



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru deposits the ratification agreement for solar alliance

Nauru has ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework further supporting the government's target of achieving fifty per cent renewable energy by 2020.

The ratification instrument was deposited by Minister for Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) Aaron Cook with India's Minister for Union Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley in Ahmedabad India on 22 May.

However the Agreement was signed by Hon. Milton Dube, Senior Advisor to President Baron Waqa on 15 November 2016 in Marrakech Morocco and later President Waqa ratified the agreement on the establishment of the ISA on 4 May 2017.

ISA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November, 2015 by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and French President Mr Francois Hollande, in the presence of Secretary General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki Moon

At the ceremony Minister Cook explained Nauru's hot and humid temperatures given its close proximity to the equator and highlighted the government's target of 50% of energy to be derived from renewable energy sources by 2020.

"Nauru sees that the extensive use of solar panel power generation is very critical for its future to combat climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, achieve sustainability in electricity production.

"Currently three per cent of the energy is produced by solar panel installations comprising 200 kW of roof top and a 500 kW ground mounted installations," Minister Cook said.

Nauru's maximum power demand is 5.2 megawatts with annual energy



Minister for CIE Aaron Cook hands over the signed International Solar Alliance agreement to India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

production at 33 gigawatt hours.

According to Acting CEO for NUC Ali Mohammed, Nauru currently has several renewable energy projects either in the feasibility stage or on the verge of implementation. They include a 300 kW solar panel installation planned under the EU EDF 11 Program, a 8MW planned for GCF funding coordinated by the Asian Development Bank, and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed a 1 MW solar panel installation.

"The NUC 2020 Strategic Plan targets 50 per cent energy generated through renewable energy and that basically is solar energy. The 50 per cent solar energy is based on the forecasted power demand at 2020," Acting CEO for NUC Ali Mohammed said.

It is forecasted that total annual energy demand by 2020 will increase to 50 GWh once all off-grid load of 4.5 megawatts is connected to the main power grid.

"The total existing projected off-grid demand is 4.5MW, that mainly comprises all the RPC camps, Ronphos drier and crusher and the new prison. The increase also incorporates the substantive growth

in domestic, commercial and industrial demands," Mr Ali said.

"Being part of ISA will enable us to share lessons learned as well as enabling us to request support and assistance for technical requirements on solar renewable equipment. It strengthens Nauru's stance on reducing fossil use and increasing renewable sources for energy use," Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) Mavis Depaune said.

Nauru's average temperature ranges between 26-36 degrees Celsius in the day and 22-34 degrees Celsius during the night. With this much consistent sunlight, solar power is the best form of renewable energy for power generation for Nauru.

The bulk of Nauru's energy comes from expensive diesel fuel generators. Reducing the use of fossil fuel and increase the use of clean solar energy will greatly impact the health of Nauru's environment and address affordability issues for Nauruans.

International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a coalition of solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn to specifically address energy needs by tapping solar energy from the sun. This alliance will provide a platform for prospective member countries to collaborate and address the identified gaps through a common agreed approach. ISA has been envisioned as a dedicated platform which will contribute towards the common goal of increasing utilization and promotion of solar energy and solar applications in its prospective member countries to help the world transition to a low-carbon and greener society•

President Waqa receives Indonesian Ambassador Jusuf

His Excellency President Baron Waqa received the Ambassador-designate of Indonesia to the Republic of Nauru at the Office of the President this week (11 May) for the presentation of the ambassador's Letter of Credence.



Indonesia's Ambassador to Nauru Dr Gary Jusuf presented his Letter of Credence to President Baron Waqa on 11 May

Dr Gary Jusuf arrived at the government offices and was greeted by Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Michael Aroi with copies of the Letter of Credence before being received by the Commissioner of Police for the playing of the national anthems of Indonesia and Nauru and the inspection of the Nauru Police Guard of Honour.

The Ambassador was then escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials.

President Waqa welcomed Dr Jusuf and wished him the best during his term as ambassador to Nauru, and expressed appreciation for the continued relations between their two countries.

A private meeting followed the formal presentation.

Ambassador Jusuf also made courtesy calls on Speaker of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers and was hosted to dinner on 11 May by President Waqa.

Dr Jusuf holds a Ph.D from the faculty of sociology and political science at the University of Indonesia, a Masters from the graduate school of internal relations from the International University of Japan, and a Bachelors from the faculty of social sciences, University of Indonesia.

Ambassador Jusuf started his career in foreign affairs in the early 1980s and worked in many foreign offices and posts for Indonesia including the most recent as ambassador to Fiji and consul general in Sydney Australia.

Upon arrival into Nauru on 10 May, Ambassador Jusuf and his accompanying official were taken on a tour of the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation mining site.

Nauru formally established diplomatic relations with Indonesia on 14 February 2011.

The Ambassador departed Nauru on Friday 12 May•

New citizens bring opportunities - president

Nauru conducted its second citizenship ceremony welcoming 34 individuals to the Nauruan family on 16 May 2017.

The oath ceremony was presided over by Judge Jane Crulci and certificates conferred by His Excellency President Baron Waqa.

In welcoming the new citizens, President Waqa said "we honour you today as Nauruans," and acknowledged "this special and momentous day when Nauru's Constitution was adopted by our forefathers 49 years ago. Our Constitution is our supreme law, and it is inspired by the Holy Bible."

"Nauru welcomes new citizens from other countries to add to the diverse ethnicity of what makes us Nauruans. Immigrants are a special breed of people. They have unique skills, attitudes and visions that can transform a country.

"They bring with them opportunities, not only for themselves but for others as well - for today and for tomorrow. They can also inspire to change others for the better. Immigrants who have lived among us for many generations have done much for Nauru's development.

"I trust that our new citizens today will be just as good in contributing towards Nauru's development.

"To the new citizens of Nauru, each of you here today will have something special to share with your families that is uniquely yours to add to the meaning of being a Nauruan. We hope that the freedom, the peace, the diversity and tolerance that we are privileged to enjoy in Nauru will be actively embraced and advanced by you.



President Baron Waqa with the new citizens of Nauru after the second ceremony to present citizenship certificates

"You will now join the people of Nauru as citizens, and I encourage you to take on responsibilities of being good fellow Nauruans and push your families to do their best for Nauru," President Waqa said.

The Minister for Justice Honourable David Adeang is tasked with assessing applications for Nauruan citizenship.

"I value your determination to stand united under our flag to take this country forward and celebrate our national achievements.

"Let us partner together to make Nauru stronger and more resilient. A dynamic country that is busy getting on with improving the livelihood of Nauruans today and tomorrow.

Cont pg 3...

Emergency talk on the Discussion Desk

The National Disaster Risk Management Act 2008 (NDRM) was recently discussed on the weekly local radio show Discussion Desk, highlighting important emergency topics and guidelines in the event of national disaster.

Program co-hosts Dominic Appi of Radio Nauru and George Joram from the Government Information Office spoke with Secretary for National Emergency Services (NES) Roy Harris on the importance of the Act.

Mr Harris said the department was established in 2015 and the NES consults with all the emergency services including, fire and rescue, ambulance service, meteorology, and lifeguard services.

Mr Harris said the Act enables proper planning and coordination in response to national emergency, and puts Nauru in good stead globally in regards to proper emergency response and coordination.

The secretary further highlighted that in the previous NDRM Act of 2008, emergency powers were given to the police to implement in a state of emergency. However, amendments made to the Act in 2016 provide that the NDRM office is now the national coordinator and the main implementing agency in the event of national emergencies. The police and fire services are listed as responding agencies during a state of emergency.

The NDRM Act 2008 provides for the NDRM Council comprising heads of department including the commissioner of police, and the secretaries for transport, ICT, health, CIE, health, and NES. The council is chaired by the President of Nauru.

The role of the council is to authorise and approve the National Emergency Services response and recovery activities. The National Controller's role in the council is to monitor report and provide recommendations to the council about Nauru's national emergency systems. In addition, some civil society groups are also members of the same council such as the disabled people's association. The secretary may engage other groups to provide technical advice to the council.

In the event of a natural disaster the national controller assumes a temporary role as main implementing agency of emergency procedures and has the authority to order the removal of buildings seen to be obstructing national safety routes and emergency responders such as the fire rescue and police services will temporarily come under the direction of the national controller.

The three colour codes for emergencies were also explained with green alert to mean the situation is still safe and threat is low. Orange alert indicates that threat is still relatively low and situation carefully monitored however the public is advised to remain on standby and await further instructions. Red alert indicates the threat is confirmed and people should immediately head for higher ground or designated evacuation areas.

Other points discussed included the powers of police during a national emergency, looting and role of media during times of national emergency.

Discussion Desk listeners were advised to always stay alert to weather updates and advice from the NES during national emergencies via phone messaging, radio, and the Government Information Office (GIO).

For more information on the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2008 please visit www.naurugov.nr and find the RONLaw link•

NAURU BULLETIN

New citizens encouraged to integrate

...from pg 2

"As minister for Multicultural Affairs, I look forward to seeing you exercise your rights responsibly as a Nauruan citizen to participate in our community, integrate and learn our lifestyle, culture and tradition and share yours with us.

"You come from different countries and each of you adds another thread to our national tapestry, wonderful in its array as we now have a common nationality. Our history is your history, and the narrative of your life becomes a part of our history too," Minister Adeang said.

Acting Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Berilyn Jeremiah encouraged the new citizens to "all work together in making Nauru prosperous and blessed because every good citizen adds to the strength of a nation."

"Being a Nauruan bestows the honour of allegiance to a great and proud nation. This allegiance requires the respect of our laws, our fellow man and the system of democratic governance which gives Nauruan citizens the ultimate decision making role, the voter. Your citizenship enables your participation in and access to political or judicial processes.

"Today your story is now part of our story. You now claim a nation that prides itself on strength, good will, generosity, kindness, respect, dignity, perseverance, hope and most all faith," Mrs Jeremiah said emphasising Nauru's national motto of God's will first behind its strong national identity.

Nine of the 34 recipients were unable to attend the ceremony however their certificates collected by relatives on their behalf•

Local media join sustainable & resilient development training

As part of the Nauru Governments' objective to up skill and broaden the knowledge and skills base of its public service, three of its local media representatives attended regional media training in resilient and sustainable development media and communications in Fiji, 8-12 May 2017.

The week long training gave journalists and communications professionals from across the Pacific region a better understanding of the regional dimensions to sustainable and resilient development and equip them with tools to improve their coverage of these issues.



Regional media and communications reps benefit from climate change and social development training

Cont pg 4...

Government vehicles policy on DDesk

The Discussion Desk has heard several policies since its inception in early March and recently the government vehicles policy was dissected for better understanding and knowledge by public servants that are entrusted with driving these public assets.

Co-hosts George Joram from the Government Information Office and Radio Nauru's Noella Adam spoke with Secretary for Administration and Operations Michael Angelo Dimapilis and Sergeants Santee Garabwan and Jacaranda Akibwib on the importance and necessity of such a policy.

Mr Dimapilis whose office polices the use of government vehicles says the policy is necessary and important to safeguard government assets. Vehicles are a big investment and require better care by its users. Mr Dimapilis added that one additional reason the proper implementation of the policy is beneficial to prolonging the life of the vehicles.

The policy was approved by Cabinet in August 2013.

The Government Vehicle Allocation Committee (GVAC) meets every month or so to look into issues arising from vehicle usage as well as amend the policy where suitable for current times and circumstances.

While the policy is implemented and enforced by Mr Dimapilis' section within the Department of the Chief Secretary, the Nauru Police also play a role given some of the policy rules derive from the Motor Traffic Act hence criminal offences are likely.

The role of the Nauru Police Force is vital to ensure public safety and the proper use of public roads. All road incidents must be reported within 24 hours to the police who then reports to the Commissioner of Police who then brings the incident to the attention of the president and or Mr Dimapilis who is responsible for the care of government owned vehicles.

Mr Dimapilis also explained employees who are assigned government vehicles will now undergo a vehicle induction process to ensure



Discussion Desk speakers Secretary for Administration Angelo Dimapilis (centre) and Sergeants Santee Garabwan and Jacaranda Akibwib dissect the government vehicles policy

they are aware of the care conditions and expectations for using a government vehicle.

Some of the restrictions with use of government vehicles include no smoking in vehicles, drink driving, must not be used for gambling purposes or visiting gambling places such as bingo and horse betting, and cannot be used for business purposes or profitable activities. A person not employed by the government is not permitted to drive the vehicle.

The policy also addresses other rules such as drink driving and wearing seatbelts which are linked to the Motor Traffic Act, therefore punishable by law.

Sergeant Santee Garabwan reiterated the fine of \$500 is the maximum penalty for driving without a driver's licence and a maximum fine of \$200 will be issued to drivers who do not wear a seatbelt whilst driving a vehicle.

More information on the Government vehicles policy can be found on the website www.naurugov.nr and find the RONLaw link.

Tune in to Discussion Desk every Wednesdays 9.30am on FM105.1 •

Nauru benefits from regional media training

...from pg 3

Various experts from agencies such as SPC youth, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), UNDP spoke on issues of gender equality, youth representation and disability.

Government Information Officer George Joram, Nauru media office chief reporter Johannah Akubor and Commerce, Industry and Environment's Ridge to Reef project member Maryanne Deireragea completed the weeklong training on 12 May with positive feedback.

Topics covered in the training included the sustainable development goals (SDG) and the framework for Pacific regionalism as well as a discourse on the role of media to effectively communicate the SDGs.

The training conference was officially opened by the Fiji Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Honourable Semi Koroilavesau, who was also the keynote speaker at the training.

The Minister urged media and communications representatives to utilise the training opportunity and use their skills to address developmental issues faced in the region.

"The media plays a leading role in the process of nation building and development.

"I therefore urge you to utilise the training to the best of your ability and to return to your homes armed with skills, knowledge and

creative solutions to some of the biggest issues in your countries," Minister Koroilavesau said.

The media representatives were challenged as well as enlightened through one-on-one question and answer sessions with regional experts on climate change. Participants were given an insight into how these regional issues are being addressed and encouraged to give focus to those critical issues through television, radio, print and the internet.

The participants had the opportunity to develop their own stories on resilience, sustainable development and climate change and present those stories in a medium of their own choosing.

During a field trip, participants collected story ideas from information gathered through interviews with those closely working on sustainable development projects and climate change issues. Participants presented their findings and stories on the final day through the various mediums of print, video and radio.

At the conclusion of the training media representatives were presented a certificate of completion on 12 May and gained the opportunity to network and form partnerships with their regional colleagues.

The training was hosted by the UNDP in conjunction with Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP), UNICEF, SPREP, the global environment fund (GEF), Pacific Ridge to Reef project and the European Union •

Introducing the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Get to know your government departments.

A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade is headed by Secretary Michael Aroi under President Baron Waqa as minister. The department takes the lead in receiving delegates and officials from abroad and is the frontline to handle international and regional diplomatic and trade affairs.



caption

Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Michael Aroi

International Division

Director

Kane Amandus

Assistant Director

Mr Tini Duburiya

Foreign Service Officer

Mrs Kellen Deiye

Foreign Service Officer

Mrs Darina Bingham

Foreign Service Officer

Ms Amanda Bagadouwe

Protocol and Administration

Director for Protocol and Administration

Ms. Annalina Solomon

Assistant Director for Protocol

Ms Yuri Buramen

Assistant Director for Administration

Mrs Rosene Ika

Foreign Service officer for Finance

Ms Trinette Duburiya

Foreign Service Officer Protocol

Ms Xiena Wiram

Foreign Service Officer Protocol

Mr Itema Moses

Foreign Service Officer (Front Desk)

Ms Chelsea Eoe

Regional Division (Asia)

Director

Mr Onassis Dame

Assistant Director

Ms Unique Harris

Foreign Service Officer

Mr Tilson Ephraim

Trade Pacific

Director

Mrs Elizabeth Jacob

Assistant Director

Mr Ernest Stephen

Foreign Service Officer

Mrs Ruth Dowiyogo

Seasonal Work Unit Manager

Ms Miniva Harris

SIS Desk Officer

Mr Nodel Neneiya

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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