



# Nauru Bulletin

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9 July 2021

## Parliament May-June

**Parliament passes \$244M budget, makes revisions to written laws and amends court acts**

The Nauru Parliament convened a sitting over two days culminating in the passing of the \$244 million 2021-20 budget.

The two-day sitting began on Thursday 27 May and continued on Tuesday 1 June.

The 2021-22 Budget recognises expected revenue of \$244.1 million and \$244 million in expenditure, leaving a surplus balance of \$100,000.

“The 2021-22 budget has been framed around the theme of ‘Building a Resilient Naoero’ – with measures to build resilience in our economy, in our people and in our way of life,” Minister for Finance Martin Hunt said in his presentation of the 2021-22 Appropriation Bill on 1 June.

RPC related revenue is estimated at \$124.9m (51 per cent of total revenue) and \$59.9m (25 per cent of total revenue) expected from fishing licences.

Import related revenue is expected to be \$16.5m (7 per cent of total revenue); while \$14.1m from development partners and \$79.7m aid-in-kind contributions.

A contribution of \$23.5m will be paid to the



*Parliament was convened over two days on 27 May and 1 June*

Nauru Trust Fund; while \$5.8m is allocated to pay out 5 per cent RONWAN capital redistribution; and \$1m provided for Bank of Nauru bank book payments.

Aged and disability allowances increase \$15 a fortnight; this amounts to \$3.8m for 2021-22; while health and teacher trainee allowances increase to \$539 a fortnight.

The education budget is increased by over 40 per cent to \$16.2m for scholarships, infrastructure improvements, and learning materials. This includes an increase to teacher

trainee allowance to \$539 a fortnight; and the \$50 per child back-to-school payment and the NEAT scheme, maintained.

Health is allocated \$26.8m for hospital improvements, salaries and allowances, overseas medical referrals, the COVID Taskforce, and an increase for health trainee allowance to \$539 a fortnight.

The Government’s ‘capture and contain’ strategy will continue for the foreseeable future, therefore \$6.5m is allocated for quarantine measures.

The Government acknowledges Australia, Taiwan, the Asian Development Bank, New Zealand and Japan for their grant contributions of \$4.1m, \$2.2m, \$1.4m, \$500,00, and \$30,000, respectively, to purchase medical equipment and supplies for quarantine measures and mitigate transport and supply security risks.

Fisheries is allocated \$1.4m to purchase additional outboard motors, trailers and safety equipment, as well as support an aquaculture production of milkfish, improve coastal fisheries management and training for fisheries observers.

Law and order will be supported with \$9.6m,

*Cont pg 3...*

## Ten percent to full vaccination

The official campaign for the COVID-19 second dose vaccination ended on Saturday 3 July with 90 per cent of the target adult population of Nauru now fully vaccinated.

Additional vaccinations were administered in the week after and at the close of hours on Wednesday 7 July, 512 individuals who are due to take the second dose, have not.

As at 3 July, a total of 7,457 people received the first shot, while 6,779 people received the second.

President Lionel Aingimea says while the campaign has been successful we still need those few hundred people to get their second shot.

There is still time to get the shot. The absolute last day is 15 July before the vaccine expires.



*Cont pg 2...*

## Ten percent to full vaccination

...from pg 1

Vaccinations from hereon will be administered from the Baby Clinic at Public Health, Monday to Friday, 2 to 5pm.

Over the four-week second dose campaign, ending 3 July, 6,779 people took their second shot.

Week 1 - 992 vaccinated

Week 2 - 856 vaccinated

Week 3 - 1,326 vaccinated

Week 4 - 3,605 vaccinated

President Aingimea thanks those who are fully vaccinated, saying “you have gone a long way to protecting Nauru and all Nauruans.”

The President says there is a high degree of confidence that nearly all adults on Nauru will be protected from the coronavirus.

However, this leaves some people who remain unvaccinated and vulnerable, who are under 18 years and therefore are not eligible to take the AstraZeneca vaccine. They make up approximately 40 per cent of the population.

There are individuals who have opted not to get vaccinated for one reason or other, and others who have postponed vaccination for medical reasons.

At this stage Nauru does not have any further supply of the vaccine but the Government and Taskforce are looking at avenues for further supply through the COVAX facility as well as discussions with Japan, Australia and India for additional vaccines.

The Taskforce and Nauru Airlines are in discussions about the possibility of repatriating Nauruans from Fiji and Taiwan. Several Nauruans are still in Taiwan and Fiji on medical referrals. Fiji is of concern at the moment given the stronger COVID-19 Delta strain circulating in the community.

There are approximately 223 Nauruans in Fiji -- five of whom are fully vaccinated, 95 have received their first dose only, 23 are unvaccinated, and 100 are ineligible as they are under 18 years old and are not recommended to take the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The Taskforce has been advised to commence looking at other alternative vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna, which can be administered to the age group 12 to 18 years.

The Taskforce will be looking at logistics, procurement and storage of the alternative vaccine.

The public will be kept informed of any developments.

Those who have not yet taken their shot are reminded to do so by 15 July before the vaccine expires.

The second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was rolled out from Monday 7 June, with President Lionel Aingimea, Madam Ingrid Aingimea, Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen, Chief Justice Daniel Fatiaki, ministers and public servants among the first to get their second doses of the vaccine.

President Aingimea says lockdowns and travel restrictions should not influence peoples’ decision to take the second dose and complete their COVID vaccination, quashing social media content that are making claims about magnets and association with triple six •

## ~News in Brief~

**PPE DONATION:** President Lionel Aingimea and Health Minister Isabella Dageago accepted a donation of 30,000 masks from international energy trading company, Winson Oil Bunkering, at the government office in Yaren, 25 June.

The donation will assist Nauru greatly in its efforts towards mitigating the spread of disease and protects frontline workers and nurses administering Covid vaccinations.



*President Aingimea and Health Minister Dageago accept 30,000 masks from international energy trading company, Winson Oil Bunkering*

### **TRAVEL RESTRICTION ORDER 1/2021, 25 June 2021**

COVID-19: President Lionel Aingimea has ordered that the following territory/country are now excluded from the list of safe territory/country:

- (1) Local government areas in the Australian State of New South Wales - Greater Sydney, the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour (Australia); and
- (2) Fiji.

President Aingimea says lockdowns and travel restrictions should not influence peoples’ decision to take the second dose and get fully vaccinated.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE - BINGO OPERATORS**

1. The Department of Internal Affairs will be issuing permits for lawful operation of Bingo Operations in the near future on a date to be advised.
2. All Bingo Operators are required to comply with the requirements of:
  - (a) the Gaming Act 2011; and
  - (b) Business Licences Act 2017.
3. No bingo operators will be issued any permits or licences without a business licence. The business licences can be issued for annual or special periods by the Department of Justice.
4. Application forms for gaming licences can be obtained from the Department of Finance while application forms for business licences can be obtained from the Department of Justice.
5. It is unlawful for any person to conduct a bingo operation without a lawful permit or licence.
6. The Police will be monitoring all bingo operations and any unlawful bingo operations will be:
  - (a) shut down; and
  - (b) persons contravening the law will be prosecuted.
7. Further info, call 5573368 or mary.tebouwa@gmail.com

## Parliament - budget

...from pg 1

equivalent to five per cent of GDP.

“Measures in this budget will reduce the backlog of court cases through the appointment of magistrates and virtual court sessions to expedite court hearings, empower and ensure a well-resourced police department, and scope a new court house to be built,” the finance minister said.

Taiwan is also donating two patrol boats to assist Nauru police in surveillance and close monitoring of Nauru’s exclusive economic zone.

The higher ground initiative (HGI) which is a 20 year vision to support the rehabilitation and development of topside is allocated \$6.8m for land clearing, pilot projects and new equipment.

A land use plan will be developed in consultation with the community to inform the HGI investment.

Improvements in Nauru community housing is on the increase and as such, allocated \$7m.

The smart village project, provision of household water tanks, and clean and green program are provided \$2m, \$400,000, and \$3.1m, respectively.

The government is also progressing key economic infrastructure projects such as the redevelopment of the Nauru port in Aiwo, \$4.3m; \$2.8m to continue with the tank farm refurbishment; and \$600,000 to build seawalls around the island.

This year the government continues to support state-owned enterprises with the provision of \$7.4m for community social obligations to support electricity supply, regular air freight services, and affordable port service charges.

Nauru Airlines is also provided \$2.2m in cash flow to manage the loss of charter flight services due to the wind down of the RPC; and \$1.4M for tug boat hire for phosphate loading and cargo unloading.

The finance minister says the government is also supporting Nauru Airlines with the aircraft replacement program, backed up with a new US\$24.95m loan from EXIM Bank facilitated by the Republic of China (Taiwan) for two aircrafts.

The purchase of the first of the two aircrafts completed this month (July) while the second is expected over the next 12 months.

“The outlook for the year ahead is highly uncertain, with RPC arrangements only confirmed until December 2021, and the full impact of the coronavirus pandemic yet to be seen,” Minister Hunt said.

Given the uncertainty, the government has provided \$10.9m in the fiscal cash buffer to cover any urgent and unforeseen events in the year ahead.

The minister says the 2020-21 budget surplus balance of \$18.9m will be used to build up cash reserves and support Nauru manage any uncertainties in the year ahead.

“Our (government) economic policies have seen Nauru’s economy grow, from nominal GDP of \$166m in 2019 to an estimated \$185m in 2022, an 11 per cent expansion,” Minister Hunt said.

Significant contributions to the Trust Fund has brought a 77 per cent increase to the fund balance which sits at \$195M compared with \$111m at 30 June 2019.

The minister explains the total government debt liabilities have



*Government recognises the importance of maintaining air services and supports the airline with cash flow and the aircraft replacement program*

reduced from over 100 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 36 per cent, and government net assets are now estimated at over \$320m.

The government has also reduced outstanding legacy debts related to the Bank of Nauru liquidation, with total payments since 2019 of \$23m to individual bank book holder and NPRT; a 42 per cent reduction in the outstanding liability.

“The government is determined to build a strong economy, one that will support Nauru to be resilient in the face of uncertainty and a changing climate, that will facilitate lasting prosperity and support everyone’s aspirations,” the finance minister said.

### Ministerial Statements

President Lionel Aingimea presented the first ministerial statement on the Nauru Police Force, reporting on the learning and development portfolio of the NPF, which “is at the forefront of the NPF’s capacity building and change program.”

The President says, a range of training programs are delivered across the department to ensure staff is “equipped with knowledge, operational skills, interpersonal skills, practicing good leadership skills and implementing team work.”

Two fundamental programs the department has run this year are the commissioned officer qualifying course for superintendent and inspector level, attended by 14 officers; and the non-commissioned officers qualifying course for middle management, attended by 13 officers.

Both courses are initiated in partnership with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The courses ran for three and four weeks respectively.

Sports Minister Maverick Eoe says the department has contributed in various forms of programs played out on international events such as women’s day, day for down’s syndrome and day for sports peace and development events.

The minister says participating in these events not only ticks a check list but bolsters understanding and supports the meaning and purpose of these important events.

The department also visits schools to promote its ‘Encouraging no school, no play’ initiative; and participates with the education department in planning a term sporting calendar and hopes to attract more sporting federations to commit time in developing sporting programs in schools.

In preparation for the Constitution day athletics carnival, the department contributed sports equipment at a value close to \$15,000 to the five constituencies.

Cont pg 4...

## Parliament - statements

...from pg 3

The national sports complex has become increasingly popular for community and sporting events and with that comes wear and tear.

Minister Eoe says construction and maintenance work on and around the complex will take place in the near future to ensure the venues' continued good standard and longevity.

The department is also working towards achieving a 'compliant' status of 60 per cent threshold under the World Anti-Doping Agency guidelines.

This will require the consolidated efforts of various local stakeholders to get Nauru sports to 'compliant' status.

Needless to say, being one of four members of parliament for the constituencies of Anabar, Ijuw, Anibare, and Ewa-Anetan, which form the athletics team, Blues, Minister Eoe congratulated and thanked the team for winning the annual Constitution Day athletics, robbing team Evergreen of a tenth consecutive year victory.

Ronphos Minister Reagan Aliklik advised the next landowner quarterly payment for rents and permanent installations is due in August; and the next proposed royalty payment for the March quarter is due in July.

The Minister also announced that after 115 years of primary phosphate extraction, primary phosphate mining reached its end on 2 April.

The depth of six metres is the measurement used to differentiate primary mining from secondary.

Secondary mining is the new methodology which will take mining a further four metres below the level primary mining left off.

Ronphos will partner with the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) with planning and land reclamation for the higher ground initiative (HGI).

In April, Ronphos exported two shipments of 54,750 metric tonnes (MT) of phosphate to India and South Korea.

The company set an export target of 225,000 MT which it has exceeded by 7,622 MT exported this financial year (2020-21).

Currently, Ronphos is exporting to the Philippines, South Korea and India.

"We [Ronphos] are in talks with customers in New Zealand and Australia who are interested in resuming trade given the lower cadmium content in the secondary mining product."

The first sale to Australia and NZ is expected later this year, while the phosphate rock market is still experiencing slow increases.

Minister for Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) Wawani Dowiyogo urged fellow parliamentarians to ensure fishers from their respective communities adhere to safety measures including maintaining communications while at sea – for fishing or leisure.

The concern is brought about following an incident during the last national fishing competition where a lone fisher was thrown from his boat caused by a wave bump.

Fortunately, the unmanned boat reached shore alerting locals who notified search and rescue teams of a possible missing fisherman. He was located shortly after and returned to shore safely.

NFMRA has received two of five containers containing 75 boat trailers for local fishermen.

The trailers are procured under the Artisanal Outboard Motor Fishers



*Minister urges fishermen to adhere to safety measures and maintain communications while at sea*

Assistance Project and assigned to fishermen who placed their orders around June 2020.

The Minister also advised Parliament of a recent concern circulating in the community with news of possible COVID-infected sea vessel crew in the region; that while these vessels have not entered Nauru waters, fishermen are warned not to approach any vessel – cargo, fuel and fishing vessels of any kind if they are spotted at sea.

The situation is closely being monitored as part of border protection measures.

The Minister thanks the Government of Japan for the donation of a boat that will enhance fisheries training and development initiatives.

The 11-metre boat with capacity to carry 15 passengers is provided through Japan's International Cooperation System (JICS).

Japan is also honouring a request for an additional winch to be placed at the Anibare Community Harbour for launch and retrieval of local fishing boats.

In March the Department of Audit commenced auditing the Government's Annual Financials 2018-19, as well as the Government's Commercial Fund Account.

President Aingimea says the department anticipates presenting its audited reports at the next sitting.

Minister for Women's and Social Development Affairs, Isabella Dageago was pleased to report the successful execution of national consultations in preparation for the 14th Triennial Women's Regional Conference that was held virtually over 27-29 April.

Women and girls from different fields, age groups and backgrounds were invited to participate in the conference.

The outcomes of the conference set the stage for the following 7th Ministers for Women's meeting on 4 May.

The department continues working on the National Action Plan for Women; a National Sexual Harassment Policy and a day care centre, as well as a sports program focused on addressing gender-based violence; while a health and family parenting program is in the pipeline.

Following recent budget approvals, the Miss Nauru Pageant and the Miss Aroeni Pageant will be supported by the women's affairs and child protection divisions, respectively.

The department's child protection unit is looking at awareness programs on stopping criminal behaviour in young adults highlighting the consequences of such actions and decisions.

*Cont pg 5...*

## Parliament - statements

...from pg 4

Minister Dageago says the approval and support by the Australian Government for programs related to bullying and child neglect has set the division up for a busy month of June.

The work of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit with development partners has led to the completion of the analysis of 13 gender policies from around the region; prompting a skeleton outline of the gender policy which is being prepared for Cabinet endorsement in August.

As a requirement under section 17 of the Interpretation Act 2011, Justice Minister Maverick Eoe tabled subsidiary legislations: Price Control Order No. 1, 2021; National Disaster Risk Management (COVID-19) (Vaccination) Regulations 2021; Employment and Services Tax (Amendment to Schedule) Regulations 2021; Dog Management and Control (Licencing of Dogs) (Amendment) Regulations 2021; National Disaster Risk Management (COVID-19) (Vaccination) (Amendment) Regulations 2021; Naoero Citizenship (Forms and Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2021; Environmental Management and Climate Change (Ban of Single Use Plastic Bag) Regulations 2021; and Price Control Order No. 2, 2021.

Subsidiary legislations are required to supplement and ensure the provisions of the principle legislation are implemented and enforced.

While COVID-19 border closures and increased isolation from the rest of the world has been a challenge, Minister for the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, Reagan Aliklik says it has also been an “opportunity to look inward, to self-reflect, and to get our own house in order.”

NRC continues to meet its obligations for the new port and solar farm, and gearing up for the multi-generational Higher Ground Initiative (HGI) project.

Minister Aliklik says the vision for Topside will be defined by the Nauruan people over the next few years.

“We are on the tip of a grand undertaking that will set the course of our country for the rest of the century. And I firmly believe that HGI should be developed by Nauruan minds and built by Nauruan hands.”

To make this a reality, NRC has started an adult education program and prioritised job training opportunities and capacity development to prepare them to take on big responsibilities and projects including the HGI.

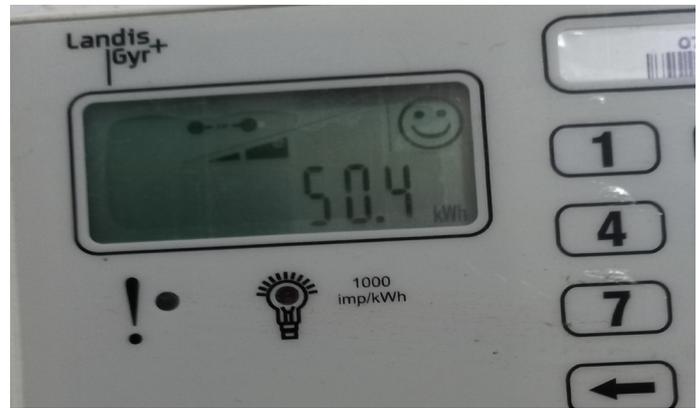
The Minister adds that when borders reopen, NRC workers will be prepared to “grab their hard hats and start building our future on Topside.”

Minister for Nauru Utilities Corporation, Wawani Dowiyogo says the company’s recent budget proposal demonstrates its continued efficient operation and maintenance capabilities in delivering water and electricity services, covering its operating costs including depreciation.

Energy and water tariffs, fees and charges in all customer categories remain unchanged.

NUC has also rolled out its new electronic-based water customer billing system which will enhance customer service experience when ordering, despatching and delivering water to its customers.

Minister Dowiyogo says NUCs financial stability has been helped by the implementation of the government community service obligations scheme which subsidises residential tariff rates, as well as lower fuel prices and increased demand for water and electricity, and prudent financial and operational management.



*Energy and water tariffs, fees unchanged*

Diesel generation has provided reliable power supply over the 10 month period to date with 31.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity produced to meet customer demand – the monthly average being 2.7 million kilowatt hours.

Technical and non-technical energy losses over the period have reduced from 21 per cent to 12 per cent in April.

“Reduced losses reflect operational efficiencies and savings for NUC,” Minister Dowiyogo said.

While the minister acknowledges interruptions to power supply especially in the months November and December 2020, ongoing preventative measures including parts replacements in recent months, have improved supply.

To further address the issue, NUC is using infrared thermal imaging camera to detect hotspots and use of new polymer crossarms, reducing incidents of crossarm fires.

The Nauru government and Asian Development Bank-funded six megawatt solar farm is on schedule for completion in 2022 with land preparation works by NRC completed.

The solar farm is projected to generate, and likely exceed Nauru’s renewable energy target of 50 per cent of total energy exported to the main grid, thus further offset the use of diesel fuel.

Minister Dowiyogo says the period to April, total solar energy generated from rooftop installation and ground mounted solar sites was 3.3 million kilowatt hours with 2.8 million kilowatt hours exported to the grid. This makes up around 15 per cent of total energy delivered to the grid over the period.

For the 10-month period to April, a total of 249 million litres of water was produced; of that 210 million litres was delivered to the people of Nauru, while 4.6 million litres stored for security each month to December 2020.

The demand for water is approximately 65 litres per person per day; however this average has reduced significantly in the last two months with the increased rainfall recorded at 9mm in March and 256mm in April.

NUC is also designing the installation of a new underground 11kV supply and 1.5MVA transformer station to supply the new sea port complex.

Overall, NUC is undertaking a number of major projects and works in both the power generation and distribution, and water divisions. On average 35 new customers are connected to the power supply each month.

*Cont pg 6...*

## Parliament - statements

...from pg 5

Minister for Internal Affairs, Isabella Dageago presented the activities of the department including the successful life-skills program offered by Youth Affairs which brought out the artistic handicraft creations of the youth participants with their tomano wood furniture and art works.

Youth Affairs continues to work with the statistics bureau on youth unemployment rates and with the family and community section in addressing community concerns on youth behaviour towards drugs.

The department celebrated Autism day in April with activities and compositions, concluding in a walk rally and prizes presented by Madam Ingrid Aingimea.

The culture division celebrated World Culture Diversity Day on 21 May with local craft weaving lessons; while the language division has deferred Mother Language Day activities.

Finance Minister Martin Hunt presented the 2021-22 development fund projections noting the past year has been a difficult one for Nauru's development partners, given their struggles with COVID-19.

“Despite battling COVID-19 in their countries, Nauru's donors stood firm and generously helped Nauru fight the pandemic, and continue the important work of building a resilient Naoero,” Minister Hunt said.

Development partners pledged \$104.1 million in support for the financial year 2021-22 – a slight decrease from last year's projection of \$106.8 million which reflects the difficulties of progress posed by border closures and travel restrictions.

The government anticipates cash grants of \$14.1 million and aid-in-kind contributions of \$80.7 million.

Project-related budget support is projected to be \$2.5 million; and \$11.6 million will be carried over from the previous financial year.

Minister Hunt acknowledges the strong and reliable support of donor partners in these trying times and thanks them for the commitment to building a stronger, resilient Nauru.

Financial commitments for the coming year include \$48.9 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Australia \$26 million; Taiwan \$20 million, and NZ \$4.5 million.

The United Nations will continue to support current programs with its pledge of \$2.4 million, while Japan has also pledged \$2.2 million for economic and social development projects.

Minister Hunt says there is no new funding support from the European Union this financial year for the Pacific region, however, has recently granted extension of current regional and national development programs into 2022.

Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke advised the House that the 14 government-sponsored Nauruan students in Fiji are well looked after with their billeted families as COVID-19 has forced Fiji schools to go on extended school holidays.

The 12th Forum Education Ministers' meeting of Pacific Island Forum member countries, met virtually on 13 to 14 April under the theme Building Resilience in Pacific Education Systems.

While some countries that are still COVID-free, Deputy Minister Menke said all countries reported to have begun work on preparation and contingency plans for the possibility of COVID entering their borders.



*Teacher shortage is among the issues raised by schools in the region*

Also presented at the meeting was the regional Status of Pacific Education Report 2020 on educational indicators from each country.

The reports looks at attendance in early childhood education, completing primary education, and significant improvements in literacy and numeracy levels for primary students over the last three Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (PILNA).

The PILNA research captures the progress of the region's students in literacy and numeracy after four and six years of formal education.

PILNA is endorsed by the UNESCO Institute of Statistics as one of only nine cross-national learning assessments in the world that meets the criteria to measure the literacy and numeracy indicators as stated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

A common area identified as needing greater attention for members were teacher oversight including but not limited to teacher training, workforce supply and demand of teachers.

Another document, Out of School Children, published in April by the Commonwealth of Learning, reports the ongoing challenges of Pacific Island countries with access to and incomplete schooling and the associated ripple effects such as unemployment, antisocial behaviour, waste of human talent and negative impacts on economic growth.

DM Menke says the factors listed in the report that contribute to the problem, and shared by Nauru, include teacher absenteeism, teacher shortage, misperceptions about education, lack of options to access secondary education and beyond, and a lack of flexible curriculum choices.

“Interestingly, all countries in the study had provisions in their constitution and laws that mandate compulsory education up to secondary level, however, the dropout rates persist.”

Deputy Minister Menke says Nauru's school attendance this year reflects the number of days a student attends school as well as the number of students attending school.

The data indicates the 2021 attendance is averaging 62 per cent.

The department is also continuing its borderline program which aims to increase the ability of students in their literacy and numeracy skills. The program, which is heavily reliant on former teachers, is currently run by 12 tutors.

Deputy Minister Menke commends the pass out of Nauru College students from the cadet program run in partnership with the education department and Nauru Police, stating the many skills integrated into

*Cont pg 7...*

## Parliament - statements

...from pg 6

the program help to address negative behaviours and disciplinary issues with young students.

The ICT department is making headway in connecting all departments to the government network with fibre connectivity as well as security solutions.

Deputy Minister for ICT Pyon Debye says the increased role which information, communications and technology plays in society, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is helping to build that capacity through ICT training via online courses.

The department and Taiwan recently signed an MOU establishing the training centre. The courses will be delivered virtually by the Taiwan Digital Opportunity Centre.

DM Debye also commented on the success of the Mahatma Ghandi Centre of Excellence in IT, established and supported by the Government of India since 2019.

There have been over 250 enrolments in the six certificate courses in IT and continues to offer free courses.

Security solutions, Endpoint, has been rolled to over 500 laptops and desktop computers and over 30 servers that host the various government services.

Additionally, a firewall has been installed to further strengthen IT security as well as planned setup for encrypted VPN access to critical government services. The service will allow authorised users to log in remotely for work.

“This will allow critical government business to continue in the event of a COVID lockdown,” Deputy Minister Debye said.

Deputy Minister for the Regional Processing Centre, Asterio Appi confirms there are 108 transferees left on the island; 78 being refugees and 30 asylum seekers.

Australia continues negotiations with third countries for resettlement; the successful program has been with the United States.

While negotiations with Australia have resulted in retaining the RPC, the operations will be changed to an enduring capability form for repurposing and to serve as a deterrent for irregular immigrants to Australia.

Deputy Minister Appi informed the House that a new Memorandum of Understanding between Nauru and Australia will include funding arrangements for the hosting of the enduring capability system, as well as agreement for resettlement of any transferees in Nauru on a long term basis.

The provision of commercial services by Nauru and other services by the Department of Multicultural Affairs also make up the MOU.

“The Memorandum of Understanding is understood by both governments (Australia and Nauru) as the backbone and overarching agreement from which the partnership between Australia continues through regional processing.

“It further serves as the framework on which other operational agreements and funding support are placed on in the spirit of partnership in addressing issues of mutual concern.”

At the time of parliament, it was anticipated that 10 transferees will be returned to Nauru in the coming weeks after having completed their medical treatments in Australia.

As Nauru Post continues to open doors and services to ensure



*Nauru Post continues to build on services to ensure survivability and quality service*

survivability, Deputy Minister for Nauru Post Richard-Hyde Menke says the state owned entity plans to become the preferred logistics support agent for all of Nauru.

This includes working in harmony with suppliers and transport providers Nauru Airlines and the shipping companies that serve Nauru.

Although COVID-19 has impacted the services Nauru Post was able to provide, it did continue to operate but at a slower pace and trade continued at a profitable level, enabling dividend payments and business tax paid to treasury.

DM Menke highlighted the recent developments which include the name change for logistics provider EHCTS to Nauru Post Logistic Services. NPLS will continue to provide all logistics services to the Nauru government, state-owned entities, private businesses and the general public.

Under the Desperate Imagination vision, Naoero Postal Services Corporation has decided to invest in a tissue paper project that is expected to commence by the end of the year.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Asterio Appi presented the meeting outcomes of the 77th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), held virtually in late April.

The meeting’s theme was, *Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.*

Deputy Minister Appi says, the annual event is an opportunity to deliberate on ways to further strengthen regional cooperation and great connectivity, and to build resilience from a position of strength at a time of significant risks unleashed by different crises.

At the meeting DM Appi stated that for Small Island Developing States like Nauru, there is no reprieve in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change during the COVID pandemic.

“While global activities for climate change have been delayed since the pandemic’s onset, our islands and our people continue to be affected and impacted.”

As COVID-19 disrupted many traditional forms of operations, DM Appi says Nauru’s link to the outside world through the national airline and shipping has brought much needed health and essential supplies to the island; and repatriation made possible by Nauru Airlines.

“While our remoteness has been key in maintaining a COVID-free status, connectivity remains a challenge.”

*Cont pg 8...*

## Parliament - Bills

...from pg 7

### BILLS

Justice Minister Maverick Eoe tabled four bills to parliament, the first on 27 May being the Revised Written Laws Bill 2021 relating to the Law Revision and Consolidation Act passed in 2019.

This Act makes provision for the revision and consolidation of all written laws of Nauru.

The Law Revision Commissioner in conjunction with the Department of Justice revised and consolidated over 700 separate pieces of written laws, both principal and subsidiary.

The Minister explains that the revision allows for the modernisation and simplification of the language of a written law but do not change the meaning and substance of the law.

“This Bill in essence, updates, supersedes references, corrects typographical and grammatical errors and omissions, and clarifies ambiguous terminology in our laws.

“None of the revisions constitute substantive changes in policy or programs of government.”

The revision includes giving all Acts a commencement date, and a uniform introduction put into all legislation.

Upon the Bills endorsement by the House, the revised and consolidated laws will be in seven volumes, published in bound, loose leaf format binders, and in digital format.

“This is the first time ever that all our written laws will be published in bound volumes and loose leaf binders,” Minister Eoe said.

The second amendment was sought for section 63 of the District Court Act 2018 which prohibits the District Court to sit on the weekend as well as on public holidays.

The Interpretation Act 2011 defines a working day as a day that excludes Saturday, Sunday and a public holiday.

The Bill proposed to change this and allow the court to sit on

weekends and public holidays.

While some dissent was noted from the floor opposing any court to sit on a Sunday, the presenting minister said this was to cater for urgent matters, and explained that certain circumstances, such as abuse in a household, warrant a case be expedited and the perpetrator dealt with swiftly by the courts.

The Bill was subsequently passed.

Minister Eoe then tabled an amendment to the Supreme Court Act 2018, specifically to section 109 which prohibits the Supreme Court to sitting on Sundays or public holidays.

The proposal to sit on a Sunday again received strong opposition prompting a call for division that resulted in 12 votes against four, allowing the Supreme Court to sit on Sundays.

“This mandatory prohibition [of Sunday sittings] has prevented the Court from hearing urgent or emergency court applications on such a day,” Minister Eoe said.

In urgent cases, the Court now has the discretion to sit on weekends and public holidays.

The Minister tabled the final Bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Act 1972 to allow a charge which is filed in the Supreme Court by way of ‘information’, and a ‘charge’ in the District Court, to be amended to ensure that the evidence meets the information or charge.

The defence and prosecution prepare their case and argument based on the information or charge that is filed in court.

However, sometimes there is a need to amend the information or charge due to the nature of an investigation, evidence obtained or unintentional errors made in drafting a charge or information.

Prior to the amendment, there was no provision under the Act to amend the information or charge.

The Bill gives the Court the discretion to consider an application for amendment of an information.

*Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation can be obtained at [http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru\\_lpms/](http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/) •*

## Unveiling of new WWII memorial on anniversary of leper deaths

Final touches to the new Truk monument, renamed as the World War II Memorial, will be complete and ready for the unveiling by President Lionel Aingimea, at the Aiue Boulevard on Saturday, 10 July.

The memorial date, 11 July, is selected to commemorate the day the 39 lepers who were killed during the Japanese occupation of Nauru in 1943.

The names of over 1,000 Nauruans and foreigners who died and survived the occupation on Nauru and Truk as a result of the Second World War are embossed on marble and will feature on the Nauru phosphate rock memorial wall.

The monument is dedicated in honour and remembrance of all Nauruans who were exiled to Truk but did not return, those who returned, those who remained in Naoero and perished as a result of War, those who suffered from Leprosy and were killed, and those who gave up their lives for our island home Naoero during World War II.

The public is asked to respect the memorial and refrain from vandalising and littering the site •

NAURU BULLETIN



## Nauru accredits Irish ambassador

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea received the Ambassador-designate of Ireland to Nauru at the virtual presentation of credentials, 21 June.

Ambassador Breandán Ó Caollaí presented his letter of Credence from the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins and underscores the “strong feelings of solidarity” with the Nauruan people.

“We both appreciate the grave challenges that a changing climate and warming temperatures present to the welfare of our peoples,” Ambassador Ó Caollaí said.

The Ambassador first visited Nauru in 2019 which offered a firsthand insight to the challenges and impacts of climate change to ocean states like Nauru.

“I believe that both our peoples have a profound commitment to the United Nations where we work together to advance the fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and the respect for human rights”

Ambassador Ó Caollaí says Ireland’s recent membership on the UN Security Council will ensure that the voice of the Small Island Developing States of the South Pacific and Nauru is heard and amplified as well as channel support for COVID-19 vaccination efforts through the COVAX facility.

In response, President Aingimea congratulates the Ambassador and looks forward to working with Ireland in addressing and advancing the climate action agenda.



*Ambassador O Caollaí presented his credentials virtually, accompanied by Mrs O Caollaí*

“I am indeed pleased to register Ireland’s support and advocacy for small island states’ development issues within the United Nations Security Council as a newly elected member.

“Rest assured that my government will render assistance and goodwill to you during your tenure as Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Nauru,” President Aingimea said.

Ambassador Ó Caollaí began his diplomatic service with the Embassy of Ireland based in London from 1991 to 1994; and later appointments as permanent representative, consulate general and ambassador across Ireland’s diplomatic missions over the years.

The Ambassador serves the position concurrently with Papua New Guinea •

## Taiwan accepts first OMR charter

Taiwan extends hand of friendship and accepts unprecedented medical charter flight for Nauruans, on 30 March.

The first ever Nauruan medical charter flight was made possible under the framework of the MOU between Nauru’s Ministry of Health and Taiwan’s Taichung Veterans General Hospital for patient referral and with joint cooperation between the related ministries of Taiwan.

Minister for Health Isabella Dageago said the close and strong relationship between Nauru and Taiwan played a significant part in this humanitarian request for the overseas medical referral of 39 patients and 21 family escorts.

The patients received treatment at the Taichung Veterans General Hospital.

“Taiwan opened up to us. They (Taiwan) went out of their way and accommodated OMR from another country and with this many patients.

“This was a chance for our people to get tertiary level medical care,” Minister Dageago said.

Nauru is a handful of countries left in the world that has not recorded a single case of coronavirus yet the travel and quarantine restrictions remained a logistical challenge.

Ambassador of Taiwan to Nauru, Dean Wang believes “that as long as we are willing, there will always be a way. The medical referral is the best example.”

“Through the collaboration between Nauru and Taiwan, we have worked hard to overcome difficulties and finally completed the unprecedented medical charter flight from Nauru to Taiwan.

“I would like to thank DFAT, the Health Department, hospitals, airlines and related departments’ efforts, without their support, this would not be possible.

“I am pleased to see that Nauru patients have received good treatment in Taichung Veterans General Hospital,” Ambassador Wang said.

Minister Dageago says this was a collective effort by Cabinet to think outside the box and find ways to get urgent medical treatment for the patients.

“This was the only chance. We have a lot of patients that are not accepted into Australia and Fiji, simply because of the travel and COVID restrictions.

“They (Australia and Fiji) have to look after their own first.”

The only way patients were to get overseas medical treatment was on a direct chartered flight to Taiwan, bypassing additional quarantine requirements that would otherwise be imposed in other countries.

Minister Dageago is very thankful to the Taiwan Government for allowing the OMR.

Taiwan’s ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and the Bureau of Civil Aviation kept in close communications to ensure the flight arrangements were in place considering COVID-19 measures.

Prior to departure, Taiwan doctors were working with the RON Hospital in diagnosing and screening patients virtually to ascertain their conditions and level of treatments that would be expected.

By mid-March, arrangements were being finalised.

A special request was also made for the charter flight to land at Taichung International airport, which is a closer distance to the hospital that would be receiving the patients.

This week, 21 patients have completed treatment and awaiting a return flight home which at this time is considered to be another direct charter flight from Taiwan •

## Australia commits \$200k to media, stats in direct funding

The Australian Government committed \$200,000 to boost media and census undertakings, at the signing of Direct Funding Arrangements (DFA), 11 June.

The DFAs were signed by the Secretary for Finance Novena Itsimaera and the acting Australian High Commissioner Andrew Hodges at the Department of Finance.

The Nauru Media Bureau and the Bureau of Statistics are allocated \$100,000 each.

Nauru Media will use the funds to upgrade its broadcast transmission services from analog to digital thus greater quality offering better audience experience.

The Bureau of Statistics carries out major population census every ten years and this year another is due from September to October. The funding will support the purchase of digital equipment, technical assistance, data collection, and salaries for the enumerators that are recruited to undertake census work.

The Australian High Commission says the Australian government supports Nauru through DFA and aid-in-kind valued at over \$20 million each financial year •



*SecFin Itsimaera and acting Australian high commissioner Hodges sign \$200k direct funding agreement for media and statistics bureau*

## ADB embark on urban development

The Sustainable Urban Development Steering Committee (SUD-SC) and the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Pacific Department co-host inaugural meeting at USP, 9 June.

The committee is mandated to oversee the application of, and ensure the efficient alignment of, urban development policies, strategies and practices across the water, sanitation, energy, waste, environment and climate change sectors.

Members of the committee comprised of key government agencies and senior representatives from the state-owned entities, industry, and community-based organisations.

Starting with a Project Readiness Finance technical assistance of US\$5m in 2022, the ADB is also helping the Government of Nauru create an enabling environment for urban planning by working with the SUD-SC to build a regulatory framework for the sector via a series of regulations, standards, codes and practices.

Co-Chair of the Steering Committee Secretary for Climate Change Reagan Moses is pleased to see the committee take form and thanked the ADB for its continued support.

“Urban planning is especially significant today as the country experiences a rush of private housing construction and government initiatives such as the HGI come into effect,” Mr Moses said.

“Without an urban planning agency or regulatory authority, the country’s ability to properly manage and support urban development is limited.

“The Sustainable Urban Development Steering Committee not only plays an important role in aligning urban development policies, but it also serves as a mechanism to coordinate projects,



*Urban development increasingly important with the upsurge in community housing projects*

institutions and donors.”

Discussions on the establishment of its terms of reference were initiated so as to determine its roles and responsibilities and how the SUD-SC will fit in the overall contribution of urban development and sanitation.

The SUD-SC continues to discuss its ADB-funded project the Nauru Sustainable Urban Development Project which will start in January 2022.

Deliberations with the agencies that are expected to contribute in the various elements of the projects, among others include: Nauru Utilities Corporation (water); Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (solid waste); Eigu Holdings Corporation (sanitation); and the Ministry of Health (hygiene).

The committee will hold its next meeting in late July •

## Climate mitigation and planning

National consultation on climate-related migration, displacement and planned relocation was held at the USP campus, 15-16 June.

The consultation was facilitated by Climate Change and Migration Specialist Tyrone Deiye, and joining via Zoom were Program Manager Sabira Coelho and Program Specialist Christopher Yee.

The two-day consultation is aimed to enhance the protection and empowerment of communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific Region.

‘Climate mobility’ is an umbrella term referring to different types of movements observed in the context of climate change.

This may include migration undertaken voluntarily, for example rural to urban movement or cross-border labour migration undertaken as a form of adaptation; displacement, is a forced movement that can be internal or cross-border; and planned relocation of households or communities, which implies a permanent transplanting of communities and their assets in another location.

On day one, members of various communities and NGOs participated in the consultation and day two included members from government agencies and SOEs. They were focused and motivated to form dialogue with key government lead agencies and stake holders that could provide a plausible pathway in addressing the effects of climate change.

The two key recommendations highlighted from the consultation was firstly; for government to form a taskforce that would nurture the process into feasible and practical solutions in order to provide a safer and more climate ready environment for the communities.

The second recommendation was for Government to source funding requirements with its bi-lateral development partners to address these issues and assist our people in the future to help mitigate the effects and increase greater national resilience

## HR trials attendance by biometric clocking system

Trial commenced in June on a new biometric clocking system that is to provide an improved and effective service delivery of the public service.

The HR section of the Department of Chief Secretary is spearheading the initiative which will register all public servants by facial recognition, with most staff from Chief Secretary, Presidency and Ministerial completed 11 June.

All public servants will register, by facial scanning recognition, with most staff from Chief Secretary, Presidency and Ministerial completed today.

A trial run by these three departments using the scanner to ‘sign-in’ to work will commence on Monday 14 June. The scanner is stationed at the HR office.

Additional biometric clocks will be installed in other government office buildings by ICT.

Biometric clocking systems give accurate and reliable time recording results, intended to enhance and improve service delivery •



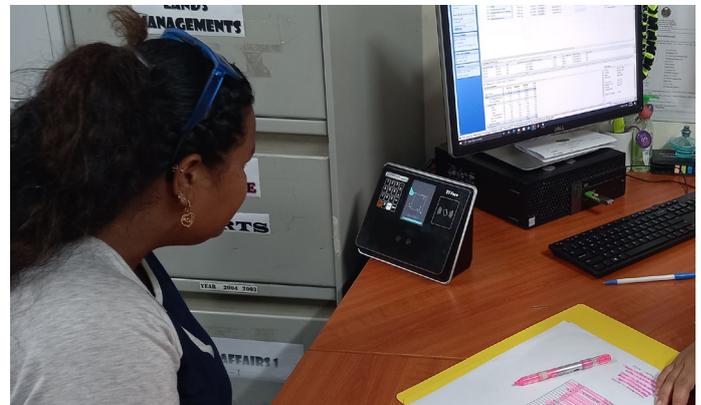
*Climate change and migration specialist Tyrone Deiye leads consultations aimed at enhancing community protection and empowerment against climate disasters*

against climate change.

The participants raised their concerns with a key issue; human security risk to natural disasters which are made worse due to the adverse effects of storm surges and droughts. They further mentioned the importance of planned relocation to the higher ground (topside).

Key outcomes which emerged from the discussions were that government agencies were still operating within organisational silos and divisions and have in effect caused the development of fragmented policies which the public are not fully aware of, so their engagement to implement these policies is limited.

The summary of the consultation’s outcome will be compiled into an outcome report which will be compiled with the other national consultation outcomes from other participating Pacific countries to inform regional approaches to address climate mobility •



*Clocking-in by facial recognition still in early trials before being rolled out to all departments*

## Congratulatory remarks by HE Lionel Aingimea, USP Chancellor

### Virtual thanksgiving for USP ranking achievement in the World Universities Real Impact ranking system

As Chancellor of USP and President of Nauru, I am delighted to be invited to make a few congratulatory remarks in celebration of this grand achievement of our University: achieving 11th rank in the World Universities Real Impact (WURI) Ranking System in the category of ‘Crisis Management’ 2021.

This is an amazing accomplishment, a reflection of the resilience and strength of our Pacific People.

The year 2020 will long be associated with the trauma and disruption caused by COVID-19. The pandemic has affected more than 50 million people around the world. It has governments operating in a framework of fundamental uncertainty, and faced with difficult commutations given the health, economic and social challenges it raises.

It has also been a very difficult time for higher education to survive globally. The pandemic has wrought great challenges such as the sudden need for conversion to online education, restricted research activities due to closed borders and restricted movements encumbered with COVID-19 protocols, leaving no one isolated from the transition to the ‘new norm’.

In the past year, through the relentless efforts of our staff and students, the University has been making great strides to maintain the continuity of business in teaching and learning in creative spaces and innovative use of digital and social platforms whilst undergoing a Council approved major organisational restructure.

Furthermore, given the university’s unusual geographical characteristics, there are also institutional difficulties brought on by the closure of borders. This has resulted in increased costs to support learning online for our students often without access to reliable connectivity or devices.

When WURI began its ranking in 2020, universities around the world rushed to be ranked by it because it provides a means to measure how valuable a university is to solving current real-world problems.

Encouraged by Professor Ahluwalia, the Vice-Chancellor and President, USP entered in the category of “Crisis Management” and provided the details of how it responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. The submission, titled Continuity of Education amidst COVID-19 Pandemic was submitted in December 2020.

Despite the obstacles and challenges of 2020, I am indeed a proud alumnus, and today to witness an international ranking system acknowledge our university as having stood the test of the year that was, and its successful experience in crisis management being acknowledged by the World Universities in



Ranking System (WURI) standing shoulder-to-shoulder with many prominent and well-resourced universities from across the world.

The attainment of this ranking in a year of turmoil for the University not only as a result of the Covid pandemic is testament of the innovativeness and deep partnership that the VCP and his Senior Management Team have forged with USP Staff to achieve a record budget surplus of F\$32.4 million. That surplus coupled with this ranking is a vindication of the management’s strategies in a year where they have not received funding from the Fiji Government.

As I reflect on my term as Chancellor, I am so proud to be a part of this great Pacific institution. We have struggled to bring about change at the heart of the university instituting reforms that will make USP stand out in the future. For me, this is the beginnings of inculcating a new paradigm, a renewal, a renaissance for our region – indeed it is about a New Pacific Consciousness for the 21st century. A period of great challenges but equally an era where we break the shackles of the past to determine our own future. It is this New Pacific Consciousness that we want our students to embrace. I am extremely grateful that as Chancellor I have been part of transforming USP, “Shaping Pacific Futures” and I pray that it is blessed with more recognition in the future.

USP is committed to developing itself into a university of excellence. Our priority is to build the University of the South Pacific into an institution that our people are proud of, one that provides a Values Led-Education that empowers Pacific cultures and values and a contributor to the higher education community globally.

God Bless you all.



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## No tobacco day: Commit to Quit

The World No Tobacco Day 2021 campaign aims to empower and support tobacco users on their journey to quit. This year's theme is 'Commit to Quit'!

Nauru Public Health launched its Cessation Program on World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), 31 May, with 113 individuals registered for the program.

The public health's tobacco awareness program is an ongoing program that's conducted in communities, workplaces and schools.

This year Kayser College was identified as the school where the health team will carry out its awareness program for WNTD. Years 6 to 8 students participated in the program.

In the previous two years Nauru College and NSS participated in WNTD program.

The speakers, Public Health nurse Kalesi Rokobeta and Health Promotion officer Dozono Gobure, spoke on the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke; followed by a question and answer session.

Non-communicable Disease Coordinator Don Kadir says, the use of tobacco models like the infected lungs, a tar build up jar, effects of second-hand smoking, and the ingredients in a roll of cigarette, really captivated the children.

The world event is to help promote awareness on the health risks of using tobacco and what people can do about it. The World Health Organisation established 'World No Tobacco Day' in 1987 to increase global attention on the issue.

A 2015-16 Nauru Stepwise Non-communicable Diseases Prevalence and Risk Factor Survey (Nauru-STEPS) revealed a reduction in the number of smokers compared to the 2004 -- from 53.1% to 46.3%.

The following Behavioural risk factors were evident in the 2015 STEPS survey:

- Nearly half of the Nauruan population (46.3%) were current smokers – 47.4% of men and 45.3% of women;
- Among men, those aged 18-29 (53.9%) were more likely to be smokers than those aged 45-69 (35.1%);
- On average, Nauruans began smoking at the age of 16.4 years;
- More than half (59.6%) of current daily smokers were heavy users, smoking 15 or more cigarettes a day;
- A significantly higher proportion of current daily smokers aged 45-69 smoked more than 25 cigarettes a day (26.5%) compared to those aged 18-29 (11.6%) and 30-44 years (15.2%);
- A higher proportion of male (20.4%) than female current daily smokers (11.5%) smoked more than 25 cigarettes a day;
- On average, current daily smokers smoked 16.3 manufactured cigarettes and 0.9 hand-rolled cigarettes daily;
- Nauruans aged 18-29 who were currently daily smokers smoked significantly fewer manufactured cigarettes (14.7 cigarettes) than those aged 45-69 (19.3 cigarettes);
- More than half of the population (54.7%) have been exposed to second-hand smoke in homes and 27.4% in workplaces.

A total of 1,386 individuals, 95.2% Nauruans and 4.8% of other ethnicity participated in the 2015 survey.

Issue 3-2021/228 • 9 July 2021



*A 2015-16 survey shows 46.3 per cent of population are smokers*

The Nauru Tobacco Control Act 2009, states:

1. It is an offence to sell cigarettes in a broken package, (Article 8);
2. It is an offence to supply a tobacco product to a person under 18 years of age, or buy a tobacco product for a person under 18 years of age, (Article 9);
3. It is an offence to smoke in any school, hospital, enclosed public place or in any enclosed workplace, (Article 13-15).

For more on the Tobacco Control Act, go to: [http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru\\_lpms/index.php/act/view/568](http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/568)

The World Health Organisation launched a global campaign to celebrate the World No Tobacco Day 2021, which is conducted under the slogan "Commit to Quit". The goal of the campaign is to help 100 million people quit tobacco use through various initiatives and digital tools.

Visit the Nauru Public Health Centre today to 'Commit to Quit'!

<https://www.who.int/.../world.../world-no-tobacco-day-2021> •



## AHC donates cars for community health services

Nauru Public Health received additional vehicles from the Australian High Commission (AHC), valued at \$50,000 to meet transport needs for community health and wellness programs, 21 June.

In receiving the two vehicles from acting Australian High Commissioner Andrew Hodges, Minister for Health Isabella Dageago says the donation is only part of a commitment by the Australian DFAT and health service provider Palladium.

The Minister says the vehicles will provide “better access to communities in under-served areas and provide support where adequate transportation is needed to provide quality health care services.”

The wellness centres are providing NCD, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health, and nutrition support to Nauruan communities.

Mr Hodges adds the donation is part of broader support to Nauru health through the three-year Nauru Health Support program which focuses on NCDs, pharmaceutical software system and electronic medical health system.



*Additional vehicles will ease transportation issues for health home visits*

AHC will also be refurbishing the community wellness centres to increase the provision of primary health services in the community •

## PNA headquarters soft opening

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), which controls waters where half of the global supply of skipjack tuna is caught, held a “soft” opening of its multi-million dollar headquarters in Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands, 6 May.

The four-story office building will have an official opening once border restrictions ease and fisheries ministers are able to attend.

CEO for Nauru Fisheries Charleston Deiyee says as custodians of the largest tuna stocks, the role of PNA countries is to “ensure the sustainability of the tuna stocks in the region and balancing that with economic development.”

The PNA generates revenue for the nine member countries, including Nauru, through a fisheries management system known as the vessel day scheme (VDS) that regulates purse seine fishing in the region.

Nauru is allocated just over 2,000 fishing days under the VDS.

The VDS calculations is based on a formula allowing for changes in the fishing patterns, based on a seven year rolling average.

The scheme has generated an almost 10-fold increase in revenue for the PNA governments.

Nauru fisheries revenue for 2019-20 performed strongly at \$73.1 million, but is expected to decline this financial year due to the global economic downturn and the resulting impact on demand for fishing licences and fishing days.

The PNA focuses efforts on sustainably managing tuna through the VDS, which is an agreement on a limited number of fishing days for the year, based on scientific advice about the status of the tuna stocks.

Fishing days are allocated by country and sold to the highest bidder. In this way, Pacific Islanders reap economic benefits from their sustainable management of tuna.

The PNA boasts as a global leader in tuna conservation and management, many of its conservation measures are world firsts



*The PNA generates revenue for the nine member countries including Nauru*

– such as high seas closures to fishing, controls on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), protection for whale sharks and the 100 per cent coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers.

No dolphins are caught in PNA waters and the PNA is actively involved in limiting by-catch of other species.

The PNA was formed during a meeting of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Nauru in 1982.

The FFA acted as the secretariat until 2010 when parties decided to take more control over its affairs and established an office in the Marshall Islands.

PNA Members are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, plus Tokelau •

## DFAT concludes e-commerce workshop

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade hosted its final meeting on e-Commerce validation workshop at the USP campus, 22 June.

The meeting focused on what the government and its stakeholders must do in order to prepare Nauru in trading through e-Commerce. This includes introducing policies, laws and organisational frameworks which will enable businesses in Nauru to engage in broader international markets.

National Consultant Alumita Lekenaua says the workshop was a very comprehensive presentation.

“It takes a bit of time for the stakeholders to process all the findings and different recommendations, but with this document what we hope to achieve from this government is a road map to guide Nauru in its e-Commerce development.”

Nauru Airlines’ head of Corporate Services Limay Uera says businesses in Nauru need to get products sold in markets overseas to drive exports; adding that the assessment was comprehensive and concise, having clear roles and factors taken into account.

The comments and discussions will be compiled for the final outcomes draft for submission to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Regional countries will do the same.

The workshop was facilitated by Director for Trade Masau Detudamo, assisted by Ms Lekenaua and Trade Specialist Rahul Bhatnagar •



*Facilitators guide discussions on e-commerce policies and frameworks*

## Oath continues with 100+ staff

An additional 113 individuals have taken the public service oath from 27 May to and 17 June.

Fifty-nine members from the National Emergency Services took the oath at the Fire Department, 20 staff from Nauru Media, Department of People with Disability, the Judiciary, Department of Transport and various other departments who had missed their scheduled times took theirs at the Chief Secretary’s office on 10 June.

Thirty- four others from the Department of Multicultural Affairs took theirs at the CRC office on 17 June.

The ceremonies were presided over by the Acting Chief Secretary Sasi Kumar, and witnessed by Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu, and a representative from the justice department.

Public servants across the 26 government departments take part in the ceremony whereby they swear to render faithful service as an officer of the public service; never unlawfully communicate official information and; not use official information unlawfully for personal or others’ gain •



## HR leadership training with HODs

Six candidates are participating in an HR leadership development pilot program developed by the HR department and the New Zealand Public Service.

The initial meeting introducing the six once-monthly interactive 3-hour sessions covering mindset, connect, purpose, achieve, feedback, and develop, kicked-off on 16 June with facilitator Jeremy Leslie zooming in from NZ, and Nauru’s HR consultant Meleoni Uera coordinating on ground.

The first part of each session reflects on what each participant has tried over the last month and what they have learnt. They will be provided with self-directed Development & Action guides to help them explore the theme for the following month.

The selection is based on key departments (HR, education, health, media, ICT, climate change) and participants who are familiar with managing a group or team of employees. The exercise is targeted to build capacity for their HR staff – thus enhance their HR work and boost service delivery.

Peer learning is encouraged where participants meet in smaller groups between the monthly sessions to support each other in their learning and challenge each other to stretch and try new skills •



## President confers USP awards, last as chancellor

Sixteen students of USP Nauru received their certificates with the special privilege of having both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor in attendance, 29 June.

President Lionel Aingimea conferred the certificates as his last awards ceremony as Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific before his term ends on 1 July.

“Your achievements are truly remarkable, and we have so much to celebrate together as a University, and as a nation, most especially for having achieved what you have in a year where a global pandemic has wreaked havoc.”

Campus Director Sarina Tamakin says while Nauru is COVID-free, the learning process has shifted but “despite a difficult year, we witness today, 16 graduates.”

Graduates Edina Dagagio and Francilia Akubor shared their inspirational and personal experiences of their journeys as a single parent and young mother.

Ms Dagagio, a single parent since 2012, raised her six children while studying part time and working in security and Saturday’s at a private school.

“Studying at USP has opened new doors [and] opportunities. I am now a student counsellor and welfare officer at Nauru Secondary School.

“My ultimate aim is to qualify and practice what I’ve learned and give back to my work place, community and my children.”

Ms Akubor said although a “lost teenager” succumbing to peer pressure she was fortunate to have enrolled in a mature-aged education program in Fiji which led on to her USP journey.

“My fellow graduates, when you made the choice to start your USP studies, you started the growth process and when you chose to stay regardless of the challenges ahead of you; you continued that process.”

During her mature studies, she had her first child who “became my motivation to persevere towards a better me.”

“For others to find a good support, a reason to persevere towards their goals and to always remember that education is an essential foundation for a good future because it kept opening doors for me.”

## Fisheries donates fridge to kids ward

Deputy Minister Pyon Deie received a refrigerator from Minister Wawani Dowiyogo on behalf of the Department of Health and Medical Services at the Fisheries office, 28 May.

The refrigerator was purchased with money received from the registration fees from the World Tuna Day fishing competition. The money was used to purchase the refrigerator which was then donated for the children at the children’s ward in RON Hospital as it was determined to be an essential need.

Deputy Minister Deie thanked the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) for continuing their initiative in assisting the RON Hospital through their donations.

And Minister Dowiyogo also acknowledged the contribution of the fishermen who participated in the World Tuna Day fishing competition.

The NFMRA donated also donated an ambulance in 2016 and medical equipment in 2018 •



*Seated: President Aingimea and VC Ahluwalia with graduates of USP and Pacific TAFE*

In closing, VC Professor Pal Ahluwalia says being in Nauru allowed him to see the struggles students face with connectivity and resources, and “it’s such a testament to your resilience that you are where you are today. It’s much easier for people elsewhere.”

The VC says the USP’s new strategic plan will give more emphasis to regional campuses and to make things easier for those students.

The 16 graduates from Pacific TAFE and USP are:

Certificate IV in Resilience – Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Management:

- Chubasco Diranga, Diminski Reweru, Evayne Gaubidi, Inemwin Kepae, Joshua Scotty, Lucy Duburiya, Mutombo Harris, Phaedora Harris, Win-Ed Canon

Certificate IV Counselling: Edina Dagagio

Certificate IV Library Studies: Jurena Fricanna Botelanga

Certificate in Justice: Ateca Cama and Lisa-Marie Solomon

Bachelor of Commerce – Economics & Accounting: Justin Togoran

Post Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting: Francilia Akubor

Post Graduate Diploma in Education: Richard David Lewis •



*Nauru Fisheries donate fridge to childrens’ ward purchased from fishing competition entry fees*

## More graduate from health, safety training

Fifty-three locals attained Australian-recognised Certificate IV in Workplace Health and Safety, thus equipping them for different industries.

The course, organised by the Nauru RPC Corporation, focused on structured units in workplace health and safety. This included Design and Presentation; Communication Skills; Leadership Skills; Returning Injured Workers Back to Workplace; WHS Hazard Identification; Risk Assessment and Risk Control; and Documenting Writing Skills.

At the ceremony, held at the Menen hotel on 26 May, Deputy Minister for NRPC Asterio Appi said, “The key word for today is well done.”

“To all our course participants in this high level training, the attainment of a Certificate IV in Workplace Health and Safety is a top class attainment for Nauruans and I commend you all again for this great achievement.

“We are proud to have rolled this out in another phase for our country’s development and having so many graduates is a testimony to the number of Nauruans who in attaining this qualification, will contribute to higher standards in our workplace.

“This award is recognised in Australia and we are very pleased that there are so many graduates who have stuck out in order to attain this level of qualification. This course is designed to prepare candidates to enter the field of work health and safety in different industries,” DM Appi said.



*Graduates equipped with Australian-recognised workplace health and safety qualification*

The course facilitator Michael Stewart, Director for AUSTRAIL Training Services said the experience was “overwhelming.”

“I’m very happy with all the candidates and what they’ve achieved.”

The course participants ranged from the public service and state-owned-enterprise (SOE). They are expected to utilise and implement their newly gained knowledge to further raise the standards of their respective workplaces.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea, the Speaker of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps attended the ceremony at the Meneñ Hotel.

This is the second time that the program has been conducted on island; with the first held in 2019 •

## Customs brokers pass with distinction

Twenty-one participants from the Customs Broker Training Course attended their awards ceremony at the Cabinet Room, 15 June.

Of the 21 participants, Alvin Harris, Ashy Scotty and Henriona Denuga passed the course with distinction.

The awards ceremony began with the opening remarks from the Secretary for Finance Novena Itsimaera.

“Countries have realised the importance of trade to the achievement of sustainable economic goals,” Ms Itsimaera said.

The course, facilitated by trainer and consultant Viliame Raikuna, focused on the core fundamentals of being a broker and topics on the procedures, policies and international agreements for increasing commerce and economic growth.

“The collections of revenue, the interpretations of the law, the way you become a part being between the government, the law enforcement agencies and the trader, you are there in the middle, you are transacting the information,” Mr Raikuna said.

The course ran for two weeks, from 26 April •



*Customs brokers ready to contribute to trade development in Nauru*

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