



Taskforce stages second practice drill

The Nauru Coronavirus Taskforce and emergency services carried out drill 2 involving more stakeholders and communities

The second coronavirus taskforce drill staged on Friday 17 July was hailed a success in regards to identifying gaps and areas of improvement to ensure a cohesive emergency strategy in the event of a real quarantine breach.

In the absence of taskforce chair Dr Kieren Keke, the command centre was stood up shortly after 4pm at the taskforce office at the Civic Centre and led by Angelo Dimapilis following the first call advising the quarantine breach at the Budapest Hotel in Anabar.

The scenario was based on two persons of interest (POI), Mr Weightlifter and Mr Powerlifter, breaching quarantine at the Budapest Hotel following a fire at the hotel. They both caught a ride with two friends in a passing vehicle and absconded into the community, subsequently ending up at the Location settlement and Buada district.

The Location settlement is a large expanse of accommodation blocks, each block containing eight apartments and multiple residents, making it an immense exercise testing the ability of police and emergency services to carry out contact tracing.

Stakeholders such as police and other emergency services respond immediately to the situation to quickly capture, contain and detain the persons of interest (POI) and



Police, fire, health and community liaison officers assemble for a briefing ahead of the second COVID emergency drill

anyone who may have encountered them.

This second drill expands on the first that was conducted in May to include more POIs and extra emergency services such as the fire service as well as involving more community liaison officers (CLOs) across the affected districts where the POIs travelled through and ended up at.

Communications for the drill was coordinated by and channelled out of the Government Information Office which had personnel stationed at the command centre, to Digicel, Radio Nauru and the government's official Facebook page.

The four-stage national response plan developed by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services sets out level one as including border control measures, response preparedness for her next levels and heightened public awareness.

Nauru remains coronavirus-free and therefore is currently at response level one.

The level two scenario entails a few cases are confirmed on-island and are contained, with the aim to prevent local transmission.

Level three will be actioned if an increasing number of imported cases are witnessed or cases develop outside containment stations. The response at this level will be border closure, reduced movement and social contact and the suspension of all non-essential activities; the base level at which much of the world has been living for many months now, and in some cases experiencing a second wave of the spread of the virus.

A level four, the final level, response is triggered should community transmissions and COVID-19 infection clusters arise. At this point, in order to minimise the impact of the community, restrictions on movement and physical contact will be tightened, and all efforts across the nation will be focused on the crisis response •

Nauru introduces shipping line

The Nauru Maritime and Port Authority introduced the new Nauru Shipping Line (NSL), 24 July, which is due to commence sea freight services in August.

The NSL service will operate out of a number of ports, including Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, Australia to Nauru; Suva, Fiji to Nauru, South East Asia to Nauru and North Asia to Nauru.

The Republic of Nauru once owned its own national shipping line, Nauru Pacific Line (NPL), founded in 1969, just one year after independence, with a fleet of seven vessels.

The new NSL booking office is now open at NMPA Head Office in Aiwo.

NSL can be contacted via email at cservice.nsl@gmail.com or call +674 557 3089 for more information •



Sustainable land management planned

The Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment (CIE) co-hosted a two-day community and stakeholder inception workshop on sustainable land management with the UN Environment Program and Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF), 15-16 July.

This Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase is being facilitated by CIE's national consultant (UNEP-GEF) and expert on land use and biodiversity Catherine Garnett-Santiago, with support via video link, from PPG supervisor and UNEP Programme Management Officer Manoela Pessoa De Miranda in Samoa and Project Design Expert and PPG team leader Andras Darabant in Austria.

This phase prepares for the full-sized project which will cost US\$22.3 million over six years with co-financing. GEF will fund approximately US\$3.5 million.

Secretary for CIE Berilyn Jeremiah says land has always been a sensitive issue and is considered a commodity where it can be traded and negotiated for economic returns.

"Sadly, we have steered away from our traditional sustainable land management practices and as land becomes scarcer, it is only more important that we work with the relevant stakeholders to identify suitable sites that need to be restored.

"We need to leave behind land that yields sustainably for our future generations. It is our hope that through this project we will be able to pave the way to our aspirations of a sustainable future that would be able to address the challenges of land management and realise a balance between the pillars of sustainability which are social, economic and environment," Ms Jeremiah said.

Participants were invited to develop the project, the expected outcomes of which include – to create an enabling environment for scaling up and mainstreaming biodiversity, sustainable land management, and land degradation neutrality into priority sectors.

Ms Garnett-Santiago said the workshop was an excellent outcome overall and stakeholder response and opinions were diverse and helpful, but added that land tenure in Nauru is a point of contention that would require a lot of harsh changes in the land tenure arrangements "and I don't know how receptive Nauruans would be to that."

One of the major components of the project is revisiting institutional policy and legislation.

"This falls under a policy document created in 1975, it's been through a couple of drafts but never been implemented, because land tenure is a point of contention here in Nauru.

"It's a very unique problem, even in environmental science it's very unique because not every country has land tenure issues as this one. It's very specific to Nauru, quite contextual to Nauru," Ms Garnett-Santiago said.

"[It's] never been done before [in Nauru] and it's an area donors have really stayed away from simply because it has to do with land management."

Mining is the greatest environmental impact for Nauru, resulting in approximately 80 per cent of degraded mined lands of Nauru's 21km², leaving 20 per cent used for domestic, commercial, industrial and government purposes.

Land degradation remains a major challenge for the future of Nauru. There are several types of land degradation currently affecting the island, such as loss of forest and vegetation, soil



National consultant on land use and biodiversity Catherine Garnett-Santiago says land tenure is a point of contention in Nauru but sees a gradual change in behaviour toward land use

erosion, soil contamination, water erosion, acidification and desertification; and coupled with climate change impacts such as change in rainfall patterns and atmospheric and ocean temperature events which exacerbate environment and sustainable development challenges.

Ms Jeremiah says it is important that land development occurs in a sustainable manner but changing people's perception is a difficult thing to do.

"If we ravage the lands today without any restoration plans or if we do not practice sustainable land management today, what will we leave behind for our children?"

"It is recognised that land cannot be restored and developed in a sustainable manner without the agreement of owners. It is critical that consultations are undertaken including the provision of an enabling environment to ensure that communities are receptive to the restoration plans and that land is used sustainably," Secretary Jeremiah said.

Land tenure is perhaps the most critical consideration in terms of the practicality of implementing programs for the proposed post-mining rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable use of land biodiversity in Nauru.

Ms Garnett-Santiago says she can see a gradual change in behaviour towards land use, but, "gradual, simply because it's been sewn into the cultural fabric of Nauru."

"So the land tenure arrangements are a very cultural thing tied to Nauruans and it's a form of identity and it's really the difficult problem."

The workshop comprises four components and to strengthen policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management, biodiversity and conservation; rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands; conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's remaining rainforest; and capacity building and knowledge sharing to enable the scaling up towards land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation.

Sustainable land management for Nauru's context looks specifically at restoring and rehabilitating land which is the biggest environmental impact here; improving areas of management; and building opportunities for livelihood development and diversification.

This project concept, developed over one and a half years, was endorsed in December 2019. This phase is reduced from 15 to seven months, for various reasons. It is required to be submitted by 15 December 2020 and project endorsement is expected by June 2021. This is when Nauru will know whether the project will go into its full implementation.

Despite challenges such as COVID-19, CIE and its partners are committed to stay on track with the schedule and deadlines •

Make your dollar go further

The financial literacy stakeholder workshop by Good Return and ADB project partners held 22 July revealed outcomes of the demand side survey and the learner needs focus group discussions performed earlier this year.

Working with Australian financial education NGO Good Return are Nauruans Romys Eobob and Frederick Pitcher, who are co-ordinating the project.



Good Return's Frederick Pitcher and Romys Eobob present results and recommendations at the stakeholder workshop, 22 July

Around 30 participants, across a wide range of government and private sector stakeholders, heard results and recommendations to further improve financial inclusion in Nauru, with the need to; conduct awareness and training sessions on rights and responsibilities of consumers of financial products; address concerns over service fees and; announce the planned roll-out of 500 electronic funds transfer point of sale (EFTPOS) facilities across Nauru to reduce reliance on cash.

Offering of credit services and expanding of financial services, such as loans and insurance, as well as legislative reform will be part of sector advancement.

Sydney-based ADB Financial Sector Officer Vimlesh Bharat addressed the group via video link, and later in the session, Good Return's Training Specialist Melodie Buendia, with almost a decade of experience in the field, presented the background and training tools for the Nauru community financial literacy education plan from her office in the Philippines.

The session ended with the recruitment of the 15 coaches who will undertake a one week intensive training course in August to deliver the community financial capability training pilot over six weeks, commencing September. Each coach will work with a group of five, meaning 75 persons will be delivered financial literacy training in this first round.

The project has a duration of 12 months from 31 January to 31 December 2020. The budget is US\$199,433, and despite the effects of COVID-19 restrictions on overseas partners, the project remains on time and on target to achieve its goals.

Learn more about the work of Good Return at <https://www.goodreturn.org.au/> •

Police save lives

President Lionel Aingimea, government ministers and representatives attended a first aid training certificate presentation at the Nauru Police Force, 22 July.

President Aingimea, as police minister, addressed the 50 officers in attendance to celebrate their colleagues' success.

"What you see happening today will be something that will go through the whole of the Nauru Police Force.

"You will also increase your capacity to be able to serve the public, protect the public."



The first six NPF officers receive their Basic Life Support certification at a ceremony attended by President and Police Minister Aingimea, 22 July

NPF's Deputy Police Commissioner Kalinda Blake expressed her thanks and appreciation to health staff in attendance, Health Minister Isabella Dageago, Secretary for Health Chanda Garabwan and IHMS' Dr Andrew Mohanraj Chandrasekaran, for their assistance with the training.

"Great thanks and appreciation is extended to the Department of Health for enabling the certification to take place, and to IHMS for facilitating the training for our officers.

"Without your support and collaboration, this training could not have been achieved," DCOP Blake said.

The certificates, signed by Director of Health and Medical Services Dr Olayinka Ajayi, are awarded to Probationary Constable Rory Gabe Tom, Probationary Constable Attiman Detageouwa, Constable Joshua Patiku, Sergeant John Deidenang, Acting Inspector Santee Garabwan and Inspector David Canon.

The initial six officers are now qualified in basic life support, which includes cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), 12 of which are placed at strategic locations around the island •

It's the law:

Giving way to bus:

- (1) A driver of a motor vehicle must give way to a bus in front of the driver if:
 - (a) the bus has stopped, or is moving slowly, at the far left side of the road, on a shoulder of the road, or in a bus-stop bay;
 - (b) the right direction indicator lights of the bus are operating;
 - (c) the bus is about to enter or proceed in the lane or line of traffic in which the driver is driving.
- (2) If a bus has turned on its hazard lights, vehicles travelling behind it must come to a complete stop until the hazard lights have been turned off.

Motor Traffic Act 2014, Part 3, Section 34

Ekeow Imiow: women's affairs' strong DV message

Nauru's Women's Affairs department secretary and director have come out strongly in support of PIFS Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor's open letter, and women across the Pacific, in light of the tragic and brutal death of Papua New Guinean woman Jenelyn Kennedy at the hands of her partner in late June.

A statement of support, co-signed by Home Affairs Secretary Mary Tebouwa and Women's Affairs Director Joy Heine, issued 16 July, outlines the department's stance on domestic violence.

"The brutality of the violence perpetrated against her (Jenelyn Kennedy) called for a condemnation in the strongest terms and we rise with our Oceania sisters in lending our support and our arms for an end to domestic violence.

"The department has always condemned in the strongest terms violence against women and girls in all its forms in the work it undertakes nationally and makes its stand very clear at the regional and international level," the statement read.

Nauru has the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017 which provides protection for victims of domestic violence and the rehabilitation of persons in domestic relationships against domestic violence including the conditions and obtaining of safety and protection orders, mandatory counselling, compensation for loss or damages and duties of medical professionals and the police. Breaching of an order attracts a 12 month jail term.

Used in conjunction with the Crimes Act 2016, which acknowledges and legislates against rape, indecent acts and assault within marriage and defacto relationships, the mechanisms in place assist in the prevention and the protection of victims of domestic violence.

Nauru also hosted the first Nauru National Women's Summit in 2019, the outcomes of which produced the Tomano Declaration, adopted by Home Affairs Minister Isabella Dageago, Secretary Tebouwa and Director Heine on 19 November 2019, with the goal to "support, strengthen and complement the work towards accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment."

Women's issues generated by summit participants were organised thematically under the Tomano Declaration. They include: gender, youth and culture - social inclusion; support for survivors of violence; Nauru's domestic violence safe house *Eoaq'n Eratequo*; access to justice and support; civil society organisations; economic empowerment; gender-responsive budgeting; education – TVET and; people living with disabilities.

According to media reports, on 23 June, 19 year old mother of two Jenelyn Kennedy was delivered to Port Moresby General Hospital with evidence of trauma and torture having contributed to her death.

On 2 July, Dame Meg Taylor, a PNG national, wrote an open letter to the people of PNG, titled *We must act now over gender-based violence in PNG*.



Director for Women's Affairs Joy Heine addressing the first national women's summit in 2019, producing the Tomano Declaration that encompass gender issues including support for survivors of domestic violence

[file photo]

In it, she acknowledges the silent majority – the women – whom she states are at "the core of all societies... all families, the conduit for societal teachings and values... the very core of all economies," and asks her fellow PNG women and men to "speak up and speak out" and advocate for societal change to "be rid of the brutality and violence towards women."

Nauru's women's affairs add their support and their ongoing commitment to addressing the issue of violence against women and girls in all its forms.

"The level of violence affecting our sisters of Melanesia is not lost on us and we reiterate our show of support not only to the open letter penned by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Dame Meg Taylor but by the call to support from every walk of life, every level of society and every voice that make up the one ocean of Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia.

"We will not be complacent in our work and will not be blinded by emotion but at all times we will ensure that we set the tone for conversations around awareness, demystifying cultural stereotypes around women and girls while at the same time re-constructing the mindset around women's human rights."

While Nauru's statement concludes with *Ekeow Imiow*, translated to mean 'no fear', Dame Meg points out that laws are but part of the solution to the scourge of domestic violence.

"The responsibility rests with every citizen. Our behaviour and our attitude and how we fashion the society we want to live in will deliver this homeland of ours." •

Read Dame Meg's open letter at <https://asiapacificreport.nz/2020/07/02/dame-meg-taylor-now-we-must-act-over-gender-based-violence-in-png/>

Visit Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute online for access to Republic of Nauru legislation: <http://www.paclii.org/countries/nr.html>

Domestic violence occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate or harm the other. Domestic violence can be exhibited in many forms, including physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation or threats of violence.

[Source: www.aph.gov.au/]

If you need assistance, call the Safe House Counsellor on 5573854.

AusGov backs sports outreach program

The Department of Sports was the recipient of a range of sporting equipment from the Australian Government in direct support of the community outreach sports program, 24 July.

Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney presented the equipment to Nauru’s Secretary for Sports Dagan Kaierua at the Australian government-funded multipurpose sports complex.

Mr Kaierua expressed his gratitude to the Australian government for the generous support adding that the equipment will boost motivation in the communities to engage more in the various sports.

“The community outreach sports program has been one of this section’s [sports] most successful programs in terms of reaching out to the public, to the schools development in promoting sports, promoting healthy living and fighting non-communicable diseases (NCD), as one of our main challenges in Nauru,” Mr Kaierua said.

High Commissioner Tierney thanked the sports secretary, the minister and the department for their support, cooperation and collaboration.



“We’re really pleased to continue to work in collaboration with the department of sports to really support healthy lifestyles and tackle NCDs in Nauru, which are important objectives.

The equipment included sports balls, nets, bats, field markers, safety head gear, mitts, skipping ropes, hoops and first aid kits.

Apart from the multipurpose sports complex, the Australian government is also funding a smaller program to upgrade community sports courts such as the Aiwo tennis courts which has been launched, with a few more expected in the coming weeks and months •

Church building receives funding

Government ministers Maverick Eoe and Pyon Debye, in their capacities as members of the Constituency of Anabar-Ijuw-Anibare (AIA), today took receipt, on behalf of their constituency, of a cheque for \$20,000 from Secretary for Infrastructure Gabrissa Hartman to fund construction costs of the Protestant church at Anabar.

Demolition of the old structure is complete, and building works are now in process under contract.

It is hoped that the church will be completed by the end of 2020, enabling the congregation to spend a first Christmas in the new building.

The Department of Infrastructure are also engaged in several other public works projects, such as: tree lopping, soak pit reconstruction, road drain servicing, road painting, removal of derelicts, and removal of asbestos •



Secretary for Infrastructure Gabrissa Hartman (centre) presented the \$20k cheque to ministers and members of AIA Maverick Eoe and Pyon Debye for the construction of the Anabar Protestant Church

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Republic of Nauru

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