



Nauru Bulletin

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President hails Australia visit a success

His Excellency President Baron Waqa MP embarked on a historic state visit to Australia from 6-9 April, the first by a Nauruan president for over 20 years.

First Lady Madam Louisa Waqa and senior officials accompanied the President on the four-day visit.

President Waqa met in Sydney with the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP and the Governor of New South Wales, David Hurley.

In Canberra His Excellency toured



His Excellency President Baron Waqa greeted by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on historic state visit

the Mount Majura Solar Farm and discussed renewable energy with senior management, visited the Australian War

Memorial to lay a wreath, and was officially welcomed at Government House by the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove.

The program also included meetings with several senior ministers and Opposition MPs and the Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey.

The invitation by the Australian Government to His Excellency reflects the close relationship of the two nations over many years and the ongoing friendship and cooperation between Nauru and Australia•

Nauru, Australia signs partnership agreements

His Excellency President Baron Waqa welcomed Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific to Nauru and for the signing of documents that would further enhance relations and assistance at the grassroots level for the people of Nauru.



Australia's Minister Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and President Baron Waqa sign Aid Partnership agreement and MoU for the Pacific Micro states Northern worker pilot program.

Australian Minister Concetta Fierravanti-Wells arrived on Nauru 23 April and met President Waqa for discussions on 24 April behind closed doors before the exchange of gifts and the signing of the Aid Partnership agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Pacific Microstates Northern Australia worker pilot program.

The Aid Partnership agreement is a commitment from Australia

to continue its assistance and support of Nauru's development and reform as well as build on the priority development strategies of Nauru, support human development and the public sector reform, which in turn demonstrates the extent of the relationship between Nauru and Australia.

President Waqa is very pleased with the agreement and the MoU and grateful for Australia's continued assistance towards Nauru's development across the board. The president hopes that young Nauruans will work towards preparing themselves for the worker pilot program.

The MoU for the Pacific Microstates worker pilot program is an extension of Australia's existing seasonal worker program focusing on hospitality and aged care sectors.

Minister Fierravanti-Wells said Nauru is one of three microstates, after Tuvalu and Kiribati to sign up to the MoU for the worker pilot program.

The workers will be able to utilise the skills acquired from the labour mobility program when they return to Nauru.

Minister Fierravanti-Wells' visit included tours of Nauru's port, schools, learning village, Nauru Utilities, hospital, the community resource centre, and Australian infrastructure investments, as well as meetings with members of the Cabinet, Speaker and Members of Parliament, as well as other groups and individuals.

The minister attended the Anzac Day dawn service on 25 April and departed Nauru the following day•

Produced by the Government Information Office

Waq, Leung sworn in as notaries public

Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Barina Waqa and Secretary for Justice and Border Control Graham Leung were sworn in as the new notaries public by acting CJ Shaffiullah Khan in a brief ceremony last week (28 April).

The appointments to the office of Notary Public is made by the Chief Justice. It is a legal office created under the Legal Practitioners Act 1973. The main function is the attestation of legal documents, such as powers of attorneys, affidavits and statutory declarations, and certification of copy documents that are intended to be used abroad.

In some countries, including many Commonwealth countries, attestations to these documents are required to be before a Notary Public before they are accepted by the authorities without the need of certification by the Department of Foreign Affairs or foreign diplomatic missions. Attestations before Commissioners for Oaths of Justices of Peace will not be sufficient.

A Notary Public has other legal responsibilities and duties in commerce especially in the areas of Bills of Exchange and in a



Ms Barina Waqa & Graham Leung appointed as Notaries Public by Chief Justice Shaffiullah Khan (R)

Ship's Protest.

The Assistant Minister for Justice, Mr Lionel Aingimea MP was the only other Notary Public on the island. The late Mr Leo Keke was the first local to be appointed to the esteemed office.

Parliament meeting 27 April 2017

The Parliament of Nauru convened the third sitting for 2017 on 27 April with the presentation of several bills and ministerial statements, highlighting the work and progress of government.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa made his opening statement on the recent outbreak of dengue fever especially commending health staff, the community at large and other organisations and donors for their combined assistance in combating the spread of dengue fever.

Ministerial Statements

President Baron Waqa presented his statement on the post-election report for the by-election for the Constituency of Ubenide including the Electoral Commission's introduction and use of a poster display of candidates to assist voters in their choice of candidates.

It was also noted the confusion raised by some voters of the counting system used for a by-election which is different to that used in a General Election. President Waqa said the Electoral Commissioner has noted the issues arising from the by-election and has made a number of recommendations that will be addressed to further improve the conduct of the next election.

Mr Waqa also presented a statement on his recent state visit to Australia, the first state visit in almost two decades by a Nauruan head of state, and met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull for bilateral discussions on a range of issues including education, labour mobility, telecommunications, and refugees. At government house President Waqa received a 21-gun salute before inspecting the police honour guard and playing of the national anthems.

During the course of the state visit, President Waqa met with Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Governor of New South Wales General David Hurley and Mrs Hurley, Director of the Australian War Memorial Dr Brandon Nelson, Governor General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, and the Governor of Queensland the Honourable Paul de Jersey. Minister Charmaine Scotty reported on her meeting at the 61st meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status

of Women (CSW61) with its theme "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work."

Minister Scotty read the statement for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat as well as present Nauru's statement on key development in terms of gender equality and domestic violence.

In health, Minister Scotty highlighted the progress, completion and handover of the new hospital on 20 April following the completion of stage 2 of the rebuild; and thanked the designers and construction companies as well as donors for their contributions to the success of the new hospital.

Minister for Justice David Adeang updated the House on the 2015 riot cases which are currently before the courts. Without going into too much detail due to *sub judice*, Minister Adeang informed the House that a total of 20 people have been charged over the riot, three of which are former Members of Parliament. The charges involve unlawful assembly; entering a security restricted area (Civil Aviation Act 2011); disturbing the legislature; serious assault; unlawful wounding; damaging property.

"The trial proper was supposed to commence on 19 April 2017 but the accused's counsel made various technical, legal applications which are currently being determined by the Magistrate. Depending on the outcome of these applications, the trial may then start," Minister Adeang said.

Honourable Tawaki Kam presented his statement on Nauru Ports and its development plans to improve its port facilities and operations, notably, the installation of the new mooring system. The draft detailed design report of the port development project is under review and will be presented to government and the Asian Development Bank for a decision to proceed. If the plan goes ahead, construction is expected to commence in March 2018.

However, of disappointment is the continued increase in the terminal handling charge (THC) by Neptune Shipping Line that increased 140 per cent in November 2016 and an expected new increase of 90 per cent for the next voyage of Capitaine Quiros voyage 62, that will bring the total increase from \$150 to \$650 per container since November 2016.

April parliament, bills ...from pg 2

Bills

Minister for Justice David Adeang was first to present bills to the House for debate and approval. Mr Adeang presented the Courts (Amendment) Bill 2017 to amend the Courts Act 1972.

“Mr Speaker, the amendment to the Courts Act 1972 proposed in this Bill has one principal objective: to increase the number of resident magistrates for our District Court. This is to cater for the significant growth of the work load of the District Court and clearance of the backlog of cases,” Minister Adeang said.

The second tabled by the minister was the Refugees Convention [Amendment] Bill 2017 to amend the Refugees Convention Act 2012.

“Since the commencement of the Refugees Convention (Derivative Status & Other Measures) (Amendment) Act 2016, on 23 December 2016, it was realised that several adjustments were required to be made to ensure clarity in the legislation and its ensuing implementation.

Minister for Infrastructure Tawaki Kam presented the Derelict Sites Management Bill 2017 to provide for the identification, control and management of derelict sites in Nauru.

“These derelict sites in some instances have undergone severe deterioration which can jeopardise the health and safety of nearby residents and the public at large.”

Minister for Telecommunications Shadlog Bernicke presented the Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Bill 2017 to replace the Telecommunications Act 2002 in light of the dynamic industry such as that of telecommunications.

“Recent studies have indicated that global telephone traffic has been expanding at about 20% per year which is four times the pace of the growth of the global economy. In order to capitalise on this trend, we must ensure that our people are exposed to a state of the art technology at an affordable price, be it through satellite or submarine cable.

“The Bill aims to establish by law the Department of Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs and to appoint a Regulator to head the Department. The Department will be required to authorise, monitor and control the provision by other persons of telecommunications systems and services for use in Nauru,” Minister Bernicke said.

Minister Bernicke went on to introduce the Nauru Fibre Cable Corporation Bill 2017 aimed to establish by law the Nauru Fibre Cable Corporation (NFCC).

“This proposed new Corporation is to be established to manage the incoming submarine cable and to act as a wholesaler of bandwidths.”

Cabinet will have oversight of the Corporation to ensure best practices and industry standards.

The final bill to be presented was the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2017 by President Baron Waqa that is to standardise the method of vote counting at both the general and by-elections.

Presently there are two methods of counting votes in the Act – the Dowdall Borda method that is used for a general election, and the standard preferential used in a by-election.

“Mr Speaker, it does not make sense to have members sitting in Parliament elected by different methods of counting. As a matter of good public administration and good electoral management practice, this amendment will standardise the methods of counting votes in all elections,” President Waqa said.

The previously tabled Domestic Violence and Family Protection Bill 2017 on 21 March by Minister Scotty was debated on and passed at this [April] sitting.

“The primary objective of the Bill is to seek to ensure that the courts identify and protect the person most in need of protection. “To sum up, there is zero tolerance for violence anywhere be it in the homes and in the work environment and in our everyday social environment,” Minister Scotty said.

Parliament is adjourned to a later date•

Discussion desk: Customs explained

The Customs Act 2014 was discussed a few weeks ago (5 April) on the weekly radio program Discussion Desk.

Customs Manager Jessen Cain and Senior Quarantine Officer Tremaine Dick briefly outlined some aspects of the Customs Act. Mr Cain opened the discussion with an introduction into the operations of Customs in policing goods brought into Nauru by ship or by plane.

Mr Cain highlighted that the Nauru Police Force plays an important role in assisting Customs prosecute persons who have been caught trying to import undeclared or banned goods into Nauru. Officer Dick explained that passengers on incoming flights must truthfully declare goods on their declaration forms. Mr Dick clarified that a false declaration may result in confiscation of goods and charged a fee for undeclared items. Duty is paid upon collection of confiscated goods.

Under the Customs Act the president, madam, and the acting president are exempt from baggage searches.

Mr Cain said the use of firearms on ships is restricted. Nauru customs officers are not issued with firearms, however they are accompanied by police officers when they need to board a ship. Once on board Customs officers ask the captain of the ship if their own firearm is stored securely.



Discussion Desk co-hosts Noella Adam & George Joram (L) spoke with Customs Manager Jessen Cain (far left) and Tremaine Dick on the Customs Act

Furthermore, Mr Cain highlighted that individuals caught trying to defraud customs revenue could receive up to \$300,000 and a maximum five years imprisonment. Corporate bodies trying to defraud customs may receive up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Customs has a working relationship with the Nauru Police Force investigating instances where importers dishonestly declare goods attempting to bypass customs duty.

Mr Cain also elaborated on the establishment of a taskforce encompassing members from Nauru Immigration, Nauru Police Force, Customs and Quarantine in which will be engaged in border protection duties through information sharing with their counterparts in the Pacific region.

For more information on the Customs Act 2014 please visit www.naurugov.nr and find the RonLaw link•

Parliament 21 March 2017

The Nauru Parliament at its sitting on 21 March heard several ministerial statements reporting on department activities and passed the Supplementary Appropriation bill 2016-17 #4.

Finance Minister David Adeang said the Supplementary Appropriation Bill makes three adjustments to the Budget estimates for 2016-17. A provision of \$114,900 to cater for increase in salaries and allowances for MPs with the introduction of Assistant Ministers; and a further provision of \$67,000 to accommodate lifeguard salaries, both of which will cater for the rest of the financial year.

Ministerial Statements

Minister David Adeang presented a statement on multicultural affairs informing the House of the progress and continued work of the department “to ensure that both the local and the RPC community continue to benefit from their time on island.”

The management and oversight of the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) has since changed ministries from the Department of Justice to Multicultural Affairs.

While the RPC ensures the safe and harmonious living environment of the asylum seekers and refugees, it has considerably provided for up-skilling and upgrading the qualifications of those working at the RPC with around 290 Nauruans attaining qualifications in hospitality and security operations; all of which are Australian accredited qualifications recognised internationally.

Approximately 858 locals work onsite at the RPC; and 989 refugees including 146 children and 168 asylum seekers reside on Nauru.

“I also call upon our communities to continue its welcome of our guests [refugees and asylum seekers]. We share our home with many nationalities and cultures and it is important that mutual respect continues,” Minister David Adeang said.

Minister Aaron Cook presented an annual report for Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) for the current financial year, citing a reduction in power outages by 50 per cent and reduction in electricity loss from 48 per cent in 2014 to 40 per cent in 2015, to 36 per cent in 2016.

Minister Cook said the NUC made a loss of over \$1.5 million “mainly a result of making provisions for doubtful debts of \$4,531,072.”

Income received as a result of increased electricity sales for the year comes to \$19,237,636, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year.

The NUC also purchased fixed assets worth \$7 million.

As minister for RONPhos Minister Cook reported nil phosphate exports in January however it exported 31,000 metric tonnes of phosphate in February, reporting a total of 57,000 metric tonnes of phosphate exported up to the time of parliament (21 March); and no phosphate exports were scheduled for March and April due to mooring repair works.

Minister Cook acknowledged the challenges faced by RONPhos and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) both of which operate and manage the mining and export of phosphate, and stands ready to receive assistance for any support in reviewing and reform existing practices.



In regards to NRC Minister Cook outlined production and rehabilitation and secondary mining which are progressing at different speeds owing to concerns of land leases and delivery truck repairs; and redefine its scope of production work and staff to work on secondary mining and rehabilitation of government land portion 142.

The dumpsite and waste management unit has put in place plans to better manage and sort rubbish and waste brought up to the dumpsite by the public.

Minister Cook says NRC looks forward to current opportunities such as improving waste management services; work on agreements with the Government on rates, terms and conditions of equipment hire and aggregate sales; secure rock sale contracts with regional neighbours and to maintain road maintenance contracts for topside roads.

President Baron Waqa reported on his first official state visit to the Republic of China (Taiwan) on 6-11 March under the leadership of President Tsai Ing-wen.

President Waqa, Madam Waqa and the delegation were received with full military honours and a gun salute to mark the occasion of His Excellency's first visit under her Presidency.

President Waqa and President Tsai met privately to discuss areas of mutual cooperation and assistance between Nauru and the Republic of China (Taiwan), as well as meetings with various members of the private and public sector to discuss and foster relationships beneficial to the national development of Nauru.

His Excellency also reported on his attendance at the High Level Oceans Preparatory Conference for the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) in Suva Fiji. As chair of the PSIDS Nauru organised and chaired several subcommittees that focused on the different aspects of sustainably managing our oceans and marine resource.

In his statement President Waqa pointed out that they should focus on at least three big areas and which will need to be articulated clearly and effectively in New York for the oceans conference in order to develop partnerships with potential donors.

Minister for Education Charmaine Scotty announced the theme for the academic fraternity for 2017 is Happy Schools, aimed at promoting successful learning. Based on registered births, possible student attendance sits at 3619 while actual attendance was 2568 as at February 2017.

A variety of programs have either commenced or in planning for the Able Disable Centre including the student work experience program; a draft inclusive education policy; and a music program for infant students giving them the opportunity to enjoy and experience music from local artists. Minister Scotty thanked the Government of Australia for endorsing the Direct Aid program application for the project.

The Education Working group met twice in February and March to discuss issues and successes of asylum seeker and refugee students as well as update its supporters and shareholders on enrolment and attendance of the students.

March parliament continued

...from pg 4

The minister also reported that two UNESCO supported project – the re-entry pilot project and anti-bullying project are in their initial stage of implementation. The re-entry project is to enhance and provide an avenue for student motivation to attend school through the hands on project of working with wood.

In health the minister reported the remarkable progress made at the hospital and services highlighting the successful brain surgery performed in the new operation theatre. The new wing of the hospital that was handed over on 17 February include the new emergency room and ambulance bay, day observation unit, intensive care unit, pathology and laboratory wing and paediatric ward with a dedicated children's outpatient clinic.

Public health addressed and controlled the recent outbreak of dengue fever on island with the support and assistance of the community at large, government departments and key partners locally and regionally.

In Home Affairs the work of the Clean and Green project such as the clean-up days to counter the spread of dengue fever in February; the setup of waste segregation pits; and the quarterly beach clean up to commence in April. Language day was also celebrated in Nauru on 24 February with emphasis to promote the preservation of the use of the Nauruan language.

The culture department is working on a school training program for fifth graders as well as prepare for the upcoming Expo to take place in Astana Kazakhstan. Women's Affairs has the Family Domestic Violence Bill and national human rights consultations to look forward to; and awareness on child protection will be rolled out in May. Tourism is stepping up its marketing and promotions and has conducted in-country statistics training with the South Pacific Tourism Office. Youth affairs is looking at leadership management and training in life skills programs.

In land management Minister Scotty underscored the department's goal that is to have a transparent and fair land management system that supports social, economic and private sector development.

Newly appointed Minister Tawaki Kam presented his statement on transport with procurement of buses and maintenance of national roads, footpaths and road drains.

Mr Kam also reported the expected arrival of the replacement mooring system; two new pusher barges donated by Japan in February; as well as the loss of the flat raft on 14 March that is used to handle 40 foot shipping containers and heavy machinery cargo to and from ships. The matter is being investigated.

Consultants for the port development project are working on the detailed design of the port with construction expected to commence in 2018; and plans to demolish the old marine and hardware store buildings is expected to take place this year; long term land leases will also be addressed to secure land for port operations.

In sports Minister Kam acknowledged and congratulated Nauruans sports men and women in their participation and achievements at international events. The minister highlighted plans to construct an indoor multipurpose stadium to be built over the existing basketball court in Yaren as well as plans to stage traditional games in the lead up to the 50th Independence Day anniversary celebrations.

Parliament was adjourned shortly after 10pm•

NAURU BULLETIN

Immigration act on discussion desk

The Immigration Act 2014 was recently discussed on the weekly radio program Discussion Desk, highlighting topics of common concern and import. Co-host of the weekly program Mick Cannon from Radio Nauru and George Joram from the Government Information Office spoke with Senior Immigration Officers Darlene Dabana and Renata Bernicke on the importance of the Immigration Act 2014.

Ms Dabana opened the discussion stating the importance of the immigration of the act as a guideline for people wanting to come into Nauru to establish a business and for those locals who sponsor them.

The act contains the conditions of their visa that they should adhere to.

Ms Dabana also emphasised that business owners wishing to bring family dependents can do so, however dependents must specify whether they are working dependents contributing to the business or not. This may result in dependents breaching the conditions of their Dependent visa and liable for penalties.



Discussion Desk co-hosts Mick Canon and George Joram spoke with Immigration officers Darlene Dabana (far left) and Renata Bernicke on the Immigration Act

Ms Bernicke added that immigration officers will warn dependents seen to have breached the conditions of the dependents visa and by law those dependents are required to adjust their visa and apply for the appropriate visa.

Ms Bernicke also highlighted that there are seven classes of visas specified in the act and detailed the seven types of visas listed under business visa that can be applied for under the act.

Ms Dabana also explained the importance of the residence visa and outlined some of the provisions allowed under the act. Ms Dabana highlighted that the residence visa can be renewed every two years or five years and explained that the special purpose visa is applied for reasons relating to diplomatic and legal proceedings.

Ms Bernicke ended the radio interview by appealing to the general public to adhere to the immigration policies to avoid confusion and setbacks.

For more information on the Immigration Act 2014 please visit www.naurugov.nr and find the RonLaw link•

Discussion Desk

Join the Government Information Office and Radio Nauru talk about policy that matter to you

Every Wednesdays 9.30am on FM105.1

Introducing Finance department

Get to know your government departments.

A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Department of Finance is the central administrative body that administers the governments core financial processes and is the umbrella department for, Treasury, PAD, Statistics, Customs and Quarantine, Nauru Revenue Office, Government warehouse. The department is headed by Martin Hunt with support from his staff.

Treasury Staff

Rhianna Scotty – Account Reconciliation officer
Wayman Harris – Senior Payment Officer
Fononga Akaay – Assistant Payment Officer
Rhoda Lee – Banking Officer
Stephaine Tebouwa – Director System and Processing
Rejoice Agir – Senior Budget and Debt Officer
Salote Harris – Senior Procurement Officer
Wenette Deiye – Account Officer (Temp)
Kismina Gadeanang – Account Payment Officer
Kana Gadoengin – Assistant Budget and Debt Officer
Henry Dake – Assistant Account Reconciliation Officer
Taufia Patolo – Chief Accountant
Andy Cain – Director Budget & Debt
Ruthie Dimapilis – Director Financial and Reporting
Coburg Gadabu – Budget and Debt Officer
Ursula Amwano – Assistant Account Officer
Lisa Deiye – Budget and Debt Officer
George Plant – Dep. Secretary Treasury



PAD Staff

Henry Cocker – Deputy Secretary Planning
Samuel Grundler – Director of AID Management
John Limen – Director of Planning Development
Liluv Itsimaera – Senior Aid Officer (Acting Infrastructure Sector Planner)
Clivaz Bop – Assistant Sector Planner (Acting Social Sector Planner)
Justin Togoran – Economic Sector Planner (Probationary period)
Branessa Tsiode – Social Sector Planner (in Recleave)

Other departments will be featured in coming issues of the Nauru Bulletin•

Obituary: Nauru remembers former CJ Robin Millhouse

Former chief justice of Nauru Robin Rhodes Millhouse QC passed away on Friday 28 April and is remembered by many colleagues and friends from Nauru.

The Nauru Government expresses deep sympathy at news of his passing and wishes his family strength at this time.

Justice Millhouse served as Nauru's chief justice from 2006 to 2010 while also serving as CJ for neighbouring island Kiribati from 1999 to 2011.

A former South Australian Liberal attorney-general, Member of Parliament, Supreme Court judge, Queen's Counsel barrister and Chief Justice of Nauru and Kiribati, His Excellency President Baron Waqa remembers him for his esteemed work in the Nauru Court.

"Robin Millhouse served Nauru well and with pride in the work he did and will be remembered dearly by those who were fortunate to have known him and worked with him.



"I express the Government's and my personal condolences to his family that they may find peace in God's grace," President Waqa said.

Robin Millhouse died at the age of 87 in Sydney Australia•

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

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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