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Members of the public questioned the law on voting

By Yvette D

THE Right to vote has raised several questions from members of the public as the election is a national event but hundreds of eligible voters never bothered to register nor casted their votes. Kaupule Sitaake Lopati told the training, that if participation in election in the country desires eligible voters to cast their vote, it's about time there is a law that makes voting compulsory.

The issue firstly triggered questions during the Civic education training on election that just completed earlier this week on the capital.

However after the close of registrations and publication of notice of each electoral register, more questions surfaced as to why should we bother to register when others did not even bother to neither register nor casted their vote?

Most of the locals who talked to *Fenui* reporters said, the law should make it obligatory for any eligible voter to vote.

In last year's civic education training, Secretary for the Niutao

However, Crown Counsel in the office of the Attorney General Laigane Italeli said that the current laws on election in Tuvalu does not make it obligatory for members of the public, nor penalized eligible voters if they failed to cast their votes, therefore they can either vote or not vote.

Chief Ombudsman Saaga Talu explained that the post election period is a time for reflecting and evaluating the election in order to draw out the shortcomings and do something about it before the next election.

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**TUVALU
GENERAL ELECTION 2015
19 MARCH 2015**

Tuvalu's Prime Minister Hon Enele S Sopoaga visits the Republic of China (Taiwan)

Source: Tuvalu Embassy in Taiwan



Hon PM Enele S Sopoaga and Madame Sopoaga with President of the Republic of China H.E Ma Ying-jeou

FROM 25th to 29th January, 2015, H.E. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, was accompanied by his wife Madame Salilo Enele Sopoaga; Minister of Education, Youths and Sports Honorable Fauoa Maani; Parliamentarian Honorable Satini Tulaga Manuella; Ambassador Jason C. H. Wan from the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in

Tuvalu; and other officers from the Government of Tuvalu on an official state visit to the R.O.C. (Taiwan).

Tuvalu's Ambassador to Taiwan, Minute Alapati Taupo, and his wife Madame Seleta Kapua Taupo joined the delegation over the course of their visit.

During their trip, Prime Minister Sopoaga and other distinguished guests from Tuvalu met with not only Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, the President of the Republic of China, and Ambassador David Y.L. Lin, Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, but also visited Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Council of

Indigenous Peoples, and Fisheries Agency.

The Prime Minister's visit to Taiwan also entailed a tour of the island, during which the visiting delegation traveled to Taoyuan, Taichung, Tainan, and Kaohsiung and paid special visits to the Ching Fu Group, Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, the Speedtech Energy Company, and the TaiwanICDF.

The delegation's trip to Taiwan also featured a visit to the Embassy of Tuvalu, R.O.C. (Taiwan) at Tianmu's Diplomatic Quarter.

Additionally, Tuvaluan students studying abroad in Taiwan were invited to dine with the Prime Minister and his delegation on 25th January, 2015, the first day of the Prime Minister's trip to Taiwan■

Magistrates remind about integrity when executing their duties as revising officers

By Yvette D'Unienville

PRESIDENT Magistrates on each island have been reminded about integrity when it comes to executing their decisions in any public hearing of objections the registration for the upcoming general election.

The President magistrates

have been appointed as Revising officers for each electoral district, who will hear and hold public enquiries on objections relating to any registration for the general election.

Crown Counsel Laigane Italeli Talia from the Attorney General's office says that for objections, it is significant for the Revising officers to conduct their own investigations and get supporting evidence in order for them to make sound decisions.

In the Civic Education on elections that was held towards the end of last year, Chief Ombudsman, Saaga Talu warned that these are the days when their integrity are severely tested, mainly in their relations to objectors or applicants.

To the magistrates, he said, it is important to carry out their duties with integrity by avoiding bias and intolerance.

Ms Talia stressed that the decision made by the Revising office is final.

The registration period for the nation has closed and the nation is going through the objection period.

Objections could be about a person who should not be registered in that particular electorate, or those whose names are not on the register for a particular electorate although the concerned person or persons followed all the procedures of the registration process■

Tuvalu students studying medicine in Cuba will undergo internship at Kiribati

By Pua Pedro

THE Education Department has confirmed it is working together with Kiribati to have Tuvaluan medical students do their internship in Kiribati after completing their medical program in Cuba.

Atabi Ewekia Pre-Service Training officer said this has been confirmed last year and the first lot will be sent to Kiribati next year.

“Eight students are expected to complete from Cuba in September later this year, and they will have their holidays first before their attachment with the Princess Margaret Hospital, then their internship in Kiribati.”

KITP is co-facilitated by Kiribati, Australia and Taiwan and has the ability to upgrade and to fill the gap those Cuban doctors missed out and enable them become competent and safe doctors.

Ewekia said that following assessments, Tuvalu found that the standard of medical training in Cuba for Tuvalu students in Cuba is a bit behind the competency level for practitioners in the region and it is hope that the KITP has the courses to make up for that gap.

In an interview with Secretary in the Ministry of Health recently, Isaia Taape said that it would be great to have our medical students undergo internships in Kiribati because there are a lot of serious cases worth learning from Kiribati.

The KITP internship is for two years■

Tuvalu’s New High Commission in NZ is to be officiated this month

Reported by Semi Malaki

TUVALU’S New High Commission in NZ will be officially opened next week Tuesday – 3rd of February in Wellington.

Caretaker Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Taukelina Finikaso and secretaries in the Ministry are on their way to NZ for this reason.

Tuvalu’s office was situated previously in Auckland and is manned by Samuelu Laloni and spouse.

In an email, Mr Laloni told *Fenui* that Tuvalu’s consulate has now become Tuvalu’s High Commission after it was shifted to Wellington.

He also said the reallocation of Tuvalu’s High Commission

to Wellington is because all the high commissions of other countries are based there and will make it easier for operations of the High Commission at the diplomatic and political level.

He added that being close to the NZ Government Office and other High Commission’s is significant for collaborations and co-operations of countries.

Mr Laloni said that the Tuvalu’s consulate in Auckland mainly carried out consular services for Tuvaluans in NZ, which is important to have it where there is a high number of Tuvaluans.

The new High Commission will deal with work mainly carried out by High Commissions■

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He told the gathering that the post election period is an important part of the election cycle for reflecting on shortcomings of an election and if there is a need to amend the law to boost voting by making voting compulsory, that is the time to deal with such matters.

Eligible voters are those who have reached the age of 18 at the registration period of any election, excluding those who are mentally ill, Tuvaluans residing

overseas during the registration period, and those who have been punished by the law for 12 months imprisonment and haven’t been pardoned and unregistered voters.

The voters lists for all islands of Tuvalu comes to a total of 6,410 voters, while the population of Tuvalu according to 2012 National census nearly reached 11,000 people including children.

In the election cycle, the objection period closed yesterday and 7 days are given for the publication of objections■

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Tune in to the National News bulletin @ 7:10 every evening.**

TNPF board has declared an interest rate to be credited to members

By Diana Semi

THE Board of Tuvalu National Provident Fund in its meeting on Wednesday this week declared an interest rate of 5.26% to be credited to all members' accounts as dividend for the financial year 2014.

The Fund's Acting General Manager Mr Kiatoa Ulika revealed that the Fund reported a net profit of \$3,059,651 for the financial year 2014.

To finance its decision to declare a dividend of 5.26% to all its members – the Board approved an allocation of 2.4 million from profits reported for the 2014 year to be used in the distribution of member's dividend, which will be directly credited to member's accounts.

In the same meeting the TNPF Board also approved an allocation of \$611,930 from reported profits to be allocated to general reserves of the fund.

"Strong returns from the global equity market and high returns realized from the Fund's Loans Scheme, contributed to the good performance and high profits reported by the Fund during the year," Ulika said.

"The financial year 2014 was a good year for the Fund and its members confident that the Fund has in place a well disciplined investment strategy that will benefit the Fund and its members in the long-term" ■

BSRPs national steering committee moves activities forward

By Yvette D & Losana McGowan



Member of NSC: Sumeo Silu, Malo Auina with Waisale Naqiolevu.

Photo: Losana McGowan, BSRP

PROJECT officer in charge of Tuvalu for the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP)-European Union (EU)-Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)-Building Safety and Resilience (BSRP) project again pays a visit to Tuvalu.

Waisale Naqiolevu said "This trip is to touch base with the members of the Tuvalu steering committee and to finalise activities that will be implemented this year."

The second National Steering Committee meeting will take place next Wednesday February 4th and at the Tuvalu Government Buildings.

Referring to the opening of an Emergency Relief Shelter in Niu-tao Island Mr Naqiolevu said he's happy with the activity implemented out so far.

Mr Silu said other activities planned for this year that is supported by the BSRP project includes two relief shelters in the islands of Nanumaga and Nui, an awareness and training on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Vaitupu Island that will include the formulation of the islands disaster response plan, visits to various schools to include the disaster response plans and the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction celebration in November.

The ACP-EU-SPC- BSRP project is designed to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) at regional, national and community levels, by filling in the gap between humanitarian assistance and development ■

BRIEFS

BAD weathers slows construction works on the new prison. Carpenter Teuso Salesa said they have daily task which targeted to complete on a certain day but bad weather throughout this week kept them reaching their daily goal. He said that the foundation and four walls have been completed with the rails and beams is place on tops and nailing of the roof is expected to starts next week■

GOVERNMENT offices located behind Vaiaku EKT chapel will be relocated as a new office complex is building soon. Malofou Auina Assistant Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister said offices will be housed at the Vaiaku Fusi and the old hospital complex that was used by Form 7 in the past years. These offices include the Senior Magistrate, Public Service Commission, People's Lawyer, Agriculture, SWAT, NAPA I and 2, Tuvalu Overseas Seamen's Union TOSU and the Tuvalu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee TASNOC■

THE small island nation of Tuvalu has been yellow carded by the European Union together with Solomon Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, as non-cooperative countries, according to the report on the European commission website. It states that the decision highlights that these countries are not doing enough to fight illegal fishing and that they do not currently fulfill their duties as flag, coastal, port or market state in line with international law. Director of Fisheries Samasoni Finikaso has confirmed Tuvalu status as one of the countries yellow carded by the EU recently. The decision to yellow card Tuvalu was made last December 2014■

THE Tuvalu taskforce in preparation for two meetings of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to be hosted by Tuvalu this year has met twice and will meet again in the next fortnight. Chairman of the Taskforce - Samasoni Finikaso, who is also the Director of fisheries told Tuvalu news that the 93rd FFA Committee meeting for officials is looking at a number of 60 plus delegates representing the 17 FFA member countries. The Committee meeting will be held for two weeks commencing on the 4th to the 15 of May 2015, while the Ministerial meeting will be convened in July this year■

More than 30 applications approved to be funded by SELF

By Pua Pedro

THIRTY four Tuvaluans have been approved to be sponsored by the 'Sky is the Limit' or SELF program for this year.

Puaita Fauvaka Etuati Assistant Secretary in the Personnel and Training Department said this include three continuing students and thirty one new intakes.

Ms. Fauvaka said that confirmation letters have distributed to these students and there will be an interview to be held sometime this week.

The interview is to get confirmations from the successful students because SELF is different from the other scholarships because it is a loan.

In the meantime, the final list will be finalised after the interview.

Out of the thirty four students, twenty two will study at USP Laucala Campus, eight at the Fiji National University FNU, one at Samoa and three at the Tuvalu USP Campus.

SELF does not sponsor the student to the end of the program because students under it apply to it every semester and the continuation of its support depends on the performance of the student per semester.

This is the second year since SELF or 'Sky is the Limit' was introduced■

**fenui e-newsletter is trying to revive
letters to the Editor**

Have your say in this column by writing about any issues of concern.

World Bank approves US\$7 million Grant for Energy Sector Development Project

THE WORLD BANK's Board of Executive Directors today approved US\$7 million grant for the Tuvalu Energy Sector Development Project (ESDP), which will support Tuvalu's goals of 100 percent renewable energy and 30 percent efficiency improvements by 2020.

The Tuvalu ESDP will support a reduction in the reliance on imported fuel for electricity generation through investment in renewable energy development, increasing the efficiency of energy supply and use, and improving the capacity of the Government of Tuvalu and the national energy supplier – the Tuvalu Energy Corporation (TEC) – to better manage energy delivery.

"Facilitating the delivery of efficient and renewable energy in Tuvalu will ultimately help to improve the affordability and sustainability of electricity services for households and businesses," said Franz Drees-Gross, Country Director for the World Bank in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific Islands.

"Electricity access is intrinsically linked to better standards of education, healthcare, gender equality and poverty reduction – all of which will positively impact the lives of the people of Tuvalu."

Specifically, the project will increase the proportion of renewable energy in TEC's electricity generation system through the supply and installation of solar and wind power infrastructure,

systems to provide power grid stability and store excess energy produced. The project will also promote more efficient energy use through the supply and installation of prepayment meters for TEC customers and smart meters for large consumers, along with enhanced insulation and other energy efficiency measures. TEC and the Government will receive technical assistance and training to enable staff to effectively implement the project.

"Creating efficiencies in our energy use and increasing renewable sources are vital to reducing fuel imports and the cost of electricity over time," said Hon. Vete Sakaio, Tuvalu's Minister of Public Utilities and Infrastructure. "This project is building on work already underway to strengthen our energy sector, with development partners including the Governments of New Zealand, the European Union, and the UAE."

The project considers gender as a cross cutting issue associated with energy development. A Gender Scoping Study was undertaken during ESDP preparations, with a Gender Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework subsequently prepared. This will ensure men and women have equal input into the project's design and implementation, and share equally in the benefits of increased energy affordability.

The Tuvalu ESDP will be funded through a US\$7 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries■

Education Officials meet in Fiji for the 'Achieving Education for All' program

Reported by Pua Pedro

THE Achieving Education for All in Tuvalu Program AEfATP has gathered representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia DFAT, Ministry of Education of Tuvalu MEYS and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund UNICEF for a meeting in Fiji.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Talavai Iona is representing Tuvalu at the meeting.

He said that the main objective of the meeting is to look at the mid-term report of the program AEfATP which was reviewed last year after it's implementation in Tuvalu for some years.

The review was conducted by representatives from UNICEF and DFAT.

"The report will be presented to all representatives of the three main partners of the program in order for the findings to be discussed together with recommendations and agreement on a way forward," Iona said.

"The program has resulted in improvements in the area of education with new initiatives implemented in the schools with the assistance of DFAT and UNICEF."

The program for Tuvalu is funded by DFAT, facilitated by UNICEF and implemented by MEYS■

Highlighting the power of solar in Tuvalu *By Amber Carvan*



Jemesa Waqavanua (Fiji TV), Amber Carvan (SPREP), John Rabuatoka (Fiji TV) and Mafalu Lotolua (TEC)

Photo: Amber C

REPRESENTATIVES from Fiji TV, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Tuvalu Electricity Corporation (TEC) have commenced work on collecting footage for a new documentary on the provision of solar power to communities in the remote areas of Tuvalu.

The ground-breaking project, run in partnership between the European Union and the Government of Tuvalu, will be documented in a 15 minute television programme which will look at some of the successes and challenges that the project has faced in

of the documentary, Fiji TV Mr John Rabuatoka said "Interestingly enough, there were long interruptions to the power supply on the islands that we have visited so far. It really gave us an appreciation for some of the hardships faced by the communities that live there. Despite these hardships though, the warmth and generosity of all the islands and villages we have visited has been quite overwhelming."

Assistant Producer, Mr Jemesa Waqavanua added "For us this is the first time that we have visited Tuvalu. We'd like to thank

improving access to reliable and environmentally sound energy services to three remote outer islands of Tuvalu.

The team travelled by boat from Funafuti to the remote islands of Nukufetau and Nui and hopes to travel to Nukulaelae before they depart.

The Producer

all the wonderful people who have helped us out over the past few weeks. On a personal and professional level, this experience has been very memorable."

This documentary is being undertaken as part of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Samoa and executed by SPREP.

The solar facilities being filmed have been made possible through a partnership between the Government of Tuvalu and the European Union with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) of New Zealand, the Government of Finland and PIGGAREP.

The documentary film will be finished in March and will be broadcast on Fiji TV later this year. It will also be available online■

Sologa o Kautama Pre-School plea for assistance for the Classroom of 20 small children

By Kuata Taumaheke

THE unavoidable rainy days are a nightmare for the Sologa o Kautama Pre School.

The school becomes flooded by rain as the roof

has deteriorated and need to be renovated.

In an interview with *Fenui*, an emotional headmistress of the Preschool Ms Meleta Tovia said that the school desperately needs a new building because there are more cancellation of classes for children when it rains, then classes.

The school is located next to the Niutao Falekaupule and consists of twenty students with three

Ms Meleta said the

school closes on days on rainy days because the rain falls from the heavens into the classroom, flooding the floor where children sit and have their classes.

"Parents are fund raising through Walk-a-thon, Binges, Tea Parties and has also proposed to the caretaker Government, Taiwan Embassy, National Bank of Tuvalu, JY Store

and MacKenzie Company Limited for assistance," said Ms Tovia.

"So far there have been no responses to their proposals."

One of the parents whose child attends Sologa O kautama, Brenda Teinafo admits that the classroom is in very bad condition; the roof is very rusty and leaks which is not a sound place for children's learning■

Health Department encouraged family planning

By Kuata Taumaheke

HEALTH departments in the region are promoting Family Planning as the population is increasing rapidly – according to the World Organization's report.

One of the efforts made by the health departments is a Family Planning program.

The Health Department in Tuvalu is promoting Family Planning and encouraging women to use Family Planning.

Teveve Mika a staff nurse at Princess Margaret Hospital clinic said family planning is not stopping a woman from giving birth but to help space out children for lot of benefits.

She said that most mothers are not using Family Planning but they are encouraged to use Family Planning as it is for free and easy to use.

Family Planning has more than one method that women can use.

Condom is also one of the methods that men can use.

Ms Mika - that besides running other programs regarding mothers and their babies, the department is also making efforts to assist women use Family Planning.

The Health department and Tuvalu Family Health Association are promoting family Planning to enable people in Tuvalu to live in good lives.

Taotao Homasi clinic nurse at the TuFHA stated few married women and single mothers visited the clinic to seek family planning counseling last year, and she hope the number will increases this year■

Tuvalu awaits the outcome of applications for Morocco scholarships

By Pua Pedro

APPLICATION letters for the eight Morocco scholarships that were re-advertise have been sent to Morocco for finalisation.

Pre-Service Training officer Atabi Ewekia has confirmed that all the applications for the eight scholarships have been send to Morocco.

Morocco, initially offered ten scholarships to Tuvalu but only two were picked during the first selection and then Morocco requested Tuvalu Government to ensure that the other eight offers

are filled.

"The eight scholarship awards were re-advertised and there was a high interest in the offers," said Ewekia.

He said Morocco has the final say on the applications.

Although the new lot is much too late for the commencement of their programs in Morocco, Mr Ewekia guaranteed that that the Education department and Morocco government will look into the matter.

Locals and mainly parents were at first worried about their children applying for Morocco scholarships as it is a new country offering scholarships to Tuvalu.

However Assistant Secretary in the Ministry Nikolasi Apinelu assured that Morocco is a safe country for our students to go and study, and the institution that our students go to has very secured policies in place■

Members of Parliament gathered in Fiji for a three day of consultation

By Diana Semi

THE emerging and current human rights issues in the region will be the focus of a three-day consultation this week (28-30 January) with members of parliament from 15 Pacific island countries including Tuvalu.

Human Rights for Good Governance' is the theme of the consultation organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team at the Sofitel Hotel in Nadi, Fiji, this week.

Report stated a highlight on Thursday (29 January) was the

launch of The Big Nine publication – an important reference for judges, magistrates, legal practitioners and law students across the Pacific.

It will also be useful for human rights advocates, civil society representatives and policy makers who seek to draw on international human rights law as a tool for initiating change in governance, policy and legislation, as well as in traditional and cultural practices in their own countries.

SPC through its Human Rights Programme (RRRT) works to build a culture of human rights and assists nation states to commit to, and observe, international human rights standards.

Tuvalu is represented by caretaker minister of Finance and Economic Planning Matia Toafa and Speaker to Parliament Otinielu Tau-teleimalae Tausi■

QUICK TRACKS

◇ **SCHOOL** has already started and parents are still running around looking for school's uniforms.

Sita Tapumanaia, a Seamstress at the EKT Women Fellowship sewing studio said they are currently sewing a lot of uniforms with orders piling up. Tutaima Tolauapi of the Tuvalu National Council of Women said they are also sewing uniforms for parents and reminded parents to place their orders in advance■

◇ **ISLANDS youths** were involved in a one day workshop on sexually transmitted infection diseases, fully funded by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The purpose of the workshop was to create more awareness of the wider community and educate them on sexually transmitted infection diseases in Tuvalu. Youth Officer Vailogo Tima said the workshop was held to build up the awareness on sexually transmitted infectious diseases beside teenage pregnancy, and HIV & AIDS■

◇ **AS Tuvalu** experienced bad weathers the Tuvalu Electricity Corporation is creating precaution awareness about electrical faults and what to do for the public safety. Senior Official of TEC Fatoga Talama said that it is dangerous to touch or use electricity if hands are wet. He cautioned that all electricity appliances that are not in used in that particular time should all be turned off and if there is an electrical problem to inform the Corporation on telephone number 20350■

◇ **THE delayed** of MV Nivaga II's trip to Fiji has worried parents whose children are studying in Fiji and traveling on the boat. Strong winds and bad weathers have caused the delay since the end of last month. One parent said the boat is the only mean of transport they could afford to send their children to Fiji who are already late■

◇ **TUVALU Diabetic** Association is not successfully manage due to the number of diabetic patient registered under the association. TDA Secretary Julie Natano urges local diabetic patients to register because the more people register, TDA will be well manage and recognize worldwide. The association has officially registered under the non government organizations thus, they now in the move to register under the world diabetic organizations. Rosia Moresi a member of TDA said there are lots of diabetic patients in Tuvalu but are registered■

Funafuti Kaupule encourages business people to pay business license

By Kuata Taumaheke

THE Funafuti Kaupule is encouraging business people on Funafuti to pay up their business license fees.

Secretary of the Funafuti Kaupule Uluao Lauti said that the Kaupule noticed that some businesses had been operating without any business license for a few years now.

He revealed that the Kaupule is now working on informing business people in a form of letters and announcement on ra-

dio to pay up their license.

Olive Paeke Kaupule Rate officer said businesses need to pay either half a year or a full year license depending on the duration they want to operate their business.

According to Ms Paeke the fees are also different depending on the kind of license businesses preference.

Lauti encourages all business people on Funafuti to work together with the Kaupule and be prompt with the licenses they need to pay up because working together helps to further Kaupule developments for the future.

Fenui learned that if business people fail to pay their licenses the Kaupule will take legal action against them■

A minimal number of diabetic people registered under the Tuvalu Diabetic Association

By Kuata Taumaheke

MORE than twenty diabetic people on the capital have registered under the Tuvalu Diabetic Association (TDA).

The number is very low compared to the number reported by each clinic in the country base on the number of diabetic patients receiving treatment – says TDA president Rev. Tofiga Falani.

Jullie Natano NCDs Coordinator also known as the TDA secretary says this is not expected as the number should be high.

According to the survey conducted by the health department in 2011, the country has three hundred diabetic cases.

From the number, 223 diabetic patients reside on the capital while the rest stay on outer islands.

Ms Natano on behalf of the TDA urges every diabetic patient to register under this association because it was established for diabetic patients.

The association she says is trying to be a member of the World Diabetic Association.

She further said if more people registered under the TDA, the association will also receive more funds and other support from foreign donors.

Diabetes is one of the 3 major non communicable diseases in Tuvalu apart from high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease■

To boost the development of Basketball in the country

By Diana Semi

TUVALU Basketball Federation is boosting the development of this sport this year.

Its first move is organizing a training for coaches, referees for all clubs and some school teachers.

Vice President of Tuvalu Basketball Federation Mr Natano Elisala said the training will be facilitated by one of the National Referee from the Oceania Basketball Federation of Australia – Enny La Flaur who will be arriving in the country next week.

Ms La Flaur is a well known basketball player in Australia who has also participated in championships within and outside of Australia.

The training will be convened from 3rd – 12th of next month and will be the first of its kind to be conducted in the country following a request made by Tuvalu Basketball Federation for assistance in improving the skills and knowledge of players and the need for coaches in the sport.

The Federation currently has up to sixty players.

Elisala said the federation had sent out invitations to all clubs for their nominations before the arrival of La Flaur.

Her visit to Tuvalu for the training is fully funded by the Oceania Basketball Federation of Australia■

TASNOC named Deputy CDM and Team Manager for Pacific Games 2015

By Semi Malaki

THE Tuvalu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee TASNOC had named the Deputy Chef De Mission and Team Manager for Team Tuvalu to the 2015 Pacific Games.

Following the association meeting, it was agreed for Uatea Vave to be the Deputy Chef De Mission assisting Chef De Mission Nakibae Kitiseni who was already selected.

Niuone Eliuta was selected as Team Manager to lead the team of more than 100 athletes to the Port Moresby game.

Uatea Vave who was Chef De Mission during the 2013 Pacific Mini Games in Wallis and Futuna says he was surprised to be selected.

He says he is willing to assist Team Tuvalu and officials in whatever way he could.

Tuvalu is sending a total of 122 athletes and 28 officials including 5 trainers, 12 coaches, two medical personnel and a media representative.

Official report from TASNOC states that Team Tuvalu had been registered to compete in 12 sports.

Each sports federation had been tasked to organize training for the athletes and other preparation for the game which will be held from 4 to 18 July 2015 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea■

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