



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 2 - 2025/285

## Nauru celebrates 57 years of Independence and the 79th anniversary of the returnees from Truk



*President David Adeang conducts inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour*

His Excellency President David WR Adeang laid a wreath on the occasion of the 57th Republic of Nauru Independence and the 79th anniversary of the return of Nauruans from Truk, 31 January.

The President delivered his second Independence Day national address, highlighting this year's theme youth and sports, and its significance as a means to enhance health and well-being among the nation's future leaders – the youth.

The theme also focuses on the preparation for the 2026 Micronesian Games, which Nauru will host.

Speaking in the vernacular, President Adeang reflected on the blessings that have propelled Nauru and its people forward, while also recalling a period of hardship as a testament to resilience and the capacity to rebuild.

The United Nations declared Nauru the most vulnerable country in the Pacific and the fifth in the world, yet Nauru pursues to make deep and enduring relationships and development partnerships for guidance and assistance to overcome its inherent vulnerabilities.

The President expressed gratitude to development partners and acknowledged the establishment of the renewed relationship with the People's Republic of China.

Following the wreath-laying, a flag-raising ceremony took place, accompanied by an inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour, and a march parade featuring church groups, sporting federations, schools, state-owned entities, local businesses, non-government organisations, and community groups.

Celebrations continued with a State banquet filled with various entertainments from Nauruan traditional dances, guest performances from neighbour countries, and the presentation of awards for the winners of the district cleaning and beautification competition.

Russian visitor and book author, Alexander Akimov, also presented his latest edition of work titled 'Pleasant Book on Pleasant Island' – a compilation of decades of research based on Nauru's history, its people and traditions, and collections of Nauru maps.

In conclusion of the weeklong Independence celebrations, President Adeang with foreign dignitaries, cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps joined Nauru's Catholic community and guests at Christ the King Church in Ewa for the closing church service.

The service, led by Vicar General Father Kanaoua Iotebwa, included beautiful hymns performed by the Catholic choir, the Nauru national anthem, Bible scripture readings, and the partaking of Holy Communion. //

## Aviation cooperation with Kiribati

A significant milestone for the republics of Nauru and Kiribati as President David Adeang and President Taneti Maamau signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance aviation cooperation between their governments, 1 February.



*(L-R) President Maamau and President Adeang signed the MOU*

The agreement aims to improve the aviation sector through information exchange, expanded transportation services, and better safety and infrastructure for both nations' citizens.

Preliminary discussions took place in January with Nauru Air Corporation Minister Asterio Appi and Kiribati's Transport Minister Alexander Teabo finalising the contents and provisions of the document.

President Adeang reaffirmed Nauru's dedication to enhancing bilateral relations, while President Maamau expressed gratitude for Nauru's continued support and for the invitation extended to Kiribati to participate in the Nauru Independence celebrations. //

## Australian High Commissioner Barclay presents credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang received the letter of credence of Mr Matthew Barclay accrediting him as High Commissioner of Australia to the Republic of Nauru, 24 January.

Mr Barclay arrived at the government offices and inspected the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour which was led by Sergeant Marson Notte, before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of credentials.

In congratulating the High Commissioner, President Adeang underscored that this appointment is a testament to the "enduring and special relationship between our two countries".

"Nauru and Australia share a bond that transcends diplomat ties; we are more like family than mere partners. This unique connection is deeply rooted in our shared history and mutual respect," President Adeang said.

Mr Barclay previously served as a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Consul-General in Phuket with earlier postings in Indonesia, Afghanistan, and Timor-Leste, and most recently as Director of Solomon Islands Political and Strategy Section.

## US Ambassador Lara Daniel

Ambassador Lara Daniel presented her credentials to US President Joe Biden in Washington, DC., on 13 January, formally accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nauru to the United States of America.



*US President Joe Biden accepts the credentials of Ambassador Lara Daniel*

Ms Daniel's diplomatic career began in 2010 as the Vice-Consul at the Nauru Consulate in Brisbane, Australia. Subsequently, she took on the role of Second Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Nauru to the UN and also served as the executive secretary during Nauru's chairmanship of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) from 2011 until 2015.

Ambassador Daniel is the fourth permanent representative to be accredited to the Nauru Mission in New York since its establishment in 2000. //



*President Adeang welcomes Australia's new High Commissioner*

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Western Australia and a Graduate Diploma of Education from Edith Cowan University.

Mr Barclay succeeds Ms Sara Moriarty who served in the role since January 2024.

Nauru and Australia established diplomatic relations on 24 October, 1976, and have since fostered a strong relationship through common historical, cultural, and sporting links. //



## UN Geneva Ambassador Pitcher

Frederick Pitcher is Nauru's newly appointed Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.

Ambassador Pitcher presented his credentials to the Director General of the UN Office Tatiana Volavaya at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, 28 January.



*Pitcher presents his letter of credence at the UN office in Geneva*

In a meeting afterwards, the ambassadors discussed issues regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals and initiatives like gender champions.

Prior to this appointment Mr Pitcher was the CEO for the Nauru Maritime and Port Authority and the Nauru Shipping Line.

He began his career in the Nauru Public Service in 1993 and held several positions then was successfully elected to Parliament in 2004 as a member for his Constituency of Ubenide. He also served as minister for commerce, industry and environment from 2004 to 2010, and for a brief period was elected president in 2011. Mr Pitcher also served as Nauru's deputy permanent representative to the UN in New York from 2000 to 2004. //

## RMI senators meet President Adeang

His Excellency President David Adeang received a courtesy visit from Marshall Islands' Presidential Envoy and Senator Daisy Alik-Momotaro and Senator Dennis Momotaro, who were on island to attend Nauru's 57th Independence Day. //



*Senators meet President Adeang*

## FSM Vice President in Nauru

The Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Aren B. Palik, made a courtesy visit to His Excellency President David Adeang at the Office of the President.



*President Adeang warmly welcomes FSM's Vice President Palik*

Vice President Palik presented President Adeang with a wooden gift inscribed with 'kamorale' - a national greeting that reflects the diverse languages of FSM, symbolising the spirit of unity and solidarity. //



## US Ambassador Damour visits Nauru

His Excellency President David Adeang met with US Ambassador Marie Damour on 30 January at the Office of the President, discussing matters of shared interest and collaboration.

Ambassador Damour also met with cabinet ministers and attended the Nauru 57th Independence Day celebration before her departure on 1 February.



*Ambassador Damour engaged in a meeting with President Adeang*



## PIF secretary general returns home for Independence celebration

His Excellency President David Adeang received a courtesy visit from the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Baron Waqa, who was in Nauru to attend the 57th Independence Day celebrations, 31 January.



*SG Waqa presents a gift to President Adeang on the occasion of Nauru's Independence Day*

During the visit, Secretary General Waqa extended his congratulations and engaged in discussions regarding strategic regional priorities and forthcoming initiatives at both regional and international levels.

"Nauru is a founding member of the Pacific Islands Forum and has played an instrumental role in leading a number of regional and global efforts over the years. Today, we also commemorate these achievements," SG Waqa said. //

## Japan's ambassador attends Nauru independence day

Japan's Ambassador to Nauru, Rokuichiro Michii paid a courtesy visit on His Excellency President David Adeang at the Office of the President, 31 January.

During his visit to the island, Ambassador Michii participated in the 57th Nauru Independence Day celebrations, engaged in discussions with cabinet ministers, and toured the National Heritage and Naoero Museum, where he held a meeting with the Museum Director Horasio Cook. //



*Ambassador Michii with cabinet ministers following the Independence Day event*

## Embracing diversity and culture on Independence Day

Representatives from Vaiala village in Samoa, Rabi High School in Fiji and in Kiribati were in Nauru on the invitation of His Excellency President David Adeang to attend the 57th Independence Day celebrations on 31 January.

The Samoan delegation, led by paramount chiefs Tofaenono Leavasa and Patu Dr Paniani, showcased Samoan culture through performances of traditional songs and dances, and the presentation of gifts, enriching the festive atmosphere in Nauru.

While on the island, the delegation visited the Parliament House and the National Heritage Naoero Museum, gaining insights into Nauru's political and cultural history.

This invitation is a reciprocal gesture, following the warm reception extended to President Adeang and his delegation by the villagers of Vaiala during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia, Samoa, in October 2024.

Similarly, the Government of Nauru also invited students from Rabi High School in Fiji and the elderly residents of Buariki Village in North Tarawa, Kiribati, to join in the celebration of Nauru's Independence, providing a platform for them to showcase and share their vibrant cultural heritage through engaging traditional performances.

The people of Nauru along with a multicultural community flooded the Aiue Boulevard in Aiwo to partake in the weeklong Independence celebrations. They enjoyed the festivities as neighboring countries showcased their performances alongside traditional Nauruan dancers, sharing and exchanging culture and heritage.

This gesture exemplifies strong diplomatic relations and the mutual dedication to promoting friendship and unity within the Pacific region. //



## Singapore's ambassador to PIF visits Nauru

His Excellency President David Adeang received a courtesy call from Singapore's Ambassador to the Pacific Islands Forum, Mary Seet-Cheng, on 6 February.



*President Adeang welcomes Ambassador Seet-Cheng in the Office of the President*

Upon her arrival at the Office of the President, Ambassador Seet-Cheng was greeted with a garland in the colors of Nauru before proceeding to the meeting.

The diplomatic relations between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Nauru were officially established in March 2009. //



*A team of otolaryngologist or ENT (ear, nose, and throat) specialists will be visiting Nauru from 10-16 March.*

*If you are experiencing any issues with your ears, nose, or throat, or if you have a history of problems or surgeries in those areas, it is advisable to consult with the specialists.*

*Before the specialists arrive on the island, patients need to be evaluated at RON Hospital.*

*For more information, contact 5572901*

## Government HR officials graduate with certificate IV

A cohort of 16 graduates from the Australian HR Institute (AHRI) received their Certification IV in Human Resource Management in front of the government offices, 30 January.



*The graduates proudly display their certificates alongside Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu, Secretary Garabwan, and Dr. Kim Scholfeild following the ceremony*

Secretary of Corporate Services Giedo Garabwan delivered the keynote address while President Adeang conveyed the awards to the graduates.

Mr Garabwan acknowledged the Nauru Government, AHRI and the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) for facilitating the course and enabling employees within Government departments to "enhance their skills in the workplace which is expected to result in their ability to deliver service of excellent quality to the people of Nauru".

Gaelyn Dake expressed gratitude to the government on behalf of the graduates, highlighting the significance of initiatives as such for promoting education and the implementation of acquired skills.

AHRI Facilitator Dr. Kim Scholfeild congratulated the graduates commending their diligence and wished them well in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to the following graduates; Letima Adire, Nastassia Abourke, Geneter Abourke, Melseni Agadio, Koati Bill, Maryanne Deireragea, Gaelyn Dake, Corina Detaradage, Edouwe Duburiya, Kara Halstead, Sirrah Itaia, Alison Ika, Allyson Reiyetsi, Lilian Reweru, Danica Tannang and Chet Tatum. //





## ADB formally opens new office

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) formally opens its new Nauru Pacific Country office space after a hiatus of two years.

President David Adeang and ADB's Pacific Department Director General Leah Gutierrez participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the opening, 20 January.



*President Adeang unveil the plaque to the new ADB office*

President Adeang delivered his remarks emphasising the ongoing collaboration between the Government of Nauru and ADB, guided by the strategic framework of the Pacific Approach 2021-2025 and the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy.

“The new office provides state-of-the-art facilities for our staff and important in-country missions. It has greatly improved and aided policy dialogue and project coordination. I am confident it will continue to strengthen engagements at both government and community levels,” the President said.

ADB continues to provide critical support in promoting maritime transport, renewable energy, governance, social welfare, and urban development. The technical support has been instrumental in enhancing capabilities in public sector management, state-owned enterprise, and social protection initiatives.

Ms Gutierrez highlights that Nauru became a member of the Asian Development Bank in 1991, and since then has received \$190 million in assistance. ADB has been supporting Nauru to strengthen its public financial management, raise the performance of state-owned enterprise, improve equitable service delivery, and address the country's infrastructure needs.

“ADB is honoured to have been your partner for the past 34 years,” Ms Gutierrez said as she reaffirms ADB's commitment and anticipation for further collaboration in the future.

It was noted that while the construction of the office was completed in 2022, its unveiling and formal opening were delayed due to the prolonged COVID outbreak and competing schedule pressures.

The ADB Nauru Pacific Country Office is staffed by two dedicated individuals, Senior Country Officer John Limen and Operations Assistant Zulie Adun, and is situated in Yaren, next to the finance department. //

## RonPhos boosts collaboration in Asia

Nauru signed a memorandum of understanding with Chinese engineering company securing partnership for RonPhos operations and improving environmental standards.



*Minister Bernicke and CMEC General Manager Qian formalised the Memorandum of Understanding*

RonPhos Minister Shadlog Bernicke and General Manager of the China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Brisbane office, Qian Haojun, signed the agreement in Brisbane on 19 January.

The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration on the RonPhos Refurbishment Project in Nauru, as well as potential future initiatives. CMEC is set to assist RonPhos in areas such as engineering design, construction, and the provision of essential machinery, with the objective of enhancing mining operations, increasing production capacity, and improving environmental standards.

CMEC is a leading contractor specialising in engineering, procurement, and construction, with a strong focus on factory construction, mining equipment, and infrastructure development. The company's expertise can significantly improve the sustainability of Nauru's phosphate industry.

Additionally, RonPhos Corporation held the first RonPhos International Conference 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand on 20-21 January, which brought together potential buyers, industry leaders, and partners from across the Asian region to discuss advancements in phosphate mining and strategic partnerships.

Minister Bernicke emphasised Nauru's phosphate mining operations which are focused on the quality of its phosphate rock, value-added products, and new market opportunities.

A presentation on RonPhos' 2025 refurbishment plan encouraged collaborative proposals from attendees, while CMEC discussed the recently signed MOU for the refurbishment project, including the south cantilever arm repair.

The second day featured one-on-one sessions for participants to present proposals to RonPhos, fostering valuable exchanges and strengthening connections. This event marks a significant step in enhancing Nauru's role in the global phosphate industry and underscores RonPhos' commitment to innovation and sustainable growth. //

## Neotel launch: first nationwide 5G+ network service

His Excellency President David Adeang attended the inauguration of Nauru Telikom's 5G telecommunication service, trading as Neotel. This launch marks Oceania's first nationwide 5G+ network service and heralds a new era of connectivity for Nauru, 25 January.



*President Adeang unveils the plaque at the launch event of Neotel*

Chairlady for Cenpac Corporation Zikki Eoe delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the event as a historic moment in the journey of the nation as it embarks on providing innovative connectivity solutions.

"The introduction of Neotel 5G is designed to benefit our citizens directly, it represents our commitment to innovation, reliability and the future of Nauru. With its ultra-fast speed and unparalleled connectivity, we are empowering our community to thrive in the digital era," Ms Eoe said.

Neotel CEO Deepak Khanna highlights the company's commitment to advanced infrastructure for reliable, high-speed connectivity. This initiative aims to bridge the digital divide, promote inclusivity, and drive economic development, ensuring everyone benefits from the digital age.

Additionally, this initiative is expected to generate numerous job opportunities across various sectors, including telecommunications and information technology.

Following the unveiling of the plaque, President Adeang had the opportunity to experience the new service by making the first call on a Neotel sim card.

The Chairlady thanked the Government of Nauru for their steadfast support and leadership, which were key to this initiative's success, and recognised the Cenpac team for their commitment and diligence in achieving this remarkable milestone. //

## Sara Moriarty farewells Nauru

A new chapter opens as Australia's head of mission change hands with its new high commissioner to Nauru.



*Australia's High Commission in Nauru held a farewell dinner for Ms Moriarty*

Matthew Barclay takes over from Sara Moriarty who departed Nauru on Friday 17 January.

Sara Moriarty concluded her term as the Australian High Commissioner to Nauru after one year in the post. She began her journey with Nauru on 23 January 2023 when she presented her credentials to His Excellency President David Adeang.

Her contribution to the development and advancement of Nauru and involvement during the negotiations and outcome of the Nauru-Australia Treaty are commendable.

On behalf of Australia Ms Moriarty worked with Nauru to deliver on priorities in economic development, connectivity, maritime security, gender equality, education, and health.

Ms Moriarty was also very involved in community showing her support and participation in national sporting events and activities including her support of the Nauru Chamber of Commerce.

One of her final tasks as the Australian High Commissioner to Nauru was to oversee the composition of and the final endorsement of the Nauru-Australia Treaty that would reset the development and security pathways for Nauru. //

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## Nauru health explore traditional Chinese medicine

The Department of Public Health is embarking on a new approach to improving health care by combining modern and traditional medicine.

Minister for Health Charmaine Scotty and her department welcomed the first traditional Chinese medical team to Nauru at the Naoero Public Health Centre, 17 January, and discussed the best ways forward in utilising the two practices.



*The first traditional Chinese medical team discuss ways forward in improving health care*

Minister Scotty said this brand-new concept of working with traditional and modern medicine is in keeping with the welfare and wellbeing of Nauruans.

She adds that health services were always concentrated on curative health but now with the separation of public health there will be more emphasis and promotion on preventative health.

The ten-member team carried out initial consultations over two days for traditional medical methods of cupping, acupuncture and massages and other specialised TCM diagnostic and treatment services at the RON Hospital. The TCM team also engaged in professional exchanges with the Nauru hospital medical team.

The initiative is expected to be the first of many visits for traditional medicine as discussions unfold future plans. Ambassador Lyu Jin says TCM emphasises a holistic approach, treating both the root cause and symptoms of diseases, with a focus on prevention.

“The principle of “treating the root cause” has always been a cornerstone of TCM clinical practice—addressing symptoms while also eradicating the underlying cause.

“TCM employs tailored treatments based on different syndromes, utilising diagnostic methods such as observation, listening and smelling, inquiry, and pulse-taking to analyse the cause of illness. It then applies various therapeutic methods, including herbal medicine, acupuncture, massage, cupping, and dietary therapy, to restore the body's health,” Ambassador Lyu explains. //

## Annual education national awards 2023-2024

The Department of Education and Training held its annual Education National Award ceremony at the centennial hall, 17 January.



*President Adeang conferred the special award to the year 12 top student of 2025, Vira Capelle*

The annual event recognises the students’ achievements across all levels from grade one through to 12.

This year’s academic awards include categories such as Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) scholarships, school-leavers, Dux award, Nauru Secondary scholarship scheme (RONSSS), best attendance and the top three students in each class.

Young Vira Capelle took home the coveted Year 12 Dux Award and received recognition for achieving the Highest QCE Score.

His Excellency President David Adeang along with Cabinet Ministers, Speaker of Parliament, Marcus Stephen, Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu, Australian High Commission First Secretary Patrick Reynolds and NPF Acting Commissioner Czarist Daniel conferred the prizes and awards.

Minister for Education and Training Asterio Appi congratulated the awardees and acknowledged all the parents, families and teachers who played a vital role in nurturing them.

“Your encouragement and unwavering support to these students are the pillars of their success,” the minister said.

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**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.



Congratulations to all awardees:

100 per cent attendance: Ohana Diau, Amelia Amram, Lucy-rose Bam, Joshua Hani, Oreana Joyous Corissa Cook, Tysi Deidenang.

First – third placings:

Year:1 Oreana Cook, Wangaly Melekiola, Jehlani Tebouwa, Eva - Dab Detenamo

Year 2: Lionson Batsiua, Adrianna Scotty, Simiale Leaupepe, Shallo Deingoa, Jaz Detudamo

Year 3: Liara Amwano, My-Love Detenamo, Silvie Anna Keppa

Year 4: Kelcey Dongobir, Maria Starr, Abishae Dimapilis

Year 5: Raya Menke, Illicia Mazola, Lobelle Dongobir

Year 6: Mistiene Harris, Time Halstead, Roseanne Menke

Year 7: Grace Notte, Hope Sosefo, Eres - Mia Engar, Susan Harris

Year 8: Rainbow Baguga, Elizabeth Benjamin, Wahine Dageago

Year 9: Mangina Adeang, X-Sash Grundler, Susannah Deiyee, Bradken Edward

Year 10: Paul Ribauw, Kruzzo Atsime, Yvonne Menke, NJ Dediya

Year 11: Sakura Buraman, Emma Harris, Vanessa Gaskell

Year 12: Vira Carlby Capelle, Michael Aliklik. Nathan Menke.

2023- Year Eight Republic of Nauru Secondary Scholarship Scheme (RONSSS):

Kaleejay Bingham, Divine Makatu, Samson Harris, Audicien Belasco, Mataqali Capelle, Naomi - Kate Reweru, Tsunai Menke, Dakota Aingimea, Daru - Poll Ika, Natalina Gobure, Dabuguy Daniel, Tahaisha Grundler, Jimaro Tamakin, Charlotte Menke, Steven Kakiouea, Lawrence Amwano, Alia-Rose Scotty, Ozias Notte, Nina Deingoa, Joel Mwardedaga.

2024- Year Eight Republic of Nauru Secondary Scholarship Scheme (RONSSS):

Rainbow - Shine Baguga, Generous Temaki, Corby Caleb, Destiny Uera, Wahine Dageago, Roki Jerome Limen, Rahchell Temaki, Cecelia Alona, Katherine Ribauw, Master - Jon Tsitsi, Basil Benjamin, Shammah Billeam, Zazu Cecil, Elizabeth Benjamin, Camilla Caleb, Karli Solomon, Katherine - Letia Moses, Yumi Buraman, Jukes Gobure, Betty Scotty, Regina Hartman, Lucia Deiranauw, Eidiao Appi, Olech Dowabobo, Omega Detenamo, Adrian Waqa Kaierua, Raphael Detenamo, Adilina Doguape, My - Girl Agir, Ivan - Step Dogireiy

2024 – Year 12 QCE Graduates:

Tokou Adun, Sylvani Adun, Agege, Falyska Agigo, Lily-June Aiyunge, Nashona Akua, Lizzy Akua, Deeson Akubor, Michael Aliklik, Camden Anatete, Talia Andrew, Joral Aoemage, Sabrina Baguga, Nalla Baguga, Christina Benjamin, June-Teena Benjamin, Wenzor Bill, Tyris Botelanga, Keziah Brechtefeld, Mark Cain, Julian Capelle, Vira Carlby Capelle, Joseph Cecil, Roselina Dageago, Declano Dageago, Fidel Debaos, Aroy Deidenang, Dana Deireragea, Amasia Demaunga, She-my Demingauwe, Giggles Detabene, My-own Detogia, Malvina Dick, Kylas Diema, Johannes Dimapilis, John Dube, Ruth Jesmali Edward, Angelin Garoa, Emi-Rose Grundler, Myleigh Harris, Ozem Harris, Eleni Haulangi, Tua Hossein, Turus Ika, Hanzel Kabokia, Shalinzar Kakiouea, Coutuwa Kepae, Nathan Menke, Colombo Michael, Donella Moses, Thirma-Maree Namaduk, Elizabeth Notte, Love Oscar, Abeline Ratabwiw, Ruana Reweru, Kikina Reweru, Frazier Roland, Marjip Roland, Immanuel Scotty, Selai Seymour, Mitcho Starr, Myonly Stephen, Paul Tatum, Cherubim Thoma, Maikindson Tsiode. //



*The graduates with their awards following the official presentation by President Adeang and Education Minister Appi*

## China-Nauru one year anniversary of renewed ties

The one-year anniversary of the renewed diplomatic relations between Nauru and China was celebrated with affirmations of the steadfast partnership ahead.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Lionel Aingimea attended the reception hosted by Chinese Ambassador Lyu Jin marking the anniversary and coinciding with the celebration of the Chinese New Year, 24 January.



*Ministers Aingimea and Scotty joined the celebration*

Minister Aingimea delivered remarks reflecting on the year since both nations mutually renewed their diplomatic recognition, emphasising the significance of their reinvigorated relationship.

"In the year that has passed, Nauru and China have deepened their political mutual trust, have advanced mutually beneficial cooperation and taken their bilateral ties to new heights. These are not mere empty words but are manifesting into concrete tangible actions for the benefit of our nations," Minister Aingimea stated.

Ambassador Lyu further emphasised the importance of the occasion, highlighting it as a testament to the partnership and shared progress. Over the past year, Nauru and China have maintained mutual respect, trust, and equality, addressing core interests and significant concerns.

He underscored China's collaborations and contributions to Nauru, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the sports stadium project, medical specialist visits, the cargo vessel Skyline, and various scholarships and training programs.

Mr Lyu emphasises that this year will focus on activities in education, culture, sports, tourism, media, and youth to engage the Nauruan population and promote mutual understanding, cultural integration, and community connectivity.

The government of Nauru extends New Year wishes to the Chinese community in Nauru. //

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## Major clean-up of asbestos

The Nauru Government through the Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture (DEMA) is conducting a major clean-up of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) around the island.



*DEMA staff are actively working to ensure the safe removal of all ACM materials around the island*

Approximately 212,000 square metres of the hazardous material are used predominately for roofing and cladding on residential and public buildings.

ACM are recognised as carcinogenic to humans, when airborne and exposed to it can pose serious health risks such as Mesothelioma, Laryngeal cancer, stomach cancer and other health complications.

The deterioration of these materials poses an ongoing risk to community health; according to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 105,000 to 110,000 deaths each year caused by ACM related diseases.

To date, DEMA has successfully disposed of five 20-foot containers from the RON Hospital and removed ACM roofing and stockpiles from over 20 houses.

The department is also working closely with RONPHOS to speed up the process of removing ACM stockpiles from previous renovations. Additionally, DEMA is collaborating with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SREP) to provide numerous training programs on the safe handling and storage of asbestos for various construction companies in Nauru.

The department urges the community to report any ACM stockpiles discovered outside of homes and to contact the following numbers: 5546079 or 5573901. //





## Nauru attends ocean high level tanoa

As Special Envoy of Nauru, Deputy Minister to the Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority, Delvin Thoma addressed the Ocean High-Level Talanoa on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, UN Ocean Conference and Papeete Declaration, on key matters concerning the ocean's future.

The meeting, held in Papeete, Tahiti on 13 December 2024, DM Thoma said Nauru has demonstrated its commitment through its signature of the landmark BBNJ agreement.

“My government is currently reviewing our existing legislation to ensure proper alignment with the treaty's provisions.”

DM Thoma said Nauru views the three elements - the BBNJ's implementation, its role in UNOC3, and the Papeete Declaration – and Nauru's collective actions, as interconnected components of ocean governance.

DM Thoma reaffirmed Nauru's “commitment to working with all nations in a manner that upholds both our obligations to future generations and our inalienable rights to pursue sustainable development opportunities for our people. Through this balanced approach, and our commitment to solidarity, equity, and peaceful use of the oceans, we can truly achieve meaningful progress in ocean governance”. //



*Minister Charmaine and Ambassador Lyu Jin with the medical team from China*

## Critical role of renewable energy for SIDS

Minister for Climate Change and National Resilience, Asterio Appi, addressed the 15th International Renewable Energy Agency Assembly in Abu Dhabi, 12 January, emphasising the critical role of renewable energy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



*(L-R) A/Director for Energy Phaedra Harris, Minister Asterio Appi, and Secretary for CCNR Reagan Moses, at the 15th IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi*

He highlighted Nauru's significant progress in renewable energy adoption, including its six-megawatt PV farm providing 50 per cent of Nauru's energy needs; the launch of two electric buses, with plans for eight more; and a community-based energy efficiency campaign.

Minister Appi stressed that renewable energy is "more than a solution to climate change - it is a lifeline" for SIDS and called for increased international collaboration, particularly in financing mechanisms tailored to small island nations' needs; and emphasised the importance of accessible funding to scale up proven technologies and explore innovative solutions like Eco wave technology and ocean thermal energy conversion.

He reaffirmed Nauru's commitment to tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, that "for Nauru, this is not just a goal - it is a necessity for our survival and prosperity". //

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