



Nauru Bulletin

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NEC calls post-election workshop

A post-election workshop was hosted by the Nauru Electoral Commission (NEC) in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat, this week 14-16 February.

Representatives from the Observer Teams from the 2016 Nauru General Election returned to Nauru to present their findings to the meeting, which was convened by the Nauru Electoral Commission on 14 February 2017.

The two regional organisations were in Nauru on the invitation of the NEC to discuss the recommendations made by the election observer reports that were provided by the two organisations with the Electoral Task Force Committee.

The Task Force Committee was established by the Electoral Commission to assist the Committee develop its priorities in order to strengthen the electoral process.

The Committee, comprising senior government officials, community and church groups, discussed the reports

previous elections and determine its own priorities.

“The recommendations submitted by the observers are part of the ongoing work of the Commission to formulate policies for the effective conduct of future elections,” Electoral Commissioner Joseph Cain said.

“Feedback from the stakeholders and observers will help provide future directions on how NEC is to improve in its operation and management of elections.”

In a joint response by Angela Thomas and Sarah Linton of the

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat respectively agree that “while international election observers can give recommendations based on international norms and good practice, only the people of Nauru can determine what systems and practices best suit their needs.”

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Electoral commissioner Joseph Cain (seated third from left) said post election discussions were frank and informative.

of the international observers, and noted a number of similarities in their recommendations.

The workshop is an important part of strengthening the work and processes of the electoral commission and enables stakeholders from Government and the community to reflect on Nauru's

PIDF holds national consultations

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The Pacific Islands Development Fund (PIDF) made its first official visit to Nauru to hold national consultations with stakeholders on awareness and climate issues, 14-15 February 2017.

The consultation is held in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and was attended by His Excellency President Baron Waqa.

At the opening President Waqa welcomed the members of the PIDF and participants and reiterated Nauru's support for PIDF and its work adding that Nauru will benefit from the presence of the PIDF and the national consultation.

“Nauru indeed is a supporter of PIDF. We [Nauru] have committed ourselves in supporting the work of PIDF, and not only that we would like to ensure the work of PIDF is expanded in the region.

President Waqa clarified there is no duplication of work in the two regional organisations of PIDF and the Pacific Islands Forum.

“There is no duplication, however they complement each other of the work that is necessary especially in this day and age where an array of topics and issues have to be dealt with, and particularly the PIDF as being an inclusive organisation that

Commitment shown by NEC

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This is the first time that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has been invited back to a country to discuss its election observer recommendations.

Ms Thomas and Ms Linton said both their organisations were “impressed with the commitment shown by the Electoral Commission, in particular Commissioner Cain, to the integrity of Nauru’s electoral system.”

The visitors met with a wide range of stakeholders including Government officials, members of Parliament, community representatives and church groups highlighting the importance of getting a wide range of views in order to ensure that the PIFS and Commonwealth Secretariat gets a good understanding of Nauru’s practices and needs.

“We were very satisfied with the discussions. Everyone was very open with us and it was clear they had thought deeply about the issues.”

Mr Cain echoed those sentiments that discussions between the electoral task force and the community “were both frank and very informative.”

“The Commission and the observers are very satisfied with the feedback we have received which will be prioritised for appropriate action,” Mr Cain said.

The Task Force Committee will meet again in the near future to set targets for implementation, with the ready support of both the PIFS and Commonwealth Secretariat for the Electoral Commission.

Both organisations report to their respective heads, Secretary-General for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Dame Meg Taylor and Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The election observer reports have already been submitted to the Nauru Electoral Commission and will maintain regular contact with the NEC.

President attends Singapore study visit

Leaders, ministers and senior government officials from the Pacific and Timor-Leste as well as heads of key regional organisations were welcomed to Singapore for the second Singapore-Pacific Ministerial Study Visit, 7-9 February.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa attended the event hosted by Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan where participants also called on Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The Study Visit featured briefings on Singapore’s experience in areas such as port management, water management, economic development, vocational education, public administration and tourism promotion.

Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport Mrs Josephine Teo accompanied the participants on a visit to the Port Operations Control Centre - PSA Vista.

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PIDF national consultations

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President Waqa opens two-day PIDF consultations

we would like to see and to include not just government but also civil society as well as private sector, and that we all work together in solving the myriad of problems that we have at the moment,” President Waqa said.

In his opening remarks PIDF Deputy Secretary General, Mr Penijamini Lomaloma said the organisation is committed to the needs of the region and extends the PIDF’s appreciation for Nauru’s support and partnership that’s been extended to the organisation.

“Nauru has been one of our closest partners and friend. It’s been the only country that supported us financially from the Pacific other than Fiji when the organisation was launched back in 2013. That partnership and support has continued consistently over the years,” Mr Lomaloma said.

The team’s objectives are to hold consultations on pertinent issues particularly the establishment of a national sustainable development board in Nauru and consultations on three draft documents namely the PIDF strategic plan, the climate roadmap, and a Pacific Climate Treaty.

“As consultations go of course we have various views and we’re bringing together government, private sector and civil society and we have sometimes have animated discussions on all these three areas but I think it’s a very good exercise because we need the views of all the sectors of society on these documents,” Mark Borg, PIDF Team leader program manager said.

This is the beginning of consultations for the PIDF. The team will leave the documents with the participants to review, share among their peers and provide further comments and recommendations on the documents by March 2017. At this time the amended views and documents will be reviewed and reports presented to leaders to approve or refine the documents at the next summit in August 2017.

The National Sustainable Development Board will consist of three interim representatives from government, private sector and civil society to represent Nauru in the Members Representative Council (MRC).

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade is currently operating as the Board (NSDB) and the PIDF focal point. Ultimately the NSDB would function as the office and contact for the PIDF in Nauru once it is fully established.

NPA signs ownership of barges

A handover ceremony of two new pusher barges from Japanese boat manufacturing company to the Nauru Port Authority was held at the Aiwo boat harbour, Monday 6 February.

Officials from Japanese company Kitahama Zosen Tekko Co. Ltd., and Procurement agency Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) arrived on Nauru to inspect the barges, named Eawiywi (dolphin fish) and Dedawid (spotfin porcupinefish) and conduct training operations during their three day visit.



NPA Chairman Isaac Aremwa seals handover of barges with handshake Japanese operations team member

The formal handover of the barges from the Japan Government to the Nauru Government will take place in a formal signing ceremony between President Baron Waqa and Japan Ambassador to Nauru Mr Takuji Hanatani on Tuesday 21 February 2017.

Japan is funding the two tugboats and aquaculture equipment to Nauru through Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) at a total value of 300 million Japanese yen (approximately AUD\$3.4-M).

Chairman of the NPA Mr Isaac Aremwa welcomed the members of the Japanese operations team and thanked some local companies and businesses such as Capelle and Partner who assisted NPA by supplying plant equipment for cargo operations, and thanked the NPA employees and other private supporters for their ongoing support.

Director sales manager of Kitahama Zosen Tekko Co. Ltd., Mr Youji Fukui said he and his colleagues were honoured to invited to the special occasion and be part of the project, and hopes that the new pusher barges will contribute to Nauru now and in the future.

Following Mr Fukui's remarks, a sake ceremony was observed by the Japanese team and NPA executives, in which sake was poured on the mooring bollards of the barge offering good providence for both barges.

Mr Aremwa was invited to sign documents officially handing over possession of the barges from Kitahama Zosen Tekko Co. Ltd., to the Nauru Port Authority•

Singapore trained close to 5,000 pacific officials

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The UN Development Programme's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, which is based in Singapore also conducted a segment on effective public service reform to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The Study Visit provides an opportunity for Singapore to share its development experience, and exchange views with the Ministers in areas of common interest including climate change and sustainable development. Singapore has trained close to 5,000 officials from the Pacific Island States and Timor-Leste under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP)•

President Waqa met with Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong

Govt reviews dog control, opts for sustainability program

[Cont pg 4...]

Work to address Nauru's dog problem is taking another step towards dog control with the visit of veterinary consultant Dr Andrea Britton this month, 2-9 February.

Dr Britton works in animal and public health especially associated with dog population management and rabies. She has a consultancy based in Melbourne, Australia though works globally with governments and organisations including the World Health Organisation, and as a board Director of Vets Beyond Borders and member of Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities in Australia.

Dr Britton suggests that killing dogs is not a sustainable or animal welfare friendly solution to the issue of dogs, but recommends a One Health approach that cuts across sectors and will include dog sterilisation, training in humane dog catching

and public and animal health, environment, agriculture and education about dogs.

"Community participation and engagement would be vital for a new dog programs delivery and sustainability," Dr Britton said.

"Killing dogs is not a sustainable solution to Nauru's dog issue. It does not fix the problem because killing dogs doesn't solve the underlying drivers of too many dogs. The best way to address this major problem is to stop the puppies coming, stop access to garbage and responsible dog ownership."

Dr Britton recommends a dog program involving international vets coming to Nauru every six months to surgically sterilise both female and male dogs as this has been shown to quickly stabilise dog populations. Sterilisation programs are happening in Kiribati and the Marshall Islands.

Introducing the cabinet secretariat

Get to know your government departments

A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Office of the President comprises a small team but has the administrative support of the Cabinet Secretariat.

The Cabinet Secretariat plays a key role in scrutinising Cabinet submissions and further implementing of Government Policies and Cabinet Decisions.

Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for providing assistance in all financial matters under Head 01 and 02 and the administration of the Office of the President as well as the office of ministers.

The Cabinet Secretariat is also responsible for the organising of Government functions and events, travel arrangements of President and Ministers and managing various projects as and when assigned by the Cabinet.

His Excellency President Hon. Baron Divavesi Waqa is the Chairman of the Cabinet.

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Mary Dowiyogo - Deputy Personal Assistant

Mahlon Brechtefeld - Project Officer

Marika Degia - House Keeping Assistant •

Govt considers one health approach for dog program

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“A big part of controlling the dog population is in controlling rubbish and waste. Because with increasing numbers of people comes more waste, and more dogs but we need to start to sterilise dogs as people want dogs for protection of their homes in Nauru.”

Dr Britton sees the Nauru dog problem with aggressive and scary dogs, contributing enormously to the health and well-being of individuals as they are prevented from taking up walking, jogging or cycling as forms of exercise for fear of dog attacks.

“The dog breeding season (every 6 months) are the most dangerous with increased dog activity and mating leading to more bites and road accidents.”

Dr Britton was contracted by the Quarantine Section of the Department of Justice and Border Control to undertake this review which includes assessing the Animal Act 1982. Discussions on a One Health approach with Health Minister Charmaine Scotty resulted in the set up of a Task Force to conduct a survey to determine household dog numbers and history of dog bites and concerns.

The exercise was initiated by now Member of Parliament Hon. Asterio Appi while working for Quarantine Office as Director, a

couple of years ago, following the tragic and fatal dog attack of a young girl. Contact was made to NGO's in Australia to assist with looking at a sustainable dog program for Nauru given the crisis situation.

Dr Britton hopes the review and associated plans will be prioritised by the government and through community participation a One Health dog program will soon be implemented in Nauru•



Vet consultant Dr Andrea Britton worked closely with Director of Quarantine Amy Tsitsi and hopes a One Health approach to addressing Nauru's dog problem will be implemented soon

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

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NAURU BULLETIN



Republic of Nauru

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