



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Advance observer team pleased with work of electoral commission

An advance observer team for the election was on Nauru last week (17-19 June) to gain insight into the pre-polling environment and preparations being undertaken by the Nauru Electoral Commission for the general elections on 9 July 2016.

The advance team was made up of members of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The team met with key stakeholders including the electoral commissioner Joseph Cain, government members, opposition members, government officials, the Chief Justice, prospective candidates and civil society.

“My office is very pleased with the visit and work of the advance observer team. They offered positive and helpful feedback and advice. We had a program for them which included meetings with members of the government, opposition and other entities,” Mr Cain said.

“Our work is on track and ongoing with voter information sessions still to be conducted as well as training and briefing of officials. There are some new features added to this election such as the additional mobile voting and voter identification on polling day but we’re confident the system will run according to plan.”

Similar to other election preparations for Forum member countries, the election observer mission is afforded all the necessary information and assistance to be able to make informed observations and decisions in relation to the preparation process.

“This is the case with preparations for the Nauru elections,” Acting Director for Political, Governance and Security at the



Forum, Mr Sione Tekiteki said.

“It is noted that Nauru recently established an independent Electoral Commission. This is a new and positive development as it ensures the independence of the Electoral Commissioner and his staff.”

Those sentiments were echoed by the Head of Caribbean/Pacific Section, Political Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat Albert Mariner.

“The Commonwealth commends the setting up of a new independent Electoral Commission as required under the Electoral Act 2006 to prepare and administer the planned July 2016 election,” Mr Mariner said.

The electoral commission was established this year with the swearing in of the electoral commissioner and his deputies on 21 March. Its permanent office premises were officially opened on 4 May.

Each country works with its own electoral system and within its context and circumstances and therefore is

subject to their national laws and framework. Nauru is guided by its Electoral Act 2016.

The observer team analyses all aspects of the elections including the preparations against relevant national legislative and policy frameworks and established international good practice.

The mission acknowledges the substantive work the Electoral Commission has undertaken since its establishment including the expert assistance from Melbourne-based election consultant Judy Birkenhead.

The electoral office will continue to organise public events to inform and educate voters about ongoing preparations and to clarify any issues relating to the elections.

The Commonwealth Secretariat deployed an observer team to Nauru for the 2004 elections and the Forum Secretariat has sent observer missions for the 2004, 2008 and 2010 elections.

The final Forum electoral report will be submitted to the Government of Nauru while the Commonwealth report will be submitted to the Secretary-General for consideration to deploy an observer group to the Nauru election.

The electoral advance observer mission was invited by the Nauru Electoral Commission and the Government of Nauru.

The Forum Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor extends her sincere gratitude to the Nauru Electoral Commission, and the Government of Nauru for inviting the Pacific Islands Forum to deploy an electoral observation mission to Nauru for its upcoming elections.

[Cont pg 2...]

# Forum and Commonwealth will observe elections

[... from pg 1]

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat will each send an observer team to the Nauru elections. The team from the Forum will comprise three representatives from Forum Member states and two Forum Secretariat staff. The Commonwealth team will comprise three observers and two staff members. The electoral observer mission will arrive on Nauru a week prior to polling day and will remain until official results are announced. This month (17 and 21 June) the Electoral Commission held candidate information sessions for prospective candidates. The Commission will also hold voters' information sessions on 28 and 30 June from 7pm at the Civic Centre conference hall.

## 2016 Elections: Important dates

**Candidate nomination:** Closes Saturday 25 June 2016 at 5pm. Nominations will be received at the Electoral Commission Office, Civic Centre, Aiwo District.

**Candidate Withdrawal:** A candidate may withdraw his or her nomination by notice in writing to the Electoral Commissioner no later than 12pm Friday 1 July 2016.

**Candidates ballot draw:** Candidates will draw lots for their order on the ballot paper on Saturday 2 July 2016, 12pm at the Parliament house conference room.

**Voter information session:** Tuesday 28 and Thursday 30 June 2016 at Civic at 7pm. All are welcome.

**Polling day:** Saturday 9 July 2016. Polling booths will be open from 9.00am and close at 6.00pm on the day.

**Proxy voting:** Overseas voters can download the forms from <http://election.com.nr> and arrange for a barrister or a Commissioner of Oath in their area to sign the forms and email it back to the Electoral Commission at [registrations@election.com.nr](mailto:registrations@election.com.nr).

Alternatively, overseas voters can visit a Nauruan embassy in their area. Countries and cities that do not have a Nauru embassy have been appointed witnesses to assist in those areas.

The following persons have been appointed by the Commission to act as witnesses in their respective countries & cities:

New Zealand:	Mr Junior Dowiyogo
Sydney:	Mr Cramer Cain
Melbourne:	Mrs Jarina Adam
Tonga:	Mrs Sina Temaki Vunipola
Kosrae:	Mr Gregory Ribauw
Kiribati:	Mr Roak Notte
Marshall Islands:	Mr Russell Kun.

**Mobile voting:** Mobile voting is available for those voters too sick or immobile to proceed to the polling booths. An elections officer will visit you to record your vote. The voter must apply in writing to the Electoral Commissioner at least 48 hours prior to 9am on polling day.

**Electoral rolls** are now available for purchase at \$50 per national roll and \$20 per district.

For further details on any of the above, please visit the Electoral Commission Office at the Civic Centre, Aiwo district or call 5573899 or visit the website <http://election.com.nr> •

## Voting information

- Voting is compulsory
  - A voter must vote in the District in which he/she is registered.
- Unless
- Absent from Nauru on polling day.
  - Unable to vote as he/she is seriously ill or infirm.
  - Has other reason that is valid and sufficient for not voting.

### Identification

The intent of the ID is not to deter people from voting but to ensure that the voter is who they say they are.

The voter must be able to produce at least one source of ID at the polling stations:

- Passport
- Driver's License
- Insurance Policy
- Employment card ID
- Birth certificate
- Bank Card
- Student card

OR

Three (3) questions will be asked by election officials to verify identification.

### Failure to Vote

If you fail to vote at election you commit an offense and will be asked to explain why you did not vote or pay a fine.

Rules for Voting

- A Voter must not use camera, phone, or other electronic device in a polling booth.
- A voter must only place their ballot paper in the ballot box
- A voter must not prevent another voter from casting his/her vote.
- Not more than one person is allowed in the polling booth at the same time. Unless the voter has asked for assistance.
- A voter who seek to influence another voter within 200 meters of a polling station commits an offence.
- It's an offence for a voter to apply for a ballot paper:
  - a. in the name of another person whether deceased or living.
  - b. A fictitious person.
  - c. To vote more than once.
- It's an offence for a voter to imitate an election officer.
- It's an offence to provide false information •

# Method of voting

## The Voter Must

- a. Be present at the polling place in the District in which they are registered.
- b. The Election Official will ask for your first and last name and an identification document.
- c. Once the Election Official has positively identified the voter, the voter will be asked to sign their name on the roll beside their printed name.
- d. The Polling Official must initial the back of the ballot paper for the vote to be valid.
- e. The voter then presents his forefinger for the presiding officer to mark which will determine that the voter has voted
- f. Mark your ballot paper with sequential numbers – starting with the number one for the candidate you prefer the most. (as referred to on the next page).
- g. When you have marked your ballot paper, fold it in half to keep your vote secret.
- h. Place the ballot paper in the ballot box.
- i. While at the polling station, a voter must not reveal how they voted.

## Casting of Vote

A voter must cast his/her vote accordingly

Example:

1. Candidate Name
2. Candidate Name
3. Candidate Name

Be sure to fill in all Boxes. The boxes are to be filled in according to your order of preference.

## Invalid Vote

1. Voter fail to number all the boxes.
2. Write anything to reveal their identity.
3. Writing illegible numbers making it difficult to read

## Assisted Voting

If voter at a polling station is illiterate or vision impaired or has any other physical disability they may:

- 1) Nominate a person who may accompany the person to the polling booth.
- 2) Nominate the presiding officer/election official to mark the ballot paper on his/her behalf.

## Proxy Voting

A voter who is unable to be in Nauru to vote on Polling day may apply to the Electoral Commissioner to proxy voting authorization through Appointed Witnesses or Consulate/Embassy or Legal Practitioner.

Proxy voting is covered in detail in Proxy voting information pamphlet.

## Mobile Voting

The purpose of mobile voting is to enable every voter who:

- a. On the day of polling is a resident of a hospital, care facility, home or, correctional Centre; and
- b. By reason of illness or infirmity, the voter is unable to attend the polling station.

In such cases, the voter must:

- a. Apply in writing to the Electoral Commissioner at least by close of business on the Wednesday before polling day which is Saturday 9th July 2016.
- b. State the reason for their application and provide any information including supporting documents•

## Taiwan donates hospital beds

The Taiwan Embassy donated 20 hospital beds to the RON Hospital at a ceremony conducted at the ambulance bay of the new RON hospital on 22 June.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer followed by the key note address by the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Joseph Chow.

In his address, Ambassador Chow said the donation was a small token of goodwill from the people of Taiwan and hopes to continue to work with the health ministry in the future and assist in improving health care standards for Nauru.

Minister for Health Valdon Dowiyogo thanked Ambassador Chow on behalf of the Nauru government and expressed his appreciation of Taiwan’s goodwill gesture for the 20 hospital beds donated to the RON hospital.

Closing his address, Minister Dowiyogo added that the health department is awaiting the arrival of a second batch of 20 beds also donated by the Taiwan embassy. The much anticipated shipment will arrive on Nauru in the coming months•



*Taiwan donates the first consignment of 20 hospital beds to the RON Hospital. A second consignment is expected in the coming months*

# Dedeit ikiyiy

## EAOA'N KIYIY

Engat ikiyiy inat ebweida ean 9:00 ijanan me inat itsimwa ean 6:00 kurak men ea men iyemero.

## Dobwain Kiyiy

- Ikiyiy tsimine kor uwoun.
- Wo nim tata egom me kiyiy tsinia riowen ean 20 am obweni.
- Dobain kiyiy iat tekawa ino amea/eita totu egen ian.

Ta ia

- Ekeowei atsin Naoero ean ngabumina edae in kiyiy.
- Eo gona kiyiy amea/eita ia iyungyung.

Estimine dogit inon ngana eimwi me ita ngana eo ewina ia enim kiyiy.

## KEOWEWUM

Omeata en murana ID eo ia enim ere engame tsinit ikiyiy, bwe enim ogarua ura, bwe ura kor mibuna dobain kiyiy ngabuna ro pan bwe ura kor.

Dobain kiyiy enim gona ta orean won ID.

Dabuk IN kewewura ina engut ikiyiy.

- Dei Naoero Passport (dabuk IN BAROW).
- Dabuk it Dreiba.
- Dabuk it emark bain tsimorum.
- Dabuk IN AM MAKUR (ID).
- Dabuk in am Bumin Opudu.
- Bank Buk.
- Dabuk it EKERERI.

Oa

3 IKUDO INAT KIDUEIONUW eow turin ngabet ikiyiy bwe enim kaduwonei angogom.

## EARE IT IKIYIY

Dobwain kiyiy ar num OMEATA aura kiyiy eow eat enumpa. Ekeowew Ngune:

1. Egen ngea enim Iyiy 

3
---
2. Egen ngea enim Iyiy 

1
---
3. Egen ngea enim Iyiy 

4
---
4. Egen ngea enim Iyiy 

2
---

Wo nim onga ian memak dabatsi. Mungane DOBATSI enim onga memak me ar num gate tekei am teng.

IKIYIY ngan eab odu

1. Dobwain kiyiy eo numpai memak dabatsi.
2. EARE imin in omeata ngei.
3. EARE enumpa ekae bwe enim eiya reitineiyen.

## Dedeit Ikiyiy

Dobwein Kiyiy enim ouge:

- a. Ar num tuk ina engan aura kiyiy ian bita takawa ro kiyiy ian.
- b. Amen kiyiy inan kudoeiyuw bita adamonin me bita dogin egom, me wam dabuk in kaduwen.
- c. Ngaga amea amin kiyiy ogiten kaduwanei bita engamen kiyiy, inat opanangin bwe enim tenei engan ian murana dabuk itsirunun egen ngea ogiten eare.
- d. Amea amen kiyiy, inan wemaien iruwin won dabukit ikiyiy bwe enim omeata ngana iduwen.
- e. Ngaga ogiten kiyiy, engamen kiyiy eare in tiniben bwe enim oiya amea ngaben bita epo, bwe enim oemaei, bwe bita inan omeata ngana amea ogiten kiyiy.
- f. Ewemai wam dabuk it ikiyiy eow eat enumpa, aowei eow eat enumpa eiquen, dogin bwe wo aeng okor amo (tekei aere et ow murana dabuk omeata, wo nan eare memak tekei wam numpa ino wo teng ngaew).
- g. Ngaga wo ogin eomaei wam dabuk it kiyiy, wo iyim yugagain bwe enim tsimwa, engame enim eo tsingai oangan.
- h. Ngaew ko wam dabuk iat dabadit dabuk it kiyiy.
- i. Ngaga ina iat engat ikiyiy, dobwein kiyiy enim eo omeata deidein aura kiyiy•

## Ports infrastructure due for refurbishment

Refurbishment of Nauru's aging port is expected to commence next month (3 July) following the signing of notice for work commencement document and the contract by the Minister of Finance and engineering firm CARDNO on 16 June.

The signing ceremony was conducted at the Cabinet room under the auspices of the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and CARDNO representatives.

The project has received grant assistance from the ADB that will fund the construction phase.

Minister for Finance David Adeang acknowledged the ADB's invaluable contribution towards the project.

"The short story is we wouldn't be here without the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, your ability to find us good people to work with has been a hallmark of our success," Mr Adeang said.

A representative for CARDNO also expressed his gratitude to the Nauru government and to the ADB for entrusting CARDNO with the task of completing the project.

The project looks to create new infrastructure at the existing site of the boat harbor in Aiwo district.

CARDNO is an engineering firm based in Brisbane Australia•



*Minister Adeang signs agreement to refurbish the ports infrastructure*

# Proxy voting

Definition of Proxy Voting - A vote cast by one person on behalf of another.

Voting by Proxy: Means that you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

WHO?

A voter unable to be in Nauru on polling day

HOW?

- Apply to the Electoral Commission for Proxy Voting Authorisation, through appointed witnesses or consulate/embassies or legal partitioners.
- A voter will cast his/her own vote at the same time as the proxy. The Presiding officer will mark both names on the roll.

## Question and Answers

Who can vote on my behalf?

The person you appoint as your proxy

- Registered to vote
- Residing in Nauru on polling day
- Registered in the same District as the proxy voter

How many Votes Allowed?

- Voter casting Proxy Vote is not allowed more than 5 votes.

Proxy Time Duration?

- Open Sunday 19th June.
- Close Friday 8th July, 9am.

## Overseas Assistance for Proxy voters

- Consulate office Assist proxy voting process
- Consulate office Taiwan Embassy
- Consulate office Fiji Embassy
- Consulate office Brisbane Embassy Australia

The proxy vote applicant can download from the Electoral Commissioner website after the roll has closed - election.com.nr

## Netherlands offer technical assistance in climate projects

The Netherlands Ambassador for Pacific Small Islands Developing States, UN Affairs and Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr Sjef Ijermans visited Nauru last month (25-29 May) to offer technical assistance and capacity building programmes in relation to climate change projects.

Ambassador of Netherlands to Nauru Ms Annemieke Ruigrok reinforced her country's assistance with a follow up visit on 29 May – 1 June.

The areas of assistance include research on marine coastal areas, modelling on weather hazards, seawall construction, water management, and wetland management.

Environmental adviser Mavis Depaune said Nauru requires technical assistance in most of these areas.

“There are current developments in each of these areas, it would be more beneficial to enhance current capacity on ground or ensure capacity with some of the training that Netherlands is offering.

“As Netherlands is internationally known to be the country living under sea level. They are sharing with us their lessons learnt and to enable capacity building to SIDS mainly in the areas mentioned depending on what we require in terms of capacity and technical assistance,” Ms Depaune said.

## Overseas Appointed Officers

New Zealand

Name : Junior Dowiyogo

Ph: +64210401153 / Email: dandan.dowiyogo08@gmail.com

Sydney

Name : Cramer Cain

Ph: +61401816195 / Email: cramercaain@yahoo.com.au

Melbourne

Name: Jarina Adam

Ph: +61384181120 or +61403570137

Email: jarina.satto@hotmail.com

Tonga

Name: Sina Temaki Vunipola

Ph: +6768436921 / Email: leilou\_huni@yahoo.com

Kosrae

Name: Gregory Ribauw

Ph: +6913707882 or +6913703344 / Email: kuasadmin@mail.fm

Republic of Marshall Island

Name: Russel Kun

Ph: +6924551707 / Email: rkun2405@gmail.com

Kiribati

Name: Roak Notte

Ph: +68673040965 / Email: iurikanotte29@gmail.com •



*Minister Adeang meets Netherlands Ambassador for PSIDS Sjef Ijermans during his visit to offer technical assistance in climate projects.*

While Ambassador Annemieke Ruigrok's visit reinforces her country's technical assistance, the visit was also to firm up Nauru's support of the Netherlands' bid for candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Ruigrok made courtesy calls on President Baron Waqa and Cabinet ministers and discussions with senior government officials in areas of environment, climate change, fisheries, special projects, and national emergency services.

Ms Ruigrok also toured the desalination plant at the Nauru Utilities Corporation and the regional processing centres (RPC)•

## Secondary students participate in water conference

A group of year nine students from Nauru College (NC) participated in the first online water management conference at the University of New England (UNE) office based at Nauru Secondary School (NSS) on 8 June.

At the conference, the local students communicated online with other year nine students from Victoria Australia about water management practices in Nauru.

The conference aims to empower year nine students with knowledge to enable them to become more water conscious.

UNE Senior lecturer for education (Pacific Focus) Terry Sullivan said the students' participation stems from an invitation by Grampians Wimmera Mallee (GWM) water to include Nauru in this year's meeting and in subsequent years.

GWM is the Victorian government's water corporation for the Grampians Wimmera Mallee regions of North Western Victoria Australia.

"This conference is held every year, it's been running for the last ten years and this is the first year they've asked Nauru to be involved in it," Mr Sullivan said.

GWM also confirms that Nauru will be invited to participate in the conference each year.

During the conference the Nauru College students heard from students from remote parts of Victoria and New Zealand share remarkably similar issues in regards to water management.

"Something interesting that came out of it they discovered that just about all the communities have similar issues and they deal with in similar ways," Mr Sullivan said.

Participation certificates will be posted to UNE then delivered and presented to the six NC students in the coming weeks•



*Nauru College students take part in the schools first water management conference with Australian schools*

### - News in brief -

**RONWAN payout for 30+ and 40+ age groups** will commence on Monday 27 June 2016 as announced by NPRT.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to utilise banking facilities for the transfer of their entitlements. Please submit your bank details to the NPRT office at Aiwo or email to [ronwan.nauru@gmail.com](mailto:ronwan.nauru@gmail.com) .

NPRT will only pay to bank accounts that match the beneficiary name.

Authority forms to transfer to a different account name otherwise should be obtained from the NPRT office.

Statements for cash payouts will only be released to the beneficiary.

No authority forms will be provided.

NPRT will be processing payments as per the following schedule:

Monday 27th June 2016: All beneficiaries opting electronic payment to account

Friday 01st July 16: All beneficiaries requiring cash payments

Encashment of NPRT RONWAN statements can be made at the Nauru revenue office weekdays between 10am and 4pm•

**World Refugee day 2016** was commemorated on 20 June with a public holiday and dinner recetion hosted by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs David Adeang.

Mr Adeang offered a speech acknowledging Shazad Hussain as an exceptional example of the success of the refugee settlement program who has accepted his stay on Nauru and made use of his time and the opportunities available to him.

Mr Hussain is the personal assistant to the secretary for justice. He recently returned from Fiji on official duties and thanked the government for the opportunity to learn and experience life in another country as well as to meet other people in a professional capacity•

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

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NAURU BULLETIN



**Republic of Nauru**

Office contact:

Government Information Office

Government Offices

Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

[director.information@naurugov.nr](mailto:director.information@naurugov.nr)

Mobile: +674 5573009

[www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr)