



# Nauru Bulletin

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## President Waqa attends G7

At the invitation of the government of Canada, His Excellency President Baron Waqa led a delegation to the G7 environmental minister's meeting and presented on the topic of 'urgent action and reduction opportunities', at Halifax, Canada from 18-20 September.

The meeting was hosted by Canada as part of its G7 presidency.

President Waqa addressed the meeting of seven of the largest economies in the world calling for renewed efforts in combating the climate crisis and to encourage support for small island developing states in reaching their renewable energy goals and for larger nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; yet at the same time acknowledging the challenges for countries of both larger and smaller scale.

"If I try to place myself in your position, I imagine that a central concern when governing a large economy is scale," President Waqa said.

His Excellency then put the question – how



*His Excellency Hon Baron Waqa with Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna at the G7 in Halifax, Canada*

does a country mobilise billions of dollars to drive transformative action across economic sectors?

"This is particularly important in the context of the climate crisis, in that we require rapid emissions reductions across society.

"Directly coordinating the activities of all

the actors involved would be extremely difficult, and so you reach for potent policy levers, particularly in the area of finance, to shift private incentives across the board. Most action is de facto delegated to the private sector, which is responsible in one way or another for most of the emissions," President Waqa said.

His Excellency challenged leaders to think at the scale of a small island developing state, such as Nauru with its population of approximately 10,000, or half of the 40 nations of the Alliance of Small Island States which are home to less than a quarter of a million citizens.

"Our economies tend to be extremely under-developed, and overly-reliant on one or two key sectors – such as fisheries or tourism – which are not always structured in ways that maximise domestic benefits. Remittances from our family members living abroad provide another rare source of foreign exchange."

President Waqa highlighted some challenges of a small island developing state which include the very limited capacity to

*Cont pg 2...*

## Nauru's president addresses UN secretary-general

His Excellency Baron Waqa, who is also Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), met with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York on 28 September.

The meeting was held in the margins of the high-level week of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking on behalf of his fellow PIF leaders, President Waqa reiterated the theme of the 49th PIF: "Building a Strong Pacific: Our People, Our Islands, Our Will".

President Waqa took the opportunity to elaborate on the region's priorities, which include the vital importance of sustainable development in the Pacific, the barriers to achieving it, and issues of climate change related security.

He appealed to Mr Guterres to utilise the UN system to tailor-make

customised strategies designed to assist Pacific island countries (PICs) to achieve sustainable development goals that are effective, particularly given the commitment PICs continue to demonstrate toward their obligations under the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and now, more recently, the Boe Declaration.

"Conventional development strategies are not working in the Pacific. We simply cannot offer the returns on investments that can be found in much larger and less remote countries.

"Almost all private investments, and most public investments pass us over.

"Therefore, we must look to the United Nations to carve out a space that is more conducive to the development and prosperity of Pacific Island Countries," the President said.

*Cont pg 3...*

## President Waqa attends G7

administer all the responsibilities of a modern nation state, the costs of transferring to renewable energy, and lack of trained professionals, quoting Nauru's own analysis puts a cost of USD\$63 million to move Nauru to 100 per cent renewable energy.

However, the president said there are benefits of being a small island state.

"In the areas of sustainability, zero carbon development, and resilience building, our small size can be our greatest advantage. It can also be our biggest contribution to the rest of the world."

President Waqa explained that very small countries would not take much in the way of resources to have transformative impacts, using renewable energy as an example in a few small islands making big progress and looking to achieving 100 per cent renewable energy systems within a decade.

While this is a tremendous effort, it would be a more difficult undertaking for larger countries with larger geographical areas and much higher costs.

President Waqa presented three immediate steps that can dramatically improve the situation of small island developing states.

First is to make financial and capacity building resources more accessible highlighting the difficulties for microstates to access existing support mechanisms, while bringing in experts is expensive and absorbs a large amount of the overall project cost.

The second is to look at new approaches of direct access modalities and direct budgetary support; and thirdly, to ensure funds are available for basic infrastructure and not just for development trends of the moment.

"For decades, small islands have been seeking funding for critical infrastructure with only limited success. The most potent form of resilience is strong development, and strong development requires that the necessary infrastructure is in place."

President Waqa highlighted the Pacific's partnership with the government of Italy as a model to learn from.

The partnership focuses on energy security, climate change resilience, and protection of marine biodiversity, based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, equality, transparency, and accountability.

*...from pg 1*

Through a streamlined application process, President Waqa said the Committee, made up of United Nations ambassadors, has approved 37 initiatives worth a total of US\$22 million, resulting in solar systems installed in 20 schools and over 100 homes, 12 fish processing and conservation centres and 300 water storage tanks.

"These and other projects have provided work for 10,000 people, avoided over 2,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and saved over 300,000 litres of diesel fuel.

"The model works because the Pacific islands are the primary drivers of their own development and are empowered to take full ownership.

Resources are mobilized rapidly and utilized to directly benefit the communities on the ground.

Partners are confident that resources are being used effectively because they are constantly informed about all financial and operational aspects of the projects.

"The environmental challenges of today require a dramatic transformation in the way we organize the global economy. If viewed from the perspective of their overall contribution to the problem, the small island nations will never register as more than a rounding error relative to the large economies of the world.

"However, if one is to consider our potential contribution to the solutions, our importance could be immense.

"Work with us. Invest in us. And help us be the lighthouse to a more sustainable world.

"We are ready to show the way," the president said.

President Waqa joined G7 environment, oceans, and energy ministers including guest countries, international organisations and non-governmental organisations to discuss issues such as global climate action, clean growth and sustainable finance, resilient coasts and fisheries, plastic pollution, energy security and clean energy.

The platform provided President Waqa the opportunity to advance important issues with G7 ministers, including how small island developing states are accelerating international climate action.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Waqa departed Canada on 20 September to attend the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York•

## Port, NRC aggregate deal kicks off ADB development

The Government of Nauru represented by the Port Authority of Nauru (PAN) and the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) signed a letter of agreement on 21 August for the supply by NRC of building materials.

The deal signals the commencement of the Asian Development Bank Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Connectivity Project known as the Nauru Port development at Aiwo boat harbour.

PAN Chairman Isaac Aremwa and NRC Chairman Peter Jacob signed the letter of agreement, in which NRC agrees to supply PAN 50 percent of the total aggregate and coral boulder tonnages required for the development.

In doing this, NPC will meet the in-kind contribution by the government of 10,522 tonnes of 20mm aggregate to be used for concrete mixing and 10,021 tonnes of 100-300mm coral boulders to be used as revetment, or a retaining wall barrier.



*PAN Chairman Isaac Aremwa (R) shakes hands with NRC Chairman Peter Jacob, having exchanged signed copies of the letter of agreement*

The total cost of these two items is \$470,650.01.

The agreement also secures the same per metric tonne price for the remaining 50 percent of the order•

## Nauru's president addresses UN secretary-general

President Waqa also sought UN assistance in ensuring those flexible and innovative partners PICs choose to work with are answerable for the viability of their contributions.

"We are seeking partners that appreciate our challenges and are willing to work with our constraints.

"It is my hope that you (the UN) can play a similar role by helping us hold our partners accountable. We seek your assistance to keep the spotlight on the smallest and most vulnerable so we do not get lost in the shadows of larger countries.

"When development programs are not working, we require your help reforming them in ways that address the needs of our small countries," President Waqa said.

The President expressed his despondency as to the progress of the battle against climate change, describing its threat now to the very existence of many Pacific islands and their peoples, "if not from

...from pg 1

complete submersion from rising sea levels, then from the increasing extremes of droughts and cyclones."

He reiterated a former and to date, denied request for the appointment of a UN Special Representative on Climate and Security (SRSG), to fill a critical gap in the UN system.

"We strongly believe that appointing an SRSG will provide us the crucial means to address the direct security implications of climate change, not only for our island countries, but also for the international community as a whole.

"We understand the political sensitivity of the issue and are ready to work with you to build comfort with our proposals, but we will not back down on this one," the President stated.

President and PIF Chair Waqa concluded with an open invitation to the UN Secretary-General to visit the region, and Nauru specifically, in order to gain a first-hand perspective on the region's challenges.

## Super for life

The roll out of the Nauru superannuation fund entered its third month of member contributions with follow up presentations by the investment consultants to paint a clearer picture of the benefits of the retirement fund, 26-27 September.

"It (super) helps you save for retirement in old age," was the key message to participants of the government departments, state-owned entities and the private sector.

Following advice from New Zealand based actuaries and investment strategists Eriksens Global, the Nauru Government engaged SuperLife NZ, a reputable large super fund management company to ensure prudence and independence.

SuperLife is owned by the New Zealand stock exchange.

Five 30 minute presentation sessions were held over two days, 26 and 27 September, to address concerns and answer questions from employees about the superannuation fund.

The first session was specially for state-owned enterprises, the private and business sectors. On the second day were four sessions divided up for the government departments.

The project was initiated by the government through the department of Chief Secretary and human resources division and finance, to provide a secure future for the people of Nauru as well as to involve them in taking ownership of their retirement income above the current aged pensions.

Eriksens Global managing director Jonathan Eriksen and investment analyst Andy Mahony presented alongside SuperLife business development manager Ian Miller.

Mr Eriksen said the level of questioning during the presentations was impressive given the complexities and technical nature of superannuation.

"There's an enormous amount of jargon that gets into it in different countries and as an international pensions expert I can speak a lot of jargon but I try not to.

"The questions were very open, and they were clear and they were real," Mr Eriksen said.

A common query from participants is who controls the fund, raising concerns of trust, safety and security given past experiences and loss of member contributions in a former superannuation scheme.

"One of the things I've really enjoyed is the people here have been

honest enough to express those concerns and fears and risks and that's why SuperLife is based in New Zealand.



*SuperLife's Ian Miller (L), Eriksens Global's Jonathan Eriksen and Andy Mahony with Nauru government's Maritino Nemani (R)*

"The money is actually controlled by a government department in New Zealand but only at that supervisory level. It's actually the directors of SuperLife who are really managing it tightly. But there are several levels of checks and balances and that's deliberate so that this Nauruan government can't make the same mistakes that a previous government made," Mr Eriksen said.

This super fund commenced on 1 July 2018 and requires all Nauru citizens working for the government to join. Human resources have already completed configurations and implementation of the public service employees superannuation, deducted at source from payroll and transferred directly to SuperLife NZ.

In the three months since the commencement of the superannuation fund, there is already in excess of \$200,000 in the overall account.

Prior to commencement the Nauru government increased staff salaries by five per cent to cover the commencement of the member contributions, hence minimising any reduction in employees' ordinary pay when the super was rolled out.

Each government employee contributes five per cent of their salary, which is matched by the government, totalling ten per cent contributions which would then earn interest of between five and seven per cent.

Each account pays a monthly fee of \$1 which is paid out of the employers' account, leaving zero effect on the employee in paying out of pocket fees.

Chief HR and Governance adviser Maritino Nemani said "this new employee benefit is encouraging given Nauru's history and this government generously gave employees a head start to their retirement savings."

*Cont pg 4...*



## Super for life

...from pg 3

"I believe it's a huge cultural shift given the changing workplace dynamics. Government has made this commitment with a clear conscience enabling employees to develop a mind set of planning for their retirement.

"It is important for employees to understand that the sustainability and growth of any investment like superannuation depends on national and political stability," Mr Nemani said.

Members will be able to withdraw from their main account which is contributed by them and the government or other employer, after reaching the age of 55 and be retired, or unless there are other defining situations such as a serious illness or disability.

If a member wished to continue working beyond age 55, the government would still contribute to the super fund until the employee retires.

The importance of appointing beneficiaries was emphasised. Members of the fund were advised to appoint who they wish to receive the funds after death, otherwise their account balance will be paid to their estate and managed by the public curator in the usual manner. An employee's legally registered name and correct date of birth are a must when registering with Nauru Superannuation.

Each member has three accounts. One which the member contributes to and the second which the government contributes to, a third account is the voluntary account. A member can contribute any percentage of their income to this account and a minimum of \$500 may be withdrawn once every two years while still working.

Upon retirement a member can arrange to have their super paid to them in installments, for example, every month.

"That money (from the member's super account) has to go to you. It's been managed separately by SuperLife but it's your funds. Even if the Nauruan government stopped contributing, the money that's in there goes to you. They (government) can't take it back or lose it," Mr Eriksen said.

While SuperLife is a New Zealand company, the money is currently invested in Australian assets.

The contributions are invested in a balanced fund; a mix of different assets such as cash, bonds and equities or shares which are Australian shares.

"Now in that sense we expect the return to be around seven per cent a year. Now if the return every year was seven per cent, that would mean that your money would double in ten years.

"But of course the markets go up and down. They don't go in a straight line. As markets fluctuate so does the fund, hence an expected five per cent a year can be expected given that environment," Mr Eriksen said.

"Interestingly that's about half the rate that we (Eriksen Global) were quoted by Australian organisations which is why we've chosen SuperLife which is a low cost provider in New Zealand," Mr Eriksen said.

Additionally the fund is not taxed so the contributions go in and the investment grows tax free which helps the funds to grow well.

Ian Miller explains how Superlife is involved and manages the fund.

"SuperLife is an investment and administration business, it's owned by the New Zealand stock exchange.

"Our job is really quite simple. We receive from government a schedule. That schedule has your names, your dates of birth. It identifies you and it has some money and that money is divided into the employer account and your member account. And our job is to get

that money into the right accounts, the first time, every time, for every pay cycle that comes through," Mr Miller said.

The fund is regulated by the Financial Markets Authority of New Zealand and has Public Trust as its statutory supervisor.

One of the advantages of SuperLife is its excellent online access for members to look up their account balances or ask questions about their benefits.

Ian Miller reiterated how well protected members' money is in the fund, and underscored the importance of filling in the member form correctly including their beneficiaries.

"SuperLife can't control your money. All we can do is administer where it gets sent. The money is technically held by the public trust in New Zealand, and they're the owner of those funds, holding those assets on your individual behalf," Ian Miller said.

No other person is able to access or withdraw from any account except for the person in whose name that account is held.

"So far we've only recommended to the government of Nauru SuperLife because they have recently become the best provider of their services in New Zealand.

"These systems and the software is evolving all the time and now is the perfect opportunity for Nauru to capitalise on the work and the platform that SuperLife has built," Mr Eriksen said.

It is not mandatory for small businesses to join, they can volunteer to join. However, where a business employs more than five Nauruan staff, they will have to be signed up to the superannuation fund.

Mr Eriksen says SuperLife's interest rates fare better than what is offered by banks.

"Yes it does. And the reason for that is the banks in Australia and New Zealand have a very low cash rate set by the Reserve Banks of Australia and New Zealand.

"Bank products which are based around the cash rates that they get are relatively low. So you can get two or three per cent. This fund because it's investing in shares which are slightly riskier but have higher rates of return because you have growth on the assets as well as the dividends, we're expecting the returns to be at five and seven per cent.

"Now that's comparable with the sort of returns that the Fiji national provident fund gets and the Tuvalu provident fund gets, for example," Mr Eriksen said.

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## APPU conference held in Nauru

The Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) met on Nauru for their 82nd council meeting and the 48th general assembly of the APPU from 23-26 September.

Nine member groups participated including: Japan, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of China (ROC) (Taiwan), Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu and, as host, Nauru.

Nauru's speaker of parliament, Hon Cyril Buraman welcomed delegates to the meeting, the theme of which is *Strengthening stakeholder partnership and climate change resilience in the Asia Pacific region: disaster prevention, mitigation, renewable energy, peace and prosperity*.

The Asian Parliamentarians Union (APU), at the instigation of parliamentarians from ROC (Taiwan), Japan, Korea, Philippines and Thailand, was organized in Tokyo in 1965.



*Representing Nauru at the APPU meeting is Hon Voderick Detsiogo (L), Hon Asterio Appi and Parliamentary Speaker Hon Cyril Buraman (R) held at the Civic Centre Conference Room at Aiwo*

Nauru was admitted as a full member in 1978. Many other Pacific island nations followed throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, instigating a name change to include Pacific nations: APPU.

The 82nd council meeting was held in Nauru on Sunday afternoon 23 September. It was opened by Hon Youchi Anami of Japan on behalf of the 81st council meeting chair. The 82nd council meeting chair was then elected on the spot. Nauru's deputy speaker of parliament, Hon Asterio Appi was elected; he then proceeded to present his opening address.

Once the adoption by delegates of the agenda for the 48th general assembly to be held the following day was complete, secretary-general of the central secretariat Mr Tetsuya Hirose presented his annual report on work programs and the APPU financial statement.

The central secretariat is the central administrative organ which coordinates and assists the work of individual secretariats of the APPU member countries.

Discussion then moved to the date, venue and theme for the 49th general assembly in 2019. The assembly unanimously agreed with ROC (Taiwan)'s offer to host next year's event. Dates and theme are to be advised.

Afterwards, delegates attended a buffet reception on the upper deck adjacent to the new Civic Centre conference hall, hosted by Nauru's deputy speaker.

The opening ceremony of the 48th general assembly the next day was followed by the first plenary sessions where vice presidents were elected and the 82nd council meeting chair reported on meeting outcomes.

48th general assembly president Cyril Buraman requested that the eight draft resolutions recommended by the council be adopted at the general assembly.

These resolutions relate to the promotion of renewable energy and a 'green economy', along with climate change adaptation and resilience strategies and reduced carbon emissions.

It was also resolved that the APPU hold renewable energy summits, and continue to develop the Asia Pacific Regional Centre for a Sustainable Future.

Other resolutions urged APPU members to promote community-based tourism, with Tonga asking the APPU to urge Korea to "transfer their technology in seaweed farming to the national groups of the Pacific islands."

The second plenary session enabled each of the nine countries represented a five to 10 minute window to present their country report.

The final day of the APPU 48th General Assembly began with the closing ceremony, at which a joint communique was adopted and signed.

Addresses were heard from Taiwan's representative Hon Bi-Khim Hsiao as the incoming host of the 49th general Assembly, and the outgoing 48th general assembly president, Nauru's parliamentary speaker Hon Cyril Buraman.

Delegates enjoyed an island tour in the afternoon, with a formal dinner in the evening at the new Naoero Community Sports Complex in Yaren, hosted by Acting President Hon David Adeang before departing Nauru on Wednesday 26 September.

Currently, APPU membership comprises three categories: national, associate and observer groups.

National group members from Asia include ROC (Taiwan), Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of the Philippines, Kingdom of Thailand.

Pacific members are Cook Islands, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Vanuatu.

Associate member groups are Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, while the current status of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is that of observer.

## Nauru addresses 73rd UNGA general debate

His Excellency President Baron Waqa addressed delegates at the General Debate of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the theme Making the United Nations relevant to all people at UN headquarters in New York on 26 September.

President Waqa offered his congratulations to incoming UNGA president María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, and thanks to outgoing president Miroslav Lajčák before addressing delegates on a debate theme that is always high on the priority list of Small

Island Developing States (SIDS).

SIDS look to the UN to assist and represent them but, as 'square pegs in a round hole' who must work within a system that essentially excludes them, have found many hurdles in gaining that assistance and representation.

"SIDS are among those who have not benefitted from the current global economic system. It is to the United Nations that we look for assistance.

## Nauru addresses 73rd UNGA general debate ...from pg 5

“We must address a systemic bias within the United Nations and start thinking small.

President Waqa provided an example of the challenges SIDS face in accessing UN support by being ‘too small’.

His attempt, as Nauru’s Director of Education at the time, to register the education department of Nauru for a UNESCO-funded online data tracking tool triggered a series of ERROR messages, as the statistics entered on the application were too small for Nauru to qualify.

“If my country is too small to even warrant inclusion in a simple online database, then where does that leave us?” the President asked.

### ***SIDS are small with big challenges and vulnerabilities***

The global economic system bypasses SIDS; their economies of scale are unattractive to investors. Global market volatility and large corporate consolidations negatively and disproportionately affects SIDS, squeezing out small enterprise and drastically limiting SIDS’ options and opportunities.

As ocean states, SIDS live with the results of the current global economic system that threatens their very existence and pollutes their air, land and seas. They are at the mercy of this system over which they have virtually no say, and no control.

“This leaves us with extremely under-developed economies – overly-reliant on one or two key sectors that are often highly vulnerable to changing global market trends or shifts in the political priorities of our development partners,” the President said.

### ***Scale matters and small can be good***

Nauru’s President likened the logic of scalability inherent in the global economic system to the mind-set of the UN as it excludes countries that it deems do not provide enough ‘bang for their buck’.

“Why design a programme to help a country of ten thousand when you can theoretically help ten million?

“Why wade through all the loan paperwork to replace a small diesel generator when the same number of documents can mobilize funding to transform a much larger energy system?

“We must look to public institutions – to the United Nations – to create an environment in which the rest of us can grow and prosper.

“The Republic of Nauru cannot be treated as an ERROR,” President Waqa stated.

The President argued that being small has its advantages, and with innovative, strategic economic thinking, can return growth and prosperity to SIDS.

“Small can be nimble. Small means that modest resources can yield transformative impacts.

“We can become vibrant demonstrations that a better, more sustainable way of life is possible,” Nauru’s President said.

### ***SIDS can lead the world on 100 percent renewables***

It is the SIDS who are leading the world in achieving 100 percent renewable energy targets over the next ten years, however, it takes funding to get there before the savings can be realised.



*President Waqa addresses delegates at the general debate of the 73rd UNGA in New York on 26 September 2018*

*Source: Google Images*

“My government’s own analysis puts the cost of moving Nauru to 100% renewable energy at US\$63 million.

“For a modest investment, the world would have visible evidence that the future we want - a clean, zero-carbon society - is well within our grasp,” President Waqa said.

### ***Roadblocks to success***

The President named a number of hurdles to success that the UN could help to remove including difficulties in accessing funding, convoluted application and reporting procedures and lack of innovation for alternative funding arrangements.

“In addition, new funding approaches, such as direct access modalities and direct budgetary support, seem to be yielding much better results in small countries.

“And adequate financing must be available for basic infrastructure, not just for the development fads of the moment,” President Waqa suggested.

### ***UN special representative and advocating for Taiwan***

Advocating strongly for Nauru, and other SIDS, the President harnessed the opportunity to again call for the appointment of a special representative of the secretary-general on climate and security as he and Nauru’s permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Marlene Moses, continue to do.

President Waqa also campaigned for the inclusion of Taiwan in the UN, in the spirit of the theme of the 73rd general debate *Making the United Nations relevant to all people*, pointing out that Taiwan’s exclusion is in direct contradiction to the mission statement in their own UN charter.

“The preamble of the UN charter clearly states that the organisation’s mission is to, and I quote, “*reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small*” end of quote,” the President said.

President Waqa finished by thanking all of Nauru’s development partners for their continued support and congratulating the



## NUC wins another regional award

The Nauru Utilities Corporation brought home another regional award from the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) conference, held in New Caledonia, 6-10 August.

NUC won the 2018 best technical performance award at the 11th PWWA conference and expo. The 4th Pacific Water Ministerial forum was also held in the same week.

This is the second consecutive year that NUC has won the award. Last year in Samoa, NUC won both the best technical performance award and the best cost recovery award.

Chairperson for NUC Mrs Jinnie Jeremiah received the award on behalf of NUC.

NUC chief executive officer Abraham Simpson is proud of his team.

"I would like to thank all Nauruans for their patience as NUC strives to improve electricity and water services, the President, cabinet and parliament of Nauru for their support, the board, management and employees of NUC for their dedicated work, the donor community, especially Australian Aid, Asian Development Bank, European Union, USAid, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, our suppliers and others," Mr Simpson said.

NUC has been a member of the PWWA for over six years.

The conference included panel sessions from development partners and water governance bodies in the Pacific: Australia Water Partnership, the Asian Development Bank, European Union and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Technical sessions were split into the different areas covering integrated urban water and waste management, building



*Minister for NUC Hon Aaron Cook with NUC executive management and board members holding the PWWA 2018 best technical performance award*

capacities with emerging technologies, water governance and improving services, engaging with communities, climate change and water security, and water quality and efficiency.

Based in Samoa since 2007, the PWWA is a not for profit membership body established in 1994 operating in the water and wastewater sectors. It is an association made up of all the Pacific island utilities in water and wastewater.

According to its website, the Board of PWWA in 2015 recognised the changes to the external environment under which the PWWA operates and that those changes necessitated a review of the organisation's operations. A Sustainability Committee was established with the funding assistance from Asian Development Bank to develop a transition plan and transform the PWWA into a more professionally run, responsive and proactive organisation which is ultimately financially sustainable with minimal external support. The association remains under the control of its Pacific utility members•

## 13th annual PNA meeting in Nauru

The 13th annual meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement was held in Nauru in July with the ministerial meeting taking the lead in the week-long summit, 30 July to 3 August.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) controls the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. PNA Members are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

On the opening day, Monday 30 July, three ministerial level meetings were held ahead of the PNA officials meeting. The first of the three meetings was the 12th special meeting of the Parties to the Palau Arrangement, followed by the 9th Special meeting of the Parties to the FSM Arrangement, and then the 52nd special meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa delivered opening remarks at the ministerial meeting noting the substantial items on the agenda and pointing out the value and importance the Pacific places on fisheries to the region, governance and most importantly to the Pacific people.

"Honourable ministers, the successes of PNA has achieved a well-known access fees that our governments enjoy have increased up to tenfold.

"The number of PNA flag fishing vessels continues to grow and the strength of the VDS (vessel day scheme) is encouraging

greater onshore development and employment opportunities. We should celebrate these achievements because they are truly unique," President Waqa said.

His Excellency acknowledged the success of the VDS and expressed thanks on behalf of the government to PNA's chief Ludwig Kumoru and his officials for the successful preparation and running of PNA and this meeting.

President Waqa highlighted that the convening of the second PNA leaders' summit in Majuro in the Marshall Islands was a great opportunity to begin to reshape the fisheries organisation "so that we can continue to secure new achievements."

"The prospects ahead of us are exciting and can derive greater benefits but it can only be realised through our greatest strength which is through cooperation.

"Therefore, let's continue to work together to ensure our common tuna resources are managed efficiently for the future of our people," President Waqa said.

The PNA outgoing chair, Marshall Islands Minister for Natural Resources, Hon Dennis Momotaro, then delivered thank you remarks before handing over the chair to Nauru and Minister Tawaki Kam.

On a personal note, Mr Momotaro conveyed his deep connection with Nauru that is sharing a common culture and heritage with

## 13th annual PNA meeting in Nauru

...from pg 7

the people of Nauru.

Minister Momotaro said it was fitting to be meeting in Nauru as “we are simply parties to the Nauru agreement,” and went on to say that in convening the meeting in Nauru “it is fitting that we pay tribute to our past leaders.”

Mr Momotaro recalled the banding together in 1982 of a subgroup of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Nauru which agreed to pursue the common skipjack fishery interests leading to the creation of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.

“Over thirty years later, the vision behind the creation of the PNA is stronger through cooperation. Over thirty years later we had forged the FSM arrangement, the Palau arrangement, the third implementing arrangements, the PNA observer agency, the PNA fisheries information management system, subsequent amendments to the Palau arrangement for the implementation of the vessel day scheme while adopting the 2009 Bikenibeu declaration in eventually setting up the PNA office in Majuro Marshall Islands.

“In 2010, the PNA leaders’ summit was convened in Palau where leaders committed to the Koror declaration in the pursuit of increased economic value from our collective common fishery.

Mr Momotaro said the PNA is at a crossroads in their efforts as they continue to charter collective interests forward amidst other regional and international organisations, industrial and commercial interests and climate change as among the direct



*PNA chief Ludwig Kumoro working alongside PNA chairman and Nauru's fisheries minister Hon Tawaki Kam at the 13th annual PNA meeting held in Nauru, 30 July to 3 August*

and indirect issues that are before the PNA as part of the global community.

“Times are changing and we are adapting to these changes and the PNA should be at the forefront and in the driver’s seat in the management of our collective fishery.”

Mr Momotaro put it bluntly that “there is no global management and body like the PNA and the VDS. They serve each other’s purpose – and well,” Mr Momotaro explained.

“The effects and successes of the VDS over the five to seven year period speak for itself.”

In receiving the chairmanship of the PNA, Nauru’s fisheries minister Hon Tawaki Kam congratulated the outgoing chair for handing over the chairmanship to Nauru saying that it is a privilege and honour to chair the PNA meeting in Nauru.

Assistant minister for fisheries Hon Ranin Akua took over the chairing of the meeting going forward.

Members noted this will be the final meeting of the PNA under

the leadership of the outgoing Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) director general James Movick, who was appointed to the position in November 2012.

Chief Executive Office for Nauru Fisheries Charleston Deiye is pleased with the meeting and discussion outcomes.

“Our fish stock is a vital resource for all Pacific people and as custodians we must take responsibility in protecting it and harvesting it in a proper and sustainable manner to ensure we maintain a stock level that our children may also benefit,” Mr Deiye said.

The resounding message from attending members is for strengthened cooperation for the management of the PNA waters as well as a commitment to ensure that members maintain greater control of its fishery, including addressing fishery in the high seas, safety of PNA observers, and a need to work together collectively on hard decisions.

Tuvalu highlighted that its income from fisheries access fees constitutes around 60 per cent of the overall government revenue.

Tuvalu’s proposition is that the PNA focus first and foremost on the sustainability of the tuna resources.

The Solomon Islands’ minister highlighted three issues of concern; the first being PNA countries’ inability to implement the longline VDS gives control to others; secondly the challenges to control fish in the high seas should be addressed collectively; and thirdly, the safety of the PNA observers who work in isolation.

Kiribati highlighted that despite the major achievements of the PNA group, there are challenges and difficulties in working together as a group especially when consensus is needed on hard decisions. On the same note, Kiribati’s representative commends the leadership of the PNA office and efforts of the officials on their hard work and tolerance in working together for the benefit and the spirit of regional solidarity.

Papua New Guinea encouraged all parties to strengthen cooperation and to work together in trust for the common cause of the PNA, and highlighted it is particularly interested to work with all parties to maximise the value of the VDS and encouraged the chair that members should not develop management systems “we are not prepared to adopt or implement at the country level”.

Tokelau who is not a formal member of the PNA said it values its participation with the “highly successful PNA vessel day scheme and our involvement in the meeting”.

Over the last three years Tokelau deepened its relationship with the PNA by implementing the longline vessel day scheme and joined the MSC pasifical initiatives, and has gone through the process of joining the FSM agreement.

*\*Signed in Tarawa, Kiribati in 2009, the Bikenibeu Declaration set up the PNA Office to serve its members by strategic fisheries conservation and management, initiatives to maximize profitability and benefits for Pacific islanders and promotion of PNA waters as a globally recognized, sustainably managed and certified tuna fishery•*



## News in brief

**The second Taiwan Mobile Medical Mission** for 2018 from Taichung Veterans General Hospital (TVGH) is in Nauru from 30 September to 12 October.

The team of five includes three medical specialists: heart; ear, nose and throat; and eye. Two registered nurses are also in the team.

The public is urged to visit the RON Hospital or the Naoero Public Health Centre to register for referrals.

At the completion of the mission, Nauru Bulletin will report the results of numbers of patients seen across specialisations over the course of the 10 days•

**The Thai company responsible for the considerable renovation** works to Nauru's main meeting hall and associated meeting rooms handed over the keys to the Nauru government on 14 September.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa received the keys from Deputy Counsel of Nauru's office in Bangkok Office, Diana Zheng, on behalf of the chief executive officer of construction company Wei Tai Holdings Ltd John Yu.

Through translation by Ms Zheng, Mr Yu thanked the Nauru government for giving his company the opportunity to do the renovation works of this iconic building and be part of Nauru's 50th anniversary of independence.

Mr Yu added that the renovated building is under two-year warranty and during that period his company will provide capacity building in the form of technical and maintenance training for local staff to eventually take over the technical management of the rooms.

The overall works, all on the first floor include renovation of the main conference hall, three smaller meeting rooms, a secretariat office; renovation and installation of two toilet blocks, an audio-visual room attached to the conference hall, and an elevator.

The main conference hall can accommodate 200 people and is fitted with a large conference table and the latest audio-visual system.

Administration of the venue has been handed over to Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler and will be used for future conferences.

Formerly the office of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust, the space is now revamped as the secretariat office.

Construction works commenced in April 2018 and were completed in August 2018 to coincide with Nauru's hosting of the 49th Pacific Island leaders' forum•

*President Waqa receives the keys to the new conference facility from Diana Zheng, with Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler and Public Administrator Michaelangelo Dimapilis*



**As fledgling independent enterprise Nauru Post continues** to go from strength to strength, another milestone is reached with a double celebration of the reveal of their corporate signage, supported by Digicel and Naoero Utilities Corporation (NUC), and the receipt of a postal vehicle, courtesy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on 28 August.

His Excellency Baron Waqa and Madam Waqa attended the event. President Waqa is minister for Naoero Postal Services Corporation. Also in attendance were current and former members of parliament,

**Discover Nauru** was published in May 2018 and revised in August for the 49th Pacific Islands forum meeting that was held in Nauru.

The information booklet is compiled by the Nauru Government Information Office and provides essential information about Nauru in general, ranging from the government, people, phosphate mining, war history, society and culture, flora and fauna, and sports.

The first copy was presented to cabinet, and received by President Baron Waqa by director for the GIO Joanna Olsson•



*Discover Nauru is a 36-page publication showcasing Nauru written and produced by the Government Information Office (GIO)*

**Nauru Post is the recipient of two new motorcycles** that will be used for mail delivery around the island for uncollected mail and addressees who do not own a mail box.

The motorcycles were gifted by Martin Hunt on behalf of Eigigu Procurement Limited.

As minister for Nauru Post, President Baron Waqa said the bikes will be of great benefit to the post office as it expands its services to include deliveries to homes and businesses.

The post office has added other services to its basic mailing service to include a shop for stationery and outlet for local crafts and merchandise. Chairman of the board for Nauru Post reiterated that mail delivery to the communities will be free of charge. The government and other businesses and organisations will be charged a small delivery fee. Only letters will be delivered, while parcels may be collected from the post office•



*President Waqa accepts the keys to the new postal bikes from Eigigu Procurement Ltd representative Martin Hunt*

representatives from Civic Centre retail neighbours; state-owned enterprises NUC and Eigigu Holdings, as well as Digicel, Bendigo Bank, Taiwan's ambassador and staff and, of course, Nauru Post directors, board members and staff.

Nauru Post chairman Samuel Grundler addressed attendees, thanking them, prior to the President unveiling the signage and noting the recent renovations to Nauru Post.

"Now you can see that the entrance (to the post office) is in the front, instead of the side, and the beautiful signage," President Waqa said.

*Cont pg 10...*

## News in brief: Nauru Post...

...from pg 9

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration in support of Nauru Post, Digicel assisted with the design and ordering of the illuminated light box signage, which is in keeping with the higher standards in quality street-front presentation being aimed for by retailers across the island. NUC funded the cost of the signage.

The celebration then moved to the handover of vehicle keys by Taiwan's Ambassador Chow to President Waqa and the Nauru Post management team.

The new postal vehicle – a new Nissan twin-cab utility – replaces the government loan vehicle and will ensure efficient and timely collection of mail, improving service delivery.

"We are very pleased to be part of the progress of Nauru Post



Office; advancing their progress," Ambassador Chow said.

Attendees then moved inside the post office for refreshments and to inspect the recent renovations.

The next step for Nauru Post is the establishment of their online retail presence, including philatelic sales, once the appraisal and valuation process of the Nauru Post stamp catalogue is complete•

*His Excellency Baron Waqa unveils the Nauru Post sign on 28 August*

## Nauru's purse seine tuna vessel catch

A new joint venture between Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) and South Korean deep-sea fishing giant Silla Co Limited will allow Nauru a share of the Pacific purse seine tuna fishery.

Fishing vessels *Naoero Star* and *Naoero Sun*, flying the Nauru flag, left Suva, Fiji on their maiden voyage to capitalise on tuna resources in Nauru's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Nauru's President Baron Waqa expressed his support and congratulations on the venture.

"Nauru is blessed with vast tuna resources – our waters are rich with skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye, and yet so far we have not been able to develop our own fleet of fishing vessels to catch that tuna," said the President.

Nauru also chairs the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), in this, Nauru's 50th anniversary of independence year. PNA controls the

world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery, and is a world leader in tuna management and sustainability.

"We have invested very heavily over a long period of time to ensure that our legislation and policy is in order, that our management measures ensure national and regional sustainability, and that we have the tools and ability to undertake monitoring and enforcement on our vessels," said NFMRA chief executive officer Charleston Debye.

The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) facilitates a sustainable tuna fishery, as well as providing a lucrative income for Nauru and throughout the region through the sale of fishing days.

With fishing vessels now flying under the Nauru flag, Nauruans have achieved greater control and further, more diverse opportunities to participate in a sustainable Pacific fishery industry•

## Nauru and Taiwan sign police cooperation

The Governments of Nauru and Taiwan signed an agreement to promote cooperation in law enforcement, policing development and prevention of transnational crime in their respective countries, on 20 September in Taiwan's capital, Taipei.

Nauru's Commissioner of Police Corey Caleb and the Director General for the Taiwan National Police Agency Ja-Chin Chen, signed the cooperation agreement which sets out the framework for cooperation between the parties in developing police cooperation and combating transnational crimes.

In his statement at the signing ceremony Commissioner Caleb welcomed the partnership as a significant milestone of cooperation between their two countries and expressed sincere gratitude to Mr Chen for his inclusive and visionary leadership in making the event possible.

"Your support has allowed the men and women of the Nauru Police Force to effectively and efficiently contribute to the well-being of the citizens of the Republic of Nauru.

"There is no doubt that today's event will strengthen our bond as island nations and most importantly as law enforcement agents, a job accompanied with huge responsibilities but often thankless and endlessly criticised. Regardless, we have taken oaths to uphold and maintain the constitution of our respective countries and provide support to the government of the day," Commissioner Caleb said.

While Nauru is much smaller compared to Taiwan in population, size and resources, Mr Caleb acknowledged there are essential development challenges and capacity constraints in many sectors including in the police force.

The Commissioner underscored that as island states, both Nauru and Taiwan face similar challenges in today's modern criminal landscape.

"Our island homes have become pawns in the transnational operations of illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking and people smuggling. We have even become targets of the dark net.

"Whether a source or destination country for these serious crimes, it is clear that we must work together to fight transnational organised crimes so that our people and our countries are protected," COP Caleb said.

The scope of cooperation covers the exchange of visiting personnel, study purposes, training programs, exchange of work experience and technical assistance, sharing and exchange of information in law enforcement, cooperation in combating transnational crimes, and other areas that may be agreed upon by both parties.

To ensure the effective implementation of the agreement, both parties may cooperate to engage training in drug analysis, close personnel protection, traffic unit, cybercrime and criminal investigation, police armourer for the maintenance and upkeep of Nauru police firearms.

Meanwhile, the NPF's cybercrime unit is working on the cyber safety pasifika program which is being rolled out in Nauru and across the Pacific.

The program looks at educating schools and communities about cyber safety and the dangers of online activity given the rapid development of the internet and the imminent installation of a fibre optic undersea cabling•



## Post-PIF: Dame Meg addresses state of the pacific conference at ANU

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary-General Dame Meg Taylor delivered the keynote address at the 2018 State of the Pacific Conference held at the Australia National University (ANU) in Canberra on Monday 10 September directly following the close of the 49th PIF held on Nauru the previous Thursday.

She commended the government and people of Nauru for their successful hosting of the 49th PIF, along with the resolve shown by leaders to collaboratively seek a way forward.

*Dame Meg Taylor described the 49th PIF held on Nauru as “one of the most challenging”*



At the same time, Dame Meg earmarked the 49th PIF as one of the most challenging she has experienced in her role as Secretary-General, with a range of forces threatening to hijack the agenda.

“External political and divisive influences and tensions has meant the Forum has had to – as a collective – contend with, confront and contest a myriad of issues,” Dame Meg said.

### ***The Pacific: small, isolated and fragile, or a large, connected and strategically-important ocean continent?***

Dame Meg sought to remind her audience that perception matters, and that a ‘deficit’ narrative about the Pacific region’s vulnerability and dependency does not reflect the ‘Blue Pacific’ narrative through which Pacific nations can express an inspirational, optimistic and cohesive identity and exercise stronger strategic autonomy.

Ms Taylor reinforced the need for the Pacific to continue to define its identity and raise its voice at the risk of being overshadowed and side-lined.

“We have witnessed a recasting of geostrategic competition and cooperation under the rubric of the ‘Indo-Pacific’ with the Indian and Pacific Oceans increasingly being seen by a number of our traditional partners as one single strategic space.

“The renewed vigour with which a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy’ is being pursued leaves us with much uncertainty. For the Pacific... there is a real risk of privileging the ‘Indo’ over the ‘Pacific’,” Ms Taylor said.

### ***Making the Blue Pacific happen: a renewed concept of ‘Oceania’***

The Blue Pacific narrative seeks to provide an understanding of the region through Pacific eyes, to value the region for its resources, both current and potential, its geographically strategic location, its biodiversity and solidarity, and leverage its uniqueness for the prosperity and wellbeing of its peoples.

The reality is that the Pacific region controls almost 10 percent of UN voting rights and jointly presides over a \$6 billion fisheries industry – the world’s largest.

NAURU BULLETIN

The region also has “...unvalued ecosystem services and biodiversity; our people and our rich cultural heritage; geostrategic positioning; and a range of geo-economic opportunities.

“Pacific Island Countries and Territories manage 20% of the world’s ocean in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs),” Dame Meg said.

Resulting from the 49th PIF Boe Declaration on regional security challenges are commitments relating to resilience infrastructure, securing maritime boundaries, firm and collective advocacy positions on climate change, fisheries and biodiversity, strong commitments to identified health and wellbeing issues, continued dialogue on West Papua and gaining the controlling share of member contributions to PIFS by island nations.

The Secretary-General confronted the ‘uncomfortable’ issues of divisive politics and unfavourable media portrayals of China’s rising interest and involvement in the Pacific, including Pacific nations’ responses and the issue of debt.

“Such divisive politics are inconsistent with our region which values open and genuine relationships, and inclusive and enduring partnerships within our region and beyond.

“I believe we need to talk more openly about what the rise of China means for our region, and indeed how we can engage with all partners in a manner that advances our development, our security, prosperity and harmony.

“Such collaboration is in line with the Forum’s value of inclusive and enduring partnerships,” the Secretary-General said.

### ***The ‘catch-22’ of debt as a path to financial independence***

Regards debt sustainability, Pacific nations find themselves in a “Catch-22” where, in order to increase their socio-economic self-reliance and move away from their dependencies, they need to invest in capacity and infrastructure, which can end up causing “political jousting”, as Dame Meg describes it.

“These building blocks of growth in the region are expensive and require long term commitments in supporting complementary institutional and policy development. This is one of the reasons why Chinese assistance is attractive to the Pacific.

“In response to China’s growing influence we see competing infrastructure initiatives emerging from Japan, the US and Australia,” Ms Taylor said.

Dame Meg’s final appeal to her audience of “practitioners, researchers and officials” was one of moving forward together, for the benefit of all, with a clear vision of the legacy of the ‘State of the Pacific’ we wish to bestow on the coming generations•



## JBCs 'next-gen' lawyers at NSS career day

The next generation of Nauruans were encouraged by members of the government's Justice and Border Control (JBC) team to aim for a legal profession as their first choice after graduation at this year's Career Day held at Nauru Secondary School (NSS) on 23 August.

This year's career day theme was *'envision your future'*.

On the day, representatives from across government departments, state-owned and private enterprise, along with the Republic of China (Taiwan) embassy joined together to showcase a smorgasbord of alternatives to NSS students as they consider their career options in the months and years ahead.

The JBC team invited Nauru Bulletin to cover its presentations to students discussing the range of opportunities Nauruan law graduates can enjoy and the ways in which they can make a meaningful and effective contribution to their nation through a legal career.



*JBC Secretary  
Graham Leung  
inspiring the  
next generation  
of home-grown  
legal practitioners  
on Nauru at  
NSS' annual career day,  
held 23 August*

JBC Secretary Graham Leung began with an example from history, asking students what they thought people like Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama might have in common.

One student's response that they were all leaders was Mr Leung's cue; he explained that not only were they leaders, they were transformational leaders, who dismantled unconscionable social structures like slavery and apartheid. In addition, each of them had a career background in the law which impacted significantly on their ability to make positive change in the world.

Mr Leung asked rhetorically, reflecting on the 50th anniversary of Nauruan independence in 2018, how independent Nauru really is? Out of his legal team of 10, not one is Nauruan.

"I think that is an unacceptable situation.

"In Nauru, you have reached a crossroads. Who will stand up to lead this country in the future?

"It's you," Mr Leung told NSS students.

Victor Soriano and Maverick Eoe, both pleaders with JBC, spoke to students in the vernacular, highlighting the travel opportunities that come with a legal career, and how setting a goal to achieve a scholarship can kickstart your career. Both emphasised the importance of education.

"Pursue your education – it's the key to success," Mr Soriano said. Mr Eoe added, "Your education will stand up for you."

The final JBC speaker was public legal defender Sevuloni Valenitabua.

"You've got a lot of teachers from Fiji here. You've got a lot of nurses. Where are the Nauruans?

"Look to a career you can take up after you leave school so you can run your country.

"Study hard so you can be a lawyer, so you can go (overseas) and negotiate on behalf of Nauru.

"Nauru is not isolated. Nauru is part of the whole world now. The world is very small.

"Nauru needs local lawyers. We need you to come up and pick up these positions. The public defender should be a Nauruan – there's none at the moment. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should be a Nauruan. The problem is there are no Nauruans to take their places," Mr Valenitabua said.

Mr Valenitabua advised students to study hard, listen to their teachers, attend school every day and learn English as, "that is your main weapon", he said.

The whole-day program continued in the afternoon with presentations from the USP and state-owned enterprises before Deputy Principal Richard Lewis closed NSS Career Day for 2018.

## Latest intake of Taiwan scholarship students

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Nauru awarded another nine scholarships to Nauruan students on 24 August for the opportunity to study in Taiwan, up almost double from last year's intake of five. The gender ratio this year is seven female to two male recipients.

Ambassador Joseph Chow conferred the scholarship certificates on each student. The occasion also served as a farewell party for scholarship recipients who will commence their studies this year. An alumni mentoring session was included to help students achieve the greatest benefit from this unique and important opportunity.

Ambassador Chow welcomed President Waqa and Madam Waqa to the embassy, along with students, their families and alumni. He informed guests that Taiwan has sponsored 50 Nauruan students since the program commenced in 2006, providing an update on current student performance.

"Sixteen students are still studying in Taiwan. One student is one course from completing his Bachelor's degree. However, there are 13 students who failed," Ambassador Chow said.

Concerned with the failure rate, Ambassador Chow reported his observations as to the cause. He ruled out students' ability to learn the language as the problem and explained what he believed to be the reason for the failures, hoping to assist this current group of students.

"Nauruan is very family-bonded. When they go abroad, they miss their family too much. Their homesickness is serious and they couldn't cope with the situation.

"Even though the Taiwanese are very friendly people... and always invite foreign students to visit their homes and share festivals with them but some students are just too shy to mingle... they want to go home instead of studying," the Ambassador said.

## Latest intake of Taiwan scholarship students

...from pg 12

This year's Taiwan scholarship recipients are Jane-Lyn Scotty, Hanson Olsson, Mason Junior Mwareow, Melani Amoe, Michelle Bill, Blossom Lisi Tsiode, Iola Giouba, Tessa Lucy Tsiode and Tinkabel Buraman.

"I hope these students can be more open to the society. I hope students, this year, you can open your mind. You don't need to really be able to speak Chinese... to mingle with them. Use your body gesture – you can still have great friends! So, don't be afraid," Ambassador Chow advised.

President Waqa expressed his sincere gratitude for Taiwan's support, and how proud parents are to have their children going to study and make friends abroad. He urged parents to encourage their children during their time in Taiwan, keep track of their progress and regularly communicate with them via social media and SMS to support them.

"Speak to your kids; encourage them all the time," the President said.

President Waqa challenged all nine students to pass their one year language course in Mandarin at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei, and be ready to begin their university studies after that. Joel Waqa, son of the President, is qualified to Masters level through the Taiwan scholarship program, and continues to speak fluent Mandarin.

"Taiwan spends millions of dollars on these scholarships. It's for Nauru's development, and specifically for your own personal development.

"So work hard, set your goals and plan well. You will be ambassadors of Nauru. You will be the face of Nauru," President Waqa said.

Once the scholarship certificates, for up to five years, were awarded to recipients by Ambassador Chow, four invited alumni conducted a mentoring session, greeting everyone in Mandarin and sharing their advice and experiences of studying in Taiwan with the new students.



2018 Taiwan scholarship recipients and alumni with President and Madam Waqa and ROC (Taiwan) Ambassador Chow on 24 August

Speaking in the vernacular, alumni Joel Waqa told students that understanding and dedication were two important factors to success. He advised students to understand the language, the culture and the lifestyle and to blend in and make friends.

Annalina Solomon spent five years studying in Taiwan from 2011-2016. She advised students to look to their fellow students for support and to stay focussed and dedicated to their goals. Students were invited to join the group's Facebook page to share and keep connected.

Yorab Adeang, who has just completed a five year study period in Taiwan, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in social science in politics and economics, also spoke to students. He assured students of the safety of Taiwan, and the small, close-knit student community they will enjoy there.

The final alumni Kawaii Debye spoke honestly about the challenges she confronted and overcame. The experience was overwhelming at first, as was the realisation that she was an independent adult, who was also free to fail. After a rocky start, she went on to complete her studies and graduate.

"My advice is that if you fall, you get up... and always remember your purpose. Also, you need to form a family there – any type of support group or circle so you can go to them when you need time with family," Ms Debye said.

After a group photo session, students enjoyed their farewell party with their families. They departed for Taiwan the following Wednesday 29 August•

## HOD weekly encouragement no. 4: interpersonal skills matter

Your 'between-people' or 'inter-personal' skills are learned skills that determine the quality of your relationships with others, and thereby, the quality of your life.

According to Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler, in this week's heads of department encouragement 4, interpersonal skills are learned early in life.

"The family group teaches us most of our core values, attitudes and behaviours (Guthrie, 1987)," stated Mr Grundler.

Bad leadership stems from skills deficits, which, fortunately, can be learned and built upon.

"There are no ideal interpersonal behaviours or skills when it comes to being an effective leader, but if they build positive relationships, that counts," said Mr Grundler.

Citing the interpersonal nature of God, Mr Grundler explained the rewards cycle of well-developed, positive interpersonal relationship skills.

"He [God] created us in His image (Genesis 1: 27) so we can relate to Him for He is love (1 John 4: 8). For God, interpersonal skills matter," said Mr Grundler.

Mr Grundler included an interpersonal skills matrix in the encouragement to assist HODs to assess and hopefully improve their

own and their staff's interpersonal skills levels.

The four-quadrant matrix (below), from the Bridge Facilitation Manual, 2012, uses five behavioural and attitudinal verbs chosen from 20 to correlate a person's levels of 'dominance' with their levels of sociability to determine their leadership style or 'people skills' aptitude.

Falling too far beyond the ideal Quadrant 1 means there is work to be done to improve interpersonal skills levels.

For heads of department wishing to improve staff performance and morale, working to lift interpersonal skills levels is an excellent start•

	High dominance	Low dominance
High sociability	Quadrant 1 advises coordinates directs initiates leads	Quadrant 2 acquiesces agrees assists complies obliges
Low sociability	Quadrant 3 analyses criticises disapproves judges resists	Quadrant 4 concedes evades relinquishes retreats withdraws

## New Nauruan citizens take the oath

The government of Nauru conferred citizenship on eight people in a cabinet room ceremony at the Government offices on 24 August.

Citizenship was conferred under Part VIII Citizenship articles of the Constitution of Nauru and Section 18 *special grant of citizenship on fiftieth anniversary* included in the Naoero Citizenship Act 2017.

Witnesses to the ceremony included His Excellency Baron Waqa, government ministers, Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler, Secretary for Justice and Border Control (JBC) Graham Leung and Supreme Court Judge Mohammad Khan, who conducted the ceremony.

Reverend Roger Mwareow opened the ceremony in prayer before Graham Leung made his introductory remarks to citizen candidates, stating the solemnity of the occasion and what an honour it is to be granted citizenship by the President and the Republic of Nauru.

“As soon-to-be citizens of the Republic, you owe allegiance and loyalty and fidelity to the Republic, its government and its people.

“You will become a proud member of this community and be part of its rich heritage and the narrative of this country.

“After you take the oath, to borrow the words from our national anthem, ‘Naoero eko dogin’ (Nauru for ever more),” Mr Leung said.

The JBC Secretary highlighted for citizens-to-be the bright future they will be entering into, and their part to play in it.

“These are exciting times in the Republic.

“The government has established a pension fund for members of parliament and public servants and other people.

“We’re about to embark on the exciting new project of the port.

“There’s a new inter-generational fund to cater to the prosperity of Nauruans in the future when they enter old age.

“These are exciting developments and you will become part of that story and part of that journey.

“I would encourage you to commit your lives for the betterment and the prosperity of the Republic, its government and its people,” Mr Leung said.

Judge Khan led citizens-to-be in the reciting of the oath.

After President Waqa presented each new citizen individually with their framed Certificate of Citizenship he addressed them, welcoming them and explaining the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship.

“Although your faces are familiar, I see them in a different light now – you are family.

“This is a new chapter in your life and you have to contribute to the development of Nauru just like any other Nauruan.

“You have the same democratic rights and you will also have the right next year to put your ballot paper and you will be determining the future of your new beloved nation Nauru.

“Deep down now you will be Nauruan and that will stick forever. We welcome you fully and openly with wide-extended arms. You are now a part of us,” President Waqa said.

New citizen Brenda Soriano spoke as representative of the group, speaking of the hard times she lived through side by side with Nauruans during the severe financial crisis of the early noughties, and how her faith and God’s blessings sustained everyone, including those expatriates who could have left, but chose to stay.

“I saw how God brought fish to shore, how God provided the breadfruit on the land. Even though the money was not enough, but God provided for each Nauruan and that story I will never forget, as long as I live, how God loved Nauru.

“We give God our ‘Yes!’. We will serve God through Nauru. We will obey the law. We will stand with the people of Nauru in good times, in bad times, in happy times, in sad times. We stand together,” Ms Soriano said.

The ceremony completed, new citizens of Nauru were guests of honour at an afternoon tea, with family members and distinguished guests, hosted by the President•

*Brenda Soriano receives her Nauruan citizenship certificate from President Waqa at a ceremony on 24 August*



## Nauru attends UPU Congress in Ethiopia

Assistant Minister for Nauru Post Hon Lionel Aingimea MP and Nauru Post chairman Samuel Grundler attended the Second Extraordinary Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 7 September to discuss UPU strategy and reform generally and Nauru’s financial obligations to the UPU specifically.

The UPU comprises 192 member countries that meet as a congress every four years as they have done since 1875. This is only the second ever extraordinary congress, the last having been held in 1900.

Nauru’s entry to the UPU was in April 1969, and this is the first time Nauru has attended a UPU Congress.

On 4 September, Mr Aingimea addressed Congress delegates, including UPU Director-General Bishar Abdirahman Hussein.

Mr Aingimea began by outlining the recent history of postal services in Nauru.

“As a member of the Union we have not been active for a considerable period of time due to various reasons.

“We have gone through financial constrain from year 2001 to 2008. Nauru had experienced hardship and austerity.

“In this environment, Nauru’s postal services came to a virtual halt and was moribund.

“The country was unable to meet many of its dues and obligations at the time, including dues that were owing at the time to the Union. We had every intention but lacked the financial ability,” Mr Aingimea explained.

Congress delegates were then briefed on the latest reform and future plans for Nauru’s new postal enterprise, the Naoero Postal Services Corporation, which commenced operations on 1 March this year.

*Cont pg 15...*



## Nauru attends UPU Congress in Ethiopia

...from pg 14

“Government reformed the Nauru Post Office by moving it out as a government department and made it into a corporation.

“A new business model with new management and new methods of generating revenue were introduced,” Mr Aingimea said.

To add to the current Nauru Post revenue stream of just AU\$20,000 per annum, revenue generation strategies include a 30 percent increase in postal services and stamps sales, parcel and money transfer services, value-add facilities such as the retailing of Nauru memorabilia, stationery items, passport photos and business printing.

Assistant Minister Aingimea reported the limitations Nauru Post faces in achieving its strategic goals, and proposed actions the UPU could take to assist Nauru to become an active member of the Union.



*Assistant Minister for Nauru Post Lionel Aingimea (top left) delivering his intervention at the second extraordinary UPU congress in Addis Ababa on 4 September*

“Some of the constraints are lack of capacity of staff, no express mail service (EMS) barcode system, no money transfer system, time taking to reach parcel and mail to Nauru on time due to limited flight services, communication breakdown,” Mr Aingimea said.

Mr Aingimea requested that the UPU consider forgiving Nauru’s past UPU membership debts, which amount to annual membership fees of AU\$60,000 plus an arrears repayment schedule.

“Also matched against this revenue stream is a repayment schedule

of our UPU arrears which for the next ten years Nauru must pay AU\$160,000 per year. What we are being asked to perform is a financial impossibility,” Mr Aingimea said.

Mr Aingimea invoked the provisions of the UPU Constitution General Regulations in Articles 146.6 and 146.7 concerned with releasing a member country from interest owed on accrued unpaid membership fee balances.

Mr Aingimea questioned the sustainability of UPU policy on small and developing countries, such as the imposition of automatic sanctions as per Article 129 of the General Regulations. He requested that Nauru be permitted to make certain representations for a way forward.

“The representations are;

- (a) recognise that Nauru is a small island developing state (SIDS);
- (b) reduce the membership fees, for countries such as Nauru, to AUD \$1000 per annum;
- (c) forgive the current outstanding debt;
- (d) instruct the Council of Administration to monitor the implementation of the new funding model, its impacts on financial stability and sustainability of the Union;
- (e) for the Council of Administration to consider whether the current system of automatic sanctions and minimum contribution levels unreasonably prevents universal participation in the Union, particularly for developing countries with small populations and if alternative arrangements may be necessary to allow currently sanctioned countries to regain full rights to participate in the Union;
- (f) assist Nauru by deputing an officer to set up and upgrade the Nauru Post to a modern post office and provide capacity building and training to our staff,” Mr Aingimea said.

*The results of these representations will be published in the next edition of Nauru Bulletin•*



## JBC hosts illicit drugs seminar

The Department of Justice and Border Control (JBC) hosted a seminar on *Illicit drugs – trending and testing*, on Wednesday 26 September at the new conference room in the JBC and multicultural affairs offices at the government buildings in Yaren.

The presenter, Fiji Police Force Principal Scientific Officer of Forensic Chemistry Ms Miliana Werebauinona is a member of the drugs forensics team in Fiji.

She and her colleague Fiji Police Force Crime Scene Investigation Unit’s Sergeant Patricia Liga were in Nauru as witnesses in a matter before the District Court.

Their visit was facilitated through the terms of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Nauru Police Force and the Fiji Police Force which includes facilitation of police work, assistance, liaisons, training and policy discussions on all levels and access to forensic science and other specialised services on offer.

The Secretary for JBC Graham Leung along with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) John Rabuku organised the seminar.

“The presentation is hoped to generate discussions around the issue of illicit drugs on Nauru, interceptions at the airport, the criminal justice system’s response and our drug testing capacity,” Mr Leung said.

Learning from the Fiji example may benefit customs, law enforcement and government policy and legal advisers in Nauru; both countries

are Pacific nations vulnerable to trafficking.

“Drugs are trafficked at least into and out of the Pacific region either by air or by sea simply because we are surrounded by sea.

“Nauru possesses the two main transportation modes... in which illicit drugs can be transported into or through Nauru to other jurisdictions,” the JBC secretary said.

Nauru Airlines is planning an addition route between Nauru and Guam, which may further increase Nauru’s current customs vulnerability.

“Our national airline crosses at least five country borders, back and forth, on a weekly basis,” Mr Leung said.

Guam’s Governor Eddie Calvo signed a petition in early September this year to have the Territory of Guam designated a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to enable local authorities to access funding to combat drug-related crime there.

Mr Leung outlined the potential threat not only from sea cargo transportation vessels, but from foreign fishing vessels having purchased a fishing licence from Nauru under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Vessel Day Scheme.

“The issuing of fishing licenses by the Government of Nauru to foreign fishing vessels also imposes a degree of responsibility on

## JBC hosts illicit drugs seminar

...from pg 15

Nauru when such vessels are used for transportation of illicit drugs through our waters into or out of other territories.

“The plans to open a shipping registry for Nauru, where foreign vessels would in fact be flying the Nauru flag make this responsibility more profound,” Mr Leung said.

Ms Werebauinona’s presentation began by setting the scene of the rising problem of narcotics or hard drugs in Fiji, before moving to the capabilities of the Fiji Forensic Science Services in responding to the problem.

In Fiji, cannabis represents up to 75 percent of all cases, with possession of methamphetamine and cocaine largely making up the remainder of cases.

“For 2018, a total of about 117 bars (of cocaine) have been found so far in 17 different locations in Fiji. These bars have been reported to have been washed ashore. We have FJ\$98 million worth of cocaine found so far,” Ms Werebauinona said.

Ms Werebauinona displayed a cautionary graph for Nauru shows trending of cannabis trafficking cases in Fiji, starting at about 300 cases in 2012 and increasing to around 1000 in 2017, reflected in a similar upward trend in cases of illicit drugs trafficked.

This year has seen another, more concerning, trend emerging.

“As of 2018 we have been receiving small amounts of drugs found on the streets.

“This suggests that the consumption is now local and no more for transit, but rather, there’s a market in Fiji for these drugs,” Ms Werebauinona said.

Nauru’s DPP John Rabuku suggests that cannabis use is indicative and needs to be monitored.

“We need to keep a watch on the use of cannabis here on Nauru. An escalation of the use of cannabis may indicate also the delving into more hard narcotics or drugs by the locals,” Mr Rabuku said.

As a result of illicit drug trending in Fiji coupled with the increase in drug cases, the government of Fiji has provided the financial support for the expansion of the Fiji Police forensic science services.

It includes crime scene investigations, with a digital imaging unit, a criminal records office, pathology, biology; deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and chemistry units.

“The chemistry unit, where I am from, offers services that have to do with the identification of illicit drugs,” Ms Werebauinona said.

The MOU between Nauru’s and Fiji’s police forces means Nauru has access to the latest laboratory equipment to analyse samples, the results of which can be used as evidence in court.

“We have been able to purchase a few state-of-the-art machines that have allowed us to conduct a various number of types of analyses,” Ms Werebauinona said.

Machines include a gas chromatographer to analyse blood alcohol and fire debris, along with a mass spectrophotometer for drug identification and poisons detection.

Another machine identifies drug purity levels, while a trace evidence analysis microscope is also part of enhanced and upgraded laboratory assets.

“We don’t only limit ourselves to the Fiji Police Force. We can also offer our services to other government agencies,” Ms Werebauinona said.

These services are available to Nauruan law enforcement authorities through the MOU.

Forensic chemistry services include the detection of cannabis, illicit drugs and alcohol. Toxicology can test for alcohol in blood, cannabinoids in urine, poisons and pesticides in both human animal and marine products.

The unit can detect petroleum hydrocarbons and measure acidity and alkalinity of a solution (pH) in arson cases, and analyse paint chip, glass fragment, fibres and hair, all of which are trace evidence.

### *Illicit drugs testing kits*

Nauru Police Force use illicit drug testing kits. These test kits are at the preliminary testing stage, and are known as presumptive tests.

For validity, two different reagent testing kits, such as the Duquenois–Levine and the Gramrawys tests are needed to produce a double-positive result. If this result is achieved, there is no need to move to the next confirmatory stage of testing, requiring instrumental analysis.

### *Lessons for Nauru from the Fiji experience*

One of Nauru’s most important tasks is to ensure its borders are secure against all transnational threats, and to have the systems in place and the means to enforce the laws when they are breached.

Nauru’s success in this area directly contributes to the wider regional fight against crime, including the trafficking of drugs, which is why the Fiji experience is so valuable, as it allows Nauru to pre-empt potential catalysts or trigger-points to an increasing drug problem.



*Presenter Miliana Werebauinona (front row, 3rd from R) with JBC team*

“It is useful therefore to look to bigger jurisdictions, like Fiji who are currently engaged at a larger scale on tackling the drug problem, and examine how they have progressed their forensic, investigative, prosecutorial and legal reform responses.

“This will help us (Nauru) map our own responses, tailor made to our own needs, for the future,” Mr Leung said.

However, there are limits to the comparability between the two Pacific nations, and in many cases, Nauru’s geographic and demographic size, limited entry points, isolation and lack of a tourism industry all mean it has many advantages over Fiji in protecting its people against drug trafficking.

“Fiji has a high use of cannabis because it is cultivated locally over vast inland and secluded forests. Nauru doesn’t have that.

“Dependency on cannabis leads to a demand for harder drugs thus increasing the demand for methamphetamines, cocaine etc. These are factors that are not comparable to Nauru.

“Nauru’s advantage is that it only has three entry points; one from Australia, one from Fiji and one from Kiribati by Air.

“We are not often visited by yachts and we don’t have a port. Controlling our entry points should not be much of a challenge compared to that of say countries like Fiji,” Mr Rabuku said.

### *Nauru: no room for complacency*

As Nauru continues to develop multiple and diverse revenue streams, the country’s vulnerability to drug trafficking will increase.

The new shipping port development, which will exchange deep-

Cont pg 17...



## JBC hosts illicit drugs seminar

water mooring for on-shore berthing, along with the expansion of a tourism industry, are two examples.

“The booming tourism industry in Fiji also lends to the increasing level of hard drugs and its escalating usage now on the streets and resorts etc in Fiji because tourists and foreigners bring their drug lifestyles to Fiji even on vacation.

“The visa free migration policies in Fiji for South American and Asian countries is a factor also to be considered.

### *Nauru: room for improvement*

The MOU with Fiji means that, working collegially, Nauru customs, law enforcement authorities and the judiciary can collaborate to

continue to improve in areas such as drug testing and the safeguarding of the evidence chain.

“Nauru may need to re-look at the testing systems for drugs here.

“Better investigative training for police and customs officials (is needed), as the chain of custody of drugs preserves the integrity of the evidence that needs to go before the Courts.

“If the chain of custody of the drugs is compromised then the success of a prosecution is jeopardised,” Mr Rabuku said.

Having completed the main purpose of their visit, Ms Werebauinona and Sergeant Liga worked with the Nauru Police Force delivering training sessions prior to their departure on Sunday 30 September•

## Traditional sports score US\$600 boost from India

The Department of Sports has received a \$US600 (AUS\$830) donation to be used to promote traditional sports in Nauru.

President Baron Waqa presented Sports Secretary Rayong Itsimaera and Department of Sports Community Project Coordinator Brenda Ribauw with the endowment in a small ceremony held directly after the citizenship awards ceremony in the cabinet room on 24 August.

The Government of India gifts an amount to the government of Nauru from time to time. Nauru's President then nominates a community program of his choice to donate to. Last time, the President nominated SmartKids, a children's community athletics group based in Yaren, as the recipient.

“This is a small token to encourage them (traditional sports team) in their work because these people volunteer.

“After work, they donate their time to the Republic and to the people; they don't even ask for one cent,” the President said.

President Waqa acknowledged the contribution from the Government of India.

“This is a very kind grant from the Indian government. Thank you to the government of India for always thinking about Nauru and thinking of us all the time,” President Waqa said.

From 2019, Nauruan traditional sports will be included in the school curriculum.

According to the recent positions-vacant advertisement for a traditional sports instructor, “Traditional games and sports offer activities in school and communities and provide youths and children the chance to recognise, learn and understand our history, traditions and culture.”

“The education will now include not just contemporary sports, but traditional sports as well. These particular sports we are trying to promote are unique to the Nauruan people.

“It's *itsibweb*, *karaduga*, *ibibwo*, *akaberere*, frigate bird (*atsi*) and more,” the President explained.



*President Waqa presents Rayong Itsimaera and Brenda Ribauw with \$US 600 for the promotion of traditional sports on Nauru thanks to the Indian government*

President Waqa provided some recent history of the playing of traditional Nauruan sports, and the long association he has with former sportsman and the now Secretary of Sports Rayong Itsimaera.

In 2006, as a government minister, President Waqa was charged with chairing the committee to organise Independence Day celebrations and he chose Mr Itsimaera to assist with the traditional sports.

“Rayong did all the preparations for our first ever (competition) to revive the sports again, and we did.

“We also brought in some games that were new, such as the unique (25-a-side) Nauruan tug-o-war.

“I want to pay tribute to Rayong and his team for their excellent work over these years,” the President said.

Mr Itsimaera thanked India and the Government of Nauru, on behalf of his team, for the contribution.

“We'd like to thank India for this generous offer and we will surely put it to use. We'd like to thank the government for nominating us. I've handed over to Brenda to run the traditional games – she has a lot of team behind her,” Mr Itsimaera said.

With the Government of India donation and the citizenship ceremonies complete, afternoon tea was served.

The next edition of Nauru Bulletin will feature an interview with Department of Sports Community Project Coordinator Brenda Ribauw discussing her role in promoting traditional Nauruan sports, and how the Indian government's US\$600 donation was allocated towards the cause•

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**Republic of Nauru**

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