

In his daily update today, Saturday 28Mar, President Lionel Aingimea said the 'capture & contain' strategy is going to plan and the National Coronavirus Taskforce, led by Health Minister Isabella Dageago and Dr Kieren Keke, is well prepared for any changes. Due to the decisive and proactive actions of the Aingimea Government, the overall situation on Nauru remains stable and Nauruans safe from coronavirus.

The President said the country will not be caught unprepared and his directive to the Taskforce is that we must keep two steps ahead. "If we are prepared, we will be able to respond quickly with the right measures."

All residents in the transit accommodation are well and to curb the boredom, played a game of bingo last night (Friday).

President Aingimea sends a strong message to youths that have been driving by the transit and observation accommodations and yelling abuse and derogatory comments about the residents. President Aingimea said this is cruel and not the Nauruan way, saying "we are a small community and these people are family and friends and we must care for them and protect them as they wait out their quarantine time."

The President warns this behaviour will not be tolerated and Police have been instructed to take immediate action and apply the full force of the law to detain and penalise anyone doing this. Under the State of Disaster Regulations, penalties are up to \$50,000 and up to 5 years in prison. Health Minister Isabella Dageago is keeping up to date with developments in high level meetings through video conferencing with the World Health Organisation and the ministers of health and the health departments in the region and around the world. The Minister's participation in these high level meetings ensures that Nauru is connected with the world and we remain up to date with the latest knowledge and the most up to date advice available from the world's health experts.

The freighter service continues its weekly service with 3 flights this weekend. Strict controls are in place for freighter flights, all cargo fumigated upon arrival and before they are handled by ground staff. The public is asked to keep clear during these flight operations and to comply with airport and police orders.

Two testing machines are now on island and the test kits for them are on order. Lab technicians will be trained in their use and will be ready to test for coronavirus in the coming weeks.

President Aingimea reiterated that businesses are put on notice against hoarding and profiteering. Any actions that show a business is trying to profit from this crisis will be dealt with swiftly and firmly.

The Government continues to work on options and arrangements to bring Nauruans home. While countries have closed their borders and air space, the Government is nonetheless working diligently to coordinate a plan to enable their return. Nauruans abroad are well and cared for at this time. The Government will continue to keep in touch with them and track their whereabouts and welfare.

The President confirms that Nauru will not close its airspace as this will prohibit efforts of other countries from taking direct routes during this global crisis. This is Nauru's way of contributing and assisting the world in combating the health crisis, the President said.

President Aingimea encourages Nauruans to keep working together, that collective actions will help keep us all safe. The President warned this could be a long haul and urged prayer for the wellbeing and safety of all Nauruans and everyone residing on Nauru.



All arriving passengers are taken to transit accommodation for 14 days quarantine. The Nauru Government is diligently working to repatriate Nauruans abroad.



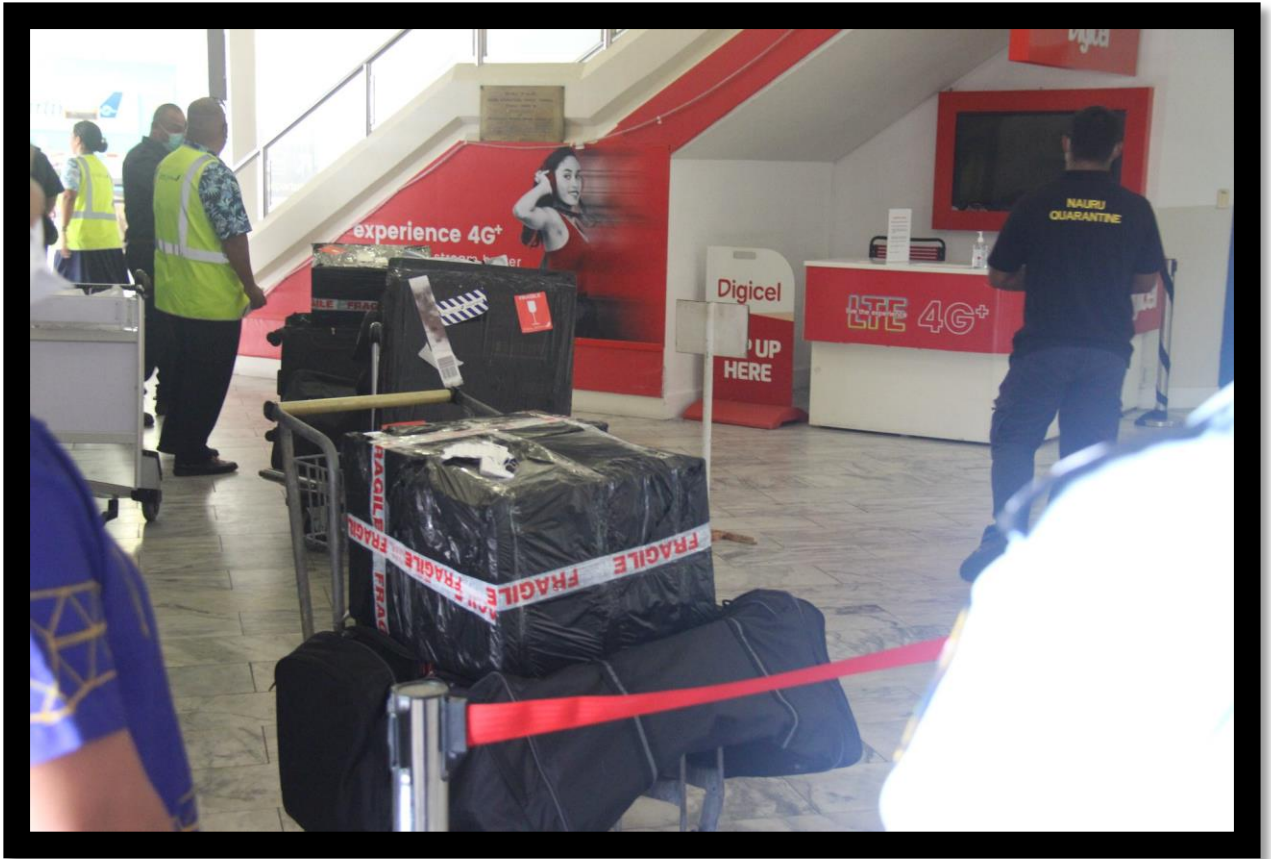
Dr Kieren Keke and Health Minister Isabella Dageago are leading the National Coronavirus taskforce. Here speaking with residents at the transit centre, Budapest Hotel



Daily thorough cleaning at the transit accommodation, Budapest Hotel



Residents in quarantine at the Budapest hotel play a game of bingo for entertainment



Strict controls are in place for cargo arriving by freighter or with passengers. All cargo are fumigated on arrival and before handling by ground staff