



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 10-2017/158

28 June 2017

Jubilee celebrations to launch on handover day

Idorodoro me ekababur ouwak

Celebrations for Nauru's 50th Independence Day anniversary will officially launch with a mega carnival packed with entertainment this weekend, 1 July.

The announcement was made by President Baron Waqa during a televised address on public service day 23 June, reiterating the importance and significance the anniversary is to Nauru and gave thanks for God's protection and guidance for Nauru through trying times.

The date is also official commencement dates for state owned entities Ronphos, 2005, Nauru Airlines, 1996, and Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA), 1997.

The date has a further historical significance when phosphate operations were handed over from the British Phosphate Commission to the Nauru Phosphate Corporation on 1st July 1970.



Street decorations at Aiwo bridge being put up by RONPhos for the launch of Independence day celebrations on 1 July.

In 2005 NPC was re-established on 1st July and the company renamed Ronphos.

The Mega Carnival or *Idorodoro me ekababur ouwak* will commence at 7am at the Linkbelt Oval with novelty sporting events and stalls on display.

A march parade will make its way from the Ronphos head office to the oval at 9am followed by the official opening of the Mega Carnival by His Excellency President Baron Waqa at 10am.

In the President's televised address on 23 June, he called on communities to be proud of Nauru's achievements and join in the national drive to keep Nauru clean and beautified in the lead up to and throughout the anniversary year.

President Waqa further reiterated the importance of road rules and courtesy to ensure motorists, pedestrians and bystanders are safe.

The carnival will feature dance and singing groups, a magic show and balloonists as well as numerous stalls to cater for displays, food and drinks that will be set up by the different sporting federations, state owned enterprises, community groups, and individual vendors•

Nauru-Australia sign \$490k for sports development

A memorandum of understanding was signed last week (14 June) between the Republic of Nauru and Australia for the development of community sports in Nauru.

The agreement valued at \$490,000 will go into refurbishing some of the sporting facilities around Nauru.

Minister for Sports Tawaki Kam thanked Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly for Australia's contribution to the development of sport in Nauru saying that it is a move forward in the improvement and preparation for overseas competitions, reiterating the importance of sport and hopes that sport in Nauru will continue to progress through the agreement.

High Commissioner Donnelly detailed how some of the funding will be utilised under the agreement.



Acting President Aaron Cook, Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly and Minister of Sports Tawaki Kam approve \$490,000 agreement for the improvement of sports facilities on Nauru

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Aust to aid community sports

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“The balance (of the funding) will be going towards a series of refurbishment of sporting facilities around Nauru, so we’re looking at fixing up things like tennis courts, basketball, netball courts and other facilities,” Mr Donnelly said.

The High Commissioner added that from the fund \$100,000 will be set aside for the Department of Sports Epon Karamen program that will be revived under the bilateral agreement.

Acting President Honourable Aaron Cook offered his thanks to Australia on behalf the Nauru Government and commended the Minister for Sports for his efforts towards the development of sport in Nauru.

Secretary of Sports Mr Rayong Itsimaera also gave his remarks on behalf of the sports department thanking Australia for their financial support.

“For the communities it’ll be a real big impact in changing lives for all Nauruans, we are very grateful and thank the Australian government for the funding support,” Mr Itsimaera said.

Under the agreement, the sports department will be working with the Australian High Commission in conducting community consultations and allocating funds for the sporting facilities.

High Commissioner Donnelly also indicated that Australia’s involvement with sports in Nauru will continue well into the future with further projects to be implemented soon.

“Our engagement is going to continue on, we’ve recently been in discussions with the government regarding developing a sports complex for Nauru based on community needs and addressing not just the interests of men and boys but women and girls as well,” Mr Donnelly said.

Funding for the refurbishments is expected to be provided within the next two months•

MAN generators arrive on Nauru

Two new generators arrived on Nauru this week (26 June) and are being transported to the Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) headquarters in Aiwo district ready for installation.

Each MAN engine has a 2.8MW capacity and are expected to improve security of power supply.

“These generators will greatly improve the reliability of power supply and also connect to the grid other demands such as the refugee centres, Ronphos drier, and others,” CEO for Nauru Utilities Abraham Simpson said.

Some of the replaced generators will be refurbished.



The transportation of the generators from the landing at the Aiwo causeway to the NUC headquarters is expected to take a couple days as they travel anti-clockwise round the island.

Due to the immense weight of the engines it was considered safer to take the longer route around the island to avoid possible damage to the Aiwo bridge crossing over the phosphate conveyor belt.

Parts for the new engines were designed in Germany and sent to India for assembly before being shipped to its final destination Nauru aboard the vessel *Marama Senikabuta*, a Fijian owned vessel that operates in the Solomon Islands•

NUC leads low carbon project for Nauru

Work to address and assess Nauru’s energy consumption is being undertaken through a low carbon project headed by Nauru Utilities Corporation and United Nations funded projects.

The Terminal Evaluation of the Low Carbon Islands (LCI) Project covers Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu assesses project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency.

It determines the key outcomes and impacts stemming from the project including its sustainability on behalf of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) under the Global Environment Fund (GEF) project. The project was implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

President of Sustainable Development Advisors (SDA) Alfredo Caprile was on island to conduct the evaluation and met with stakeholders that have participated in the project to gauge their views on the project implementation and to what extent the goals are being achieved.

“Installations of solar PV systems both grid and off-grid have proven to be a very good approach to lower electricity costs and

reduce the use of fossil fuels particularly in island countries like Nauru.

“Today, Nauru still has a low renewable energy penetration which stands at around 3 per cent but in the last years several solar PV systems have been installed and Nauru now has trained engineers that can take care of their installation and maintenance,” Mr Caprile said.

The four key activities identified to achieve the project objectives include installation of a pilot solar PV project at the Odn Aiwo hotel connected to the main power grid; development of a low carbon fund to provide 35 per cent rebates in the purchase of high energy efficient domestic appliances which is being managed by NUC; assistance with the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for grid access and certification modalities for eligible renewable energy technologies; and awareness raising campaigns to show the benefits of installing grid connected solar PV systems and purchasing high energy efficiency domestic appliances.

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Renewable energy needs public awareness

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Mr Caprile underscores the importance of raising awareness among the population to understand the benefits of installing and using solar power.

“More importantly to have them understand the benefits of working on energy conservation at home and at work, something that will directly affect their disposable income and increase the quality of their own lives.

“At the Government level, it is very important that they place all of their energy in passing an energy act. At this moment, Nauru does have an energy road map but no energy legislation yet in place.”

Mr Caprile says Nauru’s national target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2020 “is a sound target even though it will not be easy to achieve,” but advises that Nauru looks to other small island developing states and learn from their achievements and errors

to move faster towards the 50 per cent target by 2020.

The LCI project started in March 2013 and is scheduled for completion by June 2017. GEF supported the project with an allocation of USD\$1.29 million. The governments of Tuvalu, Niue and Nauru have committed to contribute co-financing for a total of USD\$7.69 million.

Mr Caprile has over 30 years of professional experience with over 25 years of international experience in providing financial and economic project and policy advisory support to the public and private sectors in developing countries.

SDA was established in Buenos Aires, Argentina and provides consultancy and project financial advisory services to a wide range of market sectors directly related to the field of sustainable development•

DDesk on the Derelict sites management act 2017

The Derelict Sites Management Act 2017 was recently introduced in parliament with the aim of managing derelict structures around Nauru. Discussion desk cohosts Rhona Bop and George Joram spoke with Secretary of infrastructure development Lesi Olsson on more on the new act.

Mr Olsson defined a derelict site is a site which includes any structure such as buildings, abandoned vehicles or areas that have become a hazardous to public health and the natural environment.

Mr Olsson further explained that under the Act that structures or areas that have become unsightly, have no electricity or toilet facilities may also be defined as a derelict site. Lastly, areas that are seen to be attracting criminal activity such as drug taking and buildings that have been occupied illegally can be defined as derelict sites under the new act.

The new act is overseen by the Ministry for Infrastructure Development a portfolio of Honourable Minister Tawaki Kam.

The new act is important towards improving the lives of all Nauruans by keeping their surroundings clean and maintained from potentially turning hazardous sites. In addition, it was highlighted that the timely implementation of the act should prepare the country in time for 50th independence anniversary celebrations, 31 January 2018 and events leading up to the anniversary year.

Mr Olsson explained that by keeping home surroundings clear of abandoned vehicles and keeping structures maintained will certainly help keep one from receiving a derelict site notice.

The Infrastructure Development office is currently in the process of appointing derelict site authorised officers who will be conducting community visits and to identify derelict structures and areas. Under the act authorised officers with relevant expertise and experience will be appointed to execute the duties of an authorised officer.

Under the Act, if a person receives a derelict notice they have ten days to respond to the notice. Under the act one may seek an exemption from the infrastructure office provided that grounds for seeking an exemption are reasonable.

In addition, persons who do not comply with the conditions of the derelict notice within a specified period of time, the Department of Infrastructure may take such steps it considers reasonable and necessary to effect the terms of the notice. Under the act anyone who contravenes or fails to comply with any notice is liable for conviction of a fine of no more than \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.

Mr Olsson highlighted that penalties can be incurred for obstructing authorised officers whilst carrying out their duties. Persons obstructing an authorised officer will receive a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or a term of imprisonment of no more than a year. Authorised officers will have identification when carrying out inspections on derelict sites. Penalties also apply for destroying the derelict notice.

Mr Olsson highlighted that some positions for the infrastructure development office includes the Secretary of infrastructure, an infrastructure development officer, Infrastructure officer, clerical officer. Vacancies for the department will be advertised at a later date•



Co-hosts Rhona Bop and George Joram discusses the Derelict Sites Management Act 2017 with Secretary for Infrastructure Development Lesi Olsson on DDesk

Public service day

The annual celebration of Public Service Day on 23 June saw the participation of departments, SOEs and other entities as employees are reminded of the significance of each staff member and their contribution to the public service.

PSD celebrations on Nauru began with an early morning walk on 23 June to the government offices from the Aiwo boat harbour several kilometres away.

The walk followed the judging of departmental displays which constitutes the overall judging for best department of the year as well as quiz competitions and novelty sporting events through the day.

In His Excellency's statement he said Public Service Day "recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on the foundation of a competent civil service."

"This event (Public Service day) provides our public servants an opportunity to reiterate their commitment to serve our country and our people to the best of their ability.

"The Public Service day should also be an occasion for celebrating our successes and also be honest in admitting our failures and our deficiencies.

"We should encourage boldness in decision making, provided that the decisions are well considered and as per the law of the land," President Waqa said.

Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler echoed those sentiments recognising public servants for "their contribution to the development of our nation and they deserve this honour."

"The face of the public service today is selfless or self-sacrificing. This face is an expectation from their leaders and the citizens.

"They are obligated to run towards danger when others flee the opposite direction. Our people in uniforms bravely do this. They are obligated to burn the midnight oil to advance the country. Most, if not, all do this. They are obligated to serve and honour others above themselves. All of them structurally do this," Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler said.



President Baron Waqa presenting the Employee of the Year award to winner Ophelia Caleb from the Chief Secretary department during the Public Service day ceremony.

The annual awards were based on department's annual reports, displays on public service day and by public votes of ones favourite department cast via text voting.

The Department of Justice and Border Control won the department of the year award for the third year in a row and also won the best displays on the day.

Secretary for JBC Graham Leung accepted the prize and acknowledged that the reporting period for the annual report was from work done largely by previous secretary Lionel Aingimea.

The employee of the year was awarded to Deputy Secretary to Cabinet Ophelia Caleb and the government sponsored NPS employee of the year scholarship as prize. The scholarship will be undertaken at the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu and graduate dentist Octavian Detenamo gave inspirational speeches of their path to educational success and the challenges they faced along the way.

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•

World refugee day 2017

Nauru commemorated the United Nations World Refugee Day with a public holiday and festivities involving song and dance competitions at the Centennial Hall, on 20 June.

The public event on the evening of 20 June organised and funded by the Department of Multicultural Affairs included a range of fun activities for children with free food and drinks shared throughout the evening's program that ran from 6-10pm.

On behalf of the Acting President and Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs Aaron Cook, the Honourable Charmaine Scotty delivered his statement saying celebrating World Refugee Day represents special obligations on all humanity.

"We Nauruans are no stranger to devastation that can be caused by persecution and from warfare.

"Today we remember the courage and bravery of all refugees who have faced persecution. We also remember those who have not made it," Minister Scotty said.

Of the 21 million refugees around the world, Nauru accommodates over 900 which is approximately one-tenth of the Nauruan population.

"We have opened our home to those in need. We have shared



what little we have and continue our hope together for a brighter future for all in a world without persecution.

"Today we are celebrating the newest members of our community with hope and compassion.

"You, the refugees are an important part of our community and we are grateful for your positive contribution to Nauru," Minister Scotty said.

This is the fourth year that Nauru is celebrating World Refugee Day with a public holiday•

Introducing the department Justice and Border Control

Get to know your government departments.

A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Department of Justice and Border Control is under the portfolio of Minister David Adeang, MP, and head of department Secretary for JBC Graham Leung.

Secretariat

Secretary for JBC – Graham Leung

Solicitor General – Jay Udit

Government Counsel – John Rabuku

Pleader/Deputy Registrar of Corporations – Victor Soriano

Pleader / Litigation Officer – Maverick Eoe

Administration Manager – Angelina Itsimaera

PA for Secretary for JBC – Shahzad Anwar

Drafting Section

Principal Drafter – Kerryn Kwan

Assistant Drafter – Mele Tagivakatini

Financial Intelligence Unit

Head of FIU – Mariana Tukana

Human Rights (RRRT)

Focal Point – Stella Duburiya

Human Rights Officer –Caasi Aingimea

Pleader / Human Rights Officer – Daran Adeang

Curator of Intestate Estates

Curator – Brenda Soriano

Curator Managing Clerk Officer – Letima Adire

Director of Public Prosecutor

DPP – David Toganivalu

Legal Prosecutors – Laisani Tabuakuro, Filimoni Lacanivalu

Pleader / Prosecutor Officer – Kristian Aingimea

Paralegal Officer – Junaid

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

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.

NAURU BULLETIN



Republic of Nauru



Secretary for JBC Graham Leung (centre) with his department staff

Passport

Principal Officer – Ruby Amram

Passport Officers – Kerryn Notte, Zita Itsimaera

Public Defender

Director of Public Defender – Sevuloni Valenitabua

Legal Public Defender – Ravu Tagivakatini

Public Defender Officer – Knox Tolenoa

Immigration

Director – Rajeev Keerthiyil

Senior Officers – Darlene Dabana, Renata Bernicke

Immigration Officers – Margareta Dongobir, Kane Tamakin, Greg Garoa, Whitney Botelanga, Ideanna Atto, Corrine Kepae, Starrington Dowabobo., Elvin Brechtefeld, Stanton Dame, Amuson Bernicke, Jeziel Jeremiah

RPC Visa Manager - Bronia Detageouwa

Clerical Officer - Sara Dehkordi

Quarantine

A/Director for Quarantine - Amy Tsitsi

Senior Quarantine Officers - Tremaine Dick, Sheba Hubert, Link Uera, Pat Cook

Quarantine Officers - Chamrock Agir, Kyle Brechtefeld, Wilkes Deiye, Tai-Ne Finch, Bren Heinrich, Kazna Benjamin, Norman Cook, Kane Akubor, Zacharias Detenamo

Nauru Correctional Services comes under JBC but will be featured in another edition •

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