



## MICS surveys covers modules pertaining to children

The Nauru Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is conducting the first Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in Nauru, commencing 31 August.

Nauru MICS Coordinator Lindsay Thoma says the survey covers and captures multiple modules and indicators pertaining to children such as safe water, sanitation, education, family planning, tobacco use, alcohol, nutrition, immunisation, HIV knowledge, height, and weight.

The survey was initially planned for 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A team of experts from UNICEF arrived a few months earlier to conduct a four-



*MICS team member performs water quality testing for one of the selected houses*

week MICS training for a 16-member survey team in preparation for this survey.

The survey includes different questionnaire modules for different age classes, gender and households; and the

use of devices to measure the physical properties of a body; water testing; and interviews.

Mr Thoma says data information collected is very important and that key decision makers and policy planners can use the "MICS indicators to update reports towards the Nauru NSDS [National Sustainable Development Strategy] goals and global SDG [Sustainable Development Goals] that addresses the health and wellbeing of a child".

The multiple indicator cluster surveys differ from the general census as only a few selected houses or people will be surveyed. The fieldwork is currently underway and will take a month to complete •

## High level consultation discuss development, collaboration, cooperation

High level consultation between the Nauruan and Australian Governments was underway at Parliament House, 31 August.

Held once every two years, the consultation aims to provide the opportunity for both governments to discuss priority areas for development, potential points of collaboration and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

It also helps to guide and re-align efforts to address priority issues including regional security, human development and economic diversification.

These talks involve a number of key government departments and stakeholders such as, the Department of Education, the Nauru Police Force and Department Foreign Affairs and Trade amongst others.

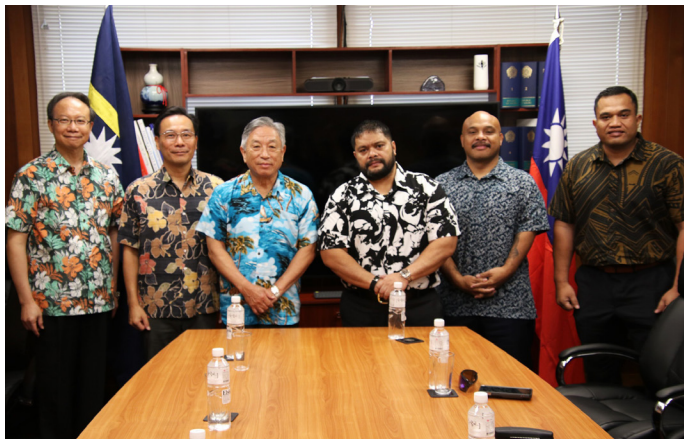
This marks the first consultation held between the two new governments •



*Key government departments and stakeholders discuss priority areas with representatives from the Australian government*

## Taiwan reaffirms games support

Taiwan's deputy minister for foreign affairs reaffirms support and commitment to assist Nauru's proposed plan to build facilities to host the 2026 Micronesian Games, during his visit to Nauru, 18-22 August.



*Deputy Minister Tien meets with President Kun and Cabinet Ministers*

Deputy Minister Chung-Kwang Tien's visit further strengthens the diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Nauru and an opportunity to further identify key priority areas that both governments can progress together.

His Excellency President Russ Kun hosted Mr Tien and his delegation to a welcome dinner, 18 August, and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the government and the people of Nauru for Taiwan's continued support.

"Nauru will continue to work closely with the Government of Taiwan to foster the existing friendly relations between our two nations for the mutual benefit of our peoples," President Kun said.

The following morning Mr Tien paid courtesy calls on President Kun, Cabinet Ministers, Speaker Marcus Stephen, and senior government officials.

The Deputy Minister said it was a good opportunity to have constructive dialogue to further identify areas of collaboration between Nauru and Taiwan.

Mr Tien visited the designated sites for the Micronesian Games on 20 August to inspect progress and discuss the project to build a track and field stadium similar to the one in the Marshall Islands.

Deputy Minister for Sports Jesse Jeremiah says the government remains committed and wants to see the success of this historical event happen in Nauru.

He says hosting the Micronesian Games will welcome more opportunities and other benefits such as health improvement through increased physical activity engagement.

"We remain optimistic and plan to meet the deadline. Our local stakeholders, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and Ronphos are doing their best in clearing and levelling the new land site to put the track and field stadium," Mr Jeremiah said.

Mr Tien also attended the Aroeni Day Celebrations and visited a number of ongoing developing projects around the island such as the higher ground initiative, the port development project and Taiwan's technical mission.

Deputy Minister Tien departed Nauru on 22 August. Nauru and Taiwan formally established diplomatic relations in 1980 •

## Saudi tourism minister on Pacific tour

Saudi Arabia's Minister for Tourism Ahmed Al Khateeb paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Russ Kun and Cabinet Ministers, 31 August.



*Saudi Minister Khateeb meets President Kun on his short visit to Nauru*

President Kun expressed his appreciation to the Saudi delegation's arrival in Nauru, reaffirming their commitment to continue work on development efforts.

Minister Khateeb's visit to Nauru is part of his wider Pacific tour, presenting an opportunity to renew discussions and strengthen diplomatic relations.

The visit lasted over an hour before the Minister and his delegation departed for Fiji later that day on a private aircraft •

## Nauru, Korea talk health cooperation

His Excellency President Russ Kun met with Korean Minister for Health and Welfare Hon. Kyoo-Hong Cho in Brisbane this week to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with priority focus on the health sector.

The cooperation includes infrastructure, capacity development and future visits from Korean officials to further assess Nauru's needs.

Other areas will include public health refurbishments and training of health professionals •



*President Kun and Korea Minister discuss Health priorities*



## UK High Commissioner visits Nauru

British High Commissioner to Nauru Thomas Coward paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Russ Kun, 31 August.

President Kun welcomed the High Commissioner who is on island for a week to meet with different government and state-owned enterprises sectors and attend the opening of the Chamber of Commerce office.

Mr Coward will depart Nauru on 8 September •



*President Kun receives British HC Thomas Coward at the Office of the President*

## Statistics launch 2021 census report

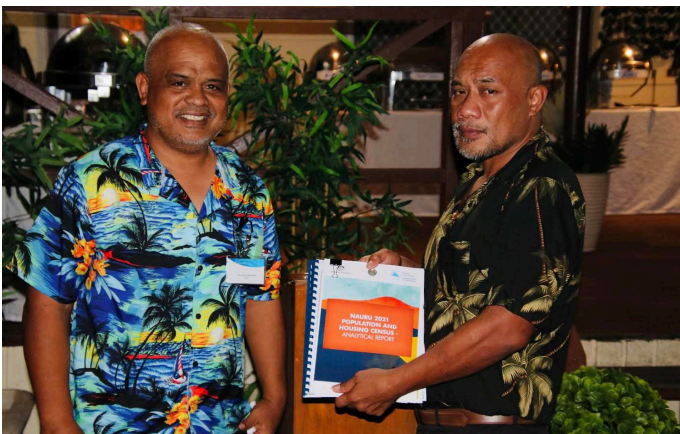
The Nauru population and household census analytical report was officially launched by the Bureau of Statistics, 28 August.

The census is an official survey published every ten years. It gathers a variety of information on the population of Nauru, compiling data that will be used to provide guidance on future plans and projects that the government aims to implement.

“Given the major challenges in our social and economic environmental landscape, in a post COVID-19 world... it is imperative that we collect the data, that will allow us to assess the magnitude of these occurrences and their impact to better plan for our future,” Officer in Charge Ramrakha Detenamo said.

The Statistics for Development Division at the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian government jointly assisted the Nauru government in carrying out the census providing technical and financial support.

The event took place at The Bay Restaurant. The next census will be conducted in 2031 •



*Acting Chief Secretary Ipia Gadabu receives a copy of the 2021 census report*

## Interpreting census data workshop

The Nauru Bureau of Statistics (NBOS) and the Pacific Community (SPC) successfully completed a three-day joint workshop for statistics reading and interpretation, 29 August – 1 September.



*Stakeholders participate in the workshop for statistics reading and interpretation*

The workshop designed to enhance the participants' understanding on how to properly read and interpret census data, including the NBOS' 2021 population and housing census analytical report just released the day prior.

Officer in Charge Ramrakha Detenamo said it was a great opportunity for people to broaden their understanding on Nauru's current socioeconomic environment and helped to address some issues that each department might be facing in terms of accumulating and sharing data with relevant stakeholders.

Statistics can help provide vital information and put things into better perspective, ensuring that policies being enacted are formulated and justified with proper analytical evidence.

Funded by the Australian government, the census primarily covers population count, but it also goes into detail about each household's educational needs, financial challenges and food security amongst other variables.

Some highlights from the census include a rise in Nauru's population, from 10,084 in 2011 to 11,680, an increase of about five per cent.

Despite Nauru's growing population, the census indicates that modern families are having fewer children compared to previous decades. Notably, the number of each individual households in Nauru recorded in the 2021 census was 2,021.

The NBOS is a section under the Department of Finance •



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## APSC conducts public service HR training

Key department personnel of the Nauru Public Service concluded three days' training by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) Centre of Excellency for Workforce Planning, 31 August.

Facilitated by the Human Resource and Labour (HR) section of the Chief Secretary's Department the training covered basic HR training, developing workforce plans, fine tune overall HR central and proper data collection to strengthen staff tracking, vacancies and critical gaps for growth depending on government priorities.

Other modules included how to engage stakeholders and gain buy-in particularly from leadership or agencies for workforce planning practices.

On the final day, training covered a data storage module and how to communicate the narratives, and bring together the critical roles and skills that might be needed and how to communicate that to leaders, on-ground managers and staff.

Responding to an invitation by the APSC last year for two participants, Acting Chief Secretary Ipia Gadabu said recognising the valuable training content he preferred the team was in-country to allow a larger number of staff from as many departments to participate,.

Collectively as a public service, Mr Gadabu says there's a need to come up with a workforce plan, while there are establishment plans, the core planning for staff and recruitment are more on an ad-hoc basis.

APSC Acting Director International, Ingrid Nielsen, and Assistant Directors for Workforce Insights Ayesha Abbasi, and Marlee Law delivered the training and awarded certificates of completion to the participants.

The team's training is dedicated to building public sector workforce planning skills, and have delivered similar training to Australian public servants and recently to Pacific Island public services such as Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and now Nauru.

The team said the engagement has been positive but not without challenges such as getting the right skills and using external contractors which became evident during COVID how reliant sectors like health and education were on expat staff.

Marlee Law says the training is customised to the country's needs.

"The key objective is to build in-country workforce planning skills. One, so that agencies can better deliver on the government requirements and that so they can meet the demands.

But also to help build skills in-house to reduce reliance on external consultants or contractors so these countries can address their own workforce planning risks as the people who know their workforce the best," Ms Law said.

For Nauru, the team included additional information around human resources skills particularly looking at the storage and management of HR data, to ensure all employees are captured and their data safely stored.

"We also brought in some additional information on how to analyse data and how to use it better, which is incredibly timely given that the census is just been released. So there's this whole new rich data set for public servants to use."



*Participants of the workshop show off their certificates of completion*

The team says a lot of their content customisation is participant-dependent and works through particular challenges of the different services and how they can work together, share information better and reduce duplication.

Currently, there is no proper data collection mechanism specifically related to human resources to enable tracking of employee movement.

Mr Gadabu says "once a staff tracking or monitoring mechanism is in place then we can really start to develop proper policies".

The Office of the Chief Secretary and HR are working on developing these tracking mechanisms to show vacancies, identify gaps, and what positions need creating to address these gaps.

Mr Gadabu says while HR tracks these, it is the temporary appointments that are problematic as they overlap with permanent appointments.

New creations also cause complications as the positions are not clearly or readily understood whether they are relevant or actually address critical gaps in the public service.

Mr Gadabu says a corporate strategy for departments and a workforce plan, combined as one document is essential as a way forward collectively for the public service.

Discussions are on-going for additional training on individual topics •

## TIME TO CONSUME WATER



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## Nauru youth parliament

Nauru Youth Parliament (NYP) held its first ever sitting in parliament chambers and introduced a new bill, 23-25 August.



*Nauru Youth Parliament members following their first sitting in parliament chambers*

Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen officially opened the inaugural sitting and urged the participants to exercise respect and maintain the decorum of the house.

The NYP is an initiative that aims to empower aspiring young leaders in Nauru, to help build their understanding of the nation's democratic institutions and enhance public engagement between the Parliament and the broader public.

The members aged 18 to 25 have a keen interest in the mechanics of parliament and desire a platform to voice their concerns for the youth.

On the first days' sitting, the youth members elected Mr Hansson Olsson as president in an unexpected turn of event.

The anticipated opposition leader Olsson swayed the votes in his favour, 10-4 against member Zillman Gioura.

Jomina Jones and Jo-delia Agigo were elected speaker and deputy speaker, with Nicodemus Kamtaura pre-appointed as the clerk of Parliament.

A number of the members were unable to attend the inaugural sitting due to study commitments abroad.

On the second day of the NYP's parliamentary sitting, Youth Parliament President Olsson introduced the Illicit Drugs Control (Amendment) Bill 2023 which addresses the issue of substance abuse.

The bill proposes a number of amendments to the Illicit Drugs Control Act 2004, including increasing fines for offenders up to \$150,000 and prison time up to 15 years.

Furthermore, the bill would establish a commission which would aid in rehabilitating those suffering from drug addiction, and help spread awareness and educate the public on the issue and its impact on people's lives.

Although it was passed unanimously by the NYP, the bill will be submitted to formal parliament for its consideration and final decision. This is standard procedure for all youth parliaments, and similar to practices in Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and many others around the world.

Following the introduction of the bill, two matters of public importance were debated by the NYP focusing on teenage pregnancy and school dropouts.

After the adjournment debates the last of the NYP parliamentary session concluded on the third day and certificates of participation were issued by Australian High Commissioner Dr Helen Cheney.

Those who observed some of the sessions from the gallery included His Excellency President Russ Kun, Members of Parliament, representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Victorian Parliament.

The NYP is tri-laterally supported by the Australian High Commission, the New Zealand High Commission and the UNDP through the Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance Project (NAIGP) •



The Year 8 Republic of Nauru Secondary Scholarship Scheme (RONSSS) Examinations for 2023 is now open for registration.

The top students will be awarded a scholarship to Queensland, Australia in 2024 to further and complete their secondary studies. This initiative aligns with the Nauru National Curriculum.

To be Eligible for the scholarship, a candidate must be:

1. a registered Nauruan Citizen with valid documents;
2. parents/guardians are registered Nauruan Citizens with valid documents;
3. is in Year 8 and under 15 years of age as at 31st December of the scholarship year;
4. has not sat for the Year 8 Scholarship exam in a previous year;
5. meets the attendance criteria of the school he/she enrolled;
6. has parental permission to sit for the Scholarship exam;
7. has shown good conduct and character during the years of secondary schooling;
8. has parental permission to live with EQI registered Home Stay family;
9. has completed the required application form;
10. in Nauru, Brisbane or Suva, Fiji to sit for the Scholarship Exams.

Dates for the Year 8 exam are set for:

Tuesday 10 October - English (9.00am-11.00am)

Wednesday 11 October - Maths (9.00am-11.00am)

Thursday 12 October - Science (9.00am-11.00am)

Friday 13 October - Social Science (9.00am-11.00am)

Registration forms are now available. Parents/Guardians are to register their child's name at Nauru College, Sacred Heart College, or Scholarship Office, Education Department.

**Closing Friday, 15 September 5pm.**

For full details please contact the Education Department Scholarship office on 5573143 or email [miscotty90@gmail.com](mailto:miscotty90@gmail.com)

## Ibumin Aroeni (Day of the Tribes)

Aroeni (Tribe) day is celebrated nationally with traditional games, tribe feasts and a teen beauty pageant.

This is the fourth year since the Government of Nauru designated 19 August as a special public holiday to celebrate aroeni.

Schools and communities organise events, programs and storytelling designed to reignite and educate about one's tribe, lineage and heritage.

The Department of Internal Affairs is responsible for this special day.

This year, the Tiger's Oval was the venue for the traditional sports program and the men's events of traditional wrestling and karuduga, and the women's ibwibo and itsibweb. The tribe feast was served up at the oval at sundown.

The coveted Miss Aroeni 2023 title was contested for by seven teenaged-girls representing their tribes.

Miss Eamwitmwit Ozeara Scotty was crowned Miss Aroeni 2023, and runners-up Miss Eamwit Talia Andrew, Miss Iruwa Kayla Moses, and Miss Emea Lara Doguape as first, second and third respectively.

Ahead of the pageant on 26 August, Madam Simina Kun hosted the contestants for breakfast at the Menen Hotel where they each received a gift from the First Lady.

This is the third year of the Miss Aroeni pageant •



*Miss Aroeni 2023 Ozeara Scotty of the Eamwitmwit tribe*

*[Photo: Kahiko Harris]*

*[Below] Madam Kun with the contestants at Menen Hotel prior to pageant night*



**ROAD SAFETY MEASURES**

**Buckle up**

Wear your seat belt at all times. Wear a helmet when driving a motorcycle.

**Observe the speed limit**

Speed limit: 50kph  
Driving past schools, churches and hospital: 20kph.

**Pedestrian crossing**

Drivers should slow down at traffic stops and give way to pedestrians at a zebra crossing.

**Never drink and drive**

Have a designated driver if you plan to drink. Don't operate a vehicle when you're intoxicated.

Carry your driver's licence and ensure your vehicle is registered and roadworthy.

**TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING HOTSPOT**

**MENENG DISTRICT**

**HOUSE TO HOUSE**

**4PM - 8PM**

**MONDAY & TUESDAY ONLY**

**TWO WEEKS**

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

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**Republic of Nauru**

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

Em: [gio.nauru@gmail.com](mailto:gio.nauru@gmail.com)  
Tel: +674 557-3009/3133 ext. 307  
[www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr)