

PACNEWS

**Pacific News Agency Service - administered by the Pacific Islands News Association
(PINA)**

Second Edition

Wednesday 3 September 2014

© Copyright PINA 2014

In this bulletin:

- [1. PNG --- Terror links, Family of blacklisted terror suspects invest millions in PNG](#)
- [2. FIJI --- Onus is on voter: Fiji Election Supervisor Saneem](#)
- [3. SOL --- New Solomon Islands Police Chief outlines priority, challenges](#)
- [4. SOL --- Number of measles cases keep rising in Solomon Islands](#)
- [5. PNG --- New police base to monitor North of PNG](#)
- [6. SAMOA --- Island Leaders concerned over the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway implementation](#)
- [7. PACNEWS BIZ --- Cutting the red tape and easy access to World Bank funds is long overdue](#)
- [8. PACNEWS BIZ --- \\$14 million solar farm saves \\$3.4m worth of imported diesel](#)
- [9. PACNEWS BIZ --- EU "Walks the Talk" with Solar Grid System at its Samoa Office](#)
- [10. PACNEWS DIGEST --- Youth require investment for realization of full potential](#)
- [11. PACNEWS DIGEST --- Digicel and WMO's 'Weather Together' Regional Online Campaign Smartphone Winners Announced](#)

PNG - TERROR LINK: POST COURIER

PACNEWS 2: Wed 03 Sep 2014

Terror links, Family of blacklisted terror suspects invest millions in PNG

PORT MORESBY, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (POST COURIER) -----A middle-East family with alleged international terrorism links has poured millions of kina into Papua New Guinea businesses in the past 10 years, the intelligence community has revealed.

The family, residents of Australia, has invested heavily in logging, security service and agriculture, their overnight success protected by officials high in the PNG bureaucracy, according to top secret documents made available to the *Post-Courier*.

The three successful businesses the family operates in PNG appear legitimate but PNG authorities have been warned that family members are on the Interpol international terrorism blacklist. The principals of these businesses refused to speak to the Post-Courier when contacted in the past few days.

Three family members are known terrorists – one accused of beheading a police officer, another charged with conspiring to manufacture explosives for use in a terrorist attack, and another charged with spreading jihadist sentiments.

Information provided by Australian intelligence says that the police officer attacker was jailed last month for four years. Australian authorities have issued an arrest warrant for the jihadist activist and his Australian counterpart who was also suspected of joining the ISIS insurgency in Syria.

In 2007 another family member was found guilty of having in possession, a box set of 16 DVDs of the radical Sheikh Feiz's sermons, the Death Series, which became the target of an Australian Federal Police investigation. The sermons urged young Muslims to kill infidel non-believers and encouraged Muslim parents to offer their children as soldiers to sacrifice their lives for Allah.

The DVDs came to public attention when they were featured in the documentary Undercover Mosque, which aired on Britain's Channel 4. The DVDs were being sold by children in the parking lot of a Birmingham mosque.

The Post-Courier is in receipt of some of the reports from countries that have been making headlines about the crimes they have been engaged in and the issues facing them in Australia, United States and the Middle East.

It is also in receipt of other documents detailing questionable involvement in PNG businesses, being aided by officers from responsible Government agencies over the years, giving them entry into the region on the pretext of making business and without proper checks and balances on their backgrounds.

Reports detailed that these companies are connected to a triad that was blacklisted in Australia and are also a threat and were denied entry permits into the United States and some countries in the Middle East. One of these companies entered PNG in 2002 to start a joint venture with a small company and over the years grew businesses with invitations from other "brother" companies coming in to invest elsewhere.

The Post-Courier spoke to three business proprietors of the two companies involved but they refused to comment as they are based in Australia while their PNG offices have aggressively denied being involved with terrorism, slamming down telephones and refusing to speak with the newspaper.

Government authorities involved the case say the Government was aware of the reports that family members of known terrorists are operating businesses in PNG.

The Prime Minister's Office, the Immigration and Foreign Affairs, the National Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Secret Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) are aware of the situation....PACNEWS

FIJI - PRE POLL: FIJI LIVE

PACNEWS 2: Wed 03 Sep 2014

Onus is on voter: Fiji Election Supervisor Saneem

SUVA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (FIJI LIVE) ----Fiji's Supervisor of Elections Mohammed Saneem says it is the responsibility of voters to ensure they are at their designated polling venues on time.

As pre-polling starts today with over 66,000 Fijians expected to cast their votes in over 150 polling stations around the country, concerns have been raised that some voters may miss out.

The Methodist Church in Fiji for instance said that some of their members from the designated pre-polling areas in the outer islands who were still in Suva may not be able to return to their homes within the two weeks of the pre-polling exercise.

"We had made them aware well in advance of the dates and we expect a voter to be present at the location on the day," Saneem said.

As with all other voters, each voter will only be allowed to vote at a polling station he or she has been assigned to.

Saneem said the voters could have opted for postal voting if they knew they would be away during pre-polling.

Meanwhile, Fiji Police have arrested three people in Labasa for allegedly breaching the Electoral Decree.

Chief Operations Officer Assistant Commissioner of Police Rusiate Tudravu said the three allegedly vandalised a banner of a political party that was posted on the wall of a building on main street Labasa town.

"A report was received after a member of the party's Labasa branch noticed their banner was now covered with another party's banner. Numbers were also written in black paint beside the political party's banner," Tudravu said.

Two more people will be questioned on their involvement. Tudravu said police have carried out initial investigations to be handed over to FICAC today.

Section 111 (2) of Electoral Decree states that it shall be unlawful for any person to tear, remove or cover up any campaign material posted in designated public places. A person faces a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or a jail term of five years or both for failure to abide by the provision.....PACNEWS

SOL - POLICE CHIEF: SOLOMON STAR

PACNEWS 2: Wed 03 Sep 2014

New Solomon Islands Police Chief outlines priority, challenges

HONIARA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (SOLOMON STAR) -----New Solomon Islands police chief Frank Prendergast says developing the leadership of the local police will be his key task over the next two years.

The Australian officially took up his new job last Friday, after taking his oath in office before Governor General Sir Frank Kabui.

"Leadership is the key to the future of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and it must start with the most junior constable," Prendergast said during a welcome parade at the Rove Police Headquarters.

"Developing the leadership of the RSIPF will certainly be my key task over the next two years," he added.

An officer of 28 years with the Australian Federal Police, Prendergast said the police need to be accountable for its actions and committed to service, and their duty.

"We need to be proud of ourselves and what we stand for," he told his officers.

"Policing is not an easy profession and because of this we cannot accept poor behaviour or performance.

"Equally, we should always recognise, acknowledge and reward good behaviour and performance.

"We must above all show leadership – both within the RSIPF and the community."

Prendergast said the RSIPF have a number of challenges ahead of it, one of which is ensuring peace and order at the upcoming national elections.

"We also need to focus on preparing the RSIPF for the eventual withdrawal of the PPF. "This means focusing on the development of leadership at all levels of the RSIPF.

"It means working hard to ensure that the back of house functions of the RSIPF such as finance, HR, and logistics are functional and sustainable."

The police chief said the RSIPF need to ensure that the community and other stakeholders have confidence in the force.

"To aid in the development of that confidence, I intend as a priority for my senior officers to meet with as many community leaders and groups as well as other stakeholders as possible on an ongoing basis to ensure we understand and are appropriately responsive to community concerns and issues."

Prendergast was named for the position in mid-July and arrived in the country last week.

The position had been vacant since the beginning of the year when his predecessor was forced to quit amid controversy over his age.

Prendergast's appointment has drawn criticism from various local groups and members of the public but parliamentarians and government officials, including a former Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, welcome the choice.....PACNEWS

Number of measles cases keep rising in Solomon Islands

HONIARA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (SOLOMON STAR) ---- The number of Measles cases is on the rise with more than 500 cases recorded so far in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Malaita and other provinces, Solomon Islands health authorities confirmed on Wednesday.

Last week two children lost their lives as a result of the outbreak.

As part of curbing the spread, the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation (WHO) are providing vaccination to both young and adults around the age of 30.

Dr Titus Nasi, head of paediatrics, said health authorities want to speed up the vaccination exercise in the country.

Dr Nasi said only infants ages below six months and pregnant mothers are not allowed to vaccinate.

"The vaccine contains chemicals that are dangerous for babies," he said.

He added pregnant mothers who may have caught the disease can visit local clinics to see nurses for treatment and get advices.

Dr Nasi said to reduce measles from spreading those who are infected must remain at home until the rash on body disappeared.

"They must isolate themselves for seven days before traveling to other places."

He encouraged parents to bring their children to their nearest clinics for vaccinations to protect them from catching the deadly disease.

The Honiara City Council (HCC) has set up eight sites for measles vaccination in Honiara starting today.

The sites are Burns Creek, FOPA, Kukum, Kobito, Lawson Tama, Art Gallery, Rove police club and White River.

The council's measles campaign team leader Dr Nemia Bainivalu said the sites will open up for 21 days for vaccination.

"Those sites will provide free vaccination for everyone.

"Vaccination can prevent us from catching the disease," he said.

Parents have been encouraged to bring their children and get vaccinated.

Meanwhile, Dr Bainivalu said vaccination will also be conducted at the airport and Point Cruz wharf for passengers arriving and travelling to the provinces.....PACNEWS

New police base to monitor North of PNG

PORT MORESBY, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (LOOP PNG) ----A new Mobile Squad base is currently being built to monitor the Northern part of PNG and the border separating Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Acting Deputy Police Commissioner, Jim Andrews, said personnel will be sent in as soon as the construction of the base is complete.

The initiative was driven by Member for Yangorru-Saussia and Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry Richard Maru, following increasing levels of crime in his electorate and the Province.

"The Minister has done very well," said Andrews.

"He has given the land and is building the base there. That's an arrangement between him and the former Police Commissioner."

For police it is a significant strategic position given the lack of heavy presence on the northern shores of PNG.

"The northern side of the country from Vanimo on the border right down to Madang and Morobe, there is no Mobile Squad there," said Andrews.

"On particular situations, it's very difficult to move mobile squad members across from here or from the highlands there."

"There is a road link from Wewak to Vanimo so if there is a problem on the border then we can send them up that way."

Andrews said they are looking at sending 30 men, which is the standard number for a squad, plus administration staff.

He said the squad will move in once completed....PACNEWS

SAMOA - SIDS CONFERENCE: TALAMUA ONLINE

PACNEWS 2: Wed 03 Sep 2014

Island Leaders concerned over the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway implementation

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (TALAMUA ONLINE) ----Leaders at the Small islands Developing States (SIDS) conference in Apia have voiced their concern on how the S.A.M.O.A Pathway should be implemented.

In a press conference before he departed Samoa, the UN Secretary General Tupua Ban Ki-moon said, "accountability and the mechanism" used are very important in ensuring that the pathway is implemented successfully.

"That I think is a very important issue," said Tupua Ban Ki-moon.

He said this was not an issue that was discussed recently, but for many years.

"We have agreed with many of the recommendations," he said.

He also said the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway outcomes should be high on the agenda of the UN. The SIDS conference is looking at how small island developing states and their partners will transition to a more sustainable development path, adapting to climate change while providing a decent standard of living for all with lasting economic growth.

Whilst he realizes that it won't be an easy task given the length of time spent on talks, he assured member countries of the commitment given to the issue.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will be two core entities that would be involved in implementing the pathway and has urged regional entities to focus on it....PACNEWS

PACNEWS BIZ

PAC - WORLD BANK: TALAMUA ONLINE

PACNEWS BIZ: Wed 03 Sep 2014

Cutting the red tape and easy access to World Bank funds is long overdue

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (The Chief Executive Officer for Samoa's Treasury Tupa'imatuna Lavea Iulai Tuesday emphasized with the World Bank the need for easier and faster access to funds.

"It is long overdue," he told a press conference in Apia attended by Rachel Kyte, World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change who announced the Banks increased support for disaster and climate resilient development in small island developing states from US\$145 million per year to about US\$190 million and work with partners towards a Small Island States Resilience Initiative.

"It should have been done long time ago," said Tupa'imatuna.

Small island nations have been struggling with the World Bank process and has taken years for some small island nations to implement their redevelopment programme, said Maia

"The Small Islands States Resilience Initiative is a response to a request from small island leaders who have asked the international community for increased and improved assistance in the face of mounting disasters and climate change," said Rachel Kyte.

"The initiative is about finding ways to cut through the red tape and make it easier, faster and simpler to access funds to deal with resilience and climate changes," said Kyte.

"As some of the most threatened people and places on the planet, small island nations are stepping up their efforts to deal with climate change. This initiative is designed to address the specific needs of small islands and make it easier, faster, and simpler to access funding to deal with resilience and climate change," she said.

Tupa'imatuna welcomed the initiative and acknowledged the World Bank for it.

Asked if the small island nations have contributed to the resilience initiative launched, the World Bank group Vice President said they have been listening to the criticisms from island nations hence the initiative.

"We listen but time is our enemy," she said. "We cannot wait for 2016 to launch this programme," continued Kyte.

The initiative will fund both priority resilient investments as well as technical assistance.

"Investments include retrofitting major structures at risk such as schools, roads, houses and the ecosystem," said Kyte.

The World Bank has realised that they could not go on the way it is and for the programme to succeed through investments and developments, they look at adapting and implement the initiative programme.

The islands at risk are struggling the most so we need to rectify the constraints, said Kyte.

In Samoa, funds for agricultural rehabilitation after Cyclone Evan in 2012 have come under continuing criticism due to the long and involved World Bank process and the most affected farmers are still waiting....PACNEWS

\$14 million solar farm saves \$3.4m worth of imported diesel

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (TALAMUA ONLINE) --- Samoa is moving steadily towards renewable energy with the opening of the \$14 million solar project at Faleata Racecourse Tuesday.

Part of the project is already providing electricity to the venues of the SIDS conference now in progress.

When completed, it is going to produce electricity to 4,400 households and save 1.1 million liters of imported diesel for electricity generation worth \$3.4 million a year.

The project was funded under the New Zealand Renewable Energy programme. According to New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tupa'imatuna Murray McCully the projects are in support of a 2.58MWp of grid-connected solar PV farms at a cost of \$7.5 million.

The projects include the Gymnasium 3 Rooftops with a maximum output 240KWp completed from a total of 960 x260 watt panels; the Faleata Racecourse with maximum output of 2.2MWp civil construction complete electrical testing and commissioning in September from a total of 8448 x 260 watt panels.

"The three PV projects will save 1.1million litres of diesel worth WST\$3.4 million a year. The solar project will provide enough power for 4400 households and contribute an additional 4.5% renewable capacity," said Tupa'imatuna MsCully.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoli'ai Sailele Malielegaoi, said the abundant amount of electricity from the Solar Renewable Energy project provide a very good base and he thanked the Government of New Zealand for their support, and wish McCully well for the elections later this month.

"I hope in 2017 Samoa will turn to solar in a major way for electricity generation because the diesel is very expensive," said Tuilaepa.

New Zealand is also joining with the European Union in supporting the ADB's hydro-electricity projects with the Electric Power Corporation of Samoa.

New Zealand's contributing to two more projects at a cost of NZD\$6 million and includes refurbishing 3 cyclone damaged plants and to construct up to 3 new plants confirmed with potential for 2 more currently under investigation.

During the construction of the racecourse solar array there were 24-38 local staff employed at any one time.

It took approximately 7.45 hours to install a row of modules inclusive of frame models and cabling....PACNEWS

EU "Walks the Talk" with Solar Grid System at its Samoa Office

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (EU) ----The European Union Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs today commissioned a grid solar photovoltaic system at the European Union office in Apia.

The EUR37,500 (WST 114,875) system will generate an average of approximately 85 kilowatts per day and cover most if not all, of the office's energy demand.

In commissioning the solar panel array, Commissioner Piebalgs said: "It is highly appropriate to open this small solar array on the roof of the EU office in Samoa as it clearly demonstrates that the European Union is truly committed to supporting renewable energy.

"Not only does renewable energy make environmental sense but it can also make sound economic sense in places like Samoa, where fossil fuel costs can be very high and where sunshine is abundant.

"The solar system being commissioned today will have a payback period of approximately eight years or less while the solar panels have a guaranteed life span of 25 years. The economic feasibility of this PV system is due in part, to the recent decline in the cost of production of solar panels and new technologies which allow for direct connections to the grid," Commissioner Pielbags said.

"Sustainable growth can only be achieved by Pacific small island states with improved energy efficiency and a reduction on the reliance on fossil fuels, for which the private sector has a major role to play."

Since 2000, the European Union has devoted substantial resources of just over €100 million (WST 299 million) to the adoption of renewable energy technologies and to promoting energy efficiency in the Pacific....PACNEWS

PACNEWS DIGEST

The views expressed in PACNEWS are those of agencies contributing articles and do not necessarily those of PINA and/or PACNEWS

Youth require investment for realization of full potential

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (UNFPA) ---The sustainability of social and economic development benefits, in whatever sector they may be, will be highly dependent on how much investment is made in those who will be responsible for its success: today's youth.

With an expected population increase of 8 billion by 2025 and 9.6 billion by 2050, investing in a young person's capacity to be adequately prepared for issues like food security as the burden on natural resources increases, will be critical.

A panel discussion on how Investing in Youth Pays Dividends at the 3rd International Conference on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in Samoa underlined the "power of the people" - to find sustainable solutions, to move from crisis to recovery, to support each other and uphold human rights, and the power of the people to be entrepreneurs and agents of change, to drive green and inclusive economic growth and benefits that are widely shared across society.

Another recurring theme the panelists alluded to was the additional burden on governments to now provide education and employment for the increasingly large cohort of persons less than 25 years.

Nearly half of most less developed regions are under the age of 25; in fact, the number of children and young people in less developed region is at an all-time high. In the less developed countries, the situation is even more pressing with six in 10 people being under 25 years.

"I give you these numbers because population data is a fundamental first step in development. Without data, you cannot have an authentic or reliable starting point to plan ahead; population and development is about people and investments that need to be made," Director and Representative of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office Sheila Roseau said.

"Behind the figures are stories of survival, of making ends meet, seeking increasingly elusive employment opportunities of a girl who still cannot take an education for granted, of a teenage girl who becomes pregnant by chance and not by choice, and of a woman who will not inherit her husband's land when he dies."

Roseau said the full realization of the potential in individuals, particularly when considering young people and their role in sustainable solutions for socio-economic issues developing island states were grappling with, increased investment was required.

"Adolescent pregnancies, sexual abuse and violence, sexual transmitted infections and a lack of comprehensive sexuality education continue to remain major concerns. And the impact, both immediate and long-term take a heavy toll on the young people themselves especially girls and bring high costs to families, communities and countries," she said.

"We know that social investments in human capital must be matched with appropriate economic policies and investment to create jobs for young people. To unleash the power of young people, we need to work together, the United Nations, governments, the private sector and civil society – to create the future we want."

Panelist and Guyana Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett said when half the populations of small island developing countries in the Pacific and in the Caribbean were below 25 years, it was inevitable that "any issue is a youth issue" and as such, youth issues should be mainstreamed into national responses.

Minister Rodrigues-Birkett underlined the importance of ensuring youth were adequately prepared for world citizenship and suggested that with significantly smaller economic bases, small developing states should consider diversification into the knowledge economy.

"I think as leaders we have to involve youth more in our planning for policies and programmes. And I would like to see more young people in politics because I believe that that's the place where you can influence change. The marriage of youth and older people is a good one in politics and with that we can make major changes including policies that would look at employment of our young people."

Panelist and Tonga Member of Parliament in Tonga Sunia Fili reiterated Tonga's commitment to continuing its collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund through the country's Parliamentary Select Committee on Population and Development.

Panelist and Bahamans Youth Advocate Crystal Alexander reminded those in attendance of research findings that underlined the need to continue supporting and investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights-related work, particularly voluntary family planning.

"Over 60 per cent of the 6 million people in Caribbean are under the age of 30: young people are therefore the present and the future of the Caribbean and various regions, and these regions should consider these young people viable resources," she said.....PACNEWS

For more information or interviews, please contact Ariela Zibiah on +678 7298939 or email zibiah@unfpa.org

PACNEWS DIGEST

The views expressed in PACNEWS are those of agencies contributing articles and do not necessarily those of PINA and/or PACNEWS

Digicel and WMO's 'Weather Together' Regional Online Campaign Smartphone Winners Announced

APIA, 03 SEPTEMBER 2014 (DIGICEL) ---- Digicel today announced its Smartphone prize winners following a 4 week online Weather Together competition in partnership with the World Meteorological Organisation.

The competition was sponsored in support of a global campaign to improve weather and climate services for all Small Island Developing States. The campaign was launched on 4th August with the additional support of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The Small Islands, Weather Together campaign (www.weathertogether.org) main aim was to show how the small island developing states of the world can work together to improve their vital weather and climate services. Digicel showed their support by partnering with the WMO in a joint social media competition via the Weather Together website and sponsored Smartphones as prizes and assisted in driving entries and promotion of the competition. The partnership involved two competitions which encompassed content sharing amplifying the main message behind the campaign.

Digicel Pacific Head of Marketing, Katie Taylor said "we are very pleased with the overwhelming participation from all our participating Digicel markets of Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Nauru, PNG and Samoa. We set out in support of this campaign to create awareness of climate change in SIDs and we're glad that our support to generate greater understanding of how mobile technology works to provide early warnings and post event support for extreme weather in Digicel markets has resulted in positive engagement from participants. The campaign has provided valuable insight and highlights how people actually use their mobile phones to help loved ones during extreme weather".

The Smartphone winners from participating Digicel markets are: Yesudass Naiker from Fiji; Angela Hazelman from Samoa; Uluaki Taumalolo from Tonga; Monsheree Dageago from Nauru; Nicky Moliva from Vanuatu; and Joann Diala from Papua New Guinea.

Winner of our Regional photo caption competition is Mathew Taiki from Samoa. His winning photo entry captured the aftermath of Cyclone Evan in Apia in December 2012. Taiki's winning caption described how he used his mobile phone to contact his family and friends to ensure they were safe and to warn them of the dangers of flash floods in which case they needed to evacuate early.

The Small Islands, Weather Together campaign was launched specifically to coincide with the lead up to the United Nations Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, currently being held in Apia, Samoa, from 1-4 September, 2014.PACNEWS

Contact information:

Tui Gani Lau

Email: Tui.GaniLau@Digicelgroup.com

Phone contact: (679) 701-5667