



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru votes - 67 candidates, 19 seats

Nauru is ready to go to the polls this weekend (Saturday 9 July) with election observers on island to ensure a free, safe and credible election.

There are 7842 registered voters, and 67 candidates, including four women contesting the 19 seats in parliament.

The candidate withdrawal period has ended and the draw for ballot paper position held on Saturday 2 July at Parliament House. The final list of names of candidates has been published in the government gazette.

When voters go to the polls to cast their vote, they will vote in order of their preferred candidates.

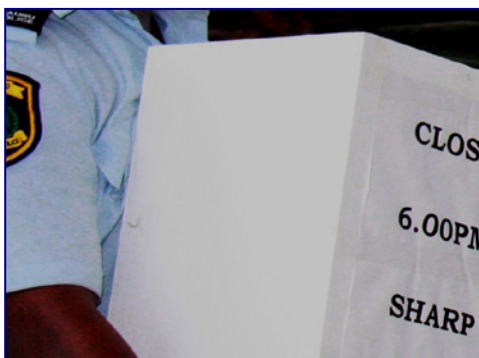
All voters are required to present a form of identification, or be asked three questions by the presiding officer or polling clerk before they can cast their vote.

If a voter needs assistance they may nominate someone to accompany them to the polling booth to fill in the ballot paper for them or may ask the presiding officer or election official to assist in filling out the ballot paper.

Voters can only vote at the polling place for which they are registered. Eg. A voter registered for Ewa can only vote at the Ewa polling place.

Nauru uses a system of preferential voting in which a voter marks the ballot paper sequentially in the order of their choice. Even though it is preferential voting, the counting system is known as Dowdell Borda where first preference vote counts as a whole vote, a second preference vote counts as half a vote, a third preference vote as one-third of a vote, and so on.

The voting figures are the total value of all the votes cast for each candidate plus the total of all the fractions of preferences that were cast against their name. The



The ballot boxes will be transported under police escort from polling stations to parliament chambers to be counted

[file photo]

total value of the votes recorded in each constituency will therefore be the number of valid votes cast (x) plus half x plus a third x plus a quarter x and so on, up to the number of candidates in the constituency.

Voting is compulsory. A voter failing to vote at the elections without good reason will be sent a letter asking for their reason or they may pay the fine of \$20. A voter who submits a reason that is not fair and reasonable may be fined more.

When the period for voting closes at 6.00pm on Saturday 9 July, the ballot boxes will be transported to parliament house under police escort where the counting will take place. Counting is expected to continue through the night.

Counting officers and other election officials will be waiting to start the process.

The Electoral Commissioner will open the first ballot box.

Election observers from the Forum Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat and the UK High Commission for Nauru will be present. Former president of Kiribati Anote Tong is Chair for the Commonwealth Observer team and Elliot Udui who has been working

with the Palau Election Commission since 1994 and current member of the Palau Election Commission Board is team leader for the Forum Secretariat Observer team.

The local media, a joint effort between the Government Information office and the Nauru Media Bureau will broadcast the counting process and provide live interviews and commentary as results come to hand.

There are 14 polling places, three mobile polling places at the Correctional Centre, RON Hospital and three designated homes.

There will be 15 presiding officers, 25 election officials and 35 counting officials/scrutineers.

Buses will be available to transport voters and election officials to/from polling stations.

The number of proxy votes is not known at the time of printing. Proxy voting remains open until today, Friday 8 July at 5pm.

Polling stations will be open from 9.00am and close at 6.00pm on Saturday 9 July 2016.

A sample excel counting sheet has been provided so that voters and candidates can examine the method and inspect the formulas within the sheet. This can be downloaded from the Electoral Commission website <http://election.com.nr>

The Electoral Commission hopes that this will assist voters in understanding and trusting the process with this greater transparency of the counting process.

Official results will be gazetted, circulated via the Government Information Office email, posted on the electoral commission website, and announced on local radio and television•

Numbering on the ballot paper

To eliminate confusion voters are reminded to use the preferred writing of the following numbers when filling in your ballot paper:

Number ONE to be written as	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">1</div>
Number TWO to be written as	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2</div>
Number SEVEN to be written as	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">7</div>

Do not add extra strokes or rounded edges when writing your numbers.

President's engagements over the week

Over the course of the week (4-7 Jul) President Baron Waqa received a number of courtesy visits as well as attend some official events.

On 5 July President Waqa received a courtesy visit by students of Carey Grammar as part of their annual trip to Nauru. Mr Waqa later attended a farewell dinner for the students.

Mr Waqa also met with members of the Election Observer Team comprising the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The observer teams will remain until the final election results are announced.

Later that day (5 Jul) President Waqa attended the opening of the new Fisheries office in Anibare and inspected the fish ponds donated by Australia. The new office building is co-funded by the governments of Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

On 6 July the President and Cabinet ministers inspected the new Nauru Primary School in Menen and the new community resource centre in Yaren•



President Waqa with some of the members of the Election Observer teams from the Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Finance explains the business taxes

The Nauru Revenue Office (NRO) conducted a presentation of the business tax last week (28 June) at the Civic Centre conference hall.

The Nauru Government introduced tax reform in two major phases.

“The first phase was employment and services tax which came into effect on 1 October 2014. The second phase of tax reform (is) referred to as business tax. The drafting of the business tax law began in earnest last year throughout 2015, resulting in the passing of the business tax bill on the 9th of June by parliament with an effective date by 1st of July,” Tax Implementation Adviser Geoff Smith.

The main purpose of the NRO presentation is to inform and hold discussions with local community representatives about the new business tax which came into effect on Friday 1 July 2016.

The tax system is based on voluntary compliance and taxpayers are made aware of the tax laws, and of their responsibilities to comply.

Mr Smith who led the presentation explained that there are two main taxes, namely the small business tax and the business profits tax.

“The small business tax, it’s a tax on (non-resident) individuals conducting business in Nauru with annual gross revenue of not more than \$250,000 per financial year from first July to the thirtieth of June,” Mr Smith said.

The Small Business Tax (SBT) of 1.5 per cent of gross revenue is payable by non-resident individuals only if annual turnover does not exceed \$250,000. If turnover exceeds \$250,000 then the Business Profit Tax (BPT) of 10 per cent applies for the taxable income which is the net profit.

The SBT is payable every three months.

Resident individuals with businesses that make a net profit of less than \$250,000 a year are exempt from paying the 10 per cent business tax.

The business profit tax is for everyone, except a non-resident individual subject to SBT and a non-resident person conducting a fishing business in Nauru under an agreement with Nauru Fisheries.

Small business taxpayers are required under the law to keep a cash book recording all daily sales, and a salary and wages register, if applicable.

To ensure that taxpayers are complying with their obligations, NRO will conduct compliance activities, including audits. The tax laws also provide for severe penalties if taxpayers are found to be evading tax. This is how tax regimes based on voluntary compliance are administered globally•

Corrections for NB#8-140, 8July2016

Note correction to article “Advance observer team pleased with work of electoral commission” on page 1, paragraph 9 – should read “...the Electoral Act 2016...”

UN mission explains Nauru's role

The staff at Nauru's permanent mission to the United Nations (UN) in New York convened a three day workshop this week (5-7 July) on Nauru's multilateral role in the UN for the government Heads of departments.

The workshop was facilitated by Nauru's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Marlene Moses and her staff.

Following the opening prayer, President Baron Waqa gave his opening address welcoming all participants to the workshop and wished them well in the training session.

President Waqa thanked Ambassador Moses and her staff for taking the time off from their busy schedule to conduct the workshop.

Following the President's opening remarks, Ms Moses gave her response address outlining a brief history of Nauru's successes in the United Nations (UN) and the importance of Nauru's membership. Ambassador Moses also reiterated the importance of strengthening Nauru's institutional capacity so that it may be



Nauru's Ambassador to the UN Marlene Moses delivers opening address for 3-day workshop on the roles and importance of the mission

prepared to apply any assistance offered by the UN.

In conclusion Ambassador Moses said she expects the workshop to bring useful insights about the role of the NY mission and looks forward to the fruitful discussions that will assist Nauru's position to effectively maximise its opportunities overseas•

Employees celebrate public service day

Government employees celebrated Public Service day on 29 and 30 June with department displays, novelty sports events and awards for department and employee of the year.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June as public service day. The UN encourages member states to organise special events on that day to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process.

The Nauru public service day program began on Thursday 29 June with displays showcasing department information and projects. Novelty sporting events were also arranged by the sports department.

On day two (30 June) President Baron Waqa in his capacity as minister for the public service delivered a speech titled Together in Building Democracy and Good Governance underscoring that it is a day for public servants to "come together in unity to acknowledge our organisational and institutional contributions."

"It is a time for reflection on our achievements and subsequently assess ways to improve our services."

"Public service plays a vital role in our countries' socio-economic development, values and principles of the public service and administration and operations.

"Respecting an individuals' political affiliations, beliefs and aspirations is important; however as public servants it is imperative of you to be "a-political" in the workplace and serve the government of the day with an open mind, impartiality, honesty and with integrity at all times. As civil servants your responsibilities lies on the foundation to serve and not to be served.

"We should encourage boldness in decision making, provided that the decisions are well considered and fair and measured," President Waqa said.

Mr Waqa also reflected on the code of conduct enshrined in the Nauru Public Service Act 2016 as a framework for decisions and actions in relation to conduct in employment and services.

"It underpins our commitment to a duty of care to all employees and customers receiving our services."

President Waqa concluded by thanking Nauru's major development partners, Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and India for their unwavering support and loyal friendship as well as the expatriate staff for their contribution towards the development of the Nauru public service.

The annual event is also the platform to recognise the employee of the year and the department of the year.

The employee of the year was awarded to Bob Agigo, infrastructure manager with the department of education.

The department of the year was awarded to the justice department.

A sausage sizzle lunch on day one was organised and sponsored by Broadspectrum•



Education department shows how synchronised aerobics is done

Justice awards twelve graduates of pleaders course

Twelve locals graduated this week (4Jul) from the pleaders course arranged by the justice department thereby providing more legal practitioners in Nauru.

The graduates are (in alphabetical order): Daran Deane Adeang, Kristian Aingimea, Francis Amram, Criden Appi, Dale Cecil, Raylitta Daode, Tyrone Deiye, Vinson Detenamo, Maverick Eoe, Cecilia Giouba, Julie Olsson, Victor Soriano.

Ms Julie Olsson received top marks for the course.

At the ceremony Jessa Agadio said the opening prayer followed by welcome remarks by Secretary for Justice and Border Control Graham Leung thanking New Zealand for its support in funding the training as well as to the judges and lawyers for conducting the training modules.

Mr Leung also acknowledged the perseverance and hard work of the students and thanked former secretary for justice Lionel Aingimea whom he attributed as the “brains trust” of the program.

Following Secretary Leung’s speech, Mr Aingimea offered his congratulatory remarks to the graduates and advised that the students have “big shoes to fill” left by previous legal

practitioners.

Mr Aingimea highlighted the success of the pleaders course which he said now doubles the number of pleaders within a year.

Minister for Justice David Adeang then delivered his address outlining some of the successes of the course and said that the graduates will help fill the gap in court services by widening the pool of legal service providers in Nauru.

Mr Adeang said the graduates will act as the bridge between community and court ensuring that people’s rights and freedoms are protected.

Mr Adeang thanked both Mr Aingimea and the graduates for the successful completion of the course.



President Waqa with graduates of pleaders' course

Following the speeches Minister Adeang and President Waqa presented the students’ certificates and pleader’s gown.

Graduate Cecilia Giouba offered the vote of thanks on behalf of her colleagues thanking the government for supporting the program.

Taiwan hands over solar project

The Taiwan Embassy officially transferred 155 solar street lamps to the care of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) Aaron Cook in a ceremony that took place at the government courtyard last week (1 July).

The informal ceremony took place in the evening to allow better showcasing of the street lamps that automatically switches on as soon as night sets in.

In his speech Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow said the solar street light project initially cost USD\$400,000 to install the 155 lamps around Nauru in 2010 and another USD\$100,000 to restore.

Restoration comprised replacing old batteries with new ones and repainting the lamps.

In his brief remarks, Mr Cook expressed his appreciation for Taiwan’s kind donation and thanked Taiwan for their continued support to improving Nauru’s road infrastructure.



Minister Aaron Cook accepts the solar handover from Taiwan on behalf of the Nauru Government

Local construction company Central Meridian was contracted to complete restoration work on the solar street lights.

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

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NAURU BULLETIN



Republic of Nauru

Office contact:

Government Information Office

Government Offices

Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr

Mobile: +674 5573009

www.naurugov.nr