



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Nauru attends SPC 70th anniversary

Nauru's President Baron Waqa was invited to attend the 70th anniversary of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and its tenth conference in Noumea, on 27-28 July.

The conference theme 'Innovative partnerships for sustainable development' heard a broad range of issues and several proposed innovative solutions made by SPC which Nauru endorsed in principle.

The SPC is taking stock of the need to prioritise spending in areas of common interest for the region.

In his statement at the conference, President Waqa suggested that the region looks beyond traditional partners for technical and financial support noting the impressive technological innovation seen in Taiwan and Israel and consequently suggested this knowledge



*His Excellency President Baron Waqa addressed the SPC meeting highlighting modern day challenges*

and expertise could be transferred to the region in areas such as fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, economic development, water technology, and renewable energy.

"Honourable Chairman, the modern days brought modern development to our shores. But it also brought modern challenges.

"The challenges we have ahead of us are indeed challenging for the whole region, and we must adapt to the changing circumstances.

"SPC has done a lot of good work for the region over the past 70 years, and Nauru was a grateful recipient of such assistance," President Waqa said.

The President of New Caledonia Mr Philippe Germain takes over the SPC chairmanship from Acting Premier of Niue Billy Talagi•

## NPF officers receive ILEC medals

Members of the Nauru Police Force were awarded the International Law Enforcement Cooperation (ILEC) medal of honour in recognition of their contribution to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), at the Centennial Hall on 21 July.

His Excellency and Minister for the Nauru Police Force President Baron Waqa presented the medals of honour to officers in recognition of 180 days continuous or accumulated service as a member of the RAMSI participating police force (PPF); for service in Solomon Islands as part of RAMSI between 24 July 2003 and 30 June 2017; and have displayed diligent service.

Receiving their ILEC medals on the day were Commissioner of Police Corey Caleb, Inspector Jachin Bop, Acting Inspector and Aide-de-Camp David Canon, Sergeants Starsky Dagagio, Dan Botelanga, John Deidenang, Rory Detageouwa, Senior Constables Troy Detageouwa, Paul Harris, Ruman Reweru, Valdon Dageago, and police retiree Antonius Amwano.

Other officers also awarded the medal but were away are Superintendent Ruskin Tsitsi, Senior Inspector Simpson Deidenang, Inspector Gregor Garoa and Sergeant Jacaranda Akibwib.

The medal is also awarded to a group of members of an international police force, who provides direct support to the Royal Solomon

Islands Police Force or (RSIPF), to assist development or law enforcement initiatives; or a group of members of the RSIPF who is deployed on an authorised international operation.

Twenty nine NPF officers participated in RAMSI from 2003 to its end in 2017•



*Nauru Police Force officers honoured for their contribution to RAMSI regional peace keeping operations*

## AFP donates vehicles to NPF

The Nauru Police Force was gifted vehicles and push bikes from the Australian government to assist their work in domestic violence and traffic, in a brief handover on 3 August.

The donation is made by the Australian Government through the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The AFP will also provide specialist training in the use of the motorbikes and driver training for special events.

The two Hyundai cars will be unmarked police vehicles so is less imposing as a form of transportation for victims of domestic violence. The five motorbikes are assigned to search and rescue efforts for hard to get to areas such as the pinnacles or narrow dirt roads, traffic enforcement and road safety, as well as for presidential motorcades.

The eight pushbikes will be used more for community based events such as the annual Olympic Day fun run, school walk-a-

## Cantilever one scrapped

Demolition work to remove a collapsed phosphate cantilever has commenced and the project contract signed on 26 July.

Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler and contractor Michael Roland signed the contract on behalf of the Government of Nauru and Southern Star respectively.

The massive steel construction phosphate cantilevers are built on top of the surrounding reef making it difficult for moving or stationary machinery to be on the reef to do the demolition and removal works given the change in sea tides.

Mr Grundler said the public-private partnership is part of the government's initiative to supporting the private sector.

Mr Roland is pleased to be working with the government in what will also assist in clean up efforts in the lead up to Nauru's 50th independence day celebrations. He highlighted it is also a request of the people of Aiwo District to be clear of the collapsed



*President Waqa inspects the new fleet donated by Australia and AFP*

thons, and the 12 desk top computers to upgrade the NPF's IT system.

AFP Adviser Mick Serbatoio handed over the keys of the vehicles to President Baron Waqa before an inspection of the new fleet•



construction and to render the area safe again for fishing and swimming.

The demolition and removal of the scrap metal is expected to take three months with the opportunity to extend in consideration of weather and tidal conditions which can interfere with the works•

## Immigration processes made easy through new software training

The immigration and visa office underwent training in the use of software designed for their specific line of work in protecting Nauru's border and streamlining passenger checks.

The training on 24 July included modules in visa, immigration, administration and reporting.

The training was opened by Secretary for Justice and Border Control Graham Leung urging the staff to treat the training as part of their learning.

"The new visa and immigration management software will be a new milestone in tightening the screening of the passengers and a stepping stone to start as an automated system for processing visa requests," Mr Leung said.

The training was arranged by the director of immigration Rajeev Keerthiyil in coordination with the Department of ICT and Cenpac in the development of the software and delivery of the training.

The advantages of the new management software will transform the manual process completely into the new processing system.

The review of visa requests and approval by the director of immigration will now be done online and the visa and passport



*Immigration officers trained in the advantages of using computer software management system*

history of the applicant is verified automatically by the software.

Visa officers will have secure login access into the new system that is designed to avoid risks of data manipulation.

Visa and invoice numbers will be auto generated to avoid duplication and customised reports on processed visas will be readily available•



## On the Discussion Desk

### Animal Act 1982

The Animals Act 1982 was recently discussed on the radio show Discussion Desk on the policies regarding proper licensing and ownership of domesticated animals.

Dog Control Officer Gaimen Denuga from the Nauru Police Force Dog Control Unit informed that laws have been legislated against keeping animals such as dogs as pets unless a license has been issued for that animal.



*Dog Controller Gaimen Denuga spoke on the Discussion Desk about the Animal Act 1982*

Mr Denuga detailed that part of the licensing process both male and female dogs will be sterilised before the license is issued. Additionally, dog owners will be issued a license disc once a dog is registered and sterilised.

Mr Denuga also explained that licenses are valid up to a year and should be renewed at the beginning of each year.

Moreover, Mr Denuga explained that animal licenses will not be granted to owners whose dog was unlawfully imported into Nauru.

Under the Act, it is an offence for dogs not to be wearing a collar with the appropriate license disc. Owners of unlicensed dogs are liable to a fine of \$100 under the Act.

Mr Denuga warned that unlicensed dogs may be seized and disposed of humanely. Officers authorised in the seizure or management of stray dogs includes the dog controllers, police and the health inspector.

Captured dogs can be kept by the dog controller for up to 48 hours. During the 48 hour period, owners may come forward to claim ownership of their dogs. Mr Denuga informed that once the 48 hours expires the dogs will be disposed of.

It was also highlighted that dog owners who come forward to claim their dogs within the 48 hours will be liable to pay a fine of \$100 and will be required to then obtain a license for the released dog.

The Act also outlined that persons using a dog license fraudulently by putting a license disc on another dog other than the one the disc was licensed for is an offence under the Act. Persons who commits this offence is liable to a fine of \$250.

The Act provides for the seizure and destruction of dangerous dogs that have attacked people. Police are obligated to aid in the capture of a dangerous dog if supposed owners interfere in the capture of those animals by dog controllers. Any person who obstructs any police officer or health officer is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$250.

### Education Act 2011

The Education Act 2011 was the topic on the Discussion Desk which served to remind and refresh parents and educators alike of the necessary requirements of a proper education.

Hosts Rhona Bop and Joanna Olsson spoke to Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu and Director of Schools Faye Itaia on 2 August.



*(L-R) Secretary for Education Dr Maria Gaiyabu and Director of School Faye Itaia explain the Education Act*

The objective of the Act is to provide for compulsory and high quality education for all children including those with disabilities.

The national curriculum provides for prep school to year 10, and the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) curriculum sets the pace for the senior years.

Education in Nauru is compulsory and parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education and are responsible in ensuring their child is enrolled into school through to completion at year 12. School age begins at five at preschool level up to 18 years in secondary school.

Part four of the Act states that parents are liable to fines should a school aged child fails to meet the education requirements of attending and completing school. Parents of home schooled children are exempt from the same penalties however there are still government requirements they are expected to meet.

Children may be exempt from attending school under exceptional circumstances. A certificate of exemption can only be granted and cancelled by the Secretary for Education. Each case is different and is assessed accordingly.

Students travelling abroad would now require this certificate to accompany their travel visa application.

Expelled or suspended students are liable to a fine of \$50 if they fail to adhere to the directive of suspension or expulsion as in many cases this retaliation causes undue disruption at the school.

Employing school aged children is a breach of the Act and employers are liable for a \$1000 fine.

Ms Itaia cited the description of corporal punishment in the Act as physical force on a child intended to punish or correct the child or any action intended to cause physical pain or discomfort, and explains this is disallowed in the schools since the awareness, empowerment and Nauru's acceptance of child rights.

*Cont pg 4...*

## Animal Act 1982 (continued)

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Mr Denuga highlighted that any person who mistreats or causes unnecessary suffering caused to any animal is liable for a fine of \$500. Mr Denuga explained that this does not apply to customary methods in fishing and noddly bird hunting.

Additionally, dog owners have a responsibility to have their dogs on a tether as well as put up warning signs around their property to warn and protect others from possible injury and dog attacks. This measure is also to protect the dog owner from any civil liability that may follow as a result of the damage caused by the dog.

According to Mr Denuga about seven to eight dangerous dogs are put down every two weeks. He added that owing to the lack of proper equipment such as traps and tools the dog controllers and catchers are limited in their ability to do more.

Mr Denuga encouraged that owners should be aware of the Act and its provisions to better manage their dogs•

## Education Act 2011 (continued)

The Act also protects the school environment to ensure the safety of children within school grounds. School principals are responsible in keeping school grounds clean, safe and secure. School inspectors do regular checks around schools, attendance as well as ensure appropriate curriculum is used in home schools and non-government schools.

The Teacher Registration and Curriculum Board are made up of five cabinet-appointed members and are responsible for improving the quality of education including the implementation of the curriculum, and ensure all teachers are registered at diploma level.

Dr Gaiyabu said the private schools are assisting the national school system in terms of relieving the student load and enrolment capacity. Non-government schooling is still a foreign concept and is still very challenging for the education department to monitor and ensure they abide by the national education requirements such as the need and importance to register the schools and the teachers and must have all the provisions conducive of a learning environment.

A 2015 amendment to section 109 of the Act increased the fines and prison terms for offences committed on school grounds such as trespassing or failing to leave school grounds after being directed to do so by police, the principal or another authorised person. The new fines are \$10,000 and \$20,000 and two year prison terms•

## Tune in to the Discussion Desk

To hear about policy that matter to you  
Wednesdays 9.30am on  
FM105.1  
or download the App  
radionauru.nr:8000/live

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**Republic of Nauru**

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