



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 10 - 2025/293

Nauru's Remembrance Day - 29 June

A new public holiday is added to the national calendar of commemorative events in honour of Nauruans who lived through the Second World War. That date is 29 June.



President Adeang presents Voilet Mackay, the oldest Nauruan with a personalised painting featuring a scripture reading

A special memorial service was held on this day to coincide with the date of the departure of the first group of Nauruans who were exiled to Chuuk (then Truk in the Federated States of Micronesia) on 29 June 1943. The date will be observed as Remembrance Day to honour victims and survivors and those who died here in Nauru during the war.

Although the exact number of deaths on Nauru cannot be confirmed, we acknowledge that they experienced the same hardships and suffering as did their fellow Nauruans in Chuuk. We also honour the memory of the 39 lepers who were towed out to sea on 11 July 1943, never to return.

Of the 1200 Nauruans deported to Chuuk, almost 500 perished, and less than 800 survived and returned home at the end of WWII.

Master of ceremonies Kiara Ageidu welcomed guests to the church service led by Pastor Kakiber Adeang. Among them the survivors, affectionately known as the 'Young at Hearts'. Only 20 of them remain. The eldest, Violet Mackay is 91 years old.

President David Adeang laid the first wreath followed by a minute silence and the prayer of remembrance.

President Adeang announced at the June Parliament sitting that 29 June will now be observed annually as Remembrance Day, for the nation to pause and pay respects to Nauruans of that time.

This is a sad chapter in Nauru's history and one that is forever emblazoned on the hearts of every Nauruan.

The country remembers its ancestors who passed away while in exile in Chuuk. They may have been left behind in a foreign land far away from home, but they will never be forgotten.

On this Remembrance Day we pay homage to our ancestors who died here in Nauru during the war.

We stand together as one people to honour and preserve their memories.

Only 20 Nauruans from the World War II era are still with us today.

Survivors from Nauru:

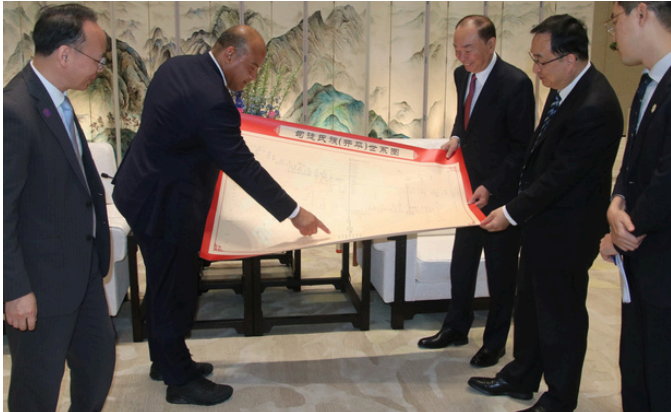
Violet MacKay, Lois Eidumwagin Spanner, Liebe Limanaman Eobob, Joan Eidianumon Moses, Esmeralda Einana Harris, Pamela Scriven, Sophie Oppenheimer, Ivy Rose Ephraim, David Peter Gadaraoa, Lorna Akubor, Joe Joseph Laben Hiram, Johnnie Gaibidi Raidi.

Survivors from Truk:

Dowong Ludwig Keke, Engaben Virginia Keke, Mary Eibidira Kaierua, Sakura Garubea Daoo, Cagney Scotty, Emily Tearadu Rush, Frank Randolph Smith, Teresia Donna Adams. //

President traces Chinese ancestry

His Excellency President David Adeang's trip to China this month was in part a personal journey to connect with his Chinese ancestry and his maternal grandfather.



President Adeang is presented with a diagram of his Chinese ancestry

The family's journey to Oceania brought President Adeang's great-great grandfather to Papua New Guinea whose ancestry can be traced back to the 1900s. He moved to PNG in search of a new life, and with his PNG wife had five children, one of whom would be President Adeang's maternal great grandfather.

At the completion of official engagements in China, President Adeang and his delegation, including his family, travelled to Chikan Town in the south of Guangzhou, on 8 July, where they were greeted with warmth and enthusiasm. They participated in an ancestral ceremony of incense burning and performed other formalities accorded such occasions.

An enlarged print of the family tree hangs prominently on the wall clearly marking the President's direct line of descendants. At the clan library the family was presented with a bound copy of their Chinese genealogy.

President Adeang and three family members then planted a banyan tree to mark the historic event. The Chinese believe the banyan tree represents strength, longevity, wisdom, and immortality, hence the reason for its careful selection for this occasion – symbolising family connections and the longevity of diplomatic relations between Nauru and China.

The delegation then traveled to Zhong Xin Li Village and were welcomed by the sounds of fire crackers, music and dance. Here they also met with one of the oldest members of their Chinese family and a grandmother to President Adeang's late mother.

The President hopes their families will meet again and looks forward to learning more about their Chinese heritage.

President Adeang and his family presented their Chinese family with the Nauru flag and Nauruan ornamental handicrafts made of tomano wood, pandanus fibre and clam shells.

President Adeang's son explains that the gift, in the Nauruan culture, is a special mat called 'kodowuwo' that carries a lot of significance. It symbolises the child born of noble parents and is worn by both parents even before the child is born.

It is usually paired with the neckpiece, 'gadiben', and the arm piece, 'reijetebe'. These traditional items in combination are worn by men of high status like, 'temoniba', 'uea', 'keiwodu', or 'ngait eoeui', depending on the specific tribe within the matrilineal groups of the 12 Nauruan tribes. It is a way to symbolise respect, especially for individuals from the middle class like 'emengame' or 'emo'.

This new personal family connection will play an important part in fostering improved diplomatic relations and collaboration between the two countries and their peoples.

The journey of tracing the President's Chinese ancestry began over a year ago in a meeting with China's President Xi Jinping. President Adeang says the reunion has deep emotional significance and is truly humbled by the gesture and personal effort of President Xi. On his direction, multiple working groups were tasked with tracing the century-old family tree.

With a shared vision of success and cooperation, both presidents aspire to build bridges and strengthen the connection between Nauru and China, recognising vital steps in promoting growth and development for their countries and peoples.

His Excellency believes that building such bridges will help develop a deeper sense of connection and cooperation between the Governments and Peoples of Nauru and China. //

Sport stadium ground-breaking

The Department of Sports held a ground-breaking ceremony on 20 June, to mark the start of construction on the new national sports stadium in Meneng topside. A landmark project, made possible through the generous support of the People's Republic of China.



The ground breaking marks the start of construction of the new stadium

The ceremony, attended by His Excellency President David Adeang, Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen, China's Ambassador Lyu Jin, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, guests, coaches, athletes and members of the community, signals the beginning of a project that aims to boost sports development and strengthen infrastructure in Nauru.

Deputy Minister of Sport Delvin Thoma delivered the opening remarks where he expressed gratitude and trust to the Government of China for its continued support and partnership, noting the deep friendship and respect, that will be honoured.

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"This is a declaration of the pride and faith that Nauru believes in its children, honours its past and invests boldly in its future."

Ambassador Lyu reaffirmed China's commitment to assisting Nauru with their goals.

"This marks a new era of development in sports in Nauru, with international standard track and field grounds and high performance standard, this stadium will provide Nauruan athletes with advance training facilities, helping to improve performance to reach new heights."

After delivery of keynote speakers, the program concluded with the official turning of soil and photo opportunity with dignitaries holding gold plated shovels and project banner backdrop.

President Adeang said "the project is a transformative change for Nauru's infrastructure".

"This also represents a platform for the people of Nauru to overcome generations of poor health. The plan is to transform our people to be leaders in sports, not just in the region, but beyond as well." //

NORI apply for license under the US Department of Commerce

The Metals Company (TMC), in partnership with Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., (NORI) have applied for permits under US law to explore and extract minerals from the deep ocean floor in international waters.



NORI country manager Lesi Olsson says there are advantages of TMC's new approach

The application is utilising the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (DSHMRA) of 1980, a US law that allows for such activities. This move aligns with recent US Executive order aimed at expediting the permitting process of offshore critical minerals and resources.

Following extensive legal diligence on DSHMRA, the US government's National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is implementing regulations and other applicable environmental protection legislation. NORI-TMC strongly believes US seabed mining code offers the greatest probability of securing a permit for commercial recovery of deep-sea minerals in a timely manner.

The application covers areas in the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ) of the Pacific Ocean, a region rich in polymetallic nodules containing valuable metals like nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese.

NORI-TMC submitted its application to the International Seabed Assembly (ISA) 14 years ago. ISA has not yet established clear regulations for deep-sea mining. NORI-TMC is not withdrawing the ISA application, but they are pursuing a parallel path that they hope will finally allow them to start mining.

NORI Country Manager, Lesi Olsson expressed the advantages of TMC's approach and revised agreement recently signed on 4 June.

"This not only strengthens our partnership, but secures the continued in-country community assistance support, capacity building and social programs and now, the intergenerational trust fund. Nauru is going to benefit greatly on this new agreement, now that commercial extraction will finally start."

Since becoming the first developing State to sponsor a polymetallic nodule exploration contract, the NORI – TMC alliance could pave the way for new models of deep-sea resource partnerships between developing states and private companies. //

Security uplift to guide national priorities

The governments of Nauru and Australia jointly ran a national consultation workshop aimed at strengthening Nauru's security capability in supporting national priorities, 17-20 June.



President Adeang and High Commissioner Barclay deliver remarks at opening security uplift

The Nauru-Australia Security Uplift Program looks at identifying what security means for Nauru and is the first step in ensuring the Nauru-Australia Treaty is implemented over the next five years.

The Treaty provides a \$40 million security package for Nauru. The uplift program will guide the language for the National Security Strategy and guide Treaty funding allocation.

A visiting Australian security scoping team of nine with deep knowledge of national security policy and relevant frameworks worked with Nauruan officials and engaged with local agencies to develop an understanding of Nauru's specific security needs.

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Security uplift to guide national priorities (...from pg 3)

Discussions include identifying immediate capability needs and long-term objectives; and co-design high-impact, home-grown security solutions.

President David Adeang delivered remarks at the opening noting the value of regional cooperation and the intense geopolitical shift and competition within the region, but affirms the focus must remain on “our own security”.

“National security is not only about safeguarding borders or preventing threats — it is about ensuring our people have access to food, clean water, stable infrastructure, economic opportunity and sustainability, and safety in the face of rising global risks. It is also about protecting our way of life, protecting our sovereignty, and protecting our combined future.”

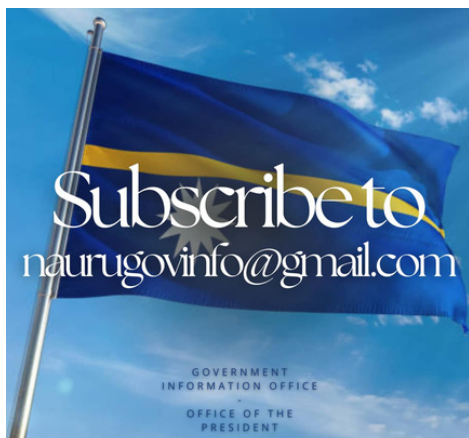
The government is also exploring solutions to build internal resilience by strengthening the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund, advance responsible seabed mineral development to support new industries, promote a climate resilience passport to secure mobility and wellbeing, and enhance investments in energy, transport, food systems, and digital security.

“Nauru’s national security strategy must reflect our needs, our priorities and to be owned, and to be defined and to be led by Nauru,” the President said.

Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay says security is a much bigger concept than weapons and people in uniform. “It is how Nauru faces the challenges of the modern world,” including what keeps its children safe, ensuring future jobs, addressing climate resilience, access to truthful information and safe from cyber attacks, and protection of its land and surrounding oceans.

“Ultimately, providing Nauru with means to navigate global trends with confidence that is supported by robust and collaborative regional and like-minded partners.”

Nauru’s challenges are broad and profound, and include disruptions to essential food and fuel supply chains, cyber threats and transnational organised crime, economic vulnerability due to a narrow resource base and global shocks, global trade market instability, and climate-induced threats that erode infrastructure and undermine resilience. //



Global citizenship forum

Nauru attended a Global Citizenship Forum for industry leaders, policy makers and legal experts to discuss economic resilience, regulatory changes and evolving migration trends, at the St Regis Hotel, New York, 17 June.



UN Ambassador Lara Daniel (centre) says delays in climate finance undermine meaningful action

Nauru’s Ambassador to the United Nations Daniel attended the exclusive event hosted by Henley and Partners.

Ms Daniel delivered a keynote address offering insights into how small island nations are engaging with global mobility and wealth migration as an innovative tool for climate adaptation.

Nauru stands as one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, ranking fifth most vulnerable country globally, according to the UN Multidimensional Vulnerability Index. In response to climate threat, Nauru has launched the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI) – a bold national adaptation strategy plan to protect the people from climate induced displacement and secure long-term resilience.

“To support this transformative vision, we have introduced the Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program, a program that converts sovereign debt into equity, generating direct climate adaptation funding through investment migration and build our future,” Ambassador Daniel said.

Persistent delays in climate finance access continue to undermine collective efforts to deliver timely and meaningful action.

The forum offered valuable networking and opportunities to build connections and stay ahead in the global wealth landscape. //

Nauru's first AIIB meeting: commitment to cooperation, development

Nauru joined the tenth annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) marking a historic milestone as it participated for the first time as a fully-fledged member since joining the institution last year.



Nauru became a member of AIIB in February

His Excellency President David Adeang was accompanied to the meetings in Beijing by deputy ministers Delvin Thoma and Isabella Dageago, and member of Parliament Rennier Gadabu.

President Adeang is Nauru's Governor on the AIIB Board and DM Thoma is the Alternate Governor.

On behalf of President Adeang, Deputy Minister Thoma attended the opening ceremony and the official session of the Board of Governors, 26 June, joining other distinguished delegates to discuss the bank's official business, in accordance with AIIB's Articles of Agreement.

Nauru's participation underscores its commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development, aligning with AIIB's mission to finance "Infrastructure for Tomorrow" across Asia and beyond.

Ahead of the opening ceremony, the delegation had several engagements including meeting with Ambassador Chitra Jeremiah at the Nauru Embassy, followed by a dinner meeting with Nauruan students studying in China.

President Adeang reminded the students of the government's support and encouraged them to look ahead to reach personal excellence in their studies, and to utilise their acquired skills in the development and prosperity of Nauru.

The Nauru Embassy was inaugurated on 31 March this year by Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea, marking a significant milestone in the advancement of the bilateral relations between Nauru and China.

In February, Nauru became a member of the AIIB which can facilitate a range of financial services with the potential for growth and progress to realise Nauru's infrastructure and development targets.

The AIIB is a multilateral development bank focused on infrastructure development. With membership primarily composed of Asian and Pacific nations, Nauru is among member countries of Constituency 7 which are represented by a single director on the Board of Directors, who represents the collective interests of its member countries. Constituency 7 is composed of Australia, Cook Islands, New Zealand, PNG, Singapore, Vietnam and Nauru.

The delegation separately met with Constituency 7 members New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, and AIIB President Jin Liqun, 25 June.

Discussions centred on strengthening collaboration amid global challenges, address immediate challenges together and deepen partnerships to drive essential sustainable development and bolster resilience across economies for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

President Adeang and his delegation also engaged in several bilateral meetings including with China's Minister for Finance Lan Fo'an. Honouring the One China Principle, discussions focused on strengthening Nauru's economic resilience and driving sustainable development.

Separate meetings with several Chinese investors focused on potential areas of investment that would have mutual benefits as well as address Nauru's aspirations for development.

On 24 June, the delegation also witnessed the election of Zou Jiayi as the new president of the AIIB. Madam Zou will succeed Jin Liqun and will commence her five-year term on 16 January 2026. //

ADB VP visits Nauru projects

The Asian Development Bank's vice president for the Pacific was in Nauru to engage with senior government officials and visit project sites supported by the Bank, 29 June to 3 July.



Mr Morris welcomed to NUC by CEO Anthony Dimapilis

Vice president for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Scott Morris said since the inception of ADB's operations in Nauru 34 years ago, the Bank has been a critical partner in rebuilding and transforming Nauru's public sector institutions, economic infrastructure, and service delivery.

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“What began as a response to a fiscal crisis has grown into a comprehensive, long-term partnership spanning governance and fiscal management, maritime infrastructure, energy security, water supply and sanitation, and private sector support.”

Speaking to the Nauru Bulletin prior to his arrival Mr Morris said the ADB's portfolio in Nauru spans across four projects valued at US\$142 million, and is performing well overall.

The Sustainable Urban Development Project (SUDP) is expected to start this year, and will serve 55 per cent of the population or more than 1200 households.

The SUDP will be Nauru's first reticulated water network, with a modern septage treatment facility, and composting and recycling system to improve sanitation, and public and environmental health.

In his meetings with senior officials, discussions would focus on the long term partnership with Nauru and listen to the challenges and priorities of Nauru, to gain a better understanding how the ADB can best support Nauru's development goals.

“ADB is pleased to be a long-term and trusted partner to Nauru, committed to implementing sustainable and climate-resilient projects aligned to the country's national priorities.

“ADB is committed to successfully completing the Nauru port and solar energy projects and is proud to support the government on these transformative initiatives for improved connectivity and energy security,” Mr Morris said.

Site visits included to the Nauru port in Aiwo, the solar farm and the Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC).

Mr Morris said the flagship Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Connectivity Project was 90 per cent completed as of May this year. This project replaced the hazardous Aiwo boat harbour, slashing berthing times from 21 days to three.

The port was operational and receiving vessels from September 2022 and is fundamentally improving Nauru's connectivity with the world and opening up new opportunities.

Nauru is preparing for a secure, renewable energy future with the help of ADB. The solar power project will supply nearly half of Nauru's electricity, meaning a reduction in diesel dependency and improved cost-efficiency.

Mr Morris said the ADB's long-term partnership with Nauru reflects strategic investment that target Nauru's most pressing needs in energy, infrastructure, governance and connectivity.

“ADB will continue to collaborate with the Nauru government on maximising access to grant funding resources, particularly through ADF14 thematic financing, in addition to Nauru's country grant allocation.”

The Bank's Asian Development Fund (ADF) is the largest special fund of ADB and provides grants to ADB's poorest and most vulnerable countries in numerous ways, including alleviating the worst impacts of increasingly extreme weather and climate conditions. //

Group of friends dialogue

UN Ambassador Lara Daniel attended a closed-door event on 'Advancing Climate, Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific for Shared Prosperity' hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, New York, 25 June.



Ambassador Daniel (3rd left) says Nauru's risks demand tailored responses

In her capacity as co-Chair of the Group of Friends, Ambassador Daniel co-sponsored the event with UN Climate Security Mechanism (CSM).

The event engaged with regional actors and key stakeholders in a dialogue that bridges global frameworks with regional realities, fostering shared commitment to addressing climate-related security risks in the Asia-Pacific.

A 'Climate, Peace and Environmental Resilience in the Asia-Pacific region' report was officially launched at the event.

The report offers actionable recommendations to regional and international actors seeking to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of their strategies.

Ambassador Daniel thanked the Permanent Mission of Korea and stakeholders for convening the event.

“Today's discussions reaffirms what the wider Asia-Pacific region have long known, that climate change is a multidimensional threat to peace, security and livelihoods. The report and intervention have underscored a truth that is sobering and motivating, that climate related security risks manifest differently across our region yet they are all deeply interconnected. The risks we face demand tailored, collaborative and anticipatory responses.”

The Asia-Pacific region is at the forefront of global climate crisis facing some of the most acute and diverse risks of climate change.

Nauru reiterates its deep commitment to the agenda and stands ready to advance climate security central to peace and prosperity. //

Buariki maneaba celebration

President David Adeang visited the Kiribati island of Buariki for the 21st anniversary of the island's maneaba celebration, 17 June.



Nauru government attaches high importance to relations with Kiribati

Honouring the invitation by Mayor Nei Aruea Kaintikuaba and the people of Buariki Island. President Adeang was greeted on arrival by Kiribati Minister for Information Communication and Transport Alexander Teabo, Secretary for Foreign Affairs Uering Iteraera, and Secretary for Information Communication and Transport Mitateti Mote.

As the special guest, President Adeang was taken on a tour of the island and cultural exploration by Kiribati Minister for Employment and Human Resources Auria Kitina, Police Inspector Bakaea Iotaake and storyteller Itimata Beiata. Following which was a meeting with the President of Kiribati Taneti Maamau ahead of the festivities at the maneaba which kicked off with traditional dance, live band, gift exchanges and the ceremonial feast on 28 June.

During the event, President Adeang said “the Government of Nauru attaches the highest importance to our relations with the government and the people of Kiribati,” and in the short time has come to learn a lot about Kiribati and similarities and connections including blood ties.

Acknowledging that Kiribati is Nauru's closest neighbour, President Adeang said the two countries can build on those connections to further strengthen mutual collaboration and development.

President Maamau thanked President Adeang for attending the celebration underscoring their two countries will continue to tackle developmental challenges together by sharing resources, skills, and connections. //

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June Parliament - ministerial statements

Foreign Affairs and Trade

Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea reported to the House diplomatic engagements undertaken through DFAT in the last month.

Nauru had the honour of receiving Ambassador's from five countries - Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain and Philippines in May and early June.

“The presentation of credentials carry sincere diplomatic significance. They symbolise the formal accreditation of these envoys to our nation and represent a reaffirmation of the strong ties between Nauru and the respective countries. Each diplomatic engagement is key to advancing foreign policy objectives, cooperation, mutual understanding and trade and economic development.”

The Government of Nauru remains committed to strengthening bilateral relationships for the benefit of the nation, its people and its partners. //

National Emergency Service

Minister for National Emergency and Disaster, Jesse Jeremiah reported to Parliament key developments in national disaster preparedness efforts.



The program will deliver essential support aligned with Nauru's priorities

A formal agreement between Australia's Assists Program and secretary for NES was signed on 28 April. The Australia Assists Program (2025 – 2035) is a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral relationship and disaster resilience.

The ten-year program will deliver essential technical support, capacity building and emergency response assistance aligned with Nauru's priorities.

Recent support included the UXO Runway Resurfacing Project, critical to the security and safety of Nauru's runway and provision of Aspen Medical staff assistance during the course of the project.

In partnership with the Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (DCCNR), a new initiative called Climate Finance Capacity Support Program was launched to draft the first National Drought Management Plan aimed to address risks and challenges during Nauru's prolonged dry periods. This program is funded by the New Zealand Government.

NES is working with ministries to establish a national cluster system, a cross-sector coordination mechanism to organise emergency response efforts.

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National Emergency Service

(...from pg 7)

NES is starting with clusters for food security and agriculture, health and nutrition and education.

NES also worked closely with the Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture (DEMA) to co-host the 3rd Food Security Technical Working Group, supported by World Food Programme and Australia. This group is focused on establishing the Food Security Cluster.

In other areas the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) is a project, funded by the EU and implemented by The Pacific Community (SPC). The key objective of this project is to strengthen disaster risk management and climate resilience in the Pacific. NES has secured funding support to enhance national disaster information systems and preparedness for schools and communities.

“From UXO clearance to climate resilience, institutional strengthening to food security – our work reflects a clear vision: Nauru must be ready, responsive and resilient in the face of emergencies.”

Minister Jeremiah affirms the ministry’s unwavering commitment to building a safer and more resilient Nauru.//

Micronesian Pride

Due to continuing mechanical issues and maintenance neglect in Indonesia, the Micronesian Pride will be ‘out of water’ under a 5-year compliance regulation scheduled to maintain survey class on 1st September.



Micronesian Pride shipping vessel

This service disruption to Nauru will result in lack of continual supplies, backlog of containers and accumulation of unnecessary storage fees at Suva port.

NSL plans to charter a ‘one-off’ dedicated vessel to clear backlog from Suva aimed to depart Suva 10 July and arrive Nauru 17 July.

After the charter, the next vessel will bypass Suva and transit direct from Brisbane. The tentative departure date for this vessel from Brisbane is 1st August and arrive Nauru approximately 10 August.

Looking ahead, Micronesian Ocean (MO) is currently under charter with NPD until August. Once available, MO will maintain scheduled services to ensure supplies reach Nauru in time for the busy Christmas period. //

Climate UNOC3

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience Asterio Appi updated Parliament on his attendance at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France from 9-13 June, to drive action on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below Water.

The minister said by consensus the conference successfully adopted the Nice Ocean Action Plan comprising three components.

The first being the political declaration - Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action, which emphasises the critical linkage between ocean health and climate action, stating the ocean’s ability to act as a climate regulator has been weakened and calling for enhanced global action to minimise climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

The second declaration – summaries of the 10 thematic Ocean Action Panels capturing key discussions and identifying opportunities for enhanced cooperation in marine protected area expansion, strengthen partnerships for ocean science cooperation and new financial mechanisms.

The third component is voluntary commitments from stakeholders – representing concrete actions pledged by governments, organisations, and private sector entities to advance SDG14 implementation.

Minister Appi highlighted that his national statement at UNOC3, presented a comprehensive vision for sustainable ocean governance that reflects Nauru’s unique position, as a small island developing state facing existential climate challenges.

He underscored Nauru’s push for integrating the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) into ocean finance initiatives, highlighting that while name is classified as too wealthy for development assistance, it ranks as the fifth most vulnerable country globally according to the MVI.

The minister raised other key points in the national statement including the government’s higher ground initiative to build resilience, and responsible ocean resource management.

Minister Appi made two specific calls at the conference. First, that ocean finance be measured in trillions, not billions with accessibility based on vulnerability rather than outdated income metrics that fail to account for realities on the ground.

Secondly, that the Nice Action Plan must not create barriers that protect existing power structures while blocking access for those who need it most.

Minister Appi said Nauru called for transformation – for an ocean revolution grounded in fairness, inclusion and urgency. //

Department of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure Jesse Jeremiah presented an update in Parliament on activities undertaken by the department.



President Adeang presented the keys to the new homeowners, Rexon Gaskell and his family

Under the Government Housing Program, two houses were handed over to homeowners in Yaren and Meneñ. The program is on going with additional homes currently under construction. As part of the department's strategic plans to accomplish capacity goals of the sector, both houses were built by the department's staff. Forward plans include partnering with regional training facilities and other suitable exchange programs.

The department remains committed to prioritising families residing at the Location Settlement Red Zone area with handover of houses expected to happen in the next few months and the order of 33 containers of materials now en route to Nauru.

Under the Roofing and Electrical program, Nauru requires investing in sustainable, long-lasting materials to endure the harsh environment. Unregulated import of low-grade materials that flood the housing sector have proven problematic and hazardous.

The department has ordered high grade aluminium HA34 roofing materials from New Zealand as part of their commitment to build quality homes and improve living conditions for everyone.

The department acknowledges the urgency to address issues with the seawall and is working in collaboration with a State-Owned Enterprise to resolve risks with the adjacent roadway. There are plans to employ existing resources to prevent further deterioration.

Additionally, a standards and regulatory framework is being developed to guide infrastructure projects with planning, management of environmental and social impacts and general operations.

"Our policy work is crucial for infrastructure development, ensuring efficient, sustainable and fair projects that support economic growth and public well-being," Minister Jeremiah said.

The department continues to support an integrated approach to the overall improvement of the infrastructure sector and thanks all stakeholders and the Government for their support. //

WASDA

Minister for Women's and Social Development Affairs Charmaine Scotty reported to the House continued progress and developments in the department.

A Gender Policy Implementation Taskforce has been established following Cabinet endorsement on Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy and National Women's and Gender Mainstreaming Policy. The taskforce comprises of WASDA, selected government ministries and civil society. Active implementation of policies has commenced which will include awareness sessions and compliance workshops for senior public servant officials and frontline staff to incorporate gender targets in annual workplans and performance reporting systems.

WASDA is drafting proposed amendments on the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act (DVFPA) for targeted legislative reform following a national review of the DVFPA. Key gaps identified included high rates of unreported abuse due to stigma, ongoing lack of awareness in the community on protective orders and available legal remedies, and inconsistent enforcement across the districts.

The department remains fully committed to addressing chronic absenteeism in schools by utilising community education officers and child protection focal officers to monitor attendance.

Working in collaboration with the Department of Education and Public Health, an updated program has been developed to raise awareness on teenage pregnancy and stigma reduction.

An intervention plan to integrate child protection, cultural identity and violence prevention called 'Building Families for Life Operational Plan' is in its final draft.

Working in collaboration with National Emergency Services, WASDA has formally submitted input to the Evacuation Shelter Management Cluster plan, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and children.

WASDA is also working with partners to develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) plan on Gender and Child-Sensitive Drought Preparedness to ensure mechanisms put in place are inclusive and effective.

The minister reiterated that WASDA will host the 6th Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence and Family Protection Legislation in August. A 10-year Strategic Plan (2025-2035) which outlines long term vision for gender equality, child rights and social resilience is currently being finalised. WASDA aims to showcase Nauru as a model of reform and policy innovation.

Minister Scotty reassures "WASDA will remain unwavering in its efforts to build a society where dignity, equality and justice are not privileges to a few, but guarantees for all". //

Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund

President David Adeang presented his Parliament statement on the status of the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (NTF) as at 17 June 2025.



Nauru hosts NTF meeting for the first time

The last reporting of the Fund was tabled at the March quarterly meeting of the management committee held in Nauru, and includes the cumulative contributions totalling \$280 million, with investments valued at \$400 million.

The President says the Fund's objectives remain unchanged and it continues to perform above its relevant benchmark funds.

"Markers are responding to US President Trump's policies and tariff flip-flops with heightened volatility and uncertainty, leading to delays in business decisions about investment," President Adeang said, noting that there is a risk of a US recession, inflation, and a decline in the US dollar.

While other ongoing and new geopolitical events will cause market uncertainty, the President says the Fund's diversification and significant unlisted assets have reduced the impact of market falls and reduced volatility.

It will be another decade before the Fund's distribution so its investment strategy remains long-term in outlook and not need to respond to daily market moves.

As previously announced, Taiwan Province of China will withdraw from the Fund under its rights under the MOU, and the withdrawal of their 110 per cent will be completed by the end of November 2025.

The Office of the President will continue negotiations with a replacement contributor.

This was the first time for Nauru to host the quarterly meeting and included an invitation extended to the public and private sectors for the first time.

All decisions made by the NTF management committee is by consensus and the next meeting will be in Canberra in August. //

Health and Medical Services

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Charmaine Scotty announced in Parliament a significant new partnership between the governments of Nauru and Australia aimed at strengthening the country's healthcare system. Under the 'Raña tsimorum' project, DFAT Australia will provide \$5 million annually over the next ten years, totalling \$50 million in funding support.

This initiative will see the construction of two new Wellness Centres for Public Health and Pharmacy Warehouse to improve access to essential medicines and supplies.

In addition to supporting specialist medical services, a medical team from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) will visit Nauru in July. The mission team consist of a vascular surgery team.

This visit is one of four annual specialist services funded by DFAT under the 'Raña tsimorum' project, aimed to improve access to quality treatment and reduce the number of overseas medical referrals.

During the UXO clearance exercise in April, five medical professionals from the ASPEN Medical team were deployed to assist RON hospital services and facilitated training programs to enhance longer term skills to healthcare workers.

The Department of Health acknowledges there is a shortage of specialists and health care professionals, due to competitive markets, global shortage and administrative bottlenecks.

Strategies have been developed to ensure services are not compromised or disrupted, during these challenging times.

Minister Scotty remarks "the health and well-being of our citizens remain our highest priority. We are committed to ensuring that no citizen is denied access to quality healthcare due to staffing issues.

The secretary for health and medical services recently attended the Pacific Heads of Health meeting in Nadi, Fiji where issues such as workforce retention, health governance and funding were discussed.

Outcomes from the forum will help shape high-level talks at the upcoming Pacific Health Ministers Meeting scheduled in September, helping Nauru stay aligned with the regional health priorities and best practices. //

Sports Development Inc

Minister Jesse Jeremiah reported to Parliament recent activities and achievements undertaken by the Nauru Sport Development Inc., (NSDI).

Nauru sent 77 athletes and 31 officials to the 2025 Pacific Mini Games held in Palau on 29 June - 9 July.

Team Nauru participated in seven sporting disciplines: athletics, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, table tennis, weightlifting, wrestling and judo.

NSDI successfully organised community raffle raising a total of \$105,440.00 that will directly support team competition necessities such as uniforms, gear and allowances.

Other raffle initiatives were extended to the wider local sporting clubs such as the boxing and powerlifting federations and Chess Association who together, raised an additional \$28,780.00.

Minister Jeremiah extended his deep gratitude to all stakeholders, including communities, sponsors, and Government of Nauru for their unwavering support and generous contributions. //

Government signs agreement with Global Mission Support Services

The Nauru Government has taken a significant step to strengthen and improve the delivery of health services to Nauruans with the latest agreement signed with a UAE-based service provider, 19 June.



(L-R) GMSS Shaposhnik, Minister for Health Scotty, and Minister for Foreign Investment Eoe sign new agreement

Global Mission Support Services (GMSS DMCC) will manage and deliver health services, improve facilities, staff capacity and overall service delivery.

Shortly after the signing, President David Adeang told parliament the decision to hand over, management and service delivery of the hospital did not come lightly.

“The Government has explored options over time and concluded that engaging an experienced and capable private sector partner is a necessary step to ensure our people continue to receive quality and timely medical care, both locally and abroad.”

Approved as a foreign investor under the Foreign Investment Act, GMSS entered the legally binding Nauru Health Services Management Agreement with the government, for 10 years initially.

The company will be responsible for managing local health services, and take over the management of overseas medical services, ensuring patients and their caregivers are properly coordinated, supported and monitored throughout their treatment abroad.

“This initiative is not about replacing our people,” the president said. “It is about partnering with a professional and proven entity to build a more effective, sustainable health system for our country.”

The agreement includes robust accountability measures and termination clauses to protect the public interest in the event of performance falling below expectations.

The partnership will deliver cost savings over time, improve service quality, and alleviate many of the administrative and logistical burdens.

The structural reform will also focus on improving lifestyle and health of Nauruans through national sports programs, community awareness campaigns, and targeted initiatives aimed at increasing life expectancy and promoting healthy living. //

Bills June 2025

Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025

An amendment to the Constitution of Nauru 1968 was tabled at the 17 June Parliament meeting in respect to Article 41(7) which prescribes the term of the parliament at three years. This has been in place since Nauru's independence in 1968. The amendment is to extend the term from three years to four.



A transitional clause is provided so that the four-year term does not apply to the current parliament, but will apply to the parliament which is elected immediately after the Act comes into effect.

The amendment is one of those which forms part of the entrenched provision of Article 84 of the Constitution. For change to happen, it requires a two thirds majority of votes in the parliament, as well as a two thirds majority support from the registered voters. There is therefore a need for a nation-wide referendum to be carried out. The verdict of this bill will lie in the hands of Nauruans. Nauruans will be able to vote for or against this amendment. However, this can only eventuate if the bill is first passed by the House.

(cont pg 12...)

Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025

(...from pg 7)

President David Adeang said the change will effectively give a government four years to implement its policies and plans.

“This will now give the government at least some time when the Government is formed to collectively articulate policies for the benefit of our Republic. Also, it gives more time for cabinet ministers and members of Parliament to be able to consult their voters in the policy making process.”

The Nauru Electoral Commission has been tasked to conduct the referendum and is currently in the process of finalising the procedure before the public is notified of the process. //

Education (Amendment) Bill 2025

The growing concern on the misconduct of children in schools, with the teachers having limited authority to discipline students, have been the basis of amendments to the Education Act 2011. The first amendment is to Section 37 of the Act to re-introduce the use of corporal punishment to manage students' misconduct, but with strict exceptions.



The amendment will allow the school principal or authorised teacher to discipline a student to maintain conduct, prevent or minimise harm to the student or another person, and prevent student engage or continue to engage in misconduct or criminal conduct, including threatening, offensive or disruptive behaviour.

A principal or teacher who does not comply with these restrictions commits an offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding \$500.

However, as Nauru is party to the international obligation regarding the protection of children, the principal and the authorised teacher must ensure that children are not unduly hurt or humiliated that they abscond or leave school. Every effort must be made to ensure that the children are educated in schools leading to tertiary education.

The new sections 113A to 113F provide the process to allow for the issue of fixed penalty notices by authorised officers to parents - consistent with Section 14(1) of the Act that, 'each parent of the child shall ensure the child attends the school on each school day'.

Authorised officers will have identification cards and shall only act at the directive or instructions of the minister.

These amendments are undertaken to ensure children are educated without the disruption or harm of other students in schools. //

Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority Bill 2025

The Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority Bill 2025 was tabled by Minister Maverick Eoe, on 17 June 2025 and is a bill for the Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority Act 2025.

The bill seeks to create secure, transparent, and efficient virtual assets markets while ensuring consumer and investor protection.

It also provides a regulatory framework to be established for virtual asset services and technologies; and also established the Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority (CRVAA) to oversee implementation and enforcement of the objectives of the Bill, including the assets and activities of Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs). A licencing scheme will be provided to allow VASPs to register and offer their services using Nauru as a base. A virtual asset includes crypto currency.

Minister Eoe says by introducing this legal framework, Nauru can offer a secure, transparent process for registration of virtual assets.

“The CRVAA will be tasked with ensuring cybersecurity standards, monitoring financial transactions and enforcing compliance with international anti-money laundering and financial transparency protocols.”

The first of the bill's five parts provides for the objectives to develop a competitive digital economy by positioning Nauru as a hub for virtual asset innovation and responsible regulation.

Part 2 provides for the establishment of the CRVAA to be managed by three qualified members, each having at least five years' experience in virtual asset regulation or monitoring.

The Authority has legal capacity to sue or be sued, own property, enter into contracts and conduct other legal entity functions.

Part 3 provides for licencing and conduct of VASPs who are required to comply with anti-money laundering and targeted financial sanctions requirements.

Part 4 provides for integrity and dispute resolution. VASPs will be required to continuously track transactions as they occur, identifying suspicious activities and potential financial crimes.

Part 5 is for miscellaneous provisions such as data protection and cybersecurity, confidentiality of information, protection from liability for the minister, the Authority, CEO, authorised officers, and staff.

It also provides for international cooperation with foreign governments and international organisations by requesting, receiving, and providing information.

VASPs are issued with a licence and registered under the bill and will be subject to the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering and Targeted Financial Sanctions Act 2023. //

Bills June 2025

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Bill 2025

The introduction of the new Clause 77A in the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act requires that any group of people having a particular religious belief intending to register an approved organisation of a religious body, can do so provided they obtain approval of the Cabinet which is empowered under the new section 77A to approve the registration.



The religious body is required to submit an application to the Cabinet for approval under the Registration of Association Act 2020, of which the registrar will evaluate and forward the recommendation to approve or not, to the minister. The registrar will have to be satisfied that the organisation's objectives are to uphold or promote religious beliefs, philosophical ideas, or humanitarian values.

The minister then seeks Cabinet approval to officially designate the organisation as an approved entity under the Act, making it eligible for registration. The registrar will then publish a notice in the Government gazette to formalise the organisation's status. The specific application procedures will be set out under regulations.

Section 78 is amended to differentiate between the nomination and approval of persons to solemnise marriage or funeral services and the approval of the registration of a religious body as set out under the proposed Section 77A. It also differentiates from the procedure for appointment of marriage officers and funeral officiators under the current Section 79. //

Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2025

Amendments to the Crimes Act was tabled at the 14 June Parliament sitting to amend Sections 41A in reference to Parts 4 - 9 on the standards of criminal liability for children between ages 10 to 14 to include specified offences such as stalking, kidnapping, threatening to kill and other similar offences.



The insertion of words 'explosives or devices' has been included with firearms under Section 209-211 due to such devices becoming prevalent in the community.

The amendments are undertaken to ensure children do not grow up with violent conduct and intentions and the justice system responds appropriately to the developmental needs and circumstances of children. //

Funeral, Burial and Cremation (Amendment) Bill 2025

Amendment to the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Bill tabled at the 17 June Parliament sitting to enable 'home burial'. The bill proposes to amend Sections 18 and 53 of the Act. The provision still prohibits home burial but will be permitted only through application process to the president who is the minister responsible for the Act. //

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