



Nauru Bulletin

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'Treaty-versary', delivering tangible benefits for Nauru



High Commissioner Barclay presents LED trailers as gift from Australia on the first anniversary of the Nauru-Australia Treaty

Dubbed 'treaty-versary', Nauru and Australia reached an important milestone in their partnership journey as they celebrate one year since the signing of the Nauru-Australia Treaty, 9 December.

His Excellency President David Adeang and Australian High Commissioner Mathew Barclay reflect on the values, development and partnership of their two nations.

"Australia's support is not merely financial or technical, it is a commitment of friendship, respect and shared values, and on this first anniversary, I say with gratitude and conviction that this treaty safeguards our sovereignty, it strengthens our development and lights a path toward a more prosperous, secure, and self-reliant Nauru," President Adeang said.

Mr Barclay says the treaty is about listening to family not just in times of need, but always.

"There are few other countries in the world as closely connected in such deep ways to Australia.

"Today is not just a day to reflect on what we've achieved, but also where we are going.

"Australia is working to deliver its \$40 million in security commitments, because the treaty is about Nauru's future – building resilience and strength to weather whatever comes," Mr Barclay said.

In the past year the treaty has delivered tangible benefits including \$40m to the Nauru Trust Fund as part of \$100m committed to support economic security and resilience, opening of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia agency, and through the treaty the launch of Nauru's first security strategy.

The security strategy unlocks immense support towards key strategic security sectors including the national emergency services, policing, climate change, food security, and also importantly strengthening or national security and capabilities for the years ahead.

President Adeang said this momentous occasion has become one of the most important milestones in Nauru's history since gaining independence 58 years ago.

"Truly a day for us to remember and reflect, but also a day that strengthens the spirit of partnership and also the bonds of family between our two nations.

"We have looked to Australia and Australia has continued to stand with us like family does – protective, supportive and genuinely commitment to the well-being of the people of Nauru."

The launch of the CBA in Nauru is a significant step under the treaty to assist Nauru's sovereignty, economic resilience and financial independence.

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Also under the treaty, President Adeang added that in protecting Nauru's security interests in its economic resilience, Australia championed Nauru's case to defer graduation from OECD ranking to high-income country status, securing a one year extension allowing Nauru to move forward responsibly and sustainably.

"But most importantly this treaty speaks to our shared future. Under this treaty, Nauru sees opportunities to expand our commercial sector, our health services with the vision of developing new health care centres for prevention and community care.

"It further broadens opportunities for our young people through sports development and creating pathways to employment in Australia, specifically in industries such as mining."

The President says these are more than just projects, they are investments in the lives, dignity and future of Nauruans.

"Together we honour a partnership that will continue to uplift the lives of our people today, tomorrow and for generations, because, ata amin bwini."

Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea and High Commissioner Barclay also signed a Memorandum of Understanding officially passing ownership of four LED screen trailers to the Government of Nauru, specifically for the departments of Presidency, the Nauru Police Force, Education, and Sports, to support community engagement. The trailers are solar powered, weather-proof and mobile. //

President hosts Christmas banquet, urges collaboration with churches to address social issues

His Excellency David Adeang hosted the annual President's Christmas banquet at the Sports complex in Yaren, 19 December, with several church and community groups providing the evening's entertainment with Christmas carols and hymns.

President Adeang shared words of encouragement for the festive period and encouraged time to reflect on the real reason for the holidays, that is the birth of Christ.

The President added the government recognises social issues arising in the communities and proposed a collaboration between the government and the church community to build a stronger partnership in addressing these issues and encourage better community engagement. The government recognises the importance of such a partnership, guided by God's will first.

During the festive period, the Nauru Police Force are increasing their presence in the community to ensure public safety and a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas for all. The NPF issued a notice on its social media page thanking members of the public for their support and cooperation in keeping roads safe, and for the donations of food and drinks to the officers rostered on traffic control duty. //

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



President Adeang proposed deeper engagement with churches to address social issues



Minister Scotty (centre) with World War II survivors 'Young at Hearts' (seated L-R) Ivy-Rose, Esmeralda and Mary

Nauru Airlines signs partnership with India's Afcom cargo

Nauru Air Corporation this month entered a six-year arrangement with Chennai-based air cargo transporter AFCOM Holdings Ltd., unlocking new economic opportunities for the country and the wider Pacific region.



The six-year arrangement will expand business opportunities and reinforce cargo infrastructure across the region.

Minister for NAC Asterio Appi was pleased to announce the signing, 5 December, at the Nauru High Commission in New Delhi, between NAC chair Charleston Deiye and AFCOM chair and managing director Captain Deepak Parasuraman.

"This marks the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship that will continue to explore further areas of cooperation and collaboration," the Minister said.

Nauru Airline has a fleet of seven Boeing 737 aircraft and is looking to expand its network beyond the region in which it currently operates.

"With this strategic partnership, we look forward to harnessing the opportunities that lay ahead," the Minister said.

The Nauru delegation notes that the partnership represents a forward-looking initiative and collaboration that is expected to strengthen cargo flow, stimulate bilateral trade prospects, and enhance connectivity with major Asian markets, particularly India.

The agreement marks an important milestone in reinforcing cargo infrastructure across the region, and by leveraging Nauru's strategic location, both parties aim to develop a more resilient, efficient, and agile cargo network that supports commercial expansion and regional integration.

Capt. Parasuraman said entering into business with NAC marks a transformative moment in AFCOM's strategic roadmap.

"This partnership extends our presence into the Australia and Pacific regions, supporting our vision of building a highly connected Asian-Pacific cargo network.

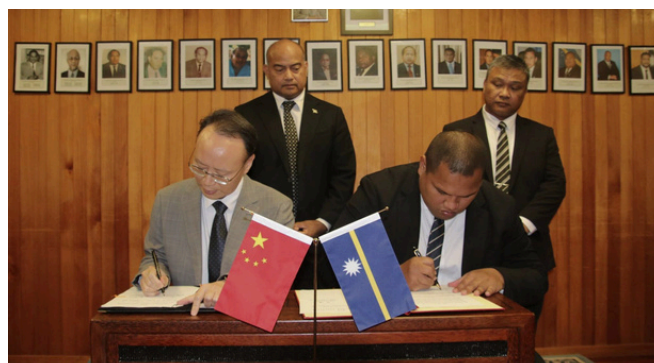
"Nauru's geographic position provides an important strategic gateway for us to expand cargo services across Oceania, enabling faster transit, wider connectivity, and improved operational flexibility," Capt. Parasuraman said.

This partnership marks a significant step for AFCOM as it provides opportunity to expand its horizon beyond the leasing of equipment, into areas such as code sharing arrangements, cross utilisation of assets, and access to Australia and the Pacific opening gateways for bilateral cargo movement.

NAC and AFCOM will explore additional business opportunities, including leasing arrangements and joint commercial initiatives, to strengthen their service offerings across the Pacific and Australian markets. //

Development agreement signed for sports centre project

The state-of-the-art Nauru Sports Centre project is advancing progressively with the latest signing of the Agreement on Development, and an Exchange of Letters by Minister for Sports Jesse Jeremiah and China's Ambassador to Nauru Lyu Jin, 13 December, formalising responsibilities for the China Aid project.



Ambassador Lyu and Minister Jeremiah sign agreement formalising responsibilities for the stadium project

Valued at least AU\$104m, the 1000-seat capacity stadium is expected to be completed at the end of 2027, and ready to host the first Micronesian Games to be held in Nauru the following year in January.

This will be Nauru's first multipurpose track & field stadium, and will feature a high-performance unit (HPU) which will accommodate a considerable number of disciplines including basketball, volleyball, boxing, gymnasium, massage room, showers, athletes and coaches changing rooms, sauna, admin offices, as well as audio-visual and a lighting equipment room, and soccer and rugby on artificial turf.

Split on two levels, the first floor will accommodate weightlifting, powerlifting, a multipurpose training room for wrestling, judo and the like, and a VIP lounge.

The facility will also promote the Nauru government's NSDS targets in health, youth engagement, and community well-being, as well as play a pivotal role in the 2028 Micronesian Games.

The agreement underscores a commitment of fostering friendly relations, advancing mutual development goals, and deepening the enduring partnership with the People's Republic of China. //

President Adeang reaffirms enduring ancestral bonds with Banabans at 80th anniversary of arrival on Rabi

His Excellency President David Adeang joined Banaban leaders and communities in commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Banabans' arrival on Rabi Island, a significant milestone reflecting resilience, identity, and enduring cultural ties, 15 December.



President Adeang acknowledges spiritual and ancestral connection between Nauru and Banaba

The Government and people of the Republic of Nauru reaffirmed their enduring ancestral, humanitarian, and family ties with the Banaban people during the anniversary celebration.

The President was accompanied by Deputy Speaker Hon. Isabella Dageago, Deputy Minister Hon. Ranin Akua, High Commissioner Michael Aroi, and other officials. He acknowledged the presence of key dignitaries from the Fiji Government including the Minister for Lands and Resources Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, the Assistant Minister for Works Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva, Roving Ambassador William Toganivalu and the representative of the USA Ambassador to Fiji, Rabi Administrator Jacob Karutake, and members of the Rabi Council of Leaders, as well as the elders and families living on Rabi and those visiting from other parts of the world.

His Excellency the President delivered a deeply personal and historic address, honouring the resilience, sacrifice, and cultural survival of the Banaban people who were relocated from their homeland of Banaba in 1945 following the devastation caused by phosphate mining.

"The Banabans did not leave their homeland by choice," the President said. "They left because history gave them no choice. Today, we honour them not as victims, but as heroes of resilience - people who carried Banaba in their hearts even when Banaba could no longer hold them."

The President highlighted the unique relationship between Nauru and Banaba, noting that Banaba is the closest island to Nauru and that the people share deep ancestral, cultural, and familial connections that long pre-date modern political boundaries.

President Adeang shared a personal family story tracing his own lineage to Banaba, explaining that his great-great-grandmother travelled by canoe from Banaba to Nauru many generations ago, where she was welcomed and became part of the Nauruan chiefly lineage. As a result, several current leaders of Nauru - including members of Parliament and Cabinet - are directly related by blood or marriage to Banaban families on Rabi Island.

"We come not just as friends," he said, "We come as family."

Recalling World War II, the President reminded attendees that in 1943, more than 700 Banabans suffering from drought and hardship were taken to Nauru, where Nauruan families shared food, shelter, and care despite their own challenges. Marriages were formed, children were adopted, and bonds were created that remain unbroken today.

Even after the Banabans were relocated to Rabi Island, Nauru continued to honour these connections, including providing transport following independence - notably aboard the Nauruan ship, MV Triona, which carried Banabans to Rabi.

The President also shared an ancient Nauruan legend that speaks to the spiritual and ancestral connection between the two islands.

According to the legend, three giant brothers once roamed the Pacific. The youngest, known for his cunning and magical strength, struck the soil of Nauru with such force that a large portion of the island broke free. With a mighty throw, he cast the land far across the sea, where it became Banaba.

To this day, the President noted, the curve of Anibare Bay in Nauru is said to reflect the outline of the missing land, while Banaba itself resembles an upturned canoe - a reminder of what once belonged to Nauru.

"This legend is not merely a children's story," the President said. "It is a truth of the heart. It reminds us that our peoples were linked long before history was written - beyond maps, beyond politics, and beyond borders."

The President spoke candidly about the shared experience of phosphate mining, acknowledging that while it brought wealth, it also scarred lands, displaced peoples, and left lasting emotional wounds.

"Even when land was taken, your language, culture, and identity survived. Even when you were forced to leave home, home never left you."

Reaffirming Nauru's commitment, the President stated that Nauru will continue to stand with the Banaban

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people through development cooperation, partnership, and shared learning - including support in exploring sustainable trust fund models for future generations.

“In Nauru, we live by a simple truth: if you can help, then you should help - and we are ready to help.”

The President acknowledged the presence of Banaban Council leaders attending and observing a meeting of Nauru’s Trust Fund, as part of efforts to support the development of a sustainable trust fund model for Banaba, informed by Nauru’s own experience. President Adeang reaffirmed Nauru’s willingness to share its experience, resources, and goodwill, guided by what he described as Nauru’s simple truth - the importance of helping others.

The anniversary, the President said, was not only about remembering the past, but about strengthening the future for Banaban children and grandchildren across Rabi Island, Kiribati, and the wider Pacific.

He thanked the Government and people of Fiji for being guardians of the Banaban home on Rabi Island and expressed hope for continued partnership to support the Banaban community.

As a symbol of enduring unity, the President extended an invitation to the best- performing dance group from the Rabi celebrations to attend Nauru’s Independence celebrations at the end of January, as guests of the Nauruan government.

Concluding his address, President Adeang wished the Banaban people a happy and blessed 80th anniversary, underscoring that family, love, and unity remain at the heart of the enduring relationship between Nauru and Banaba. //

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Ambassador Daniel co-chairs GoF on climate, security

Nauru’s Ambassador to the UN Lara Daniel co-chaired the Group of Friends on Climate and Security meeting with German Ambassador Ricklef Beutin, in New York, 3 December, noting the outputs of meetings that shaped 2025 as a pivotal year for climate change.



**Ambassador Daniel and co-chair Ambassador Beutin
at the GoF meeting on climate and security**

“In some forums, consensus continues to elude us. The cost of inaction, however, is borne by those least able to absorb further shocks. That reality should motivate us to double down, not slow down.”

The Ambassador added the meeting’s agenda gives participants a chance to reflect on where political traction exists, and where they must collectively press harder in the Council, in the wider UN system, and on the ground.

She says as 2026 and the mid-point review of several global frameworks approach, the GoF “can and must serve as a bridge, aligning climate ambition with peace-building action, ensuring that the communities most at risk are those whose voices shape the solutions”.

Ambassador Daniel underscored that the advances made from COP30 to the historic outputs of the International Law Commission, and the strong momentum behind the International Court of Justice advisory opinion, did not happen by chance but driven by persistent advocacy.

From those platforms Ambassador Daniel says “we see evidence that science, law, and the lived experiences of communities are reshaping global expectations for action”

“The message is unmistakable: climate change is redefining security in real terms for the people, communities, and nations.”

However, echoing her co-chair, the ambassador says progress remains uneven.

Ambassador Daniel also welcomed the group’s newest members, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines, and highlighted that their decision to join the group signals that awareness of the climate, peace, and security nexus is not only widening but also deepening.

Together, we now stand as more than 80-member states, a clear demonstration that this agenda resonates across regions, across experiences, and across levels of vulnerability.”

She also congratulated Australia on assuming the role of COP31 – president of the negotiations, reaffirming support that Nauru looks forward to working closely with Australia in championing climate security. //

President Adeang congratulates PM Fakafānua

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Nauru, His Excellency President David Adeang extended warmest congratulations to Lord Fatafehi Kinikinilau Lolomana'ia Fakafānua, on his election as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga.



Lord Fakafānua elected new Tonga PM

In a letter to Prime Minister Fakafānua, 15 December, President Adeang said his elevation to this high office reflects the confidence placed in the Prime Minister's leadership and longstanding commitment to public service and the well-being of the Tongan people.

"I am confident that under your stewardship, Tonga will continue to advance its national development priorities while upholding its proud traditions and values."

President Adeang said Nauru and Tonga share close bonds of friendship grounded in common Pacific heritage, mutual respect, and cooperation with regional and international fora, and looks forward to working closely with the new prime minister to further strengthen these ties, particularly in addressing shared challenges including climate change, sustainable development, and the prosperity and security of the Blue Pacific Continent.//



STAY FOCUSED, STAY SAFE!


Road Safety is everyone's responsibility

- » **Drive with Caution**
Drive with caution; Be mindful of your surroundings and the unexpected.
- » **Keep Your Hands on the Wheel**
Avoid distractions while driving, like adjusting the radio or eating, as even small actions can have serious consequences.
- » **Avoid the Phone**
No text is worth the risk. A quick glance at your phone can jeopardize safety. Always prioritize reaching your destination safely over responding to texts, calls, or notifications. Your life and the lives of others are what truly matter.
- » **Focus on What Matters**
Stay focused on the road and remain vigilant. Your journey is about safely reaching your destination, with each driving decision impacting you, passengers, pedestrians, and fellow drivers.



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DRIVING SAFETY

Be responsible for your life and the lives of those around you.

- ☑ If you drink, **DO NOT Drive** - arrange for a designated driver
- ☑ Random Breath Tests will be conducted at any traffic blitz
- ☑ Disorderly behavior will result in your arrest.

When we all commit to these practices, we create a safer environment for everyone. Remember, your actions can have lasting impacts, so choose wisely and drive safely.

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