



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 3 - 2026/305

## Flag raising ceremony marks 58 years of independence

**Festivities for the double anniversary planned throughout 2026**

The flag raising ceremony held at dawn, 31 January commemorating the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nauru's Independence and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of Nauruans from Chuuk is a reminder of the struggle, resilience and humble beginnings of Nauru and her people.

His Excellency President David Adeang laid a wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph and the national flag hoisted to full mast by the Nauru Police Force.

A commemorative stamp of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also released by Naoero Postal Services embodying cultural and historical significance.

President Adeang delivered his national address honouring the courage and vision of Nauru's forbears who, in 1968, claimed the right to self-govern, and remembering those who endured displacement during WWII.

"Independence was not merely a moment in time, but the beginning of a journey—marked by resilience, and our unity, our hope, and our faith.

"Our vision is clear: a strong, self-reliant, and united Nauru, where every citizen has the opportunity to live with dignity, with security, and hope - honouring our culture while embracing education, innovation, and sustainable development."

The President also spoke of safeguarding Nauru's future financially through its two trust funds while investing in economic resilience and food security, utilities, renewable energy, and generating new income through the economic and climate resilience citizenship investment program and cryptocurrency.

He underscored a recent parliamentary proposal to change the official name of the country from Nauru to Naoero will be decided on through further parliament processes and referendum.

His message to the youth as the future of Nauru is the trust placed in them for their energy, creativity and leadership to move Nauru forward with confidence, determination, a better-educated and more prosperous and resilient nation.



*The national flag hoisted to full mast at the dawn ceremony*

Congratulatory messages by foreign governments were read out, while hymns and prayers were delivered by various church groups.

The traditional gift-giving from the President to the Young at Hearts is done and received with gratitude by both parties, as a token of appreciation and remembrance of the sacrifice and survival of the people of Nauru. //

## Plaque unveiled to commemorate 80 years since return from Chuuk

The special ceremony to unveil the plaque commemorating the 80th anniversary of the people's return from exile on Chuuk at the end of World War II, recognises and pays respect to our people who lived through wartime.



*President Adeang unveil the plaque commemorating 80 years of the return from Chuuk*

The survivors today, known as the Young at Hearts or National Treasures, endured obstacles and are remembered for their resilience and survival.

At the memorial site at Aiue Boulevard, His Excellency President David Adeang unveiled the plaque, inscribed with the President's message and Bible scripture, and released the commemorative coin marking the 80th anniversary. The first coin was presented to the Governor General of Tuvalu, His Excellency Tofinga Vaevalu Falani.

President Adeang delivered remarks honouring Nauruans who suffered and died, and the courage of the exiled and those who returned home.

“And to our young people — this memorial, and this day, belong to you as much as to the past. Learn these stories. Sit with your elders. Carry their strength forward. Understand that the peace and freedom you enjoy today were paid for dearly.”

The laying of wreaths was led by President Adeang, followed by Mary Kaierua representing Nauruans who were exiled to Chuuk, and Violet Mackay who at the age of 92 is the oldest Nauruan - on behalf of those who remained on Naoero.

Primary school students – Jordan Olsson, Kalea Hiram, and Jacob Caleb, representing the resilience and hope for the future of Naoero, also laid wreaths.

Visiting dignitaries included from Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Federated States of Micronesia, Australia, China, Rabi, Japan, and Greece.

Concluding the official program, guests were invited to view the Mural of Memories – a collection of photographs from pre- and post-wartime.

Choirs representing the government departments and the Catholic Sunday School sung compositions from wartime and lyrics celebrating Naoero.

The actual return date from Chuuk is 31 January (1946).//

## Opening of legal year, CJ Udit presiding

His Honour Chief Justice Janmai Jay Udit was officially welcomed as head of the judiciary in a special sitting of the Nauru Court, 5 February.



*CJ Udit urges legal practitioners to do justice where it is due and expedite cases.*

Witnessed by His Excellency President David Adeang, Cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps, the special session was also the official opening of the 2026 judicial calendar.

Sworn in on 14 January, CJ Udit fills an almost four-year absence of a substantive chief justice for Nauru. He continues his service to Nauru having first employed as a senior government lawyer in 2015.

Justice Kiniviliame Keteca introduced the new CJ highlighting his extensive work and contribution to

Nauru's justice system, noting his “vast experience will augur well in further development of the Nauru judiciary and the jurisprudence in this jurisdiction”.

CJ Udit said the role of his office is upholding the integrity of the courts and for legal practitioners to do right by all manner of people according to law without fear or favour.

“I want to make it clear to all legal practitioners that we are here to do justice to whom it is due, and justice has to be done to those persons who have entrusted their cases to the judiciary.” He reiterated the urgency of resolving and expediting cases, and urged members of the bar to help the department as far as they can.

“One of the important things is, there is a requirement for all legal practitioners to comply with the directions and orders of the court.” In the interest of justice, he advised against excessive informal interactions of friendliness between a judge and legal practitioners.

“It must be remembered that the court is an institution of respect and dignity therefore the conduct of each and every one of these institutions must be of mutual respect.”

The chief justice will be meeting with the president of the Nauru Law Society (NLS) and the acting secretary for

the Department of Justice and Border Control (JBC) to revive the bar-bench meeting to bring about efficient delivery of judicial services.

His Honour also encouraged wider use of official government news mediums to better inform the people of Nauru of the summaries of court judgements.

The acting justice secretary Ravuanimasei Tagivakatini and NLS president Barina Duburiya express anticipation of updating archaic legislation such as the civil procedure rules and land laws.

Ms Duburiya reiterated the NLS's commitment to ensuring the rule of law is upheld and implemented, and that Nauruans have full protection under the law.

She also expressed concern that while there are over 70 pleaders, only a handful actually practice law, therefore causes the same issues which underpin the creation of the pleaders course.

Ms Duburiya urge legal practitioners to bring the passion, the right attitude, ethics and commitment back to the profession, the rule of law and to the clients. //

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## Parliament 16 February 2026

### Supplementary Appropriation Bill #4, 2025-26

President and Minister for Finance David Adeang tabled the Supplementary Appropriation Bill #3, 2025-26, on 16 February, reflecting updated estimates to account for new revenue and expenditure measures that are priorities for the government.



Revenue changes total \$1.5 million. Reflects additional receipts realised from fisheries counterpart companies for development purposes.

Expenditures reflect a matching increase of \$1.5 million which the government has directed in its entirety to the Fiscal Cash Buffer, thereby ensuring the cash buffer is preserved and provide the Cabinet with the necessary fiscal feasibility to address development needs as they arise.

The bill also reflects expenditure reallocations totaling \$3m between departments, mainly for the reallocation of identified savings from the education department to finance other category to fund other priority government initiatives; and centralisation of building works to the Department of Infrastructure.

The approved 2025-26 budget totals remain unchanged from the position established in Supplementary Appropriation #3, with total revenue at \$378.6m, expenditure at \$378.5m, and projected fiscal surplus of \$58,000. //

### Staff acknowledged for well-organised celebrations

At the opening of the Parliament sitting, 16 February, President David Adeang conveyed sincere gratitude for public service staff and the community at large for stepping up to look after visiting dignitaries, and ensuring a well organised and memorable week-long celebration for Nauru's 58<sup>th</sup> Independence Day and 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return from Chuuk.

"Our independence, achieved in 1968, was not merely the attainment of self-governance, it was the affirmation of our sovereign identity and the determination of our forebears to chart their own destiny.

"Likewise, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of our people from Chuuk reminds us of a chapter marked by hardship, displacement, and sacrifice – yet also of courage, perseverance, and hope."

President Adeang expressed sincere appreciation to Minister Charmaine Scotty and her steering committee for the preparations, careful planning, and overall conduct of the program and events.

The president also urged staff and parents to refocus their efforts on work and school readiness. //



### Ministerial statements - President

President Adeang presented a ministerial statement expressing special recognition and deep appreciation to guests who attended Nauru's recent celebrations – President Whipples of Palau, and Minister of State of Palau, Governor-General of Tuvalu, Special Envoy and Speaker of the Marshall Islands, Special Envoy and acting secretary for the State for the Federated States of Micronesia, Lieutenant Governor of Chuuk State, Vice President and ministers from Kiribati, Fiji's minister for foreign affairs, the secretary general of the Pacific Islands Forum, ambassadors and representatives for China, Australia, Greece, Japan, and the USA, dignitaries from Australia, the administrator from Rabi and the dancing group.

The President notified the House there are ongoing plans for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return from Chuuk, and Parliament will be updated at the next sitting.

In his final statement, President Adeang acknowledged his accompanying delegation to China this month, which served to further strengthen Nauru's relations with Guangdong Province and through that relationship to further strengthen bilateral relationship with the People's Republic of China.

The visit provided the opportunity for productive bilateral meetings with the members and heads of the standing committees of the People's Congress of Guangzhou City, and CPC Jiangmen Committee.

President Adeang conveyed Nauru's firm adherence to the One-China Principle and steadfast support for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Both sides underscored the commitment to advancing people-centred development initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to its citizens.

A key outcome of the visit was the review of the progress of the China-Nauru Friendship Square project, which Guangdong is committed to complete by 2028.

Other opportunities for cooperation were explored, including: advancement of solar energy supply projects; food security initiatives; financing partnerships to support sustainable national development; and increased mutual visits and exchanges at all levels of strengthen institutional and people-to-people ties. //



*State banquet hosted by the government in celebration of Nauru's Independence Day*



*Nauru, China strengthens bilateral relations during the president's visit to China*



## Parliament takes benchmark exercise

Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen presented to the House at the sitting on 29 January, the benchmarks exercise devised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from 20-23 January and carried out in the Nauru Parliament.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Isabella Dageago inaugurated the exercise and also took part. Also in attendance were the clerk of Parliament and staff, NGO's, civil society organisations, youth representatives, government departments, the auditor general, the Nauru Electoral Commission, Nauru media, the Nauru Chamber of Commerce, and USP staff.

Conducted by the CPA and the Legislative Council of the Victoria Parliament, the aim of the exercise is to suggest and make recommendations to strengthen Parliament. The subsequent report would make Nauru eligible for technical assistance from the CPA. //

### Speaker reports attendance at 28<sup>th</sup> CSPOC

The Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen delivered a report in Parliament, 29 January, on the recent 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), 14-16 January in New Delhi. The conference was hosted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament of India, and opened by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.



*Nauru Parliament staff benefit from innovative strategies and understanding of processes*

Speaker Stephen was accompanied by four parliament staff, and charge-d-affairs from the Nauru high commission in India.

The delegation had the opportunity to attend all the workshops covering artificial intelligence in Parliament, social media and impacts on parliamentarians,

innovative strategies to enhance public understanding of parliament and citizen participation beyond voting, and security, health and wellbeing of members of Parliament and staff.

They also attended the special plenary session on the role of speakers and presiding officers in maintaining strong democratic institutions, and a fruitful bilateral discussion with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Om Birla, paving the way for future cooperation in a new project in infrastructure development.

Formalising a project to emulate modern facilities in the Nauru Parliament is on the horizon. The facilities include a paperless chamber by installing tablets on the tables of the speaker, members and officials, and an electronic voting system. The speaker will also have an electronic time controlling device to regulate the timings of debates.

Under bilateral cooperation, a young parliament staff member also had the opportunity to attend a four-week parliamentary internship programme.

For the second time the Nauru Parliament was elected as a member of the Standing Committee of CSPOC, from the Pacific region along with Fiji, for a two-year term. //

## Parliament 29 January 2026

### Electoral Commission Report

Minister Charmaine Scotty formally tabled the post elections report 2025 highlighting the findings and performances in regards to the Parliamentary general elections and referendum conducted on 11 October 2025.

Sixty-four candidates declared their intention to contest the general elections, however 60 were nominated – six women and 54 men. The 60 candidates contested the 19 seats for the 25<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

The total number of registered voters were 8,731, of which 370 (4 per cent), did not vote.

Data collected showed that on average a member of Parliament represented approximately 460 voters. Representation ranged from 250 voters per member in Buada, to 577 voters per member in Menen.

Nauru's young voter demographics account for 30 per cent of eligible voters under the age of 30 and 45 per cent under the age of 35.

Given these numbers, Minister Scotty said it is important to maintain youth-focused communication and voter awareness initiatives, hence the continuation of activities in the schools such as the Nauru Secondary School student observation program and the successful launch of the civic education curriculum in November 2025.

Proxy votes totaled 1,347, representing 25 per cent of votes cast. All proxy vote applications were approved.

Mobile voting totaled 191 applications, with 33 conducted in correctional facilities, and 24 at hospital, ensuring electoral participation for those unable to attend a polling station.

## WASDA

In 2026, the Women and Social Development Affairs department is building on work already undertaken, strengthen what exists, and ensuring that systems respond effectively to the realities faced by women, children, families, and communities across Nauru.

The review of the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017 is one of the most important pieces of work for the department this year. With the completion of the first part of the review, the second phase of drafting amendments to the Act, is critical.

The second phase is necessary to ensure laws remain fit for purpose, responsive, and practical to enforce.

The experiences of survivors, service providers, police, courts, and communities must also be reflected in the legal framework, while emerging issues such as service coordination, protection mechanisms, and procedural clarity require strengthening.

WASDA will continue its technical partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) to advance key priorities including the drafting of a 10-year WASDA corporate plan which will provide the long-term direction, accountability, and coherence across programmes.

The department continues to support Miss Micronesia as a standing figurehead for the Micronesian Ministers for Women Conference, strengthening regional visibility, advocacy, and cultural leadership.

Nauru's participation in this year's Micronesian Ministers for Women Conference in the Federated States of Micronesia, is substantive.

Nauru's preparation will focus on meaningful contributions to regional dialogue; share lessons learnt and practical solutions; and strengthen Micronesian solidarity on issues affecting women and families.

Minister Scotty says the conference is an opportunity to ensure that Micronesian voices continue to shape regional priorities and influence collective action.

The department places the national interest first and foremost, focusing on visibility, access and impact.

WASDA looks ahead in 2026 to identify, adapt and apply best practices, and with focus, partnership, and commitment it will continue to strengthen protection, promoted dignity, and support the wellbeing of communities across Nauru. //



*A polling station officer oversees a voter deposit her ballot paper*

Due to the compressed timeline, early voting was available for two days, and 1,619 applications were received.

Approximately 25 per cent of the voting population applied to be transferred to other constituencies. This electoral year the Cabinet now makes the decisions and approval for voter transfers.

Minister Scotty said invalid ballot rates remain low by international standards, and were consistent with previous election results. Automatic recounts were not triggered as all winning margins exceeded the 0.25 per cent threshold.

The national referendum held concurrently with the general elections seeking to extend the life of a parliamentary term from three years to four, recorded 3,714 votes in favour of and 4,601 against.

“Overall, the 2025 general election and referendum were delivered successfully within compressed timelines, under a complex preferential voting system. NEC's combination of early material preparation, intensive staff effort, including youth-focused and Nauruan language materials, underpinned a successful process,” Minister Scotty said.

The election marked the first time the Nauru Electoral Commission was not served any election petitions.

It is acknowledged with deep appreciation the support provided by the UNDP Nauru Accountable Inclusive Governance (NAIG) project with generous funding from Australia and New Zealand. //

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## Students awarded inaugural national tertiary scholarship

The Department of Education launched the government's reformed national scholarship program - the Republic of Nauru Tertiary Scholarship Scheme that will see 60 students take up further studies at Fiji institutions this year.



*The government is firmly committed to investing in education*

Launched at the Tomano room, Menen Hotel, 28 January, Minister for Education Asterio Appi congratulated the students on earning the opportunity through effort and determination.

“This government remains firmly committed to investing in education because education is the foundation of sovereignty, resilience and national progress. An

educated population is a national asset. Through education, we reduce dependence, strengthen our development and prepare our people to lead in health, education, infrastructure and governance.”

President David Adeang also offered words of encouragement and support to students to make proud their families, nation and themselves by being good ambassadors during their time abroad and completing their studies successfully.

The cohort of 34 male and 26 female students are enrolling at the University of the South Pacific and Fiji National University, in Suva Fiji.

Congratulations to awardees:

Timaaro Bwenaiti,	Taokai Dake	Mokusha Temaki
Takeiti X-Sina Grundler	B-Beak Doguape	Jlina Teboua
Octavian Cain	Denmark Herman	Junit Grundler
Emma-Rae Debye	Kintaro Neneiya	Taabora Capelle
Emma-Reh Harris	Freesia Addi	Ava-Maea Stephen
Vanessa Gaskell	Joash Dagagio	Larkham Mwareow
Sakura Buraman	Waven Moses	Tahazin Grundler
Erak Redfern	Wimbledon Hubert	Enoch Starr
Joanna Capelle	Rhiana Tabuna	Shapiro Daoe
Trendell Tabuna	Finally Scotty	Raj Dageago
Spartan Rj Teimitsi	Langi Denitage	David Hiram
Krauser Atsime	Cadmus Hubert	Royce Aiyunge
Aliyana Scotty	Lomu Lesa	Rench Peo
Ledon Jimwereiy	Mofete Tavita	Femm Menke
Tupeneta Ubanaba	Maria Agir	David Kabolo
Susanna H Abouke	Certrick Grundler	Rosecia Tamakin
Jumahas Kamtaura	Mecheli Herman	Movalar Batsiua
Mweeroa Ruaiti	Staryz Olsson	Ferris Fritz
Powell Baguga	Dairuz Grundler	Jamel Togoran
Siiva Haulangi	Salega Ephraim	Jake Adeang

## Ronphos

Minister for Ronphos, Delvin Thoma updated parliament on 29 January, that since assuming responsibilities as minister for the phosphate corporation, the company's focus has been firmly on stabilising and increasing mining production, improving processing, and ensuring export continuity.

“These efforts are essential to enable Ronphos to meet its rising operational costs, landowner obligations, and workforce payments, while at the same time driving greater efficiency and output across its operations,” Minister Thoma said.

“I encourage this same dedication as we embark on a new phase focused on maximising output, improving efficiency and strengthening Ronphos for the future.”

Challenges continue to hinder normal berthing operations, such as heavy rain and aging infrastructure. The minister underscored the need for preventative measure and upgrades to ensure smoother and more reliable operations.

The minister reported his official meetings in Beijing with three major companies, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), a state-owned company expert in delivering industrial and infrastructural projects, Sinasure Insurance, an export credit insurer, and proposed lender CITIC Bank.

Discussions touched on initial planning, including scope of work, finance and technical developments. The parties will continue updating Ronhpos with additional feedback.

Ronphos also addressed the need for urgent and immediate works on export-critical infrastructure, specifically for the cantilever system, necessary to protect revenue and ensure reliable ship loading operations, as well as long-term upgrades on processing plants and other critical infrastructure.

The installation of the dust suppression unit is expected to be completed later this year, significantly improving the health and well-being of the affected community in Aiwo, and providing a safer working environment and reducing costs related to dust-related operations.

A revitalised Ronphos will be better positioned to increase exports, support its workforce, meet landowner commitments and contribute positively to Nauru's broader economic objectives.”

The minister expressed appreciation to all Ronphos employees for their hard work, commitment, and professionalism in carrying out their duties with discipline and a strong work ethic; and for the support and insightful contributions of the secretary for finance throughout the China meetings. //

## Parliament 29 January 2026 - Acts

### Constitution (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2026

An amendment to the Constitution of Nauru 1968 is proposing to replace all references to 'Nauru' with 'Naoero'. Consequently, references to the same in any written law also applies.

President David Adeang tabled the bill at the 29 January 2026 Parliament sitting and explained that while the name 'Nauru' has been recognised internationally since independence, the proposed change seeks to more faithfully honour our nation's heritage, our language, and our identity.

History records that the country was given many names, the first being, Pleasant Island by the first European to put it on the map, Captain John Fearn.

Other names included Schank Island, Atlantic Island, Nawodo, Navoda, Anaero, and Onawero - the latter arising from misinterpretations of the original name, Naoero.

The president explains, Naoero began to change over time as the name travelled beyond its shores. Nauru emerged because Naoero could not be properly pronounced by foreign tongues, and was changed not by our choice, but for convenience.

"Today, we have the opportunity to bring our name home," President Adeang said.

"This moment carries special meaning. This year, we commemorate 80 years since our people returned home from Chuuk. Our elders still carry those memories. That return was not easy. Yet our people came back strong, determined, and united. They rebuilt. They held on to their identity. They never forgot who they were.

"Changing our name back to Naoero is part of that same journey. It is about dignity. It is about pride. It is about honouring those who came before us."

And like many other nations who have also changed their country names to better reflect and honour their cultures and languages, and bring their people together, such as Eswatini, Türkiye, and closer to home – Chuuk.

This name change will be reflected across the country, from the renaming of the national aircraft and ships, to official identity regionally and internationally, including at the United Nations, and across national official records and symbols.

President Adeang underscores this is a comprehensive national change, that will require commitment, unity, and leadership from all Nauruans, that when the time comes for a national referendum, to stand together.

"We are asking for all of us — for 100 per cent of patriotic Nauruans — to stand up and say yes, not for government, not for leaders, but for Naoero.

"This is our moment. Naoero is our name. Naoero is our identity. Naoero is who we are."



Article 102 is inserted to provide for transitional provision relating to the amendment.

At the commencement of the Constitution (Amendment) (No2) Act 2026, any reference to the term Nauru in any agreement, arrangement, understanding, and contract, involving the Nauru Government, including a registry or other records required by a written law, shall be deemed to mean Naoero.

Importantly, the bill safeguards continuity by affirming that no rights, obligations, proceedings, decisions, actions, appointments, or other matters done under the Constitution prior to the bill's enactment will be affected by the enactment itself.

The Constitution (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2026 was tabled in Parliament on 29 January, but has not been passed. It is laid over for 90 days under Article 84, and then will be returned to the order paper for debate by the Parliament.

The change will mean a vote in Parliament requiring two-thirds majority of MPs to vote for the change, after which will go to a national referendum and all eligible Nauruan voters will be asked to cast their vote to change or not change, the name 'Nauru' to 'Naoero'.

A referendum date will be set once it has passed Parliament. //



## Bank of Nauru Repeal Act 2025

President David Adeang tabled the Bank of Nauru Repeal Bill 2025 at the 23 December 2025 sitting of the Nauru Parliament. It went through first reading and remained on the table to be dealt with further at the 29 January 2026 sitting, and was subsequently passed.



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

The Bank of Nauru Repeal Act 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 Act 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 Act 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 Act provides the Cabinet with a regulation-making 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.

To manage the winding-up of those liabilities, the District Court of Nauru appointed a liquidator on 19 November 2009. At the same time, the then secretary for finance was appointed as project manager to oversee the Liquidation Project.

Over the next four years, the liquidation team undertook the painstaking work of recovering assets and confirming deposit balances. //

## Nauru presents Universal Periodic Review

A delegation led by Minister for Justice and Border Control, Hon Lionel Aingimea made a presentation of its Universal Period Review to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 20 January, Geneva, reporting on progress, challenges, and priorities.



*Minister Aingimea (seated far right) and delegation at the UN Human Rights Council*

Nauru's participation reaffirms its commitment to transparency, accountability, and the continuous strengthening of Nauru's national institutions.

Minister Aingimea says Nauru's engagement in the UPR process reflects our enduring commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of all our people. The government will continue to work collaboratively across sectors, and with our development partners, to advocate these shared goals.

The delegation outlined the significant steps taken since the last review in 2021, which include improvements in public administration, ongoing reforms to strengthen governance, and targeted investments in health, education, and social protection.

Also brought up were efforts to enhance the wellbeing of women, children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, and the profound human rights implications of climate change for Nauruans.

The review also included measures to improve access to justice, strengthen the rule of law, and reinforce institutional capacity.

The delegation acknowledged constraints faced by small island developing states and as such, welcomes technical assistance and partnership.

Nauru is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, and continues to advocate for stronger global action and sustained international support to safeguard its future.

The delegation also provided an update on Nauru's justice and security reforms, underpinned by the Human Rights Commission Act 2025, and received constructive recommendations focusing on enhancing protections for women and children, improving disability inclusion, strengthening data systems, and to consider ratification of additional human rights instruments.

*(cont pg 10...)*

Minister Aingimea said the government will carefully examine the recommendations and determine those that align with Nauru's national priorities and capacity.

He concludes, Nauru's engagement in the UPR process reflects Nauru's enduring commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of its people. "The government will continue to work collaboratively across sectors, and with our development partners, to advocate these shared goals." //

## Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (Greece), Stavros Venizelos

His Excellency President David Adeang, received the Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (Greece), Stavros Venizelos, at the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials, 30 January.



*Ambassador Venizelos paid tribute to Nauru's struggles and heroism on the independence anniversary*

Ambassador Venizelos was accorded a Guard of Honour by the Nauru Police Force prior to meeting with President Adeang.

The Ambassador congratulated President Adeang and the people of Nauru on the anniversary of the returnees from Chuuk after World War II, paying tribute to the struggle and heroism of Nauru's forefathers.

President Adeang expressed his appreciation for the remarks, emphasising that this milestone reflects the resilience, sacrifice, and courage that shaped the nation and contributed to the global pursuit of peace and cooperation.

He also reaffirmed Nauru's appreciation for Greece's commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as its support for Pacific Island countries through the European Union and beyond. //

## Ambassador of Japan to Nauru, Tajima Hiroshi

His Excellency President David Adeang warmly received the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Nauru, Tajima Hiroshi, for the presentation of credentials at the Office of the President, 30 January.



*Nauru, Japan look forward to strengthening the relationship cooperation*

President Adeang expressed deep appreciation for Japan's longstanding support to Nauru, particularly its valuable contributions to infrastructure, education, and healthcare, which have strengthened national capacity and improved the well-being of the Nauruan people.

He also extended warm greetings to the Government and people of Japan, while expressing sincere appreciation to former Ambassador Rokuichiro Michii for his dedicated service and efforts to strengthen the bonds between the two nations.

President Adeang says the Government of Nauru looks forward to strengthening this close relationship, with hopes that during Ambassador Hiroshi's tenure, "we will continue to explore new avenues of cooperation, deepen our mutual understanding, and work together to advance our shared objectives of peace, stability, and prosperity for our peoples."

The Ambassador expressed his earnest commitment to serving as Japan's representative and to working closely with the Government of Nauru to "elevate bilateral relations to even greater heights."

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, he conveyed his best wishes to the President and the people of Nauru for good health and happiness, and for continued peace and prosperity for the Republic of Nauru.

Ambassador Hiroshi is a seasoned Japanese diplomat with extensive experience in economic diplomacy, having served in senior roles within Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in overseas postings, and currently as Ambassador to Nauru and Fiji. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Keio University and a master's degree in politics and economics from the University of Oxford. //

## International Civil Aviation Organisation inspects DCA

The ICAO PSIDS liaison officer Kyal Barter recently visited Nauru to assess the aviation environment and strengthen the cooperative relationship between Nauru and his office. During his visit 22-23 January, he also met with Nauru's Minister for Transport, Hon Reagan Aliklik, and shared advice on regulatory and operational matters.



*(L-R) Minister Aliklik meets ICAO liaison officer Kyal Barter during inspection visit*

His meeting with the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) included examining organisational and operational aspects of DCA, review of Nauru's implementation requirements, and acknowledged the significant progress made in addressing issues identified in the previous ICAO security audit.

He also toured the airport facilities including the check-in, baggage, and arrival areas, observed flight operations and met with Nauru Airlines to discuss connectivity, operational challenges, and passenger movement.

Discussions with Secretary for National Emergency Services Barassi Botelanga centred on meteorology, airport fire and rescue, and search and rescue operations.

He expressed satisfaction with recent developments in meteorology notably the newly installed weather equipment.

Mr Barter expressed the ICAO liaison offices continued commitment to supporting the uplift of aviation standards in Nauru. //

## Nauru Airlines commences lease finance agreement

Minister for Nauru Airlines Hon Asterio Appi announced the commencement of an aircraft engine sale and leaseback agreement with Willis Lease Finance Corporation (WLFC) for seven CFM56-7B engines, 5 February.



*Aircraft parked at Brisbane hangar*

The agreement will provide Nauru with reliable ConstantThrust® support for the airline's entire modern fleet of CFM56-7B engines powering Boeing 737-700 and 737-800 aircraft for six plus years.

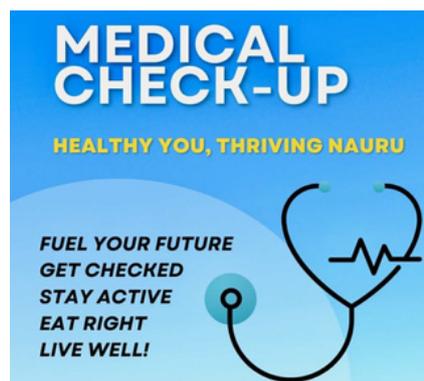
"Working with a global lessor like WLFC will bring us the operational leverage we need," Minister Appi said.

"We are thrilled to be leveraging the Willis strength and reach in aircraft engine leasing."

Under WLFC's ConstantThrust® program engines are seamlessly exchanged for fully serviceable replacements as they reach major maintenance intervals.

ConstantThrust® leverages WLFC's global expertise in spare parts provisioning, technical management, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services to ensure uninterrupted operational performance for airlines and lessors worldwide.

This program will play a key role in supporting Nauru's continued growth and its critical role in providing reliable air transportation across the Central and South Pacific region. //



## Local doctor promoted focused on innovative solutions for Nauru Medical Centre

Nauru Medical Centre continues to improve services as local doctor promoted.

The Nauru Medical Centre (NMC) continues to increase and improve services across all locations as the government prioritises national health and wellbeing.

President David Adeang said while some challenges with the transition to new management are to be expected, overwhelmingly there have been huge improvements, with many more to come.

“We have never seen this quality of medical staff and international specialist doctors which now means major operations can be done on island,” he said.

The President also congratulated Nauruan doctor Angelique Makutu who has been appointed as director of medical services, overseeing the quality, safety, and delivery of medical care within NMC.

“It’s a proud moment for Nauru and should inspire others to advance their education and skills.

“It’s wonderful to see locals take on specialist roles that have been traditionally filled by people from overseas,” he said.

Dr. Makutu is a paediatrician who holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the Fiji School of Medicine and a Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health Management from Fiji National University.

Deputy Minister for Public Health Rennie Gadabu said a new appointment process for the Family Health Clinic and Outpatient Department is slashing wait times, improving patient flow and ensuring patients are directed to the appropriate physician, while revealing that new dental clinics are expected to be completed soon.

“This includes two new Belmont dental clinics equipped with advanced 3D imaging and X-ray technology like CT scan, panoramic, 2D, 3D, and cephalometric,” he said.



*Director of Medical Services Dr Angelique Makutu*

Mr Gadabu also outlined a raft of new health system improvements including the opening of a new 10-bed paediatric clinic centralising care for children from birth to 14 years old, the launch of a thermal ablation clinic for women’s health including HPV treatment, and the addition of two new isolation rooms in Public Health for dialysis services.

He also said one of the operating theatres has reopened with a new Dräger anaesthesia machine, and upgrades to laboratory services. The second operating theatre will reopen soon.

President Adeang said the Nauru Medical Centre was a key part of the overall government aim to improve quality of life, health and social cohesion.

“We are very focused on innovative solutions for Nauruans, now and for the future,” he said. //

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