



Nauru Bulletin

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‘One size fits all’ fails small Pacific economies: President Talks continue on safe release of ALPS-treated water into Pacific ocean

His Excellency President David Adeang delivered remarks at the main meeting of 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) last week underscoring growing concerns of widespread de-banking of small Pacific Island Countries (PIC) by large international banks.

Speaking at the third session of the main meeting captioned ‘People-Centred development, Resource and Economic Development and Technology and Connectivity’, President Adeang said international banks who, driven by profit margins and fear of regulatory penalties, choose to withdraw services leaving already fragile economies in a precarious position.

“This ‘one size fits all’ approach fails to recognise the unique challenges and scale of our economies,” President Adeang says.

The unchecked market power of such banks creates a geo-political problem, while the lack of political leadership from the large Pacific countries has exacerbated the issue.

President Adeang says by not holding banking conglomerates and regulators accountable these countries have allowed unfriendly and counter-productive behaviours to prevail.

He adds that PICs are being unfairly blamed for crimes of larger economies and yet expected to help solve these problems “while being de-banked is not realistic” and “hampers growth and development”.

“We often hear about the importance of ‘knowing your customer’, yet it is clear that correspondent banks do not understand our banks or our countries. The bureaucratic standards set by bodies like APG, while well-intentioned, often do not fit our context and add to our challenges.”

Despite Nauru’s compliance with Asia Pacific Group (APG) standards it still faces hurdles in accessing necessary banking services and calls on Japan as incoming co-chair with Australia to address these inconsistencies and systemic issues that negatively impact small economies.

Further strengthening the PALM’s robust and enduring partnership, Japan and Pacific leaders adopted the



Japan and Pacific leaders adopt the PALM10 declaration based on the seven priority areas of cooperation in line with the 2050 Strategy.

PALM10 declaration outlining specific actions they will jointly undertake over the next three years based on the seven priority areas of cooperation in line with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The areas include: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centered Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; and Technology and Connectivity.

Leaders expressed appreciation for Japan’s enduring commitment and reiterated their willingness to deepen cooperation with Japan across mutually acceptable areas.

In regards to the ALPS-treated water stored at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, PIF leaders acknowledged the Government of Japan’s assurances of continuing to provide sincere explanations to the PICs.

These will be based on scientific evidence in a way that is highly transparent and to never approve the discharge in a manner that endangers the well-being and livelihoods of the peoples of the Pacific or adversely affect human and the marine environment.

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HIES into week 15 interviews

The Nauru Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is into its fifteenth week of interviews with selected families for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).

Approximately 200 households have been interviewed out of a prospective 675 local and expatriate families who were randomly picked to take part in this ten-yearly survey. The survey will run for 45 weeks.

The survey will take a year to complete commencing on 25 March and concluding on 30 March 2025.

HIES Coordinator Trixi Thoma explains the timeframe will allow the collection of estimates of key indicators related to the cost of living (spending and income) from households.

“It is necessary to determine Nauru's social and economic planning and policy development, such as the rebase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to measure the poverty rate of Nauru and food consumption characteristics, and to rebase the national accounts,” Ms Thoma said.

National accounts are one of the bureau's economic core duties of measuring the nation's economic activity.

NBS puts Nauru's 2021 annual population figure at 11,680. Projected figures for 2023 provided by the Pacific Community puts Nauru's population at 12,017 with a population growth of +0.75 per cent, and a GDP per capita of US\$10,020; while 2024 population is projected to be 12,105.

HIES is conducted every ten years after the major census which also occurs every ten years, the last one being in October 2021. HIES plays a vital part of the government's understanding of its community spending.

Data from HIES, the CPI and national census are beneficial for the government as it provides guidance on cost of living, and income streams that can possibly effect change in the paycheck.

Enumerators Tikon Demaunga, Iud Hubert, and Rameresse Ika are conducting the survey interviews in the field, and will be joined by another two next week after completing their training.

The survey takes 12 months so as to consider any fluctuation in national, personal or environmental changes. These changes include additional income streams such as royalties and land rental, salary increases, low income months, drought, interruptions to global fuel and food supply, or delayed shipments of imported food and supplies. //

[Nauru Bureau of Statistics | \(stats.gov.nr\)](https://stats.gov.nr)
[Nauru | Statistics for Development Division \(spc.int\)](https://spc.int)



HIES takes 12 months to capture any fluctuation in national, personal or environmental changes

A blue poster for the Mental Health Act 1963. At the top left, the words 'MENTAL HEALTH' are written in large, white, bold letters. To the right is the Nauru coat of arms. Below the coat of arms, it says 'MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1963' and 'SECTION 4 OF THE ACT REQUIRES:'. The main body of text explains the act's purpose: 'The Mental Health Act 1963 aims to define and support individuals with mental impairments while ensuring public safety and respecting personal rights.' It also states: 'These measures aim to balance public safety with individual rights, promoting understanding and support within our community. Stay informed and share this update widely.' A diagram of a human head in profile with a glowing brain is shown. On the right side, it says: 'Individuals may be classified as mentally impaired if they are unable to manage themselves or pose a risk to their own or others' safety.' and 'Personal beliefs or activities like political opinions or alcohol consumption should not automatically classify someone as mentally impaired.' At the bottom right, it says: 'Designated mental health facilities, including public hospitals and health centres, are empowered to provide necessary care and oversight.'

'One size fits all' fails small Pacific economies

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The Government of Japan hosts this triennial meeting of Pacific leaders for open discussions on issues such as the challenges regarding their small size and land distribution over a wide area, distance from major international markets, and the vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. //

Read the Leaders Declaration:
https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/pagewe_000001_00022.htm

Empowering Education: NEAT Scheme to transform student attendance in Nauru

The Government of Nauru introduced the Nauru Education Assistance Trust (NEAT) Fund in 2016, in a committed effort to enhance educational opportunities and improve attendance rates.

This initiative, providing \$5 a day to students, is hoped at encouraging consistent school attendance and fostering a culture of learning across the island.

The NEAT Scheme aims to tackle one of the most pressing issues in Nauru’s education system—student attendance. By offering a financial incentive, the government education team plans to motivate students to attend school regularly.

Former Statistics Manager and now Education Policy Advisor at the Department of Education, Niga Haulangi explains the rationale behind the scheme.

“The main objective is to get the students to go to school.

“There has been quite an improvement, but more steps are to be taken to ensure that the initiative not only ensures attendance but also promotes learning.”

Since the scheme was implemented, improved attendance rates across various districts has indicated the program’s success, but Haulangi emphasises the need for continuous efforts.

“Certain states [districts] still have low attendance,” he said. “We see regret amongst parents in not enforcing the strictly regulated attendance. The more school you attend, the more money you receive.”

Students will be able to claim the amount at the end of their Year 12, provided that they have met the necessary attendance criteria throughout their years in school.

To maximise the benefits, the Department of Education is planning a community outreach program.

“It will be to refresh the minds of the parents and remind them of its objective,” Haulangi said.

While the NEAT Scheme is a financial incentive, the overarching goal is to create a more educational system.

“I believe there is no point in going to school if they are not learning,” Haulangi said. “If we educate them, we could teach them about investing it back into their education.”

To this end, the Department of Education aims to integrate more academic components into the NEAT Scheme. Haulangi shared that this is in hopes to ensure that the system is promoted as an investment rather than an expense for a more educative sector.

Parents are set to play a crucial role in the success of the NEAT Scheme. By understanding and supporting its objectives, they can help achieve better outcomes for their children.



Haulangi says the overarching goal of NEAT is to promote attendance and learning

“We are helping each other,” Haulangi said. “Government education is helping students and parents, and parents, in turn, can give back by ensuring their children attend school and learn.”

The NEAT Scheme represents a significant step towards government’s commitment in improving education in Nauru.

“If we achieve this through attendance, development, and academic growth, we will see a brighter future for Nauru.”

By encouraging consistent school attendance and fostering a commitment to learning, the NEAT Scheme is aimed at empowering the next generation of Nauruans. //

Education Act 2011

- ✓ **Mandatory Attendance:** Parents must ensure their children attend school every day.
- ✓ **Penalties:** \$50 fine for the first offence, \$250 for subsequent offences in the same year.
- ✓ **Acceptable Absences:** Includes religious/cultural observances and other valid reasons approved by the principal.
- ✓ **Non-Attendance Conditions:** Students must stay home if suspended, expelled, or carrying a contagious disease.
- ✓ **Employment Ban:** It is illegal to employ school-age children during school hours, with a \$1,000 fine for violations.

The Education Act 2011 provides the law to ensure consistent school attendance for all school-age children. Parents are legally required to ensure their children attend school daily, with specific exceptions.

These measures highlight the government’s commitment to prioritising education and the well-being of children in Nauru. Parents and employers must adhere to these rules to support uninterrupted education for all students.

Electoral office staff sworn in

Three electoral commissioners of the Nauru Electoral Commission (NEC) swore their oaths of office at the government building, presided over by Judge Kiniviliame Keteca and witnessed by His Excellency President David Adeang, 12 July.



(L-R): NEC Registrar David Detudamo, with Electoral Commissioners Sylvanna Deireragea, Cronisa Baguga and Christine Reiyetsi.

Cabinet at its meeting on 5 April approved the appointments of the commissioners, with their contracts commencing 21 March this year.

Sylvanna Deireragea and Cronisa Baguga continue their roles as commissioners, while Christine Reiyetsi is the latest addition to the team and David Detudamo as the registrar.

According to the Electoral Act 2021, an Electoral Commissioner has “a general duty and responsibility to administer the registration of voters, the conduct of election of members of Parliament and provide leadership and direction to the Commission.

The appointment of the commissioners is timely, as the NEC looks forward to the forthcoming general elections, which will be held late next year.

The NEC was established in 2016, with the late Joseph Cain serving as its first commissioner till 2020, and was succeeded by then Deputy Electoral Commissioner Sylvanna Deireragea.

The commission continues to grow as an institution and works hard to continue to serve Nauru and its people with transparency and professionalism, for free, fair and inclusive elections. //

Know more about the Nauru Electoral Commission <https://election.com.nr/>

Aingimea is new ISA ambassador

David Aingimea presented his credentials to the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority Michael Lodge as the Permanent Representative of Nauru to the ISA at a ceremony, 16 July, at the ISA headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica.



Ambassador Aingimea and ISA Secretary General Michael Lodge.

Ambassador Aingimea reaffirmed Nauru’s full support in delivering ISA’s mandate.

“Nauru is proud to play an active role in the work of ISA through its membership of the Council and its role as a sponsoring State. As an international community we have a duty to support the development and advancement of this minerals sector in a responsible and sustainable manner under the legal framework that is UNCLOS”, he said.

“Nauru also welcomes the support it has received from ISA to strengthen our technical and capacity skills base.”

Secretary General Lodge welcomed Ambassador Aingimea, highlighting Nauru’s proactive role within the ISA.

“It is a pleasure to welcome Ambassador Aingimea as new Permanent Representative of Nauru to ISA and I look forward to working closely and the Government of Nauru in ensuring that all activities carried out in the Area follows the provisions of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement,” Mr Lodge said.

On 24 June, the Cabinet of the Government of Nauru approved the appointment of Mr Aingimea as the non-resident Ambassador of Nauru to the ISA.

He takes on the new role backed by a distinguished career in law, governance, and public administration. He holds a Master’s in Law from the University of Cumbria with a specialisation in maritime policy and legislative drafting.

His extensive experience includes roles as principal legal officer with Nauru’s Department of Justice and Border Control, acting director for border control, and secretary for Justice and Border Control.

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Most recently he held leadership positions in several state-owned enterprises, including as chairman and CEO of Nauru (RPC) Corporation and advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Nauru makes important contributions to the ISA and is the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to sponsor a deep-sea exploration contract in the international seabed area in 2011. The other countries are Kiribati, Cook Islands and Tonga.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation mandated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to manage the mineral resources of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction for the shared benefit of humankind.

ISA is committed to the principle that all economic activities in the deep seabed, including deep-seabed mining, must be regulated and responsibly managed using the best available scientific evidence for the benefit of all nations of the world.

ISA works to ensure that the voices of all States, including developing States and other stakeholders, are effectively heard in discussions around the sustainable development of the deep seabed.

The polymetallic nodules, also called manganese nodules, sit on top of the seabed and can be collected without drilling.

The ISA, responsible for overseeing and regulating activities in the Area beyond national jurisdiction, is creating a set of regulations known as the Mining Code to govern the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. //



Nauru strengthens maritime security with advanced training

In a significant step towards bolstering maritime security, twelve officers from Nauru have successfully completed an advanced seven-week boat handling course at the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Launceston, Tasmania, 22 May to 5 July.



NPF, NFMRA and NMPA staff say the training is very beneficial

Despite challenging weather conditions, the officers demonstrated commitment to advancing their maritime skills.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) College and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supported the training, which marks a significant step in strengthening the close maritime cooperation between Australia and Nauru.

The practical course included six officers from the Nauru Police Force (NPF), three from the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA), and three from the Nauru Maritime and Port Authority (NMPA). This diverse group played a major role in ensuring a comprehensive enhancement of Nauru's maritime capabilities.

By collaborating, the NPF, NMPA, and NFMRA are set to fortify Nauru's maritime security. The training program was aimed at enhancing this cooperation by equipping the officers with advanced skills for complex maritime operations. Superintendent Operations Officer Imran Scotty emphasised the benefits of the course.

“Upgrading the skills of NPF maritime officers will enhance NPF maritime capabilities,” he said.

The officers participated in the Coxswain course, which focuses on operating vessels up to 24 metres in length.

The comprehensive training covered rigorous skills of survival techniques, fire safety drills, first aid, marine radio operations (VHF & HF), vessel berthing and un-berthing, vessel manoeuvring, and navigation techniques through chart plotting, passage planning, radar readings, and buoy light indications.

The collective partnership between NPF, NMPA and NFMRA is centred on the safety and security of Nauru's borders, ensuring better coastal navigation.

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Nauru strengthens maritime security ...from pg 5

This includes increased protection against illegal activities within the country's 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

"NPF plans to put into practice what the team has learnt from their training", Superintendent Scotty said.

A key aspect of this implementation will involve utilising a 16-metre patrol boat, donated by Japan, which will allow the officers to apply their training in real-world scenarios.

Coastal fisheries extension officer, Breezae Grundler, the only woman in the team, shared her passion for the ocean and the importance of increasing female representation in maritime roles.

"I love the ocean," she said. "We need more women operating boats and at sea."

Miss Grundler highlighted the hands-on experience they gained during the course. "We operated on four different boats, from the smallest to the biggest vessel they had," she said.

She emphasised the long-term impact of the training on her career and Nauru's maritime future.

"This is the first step. The next step is gaining more sea time and to see where it takes me."

According to Mr Scotty, the training meets the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) goal of training and capacity building.

The program concluded with Nauru's skilled officers receiving the License of Long Range Certificate of Proficiency (LROCP), enabling them to operate vessels up to the maximum 200 EEZ boundary of Nauru's maritime jurisdiction.

This program's successful completion showcases the deepened alliance between Australia and Nauru, reflecting a shared commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security in the Pacific region. //



Sole female participant, Coastal fisheries extension officer Breezae Grundler, says this is the first step in her career.

Team leader bikes to boost CLO services

In a ceremony held outside the Government office, His Excellency President David Adeang handed over 15 motorcycles to Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) team leaders, 12 June.



CLOs play a vital role in assisting and informing Nauru Police of criminal activity to prevent damage to property and loss of life.

Working under the Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA), CLOs are the eyes and ears of the community, and serve as the first points of contact in emergency situations across 15 communities which include the 14 districts and the Location settlement.

The motorcycles will provide CLOs with greater mobility and responsiveness, allowing them to address community concerns and crime deterrence.

The motorcycles are expected to significantly benefit the communities by enhancing the CLOs' ability to patrol, monitor and ensure public safety.

On the community level CLOs play a vital role in assisting and informing the Nauru Police Force on criminal activity and occurring trends, to prevent damage to property and loss of life.

One of the aims of the CLO project is to promote a homogenous and multicultural society, through good citizenship and community strengthening by engaging and cooperating with both members of the public and the authorities.

The CLO project was established in 2014, and in 2020 over 100 CLOs were deputised as police reserves, giving them the power to make arrests. //



Impounded motorbikes up for auction

In accordance with the Motor Traffic Act 2014 and its subordinate Regulations, the Nauru Police Force administered two public auctions for 80 impounded motorcycles this month.

The motorcycles were impounded for non-registration, some of which have been in police custody for several months. There are currently no other vehicle types in police custody.

According to the Motor Traffic (Impound Fees and Notices) Regulations 2020, these impound fees apply (weekly):

- motorcycle \$30;
- buses and cars, commercial and private \$100;
- trailers \$75; and
- \$50 for any other vehicle.

The impounded vehicle is held in police custody for 24 hours before the impound fee becomes available for payment.

The Act also stipulates that the owner of an impounded vehicle is liable to pay all costs for the removal of their vehicle from the pound. They are first issued with a notice for payment 30 days after it is impounded, then again after 45 days.

Failure to pay the impound fee, their vehicle will be disposed of by auction or public tender, administered by the NPF. The NPF will issue a notice to the owner before the auction or public tender takes place.

The Department of Justice and Border Control's Director Legislative Drafting Loretta Teueli says it is important to note that the impounding of vehicles is a serious matter.

"It [impounding] deprives a person of his or her property. Equally it is a responsibility on the owner of the impounded vehicle to ensure that he or she complies with the laws, pays whatever fine and fees are due and clear the vehicle from Police custody as soon as possible.

"If an owner abandons the motor vehicle with the Police when impounded, the Police will have no choice but to carry out an auction or public sale. This is the only way the impounded property can be disposed of and it is nothing unusual. This process is universally applicable," Ms Teueli said.

The process, under the 2020 Regulations and the 2024 Amendments prescribe:



Unclaimed impounded vehicles are disposed of by auction, proceeds pay for unpaid fines.

- a transparent procedure;
- a reasonable market price be obtained of the impounded vehicle;
- once sold, a proper accounting of all the proceeds is provided;
- all relevant fines, fees including expenses for the impounding of vehicle is paid for; and
- if there is any balance left, it would be paid to the vehicle owner.

The fees and fines to be paid from the sale of the vehicle include impounding fees; fines or penalties; arrears of any motor vehicle registration fees payable under the Act; and expenses for the auction or public tender.

The Motor Traffic (Impound Fees and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 also stipulates that police officers may not take part in the auction or public sale of impounded vehicles.

At the completion of the sale and the appropriate fines paid from the proceeds of the sale, the Commissioner of Police will inform the owners of the sale and how the proceeds were managed.

If there are remaining funds, the owner of the sold vehicle will be advised and the funds held for three months. If left unclaimed it will be paid into the treasury fund.

The auction process serves to enforce the law and recover charges for the vehicle owner after failing to pay the fines. Laws of impounding vehicles encourages owners to be vigilant in ensuring their vehicles are registered. //

http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/index.php/act/view/1497

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