



Nauru Bulletin

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Commemorative service

Opening church service to commemorate the 58th anniversary of Independence Day and the 80th anniversary of the return of Nauruans from Chuuk



The commemorative church service is the start of the official program for Nauru's double anniversary celebrations

His Excellency President David Adeang read the first scripture reading from Joshua 4:4-8, at the opening commemorative service for the 58th anniversary of Independence Day and the 80th anniversary of the return of Nauruans from Chuuk, at the Orro Congregational Church, 25 January.

After the singing of the doxology was the trooping of the colour by the Nauru Police Force, and singing of the Nauru National anthem.

Pastor Jesimiel Jeremiah led the call to worship with an opening prayer of adoration and thanksgiving and shared the sermon themed 'Be ready, not just busy'.

An afternoon banquet was served at NCC Centennial Hall following the service. //

80th anniversary choral competition

The choral competition, 23 January, kick starts the celebration commemorating the double anniversary of Nauru's 58th Independence Day and 80th anniversary of the return from Chuuk.

Eleven choir groups from the government departments and state-owned enterprises, vying for the grand prize of \$25,000 sang compositions reflecting the theme, 80th anniversary of the return from Chuuk.

Eigigu Holdings Corporation and the combined departments of Internal Affairs, and Finance took first place; while the Government office choir placed second with \$10,000; and \$6,000 third place went to the One Hearts choir.

A surprise \$4,000 fourth prize was added by Nauru Utilities, which went to three winners, NRC, Nauru Post, and Nauru Fisheries.

The best choir uniform was awarded to Nauru Port & Marine Authority, and Nauru Shipping Line.



President Adeang presenting the cash prize vouchers to the two winning choirs of the own-choosing choral competition

The prizes for the first three winners of the choir and the best uniform are sponsored by the Nauru Government.

NUC also presented additional awards of power credit to the song composers, choir conductors, and judges. //

(One Hearts choir is combined Nauru Heritage, Culture, Tourism and National Museum, Lands & Survey, Nauru Lands Committee, Women and Social Development Affairs, and Community & Youth).

Nauru appoints Udit as new chief justice

His Excellency President David Adeang appointed Janmai Jay Udit as the new chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Nauru, 14 January, witnessed by Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and members of the judiciary.

Shortly after the swearing in ceremony, at the first Parliament sitting for 2026, President Adeang announced the appointment stating that the judiciary needs to be reformed and serve its purpose of providing justice to the people of Nauru.

Justice Udit began his legal career in 1992 after graduating with a law degree from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Since then, he has pursued an active legal career, starting as a legal officer in the Fiji Attorney General's Office, before advancing to state solicitor. He was also appointed the first Master of the High Court of Fiji, where he exercised judicial functions in chambers, adjudicating interlocutory applications, winding-up petitions, estate matters, assessment of damages, and tenancy evictions.

He later joined Nauru's Department of Justice and Border Control in 2015 as a senior government lawyer, and served three years as solicitor general before becoming secretary for JBC in 2019. He has had 33 years of legal practice, including extensive work in constitutional, legislative, and land matters, and has led key reforms such as the law revision project.



CJ Udit recites the oath of office

"Mr Udit possesses sufficient knowledge and is familiar with the operations of the laws and the legal systems in Nauru," President Adeang said.

"With this experience, and now the practice in Nauru, Mr Udit is ideally suited to lead the judiciary."

The head of the judiciary is the chief justice, who is appointed by the president in accordance with Article 49(1) of the Constitution. The chief justice is also the president of the Court of Appeals which roles include making rules and exercising responsibility over the establishment and monitor standards of judicial functions across all courts.

Justice Udit's work with JBC as the secretary concluded on 31 December 2025 before assuming the position of CJ. The appointment fills a gap in the role which had been without a substantive CJ for three years. His Honour will serve his tenure until he attains the retirement age of 70. //

Maverick Eoe is 9th Cabinet minister

Member of Parliament for Anabar, Ijuw and Anibare (AIA) Maverick Eoe was sworn in as the newest Cabinet minister following the successful passing of the proposed amendment to Article 19 of the Constitution of Nauru in Parliament, increasing the total number of ministers to nine.

The oath ceremony was presided over by Chief Justice Janmai Udit and witnessed by President David Adeang and Cabinet ministers, 14 January.

Minister Eoe is assigned the portfolios of Commerce and Foreign Investment, Eigigu Holdings Corporation, Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship, Consumer Protection Authority, and Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority.

He conveyed his profound honour for the opportunity to represent his constituency and to contribute meaningfully to the development and advancement of Nauru.

Minister Eoe won a seat in his constituency of AIA at the 2019 Parliamentary General Elections and was re-elected twice since. During his term as MP, he served as deputy minister and Cabinet minister under different



MP Eoe sworn in to Cabinet

administrations, holding portfolios of the Nauru Utilities Corporation, the departments of sports, Commerce and Foreign Investment, Nauru Public Health, and the Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority. //

CORRECTION: Please note correction to article 'Constitution (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 2025', published in the Nauru Bulletin #1-2026, page 4. The last line should read: "A two-third majority of the Parliament is required for this amendment to pass. The requirement for 19 MPs to vote is actioned when the Parliament uses its powers under Article 84A."

Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions Act 2026

In presenting the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions Bill 2026, Minister for National Heritage, Culture Tourism and Naoero Museum, Charmaine Scotty stipulates that Nauru's traditions and culture are what makes Nauru unique distinguishing it from the rest of the world.



The minister says, increasing exploitation and inappropriate commercialisation of traditional knowledge and traditional culture expressions originating from the Pacific, has never been a more reason and the need for the protection of these resources.

Nauru, as a small Pacific island country is vulnerable to climate change, and continues to face challenges of being extinct and with it, its traditions, and culture.

"It is for these reasons, that this bill is being proposed to provide for a mechanism to safeguard our traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions," Minister Scotty said.

The bill establishes a Nauru Cultural Authority empowered to determine matters relating to protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions; that

customary use does not give rise to criminal or civil liability; protects the traditional cultural rights of owners in reproducing, publishing, performing or displaying, broadcasting, translating, or making traditional knowledge of traditional cultural expressions available for access in any manner.

This right also exists in relation to a song, whether or not that song has been written down or recorded.

Traditional cultural rights is perpetual – it does not expire, and cannot be transferred, sold or waived.

Traditional cultural rights are in addition to, and do not affect, any rights that may subsist under any law relating to copyright, trademarks, patents, designs or other intellectual property.

The traditional owner of traditional cultural right is the holder of a moral right – that is to say they have the right to attribution of ownership of their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression.

They also have the right not to have such traditional knowledge subject to derogatory treatment.

Permission must be sought from owners for the use of such traditional knowledge, and owners must also be identified.

The minister is empowered to approve persons, groups of persons or a community to represent Nauruan traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions overseas.

The bill also provides for consequential amendments, such as making regulations under the National Heritage Act 2017 to incorporate references to the World Heritage Convention which Nauru is party to. //

Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026

Tabled in Parliament 14 January 2026

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 inserts a new clause to create the office of the vice president and allowing the president to appoint one of the ministers as the vice president.

The vice president shall perform the duties and exercise the functions of the president during any period which the president is unable to perform the functions and powers of the office owing to illness, absence from Nauru or any other cause.

In the event that both the president and vice president are unable to perform the presidential duties, the Cabinet may appoint a minister to the role during this period.

The amendment is aimed to strengthen the continuity and accountability of the executive leadership. While Nauru already has in place, a system whereby a minister is appointed to assist the president, this amendment formalises this administrative arrangement Articles 21 and 23 are repealed and replaced to accommodate these changes.

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. //

Sports Act 2026

The Sports Act 2026 is designed to strengthen the governance, integrity, and development of sports in the Republic of Nauru. It reflects the collective responsibility to ensure sporting activities contribute to national pride, community wellbeing, and fair competition.



This Act ensures that the secretary for sports, the registrar, and the sports disputes tribunal may exercise their powers to regulate promote and safeguard sports in accordance with the law.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- provide for the functions and powers of the secretary in the development and promotion of sports
- establish a register for sports bodies
- regulate the application and registration process for sports bodies
- provide for process whereby sports bodies can apply for assistance from government
- establish the Sports Disputes Tribunal to hear and determine disputes and misconduct, and
- ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance in sports administration.

Sports bodies must comply with the following requirements:

- registration under the Act with accurate and complete information
- renewal of certificate within the prescribed timeframe
- adherence to governance standards and funding agreements
- cooperation with anti-doping measures and health initiatives
- compliance with policies, guidelines and constitutions of their associations

Non-compliance with registration requirements, misuse of government assistance or misconduct may result in suspension or cancellation of registration, fines as prescribed by regulation or, disqualification from government assistance.

Sports Disputes Tribunal is established to:

- hear disputes between sports bodies
- determine misconduct by athletes, officials, or support personnel
- hear complaints relating to sports administration, and
- regulate its own procedures and issues

Members are appointed by the minister in consultation with Cabinet for a three-year term. Appeals from tribunal decisions may be made to the minister within 21 days.

Read more here: [Sports Act 2026 at RONLAW](#)

Nauru Air Corporation (Amendment) Act 2026

The Nauru Air Corporation (Amendment) Act 2026 amends sections four and seven of the principal Act, to include the director general as one of the directors of the Nauru Air Corporation board. The director general is appointed for the purposes of the Nauru-Australia Treaty. This amendment is to ensure qualified persons are part of the board of the directors to assist with the development of the corporation.

The Nauru-Australia Treaty is the treaty signed between the governments of Nauru and Australia at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on 9 December 2024. //



Supplementary Appropriation Act 2025-26

As Minister for Finance His Excellency President David Adeang tabled the Supplementary Appropriation Bill #3 2025-2026 in Parliament, providing for revenue and expenditure adjustments of \$800,000, 14 January.



Revenue changes: the increase reflects new dividend income from CENPAC, in addition to commitments established in the original 2025-26 Budget.

Expenditure: A matching increase of \$800,000 is allocated to the fiscal cash buffer, ensuring provision for urgent and unavoidable expenses during the remainder of the financial year.

With the passing of this bill, the approved 2025-26 budget totals remain unchanged from Supplementary Appropriation #2.

- Total revenue stands at \$378.6m
- Total expenditure remains at \$378.5m

This maintains the projected fiscal surplus of \$58,000. //

Minister Aingimea leads Nauru's Universal Periodic Review in Geneva

The Republic of Nauru reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights during the presentation of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, 20 January.

The Nauru delegation was led by the Honourable Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, Minister for Justice and Border Control and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, who served as head of delegation for Nauru's fourth-cycle UPR.

Concluding Nauru's review at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Minister Aingimea underscored the country's enduring resolve, stating: "With faith, determination, and partnership, Nauru remains committed to the advancement of human dignity and the realisation of the fundamental rights of all who call our island home."

The Universal Periodic Review is a unique peer-review mechanism of the Human Rights Council through which all United Nations Member States undergo a comprehensive assessment of their human rights record every four and half years. Since the inception of the UPR in 2008, all 193 UN Member States including Nauru have completed three review cycles.

During the interactive dialogue, Nauru outlined key legislative, institutional and policy measures undertaken to strengthen its national human rights framework, while also acknowledging ongoing challenges faced by small island developing states, including capacity constraints and the impacts of climate change.

The government reaffirms that progress in human rights must be context-sensitive, sustainable and responsive to national circumstances.



Minister Aingimea with the Vice President of the Human Rights Council , Ambassador of Ecuador to the UN, Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez

The Nauru delegation comprised Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Rebecca Amwano, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Frederick Pitcher, Director of Human Rights, Stella Duburiya, Director of Child Protection Services, Trini Caleb, First Secretary Geneva Mission, Joanie Hartman, Honorary Consul of Nauru to Germany, Martin Heyne, and legal intern Sarah Lambert.

The Government of Nauru welcomed the constructive engagement and recommendations from peer States and looks forward to considering them carefully as part of its continued efforts to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. //

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Government-funded redzone house handover

The Department of Infrastructure handed over a newly built house as part of the government-funded Red Zone relocation project to a family in Baitsi, 22 January.

His Excellency President David Adeang, after cutting the ribbon alongside the owner, Fernando loera, to mark the opening of the house, presented the key to Mr loera and his family including his four kids.

In attendance were Minister Shadlog Bernicke, Deputy Ministers Isabella Dageago, Ranin Akua, and Tawaki Kam, Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu, and members of the infrastructure staff.

The Housing and Red Zone program reflects the government's vision of providing safe and affordable housing to improve the well-being of families and strengthen communities. //



New home owner loera gladly receives house keys from President Adeang



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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.

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STAY HYDRATED STAY HEALTHY

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