



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 13 - 2024/278

Regional judiciary endorse Nauru Declaration Conference aims to motivate and empower Pacific judicial leaders for positive change



Judicial leaders give a show of hands signalling their endorsement of the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing

Members of judiciaries and other justice stakeholders adopted the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing outlining commitments and principles for promoting integrity and wellbeing within the judiciary, 25 July.

Spearheaded by the Nauru Judiciary and the Department of Justice and Border Control, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and in line with the objectives of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the three-day Regional Judicial Conference on Integrity and Judicial Wellbeing held in Nauru, 24-26 July was predominately attended by members of the judiciary from the Pacific region with international judiciaries connecting virtually.

The conference addressed issues related to judicial integrity, relationship with the media, including the use of social media by judges, judicial wellbeing and public trust.

The Nauru Declaration focuses on seven key points:

- Judicial wellbeing is essential and must be recognised and supported;
- Judicial stress is not a weakness and must not be stigmatised;
- Judicial wellbeing is a responsibility of individual judges and judicial institutions;
- Judicial wellbeing is supported by an ethical and inclusive judicial culture;

- Promoting judicial wellbeing requires a combination of awareness-raising, prevention and management activities;
- Judicial wellbeing initiatives must suit the unique circumstances and requirements of national jurisdictions; and
- Judicial wellbeing is enhanced by human rights.

The president of the Nauru Court of Appeal Justice Rangajeeva Wimalasena says the conference is a milestone achievement, given its magnitude and as the first declaration on judicial wellbeing to be put together anywhere.

President David Adeang formally opened the conference highlighting that the theme, 'Ensuring integrity, Nurturing Judicial Well-being; paving the path to Quality Justice', is imperative to the independent functioning of the judicial arm of a country.

"The quality of justice in any country is no doubt dependent upon maintaining integrity, not only in the judicial system, but also, the judicial officers themselves."

President Adeang says the integrity of the judicial system is a necessity for maintaining the independence of judiciary.

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ISA advances negotiations on deep seabed exploitation

Nauru's position with climate change and mission to pursue deep-sea mineral exploitation for a clean energy transition remains front and centre at the recent meetings of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica.

Nauru's newly appointed ambassador to the ISA, David Aingimea, attended the Council meeting and expressed Nauru's support for and dedication to international cooperation and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

He highlights that the challenges of managing ocean resources including pursuing for the timely completion and adoption of the draft exploitation regulations, are too immense for any nation to address alone.

His Excellency President David Adeang joined the meetings and addressed the ISA Assembly on 30 July.

He emphasised that Nauru's vulnerability to climate change is real despite its negligible contribution to low carbon emissions.

"We cannot continue business as usual. We need the international community to move towards a just energy transition.

"Nauru is doing its part to safeguard our collective futures by offering the world the critical metals found on the seafloor while endorsing appropriate safeguards for marine environmental protection as demanded by the Convention," President Adeang said.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share a common bond and face similar challenges in their quest to mitigate the ravages of climate change.

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a landmark agreement vital to the wellbeing of Nauru that provides Nauru and other SIDS the unique set of rights and opportunities that could soon be key to securing lives and livelihoods as they prepare for life in a warming world, the president explained.

However, President Adeang says developments to carry out activities in the deep seabed area beyond national jurisdiction continue to be impeded.

Through sponsored partner, Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., (NORI), Nauru collected and submitted to the ISA the most comprehensive dataset ever in the Area for critical metals found on the ocean floor for clean energy.

President Adeang urged ISA member states to work together to complete and adopt the regulations in 2025 to allow for the responsible consideration of deep sea mineral exploitation.

The timeline is crucial to ensure that the development of this new industry proceeds in a responsible and



President David Adeang addresses the ISA Assembly in Kingston, Jamaica

[Photo: IISD/ENB Diego Noguera]

transparent manner with the full participation of developing states.

"By doing so, we can ensure that the rights and interests of developing states are protected, that the highest environmental standards are upheld, and that the benefits of this new industry are shared equitably among all nations," President Adeang said.

Nauru's concerns with the marine environment is reflected in its strong demand with NORI to come up with best available scientific information to best carry out deep-sea mineral exploitation work, and just as equally are concerns relating to safety of life at sea. //



Regional judiciary endorse Nauru Declaration

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"The impartiality is important when a judge is inevitably always required to decide between different competing facts and legal arguments," President Adeang said.

The findings of a 2021 survey conducted by the Global Judicial Integrity Network - Exploring Linkages Between Judicial Well-being and Judicial Integrity – revealed widespread concerns about the physical and mental health challenges faced by judicial officers across the globe.

The survey of 758 judges and other members of the judiciary from 102 countries illuminated the need for such a declaration, and revealed that the concept of judicial wellbeing is unheard of in many judiciaries.

As much as 69 per cent of the survey participants thought that talking about mental health or stress is a taboo when it comes to judges and members of the judiciary. //

ISA advances negotiations on deep seabed exploitation

Nauru's Ambassador to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), David Aingimea attended the ISA Council meeting and assembly in Kingston, Jamaica on advancing negotiations on seabed mining.

The council meeting, 15-26 July was followed by the Assembly meeting between 29 July-2 August. Ambassador Aingimea affirmed his delegation's readiness to collaborate and support the Council's efforts during the current presidency.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea joined the council meetings where the primary focus was to advance negotiations on the draft regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the deep seabed area beyond national jurisdiction.

In his remarks to the Council, Ambassador Aingimea acknowledged the contributions of his predecessor, Ambassador Margo Deiyee, and called for the continued support and cooperation of member states.

Ambassador Aingimea expressed Nauru's support for and dedication to international cooperation and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

"The challenges of managing ocean resources, including urging for the timely completion and adoption of the draft regulations, are too immense for any nation to address alone.



Ambassador Aingimea addresses ISA council meeting

[Photo: IISD/ENB Diego Noguera]

"Our collaborative efforts are crucial as the sustainable use of our ocean is a shared responsibility. Nauru emphasises the urgency of prioritising the completion and adoption of the draft exploitation regulations through the adoption of a 2024-2025 Roadmap."

A key highlight was Nauru's response to Greenpeace's unsafe protest activities. Ambassador Aingimea recalled Nauru's disappointment with the activists' actions and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to accountability and preventing future occurrences. He also sought ongoing support from member states for constructive dialogue.

Reflecting on the Council's decision to embrace a roadmap aimed at adopting draft regulations by the 30th session, Ambassador Aingimea extended gratitude to all member states for their tireless efforts. //

Triennial conference evaluate progress to gender parity in the Pacific

Minister Charmaine Scotty participated at the 15th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women and the 8th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women, in the Republic of Marshall Islands, 22-26 July.

Convening every three years, the conference serves as a vital platform for Pacific leaders to address the challenges of gender equality across the Pacific and evaluate the progress of the journey towards advancing women's human rights.

Under the theme 'An Piliñliñ Koba Kōmḡan Lōmeto – For a Resilient and Sustainable Pacific', Women's Ministry leaders engaged in constructive deliberations and evaluations on the progress of developing and strengthening gender equality, women empowerment, and partnership with the men in the Pacific.

Resuming from virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Scotty says this year's face to face

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Pacific Ministers for Women meeting in Majuro

[Photo: Pacific Community (SPC)]

Chinese Embassy welcomes new Ambassador to Nauru

His Excellency President David Adeang attended the welcoming reception of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Nauru, His Excellency Lyu Jin, 24 July.

The Embassy of the PRC hosted the dinner reception at Menen Hotel, during which Ambassador Lyu expressed his gratitude to both the government and people of Nauru for graciously welcoming him and his delegation into their country as diplomatic relations between the two countries continues to grow.

"It is my great honour to be appointed by President Xi Jinping as the first Chinese Ambassador to Nauru after the restoration of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

"My mission here is to work tirelessly with friends from all circles, to enhance Nauru's capacity for economic growth, to improve the living standards of people, and to contribute to Nauru's sustainable development with the help from China," Ambassador Lyu said.

The Minister for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea expressed Nauru's interest in collaborating with China on development initiatives, and emphasised the importance of continued partnership in benefiting the people of Nauru and strengthening bilateral relations.

"It is a pleasure to be here amongst friends, marking the significant milestone in the relationship between our two nations.



Ambassador Lyu said that he aims to strengthen the friendly bonds between both nations

"In March this year... His Excellency (President Adeang) and I had the honour of visiting Beijing, we deeply appreciate your government's hospitality and opportunity to sign various Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to foster Nauru's development.

"China's remarkable development achievements left a profound impression on us, highlighting the immense potential and brought prospects of cooperation between our two countries," Minister Aingimea said.

The Republic of Nauru and the People's Republic of China formally restored diplomatic relations on 24 January this year, and on 24 March President Adeang made his State Visit to China and met with President Xi Jinping.

Ambassador Lyu presented his credentials to President Adeang at the government office on 2 July. //

ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

-  **Buckle up**
Wear your seat belt at all times. Wear a helmet when driving a motorcycle.
-  **Observe the speed limit**
Speed limit: 50kph
Driving past schools, churches and hospital: 20kph.
-  **Pedestrian crossing**
Drivers should slow down at traffic stops and give way to pedestrians at a zebra crossing.
-  **Never drink and drive**
Have a designated driver if you plan to drink. Don't operate a vehicle when you're intoxicated.

Carry your driver's licence and ensure your vehicle is registered and roadworthy.

Triennial conference of Pacific women

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Triennial Conference is especially crucial as it is timely with the preparations of the upcoming global 30th anniversary and review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPA).

Furthermore, the An Towepo Declaration, an outcome document of the Micronesian Ministers for Women Conference (MMWC) held in Nauru in April, was adopted at this Triennial Conference.

Moving forward, the ministry for women in Nauru aims to build and strengthen gender safeguarding of women at home, in the community and in the workplace; and to collaborate with the finance ministry in training finance staff to improve the aspects of gender budgeting.

The endorsed outcomes from this triennial will shape Pacific priorities leading up to the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), including the ministerial meeting in Bangkok in November. //

HMS Tamar pays visit to Nauru

His Excellency President David Adeang was hosted onboard His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Tamar to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King Charles III, 23 July.



HMS Tamar is the first British military vessel to visit Nauru after over 100 years

HMS Tamar is the first naval ship to berth at the new Nauru port and is a key player in the Royal Navy's renewed focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

Based in the region for a number of years, this River-class patrol ship has been actively engaged in various maritime security missions throughout the Pacific, and is the first military vessel of the Royal Navy to visit Nauru in 100 years.

Throughout the day HMS Tamar welcomed students from Nauru Secondary School, officers from the Nauru Police Force, the National Emergency Services, the Nauru Port Authority, and a dart competition with the locals.

Minister for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea delivered a speech on behalf of the government, expressing the government's gratitude for the crew's continued work in the region.

"We welcome you to our shores, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you all... The presence of the Royal Navy here symbolises our historic alliance, and reminds us of our commitment for peace, security and cooperation of the Pacific region," Minister Aingimea said.

"As we celebrate the King's birthday, let this occasion not only inspire us to deepen our collaboration and enrich our cultural exchanges, but also to look forward to a future of shared successes... that we can build together."

A cornerstone of HMS Tamar's operations is maritime security. Working in tandem with local authorities in each of the jurisdictions it visits, the vessel contributes to combating illegal fishing, drug trafficking, and other transnational maritime crimes.

Beyond law enforcement, HMS Tamar is ready to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The vessel's sister ship, HMS Spey, demonstrated the Royal Navy's response capabilities during the Tonga volcanic eruption.

Capacity building is another key dimension of Tamar's engagement. By training and equipping local maritime forces, the vessel helps to strengthen regional security and self-reliance.

This approach fosters long-term partnerships and enhances the ability of Pacific Island nations to protect their own waters.

HMS Tamar's crew had the opportunity to disembark and see the island before setting sail on 25 July to Vanuatu. //



President Adeang attends ordination of new Bishop

On the invitation of the Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru His Excellency President David Adeang attended the episcopal ordination of Bishop-elect Reverend Simon Samendra Mani MC in Kiribati, 27 July.

The ordination, a significant event for Catholics across the region, was held at the Betio Sports Complex.

Following the ordination, a reception was held, providing an opportunity for attendees to congratulate the newly ordained bishop. The event showcased Kiribati's cultural richness through traditional performances.

President Adeang expressed his joy on the momentous occasion saying, "As a community, we are united in joy and gratitude for the blessing of a shepherd who has demonstrated unwavering love, compassion, and humility.

"As he steps into his new role as Bishop, we are filled with confidence that he will continue to lead with the grace and wisdom that have defined his ministry.

"His leadership will bring hope and unity to our congregations, fostering a deeper connection with our faith and each other.



President Adeang gifts handcrafted crucifix to Bishop Mani on the occasion of his ordination

"On behalf of the people of Nauru, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Simon Mani. We pray for God's guidance and blessing upon him as he embarks on this new journey," President Adeang said.

President Adeang presented Bishop Mani with a handcrafted crucifix made from local hardwood, the tomano before his departure later that evening. //

Gastroenterologist visit

Get screening for specialist appointment

If you are experiencing any of the following:

✓ abnormal bowel movements	✓ persistent difficulty swallowing
✓ rectal bleeding	✓ frequent heartburn
✓ peptic ulcers	✓ abdominal pain

Contact Corasita Hartman on 5572901 for an appointment

Education Act 2011

- ✓ **Mandatory Attendance:** Parents must ensure their children attend school every day.
- ✓ **Penalties:** \$50 fine for the first offence, \$250 for subsequent offences in the same year.
- ✓ **Acceptable Absences:** Includes religious/cultural observances and other valid reasons approved by the principal.
- ✓ **Non-Attendance Conditions:** Students must stay home if suspended, expelled, or carrying a contagious disease.
- ✓ **Employment Ban:** It is illegal to employ school-age children during school hours, with a \$1,000 fine for violations.

The Education Act 2011 provides the law to ensure consistent school attendance for all school-age children. Parents are legally required to ensure their children attend school daily, with specific exceptions.

These measures highlight the government's commitment to prioritising education and the well-being of children in Nauru. Parents and employers must adhere to these rules to support uninterrupted education for all students.

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



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