



NZ discontinues aid to Nauru justice

Last week, the New Zealand parliament unanimously passed a motion to suspend aid to Nauru's justice department on Wednesday 2 August.

The decision follows discussions between the Minister of Foreign Affairs New Zealand Murray McCully and Minister for Justice Honorable David Adeang, following up issues that Minister McCully previously raised with His Excellency President Baron Waqa, at the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers meeting in Sydney in July.

In an interview with local media Minister Adeang said that the discussions between President Waqa and Minister McCully, both agreed to disagree in regard to the reasons for the withdrawal of opposition member's passport Roland Kun.

David Adeang stated that the position of government remains the same and that is standing by the decision to uphold the rule of law, which includes the investigation



Minister for Justice David Adeang reassured the public that it is still in discussions with New Zealand Minister to resolve the issues

of Roland Kun for his alleged role in instigating a riot at Parliament house in July.

Minister Adeang said when the government decides to withdraw a citizen's passport, it exercised its powers based on the provisions of the Passport Act 2011 and did not create the Act to suit its purposes. The Passport Act 2011 provides that the justice minister has the authority to withdraw the passport of any Nauruan, whether they be a public servant, an ordinary citizen even a member of Parliament.

Minister Adeang reassured the public that Nauru is still in discussions with New Zealand foreign minister to try to resolve the issues and allow aid funding to resume. The minister further reassures the general public that the government's budget is strong and can meet the gap left by the fund should New Zealand decide to discontinue with aiding Nauru's justice department•

Nauru customs reforms tariff system

Nauru is modernising its customs tariff processes from the current paper-based system to a computerised system which is set to be implemented in the coming months.

The reforms come as a result of the passing of the Customs Act 2014, by Parliament in September last year.

The new reforms will also introduce a requirement for importers to contact a customs broker or agent, to lodge an Electronic Self-Assessed Declaration (ESAD). Through the ESAD system, the broker must classify the imported commodity under the Harmonised Tariff that was passed in parliament in 2014, before lodging to customs for further processing. This ensures that the correct tariff is being paid for an imported commodity and no loss in revenue is experienced.

"The process has been changed because of the legislation, an international standard in customs is to use a computer based system the legislation allows us to do this. So it's time to make that physical move", Deputy Secretary of Customs Richard Brennan said.

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Deputy Secretary Richard Brennan highlighted that the transition will be a gradual move from the current paper based model process to the ESAD model.

Penaz Masani & the planet

A group of Indian performers Penaz Masani and the Planet, Arrived in Nauru on Friday 28 August as part of the strengthening of cultural ties between the Republic of Nauru and India.

On arrival at the airport the group of Indian cultural performers led by singer Padmashree Penaz Masani, was traditionally welcomed with a cultural dance performed by young local men, before being invited for refreshments at the VIP lounge.

The following day on Saturday (29 August) night the Nauru Congregational Church hall filled to capacity as the general public arrived to watch the team perform a number Indian classical and contemporary songs and dances for the crowd's entertainment.

After the opening prayer was rendered by Reverend Roger Mwareow, the Minister for Home Affairs, Honourable Charmaine

Scotty officially welcomed special guests and audience to the much anticipated performance.

The group performed several song and dance numbers for the enjoyment of the crowd, before certificates of appreciation and gifts were presented to each member of the performance team. The presentation was made by His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Minister of Home Affairs Honourable Charmaine Scotty.

Other highlights of the night included a brief performance of

an old Indian song between Padmashree Penaz Masani and his Excellency President honourable Baron Waqa.

The night concluded with an address from the secretary of home affairs Mary Tebouwa thanking Padmashree Penaz Masani and her group for the excellent performance and thanked the Minister of Home Affairs to be given the opportunity for organising such an event•



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HE attends 2nd FIPIC summit

Last week, His Excellency President Baron Waqa joined a cohort of 14 Pacific islands dignitaries in attending the second FIPIC summit, which was hosted in Jaipur, India on 21 August 2015.

The Pacific island countries which attended the summit included Cook islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands Micronesia, Nauru Samoa, Solomon islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In his address at the summit, President Waqa highlighted India's success in attracting investment from foreign countries around the world. His Excellency acknowledged that most Pacific islands such as Nauru have struggled to do the same and that these countries will benefit if the islands could learn from India's experience.

In His Excellency's address President Waqa stated that Nauru would like to work with India to improve the "functioning of the United Nations in terms of implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda and other Small Island Development States priorities".

President Waqa also reaffirmed Nauru's unwavering support in India's bid to secure a seat in the United Nations Security Council. "Nauru has been a staunch supporter of the India's bid for a permanent seat." President Waqa said.

Furthermore, His excellency Baron Waqa commended the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his leadership in implementing solar energy in Gujarat and the effort to expand to the entire country.

President Waqa then closed his address by thanking the prime minister for hosting the summit and for the many initiatives that India is spearheading in Nauru and the Pacific region.



HE Baron Waqa commended the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his leadership in implementing solar energy in Gujarat

"I believe this partnership has enormous potential given some of our shared challenges and our shared vision of a more inclusive and prosperous future for our people.

President Waqa also expressed his appreciation for Indian help in building sea walls to combat rising sea levels. It is expected that India will send experts to Nauru to carry out works on repairing the mooring system, which is vital to Nauru's needs•

Dinner reception for Taiwan Scholarship students

The Embassy of the Republic (Taiwan) hosted a dinner reception for five recipients of the 2015 Taiwan scholarship, on 28 August.

The new students are Belania Seymour, Jaala Jeremiah, Aneo Jeremiah, Siro Temaki and Daburan Bernicke.

In attendance were special guests His Excellency President Honourable Baron Waqa and Madam Louisa Waqa, Minister for Education Honourable Charmaine Scotty and Acting Secretary of Education Ms Lyn Teleni.

Also in attendance were the former students who studied in Taiwan.

During the reception Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow congratulated the students and wished them well in the studies.

“All the best in your studies and fun in Taiwan” Mr Chow said.

His Excellency Honourable Baron Waqa then congratulated the five students on their selection for the scholarship.



The new students are Belania Seymour, Jaala Jeremiah, Aneo Jeremiah, Siro Temaki and Daburan Bernicke.

In his address, his Excellency highlighted to the students that they have been selected to represent Nauru as ambassadors and have to study hard because Nauru has high expectations of them.

After his Excellency's address, Minister Scotty offered words of appreciation on behalf of Education and congratulated the students.

Minister Scotty also thanked the parents

for their support for their children and also to Taiwan for their support in aiding the scholarships.

Taiwan has offered Nauru scholarships since 2006 and so far 28 students in total, have been awarded a scholarship to study in Taiwan. This number includes the new scholarship recipients.

A total of seven students have graduated from Taiwan•

Customs reforms current system

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Under the reforms the customs office has been fitted with new computer software called PC trade, which is a software that will aid in accurate trade data collection and revenue tracking. The software makes it easy for customs to detect errors in the importers ESAD declarations and customs can hold an importers cargo until the corrections have been made to the ESAD.

Deputy Secretary Richard Brennan highlighted that the transition will be a gradual move from the current paper based process to the ESAD model.

“I expect a lot of errors will come in when people get used to this. We're not going to be holding things up unnecessarily, but I do need to educate people so that their paperwork and their entries are quite correct and we can get their trade to them a lot quicker”, Mr. Brennan said.

Furthermore, the Customs office expects the establishment of a number of customs brokers on Nauru in the up-coming months. This will greatly reduce the number of importers declaring commodities through customs office directly and allow easier management and quick release of imported cargo.

“Nauru has to evolve this broker concept so it becomes a job skill in the environment. All the other nations in the Pacific have customs brokers, it's now our turn”, Mr. Brennan said.

In addition to the new changes, Mr Brennan expects to receive two tariff trainers in November, who will be conducting training for businesses on the Harmonised Commodity Classification System in November. •

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