper based entries and introduce electronic processing into the service so it can quickly process an entry that is linked to the harmonised tariff index through an electronic self-assessed declaration (ESAD)."

Mr Brennan is currently in discussions with the New Zealand statistics office to develop this database which he hopes to introduce to Nauru Customs this year.

"I believe the biggest challenge is presently educating traders to understand the new harmonised tariff index rules of interpretation so they can use it."

Electronic copies of the tariff and the ESAD are available at customs if the public would like to get an understanding of what will become a normal process in the future. Customs will also facilitate education and awareness sessions on interpreting the tariff during the year to assist people in the transition phase.

"All other island nations have gone through this before and we (Nauru) are only just taking the first steps down this path of change, so there is a lot of work to be done," Mr Brennan said.

Mr Brennan has assisted a number of Pacific island Customs organisations and trading communities having worked in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Tonga over the last decade as either the CEO or Deputy CEO of Customs agencies. He holds a Masters degrees in Customs Administration and International Customs law, International Revenue Administration, Social Development and Change; majoring in Organisational Leadership and Capacity Building.

Mr Brennan is not new to Nauru having grown up here from 1973 to 1977 and attended school while his father worked as the labour Superintendent for the Nauru Phosphate Corporation (NPC)•

DECLARING GOODS TO CUSTOMS

Under section 60 of the new Customs act, all commercial imports into the nation must have an import entry declared to Customs. It is one law for everyone; no one is exempt from submitting an entry for their commercial imports. This is the starting point for Customs to undertake a number of functions it must address in order to release cargo to importers.

Customs must have the declared entry before the goods arrive to enable it to conduct its functions.

When goods arrive in a nation they come under the control of Customs by virtue of section 21 of the Customs act and cannot be released until all requirements are met in relation to declarations, duty, certifications from health and other regulatory agencies. If people take the goods from a Customs controlled area without an entry having been processed, they can face serious penalties and even imprisonment. It is very important that frozen or other perishable commercial goods arriving by aircraft have an entry lodged with customs during normal working hours, before the goods arrive or they may be held up until the proper process is followed.

Unaccompanied and accompanied personal baggage and small postal items usually do not require an import entry unless they are of such a quantity or type to be considered commercial in nature. Customs will advise you if this is the case. For instance; if you bring in one suitcase claiming it is yours and we find 500 pairs of packaged ear rings, or you bring in 12 large cartons of clothes claiming they are for your family, customs will not accept this as it is commercial in nature and an import entry is required.

For those bringing in goods to sell at the market, an import entry is required. Cargo examinations are taking place at the port and goods are presently being seized by Customs as they are undeclared. All sea freight forwarding companies are required to fully declare what is in the container in their shipping documents. Packing lists are required as are invoices.

HOW CUSTOMS VALUES COMMODITY

Customs now uses the same valuation method as found in the world trade organisation. There are a number of ways to value commodity, the first and easiest is called the transaction method, simply put Customs needs to identify the price you paid for the goods. The easiest way to do this is by giving Customs a proper invoice or receipt to prove the payment of the goods.

If that can't be provided, or Customs suspects the price has been affected by certain factors found in the law, it will use an identical or similar goods method to find the value. This will always be used for the "please take me" free goods Nauruan's pick up on the side of suburban roads in Australia. Once the price paid is identified, the tariff rate applicable to the goods is identified and the customs value is equated. Customs will use the Australian dollar to value commodity so exchange rates will be used where needed.

Example - you pay \$2000 for an "item". The rate of the "item" in the tariff is 10%, so you pay 10% of \$2000-00 or \$200- duty to customs. The harmonised tariff is available at customs in electronic format, bring a thumb drive and we can give you a copy. Importers should be making up their own entries, customs is not actually allowed to do that and we will stop providing that service at some point•

Government student awards 2014

The Education department conducted a student awards day on 7 January recognising this years' government scholarship winners (not listed) and the following student achievements for 2014.

Certificate Of Merit Awards

These are awarded to students who showed consistency for improvement throughout this academic year. The Department monitors and assesses students' term reports to obtain these results.

Xiena Wiram, Jeruska Togoran, Henriona Denuga, Sitiveni Peo, Breezae Grundler, Lomei Agir, Rocca Bernicke, Brannon Seymour, Unique Lee Dick, Alina Amwano, Belajane Seymour

Top Class Positions

Millenia Finch (BA-Pro, 1/25), BelaJane Seymour (Nasinu, 2/40), Breezae Grundler (Nasinu, 2/48), Lomei Agir (Nasinu, 3/48),

Osanna Harris (Adi Cakobau, 1st), Alina Amwano (Jasper), Brannon Seymour (Marist), Xiena Wiram (BA-Pro), Unique Lee Dick (Adi Cakobau), Moana Serafica (Adi Cakobau).

[Some class rankings were not available from the Education department at time of publishing]

Bursary Awards 2015

Richmond Spanner, Richo Agir, Tommy Andre

Academic Achievement

Year 9 - Millennia Finch

Year 10 - Prittee Adire

Year 11 - Osanna Harris, Peter Jack Giouba

Year 12 - Iola Giouba, Michelle Bill

Year 13 - Deanne Daran Adeang, Moana Serafica, Juliet Raige

Student of the Year Award - Deanne Daran Adeang

Leadership Award - Deanne Daran Adeang

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