



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru UXO safely disarmed

Acting President and police commissioner thank residents for complying with evacuation order as 500 pound UXO is disarmed

The 500lb aircraft unexploded ordnance (UXO) discovered in Aiwo, Nauru was safely disposed of at Topside by the Australian Defence Force (ADF), 24 July.

The WWII UXO was buried under hesco barriers and soil to contain the impact of the detonation.

The UXO, suspected to have been in the ground for 80 years, was discovered on 7 July in a residential and industrial area in Aiwo near the boat harbour on the west side of the island by construction workers.

At the request of the Nauru Government the Australian Defence Force was deployed to render assistance in its disposal.

After almost two weeks of reconnaissance work by the ADF, the UXO fuse was successfully disarmed on 20 July by Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team leader Sergeant Haron Sarmiento.

“This was a complex render safe due to the age and corrosion of the UXO. My training from 20 EOD Squadron allowed me to overcome the complexity and render the UXO safe,” Sergeant Sarmiento said.

“Due to the complexity of the render safe, my heart rate rose over 180 beats per minute.”

In the days leading up to disarming the UXO, Lieutenant Jordan Bell and Warrant Officer Class 2 Brett Hitchins were tasked with the immense responsibility of cautiously etching away dirt and rust build up on the surface of the UXO leading to its identification and then disarming it by Sergeant Sarmiento.



The 500lb aircraft UXO is buried under dirt reinforced with hesco barriers for detonation at Topside on 20 July

The good news sent waves of relief and joy both from the community and the explosives team at the heart of Operation Render Safe.

Australian Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialists worked alongside the Government of Nauru, concentrating on making the munition safe while Nauru Police Force personnel maintained a cordon of two kilometres for public safety.

“The operation was important for the safety of our people and with this operation we were able to secure our people [who are] in danger of their lives,” Nauru’s Commissioner of Police Iven Notte said.

“Security cordons are very important to secure the area that we need and make sure that the flow of the operation is done smoothly.”

Around 5,675 residents, accounting for almost half of Nauru’s population, vacated their homes to a safe place from 10am until 2pm on Thursday 20 July.

Acting President Martin Hunt reinforced

the partnership between Australia and Nauru.

“We consider Australia as family.

“Our aid and assistance from Australia has been a very long one and has been continuing since.

“I believe today was a perfect example of how Australia and Nauru the partnership that we have together has strengthened and further strengthened”.

On a personal note the Acting President thanked EOD team leader Sergeant Haron Sarmiento who carried out the final and critical part of the render safe procedure of disarming the fuse from the UXO.

“Thank you for having nerves of steel and your persistence to continue on the work given the environment you were in and I think 5,000-odd people are very appreciative of your effort and we won’t forget your name.”

“To the people of Nauru, family and friends, today’s event showed strong community spirit because all of you have complied with our request to vacate your homes and we understand the issues and your concerns surrounding those and we appreciate your cooperation as well as swift movement to relocate yourselves to safer zones and we are forever thankful for your continued support and the Government of Nauru appreciates your continued support,” the Acting President said.

The public is strongly urged to report all future discoveries of UXO bombs, to refrain from touching them and to report it to police on 110 •

The public is strongly urged to report all future discoveries of UXO bombs to police immediately and refrain from touching them.

Call Nauru Police on 110

Nauru develops anti money laundering system, combat terrorism financing

The first anti-money laundering officials committee met, 13 July, with the strong message to work together to collect data and build an intelligence base for Nauru to counter money laundering activities and even terrorism.

Supervisor for the Financial Intelligence Unit Rajas Swamy says bureaucracy must be done away with to enable the committee to do its work.

He says a 2012 Mutual Evaluation Report and a 2018 assessment done by the Asia Pacific Group (APG) on anti-money laundering identified the highest level of risks for Nauru at the time were tax evasion, cash smuggling and corruption, from data collected between 2010 and 2018.

“But since then Nauru enacted legislation and put policies and mechanisms in place arising from the 2012 report to address this issue,” Mr Swamy said.

Nauru became a member of the APG in July 2007 and is currently developing its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism system.

The APG is the regional body of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Mr Swamy says the public and private sectors must also work together to achieve proper and accurate data collection.

Putting the committee together came about from the mutual evaluation of Nauru conducted in 2012.

“One of the recommendations made was to have a national policy and strategy in bringing together agencies in sharing of information [and look at] risks pertaining to money laundering and financing of terrorism on the republic,” Mr Swamy said.

“So it is important that you have a collective and collaborative approach to identifying and mitigating those risks, as such this meeting was very important to bring the stakeholders together.”

Nauru’s transactions landscape is changing and the current data and trend shows that Nauru is moving away from a cash economy to online transactions.



Far right: FIU supervisor Rajas Swamy prepares first anti-money laundering committee ahead of October assesment

“Bendigo Bank agency is providing that platform and that mitigates the risk,” Mr Swamy said adding he will make recommendations to set up a committee to address terrorism activities.

Deputy Secretary for Customs Richard Brennan highlighted the loop holes with exporting cash and travellers declaring \$9,999 cash, \$1 short of the maximum allowable.

Distributing money across a number of people, and in this example, passengers, to deceive the law is money laundering, under the Customs Act 2014.

Since the meeting a prohibition order was published in the Government Gazette on 24 July limiting cash export to \$5000, unless the written approval of the Chief Collector of Customs has first been obtained.

An assessment team is due to arrive in October to assess Nauru’s effectiveness in cataloguing its data between the different agencies and examine the coordination between agencies.

In the meantime, Mr Swamy wants the committee to “continue its work and put in efforts to enhance and ease the information sharing capabilities and coordination in relation to not only in anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism but whatever risk that arises for Nauru as a republic”.

The national strategy document will be published on the government website •

President attends Kiribati 44th independence day celebrations

His Excellency President Russ Kun attended the 44th Independence Day celebrations of the Republic of Kiribati and congratulates its people for the historic day.

President Kun also met with Kiribati’s President Taneti Maamau for a bilateral meeting, 11 July.

The two leaders had fruitful discussions on the strong and enduring relations between their two countries, as well as enhancing air services and shipping services, operationalisation of the Pacific Island Forum’s Suva Agreement including the establishment of a subregional office in Kiribati, and Nauru’s incoming secretary general to the PIF.

Speaking at the Independence Day celebrations, 12 July, President Kun said “it is with great honour and pleasure that I stand before you as the President of Nauru to express our heartfelt congratulations and extend our warmest wishes to the people of Kiribati on this momentous day”.

“Nauru and Kiribati share more than just geographical proximity; we share common values, a shared history, and a deep-rooted sense of regional brotherhood.

“As Kiribati takes this remarkable step towards independence, we, the



President Russ Kun with Kiribati's President Taneti Maamau

people of Nauru, stand beside you, ready to support and strengthen the bonds of friendship that unite our two nations,” President Kun said.

There is a special connection and brotherhood between Nauru and Kiribati evident in the number of i-Kiribati residing on Nauru with family or for employment spanning decades •

Raising awareness on climate change

The Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (DCCNR) in collaboration with Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) held an awareness raising workshop on impacts of climate change on selected sectors of the economy and adaptation measures for Nauru, 18 July.

The Nauru Government requested technical assistance from CCFAH to enhance the institutional capacity to facilitate improved access to climate finance in order to meet priority needs for securing sustainable development for Nauru.



Climate workshop participants shared adaptation measures to address concerns of the different sectors

A capacity needs assessment with the public sector was held in June to identify themes for this workshop. The overall objective is to create awareness on the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, food and water.

Director for Climate Action Jaala Jeremiah moderated the first session which included special presentations from Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser Syed Hussain and Infrastructure Department Director for Housing Alkali Thoma.

Sixty participants from the government sector, non-governmental organisations, community level representatives and year 12 students from NSS were invited to attend the workshop.

Appropriate adaptation measures to address the concerns of these sectors were shared.

Themes were identified by the stakeholders such as awareness of the impacts of climate change on the different sectors of the economy and mitigation measures.

Following the needs assessment identified theme capacity building on accessing international climate finance for Nauru, DCCNR and CCFAH will be organising a capacity development training on the process of accreditation for Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund in the coming months •



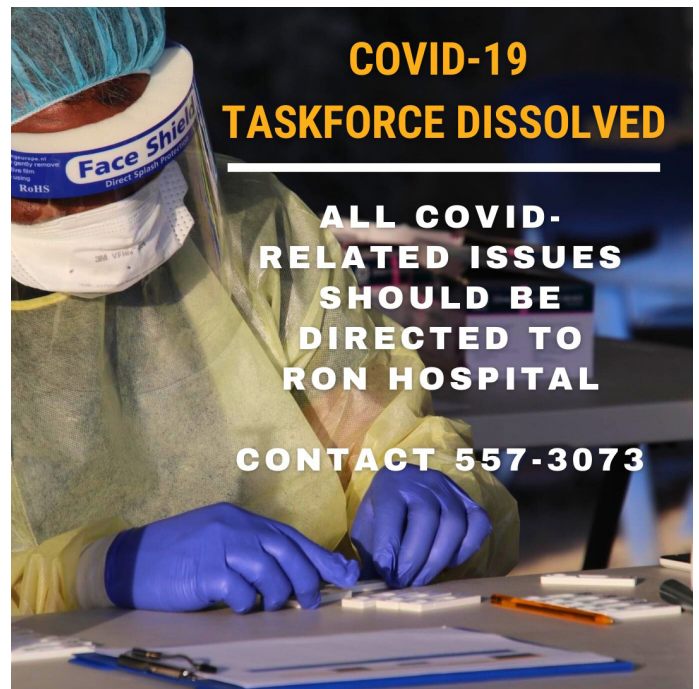
COVID-19 taskforce dissolved

The COVID-Taskforce has been dissolved. All COVID-related issues are to be directed to RON hospital on 5573073.

Minister for Finance Martin Hunt told Parliament on June that the COVID taskforce is completely closed for the budget 2023-24. This follows the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) announcement that COVID-19 is “no longer a global health emergency”.

General health services in the country can provide the care and prevention services that may still be needed going forward.

According to the Nauru FY 2023-24 budget, \$17.9 million was spent on implementing strategies for the pandemic spanning two years •



Education Act 2011
Section 8: Compulsory enrolment obligation of parent

(1) Each parent of a school-age child must ensure the child is enrolled at a school until the child completes the school year during which the child attains the age of 18 years.

Penalty:
(a) a first offence, \$50; or
(b) a subsequent offence, whether or not relating to the same child of the parent – \$250.

This does not apply to a parent of:
(a) a child who is registered for home education; or (b) a child who has been issued a certificate of exemption.

Gorgeous achieves top academic award

Year 12 students of 2022 received their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at an awards ceremony, 14 July.

The long-awaited Nauru Education National Awards day for the academic year 2022 was held at the Sports Complex for 34 final year students who received their QCE certificate of attainment; while 41 students from years one to 12 received awards for first, second and third places.

Gorgeous Ribauw achieved the coveted outstanding academic achievement award which was received by family on her behalf.

The awards day is held annually to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of the students for the academic year. The education department postponed this event due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2022.

Acting President Wawani Dowiyogo along with Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke, Taiwan Ambassador Dean Lin, Australian High Commission Secretary Matthew Kerwin and Secretary for DEMA Berilyn Jeremiah presented the awards.

The graduates of 2022 are the first cohort to undertake a new certificate program called the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) which complies with the Australian curriculum and endorsed by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Secretary for Education Darrina Kun says the local students, whose first language is the vernacular, have proven they are more than capable to undergo the program alongside Australian students by reaching 80 per cent and higher in the total marks.

Sixteen of the 34 graduates achieved the ATAR award with a few who have already taken on scholarships and begun their studies in Australia.

Ms Kun congratulated the students for their hard-earned achievements and thanked the teachers and parents for their support saying that the results of these achievements reflect the department and its support system.

Speaking in the vernacular, she told students to keep on achieving in education because as you grow academically, we also grow with you.



Students show off their certificates at the annual academic awards day

Congratulations to all awardees:

Year 1: Silvie Keppa, Liara Laupepe, Taebontoun Scotty

Year 2: Angel Scotty, Milagro Demaunga, Molly Deingoa, Kelcey Dongobir, Mely-Rose Aubiat

Year 3: Raya Menke, Kayla Benjamin, Illicia Mazola

Year 4: Journey Soriano, Yonazi Harris, Vynzsuat Vave

Year 5: Amalyna Tom, Didire Abouke, Susan Harris

Year 6: Rainbow Baguga, Taime Keke, Basil Benjamin Cecilia Alona

Year 7: Keleejay Bingham, Vienna Vave, Charlotte Menke, Audicen Belasco

Year 8: Luvya Hiram, Kimora Reweru, Frangipani Batsiua

Year 9: Mygretta Daniel, Sakura Buramen, Trendell Tabuna, X-sina Grundler

Year 10: Kayla Moses, Tyris Botelanga, Keziah Brechtefeld

Year 11: Gideon Bagaga, Vassal Gadoengin, Jalani Harris

Year 12: Gorgeous Ribauw, Kamak Harris, Wenira Deiye

QCE: Amos Cook, Bernon Jeremiah, Buckley Tsitsi, Cainir Buramen, Chad Benson, Chanceya Ledua, Dukeh Halstead, Dallion Jimwereiy, Edelweiss Raidi, Emmanuel Doguape, Emolas Demaure, Gorgeous Ribauw Jacinta Debao, Janeighth Diringa, Jokeel Rigamoto, Joselyn-Rose Jones, Joshua Silo, Kamak Harris, Keilah Temaki, Kiona Deireragea, Korah Temaki, Magnus Detabene, Michilak Duburiya, Monique Batsiua, Morima Agigo, Gosko Temaki, Mwiraro Blessing, Oeak Moses, Portia Brechtefeld, Ravana Moses, Talalisa Menke, Wena Gobure, Wenira Deiye, Wenj Deiye •

New visa category boost for local business owners

Locally-owned businesses can employ foreign nationals for a visa fee of \$300 under the new Local Business (Employment) Visa category.

The new visa category, under the Immigration Act 2014, Regulation 8, enforced in March this year is applicable only to businesses wholly owned by a Nauruan employer.

The visa is valid for multiple entries up to 12 months, and subject to any reasonable condition considered necessary or desirable by the director of immigration.

The visa must be approved before the person enters Nauru.

The visa holder is authorised to reside and work in Nauru only for the class of the visa; work only for the employer specified on the application; and the nature of the work associated with the employment contract or the offer letter.

If the visa is cancelled the Nauruan employer must make arrangements for the visa holder to leave Nauru immediately at their expense.

The accompanying spouse and children of the visa holder are not eligible to take up employment unless the terms and conditions of the local business (employment) visa are varied by the director •

http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1596



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Disability receives simple help

Taiwan Ambassador Dean Lin handed over a donation from US-based Taiwan non-profit organisation Simply Help Foundation to the Department of People Living with Disabilities (DPLD), 13 July.

The delivery of the \$30,000 consignment was facilitated by the Taiwan Embassy who also covered the delivery costs.



The donation by Taiwan organisation, Simply Help Foundation will be distributed among the disability community

The consignment consisted of clothes, books, stationary, and toys, amongst other goods.

The Acting Minister for the DPLD Rennier Gadabu and Secretary for the DPLD Riddell Akua received the goods.

Secretary Akua expressed his gratitude to the founder of Simply Help Foundation, Tina Bow, and the Taiwan Embassy for their continued assistance.

“This is the Taiwan Embassy’s third [of] such donations in the department’s third year of establishment and my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Ambassador for Taiwan.”

Ambassador Lin said that both Nauru and Taiwan “are family” and hopes for additional donations ahead.

“I hope that this container of toys, books and shoes will bring big smiles to our kids here [in Nauru]. I expect there will be more and more containers coming in each year, in the future.”

The sorting and distribution of the items have been pre-planned to ensure fair distribution to people who need them the most.

The Simply Help Foundation through many years, forged a long-term partnership with Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send supplies and charitable items to people who are in need across the world •

New boats for fisheries, winners collect prize

The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) received two fishing vessels and presented prizes for a fishing competition, in celebration of the authority’s 25-year anniversary, 11 July.



Nauru Fisheries acquire new vessels through the US Treaty Development Fund

The two new vessels were handed over by His Excellency the Acting President Wawani Dowiyogo on behalf of the US Treaty Development Fund to NFMRA chair Peter Diema.

The US Treaty Development Fund is a development assistance fund that financed the two vessels for the NFMRA.

Acting President Dowiyogo says the boats will be very beneficial to Nauru.

“As part of today’s programme, I am pleased to handover the two new boats you see behind me to the chairman of the NFMRA. The two new boats are evident of continuous hard work and collaboration between the NFMRA and its international partners.

“They will be of great addition to the current [fleet] to assist the NFMRA in serving the republic.”

The vessels will primarily be used for NFMRA’s daily activities and patrols within Nauru’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The vessels are specifically tailored to Nauru’s ocean and weather conditions, making them optimal vessels to offer support in search and rescue operations.

During the ceremony Acting President Dowiyogo also presented a grand prize of \$25,000 to Liam Akua for winning the overall score of the Authority’s monthly marlin category competition. Prizes were also awarded to other winners in the different categories •

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Office contact:
Government Information Office
Government Offices
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

Em: gio.nauru@gmail.com
Tel: +674 557-3009/3133 ext. 307
www.naurugov.nr