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CIP and Demos to get warning, stop using public property for campaigning



The Democratic Party sign that Dashwood says must be removed immediately

The Cook Islands Party (CIP) and the Democratic Party (DP) are about to get a stern warning from Julian Dashwood the Chairman of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC). In a bold move of impartiality and integrity Dashwood will instruct both Parties to stop using public property and tax funded equipment for political electioneering.

Dashwood is unconcerned about past practises but is insisting the public have lost tolerance with political abuses and he wants to raise the standards to ensure the public do not lose confidence in CIIC and it's good governance.

It has been drawn to Dashwood's attention that both Parties are using tax funded property and equipment for campaigning. Dashwood affirms this practise has to stop immediately. There is a difference in the use of tax funded property and equipment for governance but Party electioneering has to be done elsewhere.

The CIP are using Minister of Finance Mark Brown's Ministerial offices and equipment while the DP is using the Office of the Leader of the Opposition as their campaign headquarters. The political sign erected at the Opposition office has to be removed immediately. "Public

property can't be used for political electioneering," stated Dashwood.

Neither Party can deny their abuse of public property. Newspaper advertising has stated where meetings were to be held.

He also said he will be writing to both of them to cease prohibited use immediately.

Asked what action he would take if the Parties defied complying with his instructions, Dashwood said it will be enforced with court action and the public will make their own judgment on the credibility and integrity of those who continued.

New Zealand has strict rules

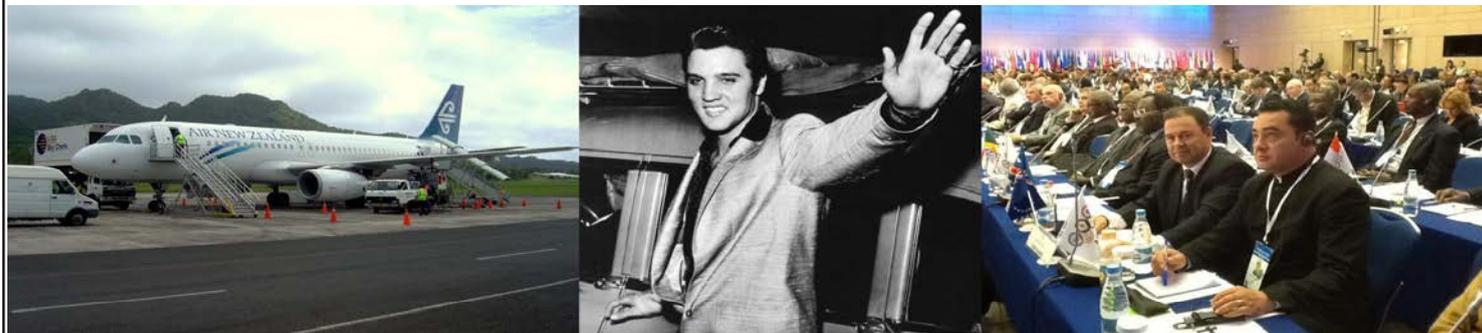
about political parties using public property and equipment for electioneering. It simply isn't allowed said a former NZ public servant.

Dashwood agreed both Parties should be setting good governance practices as an example to the public especially as tax payers have become more vigilant and vocal about political abuses.

When questioned, the unafraid Dashwood answered he would not be swayed by political pressure because the right thing had to prevail, "CIIC is not a political puppet of the government of the day."

- George Pitt

The CIP is not working.



People are still leaving.

The Government is too busy going on tour.

And Ministers keep travelling overseas.

ADB view of economy too one sided

By Charles Pitt

The recent photo of our Finance Minister posing with the ADB chief (with both grinning) and the ADB comment that the Cook Islands had the best performing economy in the Pacific, reveals government has achieved a new height of absurdity.

I'm not an Economist but I have two eyes in my head that can see that many ordinary Cook Islanders are having a tough time making ends meet.

If ours is the best performing economy in the Pacific what does that say for the other Pacific nations?

What the ADB chief should be saying to our Finance Minister is, get your economy right or your country will go down the toilet.

All around the world, ordinary citizens have taken to the streets in protest at their government's failure to get their economies right. Government's have put the interests of bankers before the welfare of their people. In the Cook Islands greater weight seems to be given by government to meeting fiscal responsibility ratios (FRRs) set years ago by bankers, than the welfare of ordinary Cook Islanders.

Economic development is being stifled by government's dogged adherence to these FRRs and the high interest rates set by foreign owned banks.

The local banks say the high rates are because of high country risk. However, it is more likely the banks want to maintain a certain level of profit. The banking review carried out by an ex-CEO of Kiwi Bank revealed our

local banks have the lowest profit margin in the Pacific, around 10%. Other Pacific nations provide these banks with profit margins of 25%-30%. While non-performing loans are high, these can be reduced by lowering interest rates.

The ADB should take a wider view but the danger in this is that the ADB will have no choice but to comment unfavourably on government policy and I was advised some years ago by the ADB's regional office Chief from Suva that this was a no, no.

The truth is the economy is not performing well. MFEM's pre-election fiscal and economic update reveals there will be an underlying budget deficit for the next three years. There is no room for new initiatives unless savings are made in other areas. For years, MFEM has been warning governments that operations expenditure is reaching unsustainable levels. Crunch time is now just around the corner and it is possible some public servants may lose their jobs. This would be disasterous.

Other data points to an economy in bad shape. The latest Census shows that the average wage for a woman is \$3,000 below that for a male. What's happened to equal pay?

While the unemployment rate nationally is around 8%, on Rarotonga the unemployment rate among those aged 15 years and up who are actively seeking work, is 58.8%. This figure is too high.

Almost half the population is on some form of benefit. Mangaia has the highest number on the destitute benefit.

There has been no recent survey to determine the average household disposable income. While government plans a survey sometime in the near future, the survey is likely to reveal that many families have no disposable income.

Parents still need to run raffles and sell food to raise funds for school items that should be paid for out of Ministry allocations.

By the time the infrastructure and renewable energy projects have been completed, more than \$200 million will have been spent. However, as far as I know, no cost/benefit exercise has been carried out to determine the percentage return to the economy from the amount spent.

In order to grow our economy, a significant leap forward will be required in terms of investment. However government suffers from a micro-mentality inflicted by years of "drip feed" aid from New Zealand and Australia. It has created a "think small" attitude. We have to break out of this mentality and perhaps look elsewhere for the large sums of low interest finance needed to fund development in the private sector. In this regard, China may hold the key. However, it seems while NZ is keen to do business with the Chinese, NZ is not so keen on the Cook Islands courting the Chinese.

When commenting on the economy, a wider view should be taken.



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CCECC joins Heather's corrupted chorus of lies

The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation's (CCECC) latest media release was so misleading it is like the Te Mato Vai Master Plan, full of holes. Claims their tendering process was fair and transparent are just plain unconvincing lies. When will they learn, this isn't China where the masses are conditioned to believe and accept whatever propaganda the authorities propagate?

Neither is this China where thousands of their own people are executed each year for the most trivial things including disagreeing with the Republic (Amnesty International web site).

This is the Cook Islands where freedom of the media prevails, questions aren't restricted and foreign companies are accountable and must conduct themselves in compliance with our laws. The CCECC must provide all the information to justify their claims the Deputy Prime Minister's company T&M Heather Ltd were awarded the multimillion (10 million) dollar Te Mato Vai contract on merit and because they were the cheapest.

CCECC must be ordered by BTIB to produce all documentation of quotes by all bidding companies as proof of transparency. CCECC's claims of confidentiality are total nonsense and a big cover up like much of TMV has been. The losing bidders have sought disclosure but CCECC have made fabricated excuses not to do so. Stop the secrecy CCECC and Mr Nie, tell the truth or bear the consequences of a full investigation when government changes on July 9.

While the Heathers had at least six months of engagement to prepare their tender, the forced change (because of the media exposure) to allow other contractors to submit a tender was limited to a matter of weeks. The due diligence and quotation preparations for contracts of this



Does the sign on the road in Panama now make sense?

magnitude can't be put together in such a limited time frame.

While Teariki Heather is paid by the tax payer, he had a huge advantage over other contractors who had to be self funding in the contract preparation process. How the regulatory and watch dog authorities could turn a blind eye to such blatant abuse of power by the DPM Heather is atrocious. This failure of public duty must be reviewed by the new government and dealt with a strong deterrent notice.

Heather has been in negotiations with CCECC for the last 10 months including a trip to China. When their sweetheart deal was exposed on 5 March, the Chinese had to take a different tact and set up a charade of pretence to appear transparent.

Despite the DPM's blatant lies and more lies and public denials and trashing the media for catching him and CCECC out red handed, his company T&M Heather Ltd were always going to get the huge contract. Heather had also denied conflicts of interest or commercial involvement when questioned at the public consultations.

The Chinese had unwittingly admitted this in October 2013

when Mr Nie said there will be no tendering process because T&M Heather Ltd was their choice of contractor. Heather was given lead time to purchase new equipment along with receiving pre payments by ICI (His Ministry) for materials.

This is despite T&M Heather having no experience in water projects of this nature as has his tendering competitor. Nor has Heather got hot mix road sealing experience or the equipment to do so. After the specifications for hot mix sealing (as the road between the Airport entrance to the golf course entrance) was issued, ICI changed the sealing to chip seal for from Tupapa to the golf course entrance because it would be within Heather's ability to do as he hasn't got the equipment or experience to do hot mix sealing, but will do the back roads and the changed main road with the help of the ICI equipment and workers who can do chip sealing.

CCECC claim T&M Heather got the contract on merit. This couldn't be further from the truth. It is proven track record the Chinese priority preference is to deal directly with high level politicians not only that, they

have had preferential treatment from Heather and Finsec Richard Neves.

Does the sign on the main road in Panama now make sense? Disgruntled contractors are remaining silent for fear of being excluded from sub contractor work Heather will share out. Potential sub contractors have already given T&M Heather their quotes prior to the CI Herald's March 5 exposure of Heather's preferential dealings with the secretive CCECC.

On Radio Cook Islands while on the CIP talk back programme on Friday 2 May Heather continued to deny any wrong doing as the Minister of ICI and being the biggest financial benefactor of the TMV contract. This is even after T&M Heather have openly been carrying out earth moving and transporting work for CCECC and CCECC publically stating their contract is nearly complete for signing. What a load of contradictory dribble.

Heather refused to answer questions put to him to satisfy perceptions of conflicts of interest. As Neves said openly in two of the consultation meetings, the Chinese component was not open for discussion, it was a done deal. Contracts or no contracts, after Government is changed on July 9 if there is evidence of corrupt practises this Chinese deal will be terminated and a new one based on fairness and right practises enforced. Any illegal practises will be handed to the police to prosecute regardless of the almighty China.

Once government changes, public servants will no longer be under a cloud of fear to speak out openly what they are now whispering. Government workers who are angry at the gross conflict of interest blatantly displayed by DPM Heather will fully exposed them when the CIP are voted out of office.

-George Pitt

Puna accused of political abuse in Manihiki

A bubble of fearful resentment has broken in Manihiki; some residents are tired of suppressing their fears and can't wait for the coming election on July 9. On that day their true feelings about their MP the Prime Minister Henry Puna will be unburdened with an eviction notice. Local residents have new people to share their frustrations with, they are some of the Rarotonga based Landholding's workers in Manihiki to work on the harbour development project.

High on their list of grievances is allegations their MP, Prime Minister Henry Puna is wrongly using government workers to maintain his pearl farm. After Puna's pearl farm has been unworked or maintained for over a year there has been a sudden flurry of activity to rescue it from total deterioration due to idleness.

While other farmers don't have the privilege of help from the government, Puna who was the Minister of MMR for the last eight months since it was relinquished by Teina Bishop is alleged to be using three of the Ministry of Marine Resources workers plus their boss Tangi Napara. Tangi has a large pearl farm of his own and MMR is often asked how he can work

fulltime for them when he owns and has to service a substantial pearl farm. Tangi's wife Ngamata a solid Puna supporter is the Mayor of Manihiki.

An unnamed Manihiki source said the self enriching Puna was openly abusing his power as the Prime Minister and this is back firing on him. "Two of his strong committee members have had enough of Henry's broken promises and deserted him and gone to support Apii Piho. There is a deepening resentment to Henry who has failed to keep his promises from the last election and he's travelled the world so many times but comes back empty handed to Manihiki."

"The shipping service to Manihiki is the worst ever after nearly 50 years of self government, with the extra VAT and less buying power, life in the North is harsh and uninviting, by their lack of solutions for the north this government and their nothingness is encouraging people to leave for a better life elsewhere."

"Maybe Henry has realised he isn't going to win the Manihiki seat or the government so he's getting his pearl farm ready to return to."

They also said, "Being so far from Rarotonga, there are a few



Henry Puna

things that go on here and the people just shrug their shoulders because who can they complain to and what difference will it make if they did? It's simply a case of we're out of sight and out of mind. Hopefully some of the Landholding workers will have passed on some of the things they see going on here to support the allegations."

Manihiki has a low tolerance

for being duped by their Member of Parliament. Their MP, Dr Robert Woonton was dumped in 2004 while the Prime Minister, Puna was dumped two years later in 2006 for Apii Piho who was dumped at the 2010 General Elections while a Minister of the Crown and now Puna, PM or not is heading for the heap of political discards Manihiki style.

- George Pitt

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News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*



Our dazzling frontpage model is 18 years old Miss Neiomi Kardashian, who loves to dance and model. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

With partnership between the Cook Islands Red Cross (CIRC), Ministry of Health (MOH) and support from the Head of Mission Fund of the New Zealand High Commission, an Infant Car Seat Initiative will be launched tomorrow morning. While infant car seats are not compulsory here in the Cook Islands, the main objective of the initiative is to promote the importance of child safety and encourage Cook Islands parents to use an infant car seat when travelling in a motor vehicle, by providing easy and affordable access to rent car seats. A system similar to Plunket in New Zealand, whereby renting a car seat is made available will now be accessible in Rarotonga. The Cook Islands Red Cross will manage the car seat rental scheme and Ministry of Health together with the Cook Islands Red Cross will provide training to mothers in the correct use of the car seats. The New Zealand High Commission will fund the costs of the seats and expenses for the first year of the project which should provide MOH and CIRC ample time to create and initiate awareness and education campaign. The launch will take place Thursday morning at 9.30am at the Red Cross Office.

A project to ground mount 3,800 ultra high efficiency solar panels grouped into arrays of 80 panels at the Airport site to the West of the control tower is currently underway. The panels and installation will cover 10,000 sq meters and will be mounted on frames engineered to resist both cyclone and jet blast and the electricity will be connected via a ducted cable under the runway and linked into the backroad feeder, where Te Aponga Uira will monitor and control the dispatch of the electricity. The plant is projected to have an output on 1 500 000kwh annually which is close to 6% of the Rarotonga electricity requirements and the output will reduce the amount of diesel used by 400,000 litres, \$550,000 to \$560,000 will be saved annually. The reduction in diesel fuel will reduce carbon emissions by 1250 tonnes. Building and technical work has commenced, with 2 local companies; Andersons and Mike Rennie being the contractors for the job. The solar project is funded by New Zealand Aid and completion is scheduled for August this year.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority advises that Members of the public are warmly invited to attend a general Seabed Minerals update meeting on Wednesday 14th May at 6-7pm at the Rarotongan Resort conference room.

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MFEM's Pre-Election Fiscal Update points to difficult times ahead

By Charles Pitt

Following the July 9 general elections, the incoming government will face three consecutive years of underlying budget deficits ranging from just over \$100,000 for 2013/2014 to just over \$700,000 for 2014/2015 and \$1.460 million for 2015/2016 before returning to a surplus thereafter of \$3.5 million for 2016/2017.

In what's expected to be a tight fiscal environment, there will be little room for any new initiatives without corresponding savings in other areas.

These announcements point to difficult times ahead, difficult decisions that will need to be made and they came in the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Update issued by MFEM on 30 April. MFEM is required under S17 of its Act to issue the report within 14 days of the setting of the polling date for the election. (See below).

Despite news of an underlying budget deficit, the outlook remains positive. Continued growth in tourism is forecast, (although estimated arrival figures have been lowered), low inflation should continue and increased VAT returns are expected. It is reported that government is by and large managing to keep within its fiscal parameters and benchmarks. These are the fiscal responsibility ratios (FRRs) to GDP adopted to control spending. However, the incoming government will have its work cut out and faces the unenviable task of reducing the growing cost of the public service.

"30 April 2014

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY- issued by **Richard Neves Secretary of Finance**

Section 17 of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Act 1995/96 requires that the

Minister of Finance publish a report containing an economic and fiscal update within fourteen days of the appointment of

a polling date in relation to a general election.

The purpose of the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update is to provide up to date information on the state of the economy and the financial position of Government. The information provided in the update takes in to account as much as possible all Government decisions and other circumstances that may have material effect on economic and fiscal conditions.

I have received the assurance of the Minister of Finance that he has disclosed all relevant information regarding Government policies that could materially affect the update.

The Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update primarily reflect significant factors that have changed since the publication of the 2014/15 Budget Policy Statement and the 2013/14 Economic and Fiscal Update in December 2013."

The following extract from the Update regarding the deficits, is set out below.

"1.1.1 Fiscal Setting Overview Estimated Underlying Budget Balance 2013/14

The 2013/14 Budget was initially developed under tight fiscal circumstances. At that stage, it was projected that the Budget would have a small net underlying operating surplus of \$0.046 million. The estimate of the underlying operating balance at the time of the 2013/14 Half Year Economic and Fiscal

Update (HEYFU) worsened to a deficit of \$1.9 million as it included a number of decisions and actions around the tax reform package. *(The personal income tax cuts preceding the VAT increase by four months, and the welfare increases preceding the VAT increase by one month-additional info from MFEM).*

(New information on actual tax receipts and expenditure has enabled a further update. On revenue, import levy receipts have been much lower than expected due to wholesalers running down existing

inventory-additional info from MFEM).

The key factors in reducing the operating deficit for 2013/14 were the \$1.5 million saving in the under-write of the long haul services to Rarotonga, and a \$1.1 million saving in un-programmed capital previously appropriated to the Ports Authority.

Offsetting these savings are lower than anticipated taxation revenue.

Estimated Underlying Budget Balance 2014/15 to 2016/17

Recent adjustments, along with changes in the economic forecasts, have resulted in revised net underlying operating deficits of \$0.739 million in 2014/15 and \$1.468 million in 2015/16. The Budget is then expected to return to a net underlying surplus of \$3.506 million in 2016/17 due to a recovery in revenues.

The development of the 2014/15 Budget will need to be undertaken in a tight fiscal environment with limited fiscal space for new initiatives without the inclusion of revenue or savings measures (to offset any intentions of increased spending).

Future policy objectives will need to be pursued within the established principles in the fiscal responsibility ratios (FRRs). The FRRs establish the long term parameters for fiscal management and ongoing Budget development, with a focus on the level of expenditure on Crown debt. Broadly, the fiscal performance of the Cook Islands against the FRRs has been good.

However, the growing cost of the public service is concerning and future policy measures will be required to reduce growth and extract greater productivities in this area. Ultimately, the 2014/15 Budget will operate under tight fiscal conditions – competing policy objectives will require prioritisation."

Growth expected to slow

According to the Update growth is expected to slow down in coming years and that is hardly surprising.

Although tourism is growing, no new accommodations of any significant size are being built. Interest rates on local bank loans for economic development is still high. In order to service local loans, borrowers have to charge tourists room rates higher than comparable rooms offered by overseas competition. This prices us off the market for some budget conscious tourists. Tourists will turn more and more to renting private homes as opposed to purpose built accommodations.

Economic development a high priority

The CIP government's plan was to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2020. Following this, energy costs would be greatly reduced and infrastructure welcoming and user friendly for existing and new business start-ups.

However, can the country afford to wait another 6 years? Development is required now if the economy is to diversify, strengthen and depopulation slowed.

The incoming government must give priority to removing constraints to business and lowering costs.

The high cost of borrowing development funds from local banks will force local entrepreneurs to seek overseas partners who have available funds or who are able to source cheap funds. Increased activity in this area will impact on current BTIB workloads and an expected aversion to increasing personnel costs may force government to either increase fees to fully cover administration costs or to greatly streamline or speed up administrative processes instead.

Government's commitment to infrastructure and renewable energy development prevents it from taking advantage of China's offer to Pacific nations of \$2 billion for economic development at low interest rates. Government is wary of exceeding the FRR for loan

repayments and debt. This could be avoided if government was able to negotiate development loans on behalf of the private sector. The Chinese might see the predicament government is in and bend their rules.

More bang for our bucks

The incoming government must ensure we get more bang (higher productivity) for our bucks (taxpayer money). The Update mentions the need to extract greater productivity from the public service. At the moment we see a lot of “bucks” being sunk into Ministries with barely a “bang” in return. Ministries must become more outcomes focused and be able to demonstrate achieving value for money or show that benefits will outweigh the costs.

It may be that all that is required is a change in attitude or approach to the job.

In any case the new government needs to revisit proposals for streamlining the public service recommended by the ADB consultant. The ADB sank \$800,000 into that project.

‘Blood moon’ sets off apocalyptic debate among some Christians

By Sarah Pulliam Bailey | Religion News Service, Published: April 15

Could a series of “blood moon” events be connected to Jesus’ return? Some Christians think so.

In the wee hours of Tuesday (April 15) morning, the moon slid into Earth’s shadow, casting a reddish hue on the moon. There are about two lunar eclipses per year, according to NASA, but what’s unusual this time around is that there will be four blood moons within 18 months — astronomers call that a tetrad — and all of them occur during Jewish holidays.

A string of books have been published surrounding the event, with authors referring to a Bible passage that refers to the moon turning into blood. “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord,” Joel 2:31 says.

In the New Testament, Acts 2:20 echoes the same doom: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord.”

Recent books capitalizing on the event include “Blood Moons Rising: Bible Prophecy, Israel, and the Four Blood Moons” by Oklahoma pastor Mark

Hitchcock; and “Four Blood Moons: Something Is About to Change” by Texas megachurch pastor John Hagee.

In his book, Hagee says something will happen to the nation of Israel due to the tetrad. The four eclipses occur on April 15 and Oct. 8, 2014, and April 4 and Sept. 28 next year. The ones in April occur during Passover, and the ones in October occur during the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.

Jewish holy days revolve around a lunar calendar with Passover beginning on the first full moon after the beginning of spring, and the Feast of Tabernacles occurring on the first full moon after the beginning of fall. Hagee writes that every time a tetrad occurs on Jewish feast days, something traumatic and “world-changing” happens to Israel.

In 1492, the Jews were expelled from Spain and Christopher Columbus discovered America, giving the Jews a place to go. In 1948, the modern state of Israel was born, and in 1967, Israel won the Six-Day War and recaptured Jerusalem.

During the 300-year interval from 1600 to 1900, there were no tetrads at all, according to NASA eclipse expert Fred Espenak.

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Workshop to focus on Financial Aspects of Deep Sea Minerals

The 5th Regional Training Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Workshop will be held in Rarotonga at the Rarotongan Beach Resort from 13-16 May and at the request of member countries, will focus on financial aspects of DSM activities and the associated legal and fiscal framework.

This workshop is jointly organised by the SOPAC Division of the SPC, through the DSM Project, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), through the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC). In addition to the SPC and PFTAC in-house capacities, resource experts will be contracted for the workshop, and country representatives will be invited to speak on specific topics and share their experiences. Two Finance Ministry government officials from each of the 15 Pacific ACP States [and Tokelau, funded by IMF], and relevant civil society representatives will be invited and supported to

attend this workshop.

The Workshop will be an important precursor to the Pacific Islands Regional DSM Financial Framework, which will be developed by the DSM Project and PFTAC in conjunction with Pacific ACP States, after the Workshop.

In response to regional and national capacity building needs in the region, and pursuant to the Pacific Plan and the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Communiqués of 2009 and 2012, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Project has devised and implemented a regional training programme to develop and enhance the knowledge of Pacific ACP States multi-stakeholders who are representing various interests on issues relating to deep sea minerals. The training events cover particular themes, and to date have been:

1. "Geological, Technological, Biological and

Environmental Aspects of Deep Sea Minerals" (August 2012 in Nadi Fiji).

2. "Deep Sea Minerals Law and Negotiations" (March 2013 in Nuku'alofa Tonga)

3. "Social Impacts of Deep Sea Mineral Activities, and Stakeholder Participation" (June 2013 in Port Vila Vanuatu)

4. "Environmental Perspectives of Deep Sea Mineral Activities" (December 2013 in Nadi, Fiji), co-organised with SPREP (Pacific Regional Environmental Programme)

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop's objectives are:

(1) Information-Sharing – to inform Pacific-ACP States' national financial policy and law-making entities and stakeholders, in relation to DSM by providing participants with:

a. sufficient understanding of DSM deposits and operations,

b. a realistic view of the likely financial benefits for a State engaging in DSM, and suggested

mechanism for maximising and managing these sustainably; and

c. case studies and suggested models for fiscal regimes and revenue management schemes, with advice on their relative merits;

d. networking opportunities between participants, experts and Presenters on DSM financial issues.

(2) Forward-Planning – to provide Pacific-ACP States an opportunity to assess capacity gaps in relation to DSM financial management, and to identify opportunities for future regional working, or collaboration with third parties, to fill these gaps.

(3) Regional DSM Financial Framework – to provide the DSM Project and PFTAC with a mandate and terms of reference to produce a draft Pacific Islands Regional DSM Financial Framework (for review and approval by the Pacific-ACP States, and subsequent publication).

Deep sea minerals training opportunity

Recently the International Seabed Authority (ISA) announced a Deep Sea Mining (DSM) at-sea training opportunity in collaboration with the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC). Applications for nominations are open and available to all developing States. The DSM Project encourages you to submit a nomination. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain first-hand exploration experience in DSM, which will be directly applicable to the development of your national DSM industry.

The deadline for application is 15 June 2014. The candidates will then be selected by the Legal and Technical Commission in July 2014.

Cook Islands Commissioner for Sea Bed Minerals, Paul Lynch advises that although the training does not relate to Exploration activities for Manganese Nodules, but CRF Crusts, it is still worthwhile.

He said the Cook Islands Sea Bed Minerals Authority will support any nomination by a Cook Islander.

The big benefits of this capacity training under the ISA, said Lynch, are that it is fully funded, it is very high level, and it will result in a Cook Islander being experienced to then be able to take part in Exploration cruises when SBM Exploration licensing and activities take place in our own EEZ, over the next few years.

Background

The at-sea training programme is pursuant to the terms of the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts between JOGMEC and the Authority.

According to the training programme by JOGMEC, three places onboard a research vessel will be available for candidates from developing States to be selected by the Authority, between May and June in 2015 for duration of 40 days - 3 days

for the pre-cruise training, 30 days for the at-sea training and 7 days for the post-cruise training.

The objectives and goals of the training programme are for the capacity building of trainees from developing States through on-board works and investigative techniques for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, and to develop their skills for investigation, data analysis and interpretation.

JOGMEC will pay for a round-trip airline ticket (economy class), and provide local travel, meals and accommodations in Japan and on-board within the scope of the training programme, as well as travel insurance with medical coverage.

Requirements

a) Hold a graduate degree in science or engineering in the relevant field of geology, geophysics, mineral processing, mining or have an equivalent educational background;

b) Have at least one year of work experience in the relevant

field;

c) Have sufficient knowledge of English for daily conversation and training;

d) Have a good mental and physical health, suitable to work at sea;

e) Be less than 40 years of age; and

f) Have seagoing experience.

The trainees will be required to submit reports on the outcome of their training to the Authority and JOGMEC as well as sign a confidentiality agreement with JOGMEC.

Nominations

Nominations must be accompanied by:

Nomination Form [docx | pdf] (to be completed by the nominating government)

Application Form [docx | pdf] (to be completed by the candidate)

Submission of nominations should be in one of the official languages of the Authority in electronic format to: training@isa.org.jm.

Government appeal of court decision in Superannuation case may conceal a hidden agenda

Why is government appealing the decision by the Chief Justice?

Who is really behind the appeal?

Is there a connection to the Te Mato Vai project and land issues?

Set out below is the full copy of a letter sent to the Chamber of Commerce regarding the appeal by government of the decision in the National Superannuation court case. Some interesting points are raised which may be of concern to landowners contemplating seeking compensation for land used for the Te Mato Vai project.

28 April 2014

Chamber of Commerce

RAROTONGA

Attn: Lynne Samuel – Executive Director

Dear Lynne,

Superannuation Update

Thank you for your email requesting an update for the Chamber on the current position regarding the appeal by CINSF.

Who is driving the appeal?

At the outset, please note that although many regard the appeal as being “by CINSF”, inquiries have been made of CINSF and it appears the decision to appeal was not taken at the request of the Board, but rather – according to the Fund – “by the Minister”.

That said, a range of informal indications suggest it would be difficult to find a single member of Cabinet who supports the appeal in terms of attempting to overrule the Chief Justice on the issue of superannuation. It is hard to understand how the Attorney General (who controls all litigation brought by the Crown) and the Minister of Finance (who is the named appellant) could allow this appeal to proceed in the face of their own apparent views on the Act and what is needed to correct it.

My understanding is that the Financial Secretary himself has no difficulty in principle with amending the CINSF Act and entrenching it to take up all matters referred to in the

Proceedings.

On the all-important question of the “guarantee” the Financial Secretary has repeatedly made it clear that Government is not in a position to guarantee to replace \$64 million if lost. However, as was made clear in submissions at hearing (and reflected in the judgment itself), what is sought by the Respondents – and by the Chamber – is an underwriting of payments out of entitlements as and when those entitlements fall due for payment. My understanding is that the Financial Secretary sees that as a significantly different position and one that Government could embrace.

What issue is driving the appeal?

Against that background, the question arises as to what possible reason there might be for expending time effort and resources on this appeal.

The answer appears to be that the Crown is concerned about certain remarks made by the Chief Justice in his judgment. Those remarks relate to taxation. They bear noting, as I suspect we are all going to hear a lot more about these observations over coming months if the appeal proceeds:

“ Mr Ruffin submitted that the Scheme was in the public interest because a mandatory public superannuation scheme is a public good. That, of course, is true. In one sense, the submission could be criticised as it simply amounts to a proposition that any legislation enacted by Parliament is assumed to be for the public benefit. However, as discussed in Nyambirai, it is plainly arguable that a mandatory public superannuation scheme is a public good. It is at this point that the distinction drawn in Roy

Morgan between an exaction in the public interest and an exaction for public purposes assumes some importance.

[284] As I understand it, this arises from the fact that it can be assumed that legislation will generally be in the public interest. However, simply because a payment is compulsory pursuant to legislation does not, without more, make it a tax. To use “public interest” as the benchmark may then admit too wide a category of payments as taxes. This sort of thinking, it would seem, lies behind the use of language by Latham CJ focusing on “public purposes”.

[285] There is a risk, in all of this, of treating judicial dicta as if they were of statutory significance. Consequently, there is a risk, I think, in approaching the question of tax by way of a formulation from cases dealing with situations different to those presently before the Court. In each case, it is necessary to look hard at the character of the payment made and the constitutional arrangements in the relevant country. In undertaking that exercise here, there is something fundamentally counter-intuitive about the plaintiff’s case: how can a payment made by a contributor into a trust fund to be held, ultimately, for the benefit of that member, be characterised as a tax? To characterise this as a tax (which, if nothing else, has a notion of a redistributive transaction) seems inapt. I do not believe that even Australian Tape Manufacturers would support such a conclusion.

[286] That, then, brings us, to Article 69 of the Constitution which requires a tax to be paid either into the Government Account or, if permitted by law, into “any other public fund or

account”. Mr Ruffin argued that “public” did not qualify “account”. I reject that. It would make no particular sense if payment into any account sufficed. That would defeat the whole purpose of the provision. Perhaps recognising the likelihood of that conclusion, Mr Ruffin’s argument was that the notion of “tax” as in Article 40(2)(a) was broader than that in Article 69. That is, he argued it was not fatal to his argument that the compulsory contributions were not paid into a public account designated as such by law.

[287] It seems to me inherently unlikely that “tax” would be used in two different senses within the abovementioned Articles. The tax exemption in Article 40(2)(a) is, with respect, a sensible recognition that taxation does not amount to a compulsory acquisition in breach of the Constitution. Where that same Constitution, in another provision, specifically provides for the payment of a tax, it seems sensible to regard these provisions as complementary rather than independent. I would have upheld Mr Arnold’s primary submission that the plaintiff’s case on tax falls at the first hurdle.”

For the reasons set out in the judgment, these observations do not form part of the “ratio” (i.e. that part of the judgment that may be binding on future courts) but instead form part of the “dicta” (i.e. comments and observations made by the Chief Justice along the way). To that extent they do not bind the parties, or other judges; however, they do seem to have attracted the consternation of the Crown.

Why should this be?

As the Chamber is aware,

in the context of Te Mato Vai, Government has been giving consideration to whether it should move to acquire ownership of water. Further, there have been intimations that in moving forward with alternative energy, one option is for Government effectively to compulsorily acquire some or all electricity produced by citizens.

These are controversial issues; once ownership is taken and statutory corporations become involved, it is perhaps a short step to a privatization/public-private partnership etc. One starts to understand why the Crown might have an interest in the appeal that goes beyond superannuation.

My own sense is that the appeal is being driven by the Financial Secretary and not by Executive Government. Its prime purpose is to provide a venue and an occasion for the Court of Appeal to make declaratory rulings that might extend the ambit of what is meant by "tax" within the meaning of Article 40 of the Constitution.

I may be mistaken in this – and it would be an abuse of process to mount an appeal, ostensibly on the issue of superannuation, when in fact the Crown's interest is directed elsewhere – but my sense is that that in the midst of a rehashing of the superannuation arguments will be a strong emphasis on the Crown's tax argument.

The Likely Shape of the Appeal.

If am correct in this assumption the shape of the appeal will be rather different from the case before the High Court.

Before the Chief Justice each "tree" was approached, carefully prodded and inspected, before moving on to the next "tree" or individual argument.

In contrast, if the Crown is intent on redefining what is meant by "tax" it will be necessary to look at the "forest" as a whole – and by that I mean the shape and structure of Westminster constitutional democracy in the Cook Islands as exemplified by the terms of the Constitution, with a similarly "high level" consideration of the Blackstonian notions of the proper relationship between citizen and state.

In the High Court there were some jocular references to the Magna Carta, William

Blackstone etc. It is unusual in cases – particularly cases at first instance – for a judge to be called upon (still less for him confidently to apply) principles that are worked up from such old and basic sources of law.

However, since it is less than a year since England's highest court endorsed the Blackstonian view of the State's relationship with individuals in the context of "proportionality", I think it likely there will be more, rather than less, Blackstone at appeal level than was the case before the High Court.

In fact, if the Crown's appeal focuses on tax in way I think is in prospect, then the Respondents' case will necessarily be grounded in the Magna Carta, and work its way through almost a millennium of English constitutional development.

The reason I say this is that the history of English constitutional development has been the story of conflict and compromise between the Crown and the Legislature – played out, over a number of centuries, largely over the vexed issue of "supply" i.e. taxation and spending. The outcome of that conflict is written into our Constitution, Part V reflecting the need for the Crown to go to Parliament for both supply and appropriation.

An historical and significant aspect of our Constitution is that it is for the Crown to decide what is needed in terms of imposing or altering the rate of taxation, rather than for anyone else. That principle finds direct expression in Article 43. Members of the Chamber may not be aware of this, but in fact Parliament is constitutionally unable to proceed upon any bill that imposes or alters taxation or touches upon government accounts or public funds etc "except upon the recommendation of the Queen's Representative".

In practical terms, therefore, while substantially all acts of Parliament go through Cabinet and from there to Parliament, taxing statutes cannot go to Parliament until the Queen has had her say. It is – quite literally – the Crown in the form of the Queen's Representative who has the say on tax matters.

Against this background, the Chamber will begin to understand that any court

consideration of what might amount to a "tax" or "taxation" under our Constitution (and the Crown now suggests we can have a tax if it is "in the public interest" that money or property be taken from citizens and given to other citizens) is necessarily a "high level affair".

The False Dilemma

It may be premature to speculate on the arguments to be brought by the Crown on appeal. However, at the hearing at first instance – and from anecdotal reports coming out of Government since the judgment came out – the Crown seems to labour under a "false dilemma".

Specifically, the Crown put it to the Chief Justice was that if the CINSF Act was unconstitutional, all the money would have to be repaid to contributors. Anecdotally, since then, the suggestion seems to be that unless the Crown brings and wins this appeal, it will not be able to compulsorily acquire water or power without paying compensation under Article 40.

Leaving aside the question of whether the State should be paying compensation when it takes people's property, both these propositions are flawed. If the Chamber were to take the time simply to read Articles 39, 40 and 41 (reflecting, in doing so, that for some reason the draftsman thought it a good idea they all sit next to one another), it would find that those framing the Constitution – after giving Parliament power to make laws (Article 39) , and providing a constitutional guarantee of compensation if those laws take property off people (Article 40) – went straight on in Article 41 – to provide a clear and straightforward pathway that would allow:

a. the superannuation scheme to be reconstituted with retrospective effect if necessary;

b. all the water in the country to be taken by the Crown; and

c. all electric power however produced to be taken by the Crown –

and in each case; without any compensation whatsoever being paid, if that were the will of the people acting through Parliament.

The framers of the Constitution set out preconditions – in Article 41 – that must be complied

with if a law is to take property without compensation.

Very briefly those are:

a. that a broad national consensus exists – evidenced by a two thirds majority of parliament vote for that outcome; and

b. that any vote of that sort is no "spur of the moment", clandestine or ambush action; rather, it must take the form of a motion that sits for ninety days – providing ample time for the necessary public clamor and opposition to be mounted if in fact that national consensus does not exist.

For the Respondents I will be arguing vigorously – and off to the Privy Council if needed – against any expansion of the legal meaning of the term "tax" as used in Article 40. That would be an unnecessary and inappropriate weakening of the provisions of Article 40. Worse; the Crown's tax arguments are effectively in the nature of a constitutionally inappropriate attempt at an "end run" around the provisions of Article 41.

The General Election and associated political implications

There are real risks in mounting these arguments for a Government that is going to the polls just five weeks after the hearing of this Court of Appeal case. The Opposition is already critical of the perceived unilateralism of Government in the way it pursued political reform.

The Respondents can be counted upon to emphasise publicly that Government now pursues the superannuation appeal to seek a "tax" outcome to its liking. The Chamber will note that both James Beer (Democratic Party) and Taoro Strickland Brown (CIP) are Respondents.

The political implications are clear. There is close to \$70 million of money belonging to the people of this country – with all the protections of private property that the Constitution gives that money.

The Crown argues that all of that money has been taken – as a tax. I should be very clear about the legal implications of that argument;

- no citizen has a constitutional right to money that has been properly taken from him or her by way of tax; and

- no citizen has constitutional rights against a private party such as the Public Trustee.

So, Government appears determined – a month out from a General Election – to fight a case wresting \$70 million of its own people’s money away from the constitutional rights and protections that the country’s Chief Justice has upheld as applying to those monies.

That same Government appears determined, if re-elected, to argue it can expropriate water and power in a similarly unilateral way – without compensation, with no broad national consensus and without bipartisan support

In short, a high profile Court of Appeal case, turning (yet again!) the spotlight on this Government and its tax policies, featuring prominent political actors such as James Beer and Taoro Strickland Brown, is likely

to become a defining issue in the upcoming general election.

It is, therefore, strange that the Attorney General and the Minister of Finance are so passive in the matter.

Likely outcome?

However, leaving aside the best interests of the ruling party and approaching the matter at the highest level of constitutional interpretation, there is good cause to feel confident the Court of Appeal will reject this sort of argument. As a matter “text and context”, the framers of the Constitution placed these provisions together for a very good reason. If the Crown wishes to take to Parliament laws that deprive a large number of people of their property as being “in the public interest” then it can and should submit its ideas as to what is in the “public interest” to the Article 41 procedure.

In my view the Court of Appeal will conclude that it should

not give the Crown an Article 41 leave pass by departing from well-understood notions of what is meant by “tax” in terms of compulsory acquisition jurisprudence and Article 40. Pronouncements from the Privy Council over recent years suggest that it would be similarly unimpressed with such arguments.

There is a lot more I can say about these issues. I hope this briefing gives the Chamber of Commerce some notion of the importance of the appeal should it proceed, but on the other hand the lack of necessity of the appeal as it relates to superannuation and the ill-judged attempt by the Crown to avoid having to deal with the provisions of Article 41 as it contemplates future property acquisitions from the people of the Cook Islands.

Procedural matters

Moving from the substance to

the procedural, you should note that I have attached the recent directions memorandum from the Court of Appeal.

On balance, the timing and procedure set out in this is favorable to the Respondents. I continue to labour with very limited resources. In the High Court, the sheer size of the case threatened to overwhelm me and my practice; the Court of Appeal case will prove demanding of my time and resources over the next two and a half months, but to a much lesser degree, in large part as result of the “streamlined procedure” that the Court of Appeal has directed.

I am happy to attend on the Executive or a Chamber meeting to discuss these matters further, for now, however I hope you find this a useful overview.

Yours Sincerely

TIM ARNOLD PC per
T P Arnold

Opera in Rarotonga

Now in its fourth year “Opera in Rarotonga” is bringing back rising star on the Opera circuit and last year’s resounding star of the evening New Zealand born Samoan Mezzo Soprano Elisha Fa’i Hulton.

“Elisha is such an incredible performer, she is warm and engaging and really holds an audience mesmerised by her voice and stage presence, Says Glenda Tuaine of Motone Productions who goes on to say”...concert goers are in for a real treat this year with a few surprises along the way”.

Motone productions with Crown Beach create an Opera event that is held on the beachfront under the stars. The sunset opera has a backdrop of the lagoon and Pacific ocean – weather permitting with Oceans restaurant as the alternative option and already has bookings from New Zealand with interest from the UK and Australia.

New Zealand born Samoan Elisha Fa’i-Hulton, is a mezzo soprano opera singer currently

residing in Rotorua, New Zealand. Even though Elisha’s main passion and forte lies in singing opera, she also enjoys singing musical theatre, jazz and popular music when the opportunity arises. Elisha also works as a vocal specialist teaching voice at various high schools, tertiary institutes and out in the community with kapa hakas around Rotorua as well as Samoan church choirs throughout NZ. Elisha’s spare time consists of spending time with family and studying towards a Master of Music degree at the University of Waikato, under the tutelage of world renowned opera singer, Dame Malvina Major.

Elisha has performed as a soloist for choirs, orchestras and opera companies throughout New Zealand and abroad. Highlights include performing in Motone’s 2013 Opera in Rarotonga with Bonaventure Allen-Moetaua, working with NBR New Zealand Opera, Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra, Wellington Vector Orchestra, Bay of Plenty Orchestra, Operatif!

(Australian Opera Company) and Opportunity (New Zealand Opera Company).

Elisha has also had the honour of performing and working with legendary New Zealand opera artists such as Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major, Jonathan Lemalu, Helen Medlyn, Simon O’Neil and Benjamin Makisi.

“Motone is set to create again an intimate evening of Opera” says Maurice Newport Technical Director of Motone Productions, “... how good it is to hold this event in a setting that showcases the beauty of our island with the magic of professional performance.”

Motone will again run the students workshops at Colleges around Rarotonga with the Elisha teaching the students opera techniques and relaying her own personal story about her performance journey but this year thanks to the visionary support of Air Raro take the workshop to Araura College in Aitutaki for the first time.

“We are committed to making these workshops

happen for our kids as we see so much talent here that needs nurturing and access to artists who can become role models will stimulate minds and talent. This year we are thrilled with the support from Air Rarotonga to finally bring these workshops and hopefully a small concert to Aitutaki and in particular Araura College. Motone has provided these workshops for the past 4 years in Rarotonga and will continue to make sure these happen and can extend to Aitutaki.” Say Tuaine.

The event held on Queens Birthday weekend Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June has a ticket price of \$55.00 per person includes a glass of bubbly and canapés on the beach on arrival. Concert goers can order at intervals from a stunning Crown Beach a la carte concert menu that includes Antipasti and Tasting platters and a wine selection that compliments the evening. Tickets are on sale from The Cafe, Crown Beach Resort and Spa reception, and Motone Productions on ph: 55885 or 54461

Political opinion . . .

“Every vote will Count”

I know of a couple who live in Murienua. They have been living there for many years in a non-political capacity.

While they were always on the Electoral Roll, they never voted because they took the view it was a waste of time. Nothing would really change. So they left politics alone.

Besides, no one from either of the two political parties ever visited them during the various campaign periods. And so this couple abstained from voting in the belief that both political parties were not interested in them.

They took the view their two votes did not matter. Neither political party bothered or cared about them . . . even though they had lived on Rarotonga for many years and contributed to the economic development of this country just like everyone else.

Last General Election they did not vote.

The 1st Murienua by-election they did not vote. But a few days before the 2nd Murienua by-election they received a visit from James Beer. He simply called in to meet and shake hands with them.

After he had gone, the husband said to the wife that he was going to vote for James Beer simply because he had taken the time to call around to see them.

“What if the other candidate calls around to see us?” said the wife. “What are we going to do then?”

“We split our votes,” said the husband. “You vote for one, I’ll vote for the other. Our votes will cancel each other out. But at least we would have given a vote to each candidate who took the time to call around to see us.”

As it happened, the C.I.P. candidate never came near their place. And so this couple went to the polls and both voted Demo.

And of course James Beer eventually took the Murienua seat with a 2 vote majority.

Understand what I’m getting at?

A few elections ago a relation of mine returned from New Zealand to live in Akoa.

A General Election was later called and so he got himself on the Electoral Roll.

He went to work on election day but came home and didn’t bother to vote. He took the view that his vote did not matter. It was just one of many and his vote would be ineffectual. It would make no difference to the end result.

Later that night the election results were announced and to everyone’s surprise the final result for Akoa ended in a draw.

Had this relation of mine taken the time to vote, then “his vote” would have determined who the next MP for Akoa would have been. He had that “power” in his hand. But he did not realise it at the time.

In the subsequent by-election, this relation of mine made sure he voted very early and consequently Teariki Heather became an MP.

Now you know what I’m getting at!

2010 General Election figures

	Roll	Votes	Non-Voters
Rarotonga :			
Tupapa :	1139	966	173
Nikao-Panama :	. 988	638	350
Titikaveka :	. 836	716	120
Ruaau :	. 774	592	182
Takuvaine :	. 730	540	190
Avatiu-Palmerston :	720	574	146
Ngatangiia :	. 637	543	94
Matavera :	. 637	559	78
Muri Enuu :	. 595	452	143
Akoa :	. 471	380	91
Aitutaki : (3 MP’s)	1175	1036	139
Mangaia : (3 MP’s)	376	351	25
Atiu : (2 MP’s)	. 294	272	22
Pukapuka/Nassau :	243	249	extra 6
<small>(6 extra votes being ‘Special Votes’ accepted by the Electoral Office after the Supplementary Roll had closed)</small>			
Mauke :	. 226	209	17
Manihiki :	. 183	183	0
Penrhyn :	. 146	142	4
Mitiaro :	. 117	108	9
Rakahanga :	. 59	58	1
	<u>10,346</u>	<u>8568</u>	<u>1778</u>

Registered Electors : 10,346 ... 24 MP’s.

Every vote counts.

Each voter potentially has the “power” in their hand to determine who their MP would be. Mentioned above is two examples of this.

Each vote is of equal value. Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, male or female . . . “Your vote” is just as relevant, important and “valuable” as anyone else’s.

Come election day of 9 July, I hope each and everyone of us takes the time to cast our vote at the ballot box. You never know . . . it might be “your vote” that ends up determining who “your” next MP will be.

Right now, on Rarotonga in particular, there are no “safe seats” for either the C.I.P. or the Democratic Party.

All 10 seats are marginal and all 10 seats could go either way. At this point in time the General Election is that close.

For the 2010 General Election, there were a number of interesting statistics to emerge.

One of these being the number of Registered Electors on Rarotonga who did not vote. Apart from Aitutaki, the non-voters in all the outer island constituencies were less than 10% of those entitled to vote. So voter turnout was very good.

But for Rarotonga, the voter turnout was far less with the most startling statistic being in Nikao-Panama where the number of non-voters (350) was greater than what the winning candidate, being Aunty Mau (255) received. This being from an Electoral Roll of 988 voters.

While taking nothing away from Aunty Mau and her deserved win in Nikao-Panama,

the question is asked as to why so many people here did not vote?

A similar pattern existed for all the other constituencies on Rarotonga, where the non-voters were also very high. So the question is asked, once again, as to why so many voters chose not to vote in the 2010 election?

While it is compulsory to register on to the Electoral Roll, it is not compulsory to vote. So if an elector chooses not to vote, then that is their democratic right.

A small percentage of our population does not vote on religious grounds. I think we all understand and appreciate their situation.

“Apathy” . . . is probably the most significant reason why so many electors can’t be bothered voting. Not interested. Don’t want to know. They think their vote is meaningless – so why bother?

In general terms, I would say that about 25% of the voting population on Rarotonga are solid Cook Islands Party supporters. They will never change and so they will vote that way. Another 25% of voters are solid Democratic Party supporters. They will not change either and so will vote accordingly.

This leaves approximately 50% of the voting population on Rarotonga who are either floating voters or intend to be non-voters. This is a very large proportion of electors which makes the constituencies on Rarotonga so volatile.

Now that Norman George and the Democratic Party have “kissed and made up”, this leaves Teina Bishop and the “One Cook Islands Movement”, along with the various Independent candidates, as being a 3rd political option for voters to consider . . . not only on Rarotonga, but also on a number of the outer island constituencies.

Given such a large proportion of the electorate who support neither the C.I.P. nor Democratic Party, it is my view that the “One Cook Islands Movement” and a number of Independent candidates will be the “surprise packages” this election.

Don’t forget the old cliché : “ If you don’t vote, then don’t complain when the next Government does something you do not agree with.” So make sure you have your say (vote) because “Every vote will Count” this election and every vote has the potential to determine the difference between a “political winner” and a “political loser”.

For the last election there were 5 constituencies in which the winning candidate won by 10 votes or less. (Make it 6 if we take into account the 2nd Murienua by-election) The 2010 election was really that close.

This election could be even closer.

A “Hung Parliament” maybe?

That may not be a bad thing!

Howard Henry

My holiday

By Nadia George

Two long weeks off of school and I did nothing. How sad is that right? I guess that's what happens when you get a part time job. Holidays don't become holidays anymore and kids like myself, don't get to relax and enjoy the freedom of the two weeks that we are given. Instead it's the same old routine. Get up early, get ready and go to work, come home and do your chores. Day in and day out. Only difference with it is that at the end of the week, you get a nice wad of cash to soften the blow of having spent a whole week working hard.

The first week of my holidays started off awesome. I spent most of the Easter holiday with my friends and family. A few kaikai's here and a little late night there. It was a great way to start off my holiday. Then came Tuesday and the inevitable reality of having to go to work, had slapped me in the face. What bothered me the most was that my fellow colleague Norma didn't come into work for the first week, but I am grateful that Chelsea did though.

The first week of the holidays went by painfully slow, with each day becoming even duller than the last until finally Friday came along. TGIF! Friday was spent decorating our truck for the fun run our junior paddling team had done as a fundraiser for their trip to Australia later on in the year. Saturday was the day of the run, which turned out to be very successful. Our team raised a grand total of \$2500.00. On that note, I'd just like to say thank you to all those who had helped support of junior team of Ngakau Toa.

The weekend was pretty norms, not much happened with that. Then came Monday and the cycle repeated itself. Work chores, training. Only this time Norma had finally come back to work! She's says that I am or was, a constant



distraction to her while she "attempted" to work; I guess she calls Facebook, work? However, when we weren't busy with Herald stuff, we'd spent most of our free time fixing up our essays and applications for the scholarships that the Ministry of Education is offering. Oh the pressure.

The final weekend of the holidays ended with me finding a new part time job with my two pals Otea and Tehere, and also our failed plan of spending our last few days/hours of freedom, having a night out.... that is until it decided to rain (boo!). Instead, we enjoyed a "quiet" night in with a few of our other friends and crashed at our coach's house and raided their kitchen. Shot aunty lol.

I think it's safe to say that my holiday was an epic fail of boredom and that it didn't turn out to be the glamorous two weeks I envisioned it to be. But oh well, I guess that what I get for growing up to fast. YOLO!

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

WINDOWS XP where to now?

Paranoid users should grab a Windows XP install disk as a contingency plan.

Now is a good time to make an emergency driver stockpile. Round up all of the software used by your motherboard, video card, sound card, printer, monitor and any other hardware. Place all of it on a flash drive, and put that drive in a safe place. You'll need it if a driver is ever corrupted, you install a new driver that doesn't work, or you have to re-install XP.

You should give the same treatment to any important software you have installed. This includes security software, disk management software, performance tweaks, and anything else you consider critical. Old versions of software can disappear, too, so it's good to have copies on hand.

Make sure you have a recovery option

Your Windows XP computer probably came with a recovery disk. Many users lose track of that disc eventually, so make sure you still have it.

Can't find it? Contact the Computer Man for a few options.

You shouldn't plan to stick with Windows XP forever though. Eventually, you'll need to upgrade or replace hardware with newer equipment which doesn't support XP, or you'll fall victim to a security flaw Microsoft never patched. But you don't have to jump to Windows 8 immediately. With some planning and perseverance, you can likely squeeze another year or two out of your existing setup.

OUR COMPUTERS

ACER E1-532



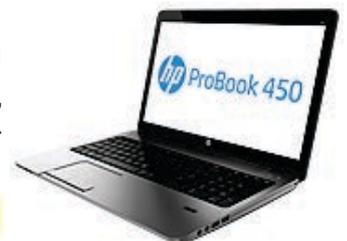
Intel Celeron 2955U, 4GB RAM, 500GB Hard drive, DVD Writer, 15.6" LED Screen, Wifi-HDMI-Webcam, Windows 8 64 Bit

\$949

HP PROBOOK 450

Intel i5-4200U 2.5GHz, 8GB RAM, 750GB Hard Drive, DVD Writer, USB3, Wifi-HDMI-Webcam, 15.6" LED Screen, Windows 7 Pro 64 Bit

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Week 14 Fantasy Odds on who will Win and Margin

Week 15		
May 9	12 Under	13 +
Bears	\$1.50	\$5
Panthers	\$1.40	\$1.20
Eels	\$2.00	\$1.70
Bulldogs	\$2.00	\$5

New fantasy odds on who will WIN and by what MARGIN of UNDER 12 or 13 +. This will give tipsters and fanatical league followers more options when going to a LOCAL league game. Follow your teams' fortunes every week on the Fantasy Odds score board.

The Fantasy Odds column is a hypothetical scenario based on the writers opinion. This is NOT real.

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

The Sea Eagles came too early. They played their final when they beat the Eels in wk 10

IS IT TRUE

That fathers will do anything to protect their familyAsk Junior Kirikava's dad on the Clinton Charlie incident

IS IT TRUE

Daniel Toa is being considered to represent the Cook Islands at the Commonwealth games in sprinting. He's going to replace Panthers Rueben Barere place.

IS IT TRUE

That referee Nga Takaiti has being short listed to do with the grand final at the end of May. But will he???

IS IT TRUE

League players are lousy lovers. BUT All will be forgiven IF they remember Mothers Day on Sunday.

IS IT TRUE,

Fijian players will score most of the tries in the Finals but a local player will have the last say. The kickers – Peter Tare (Eels), Mana Ngauu (Bulldogs), Basil Matapo (Bears), Tyson Oariki (Panther).

IS IT TRUE

If the Eels win the Grand Final – their coach will win his constituency.

Official Draw

Draw Wk 15 Quarter Finals

FRI 9TH MAY BCI STADIUM, NIKAO

3.30pm U16 Bears v U16 Panthers
4.30pm Res Bears v Res Panther
6pm Prem Bears v Prem Panthers

Sat 10th May BCI Stadium, Nikao

11 am U9 Mini Mod Kuki Tag
11.30am U11 Mini Mod Kuki Tag
12 noon U14 Bears v U14 Bulldogs
1.00pm U19 Panther v U19 Warriors
2.30pm U19 Bears v U19 Eels
4.30pm Res Sea Eagles v Res Eels
6.00pm Prem Eels v Prem Bulldogs

Simple Simon says....

Panthers Win... Sea Eagles Out...

In a performance that typified the Sea Eagles season another close game went the other way. Always within striking range but never ahead the home team will reflect on there season from the sideline. The Panthers were under strength still missing the enforcer "Rongo" and jaded from the weeks before they were still good enough to bring home the bacon. The Panthers who are the defending champions now have to do it the hard way because by qualifying 4th this week and every week will see a sudden death playoff – Lose and you are out.

It was good to see the development of Panthers prop Maurona Ioane, who in a team of battled soldiers rose to the occasion and stood up. Ioane regularly took the ball up and assisted in the tackles often doing more than his fair share. The Fijian trio (AA, Joe V, and especially Seruli Raululu) once again proving money well spent and the captain of the day Teina Savage having a good captains knock. A incident in the 2nd half involving Sea Eagle Clinton Charlie and Panthers hooker Junior Kirikava (both sent to the sinbin) at first glance appeared unfortunate but on closer inspection on slow motion replay- a more sinister motive possibly.

So says SimonSimon the Hen supporter

Who Played Well

Panthers –, Maurona Ioane, Seruli Ralulu, Teina Savage

Sea Eagles – Usa Tivo, Tiri Toa, Jeff Magere

Half time – Panthers 8 Sea Eagles 0

Full time Score –Panthers 14 Sea Eagles 8

Sin Bin –**Knickers 'n a Twist Naughty Seat** - Junior Kirikava (Panthers) Clinton Charlie (Sea Eagles)

Opinion...

Who will win

Match Ups in the quarter Finals at BCI stadium

Bears (3rd) v Panther (4th) – loser out, winner plays loser of 1st v 2nd
 Though finishing 3rd the Bears are not expected to beat the Panthers. This might give the Bears a unexpected advantage because players like Andre Iro, Rongokea, and Samson could surprise. The Panther are the big time game players with the mantle of last year's championship title so be sure to watch this game LIVE at the BCI stadium on FRI 9th May.

Eels (1st) v Bulldogs (2nd) – winner straight to the final, Loser play winner of 3rd/4th

Eels have beaten the Bulldog 3 times already this season so a 4th time looks highly likely. The Eel forward power of Charlie, Boasa and Nicholas complemented by the direction of Goldsworthy at dummy half, should prove too much for the Bulldogs. The only chance that the Bulldogs have is if the imported Fijian backs especially Masima Tevita, can fire from the back and elude the Eels defensive wall.

Scores Last Week (Game 14)

FRI 2ND MAY

Sea Eagles	8	Panthers	14
Sharks	24	Eels	38

SAT 3 MAY

Warriors	22	Bears	48
----------	-----------	-------	-----------

BYE – Bulldogs

Txt Winners Wk # 11

3T3I2U2A+1R -	T-shirt
Mum & Dad Tou -	Karaoke Hire
Pam Brider -	Meat Pack

Week 15 Who they picked!

1. Andy Kapi – Bears, Eels, (Reserves) Eels
2. A.W.R – Bears, Eels, Sea Eagles
3. Henry Hoff – Panthers, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
4. Noo – Panthers, Eels, Eels
5. Cameraman Harris - Panthers, Bulldog, Sea Eagle
6. Fungs Takeaway – Bears, Bulldogs, Eels
7. Mama Panther – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
8. Nga – Panthers, Bulldogs, Eels
9. Mum & Dad Tou – Panthers, Bulldogs, Eels,
10. Joe the Plumber – Panthers, Eels, Eels
11. Rehabs Jane – Panthers, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
12. Wayne Robati – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
13. Pussy Cat – Bears, Eels, Eels
14. Skiny Rat – Bears, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
15. Rob Matapo – Panthers, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
16. Randwick King Fisher – Panthers, Eels, Eels
17. Mumsy – Panthers, Eels, Eels
18. Habourmaster Rass – Panthers, Eels, Eels
19. Boogies Hero's – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
20. League Fan – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
21. Mr "X" – Bears, Eels, Eels
22. Kane Killer of Able – Panthers, Eels, Eels
23. Rima Moeake- Bears, Bulldogs, Eels
24. Naked Chef – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
25. 10 cent Aussie – Bears, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
26. Dawn Crummer– Bears, Eels, Eels
27. Clive the Fairy - Panthers, Eels, Eels
28. Lydia the Barman – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
29. Staircase - Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
30. Pumpkin Eater – Panther, Eels, Sea Eagles
31. Reef side's Coffee – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
32. G+S Fred – Panthers, Eels, Eels
33. Ake Tangapiri – Panthers, Bulldogs, Eels
34. Tama Café Jirah – Panthers, Eels, Sea Eagles
35. The General – Panthers, Eels, Eels
36. The Corporal – Panther, Eels, Sea Eagles
37. The Sargent – Bears, Eels, Eels
38. The Cook – Bears, Bulldogs, Sea Eagles
39. Fijian in Paradise – Panther, Eels, Sea Eagles
40. Kikau Broom Maker – Panthers, Eels, Eels

PRIZE - 1 x FREE t-shirt, 1 x Karaoke hire & 1 x Meat pack for person who correctly picks 3 winners from this weeks draw.

Conditions apply - If more than 1 winner – draw from a hat.

How to Enter – Txt your picks for next weeks games to Matman · PH 55 921 before Tue 4pm

GAME OF THE WEEK

REPLAY
5PM SUN ON
CITY



VS



BCI Stadium, 6.00pm Friday 09 May

watch on: www.youtube.com/brianthematman

RaroShack



**Printers
Inks
Toners**

Security Cameras & Systems installed

Phone: 20500 Mobile: 55009



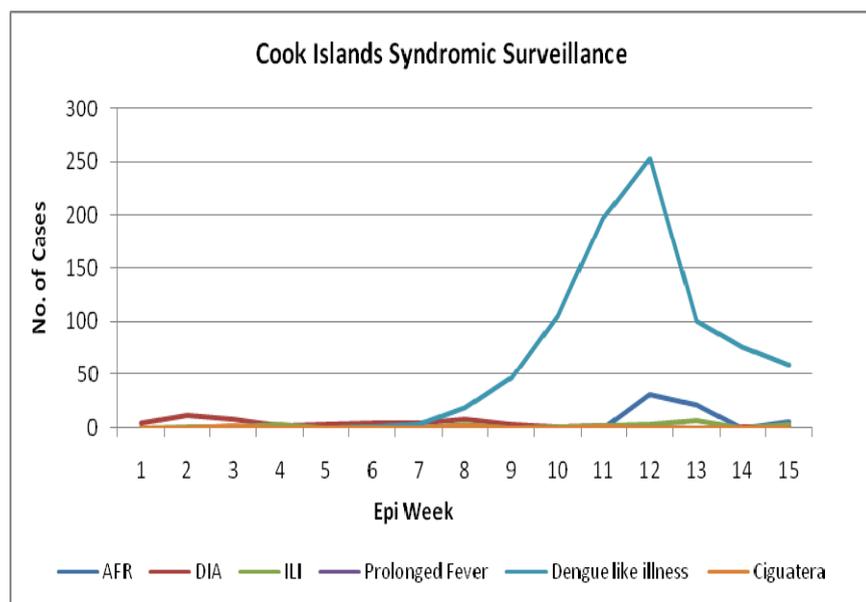
Community Health Services- Public Health Department
PO Box 109 Tel: 682 29 110
Rarotonga Fax: 682 29 100
Cook Islands Website: www.health.gov.ck

21.04.2014.

Stakeholders Feedback Report
Week 15, 7 April – 13th April 2014 - Syndromic Surveillance, Cook Islands

Fig 1: Epicurve – Syndromic Surveillance.

Table 1: Cumulative No. of cases reported



Syndrome	Week 15 13/4/2014	EPI Week 1 to 15 2014	Week 1- 52 2013
Acute Fever and rash(AFR)	6	60	1
Influenza like illness (ILI)	3	23	116
Diarhoea (DIA)	1	52	299
Prolonged Fever	0	0	2
Dengue/Zika like illness	60	859	15
Ciguatera	0	3	24

Remarks: It appears the outbreak is subsiding with the number of cases decreasing over the past three weeks.

Note: The zika virus has now reached some outer islands. Mauke reported two (2) cases and Manihiki, one (1). Aitutaki had a total of 48 cases. Atiu informed of some zika like illnesses but unable to provide any data at the time. One case of Dengue has been confirmed RDT (NS1) and waiting further confirmatory testing/ serotyping in French Polynesia, Institut Louis Malarde.

Symptoms of Dengue and Zika virus infection

Awareness:

1. Zika Virus Infection:

Zika virus infection is caused by a virus which is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus is transmitted to humans mainly by certain species of Aedes mosquitoes. These species bite during the day as well as in the late evening and early morning. The illness is typically mild and lasts only a few days (4-7days). Although caused by a different virus, the symptoms of Zika virus infection can appear very similar to those of dengue fever. (see symptoms in table below). There is no vaccine or medication that protects against zika virus infection and dengue alike. To reduce the risk of contracting zika/dengue;

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long sleeve shirts, long pants during peak hours (daytime, evening and dawn)
- Use an appropriate insect repellent. (repellents not recommended for newborns)
- Use of mosquito bed nets
- Remove mosquito breeding/resting places around the home.
- If sick, please stay home and rest: - avoid going to public places/school/work until well recovered

See Doctor if not feeling well.

Dengue	Zika
Skin rash	Skin rash
Fever over 38°C	Fever over 38°C
Pain in the muscles and joints	Pain in the muscles and joint
Pain on moving the eyes/Severe headache	Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
Fatigue	Fatigue
Loss of appetite	Oedemas of the hands and/or feet

Mother's Day message: How to be blessed by God

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

To honour all the Mothers, and above all to give glory and honour to God during Mother's Day, I want to bring a message to encourage us in our relationship with God.

In the Bible in the Book of Ruth Chapter 1, is the story of the family of a man called Elimelech and his wife Naomi with their two sons who decided, to leave their home in Bethlehem and move to live in Moab because of the famine. Bethlehem means 'house of bread'. Because the children of Israel have sinned before God, the land is experiencing famine.

While in Moab Elimelech died and his two sons got married. And after awhile the two sons also died, leaving behind their mother Naomi and their childless wives, Ruth and Orpah. Later Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem and her daughter-in-law Ruth also decided to follow Naomi, but Orpah decided to go back to Moab.

It is important to note that it was the "Father" the head of the family, who decided to take his family away from Bethlehem – the house of bread! While in Moab the "Mother" Naomi – a woman – decided to return to Bethlehem the house of bread!

In this story in Chapter 1, I want to highlight some important points to teach us some lessons on How to be blessed by God! In v.2 it reads "...And they went to the country of Moab and remained there." Because of the famine, Elimelech decided to take his family away from Bethlehem to Moab.

Problems or challenges will either encourage us to get closer to God, or closer to the world. If our 'faith' is not strong enough for us to 'trust' in God, then we will be dragged away from Him! That is what's happening to Elimelech in this story!

Naomi heard that the Lord had visited His people in Bethlehem, and had given them bread. This bread is symbolic of the Lord Jesus

Christ – "The Bread of Life"! The weary, the broken-hearted, the lost, who have heard the good news, like Naomi would "Arise!" and go. Many have heard this blessed Gospel in the far away country, but only a few believed, while the majority seems satisfied living in Moab. v.7 reads "...she went out from the place where she was..." Naomi was actually 'separating' herself from Moab a foreign place. II Corinthians 6v.17 reads "Come out from among them and be separate says the Lord..." I John 2v.15 reads "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

In v.10 Ruth and Orpah said to Naomi, "Sure we will return with you to your people." Those who decide to follow Jesus Christ must hang on during their times of trials and testings. Remember that 'tough times don't last, but tough people do!' In v.7 we see that Orpah 'went out of Moab' but in v.15 we see her 'going back to Moab.' There are so many Christians who came out of their Moab and then later on they back-slide again into their Moab, James 1v.8 reads "...a double-minded person is unstable in all his ways." Be reminded also, that there are Orpah around. There are also many Ruth around who have made up their mind to stay out of their Moab! In v.18 it says that "... she (Ruth) was determined to go with her (Naomi)..." In v.15 Naomi said to Ruth "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods, return after your sister-in-law." Ruth replied "...your people shall be my people, and your God, my God..." There will no doubt be Naomi's out there who would say to you "...go back, to Moab, to the place where you used to be!" You tell that Naomi "nothing is going to take me back!" The Apostle Paul said "One thing I do, forgetting the things that are behind, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling." (Philippians 3v.14) "...setting my

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

mind on things above, and not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3v.2)

Friend, each one of us has to make that choice, whether to "come out" and "stay out" of our Moab, or to "go back!" In Moab, our joy can turn into sorrow, our happiness can turn into bitterness, our richness can turn into poverty, our fullness can turn into emptiness! There is only misery, sorrow, and hurt in Moab! In v.19, we see that when Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, all the people were excited, they were happy! There is also great rejoicing amongst the angels of heaven when one sinner repents.

Naomi said in v.21 "I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty." Friend, this is what will happen when we leave Bethlehem. We will experience difficulties and hardship. Be like Ruth who made up her mind not to go back to Moab, the place of bitterness and sorrow, and to say "...your people shall be my people, and your God my God!" Friend, while you are still in Bethlehem, stay in Bethlehem, the 'house of bread' "The Bread of Life!" Jesus Christ! This is HOW GOD BLESSES US!

May God's abundant blessings be upon all the Mothers, and everyone else!

PUBLIC NOTICE

TELECOM COOK ISLANDS LIMITED – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

TCNZ Cook Islands Limited ("Telecom New Zealand") owns 60% of the shares in Telecom Cook Islands Limited (the "Shares"). It seeks expressions of interest from Cook Islanders and Cook Islands enterprises who may have an interest in acquiring the Shares and can satisfy the matters below.

Please submit your expression of interest to Craig Walton at craig.walton@tnzi.com and hand deliver copy to Tim Arnold, Ingram House, Rarotonga, on or before 10 May 2014.

Any expressions of interest should provide evidence that:

- you will purchase, own and control the Shares;
- your ownership and control is not in the nature of a nominee, agency or other device for a foreign enterprise;
- you have the financial resources to settle the purchase price of the shares of not less than \$23 million for the Shares; and
- you have the necessary experience of owning and managing significant telecommunications assets and networks.

This notice is intended to comply with the requirements of Cook Islands law that are aimed at affording all local persons and local enterprises an opportunity to participate in the business of Telecom Cook Islands. Cook Islands and New Zealand law forbid the making of a public offer of the Shares and this advertisement is not an offer within the meaning of all applicable laws.

Letters to the Editor

The day has come to be born again

Dear Editor,
Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. I'm so grateful to give honour and glory to God, who gave me a new life. I give thanks to Him for 68 years. He leads me and guides me to see the most blessed life in Christ Jesus. I wasted 40 years of my life to the things of the world, but thanks be to God for the 28 years of life changing experiences.

What are your experiences? Friends and family, I was born again on the 6th of January, 1986 at 2am in the morning. God visited me at my house in Titikaveka. I surrender my life to Jesus and started reading the Word of God, meditate on the Word, pray on the Word, preached the Word and speak about the Word.

I felt the call to go to Harvest Bible College in Melbourne, Australia. In 1989, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and doing part-time studies for my Master of Arts in Ministry.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ, the day has come that we must get out of our comfort zone and be honest in our church dealings. I believed the Lord Jesus gave me a prophecy in Melbourne on the 27th of October at the Aitutaki Enea Celebration for the 192 years of the arrival of Christianity to Aitutaki.

As of this year 2014 to 2021 God is doing a great and mighty quick work in His church to train and equip people from the age of 8 years to 35 years in the 5 Fold Ministry of the Church. See

Ephesians 4:11-13.

The day has come that all members of each of the Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ must be born again, water baptized through immersion and baptized with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the gift of speaking with tongues as evidence. Acts 2:4, Acts 10:45-46 and Acts 19:6.

These Ephesians received the identical biblical evidence that the apostles had received at the beginning and they prophesied in addition three times the scriptures show us this evidence of the baptism in the spirit. I do not glorify tongues. And above all, I glorify Him whom the Holy Spirit has come to reveal to us, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He who sends the Holy Spirit and I glorify Him because He makes no distinction between us and those who believed at the beginning.

I believe that when the leaders of our local churches come together in one accord and the people that are chosen to lead must be born again, water baptized and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the Gift of tongues many great miracles and the spirit of Revival will fall upon the members.

Enter into the promises of God. It is your inheritance. You will do more in one year if you are really filled with the Holy Spirit than you could do in 50 years apart from Him. I pray that you may be so filled with Him that it will not be possible for you to move without a revival of some kind resulting.

Pastor T. Ngarima George

Accusation by Doreen Boggs

Dear Editor
Doreen I don't know why you accused George Pitt in your last letter because he wasn't in the meeting at Tupapa, he was on the side of the road talking to me, his friend.

Why are you supporting Minister Heather? Are you after his millions? Remember when Sir Geoffrey Henry was Prime Minister years back, you and your husband used to write letters one after another running him and the Party down. I wish I had kept some of those old papers so I can put them in the paper for everyone to see. Now you're up to your old tricks again, writing to the newspaper. Do you go to meetings to spy on people? Stop accusing my friend George Pitt.

When you people go to meetings, don't accuse anybody, support your member, that's why you go to meetings.

You said Minister Heather does a lot for the people, that's true but the people have to pay. Last year I paid his company \$2,000 for a job they did. Maybe he's helping people in Arorangi. In the Herald last year there was a letter about all the things George Pitt has done for people. Didn't you read it?

Who owns the TV and Radio? Teariki went onto George Pitt's Radio to accuse him. That's not what a Godly person, as Teariki calls himself, would do so stop accusing my friend George.

George Pitt's friend

PS. Stop right now or he may stop you going on his TV and Radio.

Sack the Financial Secretary and Head of Revenue

Dear Editor
Last week's statement by FinSec Neves in the Cook Islands News that his people still have the NZ super arrears in their sights is totally inappropriate and arrogant in the extreme.

First, the government has clearly stated its intention to legislate the arrears away. The opposition has also declared its intention to do the same. Therefore bureaucrats who want to waste government resources when government or the people have no desire to do so, must be got rid of.

PM Henry Puna and Finance Minister Mark Brown must grow some balls and sack the FINSEC or at least not renew his contract. Neve's side kick Tax man Haig, must also go. These two have guaranteed the CIP's demise at the next general election.

How much more damage must these two Kangaroos inflict on the CIP and the country before Puna and his side kick, Brown have the guts to take long overdue action?

A pissed off CIP

New Hope Church
Parekura Conference Centre
<i>Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you</i>
Sunday at 10.30am

The CIP had a fortnightly contribution from their MPs pay packet to go towards future elections. Not all of them kept their commitment but Norman George and George Maggie were faithful contributors. Now that they both got the red card do they get a refund? Poor George Maggie his \$5,000 contribution is being used to campaign against him, Norm's money was used for bryl cream for Elvis hair styling.



Travelling man Elvis Puna didn't get a respectful reception at a political recovery meeting from the Vaipae neighbourhood, one gentleman stood up and told the unpopular one termer not to come to Aitutaki and lie to them. Another stood up and told new Minister Mona Ioane he and his other seven voters in his household won't be getting their votes this time.



The good old days CIP political ad claimed they have installed 1000 subsidised water tanks. Just another big fat lie. They haven't paid the suppliers and installers nearly \$300,000 so just who is doing the subsidising? It's the private sector! The CIP have nothing good to say about the future but plenty to say about their self righteous achievements mostly funded by aid donors. This is a mob that drives their car looking in the rear vision mirror. Talk about a backward focus.



One new outer island MP is in for a lucky break. After Elvis Puna gets the biff from Manihiki, he'll also be getting the biff after his bank account is raided for back rent from the government's house at Nikao. The Investment Corporation has been spending thousands of dollars on renovating it, at least \$10,000 alone for the labour to lay the new tiles. Any takers will need to have the house exorcised of spirits of addiction to travel, impersonations of famous entertainers, laziness, indecisiveness, lying, cruelty to old people, stealing old people's money, golf and others that can't be mentioned in a family



publication.



The one term *minna* of money Mark Brown continues to talk nonsense about Telecom, still using the scare tactics about having to borrow \$23 million when he knows we don't have to borrow anything to get 20% back by right of purchase. The money can be raised by Cook Islanders or purchased from the Super Fund which, by law, allows up to 10% of the fund to be invested locally. Just like his big talk a few weeks ago that Treasury funds were great and there was money in the Bank, what a load of hen's poop according to the latest fiscal report by neneva Neves.



The CIP are on the back foot before voting has even started in the election! They did not contest Ivirua in Mangaia where ex-PM Marurai has already won, unopposed! And the CIP has not put up a candidate against the Bishop in Aitutaki! The whisper is, no-one wanted to stand against former CIP staunchy the Bishop. The word is JJ was approached but he declined! The Demos are lining up a candidate but One Cook Islands Movement Inc's main man the Bishop is expected to take the seat by a landslide.



Poor old Tricky Dickie Nevie! Seems he's a tad confused in his latter years! Mad Cow Disease? From the poop deck of the SS Daily with Rear Admiral Bark De Fray on the

bridge, Dickie is quoted as saying in relation to the possibility of a new government following the election, "We will work with them..." What sort of comment is this? It's like that famous saying on ANZAC Day, "We will remember them..." Does Dickie have an option? No. Of course MFEM will work with them! They have to. No ifs and buts about it Dickie! MFEM and you will do what the new government wants. Perhaps it will become Dickie's famous last saying!



Also from the fore deck of the SS Daily, now in choppy seas, a picture of a smiling Finance Minister with a smiling Asia Development Bank (ADB) gnome. The ADB gnome is ecstatic that the Cooks is the best performing economy in the Pacific! Wow! We may be that but our economy is hardly anything to grin about! According to the latest MFEM report, the pre-election update, our underlying budget will be in deficit for the next 3 years. The average wage for women is still \$3,000 behind the average for a man, the unemployment level on Rarotonga is still unacceptably high-58% at the last census. And nearly half the population is on some form of benefit! The ADB gnome is happy never minding we will probably have to bankrupt ourselves to repay their loans!



Chook reveals the Punanga Nui Market Entertainment Committee (PNMEC) is approaching the BTIB for the second time to provide a grant of \$13,000 to assist

with purchasing a new sound system for the market. A few years back when BTIB ran the market, the Committee secured the new entertainment center with funds from Tourism and BTIB and a brand new sound system was also provided. Now, that system is kaputski and cannot be fixed but, hey, lets knock up the BTIB for another sound system! Chook says you would think the musician pros would treat the sound system with greater care! And now it's all going full circle back to pati pati the BTIB for more tax payer's moolah to purchase another sound system!



Notice how neat the work is on the back road laying the water pipes? Not like the main road where the job was rough. This team from the Land of the Great Wall seem to know what they are doing. Maybe this time professionals have been sent.

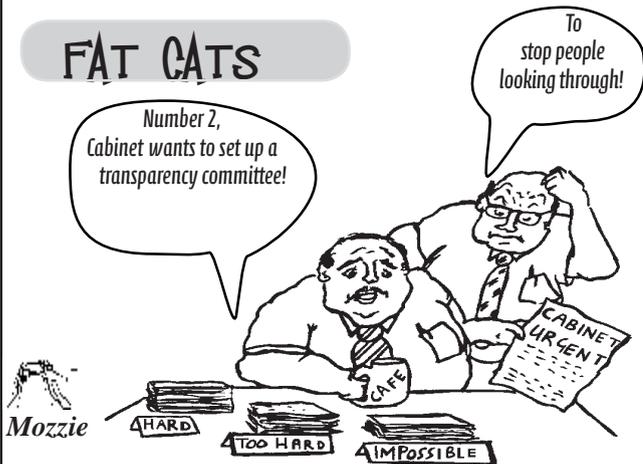


There must be something wrong with the Brown chappie's hearing. Locals are not advocating buying out Telecom's 60%. They want Government to take back the 20% it is entitled to and let locals buy these. The value? \$7 million. Locals can raise that. Why is Brownie against the idea?



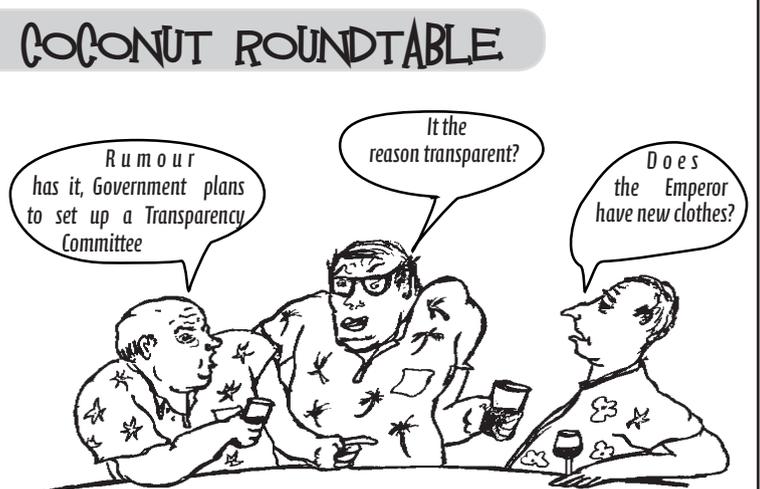
A CIP contender for the President's position who has been ringing around the outer islands to get support and their vote at the forth coming Party conference was told Moses, Co-captain to the bulldozing space cadet Heta, had also been ringing the outer islands campaigning for their delegates to vote for his boss to be the Party Leader in their challenge against Pharaoh Henry Puna. From his Tabernacle, Moses has been preaching Pharaoh Puna is very unpopular on Rarotonga and he is very naughty but his boss is a Christian. Moses even told them Heta will pay their airfares to Rarotonga if they support him. And was it Mark Brown who claimed the team was united fully supporting Henry? Well the conference if not cancelled again will prove Brown wrong yet again.

FAT CATS



Mozzie

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



PUBLIC NOTICE



THE
COOK ISLANDS GAZETTE
Published By Authority

56/2014 6 May 2014 96

PUBLIC NOTICE 3

COOK ISLANDS PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION 2014

CANDIDATES DULY NOMINATED FOR EACH CONSTITUENCY

PURSUANT to Section 36 of the Electoral Act 2004, I, TAGGY TANGIMETUA, Chief Electoral Officer, **HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** of the names of candidates duly nominated to contest in the Cook Islands Parliamentary elections along with their political affiliation for each constituency:

Constituency	Candidate	Party
Tupapa-Maraerenga	George Maggie Angene	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
	Lee Harmon	Democratic Party
	Isaia Willie Jnr	Cook Islands Party
Takuvaîne-Tutakimoa	Mark Brown	Cook Islands Party
	Tuaputa Petero Dyer	Democratic Party
Avatiu-Ruatonga	John Mokoenga Tikaka Henry	Cook Islands Party
	Albert Taaviri Kaitara Nicholas	Democratic Party
Nikao-Panama	Ngamau Mere Munokoa	Democratic Party
	Piritau Nga	Cook Islands Party
Ruaau	David Tetupuariki Akanoa	Cook Islands Party
	William William Heather	Democratic Party
Akaoa	Nooroa O Teariki Baker	Democratic Party
	Teariki William Heather	Cook Islands Party
Murienua	Patrick Akaiti Arioka	Cook Islands Party
	James Vini Beer	Democratic Party
Titikaveka	Teava Iro	Titikaveka Oire Incorporated
	Teariki Matenga	Cook Islands Party
	Selina Napa	Democratic Party
Ngatangia	Ataoa Joseph Herman	Cook Islands Party
	Ngateina Jasmine Mackenzie	Independent
	Tamaiva Tuavera	Democratic Party
Matavera	Cassey Tereapii Eggelton	Democratic Party
	Turepu Kiriau	Cook Islands Party
Amuri-Ureia	Terepai Maoate	Democratic Party
	Isamaela Toanui Isamaela	Cook Islands Party
Arutanga-Reureu-Nikaupara	Teinakore Bishop	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
	Teuira Manuela Ka	Democratic Party
Vaipae-Tautu	Kete Ioane	Democratic Party
	Mona Ioane Kake	Cook Islands Party
Oneroa	Poroiiti Arokapiti	Cook Islands Party
	Kareroa Wesley	Democratic Party
Ivirua (uncontested)	Jim Marurai	Democratic Party
Tamarua	Tetangi Matapo	Democratic Party
	Tokorua Pareina	Cook Islands Party
Teenui-Mapumai	Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown	Cook Islands Party
	Norman George	Democratic Party
Tengatangi-Areora-Ngatiarua	Nandi Tuaine Glassie	Cook Islands Party
	Eugene Tatuava	Democratic Party
Mauke	Hugh Richard Graham	Democratic Party
	Tai Tura	Cook Islands Party
	Tungane Williams	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
Mitiaro	Tuakeu Tangatapoto	Cook Islands Party
	Tangata Vavia	Democratic Party
Manihiki	Tereapii Pihō	Democratic Party
	Henry Puna	Cook Islands Party
Rakahanga	Toka Hagai	Cook Islands Party
	Taunga Toka	Democratic Party
Pukapuka-Nassau	Tekii Lazaro	Cook Islands Party
	Vai Tamaiti Peua	Democratic Party
	Tai Ravarua	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
Penrhyn	Willie John	Cook Islands Party
	Wilkie Olaf Patua Rasmussen	Democratic Party

DATED at Rarotonga this 6th day of May 2014.

Taggy Tangimetua
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER



THE
COOK ISLANDS GAZETTE
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TUATUA AKAKITE NUMERO 3

IKIANGA MEMA PARAMANI O TE KUKI AIRANI 2014

TE AU TANGATA TEI NOMINETIIA NO TO RATOU TUANGA IKIANGA

KIA TAU ki te Tuanga 36 o te Ture Ikianga 2004, KO AU, KO TAGGY TANGIMETUA, Akaere Maata o te Ikianga, **TE AKAKITE NEI** i te ingoa o te au tangata tei nominetia no te tu atu ki roto i te Ikianga Mema Paramani, ra to ratou pirianga pati porotiki i roto i te tuanga ikianga tatakitai.

Tuanga Ikianga	Tangata tei nominetia	Pati Porotiki
Tupapa-Maraerenga	George Maggie Angene	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
	Lee Harmon	Democratic Party
	Isaia Willie Jnr	Cook Islands Party
Takuvaîne-Tutakimoa	Mark Brown	Cook Islands Party
	Tuaputa Petero Dyer	Democratic Party
Avatiu-Ruatonga	John Mokoenga Tikaka Henry	Cook Islands Party
	Albert Taaviri Kaitara Nicholas	Democratic Party
Nikao-Panama	Ngamau Mere Munokoa	Democratic Party
	Piritau Nga	Cook Islands Party
Ruaau	David Tetupuariki Akanoa	Cook Islands Party
	William William Heather	Democratic Party
Akaoa	Nooroa O Teariki Baker	Democratic Party
	Teariki William Heather	Cook Islands Party
Murienua	Patrick Akaiti Arioka	Cook Islands Party
	James Vini Beer	Democratic Party
Titikaveka	Teava Iro	Titikaveka Oire Incorporated
	Teariki Matenga	Cook Islands Party
	Selina Napa	Democratic Party
Ngatangia	Ataoa Joseph Herman	Cook Islands Party
	Ngateina Jasmine Mackenzie	Independent
	Tamaiva Tuavera	Democratic Party
Matavera	Cassey Tereapii Eggelton	Democratic Party
	Turepu Kiriau	Cook Islands Party
Amuri-Ureia	Terepai Maoate	Democratic Party
	Isamaela Toanui Isamaela	Cook Islands Party
Arutanga-Reureu-Nikaupara	Teinakore Bishop	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
	Teuira Manuela Ka	Democratic Party
Vaipae-Tautu	Kete Ioane	Democratic Party
	Mona Ioane Kake	Cook Islands Party
Oneroa	Poroiiti Arokapiti	Cook Islands Party
	Kareroa Wesley	Democratic Party
Ivirua (kare e ikianga)	Jim Marurai	Democratic Party
Tamarua	Tetangi Matapo	Democratic Party
	Tokorua Pareina	Cook Islands Party
Teenui-Mapumai	Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown	Cook Islands Party
	Norman George	Democratic Party
Tengatangi-Areora-Ngatiarua	Nandi Tuaine Glassie	Cook Islands Party
	Eugene Tatuava	Democratic Party
Mauke	Hugh Richard Graham	Democratic Party
	Tai Tura	Cook Islands Party
	Tungane Williams	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
Mitiaro	Tuakeu Tangatapoto	Cook Islands Party
	Tangata Vavia	Democratic Party
Manihiki	Tereapii Pihō	Democratic Party
	Henry Puna	Cook Islands Party
Rakahanga	Toka Hagai	Cook Islands Party
	Taunga Toka	Democratic Party
Pukapuka-Nassau	Tekii Lazaro	Cook Islands Party
	Vai Tamaiti Peua	Democratic Party
	Tai Ravarua	One Cook Islands Movement Inc.
Penrhyn	Willie John	Cook Islands Party
	Wilkie Olaf Patua Rasmussen	Democratic Party

TAINAIA i Rarotonga i teia ra 5 o Me 2014

Taggy Tangimetua
AKAERE MAATA O TE IKIANGA

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

The composers of the Te Mire Atu composer's competition launched 10 of their compositions on Wednesday morning from 10am at the Avarua Wharf market. The launch saw the sale of the composer's competition on DVD for \$25, CD at \$20 and Booklet at \$10. The Mire Atu Competition was held last month, with Mita Soatini as the winner of the competition.

The National Open Seniors Dancer of the Year Competition will take place this Friday the 9th of May from 7.30pm at the National Auditorium. Tickets are selling at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children aged 6 to 12 years.

Fifteen young contestants for the National Dancer of the Year 2014 competition took the stage last Friday to showcase the best of our Cook Islands Culture. Here are the following results:

- In the Junior girls,
 - 1st Ambushia Mateariki
 - 2nd Davinia Aererua
 - 3rd Temata Vainepoto
- Junior Boys
 - 1st Tangimetua Akava
 - 2nd Piritau Nga Jnr
 - 3rd Ngatokotoru Mateariki
- In the girls Intermediates Section
 - 1st Tuvaine Taio
 - 2nd Elizabeth Terepita
 - 3rd Tiana Tetevano
- In the Boys Intermediate Section
 - 1st Tamaiva Mateariki
 - 2nd Tearetoa Tupuna
 - 3rd Edward Nga

Starting Wednesday morning, Michael Tavioni has a stall at the bus stop across the Police Station to take signatures from locals expressing interest to buy shares in Telecom. He says a lot of people are interested in buying shares and already has expressions of interest for over \$1 million in shares from locals residing here and residing overseas, "There is even an Atuan girl residing in Brisbane who has put in \$10,000, and the lowest input I have is \$500" says Tavioni. He believes that a profitable business like Telecom should be kept in the hands of the people and his aim is to get locals to own it. Depending on how progress on Wednesday goes, his stall may remain for the next couple of days, otherwise those interested can email him on miketavioni@gmail.com with your name and the amount you think you could spend. "In order to have more mana, I need more signatures and want more of our Cook Islands people to sign up and buy some shares," he says.

VACANCY

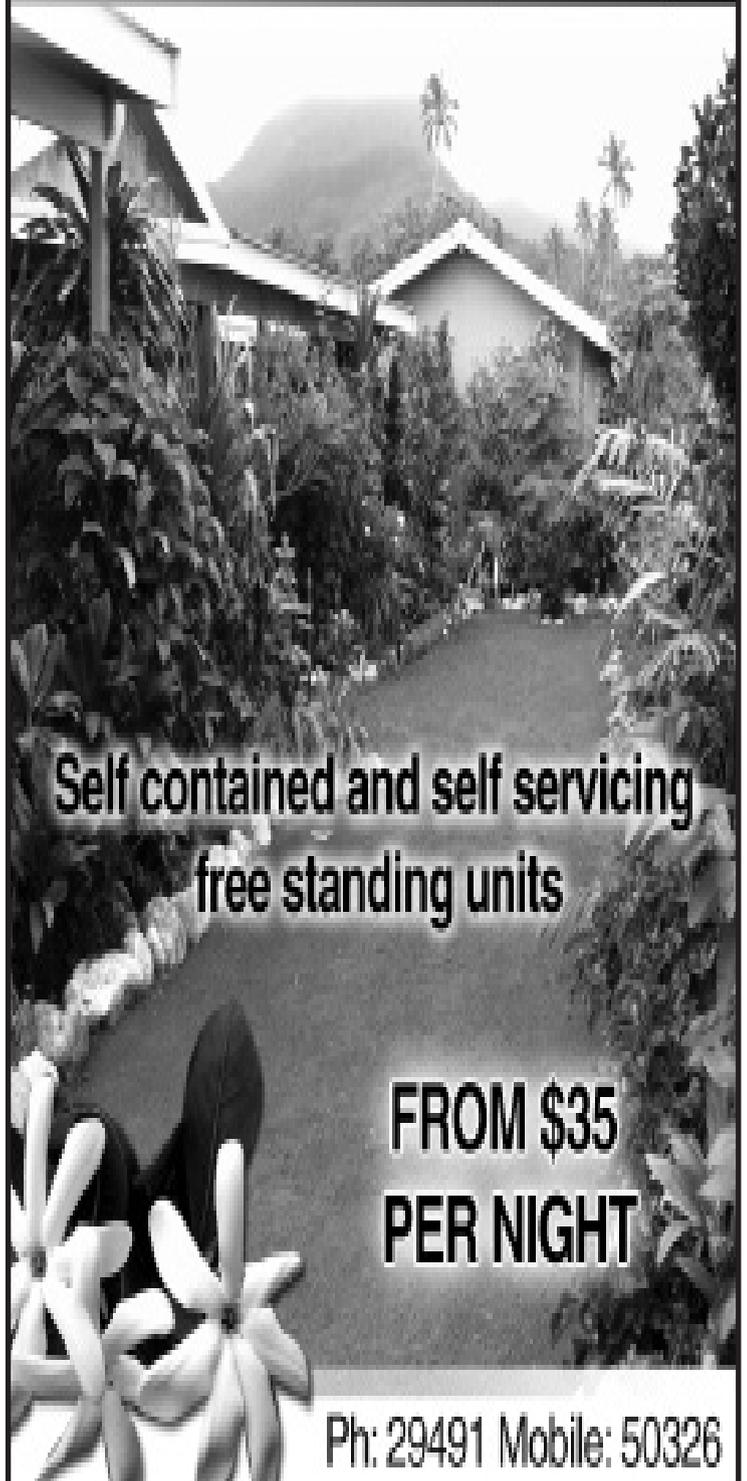


OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER OFFICE MANAGER

An exciting employment opportunity exists for an Office Manager at the Office of the Public Service Commissioner for an immediate start. The role is responsible for Office management support and administration. The Job Description can be downloaded from www.psc.gov.ck. Applications must include a cover letter and CV addressed to: CEO OPSC, Box 24, Rarotonga, or emailed to daphne.ringi@cookislands.gov.ck by 4pm 16 May 2014.

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