



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 1 - 2026/303

## Parliament sitting December 2025

### Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2025-2026

As Minister for Finance, His Excellency President David Adeang tabled the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2025-2026, and advised it was an appropriation-neutral bill – no new revenue and therefore no increase in the total expenditure previously approved in the Appropriation Bill passed in October.



With the passing of the bill, the approved 2025-26 budget totals remain unchanged at \$378.6 million in total revenue, and \$378.5 million in total expenditure, leaving an estimated surplus of \$58,000.

The purpose of the bill is essentially to shift existing resources, from the fiscal cash buffer and surplus funds from departments back to the fiscal cash buffer or to where they are most critically needed without altering the overall fiscal ceiling, and consolidate capital assets and maintenance resources to improve overall efficiency.

The only expenditure increase, however, of \$5.1 million, is funded entirely by a corresponding reduction in the fiscal cash buffer. This expenditure change is providing for operational requirements in ministerial, the Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority, the Department of Presidency and State House, public health, Nauru Police Force, Department of Commerce and Foreign Investment to operationalise the small business enterprise fund, National Heritage and the Miss Nauru pageant, and the Nauru RPC Corporation. //

### Nauru Trust Fund No. 2 Bill 2025

President David Adeang presented the Nauru Trust Fund No.2 Bill 2025 recognising the establishment of the Intergenerational Trust Fund No.2 for the People of the Republic of Nauru.

The bill provides for the incorporation of the Fund as a body corporate with perpetual succession and the status of the Fund.

It ensures that the capital contribution and income derived from the Fund are not treated as public moneys and remain outside direct government control, except as provided by the governing Agreement, which is the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Intergenerational Trust Fund No. 2 for the People of the Republic of Nauru.

The bill also provides for transparency and accountability measures including annual reporting obligations and provision of information to the Committee set out under the governing Agreement, and the auditor general. Further it provides for the exemption of the Fund from taxation.

The key provisions of the bill include: key definitions recognising the establishment of the Fund pursuant to the governing Agreement; gives the Fund corporate status under the law. As a body corporate it has the same legal status of a person; clarifies that the Fund's capital and income are distinct from public moneys and not subject to government control except as provided under the Agreement; exempts the Fund from taxation; and enables the making of Regulations to provide for matters required for the implementation of the Bill. //

### Public Order Bill 2025

The introduction of the Public Order Bill 2025 is designed to safeguard the peace, dignity, and wellbeing of the Nauru community. It reflects the collective responsibility to ensure that public spaces remain safe, respectful, and conducive to harmony.



The bill also ensures that police officers may exercise their powers under the Nauru Police Force Act 2025 to enforce the Public Order Bill.

Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea said these enforcement measures enable law enforcement to act swiftly and decisively.

“The bill also affirms respect for community gatherings and worship and protects our community from nuisance and disorder. By enacting this legislation, this august House reinforces the principle that ‘with freedom, comes responsibility’.”

The objectives of the bill are to:

- establish clear provisions addressing offences that disrupt public order and cause nuisance;
- provide penalties proportionate to the seriousness of such offences;
- empower police officers with the necessary tools to enforce these provisions effectively; and
- ensure the police are able to exercise their powers under the Nauru Police Force Act 2025, to enforce the provisions of the Bill.

The offences provided under the bill include:

- Offences relating to public order and interest: This offence prohibits the use of abusive obscene or abusive language, disturbing worship services or public gatherings, defacing official notices, provoking breaches of the peace through threatening behaviour, throwing objects at people, vehicles, or buildings, or causing damage by hitting or throwing sporting equipment. Penalties range from fines of \$500 to \$2,000 and imprisonment for a period up to two years;

- Alcohol-Related Offences: Prohibit drunkenness and disorderly behaviour in public places, with escalating penalties for repeat offences. The penalty fines range from \$500 to \$2,000 or an imprisonment term for a period of up to two years;

- Noise Nuisance in public and private places: This addresses public nuisance and excessive noise in both public and private places. Police reports monitoring of noise related complaints have increased. The police are empowered under this bill to issue Noise Abatement Directions and seize equipment where necessary. The penalties for breach are fines ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 or an imprisonment term for a period of up to three years;

- False Publications: Prohibit the publication of false notices or statements that are likely to cause agitation or dissension within the community. The penalty includes fines ranging between \$500 to \$2,000 or 3,000 to \$5,000 respectively; or an imprisonment term for a period of up to two years;

- Insulting Remarks on Genealogy: Protects the community against derogatory remarks, intended to provoke breaches of peace which are made against a person's genealogy, parentage, or ancestry. The penalties range from a fine of \$3,000 to \$5,000 or an imprisonment term of up to three years. //

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### Human Rights Commission Bill 2025



The provisions of the Human Rights Commission Bill 2025 include:

- to promote respect for human rights;
- promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights;
- recognise that human rights is an essential element of democracy and an inclusive society;
- establish the Human Rights Commission;
- promote the enforcement of human rights enshrined in the Constitution;
- implement, promote and enforce human rights by domesticating the obligations under various international human rights treaties, conventions and other relevant instruments to which the Republic is a party; and
- recognise that human rights are not absolute but limited by the provisions of the Constitution and the Republic's motto 'God's Will First', respect for the rights and dignity of other persons and which is justified in a free and a democratic society based on human dignity, equality, freedom and protection of the law.

The bill establishes the Human Rights Commission consistent with the framework of the Paris Principles – which relate to the status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

The Commission is an independent and impartial body. Its fundamental role is to promote the protection of human rights in Nauru.

The Commission has perpetual succession and may:

- sue and be sued;
- enter into contracts and other legal obligations;
- may acquire, hold, manage and dispose of real or personal properties; and,
- exercise all such others powers of a corporation as set out in Schedule 1 to the Corporations Act 1972.

Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea says the bill acknowledges that human rights are not absolute but may be tempered generally within reasonable limits.

"In saying this, I want to emphasise that the spirit and intent of Article 3 of our Constitution shall be a guiding principle in the interpretation and application of this legislation. This is consistent with Article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Article 3 of the Nauru Constitution is the preamble which expressly requires recognition of the rights of all persons irrespective of their race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed, or sex.

The bill sets out the role of the Commission which includes its functions and powers; meetings; process of the making of a complaint of an alleged human rights violation; investigation of complaints; resolution of a complaint by mediation or conciliation; reporting; applicable proceedings; and offences and miscellaneous provisions.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly articulates fundamental rights and freedoms for all.

"These rights from the Universal Declaration were considered by our forefathers in the drafting of our Constitution. This is contained in Part II of the Constitution captioned as 'fundamental rights and freedoms'," Minister Aingimea said.

Nauru became a member of the United Nations on 14 September 1999. Of the nine core human rights treaties, Nauru has ratified or acceded to four of them. These are, the Convention on the Rights of the Child ('CRC'), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ('CEDAW'), the Convention Against Torture ('CAT') and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ('CRPD'). //

### Nauru Superannuation (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Nauru Superannuation (Amendment) Bill 2025 proposes to increase employer's contribution from five per cent to 10 per cent; and also proposes to limit the scope through which businesses may qualify to be exempted from the requirements to pay superannuation.

Prior to this amendment bill, the exemption applied generally to any Nauruan owned business, company or partnership.

The bill proposes to limit this scope:

- For corporations, all stakeholders must be Nauruans;
- For partnerships, all partners or beneficial owners must be Nauruans;
- For a business operating as a sole trader, the owner must be Nauruan; and
- The business size limits the exemption to a business with no more than five employees, has a gross revenue or \$10,000 or less, and a total business asset value of \$5,000 or less.

In tabling the amendment, President David Adeang said the exemption is narrowly tailored to support small businesses that are wholly owned by Nauruan citizens, recognising their limited capacity and encouraging local enterprise. //

### Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2025

Deputy Minister Maverick Eoe tabled amendments to the Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Act, which include the definition of 'dependent' as referring to close family members of the principal applicant, specifically including their spouse from a monogamous relationship, any child (biological or adopted) of any age of the applicant or their spouse, as well as the parents and grandparents of the applicant or spouse, and their siblings.



Section 9 is substituted with a new provision that now empowers Cabinet on the minister's recommendation, to designate 'Special Projects' which may allow temporary modifications or discounts to financial contribution amounts for obtaining Nauruan citizenship under the Act. The designations should clearly state the project's

purpose, the nature of the discount, any application limits or timeframes, and any additional requirements.

The Program Office is responsible for implementing and accounting for these designations.

Due diligence fees remain fixed and cannot be reduced, preserving the integrity of the screening process.

Section 30 of the Act is deleted and renumbered as Section 31, granting Cabinet the authority to make regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the Act notably the system and process of applications.

A new section 30 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive legal basis for electronic applications, documents, certification, and storage – giving full legal recognition to electronic documents, signatures, and certifications - treating them the same as written or hard copy filings.

This allows seals and approvals to be authenticated electronically and enables applications and notices to be lodged through approved digital systems. This update will improve the timeliness required by the Program Office to process applications. //

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### Constitution (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2025

The Constitution (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2025 proposes to empower the Nauru Parliament to review certain provisions of the Constitution. As it stands, the Constitution may be amended by the Parliament with a requirement of two-thirds majority and a lay-over period of 90 days, allowing members of Parliament, and the public, to make submissions to their respective MPs to raise in Parliament. The second is the same process, but requires a referendum of the people.

In tabling the bill, President David Adeang referred to bills that failed to meet a two-third majority of the people after a referendum, that, "if a Bill were allowed to die its natural death where it has failed to meet the two-thirds majority, it infers that the views of those who supported the bill together with the members of Parliament, is disregarded".

To be fair to everyone involved in the process, and to ensure that the country continues to govern in the best interest of everyone, the President says, "it is important that Parliament be given an extended power to consider a referendum which did not meet the requirements".

President Adeang highlighted that currently there is no provision in the Constitution for the Parliament or any other body to re-look at the bill which was not supported by a two-third majority of votes in a referendum.

The proposed Article 84(A) proposes to give Parliament powers to review certain provisions of the Constitution. The requirements are very stringent in that the proposed Article 84A will only be activated after the process for amendment under Article 84(3) has been exhausted without an outcome – that is, it has failed to gain the two-third majority votes in a referendum and at least 40 per cent of the votes cast supported the proposed amendment and Cabinet is still desirous of pursuing the proposed amendment.

Furthermore, all members, including the Speaker, are to vote unanimously in favour of the bill. The speaker is also required to vote to ensure that their electorate is also represented in this process. The speaker does not actively participate in the debate, although they may make a statement as chair of the House.

If there is one dissension in Parliament on the bill, it will not be passed. This is the level of protection that is provided in this review process.

The proposed Article 84A can be amended or repealed in future by two-thirds majority of the House.

This bill was tabled but not yet passed by Parliament. It will sit for 90 days before a vote is taken by the members of Parliament. The full support of the 19 members of Parliament for the proposed bill is required for the bill to pass. //

### Bank of Nauru Repeal Bill 2025

President David Adeang tabled the Bank of Nauru Repeal Bill 2025. It went through first reading, but remains on the table to be dealt with further at the next sitting of Parliament.

The bill marks the formal closure of the Bank of Nauru's books and the final chapter in the long history of the bank.

"It has been a complex, multi-year process involving the courts, government, international partners, and the Nauruan people. Today, we stand at the point where this long-standing matter can finally be resolved with transparency, fairness, and legal certainty," the president said.

The Bank of Nauru Repeal Bill provides for:

- (a) repeal of the Bank of Nauru Act 1976;
- (b) extinguishment of guarantees. Once the liquidation process is complete, guaranteed depositor obligations are discharged. This Bill therefore extinguishes any

residual guarantee, preventing new or retrospective claims against the Republic under the repealed Act. It closes off liability exposure;

(c) savings of completed transactions. The Bill protects the validity of acts lawfully done under the 1976 Act before its repeal. It ensures that contracts, payments, and decisions made during the bank's existence remain legally valid;

(d) residual matters. The Bill provides the Cabinet with a regulationmaking power to address any unforeseen residual issues – to resolve minor administrative or legal matters without reopening the bank or its obligations. It ensures closure while preserving a safety valve for any adjustments that may arise; and

(e) consequential amendments. These include the repeal of the Payments Directorate Act 2008 which was enacted to allow government to continue providing payments services even as the bank entered insolvency. With the repeal of the 1976 Act, the Payments Directorate Act 2008 becomes redundant. //

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### Student achievements recognised at 2025 national education awards

The Department of Education and Training 2025 national awards was held at the Sports Complex, 29 December, recognising outstanding academic achievement of students from years one to 12.



*Education minister Appi commends parents, teachers for their influence and support in student's success.*

The top three students from each year level were recognised for their academic achievements, as well as the top students across the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) subjects, and the 134 graduating students, both studying locally and abroad, were awarded their school leavers certificates.

His Excellency President David Adeang was also in attendance and presented certificates and awards.

Minister for Education Asterio Appi said it is a privilege to be part of this "occasion celebrating excellence, discipline and commitment".

"Today, we recognise students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievements, consistent attendance, perseverance in their studies. These awards which include subject excellence, completion of

the year 12 Queensland Certificate of Education, and 100 per cent attendance, represents individual students' success and families surrounded in character, commitment and purpose.

"In a small nation like ours, it is sometimes easy to overlook the impacts of individual efforts. Particularly in processes where rewards are not immediate. In Nauru, one person in a small space can make a meaningful difference. Each of our students carry God-given talents and a purpose of service to their families, their communities and our national development."

The minister posed a question to the graduates, "Which courses will you pursue; how will you be applying what you've learned; and how will you give back to Nauru? Because education is not the end, but the beginning of responsibilities, creativity, and meaningful contribution to national development."

He thanked parents for the influence and support which have been the foundation of the students' success; and to teachers and administrators for their dedication.

Minister Appi referred to the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) which maps the desired outcomes, resting firmly on human capital, discipline and hard work.

The national education awards started in 2020 aimed at putting more emphasis on and recognition of the academic achievements of local students. The awards celebrate the achievements of students, and the support and guidance of parents and teachers. //



### NTF annual report and status

His Excellency President David Adeang presented the annual report of the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (NTF) at the 23 December Parliament sitting, reporting a valuation of over \$458 million as of 30 September.



***President Adeang says the Trust Fund is on par to exceed \$1bn value by 2033***

At the date of the unqualified audit report, 30 June 2024, the fund was over \$356m, and with additional contributions, investments and corresponding revenue, the fund increased to over \$422m, as of 30 June 2025.

Cash contributions for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, exceeded \$21.1m. The Government of Nauru contributed \$20.2m with support by Australia through the Nauru-Australia Treaty.

The NTF was established on 6 November 2015 with the primary objective of generating future investment earnings that can be used to provide a source of revenue to the Republic of Nauru post-2033, or a time sooner as determined by the committee, for investments in education, health, environment and infrastructure.

“The fund will help smooth out income streams in the medium term and replace part or supplement volatile

future revenue,” the President said.

The fund’s growth of \$65.7m through investments and ongoing contributions in 2025, surpassed the \$400m mark, and remains on par to exceed the \$1 billion-plus value by 2033.

This year in May, August, and November, the government brought the quarterly NTF meetings to the people, showcasing the Fund to a broad audience of government leaders, CEO’s, Nauruan students, community groups, and the private sector – to raise awareness of the Fund’s significance for Nauru’s future.

President Adeang also presented the status of the NTF in his following ministerial statement including the successful quarterly committee meeting held in Suva, Fiji, 5 December. On this occasion, the President held a precursor meeting with students in Fiji, similar to the last two quarterly meetings in Nauru and Brisbane.

The President explains the inclusion of students, public servants, and the community promotes transparency and strengthens the wider understanding of the Nauru’s role successful Sovereign Wealth Fund, the NTF.

“These young Nauruans are the future for Nauru and the key stakeholders in the Fund.”

The change to include as many of Nauru’s future leaders [students] in these meetings whenever possible will be an ongoing commitment during President Adeang’s leadership.

The consistent contributions and continued growth of the Fund positions it well to meet the future needs of the government and people of Nauru. //

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### Department of Vocational Training and Professional Development

Since its establishment in April, the Department of Vocational Training and Professional Development (DVTPD) made headway in a number of initiatives. It hosted its first Open Day in November highlighting the outstanding products and services created by the students while also showcasing the crucial role the department plays in nurturing skills, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

In July, a combination of Year 12s and the adult community enrolled in TAFE Queensland Certificate II courses, with 41 students completing training in automotive, construction, lectrotechnology, engineering, hospitality, and plumbing – qualifications that will set them up for better employment prospects and career growth.

Minister Asterio Appi adds students of the Alternative Pathways Programme (APP) also achieved National

Certificate II in similar fields and including fashion and textiles, and joinery.

Training with TAFE including administrative staff, trainers, assessors and examiners courses, are on track to wrap up in early 2026, promising further improvements in the quality of local teaching and assessment standards.

Formerly Australia Pacific Training Coalition, the Pacific Australia Skills (PAS), commenced operations in April and is working closely with VTPD in supporting to expand delivery of skill sets and courses to meet local demand, including plant operations training and business training.

This support extends to the procurement of industrial simulators valued at \$500,000, as well as support in upgrading and renovating the department’s hospitality kitchen and cafeteria facilities. //

### Education

Education is one of the government's three pillars of emerging priority alongside health and sports. Like health, education sits under social services and its impact extends far beyond social services. Education determines the capacity of human capital, and levels of economic participation and the extent of Nauru's national resilience.



*Community support remains essential to successful education reforms.*

Minister Asterio Appi told parliament, 23 December, the Department of Education and Training has begun the Re-engagement Program for secondary learners currently out of school.

Over 200 students have registered with numbers expected to increase in the 2026 school year.

The program strengthens human capital, reduce social vulnerabilities, and reflects the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every learner is engaged in education.

To support this, the department increased professional development opportunities for teaching staff, with more

than half of local teachers engaged in several upskilling programmes that are running concurrently over the next few months.

By December 2026, the department expects to award 25 primary teaching qualifications, and 16 graduate certificates in school leadership – strengthening teacher capacity as well as improve support to students.

Meantime, the minister said the Year 12 Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) results continue an upward trend with 76 students from NSS and another 30 from the secondary scholarship scheme achieving success. School leaver numbers from NSS also increased to 104.

The government's policy shift in scholarship support will enable eligible students to transition directly into tertiary studies and be work-ready within two years. Consultations with relevant institutions to facilitate this transition are ongoing.

The Amen Karoe program in selected schools and the Re-engagement Program have provided meaningful opportunities for parent and community involvement in education.

Community support remains essential to the success of education reforms with each role reinforcing positive values, encouraging attendance, and supporting children back to school.

The department is also exploring mechanisms to engage and partner with private schools through targeted support arrangements.

Minister Appi says these partnerships will ensure that efforts across all providers are aligned toward shared goals of quality and inclusive education. //

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### Nauru Post

The Naoero Postal Services Corporation (NPSC) continues to advance its mandate to support businesses, communities, and government operations. A key part of this is strengthening its logistics arm through its wholly owned subsidiary, Frigate Cargo and Logistics Services, based in Brisbane, Australia.

In addition to reductions made to less-than-container load (LCL) rates for Nauru customers, Deputy Minister for NPSC, Tawaki Kam announced that the company will further reduce all freight pricing across its full container load (FCL) service for all new cargo departing in 2026.

The revised rates will position the company as the lowest-cost provider of freight from Australia to Nauru. Rates will start from \$11,900 per 20-foot container for

local customers, while separate pricing arrangements will continue for government, its contractors and state-owned enterprises.

By initiating the new pricing, the NPSC passes efficiencies to local customers, reduce importation costs and strengthen overall economic activity.

"Lower freight costs contribute to reduced capital expenditure for private vehicle fleets, improved affordability for local businesses, and the continued efficient delivery of government services, while supporting sustainable growth of the company," DM Kam said. //

## December 2025 Parliament - ministerial statements

### Nauru Airlines

Minister for Nauru Airlines Asterio Appi, updated Parliament on the corporation's positive changes in management and job sizing exercise in 2025, and is now embarking on a new journey of implementing major new changes.



*The airline continues to build capacity to do more in the region, pursue and develop strategic partnerships and maximise opportunities.*

"Changes that will make business sense, changes that will diversify the business, changes that will rebrand the product, changes that will maintain quality services and ultimately improve financial performance," Minister Appi said.

He also noted that the current 'business as usual' approach is no longer appropriate or relevant in today's global aviation industry and that Nauru has been fortunate to operate where there is limited competition and strong backing from regional governments, including Australia's support for the North Pacific Connector, which serves ports beyond Nauru such as Tarawa, Majuro, Pohnpei and Palau.

The Minister added that the travel requirements in this region will increase, and Nauru Airlines has a responsibility to ensure it meets the needs of both passengers and cargo, also stating that with four passenger aircraft and three freighters, Nauru can meet the needs in the region, including access to international airports such as Nadi and Brisbane.

"We are grateful to the Government and the people of Fiji for welcoming Nauru Airlines back to Suva at Nausori Airport."

Nauru Airlines will continue to build its capacity to do more in the region, pursuing and developing strategic partnerships beyond its region, and maximising opportunities available.

Minister Appi said that high-cost operations and low revenue streams cannot continue, and as part of the review process of the whole organisation, new measures will be implemented over the next 12 months, including the outsourcing of services, development of new routes, and engaging in mutually beneficial partnerships.

"Nauru Airlines has set itself with challenges for the next 12 months and with the Government's support, these goals can be achieved," Minister Appi said. //

### Nauru Port Authority

Nauru participated in the 34<sup>th</sup> International Maritime Organisation (IMO) general assembly in London, from 24 November to 4 December, along with 120 other member states, and voted on several matters, hence maintaining influence in choosing the leadership that will govern global shipping and maritime safety standards for the next two years.

Deputy Minister for Nauru Maritime Port Authority (NMPA) and Nauru Shipping Line, Hon Russ Kun, led a delegation to the assembly, comprising technical, legal, and NMPA officials.

Nauru's presence at the global forum is essential for protecting Nauru's sovereignty, economy, and compliance with international maritime law. The delegation participated in the election of the 40-member IMO Council for 2026-27 biennium across three categories for states with the largest interest in providing - international shipping services; international seaborne trade; and states ensuring broad geographic representation.

Aside from the formal sessions, the delegation also engaged in other critical activities including monitoring the adoption of the 2026-27 work programme which is vital as it dictates future membership fee obligations and the regulatory focus of the IMO; and discussions to ensure Nauru's port and shipping operations remain in full compliance with evolving IMO standards.

The delegation also met with other member states to explore mutually beneficial partnerships and to share knowledge regarding maritime administration audits.

Deputy Minister Kun said the information gained will be used to align Nauru's domestic maritime policies with the IMO's future strategic direction.

"We remain committed to executing the necessary domestic measures to meet the resolutions adopted in London, particularly those regarding the new work programme for the upcoming biennium." //





### WASDA

Minister Charmaine Scotty presented to Parliament a report on the work of the Department of Women and Social Development Affairs (WASDA), for the year, highlighting policy and systems reform, and legal protections notably for women, children, and families.



*The department provides a safe space for support, engagement and ensuring survivors know where to get help.*

[File photo]

The Minister explains that one of the most significant undertaking the department has taken this year (2025), was the nationwide review of the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017.

Extensive community consultations and analysis of over 300 questionnaires resulted in clear and evidence-based findings – including gaps in enforcement, limited public understanding of protection orders, and barriers faced by survivors in accessing support.

This work informed targeted amendment proposals aimed at strengthening survivor protection, improving accountability, and enhancing coordination between justice, police, health and social services.

It also positions Nauru as a regional leader, culminating in Nauru's hosting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence and Family Protection Legislation.

The protection and wellbeing of children remains a priority. The updated Child Protection Policy aligns with the Child Protection and Welfare Act and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while strengthening cross-sector coordination for early intervention and case management.

Particular emphasis was placed on back-to-school reintegration, recognising that education is both a fundamental right and a powerful protective factor. In collaboration with the education department, phases one and two are in place to ensure a return to safe learning environments.

The department recognises the importance and value of social development and expanding community engagement and frontline support to the districts, churches and youth groups increases awareness and the support available at the Safe House, ensuring survivors know where help exists.

The department's priorities for 2026 and beyond include, progressing amendments of the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act; implement the 10-year WASDA Strategic Plan 2025-2035; institutionalising Back-to-School and reintegration programmes; strengthen data, systems and workforce capability; support community-led prevention and protection initiatives; and continue respectful collaboration with faith leaders, districts, civil society and regional partners. //

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### Nauru Police Force

As usual the Nauru Police Force bolstered their presence in the community during the Christmas period as part of its ongoing commitment to maintaining peace and order during the festive season.

Minister for Nauru Police Force Lionel Aingimea, said the NPF special roster began on 15 December and will continue into the new year.

With the goal of creating a safe and secure environment for all during the festive period, traffic blitzes were increased, aimed to monitor and manage traffic flow more effectively. Foot patrols are intensified allowing

officers to engage with the community and swiftly address any issues, while motorbike patrols will cover larger areas quickly and efficiently.

Looking ahead, strategies are also in place for the coming year to increase maritime security for local fishermen, maintain border security, enhance

cybersecurity, and engage in activities with youth and their parents to ensure that juvenile-related incidents are not predominant this festive period.

The NPF also gained international certification through its expertise in forensic investigation, cybersecurity defence, and participation in the Pacific Police Support Group – accomplishments underscoring the NPFs commitment to excellence and ability to address local and global challenges.

The newly passed Nauru Police Force Act 2025 aligns with evolving times, and reinforces the NPFs commitment to adapting and improving services in line with modern times.

Minister Aingimea reiterated the NPFs commitment to ensure community safety and encourages the community to engage with local law enforcement, participate in community safety initiatives, and report any suspicious activities to help uphold peace and order. //

## December 2025 Parliament - ministerial statements

### Sports

Minister for Sports Hon Jesse Jeremiah updated the 23 December sitting of Parliament of the department's work, notably development on the Nauru Sports Centre Project and support of Nauru's elite weightlifting institute.

"By investing in world-class facilities and fostering international partnerships, Nauru is paving the way for greater participation in sports at all levels and aiming to build a legacy of health and achievement in years to come," Minister Jeremiah said.

The latest development in the state-of-the-art Nauru Sports Centre Project was the 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.

The project, valued at least AU\$104 million, will be a two-storey facility and 1000-seat capacity stadium. It is expected to be completed at the end of 2027, in time to host the first Micronesian Games to be held in Nauru in January.

It will be Nauru's first multipurpose track & field stadium, and will feature a high-performance unit (HPU)

accommodating a broad range of sporting disciplines, administration, physio, showers, and an audio-visual and a lighting equipment room.

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.

Minister Jeremiah also announced that Australia is increasing its annual contribution to sports to \$1 million which will support the president's renewed priority on sports in Nauru.

Additionally, through the Australian High Commission, Australia will be providing support of \$100,000 to Nauru's elite weightlifting institute with hopes of seeing Nauru's elite men and women continue the proud tradition of dominating the sport in the lead up to the Micronesian Games and Olympics.

Recognising the poor training conditions available to local elite athletes, the department is seeking assistance from development partners to address the many key infrastructure requirements for the national federations.//

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### Public Accounts Committee report

Member for Boe, Hon Wanganeen Emiu presented a report of the Public Accounts Committee of which he is chair informing the House of progress to date.

He noted the first meeting of the PAC inaugurated by Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen on 24 October 2025 at which time Mr Emiu was elected chair and MP Timothy Ika as deputy chair.

At this first meeting, the committee selected non-submission of annual reports/other reports to Parliament as its first subject to address.

At its second meeting, 19 November, the committee took the briefing of the auditor general on the said subject matter.

During its third meeting on 26 November, the committee deliberated on its future course of action and is now in the process of procuring information and material from the concerned departments and State-owned Enterprises (SOEs). The committee will proceed to draft its report on the subject, and present it to Parliament, in due time. //



### Judiciary

The Department of Judiciary this year engaged in a number of developments including a judicial workshop with the assistance of the UNDP. Digital transformation continues to be a key priority development including embarking on revamping its website to offer a more user-friendly hub of information on legal processes, court procedures, and judicial services. The aim of this development is to streamline and simplify interactions between stakeholders.



The District Court Bench Book was finalised in conjunction with the Pacific Justice Sector Program (PJSP), and will be launched this year.

The PJSP is a professional development initiative supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, and the Ministry of Justice, designed to promote a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific through support for the development of accessible, fair, and responsive and efficient justice systems.

A Bench Book for the Supreme Court is also in discussions, as well as one for children, which will serve to guide judges and magistrates in dealing with children appearing in court in criminal proceedings.

The UNDP is also assisting in updating the Nauru Law Report which were last compiled and published in 1989, as well as renovation work of the Supreme Court room.

The PJSP is also funding the upgrade of the Nauru Case Tracking System (CTS), giving the judiciary the ability to record, track, and manage case loads efficiently, and effectively, and be able to present the information through the dashboard and the quarterly reporting template.

Other work the PJSP is supporting include discussions to build the e-filing front end to CTS, which will become known as the Pacific Courts Portal (PCP). The PCP will be accessible to those outside the Court – lawyers and litigants, with a direct secure link to CTS. The pilot version will be available in the first half of 2026.

Capacity building is ongoing, and recruitment of the president of the Nauru Court of Appeal and judge of the Supreme Court expected to take place soon.

Additionally, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal has been finalised and complaints against legal practitioners can be lodged with the secretary of the tribunal who is the registrar of courts.

“Despite the challenges we face, we remain steadfast in our determination to build a fair, efficient, and transparent justice system that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of our people,” Minister Aingimea said. //

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### Justice and Border Control

The Department of Justice and Border Control (JBC) is making strides in improving Nauru’s international recognition in financial integrity matters which is one of the crucial work of the department. Nauru became a member of the EGMONT Group – an elite group of nations dealing with money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation of financing. Another positive step is Nauru’s upgrade in its Financial Action Task Force (FATF) compliance on recommendation 29, making Nauru’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) an independent body. This upgrade now makes Nauru compliant with the FATF standards.

Minister Lionel Aingimea advised Parliament that Nauru has the second highest technical compliance in the Asia-Pacific region, after Macau. Of the 40 compliance requirements, Nauru has only two partial compliance, and 38 largely and fully compliant. Nauru FIU is also made chair of the Pacific Island FIUs.

With the assistance of stakeholders, JBC has been able to compile and submit the national Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and will meet face-to-face in Geneva this month.

This year, the department produced 39 bills which were subsequently passed in Parliament, and 41 regulations approved by the Cabinet and also tabled in Parliament. Older laws of Nauru are being reviewed and modernised and made progressive with evolving national interests.

Nauru is responding to the growing issue of cybercrime globally by signing up to the United Nations Convention on Cybercrime – the Hanoi Convention. JBC is reviewing Nauru’s cybercrime laws to ensure it is on par with international and convention requirements.

*(cont pg 12...)*



### Justice and Border Control

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By ratifying the Hanoi Convention, the government will be able to progress its work and innovative ventures in evolving industries such as the Command Ridge Virtual Asset Authority.

The Public Legal Defenders office plays an important role in providing legal representation to Nauruans who are unable to engage local lawyers. However, Minister Aingimea says the number of local lawyers and pleaders

practicing law is on the steady decline, and requested the government to consider increasing the number of lawyers in the PLD office.

The minister says this is a concern and urges the Nauru Law Society to act on. While the UNDP is also providing assistance, there is little progress.

Two law graduates are also expected to join the department this month. //

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### DFAT

Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Lionel Aingimea delivered his statement highlighting the department's engagement in cross-sectoral matters nationally and internationally.

On a multilateral level, the department successfully advocated for the designation of UN Resolution on the International Day for Judicial Well-Being; while bilaterally, the department continues to engage with partner countries to assist with sporting activities such as cycling, as well as visiting medical teams with China's Silk Ark Road medical vessel, and the formal establishment of a foreign mission in Nauru, the Chinese Chancery in Meneñ district.

The department also diversified trade engagements with the Monaco Declaration and and China Rural Revitalisation Development Cooperation that is proposed to contribute to key sectors in partnership. //



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