



Nauru Bulletin

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President visits Australian Parliament

Strengthening Bonds and Fostering Cooperation for a Sustainable Future



President David Adeang became the first Nauruan president to visit the Australian parliament since Hammer DeRoburt this week. He was warmly welcomed into the Chamber of the Federal House of Representatives by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

President Adeang and Minister Jesse Jeremiah were invited by Prime Minister Albanese for a series of meetings and important discussions with Australian ministers. His Excellency expressed his deep appreciation for the invitation and thanked the Australian government for their ongoing support and partnership.

He stated, "Nauru values its historical relationship and ongoing bonds with Australia, and we are committed to working together for a sustainable and prosperous future for the people of both countries."

During the visit, President Adeang was also greeted by Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, among other members of the Australian parliament. President Adeang and Minister Jeremiah held a meeting with Prime Minister Albanese and Minister for Defence and Industry Pat Conroy to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in areas such as sustainable development and economic resilience.

Additionally, Minister Jeremiah and High Commissioner Camilla Solomon were received by Speaker of Parliament Milton Dick and observed a session of Question Time, witnessing the lively proceedings firsthand.

Australia-Nauru sign education direct funding agreement

The Governments of the Republic of Nauru and Australia signed an agreement this week which provides \$1.7 million for Nauru's education sector.

The funds will support Nauruan students studying in Brisbane, and contribute to supporting expatriate teachers, as well as programs run by TAFE Queensland. Financial assistance is also provided for Queensland Certificate of Education licencing costs, to enable year 12 students to receive an Australian certificate upon completing high school.

"Australia is a committed partner of Nauru's education sector. This funding, coupled with our long-term Nauru Education Program, demonstrates our shared determination to meet Nauru's NSDS goals and provide students with the best educational outcomes possible," Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Nauru, Ms Alexandra Langley said.

The Secretary of Education said: "I would like to thank the Government of Australia for their ongoing support to Nauru through this funding package, and for their ongoing responsiveness to Nauru's Education sector."

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) declares the development journey for a better quality of life for every Nauruan. It is a road map that reflects the reforms needed to be put in place and the strategies for implementation, as the platform for a better life today and tomorrow.

Government of Nauru secures multi-million-dollar grant to improve financial sustainability

The Government of Nauru and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$5 million grant agreement as part of a program to strengthen gender-responsive fiscal sustainability in Nauru.

The grant will fund one of two subprograms as part of the Improving Fiscal Sustainability Program, which will institute policy and reform to manage and reduce debt, increase revenue, and help the country's most vulnerable groups.

A key feature of this subprogram will be the application of gender considerations across all areas of reform, ensuring accessible and equitable financial support for women.

"By reducing debt, improving debt management practices, raising revenue, supporting better

operating SOEs, and helping Nauru's most vulnerable people in a more balanced manner, the program will provide a platform for sustainable and inclusive growth," said ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez.

"This is critical given Nauru's narrow economy and limited opportunities to attract investment."

The first subprogram of the Improving Fiscal Sustainability Program, funded by this agreement, has four key priorities:

- Address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities
- Accelerate progress in gender equality
- Tackle climate change, build climate and disaster resilience, and enhance environmental sustainability
- Strengthen governance and institutional capacity

The subprogram addresses findings from the 2013 Nauru Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which found households with children, youth and female-headed households are more likely to be poor.

The survey also found multidimensional deprivation, low educational attainment, and lack of employment opportunities to be key indicators of poverty, especially among women.

ADB Executive Director Rachel Thompson, representing the Government and Nauru, and ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez signed the agreements at ADB Headquarters in Manila.

The ADB-supported program builds on previous ADB policy-based operations and public sector management engagements in Nauru, while supporting ADB's Strategy 2030 of strengthening governance and institutional capacity.

The Government of New Zealand will also provide \$670,000 in parallel grant funding for this subprogram.



ADB Executive Director Rachel Thompson, on behalf of the Government of Nauru, and ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez sign the agreements at ADB Headquarters in Manila.

President at SIDS 4 - Antigua and Barbuda

His Excellency President David Adeang recently attended the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda, late May, to adopt the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and speak on 'Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity' for the next 10 years.

President Adeang addressed the conference stipulating there is much work to be done to support and prevent Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Nauru from climate-related security risks.

He called for the early adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the establishment of an interim secretariat.

The MVI - for decades, the SIDS have been leading calls for the formulation of a form of measurement that truly recognises ecological and economic vulnerability.

"In the 30 years since the recognition of the special case of SIDS for sustainable development, the world has drastically changed and 'resilient prosperity' feels even further from our grasp," President Adeang said.

His Excellency underscored the conference is meeting amidst multiple crises of climate emergency, conflicts and repercussions of the COVID pandemic; that 2030 is only seven years away "and yet our collective progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is disheartening".

"There is no resilient prosperity for Nauru, or any of us, without climate action. Climate change poses the gravest threat to my people," President Adeang said.

SIDS and especially low-lying coastal areas are already experiencing the effects of sea level rise with erosion threatening homes and livelihoods of communities.

Nauru has been building sea walls to safeguard its coastlines and communities but is not a long-term sustainable solution.

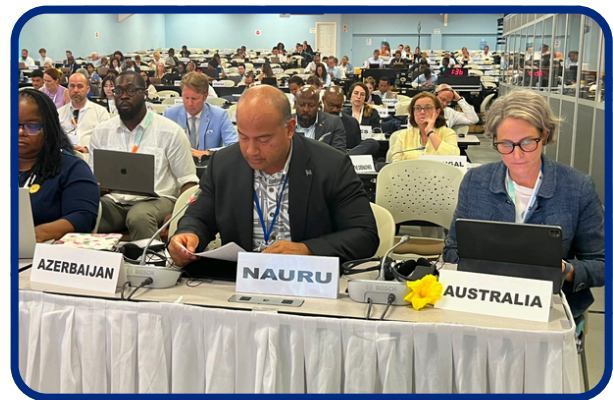
Nauru's visionary and pilot project, the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI), aims to relocate displaced communities from low-lying areas to high ground for survival.

"This is not a choice, it is a necessity," the President said. "We call upon the international community to support this initiative and others like it across SIDS."

Nauru is investing in the development of world class, robust regulations for responsible sourcing of critical metals from the seabed and ocean floor of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, also known as the Area, required to power the transition to a low-carbon society.

"This supply risk is steeped in geological, geopolitical, and governance challenges. In a land-based context, not all mineral reserves are technically or economically extractable, with a foreseeable increase in global energy requirements to extract them. We must resolve this – collectively."

President Adeang stresses that the sustainable use of the ocean include the responsible recovery and extraction of critical metals housed in polymetallic nodules.



Well wishes to incoming PIF SG, Baron Waqa

Micronesia's nomination for the high-level diplomatic post in the Pacific region's premier political and economic policy body took office this week.

Nauru's former president, Baron Waqa, is the first Nauruan to take up the post as the secretary general (SG) for the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). He will serve an initial term of three years plus two and officially commenced work on Monday 3 June as the 11th secretary general.

SG Waqa's vision for the region is one that is resilient, truly empowered and successful.

"I hope for a region of peace, harmony, and unity, where we truly are of one heart, mind, and accord, where we promote stability and security, with a culture of love and respect," he said.

"We will stand strong and firm together, and we will be an exemplary model of solidarity, support, and partnership. Our responsibility and obligation for each other's safety, security and well-being will be emphasised."

He hopes to raise the recognition and status of the region as a friendly, reliable partner, and an active participant globally, particularly on major issues that affect the region, such as climate change and regional security.

His Excellency President David WR Adeang hosted a reception in honour of Mr Waqa at the Menen hotel, 21 May, ahead of his departure to PIF headquarters in Suva, Fiji.

President Adeang said he was proud to celebrate this historic and momentous occasion for Nauru, its people, and the Pacific Islands Forum.

"The assumption of the secretary general, Baron Waqa, marks a historical occasion not just for Nauru but also for the Micronesian region," the president said.

"His vision for a stronger, more cohesive Pacific fills us with hope and optimism.

"We have full confidence that under his leadership, the Pacific Islands Forum backed by Nauru and of course all the leaders of the Micronesian region, will continue to be a powerful force for positive change and a steadfast advocate for the interests of all Pacific nations and our developing partners."

Micronesian presidents unanimously endorsed Nauru's candidacy for secretary general in early February at the 21st Micronesian President's Summit (MPS).

The leaders of the 18-member PIF later approved Micronesia's nomination at the special leaders meeting in Fiji.

Forum Chair, Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown welcomed Mr Waqa to PIF headquarters on 3 June.

"It is a great honour to have Secretary General Waqa at the helm of our Secretariat and I, and indeed all Leaders, look forward to working with him to progress the priorities of our region in line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, for the benefit of the Pacific peoples," Prime Minister Brown said.

Mr Waqa served as the 14th president of Nauru from 2013 to 2019 and was elected as a Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Boe in 2003.

During his presidency, Mr Waqa was vocal about the impacts of climate change on the global stage, especially for small island states. He said that during his presidency, his government was able to normalise and then grow and sustain Nauru's economy "to its highest level in our entire history", including by building a strong financial reserve and establishing the Intergenerational Trust Fund.

He was also chair of the PIF from 2018 to 2019 when Nauru hosted the 49th leaders forum when the regional security declaration known as the Boe Declaration was endorsed by the leaders.



Photo Credit: Pacific Islands Forum

SIDS cannot address challenges alone

President David Adeang addressed the high level meeting on mobilisation of resources for Small Island Developing States, last week saying Nauru, like many other SIDS face unique and formidable challenges.

The statement was made at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda, 28 May.

“However, we refuse to be defined solely by our vulnerabilities. Instead, we choose to focus on our resilience, our ingenuity, and our unwavering determination to build a better future for our people.”

Like other SIDS, Nauru cannot address the challenges alone.

“We must recognise the urgent need for international cooperation and solidarity. We must foster partnerships that leverage the strengths of each stakeholder, pooling resources, and expertise to drive sustainable development aspirations in Nauru and beyond,” President Adeang said.

Per capita income alone fails to consider SIDS’ special circumstances and unique vulnerabilities, prompting calls for the early adoption of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) by the UN General Assembly, and the establishment of an interim secretariat.

The secretariat will support the operationalisation and implementation by all stakeholders, including as a criterion for access to low-cost and long-term financing, debt relief and official development assistance.

President Adeang said international financial institutions (IFI) such as the World Bank and OECD will be crucial to unlocking much-needed financing for countries like Nauru by reviewing their funding eligibility criteria.

“Once adopted at the UN, IFIs and our partners must then consider this measurement model if they are truly committed to leaving no one behind.”

The MVI is a data-driven index from the United Nations that seeks to measure the ecological and economic vulnerability of SIDS. The MVI aims to increase eligibility for SIDS to receive greater financing to address their unique challenges related to the ocean and climate change.



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Immigration tracing and identifying overstayers

The Department of Justice and Border Control's immigration division ended its grace period for foreign nationals to rectify their visa overstay status, 1 June.

Data is still being collated but Immigration Nauru estimates up to 150 individuals have overstayed their visas.

The division carried out an outreach and awareness programme since April urging individuals to make the necessary visa arrangements and avoid severe penalties such as black listing and deportation.

Director for immigration Darlene Dabana said it is the division's responsibility to ensure that Nauruans are protected from external threats, to maintain the integrity and sovereignty of Nauru's national borders, and to enforce the laws under the Immigration Act 2014.

According to section 10 of the Act, 'A person who is not a citizen of Nauru shall not enter or remain in Nauru without a valid visa authorising that entry or presence and a person failing to comply with this subsection commits an offence and is liable to a maximum penalty of \$10,000'.

A spike in the number of visa overstayers was noticed after the granting of special COVID-19 visas during the pandemic.

This visa arrangement lapsed when COVID-19 travel restrictions were eventually lifted. Despite this, many visitors who were covered under that provision, failed to depart Nauru.

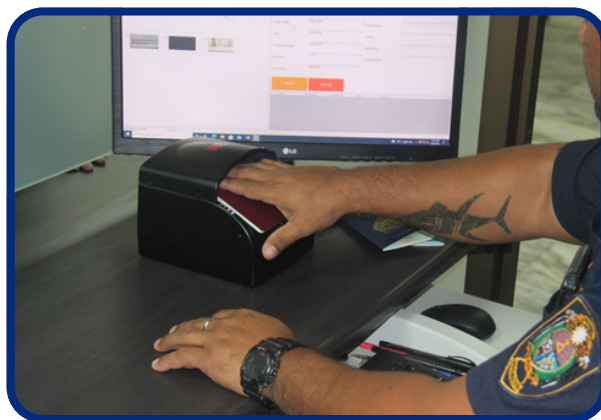
Since 2023, it has been observed that some of those staying illegally in Nauru are now married or have had children with Nauruans or other nationals. Such illegal arrangements will be dealt with in accordance to law.

In the coming months immigration will launch a nationwide effort to identify and trace all foreign nationals staying in Nauru illegally.

Ms Dabana encourages the general public to exercise individual responsibility to help

ensure everyone's safety and adherence to the law.

The Immigration Act 2014 can be found at http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1596



Allied partners complete UXO disposal

The disposal of several dangerous unexploded ordnance (UXO) was completed last week by the combined efforts of Nauru Emergency Services, Nauru Police Force, the Australian Defence Force and allied partners.

On Thursday 30 May, NES Secretary Barassi Botelanga completed the disposal of three 100lb UXOs (bombs), while smaller UXOs were disposed of the day before. Sergeant Marson Notte led operations on site as the Site Commander.

Gunnery Sergeant Kharlange, part of the contingent, said that learning and exchanging procedures and techniques had been very beneficial.

"The multilateral team has been able to use this opportunity to share knowledge with the Nauruan government representatives and partnered nations. It's great to be part of Operation Render Safe, and I am confident that the team's achievements will provide a safer environment for the Republic of Nauru."

Thanks to the public for your support in staying away from the affected areas during the disposal activities.

The public is urged not to touch any UXO if they are discovered, but to report them to the police immediately on 110.

Operation Render Safe is the ADF's enduring commitment in partnership with Nauru and other Pacific nations to safely disposing of World War II explosive remnants of war in our region.



The High Commissioner of Australia in Nauru, Her Excellency Sara Moriarty and local Emergency Services and Government agencies in Nauru with the contingent of Australian and International service personnel including, French, American, Canadian and New Zealand deployed on Operation Render Safe in Nauru.

Nauru Airlines Launches Direct Flight Services from Brisbane to Palau

Deputy Minister Maverick Eoe officially launched Nauru Airlines' new non-stop flight service connecting Brisbane, Australia with Palau in the north Pacific, 22 May.

This new route positions Nauru Airlines and its partners to potentially unlock significant growth in tourism between Australia and Palau, with the possibility of establishing further connections beyond Palau in the future.

Deputy Minister says, "air services such as these deliver far more than visitors and tourists, as they enable trade and stimulate other business and commercial opportunities".

A pristine paradise for visitors to explore both land and sea, Palau is rich in culture with world-class diving attractions.

"These air services are essential infrastructure linking people and economies. The existence of these air services is crucial to the economic development of the region," Deputy Minister Eoe said.

The service is the only direct flight option between the two destinations and adds Palau to Brisbane's list of international destinations, bringing the total to 31 within the Asia-Pacific region.

"It is with the support provided by the Australian Government through the Australia-Pacific Partnerships for Aviation Program, that we can work together to launch important new services that better connect the Pacific with Australia," Mr Eoe said.

"We are grateful that the Australian government recognises this and is partnering with us to support these essential air services."

The airline previously operated flights through Palau in the 1980s and recommenced service connecting Brisbane to Micronesian destinations in 2022, following a temporary suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nauru Airlines has served the Pacific Islands for over 53 years, specialising in Micronesia and the central and northern Pacific regions.



Photo Credit: Nauru Airlines

Cuba firms up support through MOUs

His Excellency President David Adeang was officially welcomed to Havana by the President of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel and held official talks at the Palace of the Revolution, 31 May.

President Adeang said the visit to Cuba is to deepen the friendship and extend ties of cooperation.

President Díaz-Canel reaffirmed his country's friendship and commitment to strengthen and expand the bilateral relation and said Nauru can count on all the support of Cuba and all its political will to continue cooperating in the areas and issues addressed by President Adeang.

The presidents also discussed the five memorandums of understanding which will further strengthen common areas for the development of both nations.

The leaders then witnessed the signing of the MOUs by Minister Jesse Jeremiah and Minister Charmaine Scotty with Cuban representatives.

Minister Scotty co-signed the reciprocal exemption of visa requirements for the holders of diplomatic and official passports for both countries; and a health cooperation agreement.

Minister Jeremiah co-signed the MOU for cooperation on environmental protection; the agreement on cooperation between the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nauru's Department of Foreign Affairs; and the MOU between the Cuban National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation of Cuba and Nauru's Department of Sports.

President Adeang also laid a wreath at the Memorial of Jose Marti in the capital Havana.

The monument is dedicated to José Martí, a national hero of Cuba.

Nauru and Cuba have maintained diplomatic relations since 7 May 2002.



His Excellency President David Adeang was officially welcomed to Havana by the President of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel and held official talks at the Palace of the Revolution

Nauru joins Micronesian islands forum

Micronesian leaders met in Tumon, Guam for the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) and signed the joint communique at the conclusion of the three-day forum under the theme 'Writing our History, Determining our Future', this week.

Special Presidential Envoy, Deputy Minister Maverick Eoe officially signed the joint communique and accompanying resolutions on Wednesday 5 June, joining hands with regional leaders and committing to work together to address shared challenges and strengthen relationships across Micronesia.

The annual regional event featured round table discussions among leaders and presentations from regional committees on important topics such as the Micronesia Challenge, Regional Invasive Species Council, Guam Green Growth (G3), and the Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiatives Council.

Micronesian leaders deliberated on highlighted issues including regional transportation, economic development, climate change, health, and workforce development among others.

Mr Eoe delivered his closing remarks reaffirming Nauru's dedication in advancing air and maritime connectivity initiatives and the pivotal role the Committee of Trade, the

Regional Tourism Committee and Regional Transport Committee play in shaping the region's economic landscape.

“Our [Nauru] commitment extends to the exploration of sustainable travel solutions within Micronesia, fostering intra- regional trade, and leveraging these efforts to catalyse holistic progress in social, economic, and political spheres across our interconnected domains.”

He acknowledged the leaders on the outcomes of crucial topics that “hold great promises for Micronesia”, and pushed for positive action to overcome the challenges and seize opportunities for Micronesia.

“As we depart from this forum, let us continue to carry the spirit of solidarity and the momentum of collaboration that we have cultivated here...let us remember that our actions today will shape the stories of tomorrow and the legacy we build for Nauru and all Micronesian nations.”

This significant event marks a milestone in history as it is Nauru's first participation in the MIF as an official member since its induction in February 2023.



Micronesian leaders met in Tumon, Guam for the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF)

Right to information consultations

The Department of Justice and Border Control (JBC) and the Women Empowerment Nauru Association (WENA) participated in a week-long consultation on the Right to Information (RTI) hosted by UNESCO in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), 13-17 May.

The consultation was facilitated by executive director of non-profit organisation Centre for Law and Democracy Toby Mendel and UNESCO Consultant Abel Caine. Participants included government officials, specialists, and civil society representatives from Nauru, Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, and Kiribati.

JBC's Director for Human Rights Stella Duburiya and WENA's representative Simina Capelle participated in the deliberations on strategies for universal access to information promoting transparency and accountability in Micronesia; and engaged in discussions to identify a model legislation that is best suited for Nauru.

Ms Duburiya says this is the first participation for Nauru in RTI consultations and extended her acknowledgement to the facilitators for their valuable expertise, adding the consultations enhanced the participants' understanding on the access to information “to the extent where a local voice is equipped to participate in the RTI discussions at the Micronesian sub regional level for the development of RTI laws and policies. Most importantly is seeing how it fits in the context of Nauru”.



Photo credit - UN Micronesia

NRC Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Reaching another milestone the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) celebrated its 25th anniversary and rewarded staff for their service.

NRC's CEO Dexter Brechtefeld hosted a dinner reception at the Menen Hotel, 31 May, with the Minister for NRC Reagan Aliklik also in attendance.

Mr Brechtefeld acknowledged the challenges faced by the organisation over its 25 years and expressed his gratitude to the staff for their continued hard work and dedication.

The CEO paid special acknowledgement for Mr Creedence Halstead, an original member of staff who has remained committed to the NRC since its inception. He was presented an award in recognition of his service.

Founded in 1999, the primary purpose of the NRC is to rehabilitate and restore the mined out phosphate lands since operations began in 1906.

Mr Brechtefeld emphasised the critical role the NRC continues to play today, stating that its inputs will determine the nation's outcomes for its future generations.

Highlighting the scale of the NRC's task, he mentioned that of the 1600 hectares of mined out land, only about 20 hectares has been successfully reclaimed so far.

Estimates suggest it could take 160 years to complete the rehabilitation project. However, the CEO said the timeframe could easily double that, due to secondary mining,

which involves the reprocessing of the remaining phosphate rich waste, from the original primary reserves.

In past years, the corporation has been engaged in projects related to enhance resilience against climate change, such as the new sustainable urbanism project, known as the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI), and the seawall project which aims to minimise the impacts of sea level rise along low-lying coastal areas.



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