



Nauru Bulletin

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Dengue claims two young lives as confirmed cases exceed 200

As dengue fever continues to spread across the Pacific, Nauru recorded its first two fatalities on 30 July.



The health department leads massive cleanup campaign to rid hotspots of mosquito-breeding rubbish

The Department of Health and Medical Services confirmed the deaths on 31 July of a 15-year-old boy and seven-year-old girl.

Dr David Bill expressed the department's sincere condolences to the affected families, saying the tragic losses are a painful reminder of the seriousness of dengue infection, especially among our most vulnerable population.

Over the past two months up to 30 July, the RON Hospital and Public Health conducted 665 tests on adults and children; 222 are confirmed cases of dengue, the majority being children under the age of 10 years. The first reported case of dengue fever in Nauru was on 27 June.

Meantime, the Ministry of Public Health is spearheading a massive clean-up campaign that is underway with particular focus on three districts – Denig (Location settlement), Aiwo and Menen.

In a national statement, 24 July, President David Adeang underscored the seriousness of the illness and urged the public to be vigilant in destroying mosquito breeding grounds and minimise bites.

The president's announcement reinforced the department and community meeting called by the chief secretary and the Department of Public Health on 23 July, addressing the issue and to call for community and departmental support in cleaning the densely populated area known as Location in the districts of Aiwo and Denig.

Concerns arising from the meeting included assurance of a rubbish-free Location, and government support in clearing mosquito breeding grounds such as derelict buildings and vehicles, and littering in public spaces often used for sports and community activities such as bingo.

The public health department urges the community to report cases of littering and derelict items. With government support these items are continuously removed as they are reported, alleviating the financial burden on families to pay for their removal and providing a clean start to those spaces.

The clean-up campaign kicked off on Friday, 25 July beginning at the Location settlement. Since then groups have spread out to clean hotspots in Aiwo and Menen.

Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu allowed government staff to join the cleanup days from 3-5pm, further bolstering the sense of community support and cooperation.

The health department calls for greater awareness and protection from mosquitoes and strongly urge parents, guardians and caregivers to closely monitor children and the vulnerable for any signs of illness and to seek urgent medical attention without delay.

The community is urged to take the precautions to prevent the spread of dengue, and to seek immediate medical care if symptoms appear - such as a high fever, vomiting, severe headache, muscle/joint pain, or unusual bleeding.

For further information in regards to dengue and removal of derelict items, contact the toll-free number 595. //



Boe UXO disposed of successfully

The successful disposal of the unexploded ordnance discovered in the southern district of Boe signaled the end of the state of disaster declared on 16 July.



Australian High Commissioner Barclay and Foreign Minister Aingimea dispose of the UXO

Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea 'pressed the button' on 28 July, disposing of the UXO.

The render safe procedure was carried out earlier that day by explosives experts from the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Following initial investigations by the Nauru Police Force (NPF) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team, the projectile was identified as a 5-inch naval shell.

President David Adeang declared the state of disaster on 16 July for the management and minimisation of the impacts of the UXO and its removal. The order was active for 30 days unless varied, revoked, or expired.

A 50-metre radius exclusion zone was initially set up for the safety of the immediate surroundings, and remained in place until the arrival of the Australian Defence Force for the render safe procedure when the exclusion zone was then pushed out to 150 metre radius.

All major infrastructure such as schools, the airport runway, and government offices were outside the zone.

Minister for National Emergency Services Jesse Jeremiah also presented a statement in Parliament on 25 July informing members of the impending UXO works.

Operation Render Safe is an Australian Defence Force-led initiative aimed at removing explosive remnants of war, particularly from World War II, in Pacific island countries. It focuses on enhancing safety for local communities and protecting vital infrastructure by clearing these dangerous items. //

State house concept unveiled

The concept plan for the State House was officially unveiled, 4 July, and is envisioned to be a landmark design blending modern amenities with rich cultural heritage.



The official residence of the president will include a cabinet room, guest house and staff quarters

The site location for the official residence of the president is located on Denig Hill, formerly known as Cliff Lodge.

Central Meridian Manager Paul Finch had the honour to introduce the concept design to President David Adeang and attending ministers and guests.

The proposed design prominently features a traditional 'domaneb' hut, which will serve as a dedicated space for special events and occasions, reflecting the nation's commitment to preserving and celebrating its heritage.

The concept also includes a double-storey Presidential residence complete with a swimming pool, a dedicated Cabinet room for official meetings and a viewing terrace offering panoramic views of the ocean and surrounding area.

Additional facilities will include a guest house suited for visiting heads of state, a fully equipped kitchen for event catering and separate living and dining quarters for staff and ample parking space.

Officials noted the concept design aims to create an enduring symbol of national identity while providing the functional spaces to support the duties of the Head of State and the government.

Further details and construction timelines will be announced as planning moves forward. //



CEO appointed to head virtual assets regulator

Following legislation passed by Nauru's parliament in June to establish an authority to regulate virtual assets including cryptocurrency, the government has appointed highly respected Australian banking and financial markets executive Brian Phelps as its inaugural CEO.



CEO Phelps says Nauru will be at centre of innovation in the Pacific

In announcing the appointment, President David Adeang said Mr Phelps' vast experience will ensure the Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority (CRVAA) will have a foundation of integrity and impact, champion innovation, and promote Nauru as a trusted digital jurisdiction.

He reinforced the government's goal of attracting businesses that bring investment, job creation, and financial innovation to the nation.

"We must be innovative in our quest for economic resilience and a higher standard of living for our people, while prioritising international best practices and the highest levels of governance and compliance," Mr Adeang said.

"This ensures investors and foreign platforms can have great trust in Nauru."

Mr Phelps has worked extensively with regulators, industry bodies and government, and served for 21 years as general manager, broking and markets at CommSec, Australia's largest online stockbroking firm and subsidiary of the Commonwealth Bank.

He has also been a committee member of the Australian Financial Markets Association.

Mr Phelps said he believes Nauru will soon be at the centre of innovation in the Pacific, and is determined to use his vast experience in securities trading to establish a Nauru virtual asset hub which will drive more investment in other sectors of the economy.

He has outlined his vision and how the government's new legislation, that includes making Nauru the cryptocurrency powerhouse of the Pacific, will help turbocharge investment in the economy, resulting in higher living standards.

"Nauru is the first country in the Pacific to regulate crypto and by doing this is sending a clear message to the world that Nauru is open for business.

"In addition to crypto exchanges, there are endless other possibilities we can embrace including making Nauru a remittance payment hub to provide itinerant workers throughout the Pacific a safe and secure means to send money home via platforms like Stablecoin," he said.

However, Mr Phelps said the authority will ensure strong regulation and compliance measures, "and that means for every transaction, so that our partners can have absolute confidence and trust in Nauru."

He said that becoming a trusted partner in the digital space will in turn bring opportunities where others will look to invest in Nauru, citing infrastructure as an example.

President David Adeang, who as the nation's finance minister years ago laid the foundations for the CRVAA by aligning Nauru with international financial and compliance best practice, said Mr Phelps had all the skills and experience needed to make Nauru a virtual and digital powerhouse.

"The entire region is starting to look to Nauru as a centre of innovation and a trusted partner, and this will drive investment and our economy and bring tangible benefits to the Nauruan people."

He said the government was working hard to diversify the economy and drive living standards higher including by embracing new and emerging technologies, and paid tribute to Minister for Commerce and Foreign Investment Maverick Eoe for overseeing the establishment of the CRVAA.

"As a nation that is vulnerable to economic and climate shock, and without the same resources of larger nations, we must embrace innovation and think outside the box to build a more resilient and prosperous nation for the people of Nauru," President Adeang said.

However, he also emphasised the importance of good governance and fiscal management, and pointed to Nauru's recent acceptance as an EGMONT member, an international group of financial intelligence units whose main goal is to cooperate internationally in combatting financial crimes - particularly money laundering - as an example of how the nation is now internationally regarded.

"Nauru's membership, sponsored by Australia and the Cook Islands, builds trust and credibility with foreign counterparts, law enforcement and financial institutions," he said.

"The Nauru of the past that did things the same way is gone.

"Our government is determined to not focus only on the short term but on future generations, which requires sound financial management and accountability." //

Govt made the right decision to develop China relationship

President David Adeang says the government's decision in January 2024 to re-establish diplomatic relations with China has paid great dividends for the nation, and told Nauruans to expect more economic prosperity.



President David Adeang and Secretary Huang Kunming

Speaking during his recent trip to South China's Guangdong Province to trace his ancestral roots, the president hailed the Nauru-China relationship as one of mutual cooperation.

"When I had my bilateral meeting with (Chinese) President Xi last year, we talked about delivering what he called early harvests in our relationship.

"We will deliver early harvests in the coming years," Mr Adeang said.

"Critical investments in infrastructure, education, health and renewable energy are laying the foundation for a more diversified economy in Nauru, and China will play a big role in many of these enterprises."

He said China has shown the world how hard work, innovation and a strong economic blueprint can deliver prosperity and raise living standards.

"We share this same determination to innovate, create local success stories and bring benefits to all Nauruans."

The president pointed to the construction of a national stadium and related training facilities in Nauru as an example of the Chinese partnership's benefits.

"This investment will position Nauru as a regional hub for sport, helping us to showcase the nation in the upcoming Micronesian Games, and create lasting social benefits by promoting healthier lifestyles and providing opportunities for our youth."

He labelled the nation's development and economic growth since forging the strategic relationship with China as "particularly impressive", noting that it was the Nauruan people who were reaping the benefits.

While excited about the progress to date, President Adeang believes Nauru's economic and development prospects will continue to improve substantially, "in the coming, maybe not even years, but in the coming months".

"That is how bullish we feel about our economy since resuming diplomatic relations with China." //

Independent parliaments, strengthening democracy

Nauru Parliament recently hosted the 54th Presiding Officer's and Clerks Conference (POCC) attended by 17 parliaments including representatives from Australia's federal, state and territory legislatures, New Zealand and neighbouring Pacific islands, 8-10 July.



(3rd front) Speaker Marcus Stephen with fellow presiding officers and clerks

This annual meeting brought together parliamentary leaders and senior officials to share knowledge, build professional networks and discuss best practices in parliamentary governance.

Under the theme 'Independent Parliaments, Strengthening Democracy: The Power of Parliamentary Autonomy', participants engaged in peer learning, shared experiences on legislative independence, effective administration and oversight. Presentations from selected countries highlighted regional approaches to ensuring parliament remains robust and accountable.

The conference serves as a vital platform for dialogue on strengthening parliamentary institutions in the region, commitment to democratic resilience, capacity building and advancing parliamentary governance for the benefit of all member nations.

The event was facilitated under the Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance (NAIG) Project supported by the UNDP with funding and technical assistance from the Government of Australia and New Zealand. //



President attends Kiribati independence celebration

His Excellency President David Adeang was honoured to be a guest at the 46th Independence Day celebrations of the Republic of Kiribati, held at the Betio Sports Complex, 14 July.



Kiribati President Maamau and President Adeang at the flag raising ceremony

The president witnessed the exceptional parade and performance by the Kiribati Police Service, and vibrant display of colours and sounds from the police brass band to the youth and school students' marching parade.

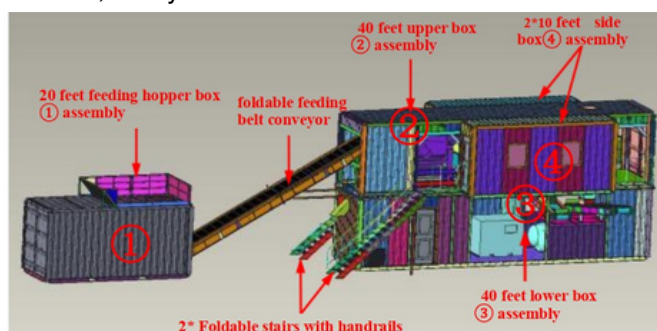
Against the theme, 'Accelerating Progress and Development', Kiribati President Taneti Maamau says "As a sovereign and independent state, we are mature enough to lead our country the way we want, keeping our people at the centre of our leadership because the country and leadership are for them".

President Adeang and his delegation then accepted the invitation to the dinner banquet wrapping up the day's festivities in the typical vibrant and spirited i-Kiribati fashion.

President Adeang was accompanied by Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen, deputy ministers Isabella Dageago and Delvin Thoma, and Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu. //

Ronphos to acquire sorting machine

State-owned entity Ronphos signed an agreement with Chinese telco Acclinks Communications Inc, for the purchase of a new containerised mobile intelligent sorting machine, 2 July.



A sorting machine can turn unused by-product to a saleable export product

Micronesia forum committed to regional agenda

Deputy Minister Isabella Dageago represented Nauru at the 27th Micronesian Islands Forum held in the Marshall Islands' capital, Majuro from 1 – 3 July.



Deputy Minister Dageago says Nauru is steadfast in advancing regional agenda

The gathering brought together leaders and representatives from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Nauru.

The Micronesian Islands Forum is a sub-regional platform that brings countries together to collaborate on shared challenges and priorities. Its key purpose is to strengthen political cooperation, enhance regional connectivity and promote sustainable development across the north and central pacific.

One of the key highlights of the forum was signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between national airlines, Air Marshall and Nauru Airlines aimed at improving air services, enhancing travel links across the region and training the next generation of pacific pilots.

In her opening speech, Deputy Minister Dageago said "Nauru remains steadfast to advancing our regional agenda. We aim to work together on initiatives and solutions that will facilitate the development of a better future for our Micronesian family – a future that is not only stronger and more integrated but also more resilient".

The forum reaffirmed the commitment of Micronesian countries to work together for a more connected and prosperous future. //

Minister for Ronphos Shadlog Bernicke and Ronphos management signed the purchase agreement for an advanced machine has been tested using samples from Nauru and has proven to be capable of processing phosphate materials with varying particle sizes, showing improved quality of the final product.

The sorting machine can also turn unused by-products like the F5 by-product, known for its low calcium carbonate content, to become a saleable export product.

This innovative equipment is designed for easy transport, quick assembly and efficient operation ensuring a faster production and significant boost to Ronphos export capacity.

The intelligent sorting machine is expected to arrive Nauru in August 2025. //

Nauru signs ISA SIDS solar platform at Asia-Pac meeting

Nauru has taken a significant step toward accelerating its clean energy transition by officially signing on to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Solar Platform at the 7th ISA Asia and Pacific Regional committee meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 17 July.



Minister for Climate Change Appi says Nauru seeks to deliver real and measurable benefits

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience, Asterio Appi and his delegation participated in the high-level meeting, which brought together regional leaders to advance collaboration and align strategies for solar deployment across Asia and the Pacific.

During the formal session, Nauru's accession to the SIDS Solar Platform was confirmed. This initiative is designed to aggregate solar demand among Pacific nations, achieve cost reductions through collective procurement, and enhance access to solar technology.

With a focus on the unique needs of SIDS, the conference underscored the essential role of integrated partnerships, finance, and technological innovation in the region's transition to renewable energy.

Minister Appi highlighted that Nauru's involvement seeks to deliver real and measurable benefits to its people, referencing the planned ISA-supported solar-powered reverse osmosis water system at the national hospital as an example of the partnership's value.

Nauru's signing of the SIDS Platform demonstrates its commitment to reaching ambitious renewable energy targets and reaffirms its leadership in building effective partnerships for a sustainable, solar-powered future. //



Nauru presses for fair financing, stronger partnerships for SIDS

United Nations Permanent Representative Ambassador Lara Daniel recently attended the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) that brings together governments, civil society, climate scientists, development partners and key stakeholders, at the UN headquarters, 16 July.



UN Ambassador Daniel highlighted urgent need for fair financing and stronger partnerships

The main objective of the four-day event was to assess global, national and regional progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promote accountability and share best practices among countries.

Ambassador Daniel highlighted in her national statement the urgent need for fair financing, improved data systems and stronger partnerships to support vulnerable SIDS. She cautioned graduation to high-income status risks masking the real challenges and called for systems that reflect true structural vulnerabilities.

On the margins of the forum, Nauru's Permanent Mission to the UN co-hosted a side event with the Permanent Mission of Israel on 'Fostering Climate Resilience – Protecting Public Health, Urban Environments and Marine Ecosystems – Promoting Sustainable and Climate Resilient Communities.

Ambassador Daniel had the opportunity to promote Nauru's Higher Ground Initiative (HGI) programme as a proactive national response to long-term climate threats.

"This transformative initiative aims to establish safe, climate-resilient urban zones in the higher interior of the island. It envisions relocating essential services such as housing, healthcare, schools and water infrastructure to safer elevations while building in green, sustainable and inclusive design."

"But even the best plans needs resources. That is why Nauru and other small island developing states continue to call for fair access to climate and development finance."

The event reaffirmed the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration, knowledge-sharing community-driven action to safeguard lives and livelihoods. //

Finance conference focuses on mobilising resources

Deputy Minister for Finance Delvin Thoma attended the Fourth International Conference on Financing Development (FFD4) convened in Seville, Spain which brought together leaders, policy makers, development banks, civil society and private sector representatives, 30 June.



Deputy Thoma at the FFD4 in Seville, Spain

The conference focused on mobilising resources to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the wake of global crises and growing inequality.

Participants discussed innovative financing solutions, debt sustainability and strategies to strengthen international cooperation. Emphasis was placed on improving access to climate finance, enhancing transparency and ensuring developing countries have a fair voice in shaping global economic policies.

Nauru co-hosted a major side-event with Australia and partners on 'Beyond Income: Recognising Vulnerability in Graduation Metrics – The Case of Nauru'. The event advocated for development metrics to be fair and more responsive to real-world vulnerability beyond income to determine graduation from development assistance, 2 July.

The following day, Nauru co-hosted a second side-event with Tuvalu and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) on 'Safeguarding Financial Connectivity in the Pacific: Addressing Correspondent Banking Challenges.' The event convened key players in the global finance system and SIDS to address the urgent challenges and issues of correspondent banking de-risking and the destabilising effects it has on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Deputy Minister Thoma also joined the inaugural Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) Talanoa roundtable at the FFD4. The event brought together Pacific ministers and multilateral partners to strategise on mobilising US\$500 million for climate projects by 2026.

With PRF pledges now surpassing US\$150 million, the Talanoa was a chance to build momentum and drive the PRF to achieve its objective of strengthening resilience across the Pacific by providing predictable, accessible funds for locally led initiatives.

The FFD4 conference underscored the importance of renewed multilateral commitments to support vulnerable economies like the SIDS who face unique challenges from climate change, promote inclusive growth and enhance resilience. //

July Parliament - ministerial statements

Nauru Utilities Corporation

The Nauru Utilities Corporation is producing power at an optimal level, averaging 3.6 million kilowatt hours per month, while consumer demand peaks at 6.3 megawatts, Minister Reagan Aliklik said at the 25 July Parliament sitting.



Water production line at NUC

Testing continues on the six-megawatt solar plant as it enters the final stages of integration.

Water production remains significantly above public demand, despite the water department reporting a decline in production by 22 per cent since the last update to parliament, and challenges around water delivery turnaround times.

Meanwhile, the reverse osmosis (RO) unit at the Menen Hotel is maintained to ensure adequate water supply for guests and tenants.

NUC is committed to substantially increase water production and expand storage capabilities by the end of the year as part of initiatives to strengthen water infrastructure.

Frequent equipment breakdowns continue to impact sanitation service turnaround times, but temporary repairs are in progress, and procurement efforts are underway to expand the fleet, restore full operational capacity and enhance service delivery.

However, the state-owned entity's unaudited financial reports reveal a positive performance trend, with revenue exceeding the projected budget by 3.7 per cent, reflecting effective revenue generation and organisational efficiency.

Operational challenges, unfortunately, persist, resulting in maintenance and repair costs exceeding initial budget estimates by 4.9 per cent on its overall expenditure. //

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Transport

Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik reported in parliament his recent travel to Singapore to attend the 4th Singapore-Pacific Islands Transport Ministers' Forum, 13 July, held during the high-level aviation week.



Minister Aliklik discuss aviation support in bilateral meeting with Saudi counterpart

The two major themes explored were regional transport priorities and capacity building for small island states.

The minister used the opportunity to network with his counterparts and highlighted Nauru's ongoing challenges in achieving full compliance with international aviation regulations.

Of particular focus was on the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices which often place disproportionate pressure on small island states with limited resources.

Minister Aliklik also discussed the need for differentiated compliance pathways that are both practical and risk-based, tailored to the unique constraints of countries like Nauru.

These challenges were met with support by Pacific ministers for more targeted cooperation especially in training, technical advice, and infrastructure development.

On the margins of the forum, Minister Aliklik had a bilateral meeting with Minister for Transport and Logistic Services for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Saleh Aljasser.

The meeting covered Nauru's need for technical cooperation and support to raise compliance levels with ICAO standards; and the lack of current international partners outside of the Asia-Pacific region supporting Nauru's aviation infrastructure, particularly in terminal upgrades and equipment modernisation.

The two ministers also discussed the potential for Saudi Arabia to assist Nauru with capacity building, infrastructure, and participation in international aviation forums such as the ICAO Assembly.

Minister Aliklik reinforced that as a small island nation, Nauru cannot afford to fall behind on compliance, safety, or innovation.

He adds that Nauru's recent investments – such as the airport runway resurfacing supported by Australia, must be complemented by human capital development and partnerships that allow us to align with global standards in a manner that respects our national context. //

People Living with Disability

Minister for People Living with Disability Charmaine Scotty reported to the august House recent updates and current statistics of registered disabilities on the Department of People Living with Disability (DPWD) database.

Under the home modification scheme budgeted for last fiscal year, the department has six more homes to complete to meet the targeted number of 30 homes. A milestone achievement, noting the positive impact these modifications will have on the lives of people living with disabilities.

Long awaited assisted devices are due to arrive in October and will include 112 wheelchairs, 58 walkers, one commode, spare parts, and tool kits initially requested by the late secretary of the department Riddell Akua and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through a humanitarian and charity organisation.

Minister Scotty informed the House there are currently 342 people living with a disability registered in DPWD database with 199 of them females and 143 males. Nearly half of them are aged between the 40-59 year age range. The types of disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, vision and hearing impaired, neurological, multiple and physical disabilities, psychosocial, acquired brain injury and medical issues causing disabilities.

Minister Scotty concluded "I would like to emphasise on the importance of what this department stands for, hereby proposing for community and government support in advocating for people with disabilities to ensure that their rights continue to be recognised and protected, whereby removing any barrier that hinders their inclusion and acceptance into society". //

Health India visit

Minister for Health and Medical Services and National Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Naoero Museum Charmaine Scotty reported to the House on her recent official visit to New Delhi, India where she engaged in high-level discussions with various departments and entities to strengthen cooperation in health, culture and heritage, 9 July.



The ministers discuss strengthening cooperation in health, culture and heritage

Key meetings included a dialogue with Minister for Culture, Hon Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat which centred on cultural identity, heritage preservation and future collaboration in areas of building a national archive, cultural centre and national library for Nauru, including expansion of Nauru's museum.

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Health India visit

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The Nauru High Commission in India will coordinate with the Government of India to channel and avail programs that can benefit the future of both countries.

Minister Scotty also met with the Secretary-South from the Ministry of External Affairs to explore development opportunities in the health, public health and culture sectors. Discussions also focused on capacity building, training and scholarship program opportunities to strengthen Nauru's workforce in the mentioned fields.

Under the Janaushadi Scheme and the MOU signed and endorsed between Nauru and HLL, a visit to the HLL Lifecare Ltd headquarters validated ongoing cooperation and collaboration for safe and affordable medications to Nauru.

The official visit concluded with a tour of the National Museum of India where the delegation saw how to preserve cultural legacies and a visit to the All-India Institute of Ayurveda to learn how traditional and alternative medicine capacities could be considered in Nauru. //

Infrastructure

Infrastructure minister Jesse Jeremiah updated Parliament at the last sitting on the department's ongoing work under the Government Housing and Red Zone relocation programs.



Home owner receives key to first new design Red Zone house

A three-bedroom house in Baitsi under the Red Zone program was handed over mid-July marking the first residence constructed using this new design.

Minister Jeremiah said six additional homes under the Red Zone program are currently under construction at varying stages of progress, while the government housing program is overseeing eight ongoing houses, each at different phase of development.

Additionally, under the roofing and electrical program, five roofing renovations have been completed, while four homes received electrical wiring renewal, and multiple homes scheduled for completion.

The minister confirmed that 18 containers of building materials, including aluminium roofing sets, have landed and will provide critical support and more efficient delivery of projects across the housing program. //

Fisheries

State-owned entity Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is progressing projects with the priority being the Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations which it anticipates will be completed by year end.



Fisheries contribute to national revenue and is an important part of Nauruan lifestyle and food source

Minister Reagan Aliklik says the work of the SOE is vital not only to national revenue but also to food security, sustainability and sovereignty over its marine resources.

The coastal fisheries team continues its important work of data collection, biological sampling, monitoring and piloting of alternative fishing techniques such as vertical longlining and squid fishing.

Resource mapping under the MiCoast project is completed in almost all districts with several confirming their Community Fisheries Management Areas (CFMA). These sites will soon undergo caseline surveys to inform tailored management plans for formal government approval.

The Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture project is finalising plans to drill a well to provide saltwater access to the aquaculture facility, which is an essential step in restoring operation capacity.

The minister says with the support of The Pacific Community (SPC), work on harmonising Nauru's fisheries and environmental legal frameworks will commence in August.

Meanwhile, ocean fisheries completed the second quarterly review of the Vessel Day Scheme which reports that Nauru's fishing days are accurately managed, and engagement in the scheme remains strong.

While the number of fishing days will reduce slightly in 2026, the SOE projects earnings of approximately \$46 million for the 2025/26 fiscal year. Minister Aliklik says this reflects continued confidence from bilateral partners, many of which are seeking to renew access agreements.

To further enhance custodianship of our ocean resources - monitoring, control and surveillance capacity continues to grow, with staff doing targeted training in PNG and Fiji as well as in upcoming regional patrols coordinated by the Forum Fisheries Agency. //

July Parliament - ministerial statements

Justice

Minister for Justice and Border Control Lionel Aingimea updated in Parliament that Nauru's application for membership with the financial intelligence-sharing organisation, EGMONT Group, received unanimous support at the Plenary held in Luxembourg, 6 July.



The EGMONT Group is an international Group of financial intelligence units (FIU) established in 1995 to combat financial crimes particularly money laundering. It is a global platform that has international recognition and credibility. Since its inception, the EGMONT Group now has almost 180 members.

Minister Aingimea said Nauru's application will set precedence whereby it will be granted membership immediately as opposed to waiting for the 2026 annual Plenary. The confirmation of Nauru's membership will be undertaken in August.

Nauru's quest to become an EGMONT member had been since 2020. Nauru acknowledges the support and assistance of Australia and the Cook Islands FIU, who sponsored Nauru's application bid.

Once the EGMONT Group membership is confirmed, Nauru will have access to advanced information-sharing networks and technology available through the global platform and also contribute to financial intelligence efforts.

This membership provides assurance to local and foreign investors of the security Nauru can offer, aligning with the government's recent promotion of Nauru as a financial hub in the region. This will lead to better financial inclusion and investment opportunities in the future. //

Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation

Minister Reagan Aliklik updated the Parliament on ongoing work of the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation with positive progress in land restoration work.

Since January the state-owned entity has restored approximately six hectares of land for project purposes such as the sports stadium site.

Over the course of the land works it has become evident that one hectare of land can be restored per month.

President's China visit

President David Adeang informed the Parliament of his official visit to Guangdong Province, China from 7-10 July.



President Adeang (centre) with Nauru and Chinese ambassador

The visit marks a significant step forward in strengthening in bridge of friendship and cooperation between Nauru and China.

The president said the visit provided the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with senior provincial and municipal leaders on a wide range of issues that are vital to Nauru's development and regional integration.

"It is a reflection of our shared commitment to peace, development and enduring friendship," the president said. Discussions during the visit centred on deepening collaboration in key areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure, education, health, tourism, and disaster resilience.

President Adeang adds these engagements reaffirms the commitment of both countries to work together towards shared prosperity and mutual benefit.

"This visit has reinforced our diplomatic partnership and created new momentum for advancing cooperation between Nauru and China."

The president is confident the outcomes of the visit will translate into tangible benefits for Nauruans and help shape a stronger, more resilient future for Nauru.

President Adeang thanked President Xi Jinping for his leadership in fostering closer ties with Nauru, and acknowledged senior government personnel and ambassadors Chitra Jeremiah, Lyu Jin, and Qian Bo for their active support during the visit, which contributed to the success of the program. //

Finance (CommBank)

Deputy Minister for Finance Delvin Thoma announced to the august House updates and required processes on the transition of Nauru's banking service Agency from Bendigo Bank to Commonwealth Bank (CBA).



On Monday 18 August, the CBA is scheduled to be officially opened. A significant step forward to improving access to financial services and enabling essential banking transactions securely for the people.

Between March and May this year, the public were encouraged to lodge e-forms for their new CBA account. Those who complied, will have received emails and texts from CBA to inform them their account has been opened and activated. A CBA debit card will have been forwarded within 15 days of receiving the email. Approximately 3000 cards are currently waiting collection at the Nauru Agency.

Account holders are expected to download the CBA app on their smartphones, along with email advice providing holder's customer number and receive SMS message for temporary password. This will allow account holder to log in to their CBA account and access details, card activation and other necessary services. Customers are advised to enquire at the Agency if these messages have not been received.

On Friday 8 August 5pm, Agencies will cease access to Bendigo Bank accounts. Effective from Monday 11 August, Agencies will be supporting CBA accounts only. Limited Bendigo Bank inquiry will be available, except for EFTPOS and account closure matters. Bendigo cash deposits and withdrawals at the counter will cease.

Deputy Minister Thoma urged individuals who have taken no action to open CBA account, to take action now. In particular, public servants are advised to update their new payment details for payroll purposes.

Non-individuals such as businesses, clubs, churches, schools and associations who have maintained accounts with Bendigo accounts, are strongly advised to open a CBA account as Bendigo Bank will be notifying them their account will be closed in the next two weeks.

Deputy Minister Thoma thanked the Government of Australia for their continued support and partnership, marking a new era as Nauru receives the support of Australia's largest bank and public company, in providing modern banking services. //

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Deputy Minister for Finance Delvin Thoma updated the august House on his recent official trip to Beijing China, to attend the 10th Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), 24 June.



Mr Thoma accompanied His Excellency President Adeang, who serves as Governor for Nauru on the AIIB Board, to the board meeting where they witnessed the election of Madam Zou Jiayi as the new President of the Bank, succeeding Mr Jin Lique. Madam Zou will commence her five-year term in January 2026.

Deputy Minister Thoma, in his capacity as Alternate Governor for Nauru to the AIIB, had the opportunity to participate in meetings with members of the Constituency 7 to discuss collaboration in addressing global economic challenges and enhanced resilience through sustainable infrastructure investment within the region.

Bilateral engagements with New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and outgoing AIIB President Jin Lique were also held, reaffirming shared goals of inclusive growth, regional cooperation and climate-resilient development.

Other key meetings included a dialogue between President Adeang and China's Minister of Finance and the delegation's engagement with Chinese investors for potential opportunities that align with Nauru's development priorities.

Nauru officially became member to the AIIB in February 2025, a significant development to the nation's economic engagement with international institutions and strengthening Nauru's long-term economic and infrastructure outlook.

Prior to the official meetings, the delegation held a meaningful exchange with the Nauru students currently studying in China. President Adeang encouraged them to pursue excellence and leadership endeavours, noting the vital role they will play in shaping Nauru's future upon their return. //

Sports

Deputy Minister for Sports Delvin Thoma reported to the House key initiatives, events and achievements led by the Department of Sports in recent months. The developments reflect government's ongoing commitment to nurturing excellence in sports and national pride.



Team Nauru secured 38 medals at the Palau Mini Games

A High-Performance Recovery Clinic was initiated at the Sports Complex on 18 June, offering a structured 9-phase recovery program to address physical and mental needs of high performing athletes.

These phases cover consultation sessions, various massages, stretching, ice bath recovery and evaluation feedback. This clinic is also part of the athlete preparation strategy for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games and beyond.

The official ground-breaking ceremony for Nauru's very first National Stadium was conducted on 20th June which marked the beginning of physical construction works and signalled a bold new chapter for sports in Nauru. Following this, a temporary land handover and construction permit was formally issued on 18 July to enable the Chinese company CHEC construction team to legally access and commence work within the area. CHEC's construction workers are scheduled to arrive and commence work in September.

Deputy Minister Thoma proudly shared to the House results of the Pacific Mini Games 2025, hosted in Palau on 29th June – 10th July. Nauru secured a total of 38 medals: three gold, 24 silver and 11 bronze.

Weightlifting, athletics, wrestling and judo have successfully gained achievements across multiple sporting disciplines. A testament to the athletes unwavering dedication, courage and discipline. A national celebration is planned for Team Nauru at the Sports Complex to honour the champions alongside their families. In line with the National Sports Policy, medallists will be rewarded accordingly.

Deputy Minister Thoma congratulated all medallists, acknowledged and thanked coaches, officials, the Sports department, Nauru Olympic Committee (NOC) and the Chef de Mission for their leadership and guidance for Team Nauru. //

Referendum Procedures Bill 2025

The Referendum Procedures Bill 2025 proposes to repeal and replace the Referendum Procedures Act 2009. This referendum is for the purpose of extending the term of parliament from three years to four.



As the Referendum Bill 2025 is now passed by the Parliament, the referendum can take place during the general elections, after the Parliament dissolves. It will require two-thirds of the voting public to vote in favour of the proposal to allow the term of parliament to be extended to four years.

The Electoral Commission will publish the result of the referendum in the Government Gazette. Based on this the speaker of Parliament will then certify the bill into law if the referendum succeeded. If the referendum failed, the speaker will not certify the bill into law.

The Bill is divided into seven parts that provides for the preparation for and fixing a date for the referendum, voting process, returns and counting of ballot papers, disputes in relation to a referendum, offences and miscellaneous provisions.

The substantive parts are Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5. Clause 5 of Part 1 of the Bill gives the power to the Electoral Commission to conduct the referendum. Also, for the purposes of the referendum, the Electoral Commission will be able to use polling, voting and counting Parts of the Electoral Act 2016.

Once Parliament passes the law proposing a referendum, the Cabinet is required within 60 days to issue a gazette notice setting the referendum date. That date must be within 60 days to 12 months after the proposed passing of the Act.

The referendum may be held at the same time as the general election.

All registered Nauruan voters are eligible to vote in a referendum.

Voting in a referendum must be carried out by ballot. If a voter supports the proposed law, in this case to extend the term of parliament from three years to four, they must mark an 'X' next to the option labelled 'YES'; or if they do not support it, they must mark an 'X' beside the 'NO' option.

The returns and counting of the ballot papers for the referendum uses the same process as that of the general elections.

The Referendum Procedures Bill 2025 was passed by Parliament on Friday, 25 July 2025. //

Electoral (Amendment) Bill (No. 3) 2025

The bill amends the Electoral Act 2016, as a result of recommendations made by the Electoral Commission to address gaps in the legislation, that were identified in the last elections.



The transfer fee is reduced from \$500 to \$250 and will be paid after a decision for the transfer has been approved – as opposed to the previous practice of paying at the time of the application, and before a decision is made.

The Cabinet is also empowered to approve all registration of voters, including transfers.

Naturalised citizens are now required to produce proof of citizenship and the gazette notices of their citizenship to the Electoral Commission, together with the application for registration, in order to register on the electoral roll.

The publication of a transfer in the government gazette is amended from five days to seven after being entered onto the electoral roll.

The polling time is also amended from 7.00am to 9.00am. Closing remains at 6.00pm. In 2022, the voting period was brought forward to 7.00am to cater for distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Electoral Commission is confident to complete the election with the new commencement time.

It is also now prohibited to campaign near polling stations during the early voting period. This is consistent with the restrictions for polling day. The fine is \$5,000 or imprisonment of one year, or both.

Finally, the regulation making powers has also now been moved from the Cabinet back to the Electoral Commission. This aligns with the independent mandate of the Electoral Commission under Sections 9 and 18 of the Act.

The Electoral (Amendment) Bill (No.3) 2025 was passed by Parliament on Friday, 25 July 2025. //

Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2025

The bill amends the Tobacco Control Act 2009 in relation to the correct department responsible for the administration of the Act, which is the Department of Public Health.



When the Department of Public Health was established separately from the Department of Health and Medical Services, the division which enforces the Tobacco Control Act 2009 was transferred to the Department of Public Health. As a result, there is a need to amend the Act to ensure the reference to the minister and the secretary are correctly reflected to capture this re-shuffle in portfolios. //



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