



# Nauru Bulletin

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*Special Edition*

## Obituary

### Former President **Ludwig Scotty**

Anabar, Nauru – 2 March 2026

Ludwig Derangadage Scotty, 77, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 25 February 2026, surrounded by his family at the Republic of Nauru Hospital.

Mr Scotty was born on 20 June 1948, to parents Douba and Eidenamo, in Anabar District, and had eight siblings. He was educated locally and worked as a trainee teacher and a dental technician, before pursuing a career in politics. He joined the judiciary and admitted as a pleader on 24 September 2001.

A parliamentary by-election for Anabar in March 1983 led to his election as a member of the Sixth Parliament for the Constituency of Anabar, Ijuw, Anibare. Mr Scotty first served as Cabinet minister in the Eleventh Parliament under president Bernard Dowiyogo in 1992.

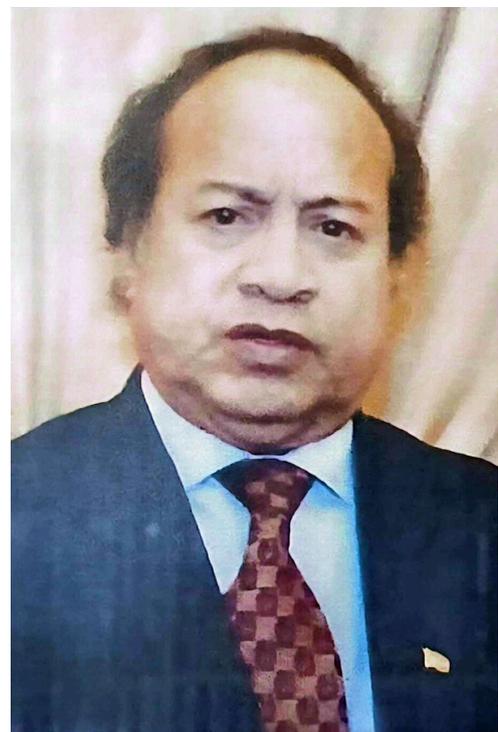
He devoted his life to the service of his nation, holding key leadership positions and shaping the Republic's modern political history.

He was the longest serving member of the Nauru Parliament for 33 years until 2016, in which time he held the Office of the President twice in 2003 and then from June 2004 until December 2007 - guiding the nation through periods of political and economic transition and important economic and constitutional reform.

He was also speaker of Parliament six times from 2000 to 2016, demonstrating his deep commitment to democratic governance.

His presidency in 2004, was at the height of the global financial crisis and Nauru's very own economic and financial collapse. His courage and leadership led to tough political decisions, which set in motion the reforms that guided the country through very difficult times, nation building and improved economic standing.

He demonstrated empathy by receiving the same \$40 salary per fortnight, as every other public servant during the economic crisis as president. He was the first president to do so.



He was respected and admired for his leadership, dedication and time for his people and community, and humour in and out of parliament.

During his presidency, Nauru's war survivors were brought to the fore, and celebrated at national events to date. He nicknamed them 'Young at Hearts', for their love of life, high spirits, resilience and survival in wartime and modern-day struggles.

Known for his steady leadership, commitment to national unity, and service to the people of Nauru, President Scotty was respected at home and across the Pacific region. His legacy endures in the institutions he strengthened and the many Nauruans whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his second wife, Katarina, and children Blossom, Imran, Allan-Ludd, Violet, and Blonnie, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. //

## State funeral for the late Ludwig Scotty Former President of Nauru and Speaker of Parliament



The late former President of Nauru, Ludwig Scotty, was laid to rest in his hometown of Anabar District in the northern part of Nauru on Monday, 2 March 2026.

Joining his family and community in honouring his life and paying respects, included His Excellency President David Adeang, Cabinet ministers, members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, Nauru's foreign missions, and senior department officials.

Mr Scotty passed away at the Republic of Nauru Hospital on 25 February.

His casket was transported from hospital on the morning of 2 March, escorted by the Nauru Police Force, to his private residence in Anabar District, for a private family viewing. Family members then carried the casket, draped with the Nauru national flag, to the nearby Anabar Congregational Church for the service led by Pastor Jesimiel Dogitamo Jeremiah.

After the opening prayer, the NPF brass band played the national anthem followed by scripture readings, hymns, and eulogies delivered by grandson Dolph Rage Menke, former member of Parliament, close friend and colleague Vinci Clodumar, former chief secretary Camilla Solomon, former president and current Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Baron Waqa, His Excellency President David Adeang, and Minister and Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Anabar, Ijuw, Anibare, Maverick Eoe.

Eulogies honoured and celebrated Mr Scotty's lifetime of dedication and devotion to the service of his community and Nauru. Recollections of his qualities and good humour as a friend, colleague and family resonated with those in attendance and the many viewing the live telecast from beyond Nauru's shores.

President Adeang who was the 'right hand man' to President Scotty as the minister assisting the president

and finance, said "it was never my wish and never my dream to be the president at the time of my dear friend's passing". He expressed the depth of love and respect there was towards Mr Scotty, and recalled the long and difficult days and nights of steering Nauru through its darkest days of economic and financial collapse.

As a young politician, President Adeang recalled his first encounter with Mr Scotty, with the ambition of his group of young new parliamentarians in selecting a mature and experienced MP to lead their visionary caucus through Nauru's financially troubling times. They proposed the presidency to Ludwig Scotty, and the rest is history.

Mr Clodumar recounted the courage of Mr Scotty when he stood before fellow Pacific leaders at the 2004 Pacific Islands Forum meeting, and told them Nauru needed help. This call for support led to the creation of the Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru (PRAN), which Nauru would later call for its end in 2009 citing an improved economic outlook.

The funeral procession on foot to the Anabar Cemetery was led by members of the Nauru Police Force, carrying the casket of the late former president to his final resting place. Son of the late president, Acting Commissioner of Police Imran Scotty shared memories and stories of growing up and sharing his father with the nation and witnessing the devotion to ensure Nauru's success and survival during one of its most trying times.

The NPF stood at attention in solemn respect as Pastor Jeremiah led the final prayers. On behalf of the President of Nauru, the national flag was folded and presented to Mrs Katarina Scotty, as a symbol of appreciation for President Scotty's honorable and faithful service.

The public was then invited to join the family at the residence after the service. //



## **Condolence message by President Surangel Whipps, Jr. Republic of Palau**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Palau, I extend our deepest sympathies to you, the Government and people of Nauru, and to the family and loved ones of the late former President Ludwig D. Scotty. His passing is a profound loss to Nauru and to our wider Pacific family, and we join you in mourning a distinguished statesman who dedicated his life to the service of his nation.

President Scotty will be remembered not only for steering Nauru through a period of significant political and economic transition, but also for the leadership he showed in advancing regional cooperation among Pacific Island countries, including through the Pacific Islands Forum and related regional initiatives. During his tenure as President in 2003 and again from 2004 to 2007, Nauru worked closely with Palau and other Micronesian neighbors through cooperation under existing regional fisheries frameworks, including arrangements associated with the Nauru Agreement and Palau Arrangement, as well as broader regional recovery efforts supported through the Pacific Plan and Pacific Islands Forum processes.

These efforts helped to solidify the habits of consultation and mutual support that continue to underpin the relationship between our two countries today.

We recall with appreciation the spirit of friendship and solidarity that President Scotty brought to regional gatherings, where Palau and Nauru often stood side by side in championing the priorities of small island states, including sustainable development, good governance, and the protection of our shared ocean resources. His commitment to upholding the values of dialogue, consensus-building, and the Pacific Way left a lasting imprint on our regional institutions and on the close ties between Nauru and Palau.

We hold you all in our thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort in the knowledge that his legacy of leadership, integrity, and service will endure in the hearts of his people, in the institutions he helped to strengthen, and in the enduring friendship between our two nations.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



## **Condolence message by His Excellency Taneti Maamau**

**President of the Republic of Kiribati**

Dear President Adeang,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Kiribati, I wish to convey our deepest condolences to Your Excellency, the Government of Nauru, following the passing of former President, the late Ludwig Derangdage Scotty.

The late former President Scotty served his nation with distinction, dedication, and unwavering commitment. His leadership and contributions to the advancement of Nauru, as well as to regional cooperation within the Pacific family, will be remembered with great respect and appreciation. His legacy of public service will continue to inspire present and future generations.

As fellow Pacific island nations united by shared heritage, friendship, and mutual respect, Kiribati stands in solidarity with Nauru during this moment of mourning. Please convey our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and loved ones of the late former President. May his memory be honoured with dignity and may the people of Nauru find strength and comfort in unity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and deepest sympathy.

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## **Condolence message by Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

Dear Excellency,

It is with great sorrow to have learnt the news of the passing of the former President of Nauru, His Excellency Ludwig Scotty.

On behalf of the People and Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I wish to express our deepest condolences to the People and the Government of the Republic of Nauru and our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the family of the late former President Ludwig Scotty.

His Excellency Scotty was a true statesman and a remarkable public servant with a political career spanning over decades, having served twice as the Head of State and Government of the Republic. I pray that the people of the Republic of Nauru, his district of Anabar, his family and loved ones find strength and comfort during this difficult time.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands stands in unity with the people and Government of Nauru as we mourn the passing of a remarkable leader who devoted his life to strengthening Nauru's place in the world. His legacy will continue to inspire our collective commitment to peace, friendship, and cooperation.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

## **Condolence message by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people and Government of Australia, I extend my sincere condolences on the passing of His Excellency Ludwig Scotty, former President of the Republic of Nauru.

I understand President Scotty made a substantial contribution to public life in Nauru, as a former President, Speaker and the longest serving member of parliament in Nauruan history, having served from 1983 until 2016.

I would like to acknowledge the immense sadness that both the Nauruan community and members of your Government must feel. I understand this is a personal loss, as you served alongside President Scotty as a member of parliament for many years, including as his Deputy, and a trusted senior minister during both of his terms in office.

On behalf of the people of Australia, my deepest sympathies to you, President Scotty's family, and the people of Nauru at this very sad time.

Ata amin bwini - we are family.

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## **Condolence message by Anutin Charnvirakul Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand**

Your Excellency,

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of His Excellency Ludwig Derangadage Scotty, the former President of the Republic of Nauru, who devoted his life to the service of his country over several decades.

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, and through you, to the people of the Republic of Nauru, our heartfelt condolences for this immense loss. We recall with respect and appreciation that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Nauru was in 2005 which was during His Excellency's presidential tenure. His Excellency's lifelong dedication to his country, both as President and as Speaker of Parliament, has made a significant contribution to Nauru's development. Such remarkable achievement will continue to, in various ways, inspire generations to come.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

## **Condolence message by the Foreign Minister of New Zealand, Right Hon Winston Peters**

Dear Minister Lionel Aingimea,

It was with great sorrow that news was received of the passing of former President Ludwig Scotty, on 25 February 2026.

On behalf of the Government and people of New Zealand, our deepest condolences are extended to you and the people of Nauru at this time of mourning.

Former President Scotty served the people of Nauru with dedication and distinction, including during his terms as President and Speaker of Parliament.

His economic leadership demonstrated steadfast commitment to Nauru's stability, resilience, and long-term prosperity. Former President Scotty's contributions to strengthening Nauru's governance and economic foundations will be long remembered.

He was not only an exceptional leader but also an influential mentor and friend to many.

As the Government of Nauru honours former President Scotty's remarkable legacy, please accept New Zealand's most sincere sympathies.

We remain committed to championing the close relationship between New Zealand and Nauru, and look forward to the opportunity to meet with you again in the future.

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## **Condolence message by Baron Waqa, Secretary General Pacific Island Forum**

Your Excellency,

I convey heartfelt condolences on the passing of the former President, His Excellency Ludwig Scotty.

President Scotty's long and distinguished career as a senior statesman stands as a testament to his unwavering professionalism, integrity, and dedication to public service. His enduring contributions to the nation, and his commitment to advancing the interests of the Nauruan people, were exemplary. His leadership and engagement at the regional level also brought valued insight to the wider Forum family.

As a Forum Leader, he championed important regional issues like climate change, sustainable development, and the priorities of small island developing states. His legacy as a steadfast and principled voice for the Pacific will remain deeply valued, and remembered well beyond our shores.

May the good Lord be with the family of the late President, and the people of Nauru, at this time of profound sadness.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Condolence message by Ambassador  
Frederick Pitcher, Permanent Mission of  
Nauru in Geneva, Switzerland**

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Nauru in Geneva, Switzerland, we extend our deepest condolences to the family of the late Hon. Ludwig Derangdage Scotty, former President of the Republic of Nauru.

We join the people of Nauru in mourning a dedicated leader who served our nation with honour and steadfast commitment. His contributions to Nauru's governance and international standing will remain a lasting legacy.

As Scripture reminds us: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)

May God grant his family comfort and peace during this difficult time.



**Condolence message by John Degory,  
Chargé d' Affaires, ad interim  
Embassy of the United States of  
America**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Embassy of the United States of America, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to you, the Government, and the people of the Republic of Nauru on the passing of former President His Excellency Ludwig Scotty.

President Scotty's leadership and dedicated service to Nauru reflected his steadfast commitment to his nation and its future. His contributions to strengthening governance and advancing national development will be remembered with great respect and appreciation.

Please accept our heartfelt sympathies during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, former colleagues, and all the people of Nauru as you mourn this loss and honour his legacy.



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