



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 6 - 2026/308

## Vital Energy monitors international prices, supply conditions

His Excellency President David Adeang calls for calm and responsible actions amid the Middle East conflict and growing fuel concerns, advising the public in opening statements during Parliament sitting, 27 March, to conserve energy wherever possible.



The government is currently monitoring the situation and has already implemented all necessary measures to secure sufficient fuel reserves for Nauru.

“We are working diligently to maintain essential services and ensure stability throughout the country.”

The president calls on the public to act responsibly during this time and to use fuel and electricity wisely, reduce the use of or switch off unnecessary appliances.

“Small actions taken collectively will make a significant difference in protecting our national reserve.”

In the meantime, there is no need for panic. The government is fully prepared to manage the situation responsibly.

“We should stand together as one community supporting each other, conserving our resources and acting with discipline and care, and with unity and cooperation, we can and we will navigate this challenge safely.”

Meanwhile, Nauru’s fuel supplier, Vital Energy Inc., (VEI) issued a statement this month advising it is closely monitoring international fuel markets amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East and associated disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical corridor for global oil and LNG shipments. Prolonged disruption in this region could affect fuel supply chains to multiple countries and regions including the Republic of Nauru.

### Supply is Secure

VEI reassures its Nauruan customers and stakeholders that there are currently no issues with the supply of petroleum products to Nauru.

VEI and the Government of Nauru will be jointly monitoring to ensure that strategic oil reserves in the Nauru Terminal are maintained to cater for short term disruptions, and that a future pipeline of supply cargoes under contracted fuel supply arrangements with reputable supplier(s) remain on schedule.

Vital is aware of reports from around the region of escalating oil prices, and oil shortages, and urge its customers not to engage in panic buying or hoarding. There is sufficient quantity of product to meet Nauru requirements.

Due to the velocity of the impact of this risk, domestic fuel prices will be affected in the coming months. There is an observable increase in refined product pricing, with price increases in the market expected to be materially different for diesel, gasoline and Jet A1.

Customers should be aware that Nauru operates under a regulated fuel market framework model and are assured that domestic price movements over coming months will reflect the actual costs of procurement and transportation of products to Nauru. This is defined and governed by the terms and conditions defined in the 2022 Petroleum Supply and Facility Management Agreement.

VEI will continue to closely monitor international developments and work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure continuity of supply and stability for the Nauru market.

VEI remains committed to meeting its contractual obligations and ensuring resiliency and security of fuel supply for Nauru.

For more information, please contact the Vital Communications Team or email your inquiries on: [info@fsmc.com](mailto:info@fsmc.com)

*Parliament statements and bills that were presented on 26 and 31 March will be published in the next edition*

## Remembering a distinguished leader, Head Chief Detudamo

Head Chief Timothy Detudamo Day, 25 March, commemorates the birthdate and honours the memory of one of Nauru's most influential and long line of distinguished leaders in the eventual fight for independence and nation-building.



*Detudamo, father of modern Nauruan society was instrumental in leading his people through war and exile*

The celebration and activities organised by Eigigu Holdings Corporation (EHC) included a float parade from the Detudamo Memorial Chapel in Nibok to the Orro Congregational Church in Aiwo, storytelling by granddaughter Briar-Rose Alona, and gift-giving to Nauru's World War II survivors, the Young at Heart.

Head Chief Detudamo was a politician and linguist known as the father of modern Nauruan society. He served as head chief from 1930 until his death in 1953. He was instrumental in saving the lives of his people while leading them through exile in Chuuk during the Second World War.

With colonialism and the introduction of Christianity and Western influences, the fabric of Nauruan culture began to change. Detudamo's linguistic skills and wisdom served to save his people and bridge the gap between them and administrators of their land.

With the support and guidance of Reverend Phillip Delaporte, Detudamo worked on translating the Bible while in America. Back home, along with other Nauruan students, Detudamo played a part in the publishing of the German-Nauruan dictionary, translated religious text, and enriching the community with their knowledge. He was also a layman of the Protestant Church.

After spending time in the U.S, and seeing the power of free enterprise, he envisioned entrepreneurial opportunities for the Nauruan people.

Under his guidance, the Australian administrators granted the Nauruans permission to establish their own local store. This would provide employment and affordable goods for the Nauruan people. Ultimately, the local store is a symbol of resilience and empowerment.

The Council of Chiefs was formed to administer the Nauru Cooperative Store, then in June 1923, the store was officially established with Chief Detudamo as the chairman. This incredible feat broke the trading monopoly by the BPC and provided affordable goods for the community. The store is now called, Eigigu, the lady in the moon. The image of Eigigu symbolises this accomplishment, representing their ability to overcome obstacles and challenges.

Detudamo headed the Nauru Lands Committee in 1931 joined by a group of diverse and dedicated members who worked tirelessly to protect and secure the land for the Nauruan people.

In 1937 he was part of the Nauruan Language Committee which worked on a vernacular for use in schools and official purpose.

On 15 December 1951, the first elections for the Nauru Local Government Council (NLGC) was held culminating in the election of nine councillors for the eight constituencies. Timothy Detudamo was elected Head Chief.

On 11 April 1953, at the age of 65, Nauru mourned the passing of Head Chief Timothy Detudamo. //

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## Japan strengthens Nauru's cultural preservation and maritime security

Japan reaffirms its readiness to continue working closely with Nauru in strengthening maritime security and support for cultural preservation through its latest provision of assets this month.



*Japan patrol boat supports Nauru's maritime security efforts*

The donation and handover of an inshore patrol boat for the Nauru Police Force maritime team by the Government and people of Japan, 20 March, reinforces the continued partnership and mutual trust between Nauru and Japan, as well as reflect the commitment to strengthening Nauru's national ownership of maritime security.

Japan Ambassador Hiroshi Tajima presented the 10-metre aluminium catamaran to His Excellency President David Adeang and acting Minister for Nauru Police Delvin Thoma.

Designed specifically for in-shore operations, the vessel will strengthen the NPF maritime unit's operational capacity, enabling more effective coastal patrols, faster response to incidents at sea, and improved enforcement against maritime crime, contributing directly to the protection of Nauru's marine resources.

With technical support through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the handover forms part of a broader UNODC global maritime crime programme initiative, to support maritime law enforcement capacity across Pacific Island countries.

Small Island Developing States, like Nauru, face growing maritime challenges including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, transnational crime, and unauthorised activities in its territorial waters. Such activities undermine sustainable fisheries, deprive governments of legitimate revenue, and weakens the rule of law at sea.

Countries with vast maritime zones and limited resources face challenges that are difficult to address without practical and reliable maritime capabilities. In this regard the Japanese government is supporting additional assistance to strengthen maritime law enforcement capabilities through Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Policy, capacity building, automatic identification system (AIS), information sharing, and analytical skills.

Ambassador Tajima said Japan's cooperation with Nauru and will the wider Pacific region, "is guided by our shared belief in a free, open and rules-based maritime order", adding that Japan "firmly believes that safeguarding the ocean is essential not only for national security, but also for sustainable development and the wellbeing of future generations".

A day earlier, 19 March, Minister for National Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Naoero Museum Charmaine Scotty and Ambassador Tajima signed an agreement for the provision of exhibition display cases for the Naoero Museum under Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots projects.



*Minister for Culture Scotty and Ambassador Tajima sign grant to boost work of Nauru museum*

The ceremony marks an important step in supporting the preservation of Nauru's history and cultural heritage.

A slide show of the proposed redesign and layout of the museum was also viewed during the signing event.

As the museum holds several pieces of artefacts which depict the relationship and history between Nauru and Japan, the exhibition cases would serve to further enhance better understanding of the culture and history between the two countries.

The museum expects to receive the cases in January 2027.

The two events demonstrate Japan's commitment towards Nauru's efforts in strengthening national resilience through cultural preservation and maritime security. //



## Dental clinic reestablished at main hospital

A brand-new dental clinic opened at the RON Hospital-based Medical Centre, 25 March, completely outfitted with two dental chairs, and panoramic X-ray equipment that's set to elevate dental services and accommodate local community needs.



*Dr Makutu praises new dental clinic as part of sweeping upgrades*

Director of Medical Services, Dr Angelique Makutu said it's a proud moment and is a collective effort between the Government of Nauru and medical services provider, GMSS.

His Excellency President David Adeang and Deputy Minister for Health & Medical Services Rennier Gadabu officially opened the clinic with the symbolic ribbon cutting event, followed by a guided tour of the facility.

The new facility is part of a series of upgrades demonstrating the government's vision and plans to ensure the Nauruan people are provided with the best care and access to medical facilities.

Also in attendance were Minister Shadlog Bernicke and Secretary for Health Berilyn Jeremiah. //



## Cuba ambassador present credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang warmly received the letter of credence of His Excellency Néstor Enrique Torres Olivera, accrediting him as Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Republic of Nauru, 17 March.



*Cuba's support extends to health and scholarships in the medical field*

Ambassador Olivera arrived at the government offices and inspected the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials.

In congratulating Ambassador Olivera, President Adeang wished the Ambassador success in his diplomatic missions and emphasised full support from the Nauru Government.

President Adeang expressed deep appreciation for Cuba's longstanding support, particularly in Nauru's health sector, including scholarships in the medical field.

"Nauru values its partnership with Cuba and looks forward to further expanding our cooperation in areas such as health, education, sports, environmental protection, disaster management and people-to-people exchanges."

The Ambassador also had the opportunity to meet with the Cabinet for discussions on a broad range of matters of mutual interest and cooperation.

Ambassador Olivera obtained a Bachelor's of Education, speciality in mathematics and computer science at the Enrique José Varona Higher Pedagogical Institute, Cuba, in 2001. He completed several postgraduate courses in international relations, languages, and world economy.

His experience since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 has built his extensive career in Cuba, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Shanghai, China. Nauru and Cuba have enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in May 2002. //

## Strengthening North Pacific links

The Government of Nauru has welcomed the outcomes of the inaugural North Pacific Aviation Summit in Canberra, this month, agreeing on practical steps to strengthen vital air links across the North Pacific.



*Minister Appi and Minister Conroy discuss bilateral cooperation on margins of aviation summit*

Minister for Nauru Air Corporation (NAC), Asterio Appi highlighted Nauru's role in operating the North Pacific Connector (NPC) service and the strong regional and Australian support to secure its long-term commercial sustainability.

The NPC has already carried more than 55,000 passengers and 800 tonnes of freight, deepening social, cultural and economic links between Australia and the North Pacific.

Minister Appi acknowledges commitments by partner governments to measures such as fee waivers, night-time landings, greater use of the NPC by officials, and better alignment of aviation and tourism policies to improve the route's viability.

The Minister describes the NPC as a "lifeline" for communities and economies and expresses pride in Nauru's role in operating the service for the region.

Next steps include written commitments by 6 May and a virtual follow-up meeting by mid-May, with joint work on long-term sustainability to continue over the next two years.

On the margins of the aviation summit, Minister Appi had the opportunity to discuss bilateral cooperation with Australia's Minister for Pacific Islands Affairs, Hon Pat Conroy.

The discussion centred on advancing cooperation in sectors including education and vocational training, as well as critical infrastructure projects in civil aviation.

Minister Appi acknowledged the longstanding commitment by Australia to support the education sector under the Nauru Education Programme funded by Australia.

Another highlight of the discussion is the newly implemented reform of Nauru's education policy on scholarships aiming to maximise high school graduates and provide more opportunities for Nauruans to pursue

further education abroad and on island at its own TVET centre.

One of the key milestones is Nauru's TVET centre being the only TAFE-accredited institution, which reflects Nauru's potential to expand training opportunities for Nauruans and potentially extend to the region.

Both sides agree to continue strengthening cooperation and support for critical infrastructure in the education sector.

Australia has been a longstanding development partner for Nauru in achieving key priorities under Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), especially within the education sector.

Minister Appi conveyed the government's appreciation for Australia's continued support towards national priorities over the years to date. //

## Khan returns as appeals court judge

The Nauru Judiciary welcomes back Mohammed Shafiullah Khan in his new capacity as president of the Nauru Court of Appeal in a swearing-in ceremony endorsed by Acting President Shadlog Bernicke, 10 March.



*Judge Khan is honoured to be back and serving Nauru*

Justice Khan is no stranger to Nauru having first joined its judiciary in 2014 as Supreme Court judge until 2024 and acting chief justice on several occasions between 2016 until his retirement in 2024. He went on to join the Kiribati judiciary and then Papua New Guinea, and credits these experiences from across different jurisdictions as having broadened his judicial perspective and strengthened his appreciation of the vital role the court plays in national unity and governance.

Justice Khan expressed his delight and honour in returning to Nauru, stating he is acutely mindful of the far-reaching and lasting impacts of the decisions of the Court of Appeal. He acknowledges the importance of the judiciary, executive and legislature working in harmony while maintaining judicial independence and operation within constitutional boundaries.

His appointment reinforces the department's strength and commitment to ensuring steady and strong legal service for the Nauruan community. //

## Nauru addresses concerns at first ISA council meet

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Hon. Lionel Aingimea delivered a historic national statement to the first meeting of the Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) at its 31st Session, 18 March.



*Minister Aingimea calls for greater understanding of SIDS needs*

The Minister reminded ISA Council member States of the core principles of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Part XI and the 1994 Agreement, underscoring their significance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

He emphasised that UNCLOS was formulated to re-balance rights and obligations among developed and developing nations, promising the effective participation by developing States in seabed mineral activities while ensuring robust environmental safeguards.

Minister Aingimea recalled that in 2021, as president of Nauru, he notified the ISA Council to finalise and adopt the draft regulations on mineral resource exploitation in the Area within two years, in accordance with Nauru's rights under the 1994 Implementation Agreement. This request was made with the understanding that the Council would fulfil its legal obligation to complete the adoption of these regulations within two years of the request.

Despite the expiration of the two-year timeline, the Hon. Minister stated that Nauru continued to engage actively with the Council, refraining from sponsoring an exploitation application through the Nauru Ocean Resources Inc., (NORI), and waiting patiently for the adoption of the regulations.

The Minister noted that negotiations stalled, with no definitive timeline for adopting the exploitation regulations.

Meanwhile, calls for a moratorium or outright ban on seabed mineral recovery have gained prominence, reflecting an escalating polarisation among ISA member States and causing a decelerated negotiation process.

Minister Aingimea questioned whether the multilateral process, historically embodying the vision of UNCLOS Part XI and its specific promise to developing States, has become merely symbolic and largely academic.

More critically, he inquired whether SIDS like Nauru still possess a genuine opportunity to participate in seabed mineral exploitation within the international seabed area or whether this right has now been extinguished.

Reaffirming Nauru's commitment, he highlighted efforts that have been put into strengthening Nauru's national institutions and legal framework and maintaining constructive engagement with the Authority.

Minister Aingimea expressed disappointment with delays in finalising exploitation rules, and labelled them a deferral of the specific promise made to developing States. He stressed that calls for moratoria and bans have no legal basis under UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement, emphasising that the precautionary principle advocates responsible development rather than prohibition.

The Hon. Minister stressed that the world faces a critical metal supply risk and that a moratorium or ban on seabed mineral recovery would slow our move away from fossil fuels, with inaction being our largest risk.

He further noted a poignant irony - the significance of the 2011 ITLOS Seabed Disputes Chamber Advisory Opinion which serves as a cornerstone of the Part XI UNCLOS regime, and which originally sought by Nauru, is now being used against Nauru, despite the Council's obligations to Nauru remaining unfulfilled.

The Hon. Minister urged the Authority to implement those same accountability standards imposed on sponsoring states and contractors on the Authority itself as well, cautioning that deviations could weaken the UNCLOS framework.

Minister Aingimea called for better understanding of the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States such as Nauru, including climate change and limited access to resources, with future revenues from seabed resources being critical to Nauru's socio-economic stability and resilience.

Finally, Minister Aingimea called for the preservation of UNCLOS rights against restrictions imposed by moratoria or regulations that may limit seabed mineral activities, emphasising the importance of the sustainable and responsible development of the seabed minerals sector and to ensure small island developing nations are not marginalised in this endeavour. //

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## SPC affirms Nauru support

His Excellency President David Adeang has reaffirmed strong partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) following a productive meeting with SPC Director-General, Dr Paula Vivili, 20 March.



*Nauru, SPC affirm mutual support and strengthened cooperation*

SPC is the leading scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific, that advocates for the region and responds to Pacific Island Countries and Territories' development needs by providing scientific advice and analyses to assist member countries in developing and implementing policies.

His Excellency congratulated Dr Vivili on his appointment and expressed Nauru's commitment to working closely with SPC to advance shared regional priorities. He acknowledged SPC's vital support to Nauru, including technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen in-country testing capabilities, as well as assistance in determining Nauru's maritime boundary coordinates.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation and delivering sustainable development outcomes for Nauru and the wider Pacific region. //

## WHO Dr Saia Mau'u Piukala

Acting President Lionel Aingimea welcomed the World Health Organisation Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr Saia Mau'u Piukala, to the government office for discussions centred on improving Nauru's public health services and strengthening partnerships.



*WHO regional director tours facilities and discuss improvements in health services and partnerships*

Dr Piukala, who was on island from 23-30 March, also toured the Nauru Medical Centre and met with the Secretary for Health and Medical Services, Berilyn Jeremiah, and other health officials.

He also paid courtesy calls on Deputy Minister Rennie Gadabu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms Rebecca Amwano, Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay, and UNFA Country Lead International Programme Coordinator Dechen Chime. //

## ICT opens new digital hub in Meneñ

His Excellency President David Adeang and Cabinet ministers attended the inauguration of the newly established ICT department's Digital Transformation and Inclusivity Hub (DTIH) in Meneñ, 12 March.



*The IT hub is part of ITU Smart Village and Small Island initiative*

The event opened with a prayer by Pastor Jessa Agadio, followed by ICT Director Philip Hardstaff's remarks and

the ribbon-cutting by President Adeang and the Acting Minister for ICT Reagan Aliklik, signalling the opening of the new IT hub.

The hub is part of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Smart Village and Smart Island (SVSI) initiative, which aims to enhance connectivity and provide digital skills training in Nauru, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to improve islanders' well-being through access to digital services.

Minister Aliklik said that the initiative is not only about technology but also about opportunity for everyone, including those who are living with disabilities, providing access to digital literacy and to foster innovation across departments and connect our people with international experts who will share knowledge and best practices in Nauru.

Director Hardstaff thanked the Government of Nauru for its support and the ITU for donating the equipment, including laptops, monitors, TV, air conditioners, cables, cameras, UPS, printers and furniture. //

## Celebration of Australia in Nauru

His Excellency the Acting President Hon Lionel Aingimea attended the Celebration of Australia event hosted by High Commissioner Matthew Barclay at the Meneñ Hotel, 27 March.



*Actg President Aingimea is gifted traditional Aboriginal items including a didgeridoo at Celebration of Australia event*

The evening was a rich display of cultural demonstrations and sharing, underscoring the deep political and lasting friendship and connection between Nauru and Australia.

Beginning with the smoking ceremony by the Australian First Nation's Warama cultural group, the cultural displays of traditional Aboriginal performances including a lesson in the traditional wind instrumental, the didgeridoo, and the Nauruan ekawada (string figures) by members of the Dabwido clan. The ekawada is a complex art form using a piece of string, fingers and wrist to illustrate a continuously changing figure, followed by a unique story.

Acting President Aingimea acknowledged the deep relations between the two countries and Australia's significant assistance in security, banking, health, education, sports and the shared cooperation such as the RPC and the new Third Country Resettlement Arrangement (TCRA) program.

As Nauru's largest development partner, Australia contributes to Nauru's economy, security, and resilience to strengthen its governance system.

Mr Aingimea acknowledged this being the final year of High Commissioner Barclay's posting in Nauru and praised the "stellar work" he has accomplished during his tenure.

He reiterated his personal thanks to the Australian Federal Police and the Australian government for ensuring the return of the late Inspector Illona Dowedia from Tuvalu was without incident noting the financial support shouldered for her repatriation.

High Commissioner Barclay said the relationship between the two nations is built on trust, respect and shared history and a vision for a strong, secure and prosperous Pacific region. He adds that responding to challenges together is investing in a stronger future for the people and the region.

This relationship is further underscored by the Nauru-Australia Treaty to bolster Nauru's economic and fiscal resilience to deepen security cooperation.

The highlight of the evening was the annual awards recognising individuals for their efforts in elevating and promoting the Nauru-Australia partnership and cooperation.

Secretary DFAT Rebecca Amwano is honoured for her leadership in deepening bilateral cooperation across diplomacy, development and security. Treannah Dabwido received the award as president of the local committee for the Pacific-Australia Youth Association (PAYA) for promoting youth relationships and engagement in the region; while founder of the Nauru One Mile Club and gold medallist at the 2025 World Transplant Games, Isaac Oppenheimer is recognised for his contribution in promoting Nauru sports internationally.

The following day, the Australian High Commission in collaboration with the Naoero Museum, hosted a cultural exchange celebrating the connection between Nauru and Australia.

Minister for National Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Naoero Museum Charmaine Scotty welcomed the Warama cultural group and the ekawada group to perform a cultural exchange at the museum.

Minister Scotty thanked the Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay, his office and the performers for the display of their rich cultures. //

## Nauru participates in U.S investment summit

In late February, the Government of Nauru participated in the Investment, Security and Shared Prosperity Summit, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, at the invitation of the president of the East-West Centre along with the deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America Christopher Landau in partnership with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.



*Minister Eoe and Pacific leaders address priority initiatives for the region*

The Honourable Maverick Eoe in his capacity as Minister for Commerce and Foreign Investment represented the President of Nauru at this roundtable event.

*(cont pg 9...)*

## Nauru participates in U.S investment summit (...from pg 8)

The two-day summit was a U.S Government initiative for Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, representatives, senior level officials, including public and private sector, to discuss durable economic development and regional security highlighted in the priority areas of: infrastructure; critical minerals; supply chain; energy security; food security and agriculture; tourism; health systems and biotech; banking and financial services; and telecommunications, AI and digital economy.

Nauru has shared interests in all of the nine thematic areas.

On the margins of the summit, government seized the opportunity to schedule bilateral meetings with some of its traditional partners.

Minister Eoe met with Japan Ambassador Jiro Okuyama and Australian Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Senator Nita Green.

A meeting was also held on the side with the summit co-host the US Deputy Secretary Landau. //

## NUC minister meets with China energy sector

Minister for Nauru Utilities Corporation, Shadlog Bernicke and his delegation held a series of meetings in China last month with the energy sector, and utilities, including discussions on electric vehicles.



*Nauru focuses on clean energy solutions to support energy targets*

Accompanied by Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen, deputy ministers Russ Kun, Ranin Akua, Tawaki Kam, NUC CEO Anthony Dimapilis, and Nauru's Ambassador to China Chitra Jeremiah, the delegation also met with the Chinese Government Special Envoy for Pacific Island Affairs, Qian Bo, on 28 February.

Nauru is focused on finding innovative clean energy solutions and opportunities to support its target of achieving 75 per cent renewable energy generation by 2035 and lowering long-term costs through a clean and sustainable Nauru. //

## Families thankful for permanent homes

The Department of Infrastructure handed over newly built houses as part of government-funded housing project to four families in Meneñ, Buada and Nibok, 20 March.



*Government sponsored housing is providing stable homes for extended families*

His Excellency President David Adeang presented all four keys to the new homeowners after the ribbon-cutting, marking another significant progress for the community.

The homeowners are Norma Caleb from Meneñ, the late Mrs. Darica Bernicke from Buada, Cynthia Hiram, and Hariel Samson from Nibok.

Also in attendance were Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, and members of the infrastructure department.

Three of the homes are part of the RedZone relocation project specifically for families whose homes are within the vicinity of the development works currently undertaken for the Nauru port.

The home for Norma Caleb is part of the Government Housing Program, an initiative that is part of a long-term strategy by the Nauru Department of Infrastructure to enhance the well-being of families and strengthen community infrastructure. //



## Nauru pays tribute to Inspector Illona Dowedia

Inspector Illona Dowedia is remembered as a respected leader, a passionate and committed officer of the law with integrity and unwavering spirit in elevating others through training and development.



Her sudden passing on Sunday, 8 March 2026, brought immense grief and loss to her family and colleagues whom she had trained to be the best in their craft.

Inspector Dowedia joined the Nauru Police Force in 2008, and promoted through the ranks from senior constable, sergeant, inspector, and on many occasions held the rank of acting superintendent. She would ultimately be the NPF's qualified and leading cybercrimes instructor and trainer.

Her final mission would be to deliver training on an investigation course to the Tuvalu Police Service when she sadly passed away in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

In a letter addressed to Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo, His Excellency President David Adeang extended deepest appreciation to the Prime Minister, his government, and the Tuvalu Police Service for the "heartfelt memorial ceremony and farewell accorded to our beloved daughter".

"We are profoundly grateful for the honour, dignity, and respect shown during the special ceremony and (police) parade held in Funafuti. Your government's compassionate gesture in recognising Inspector Dowedia's service and sacrifice reflects the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity that unite our Pacific nations."

Inspector Dowedia had travelled to Tuvalu with the spirit of service, committed to strengthening policing cooperation through training funded by the Australian Federal Police.

President Adeang said the tribute by the Tuvalu government and police service honoured her dedication as well as bring great comfort to her family, colleagues, and the people of Nauru.

Among her many certifications, Inspector Dowedia was certified as one of the NPF's top negotiators for crisis incidents, cyber safety Pasifika trainer, and train the trainer for NPF and the Pacific region. Teaching was her specialty backed by a Certificate IV and diploma in training and assessment, and work, health and safety.

She was also Australian-certified in leadership and management, as well as a legal and policy developer, and was ready for deployment on UN missions.

NPF Sergeant Christopher Dowiyogo and Tuvalu Superintendent Piliota Viliamu escorted her remains home to Nauru, with the repatriation arrangements funded by the AFP.

President Adeang says, such acts of kindness and respect, will always be remembered by our nation.

Inspector Illona Dowedia was accorded a full police Guard of Honour service, and was laid to rest on Sunday, 15 March 2026. She was 47 years old.

May her soul rest in peace. //

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