



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 14-2019/198

11 September 2019

Lionel Aingimea is Nauru's 15th president

President calls for unity. Voters elect ten new MPs at election 2019.

Former human rights lawyer and justice secretary Lionel Aingimea is Nauru's new president, making him the fifteenth president of Nauru in the twenty-third parliament.

Unity is the message of the new government led by President Aingimea and his team of young and passionate cabinet and deputies.

The changing of the guard saw ten new members of parliament elected by the Nauruan people at the general elections, who called for change and 'leaving no-one behind' as one of the key messages of the campaign platform and a strong message "to give more than we receive."

This refers to the fruits of the government must be the fruits shared by the people of Nauru.

President Aingimea leads a cabinet of newly elected, young members, which he says, "with youth comes energy, with youth comes fresh ideas."

"Yes, we [members of parliament] are part of the master plan, but we are also answered prayers. So we must walk in our conviction that are right, that are brought up on Christian values," the President said.

"Equality and fairness are what we will be looking into in these next three years.

"We have three years of work, labour, sweat, and of sleepless nights. We must be ready to do this.

"And what we do with that time is very important. We need to use it wisely, together for the betterment of our country," President Aingimea said.

President Aingimea is meeting with heads of department to gauge the operations and progress.

Part of his policy reforms is to strengthen



Lionel Aingimea assumes office as the 15th President of Nauru following the general elections on 24 August

the departments, and state owned entities and refresh changes for better operations and functions of government.

During his back-to-back meetings with departments over the last fortnight, President Aingimea identified areas requiring change and improvement and instructed just the same.

President Aingimea took the oath of office in a ceremony presided over by the Chief Justice on 28 August. The cabinet and deputies were also announced at the ceremony and recited the oath.

The appointment of the executive comes after the general elections on 24 August when Nauruan voters spoke loudly through their votes as ten new members, mostly under the age of 40 years, were elected with the incumbent president, parliament speaker and a minister losing their seats in their constituencies.

President Lionel Aingimea named a young cabinet line-up – all first-time elected members in their constituencies. Three of the ministers are first-time candidates at these elections - a young group sending a message of change.

Mr Aingimea won the vote for president over David Adeang in a secret ballot at the first sitting of the twenty-third parliament, 27 August.

Mr Aingimea ran for office at the 2013 elections but was successful at the 2016 elections securing one of the three spots in his constituency of Meneñ.

In response to his election to the presidency, His Excellency said he wanted unity and equality for Nauruans across a broad range of areas including opportunities for employment and access to services. He stressed that this government will give more than it receives.

These sentiments were reiterated in his address at the oath ceremony on 28 August.

"Today, we have just witnessed the swearing in of your government - a government reflective of the wishes of the people. As I articulated in my adjournment debate in parliament yesterday, this government's foremost duty is to unify the nation.

"This profound notion underpins our Christian faith of love, sacrifice and most of all, humility."

The President quoted the Bible "if a house is divided against itself it cannot stand."

"We will therefore endeavour to reach out to all Nauruans to work with us in moving our nation forward. It is imperative that we do so as our future will continue to present us with challenges that must be addressed early on," the President said.

His Excellency said the government will continue working closely with its development partners including Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, the European Union and the United States, to name a few, to assist in Nauru's future endeavours, and thanked them for their assistance over the years.

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Voters elect ten new MPs at Election 2019

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The Minister assisting the president Martin Hunt reiterated the President's words of unity and encouraged Nauruans to be confident in approaching their ministers, reaffirming that while they are young they are willing to assist and work with the people, and to give the young cabinet a chance to help and serve.

"Don't be afraid of change. Change is always good. Change is often better. I ask you to give us time [to do our work and assist the Nauruan people]," Minister Hunt said.

Deputy Minister Asterio Appi shared similar sentiments that the new government is the government of the people, and echoed the words of the President a day earlier, the government anticipates and looks forward to giving more than it receives.

"People fall through the cracks it's our job to lift them up."

Mr Appi reinforced Minister Hunt's words that change is good and it "will happen one way or the other," and for Nauru to move forward, the people and its government must work together.

"There's no other way."

One of the first instructions of President Aingimea to his cabinet and deputies is that they promptly meet with their heads of department to gauge the work and move things forward.

If the pace of the first sitting of parliament is any indication of things to come, then improvements and developments for unity with the government and its people will be rapid.

The campaign slogan by Minister Rennier Gadabu, "Leaving No-one Behind" is gaining popularity and the growing sentiment of government is to move forward together and leave no-one behind in terms of progress, change and opportunities.

First sitting of the Twenty-Third Parliament

At the first sitting of the twenty third Parliament on 27 August, all new members were sworn in as members of parliament by Chief Justice Filimone Jitoko, followed by the election of the speaker.

Former president Marcus Stephen and Shadlog Bernicke were both nominated to the speakership and both accepted their nominations. A secret ballot revealed Marcus Stephen as the winner with 12 votes to seven.

New member Timothy Ika's nomination for deputy speaker was uncontested.

Another new member Rennier Gadabu was also nominated for the presidency but declined before a seconder was forthcoming.

Election Day – 24 August

The polls opened at 9.00am on Saturday 24 August and closed at 6.00pm. Over 7000 voters (96%) turned out to cast their vote for 19 members of parliament for the eight constituencies.

At close of polls, each ballot box is sealed and transported to the parliament chambers under police escort to be sorted and counted.

The first constituency to be counted and results announced was Yaren returning sitting member Charmaine Scotty and newcomer Isabella Dageago, unseating former member Kieren Keke.

Yaren makes history with its election of an all-female unit. Ms Dageago is the fourth female to be elected into the Nauru Parliament.

Robert from Anetan shows his inked finger after casting his vote on election day, 24 August



In Boe, the sitting president Baron Waqa lost his seat to new candidate Martin Hunt who was the former secretary for finance before resigning to contest the elections. Asterio Appi retains his seat in Boe.

Two new faces now represent the Constituency of Anabar in Maverick Eoe and Pyon Deiye, defeating long serving members Ludwig Scotty and Riddell Akua.

In Buada, Shadlog Bernicke and Bingham Agir retain their seats ahead of five other candidates.

In the event when two candidates' total value of votes is less than 0.25 per cent of each other, an automatic manual recount is initiated. This was the case for Aiwo and Menen.

In Aiwo, new candidate Rennier Gadabu, who resigned from his position as First Secretary at Nauru's mission to the United Nations in New York secured the top spot. A recount for the second position between sitting minister Aaron Cook and MP Milton Dube confirmed Mr Dube.

In the Constituency of Anetan-Ewa, Timothy Ika received the most votes and Marcus Stephen who was absent for a term, in second, unseating parliament speaker Cyril Buramen.

Lionel Aingimea retains his seat in Menen and is joined by new member Richard-Hyde Menke in second position. A recount was initiated for the third MP between sitting MP Vodrick Detsiogo and minister Tawaki Kam, who won the recount.

A recount for the largest constituency of Ubenide returned an unchanged result from the first count with David Adeang having the largest margin of the value of votes, joined by retuning MP Russ Kun, and new candidates Reagan Aliklik and Wawani Dowiyogo. Ranin Akua and Nauru's third female parliamentarian Gabrissa Hartman lost their bids for another term.

Fourteen international observers from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, American Embassy in Suva, and High Commissioners and Ambassadors to Nauru, were invited by the Government to oversee the elections. The electoral commission also initiated a new program for senior student observers to also take part in the election process. All observers visited the polling stations around the island as well as access parliament chambers where the counting of the ballot papers took place.

Local media covered the elections and was broadcast on local television, radio, and Facebook live streaming of the announcements of the results and updates on official websites.

The counting of the ballots concluded at 2.45pm Sunday 25 August •

A healthy change for Nauru: Dageago

Newly-elected Health Minister Isabella Dageago is the fourth woman in almost 52 years of independence to be elected to Nauru's Parliament.

As a highly-qualified and experienced medical professional, she is ideally positioned to steer the department, and thus, the country, into a much healthier future.

Ms Dageago has been in the role for just 10 days, and in this time has held back-to-back meetings to achieve her most urgent goal and priority – a comprehensive review of the departmental management structure “to ensure the best personnel are in the right position.”

One example of the new management shake-up sees Chanda Garabwan, another experienced medical professional, assigned the role of acting Health Secretary.

One of the most satisfying breakthroughs so far has been the establishment of a communicative and collaborative relationship with her health team executive members, as evidenced by consistent open dialoguing.

The ongoing medical professional staff shortage Ms Dageago describes as “critical” is the other high priority of the new ministry, which fully recognises how hospital staff have been over-extended over a long period, compromising standards of patient care and staff morale and performance.

While short-term goals are tackled, Ms Dageago has not lost sight of the long-term vision she has for her ministries of both health, and home affairs – recognising the holistic nature of these departments and how they interact and impact the country as a whole.

“I have a vision of a multi-sectorial approach. A whole of government and whole of society approach [including] to merge services,” the minister said.



Minister for Health Isabella Dageago shakes-up her departments to achieve urgent goals and priorities

While Ms Dageago is just the fourth woman to be elected to the parliament of Nauru, she feels her workplace is one of cooperation and collaboration, with the youthful male team that make up her colleagues more conscious of gender equity and wanting to ensure women's jobs are enriched.

It's the newness, energy and innovative ideas that the team brings to the table that inspires: “it's a good mixture, it's the energy, and the pace is quick”.

The new health ministry, along with the rest of government, wants to be known for keeping true to its vision and values: that ministers are approachable, that this government will leave no-one behind, and as such, their doors are always open to hear from the people they serve – you, the people of Nauru.

“For community and for the country, you can come and approach me. We can plan out things and we can discuss and plan a way forward together,” Minister Dageago concluded •

World Health Organisation's nine global voluntary targets to reduce premature death from NCDs by 25% by 2025 – a summary



Target 1: A 25% reduction in deaths from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases.



Target 2: At least 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol.



Target 3: A 10% improvement in physical activity.



Target 4: A 30% decrease in salt intake.



Target 5: 30% fewer smokers.



Target 6: A 25% reduction in raised blood pressure.



Target 7: Halt the rise in diabetes and obesity.



Target 8: At least 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counselling to prevent heart attacks and strokes.



Target 9: An 80% availability of treatments for NCDs in both public and private facilities.

Changing of the guard - Portfolios

The new cabinet and deputy ministers were announced and the following portfolios assigned:

President Lionel Aingimea, MP:

Chairman of the Cabinet

Minister for Public Service; Foreign Affairs & Trade; Nauru Police Force; National Emergency Services; Telecommunications and Media; Multicultural Affairs; Education; Land Management; Nauru Air Corporation; Port Authority of Nauru; Eigigu Solution Corporation; Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust; Naoero Postal Services Corporation; Nauru Tourism Corporation; Cenpac Corporation; Nauru RPC Corporation; Eigigu Holding Corporation Transport Services; and Nauru Sports Development Inc.

Hon. Martin Hunt, MP:

Minister Assisting the President; Finance & Sustainable Development; Transport; and Eigigu Holding Corporation.

Hon. Isabella Dageago, MP:

Minister for Health; and Home Affairs.

Hon. Rennier Gadabu, MP:

Minister for Commerce, Industry & Environment; Climate Change; and Infrastructure Development.

Hon. Maverick Eoe, MP:

Minister for Justice & Border Control; and Sports.

Hon. Reagan Aliklik, MP:

Minister for RONPhos; and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation

Hon. Wawani Dowiyogo, MP:

Minister for Fisheries; and Nauru Utilities Corporation.

For deputy ministers, the portfolios are:

Hon. Asterio Appi, MP:

Public Service; Foreign Affairs & Trade; Multicultural Affairs; and Nauru Air Corporation.

Hon. Russ Kun, MP:

Finance & Sustainable Development; and Port Authority of Nauru.

Hon. Bingham Agir, MP:

Land Management; and Eigigu Holding Corporation.

Hon. Pyon Deiye, MP:

Health; Telecommunications & Media; Cenpac Inc. Corporation

Hon. Richard-Hyde Menke, MP:

Education; and Naoero Postal Services Corporation.



President Aingimea (centre) with Cabinet ministers (L-R front) Dageago, Hunt, (back) Eoe, Gadabu, Dowiyogo and Aliklik



Legislation is amended to reflect the extended role of deputy ministers. President Aingimea (centre) with deputy ministers (L-R front) Kun, Deiye, (back) Menke, Agir and Appi

NPF Road Safety campaign

Police will be conducting road checks 3 to 4 times a day checking for:

- *Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- *Current driver's licence
- *Current vehicle registration
- *Motorbike helmet compliance
- *Other traffic violations
- *Be prepared, plan ahead

Keep Nauru safe

Parliament 30 August

The Clerk of Parliament called the House to order shortly after 10am on Friday 30 August, with Speaker Marcus Stephen assuming the chair and opened the sitting with the prayer.

In his opening statement, President Lionel Aingimea commended the previous administration under the leadership of President Baron Waqa on its strong message on road safety, and that his government will continue in that vein to keep the roads safe, and encouraged Nauruans to apply for jobs in the public service and state owned entities.

The President also announced that the title of assistant ministers be amended to deputy and their work will better reflect their roles in working with and assisting the ministers in the different portfolios.

“It’s all about unity and sharing the work,” President Aingimea said.

There were no petitions, notices of motions, nor questions on notice.

The first question without notice was raised by deputy minister and member for Ubenide Russ Kun directed at minister for RONPhos Reagan Aliklik on salary entitlements for retirees in May and June 2019, to which the Minister responded, had brought the question to his staff and will advise soonest.

A query on a hospital visit by the health minister was raised to which Health Minister Isabella Dageago confirmed she attended with her deputy minister and five others, and said while she heard staff grievances, there was the positive outcome of endorsing the recruitment of three doctors to address the shortage. The paperwork will undergo the normal recruitment process through the chief secretary and human resources department.

The minister also answered a follow up question on rumours of a new petition initiated by the health staff and the minister, to which Ms Dageago said are false rumours and there is no such petition.

Ministerial Statements

President Aingimea announced the new ministerial and deputy ministerial portfolios which were renamed to the more relevant title of deputy minister in a bill presented later in the sitting.

“The Assistant Ministers will be given a greater role and empowered in managing their relevant portfolios to a greater degree,” President Aingimea said.

His Excellency then presented his statement on Nauru police, specifically on the awarding of the Fiji Police commandant book prize to Probationary Constable Rendal Dageago at the police passing out parade in Fiji on 20 June.

The award is one of three awards at the parade.

“Constable Dageago is the first Nauruan police to be awarded with a Fijian police force award in recognition of his academic, dedication and skills abilities displayed during the four months basic recruit course,” the President said.

Bills

Only one bill was presented which was the Deputy Ministers Bill 2019 by President Aingimea. The bill repeals the Assistant Ministers Act 2016 which gave the assistant ministers very limited responsibilities and in many cases, no powers to perform



President Aingimea (centre) and members of government caucus shortly after the oath ceremony at the government office forecourt, 28 August

any duties and functions other than the holding of the title itself.

President Aingimea compliments the former government for initiating the Act but the review of the law was befitting in a new parliamentary term, requiring them to perform substantive duties and functions.

“The Constitution only allows for six ministers and a president. A minister is ordinarily given a number of portfolios which does not give him or her opportunity to address all issues or spend quality time to focus on such issues,” the President said.

Deputy ministers will report directly to the president and will only act under the direction and approval of the president.

The extended role of deputy minister will mean that even in the absence of a minister, departments and instrumentalities of the republic are able to request for necessary ministerial attention to be conveyed to Cabinet, and subsequently reporting to parliament.

Deputy ministers can attend and participate in cabinet meetings at the invitation of the president, however will not be part of the decision-making process and have no voting rights. The deputy minister’s oath is amended to ensure that the confidentiality requirements of cabinet are observed in the same form and manner as is required of a cabinet minister under the First Schedule of the Constitution of Nauru.

The appointment of members to the eight committees then followed.

Some members raised points of order seeking clarification on the appointment of ministers and deputy ministers to the Public Accounts Committee noting the committee was designed to scrutinise the treasury bringing to attention that past practice was that members were from outside the executive.

On advice from the clerk of parliament and parliament lawyer, Speaker Marcus Stephen confirmed, that while it is good practice it is not mandatory and the House was to decide on the members for the committee.

After fulfilling the membership to the eight committees, President Aingimea moved to adjourn the House. The House was adjourned shortly after 1.00pm •

HE visits Nauru Police

As part of his governmental update and review process, President Lionel Aingimea attended the Nauru Police Force barracks, 5 September.

President Aingimea, also Minister for Nauru Police Force, was received by Police Commissioner Corey Caleb, who led the President on an inspection of the police parade before moving to the conference room for an update briefing session.

The President was joined by various government ministers and their deputies for Commissioner Caleb's presentation.

"This is a time of reflection and re-alignment of goals and priorities," Commissioner Caleb began.

The commissioner outlined the challenges the force experiences in balancing the need for extra manpower and resources with the priorities of government.

This challenge is made tougher, he outlined, in light of increased property offences, illicit drug-related crimes, and sexual offences, include child abuse.

Later, as Mr Caleb listed the staff ratios in each unit, it became apparent that the re-alignment of priorities he mentioned is urgent, with, for example, two staff currently allocated to domestic violence cases (the same number as allocated to dog control), and 24 staff to traffic.

Staff required is 158 officers; however, there are 41 positions in this cohort that remain vacant.



President Aingimea inspects the NPF guard at the police barracks in Yaren, 5 September

Commissioner Caleb covered NPF's regional collaboration, including current MOU's and the work with the Taiwan coastguard, as well as on-island Australian Federal Police attachments.

The comprehensive review extended to the NPF vehicle fleet list, and covered all recent in-country and overseas staff professional development sessions, officers on secondment and equipment donations inventory.

A meeting behind closed doors followed the commissioner's presentation for discussions on NPF core business, before President Aingimea departed at 1.00pm •

UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

- in child friendly language

Article 15: You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Download your copy at <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/un-convention-rights-child-child-friendly-language>

Justice minister welcomed by secretary

Newly-appointed Minister for Justice and Border Control (JBC) Maverick Eoe was welcomed to his role by JBC Secretary Graham Leung and staff at the justice department just hours after the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday 28 August.

Mr Eoe resigned from his role as pleader in the justice department three months ago to pursue his political ambitions, returning this time as Justice Minister.

"Three months ago you departed as my staff. Today you return as my and our boss and the new Minister for Justice.

"The winds of destiny have bestowed on you the mantle of leadership," Mr Leung said.

Pledging his loyalty and support for the new minister, Mr Leung outlined the department's strategic challenges moving forward, which include developing strategies to meet service demand; public education on JBC's role in the justice system; technological enhancement and ongoing professional development to improve service delivery.

Mr Leung expressed his desire to continue their productive professional relationship, characterised by frankness and candour, as the department works together for the betterment of the country of Nauru and its people.



Minister for Justice Maverick Eoe was welcomed to his ministry, the Department of Justice, by Secretary Graham Leung, a day after being sworn in to office, 28 August

"This is a new beginning. The coming months will be challenging but I have every confidence that if we work together, there is nothing we cannot achieve. We are stronger together," Mr Leung concluded.

According to JBC's 2017-18 annual report, Mr Eoe worked as pleader in the Office of the Solicitor General, and pleader and authorised officer in JBC's business registration and licensing section since early 2017. He is also Nauru Powerlifting Federation Secretary-General •

'Save Tuvalu, save the world' - leaders heard on arrival for the 50th forum

Tuvalu's hosting of the 50th meeting of Pacific Islands Forum leaders, 13 to 16 August, produced the Kainaki II Declaration for urgent climate change action now.

The communiqué, which is used for regional policy making, proclaims there is a 'climate change crisis' facing the Pacific Island nations - reinforcing last year's Boe Declaration on Regional Security that climate change is the single greatest threat facing the region.

The 50th meeting of leaders was convened in Tuvalu's capital Funafuti, 13 to 16 August, ahead of Tuvalu's general elections in September.

Pacific leaders and delegates were confronted with an emotional scene on arrival into Funafuti by Tuvaluan children sitting waist-deep in water surrounded by a model of their islands and their call to "Save Tuvalu, save the world."

Climate change was not just a meeting agenda but is a very serious reality for Pacific Small Island nations and especially for Tuvalu – the host country the United Nations says is one of the most vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Tuvalu's message could not be more urgent or clear, that climate change is real and that unless urgent, ambitious action is taken to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the future of all children of the Blue Pacific is uncertain.

Securing our future in the Pacific was Tuvalu's chosen theme for this year's Forum and at the conclusion of the 50th Forum, leaders issued the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now, which asserts that there is a 'climate change crisis' facing the Pacific Island Nations.

While all references to coal were removed from the communiqué and the climate change statement, 'climate change crisis' remains and defines the gravity of the concern of the Pacific people.

Nauru's then president and outgoing chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Baron Waqa, was accompanied to the summit by then foreign minister David Adeang and a delegation of ten.

Mr Waqa presided over the opening session of the summit before handing over the chairmanship to Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga.

The Nauru delegation engaged in numerous bi-lateral meetings with governments and partners on development and ongoing mutual partnerships on a range of issues. On the final morning before departing Tuvalu on Friday 16 August, Mr Waqa met with Taiwan's foreign minister Joseph Wu for cordial discussions

reiterating Nauru and Taiwan's strong friendship and the positive inroads for both countries.

Getting to Tuvalu has its logistical challenges. Leaders arrived by special flights while delegates on Royal Australian Air Force and NZ Air Force chartered flights.

PIFS Secretary-General Dame Meg Taylor describes the declaration as "the strongest statement the Pacific Islands Forum has ever issued collectively on climate change, and will stand as a key advocacy instrument to support the Pacific's collective voice at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit" in September.

The Kainaki II Declaration proclaims there is a 'climate change crisis' facing the Pacific Island nations.

"Right now, climate change and disasters are impacting all our countries. Our seas are rising, oceans are warming, and extreme events such as cyclones and typhoons, flooding, drought and king tides are frequently more intense, inflicting damage and destruction to our communities and ecosystems and putting the health off our peoples at risk. All around the world, people affected by disaster and climate change-induced displacement are losing their homes and livelihoods, particularly the most vulnerable atoll nations."

Leaders acknowledge the considerable work and investment over two and a half decades of climate change negotiations, commitments and scientific advancement, however are concerned that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is not keeping pace with the challenges of the region, and in line with the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.

The voice of the Pacific's youth amplifies the distress and concern for preservation of homeland and culture.

Leaders welcome the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which provides governments the best available science on climate change, acknowledging its special report on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, and note with grave concern and fear for the region's collective future should global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise.

Leaders reiterate, "the science is non-negotiable".

"Urgent action by the international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is critical to keep us on the 1.5 degree pathway."

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Leaders pose for photo ahead of the retreat at the 50th Pacific Island Forum leaders' meeting held in Funafuti Tuvalu, 13-16 August

'Save Tuvalu, save the world' - leaders heard on arrival for the 50th forum

...from pg 7

"The Pacific Ocean is at the heart of our Blue Pacific narrative and critical for our future. As leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, custodians of the world's largest ocean and carbon sink, and representatives of our Pacific peoples, we call for immediate action and not just discussion of ambition."

Leaders called for commitments to bold regional climate change action with a collective vision to secure the future of the Blue Pacific, including to commit to a collective effort to develop international law to protect a Forum Member's maritime zones from being challenged or reduced as a result of sea level rise and climate change, as well as take action to protect its fisheries resources and to conserve and restore its marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Leaders declare that as a region they are creating innovative regional platforms, financial instruments, and services to build resilience and secure the future of the Pacific Island nations and welcome further investment and technical support.

Last year's Boe Declaration on Regional Security recognises climate change as the single greatest security threat to the region.

Leaders commit to act as one family to secure a bright future for the Blue Pacific and reinforce transformational change and for courageous and committed leaders to urgently deliver on real, tangible outcomes.

Leaders call on parties to the Paris Agreement to meet or exceed their nationally determined contributions in order to pursue global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; that all countries formulate mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies by 2020; members of the G7 and G20 phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and that the United Nations secretary general urgently appoint a special rapporteur on climate change and security.

Leaders also call on all countries and non-state actors to join with the Blue Pacific in taking bold, decisive and transformative action to address the ever-present challenges of climate change.

At a joint press conference on the final day, Friday 16 August, Tuvalu prime minister Enele Sopoaga said discussions amongst the leaders were done in an "open, honest consideration of many other issues"... and leaders "managed to agree and conclude a

strong climate change statement from the forum here in Tuvalu."

"Families come together, of course they argue, there are differences of course, They accuse and criticise but at the end of the day we have to maintain the canoe to be taking the approach, the canoe can save the people and every focus will be on the Commonwealth. Everybody should move together in the spirit of the forum. I think the time it's no use to start, to a blaming game and I think also the media has a role to harness these situations," Prime Minister Sopoaga said.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison reiterated the notion of family when asked about strategic competition in the region and behaviour of big countries like China and the United States.

"... that [strategic competition] was the context for any discussions that was a family getting together and talking about the things that they're dealing with most practically and so that has been the tenor and tone of these discussions and so Australia will always be working with partners to ensure that they can protect their independence, their sovereignty, in their region," Mr Morrison said.

Next years' forum host Vanuatu's foreign minister Ralph Regenvanu, who was part of the drafting committee of the forum communiqué and observed the leaders' retreat, commended leaders for producing the outcomes documents and agreeing on them and looks forward to working on them in the coming year and after.

This years' forum also marked a shift in the power balance with the attendance of a Fijian prime minister since Fiji's suspension from the forum in 2009 after the interim government seized power in a military coup.

Though PIF leaders unanimously agreed to reinstate Fiji's position in 2014 following the country's first general election in eight years, Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama had never attended, for what he describes as too much influence of Australia and New Zealand who, he thought should not be in the forum as they are not Pacific Islanders.

Vanuatu will be hosting next years' forum leaders meeting around the time of its 40th Independence Day anniversary, 30 July •

Nauruan Taiwan scholars

Nauruan scholars in receipt of scholarships from Taiwan were farewelled at the Republic of China (Taiwan) embassy on Thursday, 22 August.

Students receive a five year scholarship to June 2024, attending the language centre at Fu Jen University in their first year to learn Mandarin.

Taiwan's ministry of foreign affairs (MOFA) scholarship recipients are Christina Rokobuli, Lola Adeang, Zimbrina Demaunga and Allira Tom, alongside Ozias Halstead, Brannon Ekka Seymour, Abraham Roland and Jonah Lesa.

Each year, Taiwan's Ambassador to Nauru holds the scholarship farewell celebration, inviting scholars, their families and friends to a certificate presentation, with Taiwan scholarship alumni as guest speakers.

This year, Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler, along with Asterio Appi and Kawaii Deiye addressed students, offering their

advice on the pitfalls and barriers, along with the strategies for a successful study experience.

An equal number of female and male students made up the group of eight departing Nauru for Taiwan Tuesday, 27 August •



Eight Taiwan scholarship awardees, with family, Taiwan alumni and Ambassador Dean Wang, 22 August

Legal practitioners' workshop sets standards

Legal practitioners across Nauru gathered for a two day Legal Practitioners' workshop covering the Legal Practitioners Act 2019, 2-3 September.

The compulsory workshop was organised by the office of the registrar of the courts, led by Ronald Prakesh, and conducted at the Civic Centre conference centre.

Chief Justice Filimone Jitoko delivered a short address, welcoming Nauru's newly elected president Lionel Aingimea and Minister for Justice and Border Control Maverick Eoe, acknowledging President Aingimea's position in Nauru's legal fraternity.

"Your Excellency's legal background as well as work experience in the legal field here and in our region is well known.

"Suffice as to say, your work experience and exposure to other jurisdictions and in the process, to other cultures and peoples will, I'm sure, be of immeasurable benefit and assistance in your endeavours in leading the people of Nauru into the future," CJ said.

CJ outlined the purpose of the Legal Practitioners Act, which came into force that day, 2 September, was to, "make our profession more responsive and at the same time more competent in serving both the public and private sectors in matters of the law."

The Act establishes the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal, dealing with professional misconduct. Part 8 establishes the Nauru Law Society, while part 11 lists offences, with schedule 2 outlining the rules of professional conduct in a 15-page document.

Nauru's President Lionel Aingimea then addressed the gathering of over 50 practitioners with candour.

"In the last few years, stories of how counsel's lackadaisical approach... even though there are clear court directions as to court conduct, the things that have been said to judges in the court, the casual approach to court wear, a lack of pride in the profession itself... this Act deals with it and where lawyers are

supposed to be one of the pillars of society, the expectation on this profession is high.

"This Act brings that expectation to the fore," President Aingimea said.

The Act also serves to protect local lawyers, in terms of fee structures, and builds professional development obligations into the profession, along with formal professional mentoring.

In addition, the Act supplies the Nauru Law Society with real powers of governance.

"A law society that comes in now will bring in accountability to lawyers. It will be a law society with close ties to the chief justice. It will be a law society that will govern our legal fee structures...and bring the profession into greater transparency and accountability. It is a law society that will be reflective of how we practice law in our jurisdiction," President Aingimea said.

After morning tea, in accordance with the program, the purpose and function of the Act was covered, rules of professional conduct and expectations of legal practitioners, with Solicitor-General Jay Udit, CJ, Secretary for Justice and Border Control Graham Leung and Justice Khan some of the presenters.

Later, Bendigo Bank agency's Greg Watson presented on the use and management of trust accounts, as covered in Part 12, Article 76 of the Act, while law society structure and functions was covered by Nauru's public defender Sevuloni Valenitabua.

On day two, court registrar Ronald Prakesh outlined how the legal practitioners' disciplinary tribunal will function, before the business of the Nauru Law Society dominated the remainder of the half-day workshop, with the holding of office-bearer elections and afterwards a meeting of the society.

Elected Nauru Law Society office bearers are President David Aingimea, Vice President Vinci Clodumar, Secretary Francilia Akubor, Treasurer Romys Eobob and Member Barina Waqa Duburiya •



The Legal Practitioners Act 2019 workshop brings together Nauru's legal fraternity, including President Aingimea (centre) 2-3 September



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Nauru recognises Jerusalem as capital of Israel

Nauru has publically declared its decision to formally recognise Jerusalem as the capital city of the state of Israel in a communique dated 16 August.

New York-based permanent mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations representative Marlene Moses delivered the decision.

“The Mission of Nauru has the honour to convey the decision of the Government of the Republic of Nauru to formally recognise the City of Jerusalem as the Capital City of the State of Israel,” the communication said in part.

Israel’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Intelligence, Israel Katz, along with Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Tzipi Hotovely and Foreign Affairs DG Yuval Rotem took to Twitter to welcome Nauru’s decision, with Ms Hotovely describing Nauru as a ‘true friend’ and Mr Rotem commenting, “this action reflects the close ties and friendship between Israel and Nauru. We hope to see more countries follow this step.”

Ms Moses was recently the recipient of the certificate of merit from the Ambassador’s Club of Israel for her work at the UN level on Israel-Nauru relations, as reported in the previous edition of the *Nauru Bulletin* (13-2019/197).

She cited the two countries’ commonalities; in values, including support for democracy, human rights and the rule of law; in size and vulnerability requiring the defence of ‘the right to exist’, even in ‘spiritual kinship’.

Nauru and Israel first established diplomatic ties in December 1994 •

ICT and Digicel deal means more online security

Nauru Government’s ICT department and Digicel Business signed contracts that will increase capacity while ensuring a more secure online environment, 15 August.

ICT Secretary Joel Waqa signed the bandwidth contract alongside Digicel Nauru’s CEO Deepak Khanna at the government offices.

Using the ICT term ‘redundant’, which describes network system components installed to back up primary resources in the advent of a failure, Mr Waqa explained the purpose of the deal.

“This is for a more redundant internet connectivity for the government.

“Also, it’s going to increase the bandwidth speed that will help us have more process on emails and other online activities relating to government matters,” Mr Waqa said.

September this year marks the tenth year of Digicel Nauru, and in that time, they have invested significantly in the network.

Digicel uses two satellite providers, to ensure redundancy. Their main satellite provider is O3B.

“Digicel has an exclusive deal with them across the globe.”

“In case one satellite goes down, you always have a second option,” Mr Khanna said.

Mr Khanna then discussed Digicel’s role in internet security on Nauru.

“We have signed up with the largest firewall security provider in the world called Fortinet to ensure data coming in is secure.

“We provide multiple layers of security.

The primary protection will be done by government ICT, with Digicel supporting.



ICT Secretary Joel Waqa and Digicel CEO Deepak Khanna signed a contract that will increase internet speeds, while boosting online protection, and all for less, 15 August

“We give it an ‘umbrella cover’; another layer of security.”

A concern with extra security is reduced bandwidth, but Mr Khanna assures that, rather than slowing internet speeds, Digicel is “twenty times faster than our competitors in the country.”

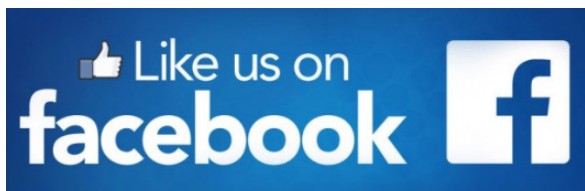
Financially, ICT secretary Waqa reveals, the deal with Digicel is very lucrative.

“We are saving 50 per cent of what we’re currently paying.

“What we’re getting now is 50 megabytes, plus 10 extra megabytes for free.

“Digicel is throwing in an extra 10 megabytes for free,” Mr Waqa said.

According to Mr Waqa, the value of 10 megabytes is a monthly cost of AU\$11,500 •



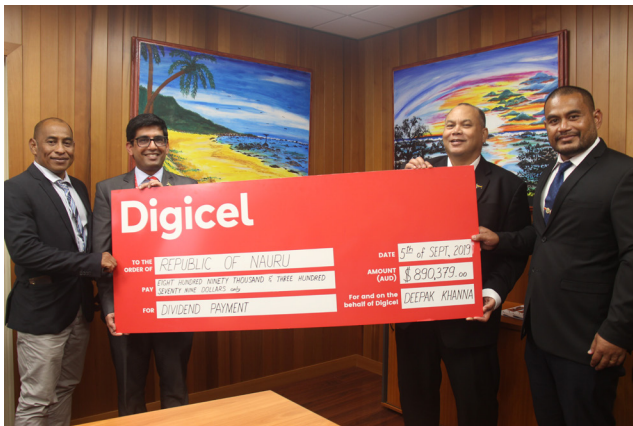
The Government of the Republic of Nauru

Digicel dividend

President Lionel Aingimea accepted, on behalf of the government and the people of Nauru, its half year Digicel Nauru shareholder's dividend cheque, Thursday, 5 September.

The government of Nauru holds a 30 per cent share in Digicel Nauru. The cheque presented to President Aingimea by Digicel Nauru CEO Deepak Khanna for AU\$890,379 represents a 20 per cent dividend.

Mr Khanna took the opportunity to provide Nauru's new president with some of the highlights of Digicel Nauru over the previous decade in the country, including the eight upgraded 4G+ sites around the island, Digicel's contract with the O3B satellite constellation providing faster internet connectivity, and the company's firewall security through Fortinet.



President Lionel Aingimea and Deputy Minister for Telecom Pyon Deiye receive Digicel Nauru half year dividend cheque for AU\$890,379 on 5 September

He mentioned Digicel's NauruTV app broadcasting live through PlayGo.

"We are the only country in the Pacific in Digicel who have a local channel now running live," Mr Khanna said.

President Aingimea and Deputy Minister for Telecommunications and Media Pyon Deiye then accepted the dividend payment, from Mr Khanna, and Digicel's technical manager David Daoc.

The remaining 10 per cent dividend is to be paid to coincide with the visit to Nauru of Digicel's France-based government relations director in early to mid-October.

This current dividend tops the previous half-year dividend almost three-fold; the total dividend April to September 2019 is \$1.5 million, as compared with the previous half-year dividend of almost \$505,000 •

Find my tribe?

Contact the Registrar, Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM)
Government Offices, Yaren

Ph. (+674) 557 3133, ext 407 or 227

E: naurugazette2019@gmail.com

WWII heroes on Nauru honoured

A group bravery award is bestowed on the five Australians who opted to stay on Nauru after the Japanese invasion of Nauru in 1942.

Australia's Governor-General awarded the group bravery citation on 19 August this year, 77 years after their capture, to retired Nauru Island Administrator Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Royden Chalmers CMG DSO, Government Medical Officer Dr Bernard Haselden Quin and Government Medical Assistant and Chemist Wilfred Shugg, British Phosphate Commission (BPC) engineer, William Doyle and BPC overseer Frederick Harmer.

The group were "concerned for the safety and welfare of the island's Indigenous population, and elected to remain on the island to uphold law and order," according to reports.

However, they were taken prisoner by invading Japanese forces in August 1942, and, in what is regarded as an act of reprisal for the American bombing of the island's airfield, were executed in the early hours of 25 March 1943.

A bronze plaque on the Nauru government buildings cenotaph honours the five. It reads:

*In memory of Lt-Col F R Chalmers CMG DSO VD,
Dr B H Quin, W Shugg, F F Harmer, W H Doyle
murdered by the Japanese at Nauru in March 1943.
They volunteered to remain at their posts of duty at the
time of the evacuation in February 1942, and endured
brutal treatment with gallantry and fortitude.*



An account of their deaths was made at the time by Nauruan teenager Patrick Cook who remained on Nauru throughout the war and kept a diary of the events taking place around him.

In February this year, an excavation licence application was lodged with the Nauru Government through the Nauru Missing 5 Project, for a team of seven, headed by archeologist and excavation director Dr Matthew Kelly, to exhume the remains of the five.

The objective of the project is to identify excavated human remains from the five, and return those remains to the families of the deceased. The Nauru Missing 5's descendants have supplied DNA for cross matching with DNA to be taken from the remains.

The team includes a forensic anthropologist, forensic archaeologist, an historian and three volunteers, one of which is the grandson of Lt-Col Chalmers.

The licence application has been accepted and passed by Cabinet, with a date to be set for works to begin •

Ibūmin Earōeni; Day of the Tribes

The government of Nauru has declared 19 August an annual national holiday celebrating Ibūmin Earōeni or Day of the Tribes.

The declaration, made on 10 August, is “to remember Nauru’s tribal lineage and to honour our matrilineal system... as an integral and intrinsic part of Nauru”, according to the official government issued notice under Section 81(1)(k) of the Public Service Act 2016.

The notice lists the 12 tribes of Nauru, symbolised by the 12-pointed star on Nauru’s national flag, and the population of each tribe as at 2017 as follows:

<u>Tribes</u>	<u>Population</u>
Irūwa	4450
Eamwit	3052
Eamwitmwit	1939
Emea	1071
Deiboe	1029
Eano	350
Eoarū	290
Eamwidara	280
Emaŋgūm	198
Ranibōk	109
Irūtsi	Extinct
Iwi	Extinct

The inaugural Ibūmin Earōeni was held on the evening of 19 August at the Linkbelt Oval.

For each of the 10 tribes, two women representatives were selected to coordinate their tribes’ contribution on the day.

Winnie Tsitsi, of the Eoarū tribe acted as MoC at the event, welcoming guests and opening the celebrations.

In the past, she said, there have been events to revive culture



Four generations of the Eoarū tribe at Ibūmin Earōeni, showcasing each tribes' unique building style, craftsmanship and symbolism, 19 August

and tradition like Angam day, but Ibūmin Earōeni was the first time on a national scale that tribes had gathered to showcase their unique character, with the meanings of symbols, dress and traditional practices on display.

A range of prizes were on offer on the night to the value of \$10,000. They included oldest female and male, the most children in a tribe, and the greatest number of generations in a tribe, traditional hut building and design, local food (*inne*), dance and chant (*iruwo*) and floral designs (*epeiŋ kauwe*) challenges, and tribal legend enactments.

For Ibūmin Earōeni 2020, the committee hopes for greater participation of tribes across the nation, even extending again next year to non-Nauruans, who were also honoured with the granting of a tribal connection for the event.

“Our foreign visitors or distinguished heads of governments, diplomatic missions and churches, were adopted by a tribe by drawing of submitted names by a tribal member,” Ms Tsitsi explained.

“It is my hope and prayer that Ibūmin Earōeni will be a time of joy and revival of our ancestors’ legacy so that our children, young and old will be proud of who we are as deiNaoero.” •

Nauru Post goes electronic

Nauru Post celebrated another milestone, implementing the International Postal System (IPS) and point-of-sale (POS) systems to allow mail tracking and provide up-to-date customer transactions at their retail centre at the Civic Centre on Wednesday 21 August 2019.

The introduction of IPS places Nauru Post in alignment with Universal Postal Union (UPU) guidelines for its members.

Then President Baron Waqa was given a demonstration of the system by Nauru Post staff. Both the Australian and Taiwanese missions to Nauru were in attendance; Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney and Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Dean Wang each addressed the gathering as contributors to the latest technological advances, with Australia gifting \$10,000 for the POS system and Australia Post assisting with installation, while Taiwan provided \$7,600 for the IPS.

According to UPU, IPS provides a means for postal enterprises to have an accurate and comprehensive view of their mail movement covering every point between origin and destination, including transit offices of exchange, international carriers, and handling through customs.

UPU’s postal technology centre explains that IPS supports all classes of international mail, air and surface, and supports mail management functions including item and receptacle bar



Then President Baron Waqa scans barcodes into the IPS at Nauru Post

code scanning, automated dispatch handling, route scheduling, tracking and tracing and international accounting.

This technological infrastructure means more opportunities for small and medium business enterprises on Nauru to help stimulate the economy and thus raise living standards.

Ever responsive to customer needs, and with government warehouse staff now operating under the Nauru Post banner, Nauru Post’s next upcoming enterprise is a business card service to support government, SOE and business staff across the island •

Big business to invest in Nauru, Taiwan

A range of stakeholders in Nauru gathered at the government offices to pitch their business investment proposals to Taiwanese business delegation, TAITRA on 18 to 20 August.

Hosted by the department of commerce, industry and environment (DCIE) director for commerce business division Creiden Fritz and his team, with the support of the Republic of China (Taiwan) embassy in Nauru, the session with Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) delegates was an opportunity for enterprises and business people on Nauru, including Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC), Port Authority of Nauru (PAN), Eigigu Holding Corporation, fisheries and others, to present.

The TAITRA mission, led by Executive Director James K J Chen, comprised a wide range of high-level business executives across Taiwan industry sectors including renewable energy, fresh produce, tourism, agriculture, aquaculture and telecommunications.

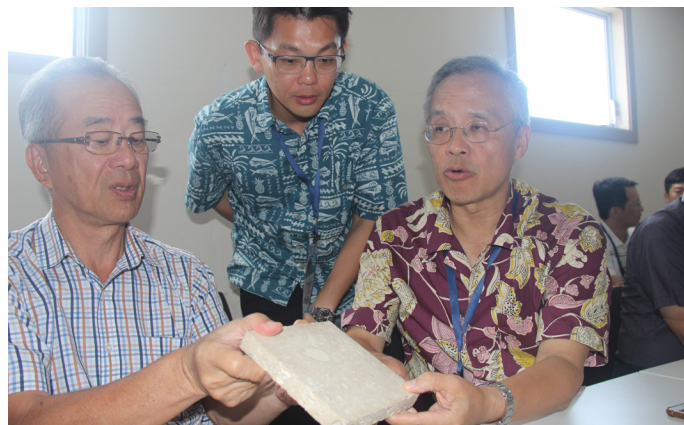
After a welcome by DCIE Secretary Berilyn Jeremiah, Mr Chen told attendees that this was the largest external trade delegation out of Taiwan in “20 or 30 years.”

“We notice that Nauru is a very good friend of Taiwan, and it is our obligation and responsibility to promote a two-way trade and investment relationship,” Mr Chen said.

Taiwan’s Foreign Affairs Minister on Home Assignment, Frank Ming-cheng Lin, was also present.

“We are hoping for this kind of tangible and concrete result, not only government to government but also we bring private companies from Taiwan to see any opportunities to establish a more mutual contact between our two states,” Mr Lin said.

This is the third TAITRA mission to visit Nauru; this mission took in Palau, the Marshall Islands and Nauru over 10 days, seeking investment opportunities across the region.



TAITRA delegates, including Taiwan’s Foreign Affairs Minister on Home Assignment, Frank Ming-cheng Lin (right), discuss applications and business opportunities for cut phosphate rock samples provided by NRC

NRCs CEO Creedence Halstead proposal focused on the range of commercial opportunities afforded by phosphate rock, as a luxury building and tiling product, to its export as boulders to countries in the region for climate-change mitigation, to its potential for mineral extraction, and, of course, as an alternate source of phosphate to Taiwan’s usual Middle East suppliers.

PAN CEO Bayden Johnson updated the delegation on the progress of the Port, and niche opportunities for Taiwanese businesses to offer freight logistics and other services during the construction period.

Nauru’s Chamber of Commerce Vice President Paul Finch opened dialogue with the Taiwan delegates to share ideas, following Eigigu’s in-country manufacturing proposals for water tanks and custom roofing.

With Nauru as the last stop on TAITRA’s itinerary, delegates return to Taiwan to move trade and investment negotiations to the next level with their Pacific friends over the coming months •

Waste management Did you know?

Nauru’s dumpsite will be full in 5 years.
Up to 50% of the waste in the dump can be composted.
Learn more about composting for beginners at:

<http://www.sodgod.com/composting/>

Cyber Safety Pasifika Top tips for staying safe online:

- Only talk to people on the internet that you know and trust.
- Personal information shouldn’t be shared on the internet.
- Set up secure privacy settings on all of your accounts.
- Use a strong password, keep it private and change it regularly.
- Don’t open emails from people you don’t know.

See more at <https://www.cybersafetypasifika.org/>

Flag handover

In a cabinet room ceremony, the national flag hoisted, flown and lowered for Nauru's 50th anniversary of independence is handed to the Naoero Museum to add to its growing collection.

Police sergeant Dan Botelanga of the Nauru Police Force was selected by Police Commissioner Corey Caleb to hoist and lower the Nauru flag on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Nauru's independence.

As such, Mr Botelanga was first in line to hand the furled flag to COP Caleb, who passed it then to former Nauru President Baron Waqa, who then presented the flag to Peter Jacob on behalf of the Naoero Museum.

In addition, Mr Jacob was also in receipt of a range of

photographic albums and digital content commemorating Nauru's 50th anniversary, the 49th Pacific Islands Forum meeting held in Nauru, and President Waqa's state visit to Australia, all of which will be added to the museum collection •

Chief of Staff Peter Jacob receives the flag on behalf of the Naoero Museum



June CPI

The June quarter consumer price index (CPI) is up 2.8 per cent, with a spike in the food and non-alcoholic beverages category the major contributor.

In the Bureau of Statistics' quarterly report, a rise in the food and non-alcoholic beverages category of 6.5 per cent, contributing 2.7 per cent to the June CPI, was supported by a rise of 3.7 per cent in the transport category and marginally offset by a decline of almost 13 per cent in the recreation and culture group.

The greatest contributor to the rise in food prices is attributed to a 100 per cent increase in the cost of reef fish, along with a 66.7 per cent increase in food item named 'general salt water fish'.

Given that the local fish market on Nauru is informal, statistics bureau staff thought outside the box to find a baseline moving forward, using pricing sourced from Nauru's popular online social media trading site, *Nauru wanna buy and sell* to compare with their previous data.

This quarter, a slight hike in cigarette prices of almost five per cent was coupled with restaurants on the island reporting a 5.4 per cent growth in sales.

There were also major downward trends, though, in clothing and footwear; women's blouses dropped 20.6 per cent, and men's

pants almost 9 per cent in cost, while the prices of laptops and TVs declined 18.9 and 11.7 per cent respectively.

Nauru's annual inflation rate, June 2018 to June 2019, stands at 4.4 per cent, up a half per cent from the March 2019 quarter's annual inflation rate.

Over the 12 months to June 2019, major drivers to inflation came from the group Food and non-alcoholic beverages, up 9.5 per cent, Alcohol beverage and tobacco group, up 8.9 percent, and Restaurants and hotels group posting a 6.8 percent rise in prices.

Prices for the June 2019 quarter were collected 29 July to 2 August by Bureau of Statistics staff.

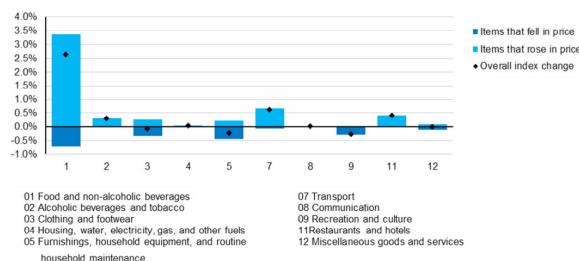
The consumer price index (CPI) measures the changing price of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by households in Nauru.

The selection and relative importance of the goods and services in the CPI basket represents the overall expenditure patterns of households in Nauru.

The aim of the CPI is to measure price changes of the same sample of products at each outlet over time.

When there is a change in the size or quality of any of the goods and services in the basket, an adjustment is made to ensure that the price change shown in the CPI remains unaffected •

Percentage points contribution to consumer price index by group
June 2019 quarter



Source: Nauru Bureau of Statistics

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

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

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



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