



Nauru Bulletin

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Calls for concerted effort to safeguard Nauru from coronavirus

“Capture and contain” is the Government’s policy to minimise the infiltration of coronavirus (COVID-19) into the Nauruan community, President Lionel Aingimea said.

His Excellency said any possibility of COVID-19 will be captured at the airport upon the arrival of all passengers and contain them at the designated transit residences for observation and monitoring for any changes in body temperature and health.

President Aingimea said the overriding principle, “one death is one too many,” calls for concerted efforts to stop and contain the possibility of COVID-19 into Nauru. Of particular concern is the well-being of people with pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and asthma, whose systems are especially susceptible to complications from Coronavirus.

Currently, Nauru and most other Pacific island countries send their COVID-19 samples to Melbourne, Australia for testing, a process that could take weeks from the time of the sample being taken, to putting it on a flight to Brisbane then on to Melbourne, and then wait in queue to be tested.

This will soon change for Nauru with assistance from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) donating a testing machine, classed as ‘gold standard’ that will enable Nauru’s health department to test samples for COVID-19 on island. Testing on island would significantly reduce the waiting time for a sample that would otherwise have been tested in Australia.

President Aingimea thanked Taiwan as well as the Government of Australia for its financial assistance of \$100,000 to support Nauru in purchasing test kits and other associated products to be used for disease prevention in the wake of COVID-19.



The World Health Organisation recommends hand washing with soap, use hand sanitiser, cover coughs and sneezes and practice social distancing

The President has also met with Nauruan business owners Capelle & Partner and Eigigu Supermarket in regards to food supply for the island. The business operators assure the government there is sufficient supply of everything for three months, provided there is no hoarding or panic buying. Supplies by ships remain uninterrupted and will continue their normal shipping schedule to Nauru.

The freighter plane will continue to bring essential supplies such as medicine every week.

The Government has also put forward a request to the Australian government about allowing medical evacuations from Nauru, if the need arises.

Extra spending will be met by the buffer fund which continues on from the previous administration. The fund will finance the extra personnel and services for the hospital, police, security and the airline, so the normal way of life is maintained.

As this global pandemic evolves, so is the Government’s response to measures taken to ensure the safety of the Nauru population. The airlines’ schedule will also develop as the situation changes and progresses.

Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Kyde Menke and Secretary for Education

Darrina Kun will be overseeing the needs and way forward for schools in Nauru as well as plans for Nauruan students studying in Fiji. As there are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Nauru, classes will continue as normal and the situation in Fiji closely monitored with the department in communication with Nauru’s High Commission in Fiji, the schools, parents and guardians.

President Aingimea said it’s a “concerted effort,” saying Nauruans everywhere must work together to assist against COVID-19 and to look at the range of avenues and best options to address and prevent against the virus.

The President says the community response has been very positive in that “they know that now is the time to put all differences aside.”

“Naoero acting as Naoero. Dei-Naoero acting as dei-Naoero,” the President said adding that this is not the time for politics and appreciates the help from churches, the private sector, and landowners.

The President said “we must live first” and do politics later.

The hospital has stepped up efforts and staffing to manage their normal patients as well as prepare for potential COVID-19 cases.

With Australia and New Zealand now closing their borders to non-residents, it means halting the dispatch of Nauruans under the Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Program, although Nauruans under those schemes that are already in-country will not be affected.

The President reiterates the Nauru Government’s gratitude to Australia, Taiwan, and private Nauru businesses, for answering the government’s call for assistance, and just as equally thanked landowners, churches, NGOs, state-owned entities (SOEs), and all Nauruans for their cooperation in this effort •

First quarantined flights arrive

Two passenger flights since the declaration of a State of Disaster, have arrived and its passengers quarantined.

On the first incoming Nauru Airlines flight following the Nauru Government's preventative measures on coronavirus (COVID-19), arrived 20 March, and were taken directly to their respective designated residences that were earlier announced by the Government.

The 46 passengers and four flight crew will remain in quarantine for 14 days for screening and testing.

Prior to the flight arrival, President Lionel Aingimea and Cabinet ministers took a tour and walk-through of the arrival procedure up to the point of placing the passengers at the designated residences.

The Government has identified five residences that will be used as transit stations (for screening and testing), observation stations (for any person showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tested positive) and treatment station (for those requiring treatment and hospitalisation).

The second cohort of 52 Nauru Airlines passengers landed in Nauru the following day, on Saturday afternoon, 21 March, and taken directly by bus to the Budapest Hotel in Anabar, their home in quarantine for the next 14 days.

In the days prior to the flight, Nauru Airlines kept passengers continually updated and on the day of the flight systems were in place at Brisbane airport for passengers to hand sanitise, receive temperature checks, prioritise luggage and complete their COVID-19 health check card.

Halfway through the flight, another temperature check was performed and again recorded.

Passengers disembarked at Nauru and received hand sanitiser, and both a hand-held temperature check and thermal scan before moving to immigration, where 1.5 metre distancing was enforced by police.

Passing through customs, all luggage was disinfected and passengers followed the cordon out to buses on standby, and again instructed to use the door-mounted hand sanitiser unit as they boarded.

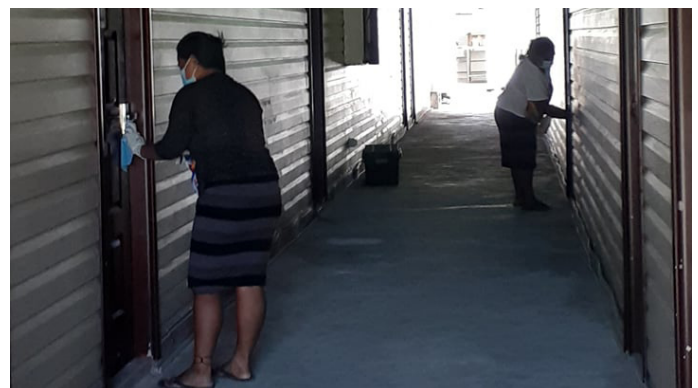
Cohort 2, as the group is called, under police escort, arrived at the Budapest, to be briefed by head of the Taskforce Council Dr Kieren Keke, Minister Rennier Gadabu and Eigigu Solutions Project Manager Junior Dowiyogo, and will spend the next 14 days there in quarantine.

"It takes about one week, nine days, (for symptoms to show). So, we wait the 14 days. At the end of 14 days, we'll know whether you test positive or negative," Dr Keke said.

Guests were presented with a cleaning pack and allocated their rooms.

Guests may receive supplies from family and friends, left at the double fencing barrier to be transferred inside by security staff. Temperature checks are performed and recorded twice daily at mealtimes. Three cleaning teams sanitise all doors, handles, stair rails and surfaces twice a day. A 24/7 onsite nursing station is established.

At every step along the way, the Government of Nauru can be congratulated and commended on a well-planned and organised



(Top) Arriving passengers board buses to be transported to designated quarantine residences

(Middle) Like other designated residences, the Budapest Hotel has double fencing three metres wide ensuring social distancing

(Bottom) Residents are supplied a cleaning pack on arrival but cleaning staff do the rounds twice daily

set of processes, with no or minimal delays, demonstrating sophisticated logistical coordination and cooperation across a wide range of departments and stakeholders with the view to protect the general population of Nauru while delivering the highest level of service delivery and care to those in quarantine.

The Anabar community is also acknowledged for their part as hosts of those in quarantine in their district.

Family and friends of arriving passengers are urged to keep their distance and if there is a need to go to the airport, please comply with directions of airport and medical staff and signs around the airport. Please note that you will not be able to approach any arriving passengers •

President address nation following declaration of state of disaster

President Lionel Aingimea delivered two televised national addresses on COVID-19. The first statement delivered on the night of Friday 13 March following the World Health Organisation's (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a pandemic.

The President said the "government has taken every step possible to ensure the protection of its people against Coronavirus," and this included body scanners at the airport to detect high body temperature and Government agencies "sufficiently equipped and staffed to deal with any potential case of Coronavirus. Leading these efforts is the Department of Health, which has put into effect all measures necessary for our safety."

"Let us not panic as we face this global health crisis. We must prepare ourselves and do what is necessary to weather the onset and impact of this pandemic. Let me assure you there is no confirmed Coronavirus case on Nauru as we speak and it is your Governments objective to ensure a healthy Nauru that is free of coronavirus," the President said.

"We are doing all that is necessary to ensure we remain free and if it does come onto our shores we are ready to meet it and contain it."

His Excellency delivered his second address on the night of Monday 16 March following the declaration of a State of Disaster under the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016, for the management and minimisation of the impact of coronavirus.

The declaration would continue for 30 days unless revoked or varied.

The declaration states that "any subsidiary legislation, directions or orders issued by me (the President) or any authorised person or agency to supplement this Declaration must be complied with by all persons residing in or travelling to the Republic."

Cabinet has also made Regulations under the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2016 to give effect to the declaration. The Regulations came into effect on 16 March.



Following the declaration of a State of Disaster, President Lionel Aingimea delivers address saying the "government has taken every step possible to ensure the protection of its people against Coronavirus"

The objective of these Regulations is to:

- (a) prevent, protect, control and provide a public health response to the international and domestic spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19);
- (b) avoid unnecessary interference with international travel or traffic;
- (c) insofar as practicable, comply with the Republic's obligations under the International Health Regulations 2005;
- (d) manage and minimise the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19);
- (e) effectively respond to and prevent or recover from the domestic and global effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19); and
- (f) implement and enforce the Declaration of National Emergency for the Management and Minimisation of the Impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) under the Act •

Medical supplies donated for COVID-19

Minister for Health Isabella Dageago received COVID-19 supplies from the World Health Organisation (WHO) under a Plan of Operation agreement, 27 February.

The personal protective equipment (PPE) includes 200 protective goggles, 7,000 examination gloves, 385 face masks, 12,700 surgical masks, 20 respirator masks and 200 surgical gowns for distribution for COVID-19 surveillance activities.

The Plan of Operation agreement was co-signed by WHO Director of Pacific Support, Dr Corinne Capuano and WHO Technical Unit, Pacific Health Security, Communicable Diseases and Climate Change representative, Dr Angela Merianos.

The handover was conducted by on-island WHO health promotion representative, Technical Officer Saula Volavola at the CRC building in Yaren during a break in the first health promotion media training session being conducted by Nauru Media.

Briefing the international media in early February, WHO's Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus referred to

the vital importance of PPE distribution to healthcare workers.

"WHO has shipped nearly half a million sets of personal protective equipment to 47 countries.

"We can't stop COVID-19 without protecting our health workers."

Additionally, earlier this year the ministry also received similar supplies from the International Health and Medical Services and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Both donors noting that face masks, at the time the donations were made, were already in high demand globally and therefore would be in the best interest to first provide them to health care workers as they are exposed daily to different people and illness.

Health services manager, Helen Ashford and site manager Lisa Southwell from IHMS made the donation on behalf of the organisation while Ambassador Dean Wang presented on behalf of the Taiwan embassy

The Nauru Government recognises the continued support and partnership of its close partners in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic •

Health minister unveils thermal imager at airport

Health Minister Isabella Dageago unveiled a thermal imager scanner at the Nauru International Airport, which will detect high body temperatures or fever in incoming passengers, 12 March.

The scanner is one of the health department's line of defence in identifying possible introduction of the Coronavirus into Nauru.

Early detection means early containment and mitigation of any spread of COVID-19 in our community.

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nauru, the Government and the health ministry are taking precautionary steps to protect Nauru and its citizens.

Minister Dageago said the use of the thermal imager scanner further minimises potential contact between the health worker and the arriving passengers. The thermal imager allows both parties to keep a safe distance from each other while the hand held thermal temperature device requires closer contact and within the WHO recommended one metre.

The overall set of thermal imager, six handheld temperature checkers, and a laptop costs approximately \$32,000.

A second thermal scanner is under procurement and will be funded by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Additional scanners will be placed at the seaport and the RoN Hospital.

The thermal scanners are procured from medical equipment suppliers Global Doctors in Malaysia with the assistance of



Arriving passengers walk pass the thermal imager scanner which detects high body temperature

Nauru's Honorary Consul to Malaysia, Dr Andrew Mohanraj.

Individuals are advised to be proactive in efforts to protect themselves by hand washing with soap, using hand sanitiser, cover coughs and sneezes, ensure good rest, and maintain social distancing.

Prior to the arrival of the thermal imager, the health department were using hand-held scanners that check body temperature on the forehead.

For anyone with symptoms of flu subsequent to recent travel or contact with a recent traveller to kindly remain at home to contain any possibility of spread of infection, self-isolate, and call the Health Department hotline 191 •

Designated residences identified for quarantine purposes

As Minister for National Emergency Services (NEC), President Lionel Aingimea ordered certain establishments to be designated residences for quarantine purposes for all passengers arriving into Nauru.

Effective, 20 March 2020, five areas were identified.

The Budapest Hotel, as well as rooms in external block accommodation at the Meneñ Hotel, and the Anibare Village will be used as transit stations.

In order to ensure that all travellers to the Republic are screened, they will be required to travel directly from the airport in an approved transport to the designated transit station. The travellers may be required to stay up to 14 days for the purposes of being screened or tested for the Coronavirus. If cleared, the person will be required to go home upon approval of the Secretary for Health and Medical Services.

Rooms at another part of the Meneñ Hotel will be used as the observation station for those who show any signs or symptoms of Coronavirus to the reasonable satisfaction of a health practitioner, and/or tested positive may be required to be moved to the observation station. This includes any person found on the island to be showing signs or symptoms of Coronavirus.

Based on the advice of health practitioners, any person from this station may be released if the ultimate result is negative.

Nurse Sue-Chen Apadinuwe is on duty at Budapest Hotel, one of the designated residences for quarantine. The nursing station occupies one of the hotel rooms closest to the front gate. It includes an examination table, chair and stocked clinic



The acute block at the RoN Hospital will be used as the treatment station for anyone requiring treatment and hospitalisation. Moving them to the treatment stations ensures that all health and medical care is provided to those who need such medical attention. They will remain there as long as necessary and will only be discharged on the advice of the health practitioners •

Health travel advisory, 16 March

The Ministry of Health has issued several travel advisories, the latest on 16 March.

The advisory states that, on pre-travel, Nauru is requesting all persons to consider whether travel to Nauru is necessary and all persons are asked to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel to Nauru, and if any person has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is asked not to travel to Nauru until they are well.

Any person to whom the following applies will not be allowed entry to Nauru and will be returned to their point of origin.

Any person who:

- i. is a confirmed case
- ii. has had direct contact with a confirmed case within the previous 21 days
- iii. has travelled from or transited through any of the following countries, within the previous 21 days:

* Mainland China	* Hong Kong
* Macao	* Korea
* Iran	* Europe
* USA	* Asia (except Taiwan)

is not permitted to enter Nauru.

The advisory also states that anyone travelling to Nauru is required to undergo pre-travel screening such as answering a questionnaire and may include a temperature check. Upon arrival there will be thermal screening followed by the required quarantine period in approved transition accommodation.

All ships travelling to Nauru must spend 14 days at sea with no contact with another vessel before entering the Nauru port.

The ship's captain will be required to radio in and declare no one on board is showing signs consistent with COVID-19, after which a health official will board the vessel to confirm.

Exemptions apply to "Medical personnel and related flight crew, traveling to and entering Nauru for the purposes of a medical evacuation, are exempt from the travel restrictions, provided the appropriate personal protective equipment is utilised during the journey and in public spaces (including airports), and the personnel or crew member is not displaying any symptoms." •

Practice good hygiene, follow these steps

- * Wash you hands with soap and water
- * Don't touch your face
- * Use hand sanitiser
- * Maintain social distancing - 1 metre minimum
- * Cough and sneeze into your elbow or tissue
- * Thoroughly cook meat and eggs
- * Report fever by calling the health Hotline 191
- * Stay at home, self-isolate



COVID-19 risk communications meeting

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea led by example undergoing on-arrival COVID-19 screening in the Nauru International Airport VIP Lounge on his return to Nauru, 6 March.

The initiative was one public messaging strategy suggested earlier that day at the Coronavirus Risk Communication meeting to update relevant stakeholders and continue the RoN Hospital COVID-19 action plan for Nauru, led by Health Deputy Secretary and Director of Medical Services Dr Olayinka Ajavi.



President Aingimea leads by example and gets tested upon arrival at the airport terminal amid COVID-19 prevention measures

At the meeting, 6 March, discussion points included the latest global coronavirus cases by country.

Key messages this time are that COVID-19 is a virus that is "easily destroyed", says Dr Ola. He advises to continue thorough and regular handwashing, frequent spraying and wiping of surfaces (eg. tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, taps, sinks, computer keyboards, mobile phones) with disinfectant, to regularly drink water, and keep a safe distance of around two metres (or six feet) from persons exhibiting flu-like symptoms.

Also reported in the meeting were customs sea-port fumigation and personal protection protocols, with the hospital working closely with the Nauru Port Authority charting all shipping movements in and around Nauru and performing strict due diligence to determine port of origin, travel itineraries and destinations of goods and crew prior to off-loading.

These measures are being guided and overseen by the work of Dr Francis Falemara, RoN hospital's recently-appointed Deputy Director for Communicable Disease, who later that afternoon ran a COVID-19 information session for community and church leaders at the Public Health community hall in Denig, alongside Acting Director of Public Health Stacey Cain.

Dr Ola gave a final reminder on making assumptions about a person's nationality and the risk of contracting COVID-19.

"A person's origin is not the issue - it is their travel history that must be looked at."

He also sought to make clear the difference between The People's Republic of China (PRC), which is Mainland China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan), which is the island nation of Taiwan, and not Mainland China.

During a recent media address, WHO's Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus explained that "COVID-19 spreads less efficiently than flu, transmission does not appear to be driven by people who are not sick, it causes more severe illness than flu, there are not yet any vaccines or therapeutics, and it can be contained – which is why we must do everything we can to contain it. That's why WHO recommends a comprehensive approach." •

Taskforce set up, regional neighbours close borders

The Nauru Government Taskforce Council set up to deal with COVID-19 has met twice in as many weeks to discuss and agree on strategies and way forward in keeping the community safe and well informed of developments and advice.

The first meeting was held on Saturday, 14 March where initial information of COVID-19 and cautionary measures were shared.

Minister for Health and her senior medical team led the meeting.

That same evening President Lionel Aingimea delivered his first address to the nation following the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, in which the President stated the “Government has taken every step possible to ensure the protection of its people against Coronavirus.”

The second taskforce meeting was held a few days later on Monday 17 March, where the advisor to the health minister and head of the Taskforce Council Dr Kieren Keke led the meeting with information on the current world experience of the percentage of people with symptoms compared to those needing high care as a result of being infected with COVID-19.

Dr Keke also advised that the government had identified designated residences for quarantining incoming passengers.

The taskforce works closely with Government in seeking options for Nauruans abroad in neighbouring countries whose borders are closing.

Australia announced on Thursday 19 March it would be refusing entry to non-residents as of 9pm on 20 March.

Nauru Airlines received a flight from Brisbane on the afternoon of 20 March. Forty-six passengers and four flight crew were taken directly to the designated quarantine residence. The aircraft immediately returned to Brisbane where it would uplift the second load of passengers the following day, Saturday 21 March.

Nauru Airlines were urging Nauruans without Australian residency to travel to Australia on the return flight on 20 March which would arrive just before Australia’s 9pm cut off.

New Zealand has also imposed similar travel restrictions stating it “will no longer allow foreign nationals on visitor or working holiday visas to enter the country as of midnight Thursday New Zealand time.”

New Zealanders were encouraged to return home as soon as possible while commercial flights remain operating.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands issued several travel advisories with the latest on 8 March restricting international travellers entry into RMI for two weeks (ending 22 March), as well as suspend all air and sea travel from China, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Iran, Germany, France and Spain.

The Nauru Government is enforcing a range of measures aimed at preventing the spread of the virus to the Nauruan community, and discussions and strategies are evolving daily as the situation changes in the region and the rest of the world.

The overarching message is for everyone to remain vigilant and practice good hygiene and social distancing •

National airline suspends island flights

Nauru Airlines has suspended all flights to Majuro, Kiribati and Fiji until further notice.

The first suspension was to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Kiribati following new restrictions by RMI banning international travel to the island destination.

The last flight to the two countries was on Friday 13 March.

In later developments, the Nauru Government also suspended flights in and out of Fiji, making Friday 13 March also the last flight to Fiji.

Passenger flights to and from Brisbane, Australia remain but on a fortnightly basis. The usual air freighter service will continue its weekly flights bringing in supplies to the island.



The airline said in a media release on 10 March, “In response to the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in relation to Coronavirus, the RMI has suspended all international air travel until 22 March 2020, effective immediately.”

Nauru Airlines CEO Geoff Bowmaker said the airline was complying with the various health advisory requirements of each of the countries through which it flies to help keep residents and visitors safe from coronavirus.

“The suspension of flights into Majuro as well as the downturn in passenger demand generally as a result of coronavirus travel restrictions will also result in suspension of our flights through Tarawa, Kiribati for the time being after this Friday 13th March,” the statement said.

Nauru Airlines will continue to cooperate with regulatory authorities to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Mr Bowmaker said the onset of coronavirus had seen reductions in travel to several Nauru Airlines destinations.

“The current PHEIC has sparked a series of restrictions by authorities from Kiribati, Nauru, Fiji and Australia on travellers from overseas, and prospective travellers are urged to take note of these before planning any travel,” Mr Bowmaker said in the statement.

Nauru Airlines is seeing an overall decrease in demand for air travel globally with service cutbacks at airlines around the world.

For more information about the travel ban, and other travel restrictions impacting Nauru Airlines flights, please visit www.nauruair.com •

Canada presents credentials

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea received the High Commissioner-designate of Canada to Nauru at the presentation of credentials in the Office of the President, 11 March.

On the morning of the ceremony, Mr Mark Lorne Glauser was received on arrival at the government office by Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Ms Camilla Solomon before proceeding to the forecourt for the rendition of the national anthems of Canada and Nauru by the Nauru Police Force brass band. This was then followed by the inspection of the Nauru Police Force honour guard by Mr Glauser.

Mr Glauser was later welcomed to the Office of the President for the presentation of his Letter of Credence and the letter of recall of his predecessor Paul Madisson.

President Aingimea welcomed Mr Glauser and extended deepest congratulations on his appointment and conveyed best wishes for good health, peace and prosperity to Canadian Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and the people of Canada.

“As our two nations continue to enjoy the friendly cooperation through our mutual interest, especially on global issues such as climate change, Nauru is grateful for the support Canada has rendered to the Pacific region through their contribution to the international and regional organisations over the years,” President Aingimea said

“Nauru welcomes and note Canada’s candidacy to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2021-2022 with the hope that climate change as a security threat is put forth on the Security Council’s agenda.”

President Aingimea expressed his full confidence in the High Commissioner’s ability to further strengthen and promote the positive ties of friendship between Nauru and Canada.

High Commissioner Glauser conveyed similar sentiments of respect and mutual understanding from his government and prime minister.

“We’re both concerned about climate change and its effect on our environments, security and economies,” High Commissioner Glauser said.

Womens day, generation equality

International Women’s Day is observed in Nauru each year as a public holiday and this year was commemorated with a church service on Monday 9 March at the Orro Congregational Church, to the theme *I am Generation Equality: Realising Women’s Rights*.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea and Cabinet ministers attended the official church service that was opened with the singing of the Nauru national anthem led by the National Women’s Combined Congregational Fellowship before the service was called to worship by Reverend Roger Mwareow.

As is done each year, a list of prayer requests were read by representatives from various organisations and departments before the singing of the women’s anthem followed by the closing prayer and lunch across the road at the church Centennial Hall.

At the luncheon, stalls were set up by the various government departments displaying awareness and promotion for the event.



Canada’s High Commissioner to Nauru Mark Lorne Glauser inspects the Nauru Police Guard of Honour prior to presenting his credentials

“Mr President, Canada respects Nauru’s international efforts to deal with regional and global issue.

“We know that the problem we have require working together on solutions. With neighbours, with regional partners, and partners far away.”

High Commissioner Glauser concluded that he looks forward to working with President Aingimea over the course of this assignment “to pursue our common values and interests bilaterally in the region and globally.”

A closed door meeting ensued after which were courtesy calls by the High Commissioner on Australian High Commissioner Angela Tierney, Cabinet ministers, and some heads of department.

High Commissioner Glauser is based in Canberra, Australia and will serve a four-year term. He is also accredited to PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, and holds concurrent accreditations as Ambassador to Micronesia and Palau, as well as Ambassador-designate to the Marshall Islands..

Mr Glauser joined External Affairs and International Trade Canada in 1993 and served in multiple and various foreign affairs assignments in Canada and abroad since. He holds an Honours Bachelor Degree in History and Political Science and Masters in Political Science •



Entertainment in the form of a duet was performed by Lucky Bam and Pansy Star with a message to ‘Stop the Violence’.

Commemoration of International Women’s Day is organised each year by Women’s Affairs within the Department of Home Affairs.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/> •

President receives Romania ambassador

The Ambassador-designate of Romania to the Republic of Nauru Nineta Bărbulescu presented her Letter of Credence to His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, 13 March.

Ambassador Bărbulescu conveyed her president's best wishes to His Excellency, his family and the people of Nauru.

In response, President Aingimea said Nauru "warmly accept you here" and returned warmest regards and *ekamawir omo* to the Romanian president and the people of Romania.

"Thank you for presenting your credentials. It is our pleasure to host you for the time that you are here."

President Aingimea underscored Nauru's links with Romania through past workers to Nauru and the Nauru's Speaker of Parliament, Marcus Stephen who has connections with Romania through his weightlifting career.

The President gifted the Ambassador with a model *eragow*, a warrior's staff, and the Ambassador reciprocated with a memorabilia neck tie for the period Romania held the presidency of the European Union from January to June 2019.



President Lionel Aingimea gifted a model of a Nauruan warriors staff, eragow, to Romanian Ambassador to Nauru Nineta Barbulescu at the presentation of her credentials

Ambassador Bărbulescu is also accredited to New Zealand, Kiribati, Fiji, and Solomon Islands.

Ms Bărbulescu holds a Bachelor in Law, Magna cum Laude and served as Chief of Cabinet, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies in the Romanian parliament from 1993-1997 and began her career in foreign affairs in 1997 as senior expert and first secretary in the public international law department •

Nauru gets 'money smart'

Enumerators underwent training to conduct a demand side financial literacy survey across the nation, 28 February.

Two hundred randomly selected households were surveyed as the first step in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) project, strengthening financial inclusion and financial sector development in Nauru.

The project is being implemented by Australian NGO Good Return, under the on-island direction of Project Manager Frederick Pitcher and Project Coordinator Romys Eobob.

Twenty enumerators and two supervisors were engaged to conduct the surveys, asking participants about their regular money management routines, with answers collected and uploaded via a mobile app.

The purposes of the demand side survey are to: understand the current demand, availability, and suitability of financial products and services in Nauru; identify areas for strengthening current demand, availability and suitability of financial products and services and; scope financial product and service opportunities to further improve socio-economic conditions, particularly among vulnerable communities in Nauru.

Next is a 100 focus group discussion series to be held later in March, followed by a stakeholder meeting to present results of this survey and focus group discussions planned for 3 April. The findings will also help inform a new community financial training program, which will be piloted later this year.

Good Return is an Australian NGO working across the Asia Pacific region since 2003 in strengthening financial inclusion and developing financial education training programs •

Asset register will advance Nauru

Department of Finance, Treasury, posed for their annual photo in shirts provided by TechnologyOne, the supplier of the financial management information system (FMIS) underpinning all financial transactions of the Nauru Government, 28 February.

But there was more going on than just a photo shoot. TechnologyOne, who have also donated 10 laptops to the team, are in the process of a service upgrade for Nauru, and the Treasury team, led by Deputy Secretary Karen Whitham, were happy to support their work and make it visible in their 2020 team photo.

"The budget, revenue and all expenditure come out of TechnologyOne," Ms Whitham said.

In addition, Nauru treasury staff attend training sessions with TechnologyOne, the last of which saw three treasury staff complete a fixed assets course in the offices of the Brisbane-based enterprise software company.

As part of an Asian Development Bank (ADB) project supporting the Government of Nauru in public financial management reform, a national fixed asset register was created through the Department of Infrastructure.

"That asset register has been handed over now and we're putting



Treasury staff pose for a photo in shirts provided by FMIS supplier TechnologyOne

it into the FMIS so that we can start then to manage it on a more pro-active basis for future investment in Nauru's infrastructure."

Now, with knowledge of exactly what the government's assets are, "the idea is to have a pro-active maintenance program to maintain government assets," added Ms Whitham, which will include planning for replacement and demolition of obsolete buildings, plant and equipment, fixing roads and preparing for Nauru's future, where tourism and other industries will rely on properly and regularly budgeted for and maintained national assets •

Geneva mission formally opens

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva (UNOG) was formally opened by President Lionel Aingimea on 28 February.



President Lionel Aingimea (centre) and Madam Aingimea (2nd from R) with the Pacific Island ambassadors in Geneva

Accompanying the President were Madam Ingrid Aingimea, Deputy Ministers Asterio Appi and Richard-Hyde Menke, and Ambassador Chitra Jeremiah who commenced her assignment since establishment in May 2019.

In attendance were the ambassadors and representatives of Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Tonga; who are the other four Pacific Island missions represented in Geneva.

The office of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is also present in Geneva.

In his address, President Aingimea acknowledged the generous support and assistance of the Government of Switzerland towards

the establishment of the mission noting that as a small island developing state and a Pacific Island country, the opportunity to have an office at the origin of multilateralism could not be by-passed.

This is Nauru's first mission in Europe, consequently paving the way to further strengthen the partnerships forged with Nauru's bilateral partners across multiple areas including in the impacts of the global climate to Nauru and small island states, past financial crises and the current health crises of COVID-19.

President Aingimea stated that Pacific island countries continue to be neglected in the work of international organisations and so the establishment of the mission will provide an advantage for Nauru to garner assistance and keep abreast of issues which otherwise would not be possible in isolation.

His Excellency advocated for the importance of a collective voice of the Pacific to protect its identity, culture and longevity on issues such as climate change and the environment, and acknowledged the impact of all decisions made multilaterally on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as World Trade Organisation (WTO) decisions on fisheries which Nauru is not a member.

The President stated that as custodians of the blue economy, it is vital that decisions are driven by each of the island states and not those with vested interests and lacking connection to the Pacific Ocean, while the visibility and the voice of the Pacific needed to be raised to ensure that they (Pacific countries) are not left behind.

Nauru's mission to the UNOG was established to better access technical support and resources from UNOG in terms of its obligations under human rights and disarmament treaties. Nauru's representation in Europe will increase Nauru's standing in the international community, as it demonstrates commitment and willingness to work with and maintain the core values of the UN with regards to international law •

Nauru addresses nursing shortage

One of the ways RoN hospital administrators are addressing Nauru's nursing shortage is through on-island and in-house training, with 10 Nauruan students now completing a six-week nurse aide training program being held at the RoN Hospital training rooms.

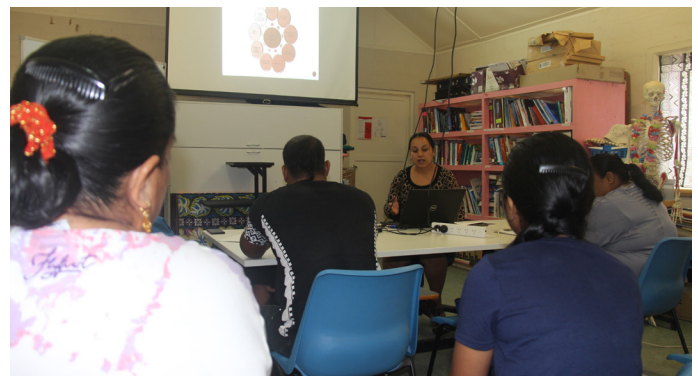
Nauruan trainer Lynette Joram is facilitating the class of seven female and three male participants, who will step into their roles as nurse's aides by April. Facilitating the training in Nauruan language provides a solid learning foundation for students.

According to Nauru's Health and Medical Services registered nurse and senior lecturer Rusieli Taukei, students can continue their study pathway by completing a Diploma of Nursing, with some of the current cohort aspiring to become qualified doctors.

In the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, it is timely to highlight the Pacific region's chronic nursing shortages.

RoN Hospital's Director of Nursing Moralene Capelle recently attended the Pacific Heads of Nursing in Fiji, and highlighted Nauru's challenges to attract nurses without a proper on-island nursing school, and having to import nurses from overseas to fill the positions.

Shortages have been caused by lack of funding and training, with Pacific Community (SPC) Clinical Services Co-ordinator



Lynette Joram facilitates the six-week nurse aide training held at the RoN Hospital

Mabel Hazelman-Taoi saying that by 2030, a nine million nurse shortage globally is predicted – the number needed to achieve universal health coverage.

Lack of nurses affect major health priorities, such as vaccination, and place heavy burdens on staff and communities during emergencies, such as the present COVID-19 threat.

Pacific Heads of Health meet in April.

Read more about the Year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020 at <https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-2020> •

President meet IOC, Swiss confederation

On the margins of officially opening Nauru's mission in Geneva in February, His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea made a courtesy visit to the International Olympic Committee House in Lausanne, Switzerland and later the Swiss Confederation.



*President Lionel Aingimea
with IOC President
Thomas Bach at Olympic
House*

At the IOC House, President Aingimea met with IOC President Thomas Bach and engaged in general discussions about the Olympic movement then taken on a tour of IOC House and the Olympic museum, 26 February.

Mr Bach sought President Aingimea's support in the IOC's movement on human rights for refugees.

At the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it was the first time that the Refugee Olympic Team was introduced and competed in the Games, as independent Olympic participants. The athletes competed under the Olympic flag.

The Olympic website states, "During its meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2018, the IOC Session decided to create the IOC Refugee Olympic Team at Tokyo 2020. This decision builds on the legacy of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team Rio and is the continuation of the IOC's commitment to play its part in addressing the global refugee crisis and to convey the message of solidarity and hope to millions of refugee athletes around the world."

Later the same day, President Aingimea met with the President of the Swiss Confederation, Simonetta Sommaruga, who stated it was her first occasion to meet with the leader of a Pacific nation and formally welcome President Aingimea and his delegation to Switzerland.

President Sommaruga welcomed recommendations on how Switzerland might be able to assist Nauru in its climate change efforts.

President Aingimea acknowledged that climate change work in Nauru is broad and instead of providing a wish-list, invited a Swiss team of experts to Nauru to ascertain the impacts of climate change on the island, notably to assist with Nauru's ambition of achieving 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030 •

Post turns 2, presents \$100k dividend

Nauru Post celebrated the second anniversary of its re-establishment as Naoero Postal Services Corporation, and presented a \$100,000 dividend cheque at a luncheon held at the Menen Hotel, 12 March.

As Minister for Nauru Post, His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, described Nauru Post's launch as "a turning point for postal services in Nauru."

"It was time for a change and the new corporation injected new life blood into the framework of the old postal service.

"New people, new services and a changing marketplace have all contributed to the outcome we see today," President Aingimea said pointing out that for the future, "I want to see Nauru Post thrive and prosper for the benefit of all Nauru," the President said.



*Nauru Post chairman
Samuel Grundler address
guests at the second
anniversary dinner prior
to presenting the \$100k
dividend cheque to the
Nauru Government*

On behalf of the corporation and its management, Chairman for Nauru Post, Samuel Grundler presented a dividend cheque board of \$100,000 for the period 2019-2020, to the Nauru Government.

The cheque board was received by President Aingimea, Deputy Minister Richard-Hyde Menke and Secretary for Finance Novena Itsimaera.

With the prospect of widening financial services to the people and businesses alike, Nauru Post will look at insurance services and is already in discussions with the Universal Postal Union on new directions involving funds transfer.

The President acknowledged the past work and foundation laid by his predecessor Baron Waqa in realising the potential of a revitalised Nauru postal system.

Nauru Post recognises its hard working staff and this year conferred the best employee of the year award to June Engar •

Coronavirus Alert:

If you have a fever, cough,
breathing difficulties and travel
history, you must self-isolate at
home and call

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President reiterates concerns at annual postal union plenary

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea addressed the Universal Postal Union Council of Administration plenary session seeking a debt waiver and to adopt Nauru Post as the model post office in the Pacific, 27 February.

The annual plenary held at UPU Headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, President Aingimea delivered his address as Minister for Nauru Post with a “keen interest in the well-being of the post and its business directions.”

President Aingimea underscored the exploitation of Nauru over the years and its rise and fall across decades then coming to terms with its faltering economy dependent on the goodwill of its partner nations in the region.

“As its president, my people have given me and my government a mandate to right the challenges of the past and to steer our nation towards self-sufficiency,” the President said.

Prior to Nauru Post becoming a corporate entity in February 2018, President Aingimea said it earned very little revenue and was in a downward spiral towards extinction.

“In just two years we have turned all this around and we are striving once more to take a place alongside our partners in the UPU.”

President Aingimea reiterated the plea made at the 2018 congress meeting seeking a reduction in UPU membership fees for small island states such as Nauru. Among other things, a fees reduction would enable initiatives and innovation be pursued by re-emerging postal services, and to succeed.

The President explained that Nauru’s debts to the UPU stands at approximately 1.87 million Swiss Francs, “a sum we cannot afford or ever repay, irrespective of whatever time payment agreement is conceived,” and pressed for a fair and just outcome that the session of the Council of Administration will decide that “this wrong must be corrected.”

The President expressed Nauru’s disappointment that while it endeavours to lift the bar in regard to its postal services through the use of dedicated equipment and the UPU’s IPS.POST system, Nauru was not selected as part of the current round of the financial services inclusion initiative.

President Aingimea further explained the government is seeking to pass amendments to the Naoero Postal Services Corporation Act to readily permit Nauru Post to expand its service offerings, including international funds transfer and insurance like services



President Lionel Aingimea with UPU Director General Bishar Abdirahman Hussein

for Nauruans.

“We hope that the UPU secretariat and the UPU’s Postal Technology Centre (PTC) will see the opportunities that exist in using Nauru Post as a model post office for the Pacific island community.”

The port development in Nauru will also see opportunity for surface parcel mail open up providing a cheaper postal pathway into Nauru; while the government is also embarking on initiatives to reuse the UPU’s World Numbering System (WNS) for its stamps and update the WNS philatelic archive for Nauru, with the hope it would encourage philatelists to reconsider the inclusion of Nauru stamps in their collection.

President Aingimea has also mandated Nauru Post to establish a foothold in the printing and packaging industry in an effort to enhance trade, business and investment.

“I see a bright future ahead for Nauru Post within the guidance offered by UPU membership and its partners, providing that you can, at this meeting, see the way forward to set aside our ‘debts in arrears’ and adopt Nauru Post as the basis of a ‘model post office’ in the Pacific,” President Aingimea said.

The Council of Administration (CA) consists of 41 member countries and meets annually at UPU headquarters in Berne. The Council ensures the continuity of the UPU’s work between Congresses, supervises its activities and studies regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues.

The next CA session will take place from 19 to 20 November 2020 •

Order issued prohibiting hoarding and price inflation

President Lionel Aingimea has issued a price regulation order prohibiting hoarding and price inflation.

The President issued the order, as the Acting Minister for Finance on 21 March, under the Prices Regulation Act 2008, that on the approval of Cabinet, any trader, whether is the owner or otherwise, and has in possession or control of and goods for sale, is not permitted to inflate or increase the existing wholesale or retail prices of any goods that are generally accepted as being necessary or essential for the everyday living of members of the community including staple food and household commodities.

Hoarding or withholding the selling of any goods or services is not permitted.

Traders must make available to consumers those goods and services until the supply is exhausted.

Traders must ensure that goods for sale are made available in reasonable quantities for domestic consumption or use.

For the purpose of the Order, the meaning of ‘existing wholesale or retail price’ means the price of goods and services which they were being sold on or immediately before 16 March 2020.

Any person who violates this Order shall be liable to a fine of up to \$3000 or imprisonment of up to six months.

The Order, published in the Government Gazette 75-2020, remains in force for three months unless earlier revoked •

Dei-Naoero is identity, mother language

Home Affairs Minister Isabella Dageago attended International Mother Language Day hosted by Language Bureau staff under the theme *Tsin ia ekeow dorer n Naoero inan ekeow bet dei-Naoero*, Friday, 21 February.

Over 50 people attended the all-day event at the Meneñ Hotel, with Home Affairs Language Bureau's Lucky Bam as MoC.

Speakers, including Franciana Tiwida Adam, Ebelina Tsiode, Lyn Teleni and Winnie Tsitsi, entertained and educated their audience with humorous stories, chants and thought-provoking commentary.



Home Affairs staff celebrate a fun-filled Mother Language Day

Lyn Teleni thanked Home Affairs Language Division on behalf of UNESCO for the day, speaking on how the Nauruan language creates connection: with traditions and practices, with the deepening knowledge of the language, with responsibilities, with harvesting, preservation and understanding of underwater heritage and environmental sustainability. Finally, it is the thread upholding 'one family, one heritage, one background' that Nauruans share.

Winnie Tsitsi spoke of how the Nauruan language is an inherent part of the Nauruan identity because it's the way you know who you are, saying that language links us with tribal knowledge and symbols and place or district. With Nauruan language in the school curriculum, Ms Tsitsi said, learning the mother language will build strong Nauruans, confident in their identity.

Nauruan language resources were also on display in printed and CD format.

The purpose of the international day, now celebrating its 20th year, is to promote the preservation and protection of all languages. The theme for 2020 is 'Languages without borders' emphasising that language can promote peaceful dialogue and help to preserve indigenous heritage.

According to the United Nations, "at least 43 per cent of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered. Only a few hundred languages have genuinely been given a place in education systems and the public domain, and less than a hundred are used in the digital world." •

Blue light youth program

Youth Affairs Minister Isabella Dageago met with stakeholders at the CRC building in Yaren to further extend Nauru's Police community assurance program with the Blue Light youth social engagement program, 5 March.

Police, Community Liaison Officers (CLO), Home Affairs divisions of youth and child protection, Eigigu Solutions, community youth group representatives of SmartKids and Sons of Naoero, and the Rotary Club of Nauru attended.

As the program caters to 11-16 year olds, it is technically outside the jurisdiction of Youth Affairs, whose target demographic is 18-35 years.



Minister for Youth Affairs Isabella Dageago in discussion with stakeholders about the youth program, Blue Light

Blue Light, a reference to the blue lights on police vehicles, began in Melbourne, Australia in 1976, an initiative of police and Police Youth Citizens Clubs (PCYC) to allow young people to participate in meaningful and enjoyable activities, as well as gain positive experiences interacting with local police in a safe, supervised environment free of drugs, alcohol, smoking and anti-social behaviour.

Nauru's Blue Light events are planned for Friday nights for youth 11-13 years and Saturday nights for 14-16 year olds, with the first events happening on 13 and 14 March.

Transport will be provided to collect youth across the nation and bring them to the venue and take them back home safely.

Police report that some young people are offending out of boredom. In addition, marijuana use is increasing, and many children are being left unsupervised at night as a result of irresponsible parenting, making them vulnerable to abuse, injury, substance abuse and gang-related activity.

Internationally, young people now participate in the Blue Light program in Australia and New Zealand, as well as Fiji, Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Search Blue Light PCYC to learn more •



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Media training health communications

Public health staff underwent a two-day health promotion and media training workshop, commencing 27 February.

Around 15 health promotion unit district primary health care workers from Nauru Public Health met with the Nauru media team for an interactive and practical World Health Organisation (WHO) sponsored workshop designed to develop the skills to use media to communicate health messages effectively.

Nauru Media's TV Production Manager Kimi Dabwido facilitated.

The program, estimated by WHO's on-island Health Promotion Technical Officer Saula Volavola to cost around \$5,000, delivers a comprehensive media training package to health workers.

Participants were taught the key elements of using media; conducting media interviews, both TV and radio; writing press releases; how to develop media products, including using social media, writing infographics and script writing; using tools to undertake pretesting of messages and products and; monitoring and developing a media plan.

In the workshop, participants developed a media plan with messages and products targeting various key health issues, such as eye health, sexual and reproductive health; health eating – kitchen garden and; diabetes.



Nauru Media conduct health promotion and media training workshop with health staff

The workshop is timely, as the world watches the spread of the COVID-19 threat, and links directly to WHO's principles for effective communications that messages be accessible, actionable, credible and trusted, relevant, timely and understandable.

For more information, download your copy of WHO strategic communications framework for effective communications at <https://www.who.int/mediacentre/communication-framework.pdf>

For daily COVID-19 situation reports, visit <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports> •

Boe eats healthy, Taiwan cooks

Finance Minister and Boe resident Martin Hunt joined Boe community to enjoy Taiwan Technical Mission's (TTM) NCD prevention and cooking workshop, Saturday evening, 22 February.

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) agriculture division extension officer for Boe Laurie Daiga Agir was on hand to give gardening advice and distribute vegetable seedlings, compost and organic nematode repellent.

Working alongside TTM, Mr Agir has established 13 kitchen gardens for Boe residents since the start of the program last year.

The session was opened by Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang and attracted over 40 participants to take part in education on non-communicable diseases (NCD), followed by a healthy cooking and eating demonstration.

NCDs are also called lifestyle diseases which are prevalent in the Pacific and in Nauru and are caused by poor lifestyle choices in diet, exercise, alcohol and tobacco consumption. NCDs cause 41 million deaths each year globally, representing 71 per cent of all deaths.

TTM Medical doctor Dr Mia Lee, who works out of public health at Denig presented on the four most common NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic lung



Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang opens the Taiwan Technical Mission's NCD prevention and cooking workshop in Boe district

diseases which cause premature death (regarded as any death under age 70).

TTM medical staff were on hand to conduct blood sugar level checks.

TTM's dietician presented the cooking demonstration, showcasing a menu of stir-fried eggplant with mushrooms, Taiwan-style smashed cucumber salad and scrambled eggs with spring onions.

All vegetable ingredients used in the demonstration are grown on Nauru.

The next workshop will be held in Aiwo district •

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Republic of Nauru

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