



Nauru Bulletin

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29 May 2020

COVID-19 community regulations

National disaster risk management community transmission and public health safety regulations designed to protect the community from the potential threat of coronavirus

In times of coronavirus (COVID-19) when the public's safety is most at risk, the National Disaster Risk Management (COVID-19) (Community Transmission) and (Public Health Safety) Regulations 2020 were drawn up and published on 4 May to protect the Nauru community from the potential threat of coronavirus.

Penalties also apply and carry a fine of \$5,000 or jail time and in some instances an additional daily penalty of \$1,000 for failing to pay for the initial fine.

The objective

The regulations are to prevent the spread of the pandemic coronavirus (COVID-19) that is reasonably required in the interest of public safety and public health, and to supplement and give effect to the declaration of the national emergency on COVID-19 declared on 16 March and any extensions that may be necessary. The Regulations also encourage voluntary action by all citizens and residents of Nauru to comply with and enforcement of all instructions, requirements and directions by the relevant authorities is only anticipated, where voluntary compliance is not observed



District public health worker Avanoa Tsiode demonstrates how to properly wear and remove personal protective equipment (PPE)

and necessary as a means to ensure public safety and public health.

Other places of social distancing include private homes and other places other than those designated by the government for isolation and/or quarantine (such as the Budapest Hotel, Meneñ Hotel, Canstruct's Anibare Village, and the Remand Centre).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) include gloves, face masks, gowns, face protection, goggles, face shield, coveralls, head cover, rubber boots and any other

similar products or items to provide protection from the declared disease. All PPE must be destroyed by burning to eliminate any trace of disease. This is necessary to protect the community and any potential spread of any virus.

Notification of declared disease is the responsibility of a health practitioner. They must notify the secretary for health if there is reasonable cause to believe that a person has shown signs and symptoms of coronavirus or is potentially infectious.

The confidentiality of the names of identities of any potentially infectious person will be kept for official information sharing.

Power to require mandatory medical examination, diagnosis or treatment - where there is reasonable cause to believe a person is showing signs and symptoms of coronavirus or is infectious, a medical authority or other authorised person may require that person to undergo medical examinations, diagnosis or treatment, with or without their consent.

For a minor or anyone that is unable to give consent, a parent or guardian can give the consent.

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Nauru congratulates President Tsai on second term

President Lionel Aingimea delivered a congratulatory message to President Tsai Ing-wen in celebration of her second term as Taiwan's president, via video delivered for inauguration day, 20 May.

Due to the coronavirus travel restrictions President Aingimea was not able to personally attend the inauguration.

In the video message, Nauru's President expressed his best wishes and congratulations to President Tsai, saying "your strong return shows that the people of Taiwan have full confidence in your leadership and ability to lead your great country towards unity, prosperity, freedom and upholding democracy."

"Nauru and Taiwan both enjoy excellent relations with one another and Nauru greatly appreciates the assistance and many

good deeds that Taiwan has provided and is providing.

"I personally look forward to working with Your Excellency not only as a great friend but also knowing the relationship is one of family."

President Aingimea concluded by reinforcing solidarity through democracy.

"We assure you that we continue to stand with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and stand up for democracy across the world."

Republic of China (Taiwan) Embassy in Nauru Deputy Counsellor Joseph Hsu relayed news that popular Taiwan newspaper Liberty Times published news of world leaders'

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Nauru congratulates President Tsai on second term

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President Lionel Aingimea's congratulatory video message was selected by local Taiwan broadcaster Liberty Times to represent all international congratulatory messages sent in for the inauguration of Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen



congratulatory messages featuring President Aingimea under the headline “Leaders of friendly countries send their congratulatory videos: Nauru assures that it continues to stand with Taiwan”.

Nauru’s Ambassador to Taiwan, Jarden Kephas, attended the inauguration ceremony, held at the Taipei Guest House.

“I was not here for her first inauguration, but was told that it was attended by thousands of people.

“Because of the pandemic, only about 200 guests: diplomats, trades representatives, government representatives, representatives of first responders, government VIPs, were invited.”

Ambassador Kephas noted the Taiwan President’s humility and edification of her fellow Taiwanese.

“Apart from the political achievement President Tsai made, what stuck with me was how she thanked and greatly appreciated the people’s cooperation during the pandemic and how she asked the representatives of the first responders to stand up in groups, and be acknowledged not only to the guests at the ceremony but to the people of Taiwan watching on TV.

“She mentioned that her government will maintain the principles of democracy, and that she is confident her government will achieve the promises made because she knows that the people are with her.

“To me, she illuminated the important participation the people play in order for Taiwan to successfully move ahead.”

Dr Tsai first joined the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in 2004, becoming the first woman in Taiwan to chair a major political party, 2008-2010 and 2010-2012, and the first female presidential candidate in 2012.

In 2016, she was elected the 14th-term President, and again in 2020, the 15th-term President of Taiwan, winning the highest total votes in Taiwan’s history.

According to US think tank Council on Foreign Relations, The Republic of China (Taiwan) or ROC, an island off the southern coast of China, has been governed by a democratically-elected government since 1949. Mainland China, The People’s Republic of China (PRC), holds to the “One China” view, regarding Taiwan as a province of PRC. PRC is ruled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Read more at <https://www.cfr.org/> •

Zero tolerance to violence, step-by-step guide

Women’s Affairs has released a step-by-step guide for obtaining safety and protection orders in instances of domestic violence, telling victims “your life matters – act now!”

A safety order can be acquired in two easy steps. Step one is to report the violence to women’s affairs office (contact numbers provided below) or the police domestic violence unit (DVU) on 110.

Step two: the safety order will be issued by the DVU to the abuser, who will be jailed for 24 hours for breaching the order.

Livai Sovau is the legal officer at women’s affairs and says how effective the safety order is for victims.

“The safety order is instant and is granted by the police to bridge the gap, especially during the weekends or whatever hour the violence occurs since the court does not sit on the weekends and closes after 5pm.

“The safety order bridges the gap and helps many victims.”

A protection order is also a two-step process.

First, a protection order will be issued through the women’s affairs department by the legal officer in accordance with the victim’s statement, which in legal terms is known as an affidavit - a written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court.

Next, the legal officer attends court to register the affidavit which will be heard by a magistrate and the protection order is subsequently served to both parties by the DVU. The process is normally completed all in the one day.

As legal officer, Mr Sovau is responsible for putting in writing the victim’s affidavit.

“I, as the lawyer, will apply to the court for the issuance of a protection order and I will do this using Form 2, which is the conditions applied for, and Form 9, which is the affidavit of the complainant/victim.”

An abuser who breaches a protection order will be held in prison until the court hearing, and is required by law to attend counselling at the court house.

Nauru’s women’s affairs office use the expression in Nauruan: *añ towepo eaduw amo dōgin omamoen tsimorita*, translated to mean ‘working together to better our lives’, in acknowledgment of the need for both women and men of Nauru to be partners in finding solutions to family violence.

The Family Health and Support Study on violence against women in Nauru in 2014 revealed 48 per cent of women in intimate partner relationships have experienced physical and or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

The Nauru Parliament passed the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Bill in 2017 providing enforceable court orders to protect people who experience family violence.

Women’s affairs contacts: 557 9283

557 3854

557 3192 •

COVID: community, public health safety regs

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A potentially infectious person may be directed to undergo medical screening, or moved to another place for the screening. If this person refuses to comply with instructions to move or be tested, the police will remove this person.

These steps will be taken in the interest of the potentially infectious person, or for the protection, safety, and health of the public as declared under the declaration of national emergency for COVID-19.

The potentially infectious person will be advised of the reasons for removal to a designated residence or remand centre and the related offences if they decide to escape and avoid undergoing medical checks and diagnosis.

Failing to comply with this Regulation commits a strict liability offence of \$5,000 to be paid within seven days and failure to pay the fine, is liable to no more than six months prison time.

Obligations of a potentially infectious person includes allowing a biological sample to be taken and to produce travel documents within the last 21 days of travel.

Failing to comply, the person commits a strict liability offence and liable to a fixed penalty of \$5,000; and in the case of a potentially infectious person, removal to a designated residence or self-isolation. Failure to comply attracts a \$5,000 fine, six months prison time or both.

Social distancing of potentially infectious person – such person may be moved to another place to distance them from others and for the purposes of screening, observation, diagnosis or treatment.

Powers after examination - after health checks of a potentially infected person, and depending on the results, this person may be required to maintain social distancing or remain at a designated residence; refrain from travel, attend gatherings or public places. This person will also be required to provide health details, contact details or undergo further medical screening.

Discharge of persons - after a person is examined and has no signs or symptoms of the disease, they can re-join the community; may still be monitored by health officials; and may be required to undergo further health checks.

Post-mortem examinations may be ordered if the death of a person is suspected to be of the declared disease or if the cause of death is uncertain. A post-mortem is necessary to prevent the spread of the disease as well as for the purpose of scientific or medical research regarding the disease.

Person presenting signs or symptoms, suffering from or carrier of declared disease will be required to socially distance themselves, and reside at a designated residence for a suggested time. This person will also be personally responsible for any damage or loss of property allocated to them while at the designated residence.

Restricted area during outbreak or imminent outbreak - the minister for national emergency services, with Cabinet's approval, may declare a restricted area if there is reasonable cause to believe there is an outbreak or imminent outbreak of the disease, and would pose a risk to public health and safety.

Entering hospital or public health centre - for the purpose of managing and minimising the impacts of coronavirus, and public health and safety, everyone entering the hospital or public facility is required to do a thermal screening or other health measures as directed by the secretary for health or a health practitioner and may be required to handover or have their bags checked.



Contact tracing being undertaken by police during the practice drill on 14 May

Destruction and disposal of materials including edible items or materials suspected of or is contaminated with the disease may be ordered by the minister for national emergency services and minister for health.

Contact tracing is the tracing of the movement of a person suspected with, or has coronavirus required to be undertaken by authorities to find out and see who that person might have been in contact with – and potentially passing on the virus to others.

For the purpose of public health and safety, contact tracing may be conducted.

For this reason a list may be compiled containing names, families, households, workplaces and other places. The record will comply with the confidentiality requirements of a medical patient except for any lawful purpose including those under the Regulations.

A potentially infectious person will be directed to reside in a designated residence. Police and authorised officers may use force if the person fails to comply.

Fines and jail term are penalties for failure to comply, including an additional continual daily penalty of \$1,000 until the initial penalty of \$5,000 is paid.

Self-isolation other than Designated Residence or Remand Centre - a person may be required to self-isolate at their house and is expected to comply with the rules, instructions, requirement or directors of self-isolation, and shall not leave without the approval of the secretary for health or an authorised person.

If the person who does not comply with orders is a minor - the parent or guardian will be directed to accompany the minor to the place of residence and ensure the minor complies with any instructions given by authorities.

Applicable fines are \$5,000 and an additional \$1,000 per day until the first order is complied with, with an additional term of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Rules governing self-isolation - the minister may make rules governing self-isolation such as to prohibit or restrict anyone from entering or leaving the place of self-isolation; prohibit movement of any goods and food, prohibit visitations; place police or security officers to monitor and control any movement; unrestricted reasonable access by health practitioner to carry out health examinations; and allow police and authorised personnel to enter for the purpose of surveillance of potentially infectious person.

Restrictions on visitations or contact - physical contact with a potentially infectious person is restricted. Failure to comply attracts a fine of \$1,000 and payable within seven days.

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Failure to comply with the restriction and the first penalty is an additional penalty up to \$5,000 or up to six months jail term or both.

Delivering food or basic necessities for a potentially infectious person in a designated residence may be left with the security or police at the point of entry of that place, and may not be passed over or through the fence. Items passed from an infectious person to someone outside the residence must first be disinfected or fumigated by the relevant authority. Failure to comply attracts a fine of \$1,000 to be paid in seven days, failure to comply with the penalty is a fine up to \$5,000, up to six months prison or both.

Minors - a parent or guardian responsible for a minor must ensure that the minor complies with instructions imposed on them, and shall provide information and assistance as necessary, as well as direct the minor to maintain social distancing and to take the minor to a designated residence or other such place.

Instructions for a minor may only be exercised in the presence of a parent or guardian, or any adult who may have control over the minor, or an officer of the Child Protection Unit.

Control of employment, trade or business - an employer, trade or business may be directed to take reasonable measures necessary for public health and safety, including cessation of business or trade. It may also require a potentially infectious person to take extended sick leave or absence with pay in addition to the employee's prevailing entitlements; reorganise work schedules to allow for social distancing; and any employee under instruction from the secretary for health or an authorised person to maintain social distancing shall be paid their remuneration, and other measures deemed necessary for public safety and health.

An employer may also provide its own procedure to prevent the likely outbreak or spread of the disease.

If an employee wilfully fails to maintain social distancing and is required to be removed to and remain at a designated residence, then they may not be paid remuneration or benefits.

Form of instruction, requirement or direction - may be given or imposed verbally or in writing by the minister for emergency services, minister for health, secretary for health, a health practitioner, police officer or an authorised person.

Ancillary powers - the minister for health, secretary, a health practitioner, police officer or an authorised person may give reasonable instructions to a person in connection with social distancing; enter any place to exercise a power conferred under these Regulations; to use reasonable force to exercise such powers; and to inform a person the reasons for the instructions and that failure to comply with the same constitutes an offence.

Offences - there are a range of offences under these Regulations as mentioned earlier, which also includes concealing or failure to report in a timely manner any case of contracting the disease; intentionally making contact with or discriminate against a potentially infected person; failure to comply with instructions, rules or fines; utters, distributes or records any misleading or inaccurate information relating to COVID-19, public information by the Government or potentially infectious person through social or mass media or any other electronic or digital form; or obstructs a person in exercising the functions and powers under these Regulations or any other written law.

Penalties for failing to comply attracts a fine of \$1,000 to be paid within seven days; a person failing to comply with this penalty will be

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Police are authorised to use reasonable force to exercise powers under these Regulations

summoned to court, fined an additional fine of \$5,000, or six months prison time or both.

A COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice - may be issued by a police officer to a person that has committed an offence under these Regulations. Proceedings shall not take place within seven days after the notice was issued and if the penalty was paid before the end of the seven days the person may not be convicted of the offence.

Offender to be informed - a police officer who issues a COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice shall inform the offender of the contents of the notice; pay the penalty or appear in court to contest or defend the notice; and the penalty to be paid within seven days.

COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice court appearance - failure to pay the penalty and pleading guilty to the offence, the court shall impose the penalty for the offence; order court costs of \$100 and may grant other orders the court deems fit to ensure compliance with the order of the court not limited to committal. The Resident Magistrate may impose the same.

Where the person pleads not guilty, the matter will be dealt with accordingly.

Obligation of employer of security officers - where a security officer breaches or contravenes the Regulations, rules or other law, wilfully or by neglect at any of the designated residences and other place of social distancing, and cause the Republic to incur any costs or expenses for the purpose of containing the disease the employer of that security officer shall be liable to pay such costs or expenses.

The cost payable per potentially infectious person per day is \$250. The sum will be deducted prior to the payments being made for the contractual services provided by the employer.

Any money or debt owed to the Republic is recoverable by a garnishee order directly from the employer's or security firm's bank account or by civil proceedings.

Jurisdiction of the court - the District Court has the jurisdiction to hear and determine any cause or matter under these Regulations including any interlocutory applications or other applications involving a potentially infectious person to prevent the spread of the declared disease for public safety and health.

The matter may not be heard in court until the potentially infectious person has recovered and is able to attend court or engage a legal representative.

However, the court may communicate with the person over the telephone or other form of live communication, or allow a legal practitioner to represent the person in his or her absence.

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The Office of the Public Legal defender will be directed to obtain necessary instructions for the interlocutory hearing.

Power to arrest without warrant - a person who contravenes these Regulations or fails to comply with instructions, requirements or directions may be arrested without a warrant.

Liability for coming into physical contact with person in designated residence, remand centre or other place of social distancing - a person who intentionally or recklessly comes into contact with a potentially infectious person in a designated residence for no lawful reason may be required to self-isolate, or be removed to a designated residence, where they will be required to pay \$250 for expenses incurred while at the designated residence. This debt to the Republic is recoverable by a garnishee order directly from the person's bank account or by civil proceedings.

Fixed penalty offences – when the offender has paid and produced the receipt for the penalty, his or her case shall not be listed before the Resident Magistrate.

Disposal of infectious waste - all health practitioners must ensure that infectious waste is separated from other wastes by storing in separate closed containers, disinfected and destroyed by incineration.

Disposal of used personal protective equipment (PPE) - any used personal protective equipment shall be disposed of in closed containers and destroyed by incineration. Used PPE must not be shared, reused or preserved.

You can download the full Regulations from www.naurugov.nr under the GIO tab then click on Gazettes •

US embassy: economic recovery grant

The United States Embassy in Suva, Fiji is offering economic recovery grants for proposals to countries in the Pacific, including Nauru.

A statement released by the embassy on 22 May said that the grants are for between US\$25,000 and \$40,000 and are designed to promote economic growth, particularly in light of the economic impacts of COVID-19 across the region and the world.

US Ambassador to Nauru Joseph Cella spoke with optimism on projects his embassy hopes to fund related to developing tourism, entrepreneurship, and trade with the United States.

“The creativity, energy and transparency I have seen in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu demonstrates the enormous potential for growth and continued economic partnership with the United States.”

Applicants have a month to design and submit their proposals, due 30 June.

This grant was announced at the official launch of the United States, Allies, and Partners Fiji Forward – Business and Economic Development Roundtables on 19 May •

NDRM: rules for self-isolation

Regulations for rules for self-isolation in places other than in designated residences or remand centre were gazetted on 27 May, to protect the Nauru community against coronavirus.



Police and security are stationed outside homes under self-isolation orders

[Practice drill photo]

The purpose and objective of the rules are to supplement the National Disaster Risk Management (COVID-19) (Community Transmission) and (Public Health Safety) Regulations 2020 and to prevent the likely outbreak or minimisation of the spread of the declared disease, coronavirus for reasons of public safety and public health.

Any person who is required to self-isolate must familiarise themselves with these rules as well as other laws pertaining to COVID-19 and instructions by health practitioners or authorised person.

The members of a household under self-isolation must remain in their home or residence and must comply with all instructions and directions of a health practitioner, authorised person, police or security officer. Neither must they leave or attempt to leave the house for any reason except for the purposes of obtaining essential medical care on the instructions of a health practitioner.

They must refrain from any physical contact or meeting with any other person including family members, relatives, friends or visitors for the purposes of safety and health of everyone.

They must also maintain high level of hygiene.

Deliveries of food and other necessities by anyone who does not live in the same house must be left with the police or security officers stationed outside the home or residence.

The residents must not permit anyone to enter the premises until such time the risk of the spread of COVID-19 is eliminated.

Access must be given to a health practitioner for the purposes of health examination as well as allow a police officer or authorised person entry for the purposes of surveillance of any person who may be potentially suffering from or have contracted COVID-29.

Self-isolation is for a period of 14 days or otherwise instructed.

If you are required to self-isolate at home, you must travel directly from where you are to your home or residence to self-isolate.

While in self-isolation you are free to contact family by telephone or other electronic means.

If you do not comply with these rules, you commit an offence and will be prosecuted and be liable to pay a fixed penalty of up to \$5,000 or up to six months prison, or both.

As a resident and citizen of Nauru, it is your duty and responsibility to ensure and assist the Government in keeping the community safe to defeat COVID-19.

These rules are to assist everyone to understand their responsibilities under the laws however, your civic duty as a resident and citizen of Nauru is more important for public safety and public health and for the protection of your family members and friends from coronavirus •

Health prioritised: COP

As part of the new-look Nauru Police Force, Police Commissioner Iven Notte has introduced required fitness level (RFL) training for the first time in Nauru for all employees.

All employees of the Nauru Police Force, including support staff such as cleaners and HR civilian workers, plus the community liaison officer (CLO) workforce, are expected to participate in the training, now in its fourth week, as their roster allows.

The RFL training and testing program runs in Fiji, and is a basic job requirement of the military, police, ambulance and fire services in many countries, and meets public expectations that in order to fulfil their motto to ‘serve and protect’, Nauru’s police force have the physical ability to do so.

“RFL training is about strengthening – strengthening your health and fitness, strengthening your work, strengthening your family,” Commissioner Notte explains.

The first of three RFL tests planned for 2020 is set for late June. Employees are expected to complete a timed distance run, plus numbers of pushups, sit ups, burpees and side-saddle hops matched to their age, weight and health level.

To underpin the fitness program, Commissioner Notte has arranged for Public Health’s NCD Manager Don Kadir to provide police with information about non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or ‘lifestyle’ diseases that lead to sickness and early death in Nauru: heart disease, diabetes, cancer and respiratory diseases, like asthma. Causes of these diseases include smoking, alcohol abuse, inactivity and unhealthy diet, including overeating.

Mr Kadir also delivered to police the results of a health survey of 98 officers earlier this year.

Taiwan farm comes to Aiwo

Minister Rennie Gadabu, and member for Aiwo welcomed the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) to Aiwo to continue their NCDs prevention and cooking demonstration roadshow, Saturday, 23 May.

Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Dean Wang thanked the 40 or so participants for attending the workshop, before Public Health’s NCD Manager Don Kadir and TTM nutrition specialist James Yu provided valuable information on non-communicable diseases and how healthy cooking and eating can combat them.

Participants were invited to receive a ‘body check’, with TTM specialists measuring blood sugar and blood pressure, and recording height, weight and waist circumference in a personal record book.

Aiwo residents were invited to join Mr Yu on stage to cook and prepare dishes on the menu: okra salad, skillet cabbage egg and stir-fried eggplant with oyster sauce, while the event was being live streamed on Facebook with the action seen by all participants on a flat screen TV on stage, providing an interactive and entertaining experience.

All ingredients used are grown and harvested from TTM’s farm at Anabar.



Step classes are twice weekly for the police’s fitness level training

The survey revealed that only five per cent of those surveyed were of normal weight, with half obese and over 20 per cent morbidly obese.

Only 25 per cent had ideal blood pressure and a third of those surveyed are either pre-diabetic or diabetic.

The RFL program is timely, with the 2020 Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) conference theme concerning police officer wellbeing, one of the seven pillars of policing. PICP Secretariat has deferred the conference to 2021 due to COVID-19.

A 13-person RFL work group has been established, drawing members from police, CLOs, justice, health, the GIO and civil society to bring their expertise and perspectives to the organising of the first RFL testing next month for the law enforcement workforce of around 300.

While this is an NPF initiative, Commissioner Notte extends an invitation to the public to join RFL training each weekday morning from 5.30am to improve the health and fitness of all on Nauru •



Minister Rennie Gadabu completes his body check at the Taiwan technical mission’s NCD prevention visit in Aiwo

The Taiwan embassy’s recent egg sale grant of \$3000 was donated to the Rotary Club of Nauru to support the club’s correct hand washing project. The club supplies portable taps and soap to schools through their Hand Hygiene for Health project.

The event concluded with a seedling and compost giveaway to encourage the people of Aiwo to grow and cook their own food for a healthy life for themselves and their families and the future of Nauru.

The next TTM NCDs prevention and cooking demonstration roadshow will be held at Buada, planned for late June •

Nauru museum acquires Japanese usu

Naoero Museum's latest acquisition this month has been identified as most likely a Japanese 'usu'.

An usu is a large mortar used to pound mochi rice.

The artefact, carved from a pinnacle, was discovered by Sally Ephraim in Anetan.

University of Sydney archeologist Professor Stephen Gale visited Nauru in 2017 and noted the usu's similarity to another granite stone mortar made by Japanese Americans, circa 1934, as shown.



The Japanese usu is a large mortar used to pound mochi rice

The usu can be viewed at Naoero Museum in Yaren.

Naoero Museum Director, Horasio Cook, is requesting the public to donate any Nauruan artefacts, memorabilia, mementos or World War II relics they may have in their possession.

As director, Mr Cook is responsible for the identification, recording and protection of historic places and objects of Nauru, maintaining Nauru's National Heritage List and fostering public interest and involvement in places which have heritage value, in accordance with the National Heritage Act, 2017.

Contact Horasio Cook on 557 3999 for more information and to place your artefact on loan to educate our children about the history of their nation.

You can visit Naoero Museum every weekday, Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. School and other groups are encouraged to book with the director for a complete tour •

Road safety:

It's time.

Buy a helmet.

Protect yourself, protect your family.

The rider is responsible and will be fined.

Keep Nauru safe.

People power, Taiwan success

Nauru's Ambassador to Taiwan Jarden Kephas says the Taiwan people's sense of nationhood, civic duty and trust in their government has helped turn the tide early on COVID-19 for Taiwan.

Ambassador Kephas spoke to *Nauru Bulletin* about his experiences and observations living and working in Taiwan during COVID-19.

"Firstly, we are lucky in Taiwan because of the firm stance the government has taken in combating COVID-19 and this was greatly helped by the people's attitude, patience and trust towards the government.

"Because of this, it was not necessary to put the whole country under a strict lock-down, which would've made it difficult for those who have to go to work to make ends meet."

At its narrowest point, Taiwan is a mere 130 kilometres across the Taiwan Strait from mainland China where the pandemic originated in December 2019.

According to US Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, of which Taiwan's Vice President Chen Chien-Jen is a graduate, Taiwan's experiences with SARS in 2003 and H1N1 pandemic flu in 2009 prepared the country for COVID-19, using the 'prudent action, rapid response and early deployment' approach.

While countries like Australia, with an equivalent population to Taiwan, are hailing COVID cases of 7139 and deaths of 103 as at 27 May as a success, to the same date, Taiwan's numbers are 441 coronavirus cases and just 7 deaths. Ambassador Kephas says why he believes Taiwan's numbers are so low.

"In my view, the success of Taiwan's combat against COVID-19 lies in the effort the government undertook to protect its people and others and how the people cooperated to ensure that rules and policies are met, in an orderly and patient manner.

"I was truly amazed how civil the people behaved during this crisis. At the very early stage of the crisis there were specks of people hoarding toilet paper and rice. The government went on TV and other media sources to advise people how and why it's not necessary to start panic buying.

"These small number of people stopped hoarding, and everything was orderly and civil. I guess this goes to show how the people trusted in their government.

"Dialogue and trust between the government and the people is of paramount importance, especially in times of crisis," Ambassador Kephas said.

Taiwan continues to assist the world, including Nauru, donating over 10 million face masks plus other medical supplies, equipment and funding under its "Taiwan Can Help" campaign, while being locked out of participation in the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Ambassador Kephas extends his thanks to Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the care and supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) he and his staff have received, saying "much thanks to MOFA for the kind and much-appreciated gesture." •

Biodiversity day, our solutions are in nature

On 22 May, the world celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity under the 2020 theme “Our solutions are in nature”.

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment’s (CIE) Director of Environment Bryan Star spoke to *Nauru Bulletin* about biodiversity in Nauru, and upcoming environmental protections for the island.

But first, what is biodiversity, and why should we care?

UNESCO explains that “biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet. It underpins human wellbeing in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and people alike.

“Humans are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our health, water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, to name a few.”

“The main global drivers of biodiversity loss are climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution and urbanisation.”

In Nauru, the destruction of both flora and fauna, plants and animal species, is as a result of over a century of phosphate mining covering 70 per cent of the total land area of the island. Nauru’s reefs and waters have also suffered loss of species through overfishing and pollution.

A rapid biodiversity assessment or BIORAP performed in Nauru reported its findings in 2013 and found that “almost no native forest species remains in Nauru”.

Thirty-six bird species were recorded, with the brown noddy found in low numbers indicating “they are being harvested faster than they can breed.”

Recommendations included targeting invasive plant species like the red-bead tree which dominate other vegetation, and invasive marine species found particularly at Aiwo, Meneñ and Anibare. Replanting programs, coastal protection, bird habitat preservation, reduction of night-time light pollution, species monitoring, public education and legislative protection were also advised.

No update has been performed on the 2013 BIORAP, but Mr Star explains how its assessment is being used in other projects since.



Director of Environment Bryan Star says legislation yet to be tabled in parliament will be instrumental in enabling Nauru to strengthen and protect its ecosystem and natural resources

[File photo]

“The BIORAP was used to also formulate the Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project, its activities and focal areas so basically the R2R project is our flagship for improving our ecosystem and conserving our biological diversity.”

In addition, legislation now exists in draft form awaiting approval.

“Through the R2R project, we have drafts finalised with fisheries and justice the Coastal and Aquaculture Management Bill and the Environment and Climate Change Bill, which will be tabled in Parliament soon.

“These two key legislations will be instrumental in enabling us to strengthen and protect our ecosystem and natural resources,” Mr Star said.

Nauru ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in February 1994 and submitted its most recent National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPS) in 2016.

Download the plan at :

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/nr/nr-nbsap-01-en.pdf> •

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