



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Ubenide by-election 19 January 2017

### **Hartman secures win in Ubenide by-election, becomes third female parliamentarian**

Parliamentary by-elections for the constituency of Ubenide held this week (19 Jan) resulted in the election of Gabrissa Hartman as the fourth member to occupy the vacant seat in her electorate making her the third female candidate to successfully be elected into the Nauru Parliament.

Mrs Hartman is a law graduate from the University of the South Pacific, Emalus campus in Vanuatu. This is the second time she has contested the elections, the first being the 2016 general parliamentary election.

Prior to embarking on a political career at the 2016 elections, Mrs Hartman was employed as deputy clerk of parliament under the speakership of Ludwig Scotty.

The by-election uses a different form of preferential voting to the one for the general elections.

Following the counting of first preference votes, there was no absolute majority therefore prompting a second count of the ballot papers. This continues to a count of the third, fourth and fifth preference votes until a majority was reached, at each stage eliminating the candidate with the least number of allocated votes.



*Polling station in Uaboe*

No candidate having received an absolute majority of first, second, third, and fourth preference votes a twelfth count was made of the ballot papers and as a result, the number of first, second, third, fourth or fifth preference votes allocated to each of the remaining two candidates resulted in Gabrissa Hartman receiving 817 allocated votes over Wawani Dowiyogo's 696 allocated votes.

Therefore having received an absolute majority of votes cast Ms. Hartman was declared elected by Electoral Commissioner Joseph Cain around 2am

on 20 January 2017.

Thirteen candidates contested the Ubenide by-election, among them were four new candidates and two women.

The total number of votes cast was 1550 with 37 informal votes, leaving 1513 as the number of valid votes to determine the result of the by-election.

The Nauru Electoral Commission was established March 2016 ahead of the July 2016 general elections. As part of its ongoing set up, it trialled the display of candidate photos in the polling booths to assist voters with identifying candidates with their official names used on the ballot paper against their commonly used names. The Electoral Commission had feedback forms in which voters could express the benefits, usefulness or otherwise of the photo display.

The by-election was called following the passing away of the late Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo who served as minister for health, fisheries, transport, port and sports in the cabinet of President Baron Waqa.

## Gabrissa Hartman takes oath of office as new MP

Gabrissa Hartman was sworn in as the newest Member of Parliament before acting Chief Justice Shafiullah Khan and full attendance of members in parliament today 24 January.

In taking the oath Ms Hartman swears to "be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Nauru" and "will justly and faithfully carry out my duties as a Member of Parliament of Nauru."

In her maiden speech during the adjournment debate Ms Hartman said she is indebted to her voters for their trust and comes to parliament with great hopes for Nauru.

"I will honour that trust by working hard to ensure your ideals are heard and represented and that the values and traditions of our great nation are respected and defended.

[Cont pg 2...]



## President's meeting with IRENA, PALM ministerial

His Excellency President Baron Waqa was in Japan this month to attend the 7th session of the IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi and the third Ministerial Interim Meeting (MIM3) of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process.

At the IRENA meeting in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates held over 14-15 January, President Waqa in his capacity as minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) articulated Nauru's energy challenges and needs including what Nauru's Energy Road Map has laid out and that is Nauru's 2020 target of 50 per cent energy generation from renewable sources.



*President Baron Waqa speaking at the third ministerial meeting of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) in Japan*

Nauru has the road map but is lacking in capacity to implement. His Excellency's discussions with IRENA Director General Mr Adnan Amin centred on exploring options of assistance and capacity building especially in assisting Nauru in achieving its renewable energy target.

## Parliament welcomes third female MP

*[...from pg1]*

"I respectfully commend the work of the Waqa Government and yet I come to the House still yearning and full of hope for our country.

"If we don't yearn and hope and aspire then there would be no need for continuous improvement. That is the essence of my yearnings and hope for our nation," Ms Hartman said.

Ms Hartman paid tribute to her predecessor the late Hon Valdon Dowiyogo honouring him as "a great community man" and a "prolific sportsman."

Her speech encompasses ideals of law and order, improved education, access to safe housing that would lead to better living standards. Spark the private sector and open the horizons for a future abroad for the people, reinvigorate land rehabilitation, to be ready for a life beyond the processing centre, gender balance in parliament, and a strong spirit of aspiration beyond a welfare state.

"I reach out a genuine hand of friendship to all my colleagues that we serve together to nurture and protect our people."

The Director General has instructed officials to commence work with CIE in implementing Nauru's energy roadmap.

IRENA is organising to send personnel to Nauru to assist in developing short term strategies that can be implemented immediately and will assist the transition of Nauru to renewable energy.

The IRENA Assembly featured a number of strategic and programmatic discussions around central themes of the Agency's work and mandate. These are designed to promote an exchange of information and best practice among Members and experts in support of efforts to increase the uptake of renewable energy, taking advantage of the annual sessions of the Assembly as the global cooperation platform in the field of renewables.

The Assembly gathered government officials from over 150 countries, representatives from the private sector, civil society and international organisations.

President Waqa then travelled to Tokyo, Japan for the 3rd ministerial meeting of Pacific Allies Leaders Meeting (PALM) on 17 January.

The meeting was to recognise, renew, and appreciate cooperative efforts between Japan and the Pacific Island Countries, as well as to discuss arrangements for PALM leaders meeting in 2018.

President Waqa had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida and paid a courtesy call on Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The ministerial interim meetings are held in the year between two Summit (PALM) meetings where participants, who are foreign ministers of the Pacific Island countries, overview the follow-up of the outcome of the previous PALM, this year it will be a follow-up of PALM 7 that was held in May 2015, and exchange views toward the PALM 8 to be held in 2018.

The interim meeting was attended by foreign ministers from 14 Pacific islands countries, Australia, and New Zealand•

Ms Hartman is the third female parliamentarian in the history of the Nauru Parliament and the second in the current parliament joining sitting MP Minister Charmaine Scotty.

Ms Hartman was declared elected following the by-election of her constituency Ubenide on Thursday 19 January 2017 with an absolute majority votes of 817.

Ms Hartman is a mother of five and a law graduate of the University of the South Pacific. She attended junior boarding school at St. Vincent's College in Sydney Australia and completed her final year of high school at Presbyterian Ladies' College in Armidale, New South Wales.

This is the second time she has contested the elections, the first being the 2016 general parliamentary election.

Prior to embarking on a political career at the 2016 elections, Ms Hartman was employed as deputy clerk of parliament under the speakership of Ludwig Scotty.

The first woman parliamentarian was Ruby Dediya who served as MP in her Constituency of Ewa/Anetan from 1986 to 1998.

The by-election was called following the passing away of the late Hon. Valdon Dowiyogo who served as minister for health, fisheries, transport, port and sports in the cabinet of President Baron Waqa•

## Multicultural affairs opens community resource centre

The Department of Multicultural Affairs officially opened the Community Resource Centre in Yaren district that will base its office and staff as well as provision for community use of the facility, on 13 January.



*Minister for Multicultural Affairs Hon David Adeang and Australian High Commission Charge d'affaires Dan Heldon jointly cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the community resource centre*

Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Ms Barina Waqa is open to the idea of sharing the centre with the local and refugee communities adding it would contribute to further foster and enhance relations and integration between the two communities.

The Australian government-funded centre will predominately be used as an office base for the new service providers for the refugee community HOST International as well as the community liaison officers (CLOs) and settlement staff who are all employees of the department.

HOST International took over services from Connect Services and employed by the Nauru Government through the Department of Multicultural Affairs.

Ms Waqa said the centre will be open to the general community to hire for meetings and events for a minimal fee•

### - News in brief -

#### Mooring equipment ETA

The mooring equipment estimated to arrive last week will now be due mid-March with installation commencing a day after arrival on 19 March. Completion of installation work and project end is expected to be 7 April 2017.

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NAURU BULLETIN



**Republic of Nauru**

## RPC update

Nauru is currently host to a number of asylum seekers and refugees who are living and working with the Nauruan community at large.

As of 10 January 2017, the total number of refugees living in the community and in community housing offered by the Nauruan people and the government are 757. These figures comprise 293 single men, 56 single women, and 408 individuals in 141 family units.

There are 206 asylum seekers and 27 family units residing at the regional processing centres and enjoy open centre policy which is free access in and out of the centres and community 24 hours a day.

As of September 2016, there was a total of 176 school aged children between four and 18 years; 137 refugee children and 39 asylum seeker children.

At the end of December 2016 48 students are attending the government secondary schools, ten at primary level, four in pre-school, ten at infant level, 29 at the Catholic school at various grade levels, and 18 enrolled at the University of the South Pacific Nauru campus as of October 2016.

Twenty-one asylum seeker children are enrolled at the RPC school however actual attendance fluctuates on a daily basis.

A number of refugees have engaged in employment around the island either in the public or private sector.

As of November 2016 317 refugees work in the private sector and six are employed either with the government of state owned entities. Twenty-one have set up small businesses such as beauty salons, restaurants, small retail outlets, car wash service, construction and building services.

A community Christmas party was arranged in which the refugee and asylum seeker community took part in.

The Government of Nauru and its support groups continues to assist with the care and wellbeing of its asylum seeker and refugee friends•

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