



Nauru Bulletin

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Parliament passes 2025-26 budget

President and finance minister David Adeang tabled the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 of \$358.5 million in parliament, 29 August, under the budget theme, 'Leveraging opportunities for growth'.

Ultimately passed by the Parliament, the president underscores that the heart of this year's budget lies a deeper message – sacrifice.

"That is, if we save today and use the resources entrusted to us wisely, we will further safeguard the future of our children and generations to come."

Among the expenditures is a provision of \$4.9 million as cash buffer and a commitment to contributions to the Nauru Trust Fund at 10.1 per cent of the previous year's revenue. An allocation of \$1 million is also made to clear outstanding Bank of Nauru debts.

After expenditures, is a surplus balance of \$36,732.

While there is no doubt Nauru's fiscal and economic prospects are brighter now than they have been for several years, the president urges Nauruans for "their direct support and to step up to ensure that we can fulfil our God-given potential".

He urged that Nauruans engage fully in the national education dialogue, parents to teach children the importance of education and encourage attendance.

Families encouraged to prioritise health, nutrition, exercise, and regular check-ups; workers to be committed and hardworking, and students to focus on their studies and prepare themselves to contribute in the future.

Health spends heavily on overseas medical referrals (OMR), and decades of repeating the same approaches to healthcare have yielded poor results. Therefore, the engagement of a private provider to operate the hospital and public health services is expected to enhance service quality.

Education is the government's largest per capita investment, and indeed in the Pacific.

In addressing high rates of non-attendance and poor academic results in recent years, the government is changing its approach by discontinuing the annual



secondary school scholarships and repurposing them to offer tertiary and vocational scholarships to as many as 60 Nauruans to study in universities abroad.

The success of the QCE program at Nauru Secondary School also calls for a shift in awarding scholarships, and looking ahead that as graduates they will return to Nauru and help transform the labour landscape and overall productivity.

President Adeang further stated that the government's development strategy is firmly rooted in a people-oriented approach, recognising that human capital is the most valuable resource for any nation, particularly for those in the developing world.

Sustainable progress cannot be achieved simply through financial allocations; it must be built by nurturing and empowering people themselves.

Guided by this vision, the government has prioritised strategic investments in health and education, ensuring that citizens are healthy, skilled, and capable of realising their full potential. In turn, this enables individuals to actively contribute to nation-building and strengthen the country's path toward economic resilience and long-term prosperity.

President Adeang commends three SOEs which are demonstrating what all state-owned enterprises should aspire towards and should commit to – the delivery of services, contributions towards economic growth, and the national budget.

Ronphos is partnering with Chinese companies on developing phosphate reserves, and for the first time in 35 years, will contribute dividends to Treasury. *(cont pg 2...)*

Cenpac is also providing a dividend of \$1 million to the government for the first time, while Eigigu Procurement Limited (EPL) is contributing a modest dividend of \$200,000.

The memorandum of understanding signed by President Adeang and Australia's Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship, Tony Burke, 29 August, on the Third Country Resettlement Arrangement, is not reflected under this Appropriation Bill due to the closing of the budget period the day before MOU was signed.

However, the capital fund from the MOU will be distributed to the Nauru Trust Fund, to support Nauru's long-term economic resilience and the operationalisation of the agreement, contingent on the cohort size received.

All community service obligations have been removed and tasked those obligations for new strategies that demonstrate their commercial viability and profitability.

The president concluded by reiterating that everyone has a role to play in nation-building.

"True progress comes when every citizen takes ownership and does their part to support the nation's development. The government alone cannot transform our society – it requires the combined effort of all of us." //

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The star is back in Suva and Philippines

Nauru Airlines celebrated the re-launch of its service to Suva, Fiji and Clark in the Philippines as a new destination at commemorative events in Nauru and Suva, 28 August.



(L-R) Civil aviation ministers of Fiji and Nauru, Hon Viliame Gavoka and Hon Reagan Aliklik cut the ribbon at the inauguration of the Suva-Nauru route.

The minister thanked the Nauru Airlines team for their commitment to expanding the airline's reach and deepening the airline's regional presence, and extended gratitude to the partners in Suva and the Philippines.

"Your collaboration and trust have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Together we are building bridges. Bridges that will carry people, ideas and opportunities across the oceans.

"This launch is also a reflection of our broader commitment to regional development. Aviation is a powerful enabler, it drives economic growth, supports employment, opens doors to education, healthcare and innovation.

"To the people of Nauru, Fiji and the Philippines, this is your airline. These are your routes. May they serve you well, and may they bring you closer to the people and places that you want to be with," Minister Appi said.

President of the Nauru Chamber of Commerce, Sean Oppenheimer congratulated the airline for what is a welcome development for the business community, noting that affordable travel is vital as well as competitive freight rates in order to reach a level that will support the sustainability and success of the routes.

CEO Robert Eoe reiterated the airline's good reputation over the five and a half decades of operation, with a focus always been on safety, reliability, affordability and serving Nauru.

He says at the heart of Nauru Airlines is its people, from pilots to ground staff who each play a vital role in delivering a safe and reliable service.

CEO Eoe emphasised that the new destinations are a strategic shift and expanding in a way that avoids direct competition with other carriers allowing the airline to serve niche markets more effectively and maintain consistent service while maintaining competitive pricing and operational sustainability.

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Suva is the airline's second gateway to Fiji and an important one enhancing regional connectivity and offering greater passenger and cargo opportunities.

The inaugural flight to Suva departed Nauru on the evening of Thursday 28 August bound for Nausori International Airport. This weekly Thursday flight to Nausori will complement the Nauru-Nadi flight on Saturdays. The Philippines schedule will commence this week.

Minister for Nauru Airlines, Asterio Appi said the celebration is of new flight paths but importantly is a celebration of vision, connection and of enduring spirit of Pacific and regional cooperation. He refers to the routes as not merely lines on a map, but life lines that connects families, facilitate trade, support tourism and strengthen diplomatic and cultural ties across the Pacific region.

"Today marks a new chapter in our journey. A chapter that speaks of our shared aspirations, unity and opportunity."

Fiji's capital, Suva, is an important destination, also connecting the Micronesian region, while the Philippines route opens up to Asia.

To help celebrate the event, ten lucky winners from among the attendees received a free air ticket to any of the Nauru Airlines' destinations.

As the Nauru event concluded, another celebration took place in Suva around 6pm with the civil aviation ministers of Nauru and Fiji, Hon Reagan Aliklik and Hon Viliame Gavoka performing the ribbon cutting to inaugurate the Suva-Nauru route.

Local Fiji business representatives, and Nauruans residing in Fiji turned up for the celebrations, later welcoming the arrival of the inaugural flight from Nauru at Nausori International Airport.

Fiji Airports has announced a master plan for further development of both the Nadi and Nausori airports. The plan includes upgrades to existing facilities and infrastructure, construction of new gates, new aerobridges, a new state-of-the-art domestic terminal, and extension and construction of new car parking facilities. //

Micronesia Ocean to double sea freight capacity

The Government of Nauru proudly welcomed the inaugural berthing of its second acquired container vessel, the Micronesia Ocean at the Aiwo Port, 28 August.



The Micronesia Ocean has capacity to carry 614 containers.

A small ceremony was facilitated by the Nauru Maritime Port Authority management, marking a significant achievement in the country's efforts to strengthen its maritime and trade capacity.

The acquisition was made possible through funding support from the People's Republic of China, further reflecting strong cooperation and partnership.

The Micronesia Ocean was built in 2007 and has the capacity to hold 614 containers, aimed to improve movement of essential goods and securing reliable trade services.

Minister for Nauru Maritime Port Authority Lionel Aingimea highlighted the arrival of the vessel will enhance Nauru's shipping capacity, economic resilience and reaffirmed the government's long-term vision of not only training locals to operate on both the Micronesia Pride and Micronesia Ocean, but develop local expertise in the maritime sector.

The berthing of the Micronesia Ocean marks a growing chapter in Nauru's shipping operations and a stepping stone to self-sufficiency and connectivity within the region. //

CBA return to Nauru marked by official opening

Nauru officially welcomes the Commonwealth Bank of Australia at an opening ceremony in Aiwo, 18 August, marking a significant milestone and the outcome of the enduring and close relationship between Nauru and Australia.



Commonwealth Bank re-opens in Nauru after 57 years.

"A relationship grounded not only in geography and history but in the friendship and family bonds that connect our peoples," President David Adeang said.

Continuing banking services after the exit of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank delivers on shared commitments under the Nauru-Australia Treaty signed by President Adeang and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in December 2024, stipulating banking services as one of the priority areas.

"Under the Treaty our two nations work in close partnership to safeguard Nauru's future, strengthen our economy and ensure our continued connection to the world," President Adeang said.

"It is through Australia's steadfast support under this Treaty that Nauru has been able to realise this – the return of the Commonwealth Bank to Nauru."

President Adeang and Australian Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Senator Nita Green performed the ribbon cutting and unveiled the signage of the new agency, and delivered remarks both noting Nauru's membership with international financial intelligence agency, Egmont Group as a demonstration of Nauru's commitment to good governance and strong fiscal management.

(cont pg 4...)

How Nauru's sovereign wealth fund is building the nation

President David Adeang, the current Chairman, has hailed the success of the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund, saying that no one should underestimate the country's economic turnaround or the importance of the fund to the current and future generations.



Nauruan students in Brisbane invited to attend the NTF meeting.

As previously reported, the quarterly meeting of the fund in Brisbane, 20 August, it was presented that the fund was delivering stellar returns, amassing \$420 million since its establishment in 2015, in a stunning vindication of Nauru's strategy to future-proof its economy.

President Adeang, who started the sovereign wealth fund as finance minister in 2015 and was appointed its initial chair, said the fund will play a crucial role in securing the nation's economic future, providing a permanent income stream to fund government services and nation building initiatives.

"The Fund's value is forecast to hit \$1 billion by 2034, and even before this if annual returns and contributions increase.

"Our Government will channel the revenue from the Fund into education, health, the environment and infrastructure to enhance the standard of living and quality of life for the people of Nauru," he said.

The president labelled the fund "an example of good governance, accountability, and prudent investment practices".

"When I established this in 2015, I recognised that for too long our nation had been looking only at the present and was not learning from our past economic mistakes.

"But putting 'God's Will First' means looking after our children and our children's children."

President Adeang said many Nauruans may be surprised that while other nations that form the trust's committee had contributed to the fund, over 75 per cent of the contributions had come from the Government of Nauru.

The Fund's original purpose and goals were to help stabilise the nation's economy and help replace or supplement Nauru's current reliance on donor funding and internal sources of revenue.

Since then the recent UN's Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) has ranked Nauru the fifth most vulnerable nation in the world – and the most vulnerable in the Pacific – to external shocks like climate change, economic instability, and natural disaster.

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CBA return to Nauru marked by official opening *(...from pg 3)*

"The Commonwealth Bank's decision to partner with us [Nauru] in delivering banking services is both a practical achievement and a symbol of trust in Nauru's governance and in our stability and in our future," President Adeang said.

Senator Green said the Australian government is deeply aware of the impacts of losing banking access and what that impact will have on the people of Nauru.

"Australia is proud to be Nauru's primary partner in security, development and economic cooperation. And the scale and quality of our assistance reflects our deep commitment to the wellbeing of the Nauruan people and to the prosperity of our Pacific family."

"But this work is not just about banking, it's about building a safer, and more stable and more prosperous region," Senator Green said.

CBA executive general manager Mark Jones highlighted the importance of banking in the Pacific but is particularly excited about the bank's role in supporting economic opportunity and the stability of banking services.

President Adeang offered sincere thanks to Bendigo Bank for providing Nauru with valuable banking services since 2015, then made the first transaction.

The Treaty focuses on elevating the two country's strong relationship, in particular securing the future of Nauru and Australia, and ensuring security is at the forefront.

Australia is providing \$100m of budget support for economic security through the Treaty, and \$40m for security uplift and will be guided by the Nauru National Security agenda and the president.

In a later interview, Senator Green said the CBA has indicated it is prepared to provide a long-term commitment to Nauru, "and the celebration today was a very good indication that they (CBA) see the benefit of being here as well as the Australian Government".

The CBA's first presence in Nauru was in 1921 when it set up as an agency of the Commonwealth Savings Bank during the Australian administration of Nauru. After almost 47 years, it closed in January 1968 upon Nauru achieving its independence. On 30 January 1968, there were 2,346 bank accounts with a total of over \$1 million savings across the accounts. //



How Nauru's sovereign wealth fund is building the nation *(...from pg 4)*

However, President Adeang said he doesn't accept that Nauru must remain vulnerable.

"Our government is determined not to see ourselves as victims, which is why we are positioning Nauru as a Pacific leader in financial stability and innovation.

"We've only just started and there is a long way to go, so we must stay the course."

The quarterly meeting in Brisbane, 20 August was attended by approximately 70 Nauruan students studying in Brisbane.

The president shared with the students the historical background and significance of the Trust Fund, and drew from his own experience as a student in Melbourne when the late founding President Sir Hammer DeRoburt invited students and presented the progress of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust. //

New Court of Appeals judge

A new judge has been officially sworn in to serve on the Nauru Court of Appeals.



Justice David joins Nauru's judicial fraternity

Justice Kingsley Allen David from Papua New Guinea read his oath in front of President David Adeang, Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea and senior government and judiciary members in the Cabinet room, 25 August.

Justice David has over 45 years in the legal and justice system and served as a judge in the National and Supreme Courts in PNG for two decades since 2005.

In October 2020, he was honoured the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) by the late Queen Elizabeth II, an esteemed British order awarded to those who have rendered exceptional service in the Commonwealth nations.

The Court of Appeals serves as the highest judicial authority in Nauru, responsible for reviewing decisions of the Supreme Court to ensure that laws have been applied correctly and justice upheld.

The appointment reaffirms Nauru's ongoing commitment to maintaining an independent and credible judiciary that supports the rule of law and public confidence in the legal system. //

Runway groundbreaking marks start of next phase of works

A number of significant events transpired this month heralding the continuing partnership between Nauru and Australia in security and banking.



burying time capsule containing letters by secondary students.

Australian Assistant Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Senator Nita Green visited Nauru, 16-19 August, for the official opening of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia agency as well as for the groundbreaking of the \$50 million Nauru airport runway resurfacing project.

The groundbreaking ceremony included the burying of a time capsule containing 30 letters written by two year nine and 28 year 12 students from Nauru Secondary School, 19 August.

President David Adeang, Senator Nita Green, Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea, Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik, and Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay jointly heaped soil into the pit to bury the capsule.

"It (project) reflects Nauru's national priorities and demonstrates Australia's long-term commitment to delivering high-quality, climate-resilient infrastructure for our people," President Adeang said.

Year nine student Jockane Akubor read his letter addressed to "Future me" imagining the opportunities the runway would offer in terms of travel, studies and chasing dreams, and self-advising, "no matter how far you go, don't forget where you started." Fellow student Rifna Hafees then placed the capsule in the pit where it will remain for 20 years.

The event marks the start of the next phase of the airport works which are runway resurfacing, air traffic control upgrades and new perimeter fencing.

The upgrades build on earlier work that safely removed three unexploded ordnances (UXO) beneath the airport pavement.

Funded by the Government of Australian under the Nauru-Australia Infrastructure Partnership through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), the project is expected to be completed in 2026.

Once completed, Nauru will have a resurfaced runway, upgraded air traffic control equipment, and improved airport fencing. The upgrades will ensure the airport continues to meet international standards, extend its service life, and most importantly, improve safety for all travelers to and from Nauru. //

Judicial well-being demands attention

The international judicial community gathered in Port Moresby this month to discuss key topics of importance to their profession, to garner additional support and exchange of ideas that would promote a better working environment for judicial officers.



PNG conference holds historic significance for Pacific and global judicial community

Minister for Justice and Border Control, Hon Lionel Aingimea delivered the opening address by video message at the opening of the International Judicial Conference on Integrity and Judicial Well-being, 20 August.

Minister Aingimea said the conference is of historic significance for the Pacific region and the global judicial community, and takes great pride in supporting the path toward dialogue on judicial well-being.

“Since the 1980s, the impact of judicial stress, driven by growing caseloads, professional isolation, the pressure to maintain a certain image, and the loneliness of the role, has been recognised in many parts of the world. Yet for more than four decades, it remained on the margins of international priority.”

Key conference themes include the Nauru Declaration on Judicial well-being; interplay between judicial integrity and well-being of judges; psychological aspects of judicial well-being, judicial bullying and harassment; judicial leadership, and technology.

“This diversity of voices underscores one truth: judicial well-being is a long-neglected subject that demands the attention of governments, policymakers, judicial institutions, and individual judges alike.”

Participants discussed key topics including judicial integrity and well-being, and how they are interconnected and strengthen one another, with the main objective to facilitate focused discussions and exchange of ideas.

The conference follows on from the regional conference held in Nauru in 2024. Minister Aingimea said Nauru took the bold and timely decision to address this challenge at a level that had not been undertaken elsewhere for more than four decades.

Organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Nauru Judiciary and supported by Nauru's Department of Justice, the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being was adopted. This was a landmark document outlining seven commitments and principles aimed at raising awareness and promoting strategies to support integrity and well-being within the judiciary.

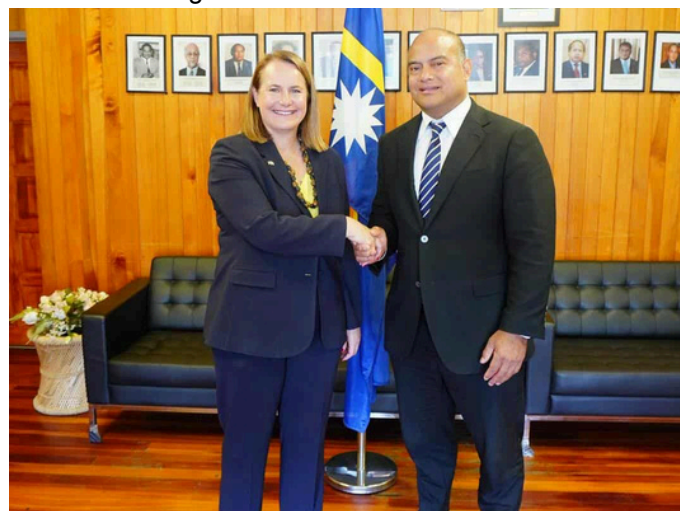
The Nauru conference led to the moving of a UN resolution, to proclaim 25 July as the International Day for Judicial Well-being. This date coincides with the adoption date of the Nauru Declaration.

“This milestone is not only a proud moment for Nauru but also for the entire Pacific region. It reflects the strength of collaboration between the three pillars of the State - the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary - working in harmony to advance the rule of law.”

With the support of 160 countries that voted in favour of the resolution, Nauru's first-ever United Nations resolution was passed. //

Aus Assistant Minister of Pacific visits Nauru

Australia's Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Senator Nita Green made her first visit to Nauru, 16-19 August, and attended several significant events as well as bilateral meetings.



Senator Green meetings centred on mutual cooperation, security and resilience measures.

Senator Green also met with Nauru's National Emergency Services and the education department this during her four-day visit.

Ms Green presented firefighting uniforms to Secretary Barassi Botelanga then shortly afterwards launched the 2025 Education and Training Funding by Australia, at the USP Nauru campus, 18 August.

Together with High Commissioner Matthew Barclay, Senator Green handed over 43 uniforms to NES firefighters and reiterated the important work of firefighters in the overall work between Nauru and Australia on security and resilience.

(cont pg 7...)

Nauru highlights infrastructure progress at Brisbane conference

Nauru's infrastructure development achievements were highlighted at the Pacific Infrastructure Conference in Brisbane, 20 August, noting it was not without challenges.



Nauru's infrastructure achievements comes with challenges

Speaking at the conference, Minister for Infrastructure Development, Hon Jesse Jeremiah said while Nauru has made some major infrastructure development achievements, he underscored there are ongoing challenges faced by small island states, like Nauru.

Minister Jeremiah outlined Nauru's achievements include the introduction of the first building code and enacting the Building Control Act; completion of the Asian Development Bank-supported 6MW solar farm, the near completion of the port redevelopment, airport runway resurfacing, and the recent landing of the East Micronesia Cable.

Positive discussions are also underway on road rehabilitation, the new sports facility and the sustainable and resilient urban development project.

But the minister stresses that although Nauru was proud of its achievements, significant challenges remain.

"Like all Pacific Island countries, Nauru remains vulnerable in terms of both climate change and an increasingly uncertain world in terms of opportunities for support and financing," Minister Jeremiah said.

"While we continue to uphold the goals of the Blue Pacific Continent, the complexities of delivering quality infrastructure remains and we urge for collaborative and tailor-made solutions in moving forward."

Nauru's ongoing challenges include vulnerability to climate change and financing uncertainties, limited local construction capacity, and skills and technology gaps in the workforce.

"We share the same ocean, the same challenges, and the same goals. It is a shared responsibility. Moving forward, partnerships between Government, the private sector and donors will need to be taken to a new level."

The conference brings together Pacific leaders, donors, and the private sector to discuss strategies for sustainable and resilient infrastructure development across the region. //

Aus Assistant Minister of Pacific visits Nauru

(...from pg 6)

Mr Botelanga acknowledged the donation noting it is a clear testament to strengthening the partnership.

"This equipment is more than [just] gear. It's a lifeline for our first responders. The PPE set will enable our NES team to operate safely and effectively across firefighting, disaster response and civil aviation response."

Shortly afterwards at the USP campus, Senator Green attended the launch of a direct funding agreement for education in Nauru. An agreement which education secretary Darrina Kun says provides vital financial resource and flexibility, responsiveness and alignment with national priorities.

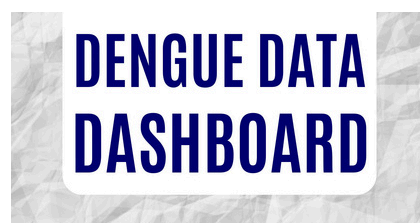
"In addition to the Nauru education program, the commitment of the Government of Australia is empowering us to make long term investments in the quality and resilience of our education system." Ms Kun said.

Senator Green wrapped up her four-day visit in separate meetings with President Adeang and Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea, 19 August.

Discussions centred on matters of mutual cooperation and importance including security and resilience measures, and foreign affairs, in line with the Nauru-Australia Treaty.

President Adeang also hosted a dinner reception in honour of the visiting minister and senior officials of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, who were in Nauru for the official opening of the CBA Agency.

During the dinner, CBA executive general manager Mark Jones presented President Adeang with a framed photograph of the first CBA Savings Bank Agency on Nauru in 1921. The photograph shows President Adeang's great grandfather, the late Chief Timothy Detudamo, who was entrusted by the administrator of Nauru, to be the CBA Savings Bank officer. He held this position for about ten years until he became head chief. //



***Situation updated as of
1st September, 2025***



US Ambassador visit

US Ambassador Marie Damour recently visited Nauru to commemorate the 249th U.S Independence Day with government officials and esteemed guests, reaffirming United States and Nauru's friendship, 15 August.



US, Nauru relations deepen with seabed mining venture

During the lunch celebration at the Bay restaurant, Ambassador Damour greeted guests and gave welcoming remarks.

“The US and Nauru may seem different and distant, but we consider ourselves connected by our shared ocean, shared aspirations for the safety, the security and the prosperity of our people, and by our faith in God.”

She hopes this year's celebrations inspire to continue building bridges across oceans, foster understanding and champion values that unite the two nations.

During her visit, the ambassador met with President David Adeang to discuss mutual cooperation, climate resilience and economic development with key focus on deep sea mining and Nauru's potential contribution to assist the US with asylum seeker challenges.

Ambassador Damour's visit reflects the significant step in strengthening bilateral relations. //

USP award ceremony

The University of the South Pacific (USP), Nauru campus held a graduation ceremony celebrating the academic achievements of 24 students from various departments and sectors.



President Adeang says education must be a shared responsibility to empower our nation

President David Adeang and other high-level dignitaries including the Ambassador for the People's Republic of China, Acting Australian High Commissioner Stephen Close, US Ambassador Marie Damour, and supporting ministers gathered with families and friends to witness the presentation of certificates.

In her opening remarks Acting Director of USP, Felicity Canon commended the students for their determination and resilience in overcoming unique challenges that brought them to their success.

President Adeang delivered a congratulatory speech offering words of encouragement.

“As you move forward, I urge you not only to celebrate your achievement but also become champions of education in your families, among friends and communities. Education must be seen as a shared responsibility to empower our nation.”

Graduates were officially presented their certificates marking the milestone achievement before the program concluded with a group photo. //

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

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