



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Nauru celebrates 47th constitution day

His Excellency's national address for Nauru's 47th Constitution day reiterated the importance of having a constitution which serves as the supreme law of the land.

"Our founding fathers decided that in order to live among the community of nations, we must have a supreme law that offers everyone their basic rights and principles in which we as a country must also conduct ourselves.

"Under our constitution, the power lies with the people. Our constitution is not the act of a government, but of a people constituting a government. And it is the responsibility of the Government of the day to do everything in its powers to protect the rights of its citizens through appropriate measures," President Baron Waqa said.

The president further encouraged the people of Nauru to spend wisely what payments the government is making to them and to save and "be cushioned from the effects of scarcity tomorrow."

In reminding the people of the economic hardship of recent, President Waqa does not forget "the foundation and guiding principles of the Bible" being Nauru's "strength and bedrock, in hard times and in good times."

"My Government continues to strive to improve our quality of life on our home island and there are more forthcoming projects and improvements to this Island aimed at raising our standard of living."

During the course of the reception an impressive fireworks display lit up the night sky overlooking the president's official banquet in front of the government office complex.

The fireworks display was set up along the topside road, safely away from the public and traffic•



*Fireworks display overlooking the state banquet at the government office complex*

## Finance minister makes first deposit at Bendigo bank agency

The first deposit of the Bendigo Bank Agency in Nauru was transacted this week (26 May) by Finance Minister Hon David Adeang, MP.

The event marks the beginning of banking services on the island after decades of operating as a cash economy.

The government payroll and other government payments will gradually move from cash payments to direct bank deposits.

The Nauru Government is working with agents of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank to ensure things run seamlessly before the official opening by His Excellency President Baron Waqa on Tuesday 2 June.

The branch will be headed by general manager Greg Watson and support staff including three recently trained local bank tellers.

The three tellers received professional training with Bendigo Bank in Bendigo Australia last month.



*Bank teller Ginetta Gideon processes the first transaction made at the Bendigo Bank branch with a deposit by Finance Minister David Adeang*

The Agency will offer the traditional banking transactions of deposit and withdrawal, internet and telephone banking services.

The Agency will share the ground floor space with the Nauru Revenue Office (NRO). However the main functions of the NRO of filing in forms and applications will be done upstairs while cash transactions will remain downstairs•

## Parliament - 12 May

The parliament of Nauru convened a sitting of parliament this month (12 May) with a number of Bills tabled and passed as well as presentation of ministerial statements with an opening statement by the Speaker in regards to the suspended members of parliament and a strong message from the President relating to the blocking of internet sites to protect Nauruans.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa read his opening statement in English before proceeding to the vernacular expressing deep concern about the disturbing and explicit nature of the visual and written content being circulated via social media portraying Nauruan females.

President Waqa said while he is well aware that the government's action to block some sites may upset some members of the public, the seriousness of the issue and problems arising as a result of abusive internet use cannot be ignored.

While Facebook is under temporary restriction, other social media sites including email services all remain open and unrestricted access to the Nauruan public as well as for asylum seekers and refugees.

"Facebook will be under temporary restriction until the necessary protection mechanisms are in place to ensure that Nauruans and members of our community are not left exposed and vulnerable to the actions of criminals, sexual perverts and cyber bullies.

"Other sites remain active including other social media sites with no interference to internet services. Robust efforts aimed at lifting the current temporary restrictions are underway," President Waqa said.

Finance Minister David Adeang also presented the Supplementary Appropriation Bill #8 2014-15. The bulk of the supplementary bill is to re-allocate funds from education and justice to other heads. The total supplementary appropriation is \$1.895-million.

Six Bills were tabled and passed and they are - Port Authority Act 2015; Audit (Amendment) Act 2015; Education (Amendment) Act 2015; Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act 2015; Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2015; Cyber Crime Act 2015. These Acts can be found on [www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr) under the parliament tab and link to Ronlaw.

Questions without Notice were heard ahead of the presentation of ministerial statements and Bills as well as a motion by Minister for Finance Hon David Adeang to form a Select Committee on the Leadership Code. The proposed members were to be MPs Russ Kun, Tawaki Kam, Cyril Buraman, Ranin Akua, and Minister Charmaine Scotty.

Questions without Notice began with a question by Hon Riddel Akua on the timeline to repair the power station and restore continuous power supply to the island.

In his capacity as minister responsible for Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC), President Waqa said that efforts are being made to rectify the power issue highlighting that a new generator is en route to Nauru.

President Waqa also answered a query into the status of several suspended employees of the Marine and Ports, who have since been reinstated and are able to seek employment including with the public service.



*Nauru's Parliament House*

Minister for the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust Shadlog Bernicke said while the expected date for payment of the remaining NPRT Fund B – the Ronwan capital, is still not confirmed it is expected to be paid following the sale of some remaining assets.

In finance, Minister David Adeang confirmed the Bendigo Bank Agency Nauru branch will officially be opened on 2 June by President Waqa.

In regards to the Nauru Trust Fund (NTF), Minister Adeang confirmed that \$5-million had already been deposited from last financial year, with another \$5-million set aside from the current financial year (2014-15).

The Australian Government has committed AUD\$2.5-million and the Government of Taiwan will commit US\$2.5-million towards the Nauru Trust Fund. The NTF is expected to be operational later in the new financial year.

Minister Adeang was further asked about the possibility of making payments to former Bank of Nauru savings account holders including widowers. Last month senior citizens, widows and the disabled were entitled to up to \$100,000 cash payment from their savings accounts.

Minister Adeang responded that the bulk of other account holders will be considered for the next budget including widowers.

In the area of road works Minister for Transport Valdon Dowiyogo said the construction company contracted to fix the storm water and road drainage system is working hard to address the problem of road flooding but needs cooperation from landowners in specific areas where digging needs to be done.

Minister Adeang clarified that the boat transporting goods from the Marshall Islands is being chartered by Eigigu Holdings and currently have no intentions of purchasing the vessel. He said the current charter arrangements works well with Nauru's needs.

Minister for Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Hon Aaron Cook confirmed secondary phosphate mining will be underway once the arrival of heavy equipment which is expected on the ship sometime next month (June).

The funding of the equipment will be sought from NARCOS funds at an estimated \$5-million.

Minister Adeang provided an update on the Firebird court case which is being postponed according to the wishes and schedule of the Australian High Court. The Nauru Government as well as other parties does not have control over the dates set by the High Court of Australia•

## Court staff prepare for new court house

The provision of the new court house is in the final stages of construction as in-ground work is being finished.

The containerised structures which are being built at a different site by Canstruct will be used to hear the appeal cases from asylum seekers by the Supreme Court Judges.

The current court house will be used for the Family Court, District Court and Supreme Court Matters.

The new building will only be metres away from the current district court.

In the meantime, the current court house is being refurbished to accommodate office space for the two justices and improved working environment for current court staff including new court uniforms.

The new court house is funded by the Government of Australia while the refurbishment of the current court house is sourced from the judiciary's budget•



*CJ Joni Madraiwiwi (centre) with Resident Magistrate Emma Garo (L) and Registrar David Toganivalu (R) and court staff in their new uniforms*



*Japan Ambassador to Nauru Takuji Hanatani formalised his country's assistance to Nauru at an Exchange of Notes signing ceremony with Nauru's High Commissioner in Fiji Jarden Kephas*

*File photo*

## Japan provides grant assistance through NPGA

In a statement released this week, the Government of Japan will provide assistance worth 200 million Japanese Yen (approximately AUD\$2.1-million) to the Government of the Republic of Nauru through its Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA).

The funding assistance will enable the procurement of machinery aimed at improving the Aiwo boat harbour.

The Ambassador of Japan to Nauru Mr Takuji Hanatani and Nauru's High Commissioner in Fiji Mr Jarden Kephas formalised Japan's assistance to Nauru at an Exchange of Notes signing ceremony hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Suva Fiji this week (Wednesday, 27 May 2015)•

## Nauru Airlines to commence weekly flights to Pohnpei and Kosrae

Nauru Airlines will commence weekly flights to Pohnpei and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from Friday, 12th June, 2015.

The new destinations will connect with existing services to Brisbane, Nauru, Nadi, Tarawa and Majuro.

"These flights will facilitate and encourage more travel and trade between the north, central and southern Pacific region bringing family and business ties much closer together as well as generate more visitors into the FSM from the central and southern Pacific

area," said Geoffrey Bowmaker, CEO of Nauru Airlines.

The services will operate northbound into the FSM on Friday's, returning southbound on Sundays.

Earlier this year (24 March) the airline launched its newest addition to the fleet, VH-YNU. A move the Nauru Government is very supportive of recognising the need for growth and expansion to cater for the growing demand and need for consistent flights to and from Nauru•

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

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**Republic of Nauru**

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