



Nauru Bulletin

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Angam remembered and celebrated

Nauru celebrates the 85th anniversary of Angam

Angam – jubilation, celebration, triumph, home coming and at home, are words that resonate feelings of attainment for Nauruans for reaching a population count to survive and return home from exile.

Every year on 26 October the spirit of Angam surges through as all Nauruans remember the day that marks the survival of the Nauruan race.

This year it was a day-long carnival following the annual memorial service on the morning of 26 October at the Chuuk Memorial in Aiwo.

The humble service is a reminder of the hardship yet spirit of the Nauruan people to survive the ravishing effects of war and to be able to preserve the survival of the Nauruan people.

At 91 years old Muriel Cecil is the oldest



At 91 Muriel Cecil is the oldest Nauruan, she donned a replica of the dress worn on her return from exile in Truk Island

Nauruan. She spoke on behalf of fellow survivors of the war underscoring in simple terms the hardship of war yet the

blessings of God in bringing them back home from Truk Island.

Muriel donned a replica of the dress she and other female returnees from Truk wore on their return to Nauru in 1946 after two years in exile.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa delivered his address encouraging strength and peace for a people that has endured hardship and survival. President Waqa was then accompanied by Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow in handing gifts to the senior citizens and survivors of the invasion of Nauru during World War II. The gifts included the Nauruan bible, hymn book and a solar radio unit contributed by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The outbreak of influenza in the 1920s drastically reduced the population and after much deliberation among the administrators of Nauru and

Cont pg 2...

Armistice Day 2017

November 11, Nauru commemorated Armistice Day in the traditional manner and respect for the war dead and in Nauru's special circumstances is a time to remember those that perished and survived the perils of war and exile.

The opening prayer was delivered by Reverend Roger Mwareow.

His Excellency the Acting President Hon David Adeang laid the first wreath at the steps of the cenotaph to the backdrop of the four flags of Nauru, Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan flying at half-mast.

At the end of the wreath laying ceremony was the playing of the Last Post and the reading of the Ode of Remembrance.

Two minutes silence was observed for Armistice Day and in remembrance of Nauruans that perished during the invasion of the Second World War.

The Nauru Police Force memorial guard reversed arms followed by the playing of the reveille and the national flags hoisted to full mast.

The official ceremony concluded with the closing prayer by Father Saimon Kokoria•



His Excellency Acting President David Adeang led the wreath laying ceremony on Armistice Day

Angam remembered and celebrated ...from pg 1

its chiefs, it was decided that a population count of 1500 must be reached to maintain the survival of the race.

On 26 October 1932 Eidagaruwo was born completing the count. The island was overjoyed for Angam was reached.

Her birthdate would be celebrated every year.

Twice in its history was the Nauruan race threatened to extinction.

The second population drop following World War II once again called for another nation-wide effort to reach the 1500 count.

Baby girl Bethel Enproe was born on 31 March 1949 completing that count.

While the significance of the second angam birth is not diminished in meaning neither the struggles Nauru went through a second time forgotten, the birthdate of the first Angam baby, 26 October is commemorated each year. Angam symbolises Nauru's fight to exist as a people.

The first Angam baby, Eidagaruwo did not return to Nauru after the Second World War having died in exile on Truk Island.

This year, 2017, the Government of Nauru in its plans leading up to the nation's celebrations for 50th anniversary of independence set up a day long carnival programmed with traditional sports, competitions, food and promotional stalls set up by communities, businesses and organisations, and entertainment through the evening.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa conveys his government's appreciation for the successful event and participation by all communities•

Digicel gives 20K for infrastructure works

Telecommunications provider Digicel Nauru contributed \$20-thousand to the Nauru Government for infrastructure development in preparation for the country's 50th Independence anniversary celebrations in 2018.

The contribution was presented to His Excellency President Baron Waqa by CEO for Digicel Nauru Francis Thomsen at the Office of the President on Friday 3 November.



Digicel CEO Francis Thomsen present \$20K cheque to President Baron Waqa that will assist infrastructure works in the lead up to Nauru's 50th anniversary of Independence

The financial contribution will be managed by the Office of the President and directed towards infrastructure development required for the anniversary celebrations.

Digicel Nauru has made several other financial contributions to assist various other government projects•

ADB presents port findings

The Asian Development Bank presented its findings to the Nauru government on the financing agreements and plans to redevelop the Nauru sea port at a meeting last month (25 Oct).

As an accredited agency for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the ADB submitted a funding application for US\$26.91 million and will itself finance US\$21.3 million towards the project. The ADB will also sign a co-financing arrangement with the Government of Australia for AU\$18 million (\$14.8-M), followed by a grant agreement with the Government of Nauru for US\$17.3 million.

The implementation of the civil works and construction is expected to commence from June 2018 to June 2020.

The ADB's Senior Natural Resources Specialist Jay Roop said the ADB had put up Nauru's project forward for GCF funding under the climate adaptation window that helps countries build resilience to future impacts caused by climate change and provides assistance in both mitigation and adaptation.



ADB presented findings and way forward to progress the Nauru port redevelopment project

“We (ADB) argued that this project was the lifeline for Nauru and in order for Nauru to continue to operate in the future it had to have consistent connectivity to the rest of the world through marine operations since ninety five per cent of your (Nauru) goods are transported. So we saw this as connectivity to the rest of the world.

“And we needed to argue that the current system isn't going to work for much longer because the current system is exposed to the westerly waves which we were able to show through our climate modelling are likely to get higher and more frequent in the future.

“So however bad it is now it will be worse in the future and it will make it more difficult for boats to service the current situation,” Mr Roop said.

The Nauru port is situated on the west side of the island and exposed to strong westerly winds with no wharf and limited berthing ability.

The current mooring system is frequently damaged incurring high repair and replacement costs.

Mr Roop acknowledged the Australian government agency for scientific research the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for the climate and meteorological work done on Nauru over the last 25 years, “which made it possible for us (ADB) to come up with those conclusions. We just didn't do it ourselves, we had to use existing data.”

His Excellency President Baron Waqa is pleased with the project and advised the ADB to “get the work done,” and assures that Nauru will supply all the sand and boulders as needed for the project.

ADB presents port findings

...from pg 2

CEO for Nauru Port Authority Anton Jimwereiy equates a new port to savings and improved safety for port workers.

“When we have the new port, we will have a faster turnaround of ships. There should be a reduction and saves costs. In the end safer working environment for port workers instead of handling cargo from the ship on to barges going into the boat harbour, the ship will discharge the containers straight onto the wharf,” Mr Jimwereiy said.

Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly said Australia has been involved with the project working with the ADB and the government of Nauru since the start.

“Australia also played a leading role at the Green Climate Fund board meeting in arranging and lobbying for support for the Green Climate Fund to grant of US\$26.91 million to the port redevelopment project.

“The project is a very significant one for Nauru. It will mean it will have a sustainable capability for delivering services via ship, container vessels as well as fuel vessels,” Mr Donnelly said.

Previous studies undertaken by various organisations resulted in several options for development. The current plan comes after a request by the Nauru government to the ADB to support the improvement of the port facilities.

In response the ADB approved a Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) and a Project Design Advance (PDA) in December 2015.

The projected outputs include the construction of a climate proofed port infrastructure, ensure sustainable operations and maintenance, and to establish efficient port operations management.

The Nauru Government is currently in discussions with the Government of Japan for the supply of port operations equipment in parallel to the project.

Mr Roop says Nauru’s project is the first major transport project done by the GCF but certainly the first port for the GCF•

Taiwan continues community support

The embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) made a special presentation to His Excellency President Baron Waqa on the occasion of Angam day.

Taiwan Ambassador Joseph Chow presented a donation of 100 solar radio units to President Waqa at the Office of the President on 24 October.

The radio units were gifted to senior citizens, affectionately known as ‘young at hearts’ at the Angam Day memorial service on 26 October.

The embassy and the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) made another financial donation to the Nauru Disabled Peoples’ Association (NDPA) from the sale of eggs and fresh vegetables at the Angam day carnival on 27 October.

The total money donated from the sale was \$1583.50. This was the third charity sale the TTM has made this year to support local organisations. Proceeds from the first two charity sales went to the Able Disable Centre and the safe house•

Nru-Aus development cooperation signed

The Governments of Nauru and Australia signed the MOU and development cooperation between Australia and Nauru as well as the fraud and corruption statement for the development cooperation program, on 25 October.

Nauru’s Justice Minister David Adeang and the Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly signed the agreement bolstering cooperation efforts against fraud and corruption.



Finance Minister David Adeang and Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly jointly sign the MOU and development cooperation, and fraud and corruption statement

Speaking in the vernacular to local media Minister Adeang said the agreement is committing Nauru and Australia to assist Nauru’s progress and advancement.

The minister said Nauru also commits to looking after and maintaining the assistance from Australia and protect it from abuse.

Minister Adeang thanked the government of Australia for continuing to support Nauru’s efforts in looking after its people and for their commitment to pursue development efforts.

High Commissioner Donnelly said the MOU is an update to an earlier document making a number of minor changes such as removing the reference to AusAID and inserting the department of foreign affairs and trade (DFAT).

“The other document is a new document for our governments in the Nauruan context and it’s reflective of our commitment through the development cooperation program to manage and minimise and root out any instances of fraud and corruption, and we’ve worked very well and cooperatively on this in recent years in the instances of particular matter regarding the water tanks project.

“The signing formalises the arrangements and relationships in place and enshrines our good working relationship in the context of the development cooperation program,” Mr Donnelly said•



Right - The Taiwan embassy donated 100 solar radio units to the government as part of gifts to senior citizens on Angam day. Left - Taiwan technical mission put on a third charity sale and donated the funds to the Nauru Disabled Peoples’ Association

Nauru rock export to Tuvalu

The export of 5000 metric tonnes of Nauru boulders to Tuvalu is currently underway as part of Tuvalu's coastal adaptation project to protect the country's newly reclaimed Queen Elizabeth II Park.

The park will be developed as part of Tuvalu's initiative for its preparation in hosting the 2019 Forum leaders meeting.



Nauru rocks bound for Tuvalu to meet coastal adaptation plans

The purchase follows the agreement signed for the sale of the rock on the margins of the 48th Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in Samoa in September.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga signed the agreement on 7 September for the sale of Nauru rock boulders.

President Waqa is very pleased with the arrangement with Tuvalu and hopes it will be a long term relationship that is mutually beneficially to both countries.

President Waqa says the arrangement will not affect Nauru's own coastal protection works as the Tuvalu purchase is only one-off.

"Nauru has all the rocks that Tuvalu needs and Nauru is more than happy to supply as much as Tuvalu wants," President Waqa said.

The purchase is made possible through Tuvalu's access of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

During the agreement signing in Samoa the Pacific Island Forum's Secretary General Meg Taylor said the initiative is an example of achievable south-to-south cooperation and partnership between smaller island states•

It's the law:

Drive safely. Speed limit 50 km/h

Speed kills

Be considerate of fellow motorists

and pedestrians

Keep Nauru safe

Canada presents credentials

His Excellency President Baron Waqa received the high commissioner of Canada to Nauru at the formal presentation of credentials at the Office of the President on 6 November.

High Commissioner Paul Maddison arrived at the government offices on 6 November and was met by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Michael Aroi and presented copies of the Letter of Credence, before being received by the Commissioner of Police for the playing of the national anthems and inspection of the Police guard of honour.



Canadian High Commissioner to Nauru Paul Maddison presented his Letter of Credence to President Baron Waqa

Mr Maddison was then escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials.

The High Commissioner conveyed to President Waqa that the relationship between Canada and Nauru "holds great promise."

"Under the current government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the aspirations of Nauruans and all pacific islanders in relation to some of the challenges you face with climate, but also with economic development, [and] also the opportunities that are there for you, Canada sees in our interest as well to be there alongside of you [Nauru]," Mr Maddison said.

The high commissioner then presented the letter of recall from his predecessor and his own Letter of Credence appointing him as high commissioner to Nauru.

President Waqa expressed pleasure in receiving Mr Maddison as high commissioner and hopes for a positive and engaging term.

"I hope your tenure will be a successful one for yourself as well as to engage with us and be more active in our relationship. I'm sure that will be the case. And while you're in office I know we'll be in constant contact with you so that we can exchange and collaborate in many things that are to come," President Waqa said.

One of those issues is climate change which the president underlined is very high on Nauru's agenda as well as for the rest of the pacific.

The high commissioner continued courtesy calls on the speaker of parliament and cabinet ministers, and made site visits around Nauru.

Mr Maddison holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Royal Military College St. Jean Quebec and served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 37 years at the rank of vice admiral and from the position of commander Royal Canadian Navy•

Sekaran installed as honorary consul

His Excellency President Baron Waqa presented the Letter of Appointment to Dr Andrew Mohanraj Chandra Sekaran as honorary consul of Nauru for Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 6 November.

On 2 August 2017 President Waqa signed the letter of commission expressing Nauru's intention to appoint Dr Sekaran to the position.

In response Nauru formally received the exequatur from Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak officially recognising the appointment of Dr Sekaran.



Honorary Consul of Nauru for Kuala Lumpur Dr Andrew Sekaran received his Letter of Appointment by President Baron Waqa

The Letter of Credence addressed to Prime Minister Razak and signed by President Waqa was read out during the formalities accrediting and describing Dr Sekaran's "high character, ability and commitment to duty."

The Letter of Credence also requested PM Razak receive Dr Sekaran "favourably and give full credence to all that he may communicate to you [PM Razak] in the name of the Republic of Nauru and especially when he renews to you the assurance of my continuing interest and good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of Malaysia."

Dr Sekaran delivered short remarks expressing his appreciation to be serving as honorary consul to Nauru.

"It is indeed a very proud moment for me to be standing here today to receive officially the letter of exequatur permitting me to officially function as the honorary consul of the Republic of Nauru to Malaysia."

Dr Sekaran also reported that ten Nauruan patients have been referred to Malaysia for medical treatment as well as looked into capacity building efforts resulting in the nomination of two health staff to undergo health training in Malaysia.

Dr Sekaran anticipates further work will continue for the health sector•

Sports complex agreement signed

The construction of the Nauru sports complex will now commence following the signing of the agreement and soil turning ceremony that took place on 7 November.

Phase one of the project is valued at AUD\$5.9 million and is co-funded by the Governments of Australia and Nauru with contributions of \$4.3 million and \$1.6 million respectively.



Minister for Sports Hon Tawaki Kam and Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly shake hands after the turning of the soil at the grounds of the new Nauru sports complex in Yaren

Following the opening prayer and the playing of national anthems President Baron Waqa was proud to be witness to the historical occasion and ground breaking ceremony of the Naoero Community Sports Complex Recreational Facility.

"It [sports complex] will have such an impact on the sporting communities and on our young that the development of indoor games such as basketball, volleyball, netball and other sporting events, will lead to the elevation of the standards of the games on Nauru and enhance Nauru's regional performance in those indoor sports," President Waqa said.

His Excellency said the benefits of the complex extend to other uses including school events like an examination centre and for community health programs.

The sports complex is intended to provide a multipurpose facility for Nauru that can be used by sporting, community and government entities.

Australian High Commissioner John Donnelly said the project has a long history and is delighted to be able to get it underway as a shared development priority for the two countries, highlighting that in 2007 the former AusAID examined options for an indoor sports complex with various options explored with other donors since.

"As a sporting complex, it will provide much needed covered space for both mass-participation sports and a regional grade facility for enhance regional sporting cooperation. As a community space, it will provide a safe and managed environment for community engagement and the playground will assist with this, and government can use the facility to promote healthy lifestyles particularly key for Nauru's non-communicable disease strategy," Mr Donnelly said.

Following speeches President Waqa and Mr Donnelly signed the direct funding agreement before the turning of soil by Minister for Sports Hon Tawaki Kam and High Commissioner Donnelly.

The project is made possible through the efforts and vision of many. The architect and engineering is done by Alexander and Lloyd Group, and the construction will be undertaken by builders Craig Construction (NZ) Ltd.

The sports complex is expected to be completed by August 2018•

Discussion Desk

Talking about policy that matter to you
Join us every Wednesdays 9.30am on

FM105.1

or download the App
radionauru.nr:8000/live

On the Discussion Desk - weekly radio program co-hosted by the Government Information Office and Radio Nauru

Passports Act 2011

The Passports Act 2011 was talked about on the weekly radio show Discussion Desk on 18 October.

Senior passports officer Ruby Amram and passport officer Zita Itsimaera were guests on the show and spoke with hosts Rhona Bop and Joanna Olsson from Radio Nauru and Government Information Office respectively.

The Passports Act protects the use and issue of the Nauruan passport as a means of identity and official document for Nauru citizens.

Nauru provides several categories of passports such as the ordinary, official, diplomatic, and presidential passports.

Ordinary passports being for everyone, whereas civil servants travelling for official purposes are permitted to use the official passport, likewise diplomatic passports are reserved for staff working in Nauru's foreign embassies. The presidential passport is valid for the duration of the term in office. The validity of the different passports range from three to ten years.



The Passport Act is explained by Senior Passport officer Ruby Amram (R) and passport officer Zita Itsimaera on the Discussion Desk

A person holding an ordinary passport may also hold another passport such as the official passport.

Section 13 of the Act refers to a refugee travel document that would enable a refugee without other forms of travel documents to travel outside of Nauru. The application of such includes submission of proper and appropriate documentation proving refugee status and is present in Nauru.

A certificate of identity is generally for foreigners on Nauru whose passport has either expired or is lost. This document is approved by the minister for justice. This certificate is valid for the requested trip only.

For Nauru citizens having lost their passport while abroad must communicate with the closest Nauru embassy who then facilitates with the passport office for the issuance of a new passport, delivered to that person wherever they are. Past practice allowed for use of a temporary document of identity for Nauruans to enable travel. However most countries now do not recognise such travel documents for passengers departing that country.

Ms Itsimaera urges passport holders to submit their damaged passports and obtain a new one. This avoids further abuse of the document and possible identity theft.

Ms Amram explains that refusal to issue a travel document can occur due to the lack of consent from parents if the applicant is under the age of 16 years and other reasons such as court documents advising the ability of the child to travel internationally. The minister may also refuse a travel document for a child if the travel of the child will be harmful to the interests of the child.

Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Act 1997

The Discussion Desk heard about the Nauru Rehabilitation Act with its guest speaker CEO Clarissa Jeremiah.

The NRC was established in 1997 along with its Act. The purpose of the corporation is to rehabilitate mined out phosphate lands and mandated to identify and commence projects to rehabilitate those lands.

Mrs Jeremiah explains that while the NRC like all state owned entities are owned by the government the CEO and its workforce are responsible in running the daily workings of the corporation and ensure they are in line with their mandate and management of the corporation.

Like all boards it is responsible for the policies, key changes and core structure of the corporation as set out by the state. Mrs Jeremiah says this is done to protect the corporation and the board serves an important function.

The board meets bi-monthly to view and scrutinise the corporation's activities and finances and query where necessary.



NRC CEO Clarissa Jeremiah explains the provisions of the corporation according to the Act on the Discussion Desk

The board comprises the chair and five directors with one ex-officio.

Accompanying the financial reporting is the annual review of operations which the CEO acknowledges is an important part of a functioning corporation to meet its requirements to the government and accountability to the public.

Since 2006 the appointment of the CEO is endorsed by Cabinet after recommendations and shortlisting by the board.

Cabinet has a role in guiding and instructing the NRC on its operations where it deems necessary.

The Act provides for the management of surplus funds which is returned to government treasury.

The corporation is legally bound to submit annual and financial reports to government every year which is then tabled in parliament and put on public record. This assists government in determining any budgetary requirements or needs of the NRC.

On the other hand the CEO submits an update when required by the minister.

A 2016 amendment brought changes to the rules around staff proposing to contest the national general elections. As such an employee must resign three months prior to lodging his nomination of candidature for the general elections. This change applied across the board with all public servants and employees of state owned entities.

Section 16 allows for the transfer of assets such as financials to be transferred to NRC. Royalties set aside for the rehabilitation work were transferred to NRC upon its creation to enable it to carry out the rehabilitation process•

Queen's baton relay in Nauru

The Queen's baton relay has made its much-anticipated stopover on Nauru and received with excitement and enthusiasm by the community.

The Minister for Sports Hon Tawaki Kam and his department coordinated the visit in close collaboration with the Nauru Commonwealth Games Association.

The baton touched down in Nauru on Wednesday 1 November from Singapore and greeted by a Nauruan warrior chant and the 12 tribes of Nauru. It was then officially presented to the Nauru Commonwealth Games association, which coordinated Thursday's (2 Nov) relay around the island starting at the Linkbelt Oval.

Maranda Stephen, daughter of Nauru Commonwealth Games association president and seven-time gold medallist Marcus Stephen, lifted the baton off its stand and passed on to His Excellency President Baron Waqa signalling the start of the relay.

President Waqa began the VIP relay at the Linkbelt Oval by walking the baton through the row of flags of the Commonwealth countries before passing the baton to Minister Tawaki Kam. It then passed through the hands of other dignitaries before starting the round-island relay.

During the course of the day, the baton passed through all 14 districts of Nauru with a convoy led by the Nauru Police Force, a mobile music system and the spirit of the communities who joined the relay from their districts.

The baton relay was greeted along the way with music and island dancing ending where it had started at Linkbelt Oval where a closing ceremony was held.

In closing President Waqa thanked everyone involved in making the baton relay a success and was confident that Her Majesty would have been proud to have seen the reception it received.

President Waqa also thanked the baton relay officials.

"On behalf of government and the people of Nauru we would like to extend to you our warmest and humblest appreciation for bringing the baton to our people here."

Nauru's Commonwealth Games Chef de Mission Hon Dr Kieren Keke echoed those sentiments of thanks.

"And in particular a big word of thanks to all the community people that got involved and organised their communities.



Top - President Baron Waqa receives the Queen's baton from Maranda Stephen marking the start of the round-island relay. Bottom and right - Carrying the baton in traditional wear Anibare kids and Unique Harris in her community of Boe

"We largely left it in their hands and they proved that that was the right decision because we could not have organised their communities better than they did. The communities just made it all happen, we turned up in each district and it just rolled," Mr Keke said.

In closing the baton passed through the hands of each of the national sporting federations ending with Nauru's last Commonwealth Games gold medallist, weightlifter Yukio Peters and a performance of the Nauru weightlifting haka.

The final parade of flags on motor cycles encircled the oval with a performance by students of Nauru College and Kayser College and gift exchanges with their Gold Coast sister schools, before a closing prayer.

The island relay was broadcast live on Nauru TV and radio making it an enjoyable and inclusive experience for Nauru.

The Queen's baton left Nauru Friday 3 November on its next leg to Kiribati and eventual destination of the Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Passports Act 2011 [cont.]

...from pg 6

You may obtain copies of Acts at naurugov.nr and find the RONLAW link

Section 24 provides that the minister may cancel a Nauruan travel document if another travel document is intended to be issued; the document lost or stolen; and circumstances arising that would permit the minister to refuse issuing of the document.

Penalties

Lost or damaged passports incur various penalties and fees from \$100 to \$500 with an additional \$60 for the new passport. A lost or damaged passport must be reported to police and the police report submitted as part of the application for a new passport. Providing false information in order to obtain a Nauruan passport incur a fine up to \$20,000 and ten years imprisonment

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Republic of Nauru

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