

EMEDENA EIMWI

**Squire Jeremiah
President of Emedena Eimwi
(NGO Anti-Corruption)
Meneng District
POBOX 217**

OVER VIEW

Nauru, home to 10,500 people, grew wealthy from phosphate mining and in the early 1970s boasted the world's second-highest per capita income, after the oil-rich United Arab Emirates. But were wasted mainly on corruption and mismanagement.

Between 1968 and 2002, Nauru exported 43 millions of tons of phosphate for an amount of 3,6 billions Australian dollars. But 21 square kilometers is a small area to have mines everywhere and now there is little phosphate left.. Only the coastal fringe is now habitable. Nauru was once a tropical paradise, a rainforest hung with fruits and flower, vines and orchids. Corruption and Mismanagement - helps explain the downward spiral of Nauru, once reach to be the struggling Pacific island states during 2001.

CORRUPTION LAWS

There is no corruption laws in Nauru. However, there is bribery charges in the Criminal Code of Queensland (Australia Law which was adopted by Nauru) but the law enforcement haven't charge anyone for bribery in the history of Nauru. Despite that there were allegations of bribery.

There are regulations in the house of parliament where members of parliament are required to surrender or register their assets but it has never been practiced or entertain in parliament that member register their assets and make available for public.

Nauru's struggle with introducing a leadership code

During the public consultation phase, the corruption of Nauru's public leaders was the main concern people spoke about and wanted to address. Many people expressed support for the inclusion of a leadership code in Nauru's constitution.

The constitutional review process in Nauru began in 2006 and still ongoing to this day, although under the current Government, there has been no progress made in any of the areas identified as critical by the public which includes the establishment of a Leadership Code and Ombudsman.

The Constitutional Review Commission (chaired by Ruby Thoma, and including the late Leo Keke and Dr Guy Powles) recommended in its report in February 2007 that Nauru's constitution should be amended to include a leadership code, which should be supplemented by ordinary legislation in due course.

As one of the main aims of the constitutional review is to make public institutions more transparent and accountable, the suggestions raised during the public consultation phase that the Constitution ought to include a Leadership Code and an ombudsman warrant serious consideration by the Commission and by the Convention. Both devices are specifically designed to minimise corruption and to make public offices more accountable to the people they serve

On the May 13 2014, the bill of leadership code which was part of the referendum was single out and tabled in parliament by the Member of Parliament coming from the only anti-corruption group NGO Hon. Squire Jeremiah. However, due to lack of support the bill remain idle and overdue for final reading until it was eventually voted out on the 24 Feb 2015.

ONGOING CORRUPTION

There are cases of corruption, but since the absence of laws and independent institution to act upon, Nauru won't be able to officially account anything relating to corruption.

Native Nauruan including refugees who are granted refugees visas to free with locals were denied to access adequate health services because the hospital is at deteriorating stage after it was burn down on the 15 August 2013. The hospital sometimes had no water, sometimes no electricity; toilets were blocked because money was being corrupted.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-15/fire-breaks-out-at-main-hospital-on-nauru/4888396>

The Island is facing load shading power (shortage of electricity every 3hours on 3hours off) due to the power station shortage believing the money allocated for the running of the generator was corruptly used by officials.

Nauru government basically denied any media visiting the island so it can prevent anyone voicing the real issues affecting the Island. However, Australia Government officials were the only people working close to the Nauru government but refrain not to voice out any issues that is affecting the Island.

All the contracts relating to the operation of the Refugee Processing Centre (RPC) were being manipulated and the government themselves as individual are earning millions.

At one stage, members of this current Government were being reported receiving huge amount of money (bribery) for election from a Foreign Business Company who is one of the phosphate buyer, but no charges were made against both parties including the Australian company for conducting foreign bribery.

There is a case against The Minister for Justice David Adeang and President Barron Waqa for contempt of court but denied to be entertain by the new judge.

RATIFICATION OF UNCAC.

Since Nauru ratified the Convention against corruption there is no changes or implementation of the convention. The anti-corruption group NGO follower up any progress of the implementation of the

Convention but Government claim due to lack of resource and expert Nauru is not in a position to implement new laws.

Reference

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-13/an-former-nauru-chief-justice-australian-geoffrey-eames-resigns/5317008>

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/federal-police-to-probe-claims-nauru-bribery-claims-against-gold-coast-company/story-e6frg6nf-1225943446106>

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/200812/nauru's-new-president-says-corruption-allegations-baseless>