



For Immediate Release

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News Release

Nauru MPs Work with Community and GOPAC on New Leadership Code

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law.

Yaren, Nauru - “Parliamentarians on Nauru – the world’s smallest island state with just 1500 residents – are fully embracing community consultations to establish their nation’s first Leadership Code,” President Baron Waqa told a GOPAC workshop last week on Nauru.

Additionally, a new GOPAC national chapter is being progressed, Nauru MP Hon Russ Kun, a member of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) told participants.

The Parliament of Nauru invited GOPAC Oceania and the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project to undertake a workshop briefing on anti-corruption best practices with the parliamentary committee, Ministers, Speaker and the President – and with 31 local community “integrity champions” who have been selected to canvas the views of every household on the island, as the unicameral Parliament builds its Leadership Code from the grassroots.

“Nauru is making sure parliamentarians and the community are fully involved in implementing and reviewing Nauru’s commitment to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which it signed in 2012,” said GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde, who moderated the workshop.

Nauru President Baron Waqa reinforced his government’s commitment to introducing a Leadership Code that was a product of genuine consultation with the community.

“We don’t have a pre-conceived Leadership Code – we want to first hear from the Nauru people about what they expect of their leaders before we start drafting legislation,” President Waqa told the workshop.

Leadership Code Chair Russ Kun encouraged the community information collectors to allow Nauru’s citizens to canvas the whole range of expectations for leaders.

“In simple terms, we are creating ‘table manners’ for leaders – how do you expect your leaders to act at all times,” he told the workshop.

Sione Tekiteki, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Governance Officer, who is the former Clerk to the Parliament of Tonga, helped put the community consultation into a Pacific focus, briefing the MPs and community on the PIFS *Guiding Principles on Leadership*, which have been agreed by member states.

Community participants at the workshop, who aim to visit every Nauru household during the month of November, encouraged each other during interview training to make sure they made people feel comfortable to express their real views and not be guided by any of the participants’ opinions.

Issues canvassed that Nauruans want addressed in the Code include gift-giving, definition of a leader, assets registry, adherence to traditional cultural morals, penalties, and having a system of external oversight.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good governance and clean government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 57 national chapters on 5 continents. GOPAC supports its members’ efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support. Visit GOPAC on the web at gopacnetwork.org, on Twitter at twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng, and on Facebook at facebook.com/gopacnetwork

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