



The local government system in Nauru

Key facts

POPULATION (Census 2002): 10,065
AREA: 21 sq km
CAPITAL: Yaren (de facto)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO GDP: -
CURRENCY: Australian dollar (AUD)
HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT:
 President Marcus Stephan
FORM OF GOVERNMENT: republic
PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM: unicameral
STATE STRUCTURE: unitary
LANGUAGES: English and Nauruan (official).
NATIONAL ELECTIONS: last: 2010;
 turnout: - next: 2013
LOCAL ELECTIONS: There is no elected government in Nauru.

Table 1. Distribution of population (Census 2002)

| Constituency | District | Population |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| Yaren | Yaren | 632 |
| Bao | Boe | 731 |
| Aiwo | Aiwo | 1,051 |
| Buada | Buada | 673 |
| Ubenide | Baitai | 443 |
| | Nibok | 479 |
| | Denigomodu | 292 |
| Anetan | Uaboe | 386 |
| | Anetan | 498 |
| Anabar | Ewa | 397 |
| | Anabar | 378 |
| | Ijuw | 169 |
| Meneng | Anibare | 232 |
| | Meneng | 1,323 |
| - | Location* | 2,381 |
| TOTAL 14+1 | | 10,065 |

*Used for census enumeration but not a district
 Source: Nauru Bureau of Statistics¹

SUMMARY

Nauru is a democratic republic with no system of local government.

1. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Nauru is a democratic republic, whose head of state and head of government is the president, indirectly elected by the parliament from amongst its members. Parliament is unicameral, comprising 18 members elected for a maximum term of three years by compulsory universal suffrage for all who have reached 20 years of age. Each of the eight constituencies returns two members with the exception of Ubenide, who returns four. A cabinet of five or six members is appointed by the president from amongst the parliamentarians.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 Constitutional provisions:

There is no constitutional provision for local government.

2.2 Main legislative texts:

There is no legislation relating to local government.

3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Local government within the state:

In 1992 the Nauru government dissolved the Nauru Local Government Council, which had been in existence since 1953 but had made poor investment choices and was accused of gross mismanagement. It was replaced by the Nauru Island Council (NIC).

The NIC functioned as an advisor to the national government on local matters. Elected NIC members could not simultaneously hold office as members of parliament. The NIC acted as a local government and provided public services. Its members were elected from Nauru's eight constituencies, each returning one member, with the exception of Ubenide which returned two members. The NIC was itself dissolved in 1999 and all assets and liabilities were transferred to the national government.

References and useful websites

- Nauru Bureau of Statistics
www.spc.int/prism/country/nr/stats/index.htm
 Census 2002
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<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2008/Table03.pdf>
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