



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 5 - 2025/288

March parliament

Nauru's banking services transitioning to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia

As Minister for Finance, President David Adeang presented the ministerial statement on changes to banking services and the upcoming transition from Bendigo Banking Agency to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), at the 11 March sitting.

Senior managers from CBA have visited Nauru on a number of occasions for support and transition plans.

While earlier announcements have suggested that the Bendigo Agency will cease operations on 30 June 2025, President Adeang said further discussions and negotiations will now see Bendigo Agency's agreement with the Nauru government cease on no later than 30 September, 2025.

From that date, the government's banking Agencies will no longer be able to support Nauruan's bank accounts of Bendigo on island, however, they can continue contacting Bendigo Bank in Australia directly.

It is planned that following a new Agency Agreement being signed with CBA, live operation of CBA accounts will officially commence for Nauruans around July-August with a suitable date still to be confirmed.

Accounts with Bendigo Bank will be supported by the Government's two banking Agencies, while the new



CBA accounts will be supported at the Civic Centre Agency.

Further announcements will be made of the arrangements for the launch of CBA and will require account holders to register with a photo identification such as a passport or driver's licence.

Going forward the Nauru government's Agencies will both continue to in their current location, with the same familiar friendly staff. The ATMs will be unaffected.

The government looks forward to CBA's ongoing support with banking services to the Nauru community. //

Japan grants assistance for water security

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea told parliament during the sitting in early March that Nauru has secured \$200,000 from the Government of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (CGP) for water security.

The Nauruan people heavily rely on rainwater harvesting and desalination and the impact of climate change, including prolonged dry spells and irregular rainfall, has put immense pressure on the limited water supply resource.

"This Generous assistance from Japan, Mr. Speaker, comes at a critical time. It reinforces our mutual cooperation to enhance water storage capacity and supply through acquisition of water supply trucks, water storage facilities or other water supply equipment," Minister Aingimea said.

Minister Aingimea added that the Government of Japan is a long-standing traditional partner and has shown its commitment to strengthening our diplomatic relations by assisting and addressing water scarcity and contributing to clean water and sanitation in Nauru.

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Japan grants assistance for water security

“Access to clean and reliable water is not just a basic human necessity; it is fundamental to our public health and overall well-being,” Minister Aingimea said.



On a side note, Minister Aingimea wished a Happy International Women’s Day to all women, particularly the two honourable ministers in the parliament house, Minister Charmaine Scotty and Minister Isabella Dageago.

In the Minister’s closing statement, he thanked the Nauru Government and his team at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their commitment and effort in securing the needs of the people. //

Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation

The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) work on the Fire Break Project for the fuel tank farm was completed 5 March and their equipment moved to the sports stadium project.

Minister for NRC Reagan Aliklik told parliament, 11 March, that work on the land for the sports stadium including the additional 2.4 hectare is completed with the remaining work being the critical and crucial work of surface levelling, cutting and compaction. The latest deadline is expected to be the end of March.

In regards to the supply of aggregate for the port redevelopment project, the Minister says according to the contractor, CHEC, the remaining aggregate requirements will conclude in July and NRC will be focusing on producing aggregate for the runway resurfacing project that is expected to commence later this year.

The Minister noted in February the inception and consultation undertaken by BECA for the Nauru Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Project (NSRUDP) and discussions over the MOU between Nauru and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The NRC is finalising its financial annual report for 2023-24 and audited financial statements which will be presented to Cabinet then on to parliament. //

Nauru Public Health Department

Minister Charmaine Scotty updated parliament on the cabinet’s approval of the single-dose human papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) routine for children on 7 March.

Based on scientific evidence and best practices, Nauru has adapted to HPV vaccination doses from two to one dose and increased the age band from 9 to 14 years of age, including boys. This is to prevent and fight against cervical cancer and other cancer-related in both males and females.



This new approach will increase vaccination coverage, reduce the cost, and reduce the cancer burden in the community.

The cabinet also approved the Nauru National Guideline for Leprosy (Hansen’s) Disease on 7 March.

Based on this guideline, the Public Health Department will implement leprosy screening in the communities, provide treatment for all leprosy cases, and provide prophylaxis with one-time rifampicin tablet for those who have not been affected.

The Department of Nauru Public Health continues its house-to-house screening for tuberculosis (TB) in every district. All positive TB cases will receive appropriate treatment.

The Ministry of Health received 1,000 doses of hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccines, which will be used to protect the high-risk group of health care workers, while those who have not taken the doses will need to take 3 doses accumulatively by the department’s standing operating procedure to protect themselves from hepatitis B disease.

The Department also received the first unit of haemodialysis machine with a built-in reverse osmosis water purification unit donated by the Government of India. The machine will be installed in the Intensive Care Unit and Cardiac Care Unit (ICU/CCU) at the Republic of Nauru Hospital (RON) for patients’ convenience.

Minister Charmaine also added that the Government of India may donate more machines in the future. //

March parliament

UN passes judicial wellbeing resolution

Minister Lionel Aingimea announced in parliament that the United Nations has passed a resolution designating 25 July as the International Day for Judicial Well-being. This initiative, led and facilitated by Nauru, represents a significant milestone, highlighting Nauru's considerable contribution on the global stage.



Accompanying Minister Aingimea were Deputy Minister for Justice and Border Control Isabella Dageago, Chief Justice Kinivilame Keteca, and other government officials as he presented the resolution to the UN.

This resolution builds on the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being, which was formulated during the 2024 Regional Judicial Conference on Integrity and Judicial Well-being. It aligns with key international frameworks, including the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and the UN Convention Against Corruption.

The resolution highlights a long-overdue reality: judicial officers worldwide face significant stress, scrutiny, and threats to their independence, yet their well-being has often been neglected.

Through this resolution, the General Assembly sends a strong message: a robust and resilient judiciary is vital for justice, democracy, and the rule of law.

“Nauru takes great pride in leading this initiative and demonstrating that even the smallest nations can make significant contributions to the global judicial community,” the Minister stated.

The resolution garnered support from 70 co-sponsors worldwide, emphasising the global recognition of judicial well-being as a critical issue.

Nauru received backing from countries across Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific. Despite a request for a vote from the United States, the resolution was overwhelmingly approved, securing 160 votes in favour.

Minister Aingimea expressed his appreciation to all who contributed to this initiative, acknowledging their dedication and hard work. //

Nauru Utilities Corporation

Minister Reagan Aliklik updated parliament on Nauru Utilities Corporation's (NUC) consistent commitment to delivering its service to the public despite repairs and corruptions on the grid's network.

The state-owned entity continues to increase its production in energy from 6.25 percent and 46 per cent increase in delivering water in this period of dry spells, compared to July to December last year.

Initiatives in water production and storage are currently in progress, although sludge collection dropped to five percent due to a truck breakdown. The truck is now repaired and ready to return to service.

“The commissioning of the new 120k sewage treatment plant is progressing slowly, and hopes to have it completed,” Minister Aliklik said.

Meanwhile, the six-megawatt solar project is completed and left with the commissioning stage. NUC is working closely with contractors to avoid further delays and is expected to be finalised in April of this year.

NUC's current budget anticipated that the commissioning of the solar project in December 2024 would offset fuel costs, but delays, significantly impacted NUC's finances and performance, which shifted their focus from capital works to maintenance to enhance fuel efficiency.

Preliminary data from July to December 2024 show that total income exceeded projections by 2.2 percent, while expenditure surpassed the budget by 7.4 percent despite the challenges.

Minister Aliklik, thanked his team in government, development partners, NUC's board of directors with executive teams and all staff members for their hard work and commitment to providing electricity, water and sanitation services to the public of Nauru. //



March Parliament

International Court of Justice

Minister Lionel Aingimea reported on his trip to the Hague, Netherland, highlighting Nauru's participation at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), 9 December 2024.

Minister Aingimea delivered oral proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the advisory opinion on climate change and international legal obligations.

“This was a critical moment for our country Nauru and the Small Island developing states (SIDS), as we have taken a firm and resolute stand on the need for urgent and decisive global action to address the existential threat posed by climate change.”

Nauru reaffirmed its longstanding position that climate change represents not only an environmental crisis but also a matter of fundamental human rights, sovereignty, and international justice.

Minister Aingimea highlighted the severe and disproportionate impact of climate change on Nauru and the small island nations, emphasising the obligations of major polluters under international law to mitigate emissions and provide support to vulnerable states.

Nauru presented compelling arguments on several key points including legal responsibility and state obligations; human rights and climate justice; and reparations and financial assistance.

Nauru urged the ICJ to provide clear guidance on the legal implications of states; failure to meet their climate obligations, reinforcing the necessity of compliance with the Paris Agreement and other international instruments.

Our advocacy aligns with the broader Pacific region's call for climate justice, ensuring that historical emitters are held accountable for their contributions to this global crisis.

“As a nation on the frontlines of climate change, Nauru remains unwavering in its commitment to securing a sustainable and just future for our people. We will continue to engage in all available international legal and diplomatic avenues to safeguard our sovereignty, livelihoods, and environmental heritage.”

The minister extended his gratitude to his delegation, legal experts, and international partners who have supported Nauru's engagement in this crucial legal process. //

Department of Transport

Minister for the Department of Transport Reagan Aliklik told parliament during a sitting in March that the civil aviation division will start working on the scanning of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in April and May



“Final arrangements are in place and personnel and equipment are being mobilised this month,” Minister Aliklik said.

Meanwhile, the Land Transport Division has completed the external structure of the charging stations for the electric buses in Denig. The charging stations are yet to be installed followed by an operator training course for the drivers.

The Vehicle Registration Division hired external contractors and are working together to build housing designed specifically for the licence embossing machine without affecting the normal process of vehicle registrations.

Minister Reagan Aliklik, in his closing statement, says that the Department of Transport completed an auditing assessment for civil aviation in February last month and is now available for reference.

“This marks another phase of demonstrating transparency and accountability. Our team intends to keep up this momentum and conduct the same audit on Land Transport and VRID divisions as well. I acknowledge and thank the auditor general and his team for the services provided,” Minister Aliklik said. //

March Parliament

Department of Health and Medical Services

Minister for Health, Charmaine Scotty provided an update that, a total of 85 patients are currently overseas receiving medical treatment with 48 family members escorting them. Minister Scotty said that the Government remains committed to ensuring that the people receive medical care beyond our borders when required.

External consultants conducted a financial review of the Overseas Medical Referrals (OMR) to ensure transparency, efficiency and accountability in the management of the financial resources allocated to these medical services.

The department also undertook a review of the OMR policy, to enhance the efficiency, accessibility and sustainability of the program and to ensure that patients in need receive the best possible care when treatment is not available in Nauru.

A Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) medical team specialising in ear, nose, throat (ENT) and audiology conducted physical ENT examinations on 20 children and 53 adults, the services were funded by the Australian government.

The Government of Nauru through the Department of Health has officially signed an agreement with HLL Lifecare Limited under the Janaushadhi Scheme of the Government of India providing quality healthcare services in Nauru.

“Through this partnership, Nauru gains access to approximately 2,000 essential medicines and 300 surgical equipment items, all of which are certified under the WHO-GMP World Health Organisation – Good Manufacturing Practice standards. “This ensures that the medical supplies we procure meet the highest global quality benchmarks,” Minister Scotty said.

“The department also receives other support from various partners including a vehicle donated by the Australian High Commission to assist in transporting supplies and vaccines, a haemodialysis machine and a portable reverse osmosis (RO) system, donated by the Government of India, wheelchairs and commodes donated by Digicel, and a refrigerator donated by Palladium.

In addition, Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI) also funded the renovation of the eight-bed women’s ward at the Republic of Nauru (RON) hospital significantly improving the quality of care for patients.

Minister Scotty invites and encourages other stakeholders interested in undertaking similar projects to contact the Department of Health.

“Collaborative effects such as these are essential in ensuring continued improvements to our healthcare facilities and services,” Minister Scotty said.

The Nauru Health Practitioners Registration Board recently held its first meeting with two newly appointed representative members from the community and the clergy, strengthening the governance and oversight of the healthcare services.

The community representative will serve as a voice for the people advocating for patients, rights, and access to quality care and ensure the healthcare system remains responsive to the public needs, meanwhile, the clergy focus on moral and ethical perspectives, reinforcing a holistic approach in the medical practice.

Minister Charmaine in her closing statement expressed her gratitude for all the contributions and support from collaborative partners. //

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visa exemption

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) engaged with bilateral partners for visa travel exemptions between the Republic of India and the Republic of Nauru, which is near completion, and the same item with the People’s Republic of China.

Minister Lionel Aingimea told parliament the governments of Nauru and India signed the agreement on exemption from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports on 17 September 2024.

On the same item, says the Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Nauru on mutual visa exemptions for the citizens holding the specific categories of passports, is now in the final phase which will be submitted to the cabinet for approval and the house will be updated once the agreement has been signed.

The visa exemptions will allow easier movement of Nauruans between countries, showing stronger relations between our nation and partners. //

March Parliament

DFAT: Nauru-Monaco Summit Declaration

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea and Chinese Ambassador to Nauru Lyu Jin have signed an agreement that allows mutual visa exemption for citizens with certain types of passports from China and Nauru.

In parliament, Minister Aingimea announced the creation of a Declaration of Commitment established during the 2025 Nauru-Monaco Business Summit held on March 25.

The dialogue at the 2025 Nauru-Monaco Business Summit aims to identify key issues and develop innovative solutions to tackle national challenges.

Minister Aingimea stated, “The signed Declaration signifies a strategic partnership between the Republic of Nauru and the involved parties, focusing on enhancing trade, investment, and innovative development across various economic sectors in Nauru.”

The initiatives both parties plan to implement include vertical farming suited to Nauru’s climate, improving fisheries infrastructure to boost trading services and enhance air and maritime trade, promoting sustainable eco-tourism aligned with national and global goals, and attracting investments in Nauru’s tourism sector while safeguarding natural resources. Additionally, they aim to introduce measures to combat obesity and heart disease in Nauru.

Minister Aingimea noted that these initiatives under the Declaration will improve the health and well-being of Nauruan citizens, with the theme “Get Nauru Healthy Again” being a top priority.

He also mentioned that a review will be conducted to evaluate the costs and requirements for treating diabetes with GLP-1 medication. //

Naoero Postal Services Corp

In this opening statement, Minister for Naoero Postal Services Corporation Asterio Appi said the word, impossible, was the kind of statement the state-owned enterprise received at the beginning of its journey but stated that ‘with God nothing is impossible’.

As part of the Adeang government’s ongoing commitment to streamlining freight services and improving logistics operations, the SOE, through its Australian subsidiary Nauru Post Pty, Ltd, defied all odds and launched its new freight forwarding, warehousing and logistics company at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, Australia, trading as Frigate Cargo and Logistics Services (FCLS).

Officially opened by President David Adeang on 13 March, the facility is a key component of Nauru’s procurement operations as the central logistics and coordination hub in Brisbane.

The facility will ensure a fully integrated logistics network from Australia to Nauru, and in collaboration with other SOEs, will enable a seamless flow of goods, delivering a more efficient and reliable logistics solution for people and businesses.

The facility is on track to receive certification as an Australian Border Force (ABF) bonded area, enhancing Nauru Post’s capacity and capability to manage imports from around the world and further solidifying Nauru’s role in regional logistics.

FCLS will work closely with parent company, Naoero Postal Services Corporation, to deliver comprehensive and end-to-end freight forwarding and logistics solution for its Nauru customers.

Minister Appi says the company’s vision is to provide seamless, efficient, and cost-effective logistics services that benefit businesses and individuals alike on the island. //

Nauru Police Force

Minister for Nauru Police Force (NPF) Lionel Aingimea delivered a summary statement of crime statistics from 2022 to 2024 that indicate significant trends across various crimes, including accidents, property crimes, public disorder and serious offenses.

According to the statistics, public disorder incidents including noise complaints, offensive behaviour and other crimes such as cybercrime, domestic violence and sexual offences are noticeably increasing.

“The projected crime rates for 2025 suggest potential increase across various categories. This forecast compels us to implement proactive measures to mitigate these anticipated rises”, Minister Aingimea said.

NPF Department will implement a series of proactive measures, including increased patrols and community engagement initiatives with local organisations and stakeholders to foster a united approach to crime prevention and to build trust and assistance in ensuring the safety of the citizens.

The Minister added that understanding the statistics will help law enforcers, policymakers and the community to join together with collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges of public safety and to design and implement strategies that will improve the security and well-being of Nauruan citizens. //



March Parliament

Department of Sports

Minister for Sports, Jesse Jeremiah updated parliament on the Coaches and Athletes Incentive Program, a government initiative designed to empower, support, and sustain every athlete both, male and female as they strive for excellence in their fields.

Under the initiative, athletes and coaches will receive a \$500 incentive allowance to assist with the training expenses, equipment, and more.

“This direct financial support will ease the burden on the athletes, allowing them to focus on their performance rather than financial constraints,” Minister Jeremiah said.

The initiative will provide high-quality training, expert coaching, and better sports facilities. It will also help cover critical needs such as nutrition, injury recovery, and mental well-being which are essential for peak performance.

The program will also create a structured pathway for young and upcoming athletes, providing them with the necessary resources, mentorship, and financial assistance to develop their talents, as well as investing and upgrading the standard of coaches in Nauru.

Policies, contracts, and strict code of conduct will also be implemented to govern and ensure effective transparency. Coaches and athletes will be required to sign a contract that adheres to the rules and regulations. Failure to meet these conditions may result in suspension or removal from the program.

The initiative aligns with the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2019-2030, by promoting an active lifestyle and improving overall community health including the youth in engaging in sports and inspiring future generations.

“The Coaches and Athletes Incentive Program is a bold step forward in ensuring that the sportsmen and sportswomen receive the support they deserve. It is a commitment to excellence, national pride and sustainable sports development,” Minister Jeremiah said. //



Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund

At the end of February 2025, the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (ITF) was valued at just over \$411 million.

President David Adeang presented his ministerial statement on the ITF acknowledging it is the first time the Fund had achieved such a significant milestone.

Additionally, the Funds’ market value was 3.3 per cent above the set target after considering the consumer price index (CPI) and the objective of a 4.5 per cent real return, the President adds.

The Fund’s investment advisor, Mercer, also advised that, on average, the fund has had net returns of 9.2 per cent per annum since its inception, outperforming the benchmark growth funds over the same period, and similarly outperforming the same growth funds over a five- and seven-year period.

Taiwan Province of China provided formal notice of its intention to withdraw its support of the Fund and requested the present value of their contributions, approximately \$41 million in December 2024, be repaid to them.

The ITF committee acknowledged the financial support of Taiwan Province of China since its inception and its contribution to the good governance of the Fund.

A subcommittee including representatives from the governments of Australia and New Zealand, has been established to provide recommendations regarding the processing of that withdraw notice.

The subcommittee aims to limit any financial impact on the Fund and ensure the future needs of the Government of Nauru and its people will continue to be met.

President Adeang attended the 35th official committee meeting of the ITF in Melbourne, Australia, accompanied by ministers Reagan Aliklik, and Maverick Eoe, on 6 March. Nauru will host the next meeting in May. //



March Parliament

Department of Women and Social Development Affairs

Minister Charmaine Scotty provided an update on the progress made by the Department of Women and Social Development Affairs since the last meeting in December 2024.

The report emphasised advancements in key areas such as policy endorsement, legislative review, international reporting, and community engagement.

The department has successfully secured the endorsement of several crucial policies aimed at promoting gender equality, social protection, and the welfare of vulnerable populations.

These policies were developed through extensive consultations with stakeholders to ensure they align with national priorities and international commitments. The implementation phase has commenced, focusing on inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilisation to achieve measurable outcomes.

Significant progress has also been made regarding the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act. Feedback from questionnaires distributed in November 2024 has been analysed, providing essential insights into the legislation's effectiveness and highlighting areas for reform.

These insights will inform recommendations for amendments to strengthen the Act and ensure it meets the needs of domestic violence survivors, in line with the An Towepo Declaration advocating for generational equity.

In line with international obligations, the department is enhancing preparations for Nauru's upcoming state reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Additionally, a specialised task force has been formed to gather national data, assess progress, and identify implementation gaps. Capacity-building workshops are being organised, with support from regional CROP agencies, for relevant ministries and stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and evidence-based approach.

The Minister says a key change in WASDA's strategy this year, focusing on expanding community outreach to improve the visibility of our policies and programs. This will involve mobile outreach teams, community forums, and localised workshops to ensure all citizens, particularly those in remote areas, can access vital information and services.

In response to rising concerns about domestic violence and the need for better support for survivors, the Department has ramped up awareness campaigns for the Safehouse.

These initiatives aim to inform survivors of available services and encourage community engagement in addressing domestic violence, ultimately creating a safer environment for those seeking help.

Minister Scotty expressed appreciation to the government, civil society partners, and the community for their ongoing support, reaffirming WASDA's commitment to promoting gender equality, protecting vulnerable populations, and advancing social development in Nauru.
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Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority

State-owned enterprise, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is undertaking a number of initiatives in strengthening Nauru's coastal and oceanic fisheries sectors while advancing its technical services.

Minister Reagan Aliklik, reported to parliament, 11 March, that the first tranche of funding, AU\$203,139 has been received under the MiCOAST Project and the necessary project accounts have been established.

The funding supports key initiatives, including: coral restoration efforts, communication strategy development, aquaculture development, community-based fisheries management; Resilient coastal fisheries and aquaculture project.

Two NFMRA officials attended the Coral Futures Academy in Palau to learn advanced methods of identifying heat-tolerant corals. Their expertise will now be shared with local staff to enhance coral farming and restoration in Nauru.

In mid-March two communications specialists will visit Nauru to assess public awareness on fisheries management that will guide the crafting of effective messaging and outreach tools to better engage the communities.

Meanwhile, a key consultation with milkfish pond owners and interested stakeholders will be held this month with the aim of reviving the Nauru Aquaculture Association (NAQUA) and encourage sustainable aquaculture practices.

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Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority

A draft of the community-based fisheries management strategic plan has been developed and is under review by the NFMRA and the Pacific Community (SPC).

Once finalised, consultations will ensue to provide a clear roadmap for sustainable coastal fisheries management.

Three technical staff and seven extension officers have been recruited for the Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project, ahead of the inception meeting in April that will include high-level and technical discussions with SPC representatives.



In oceanic fisheries, as of March 2025, licencing revenue has exceeded \$1.4 million. This includes the 113 vessels, and 17 Nauru-flagged vessels being issued fishing licences.

The allocation of purse seine vessel fishing days for 2025 is 3,654 days with 3,336 days already distributed, with revenue at over \$29 million.

The state-owned entity has been participating in region activities including the PNA compliance case register in Majuro and the upcoming annual FFA surveillance initiative - Operation Rai Balang.

Earlier this year a team of OFCF technicians visited Nauru to support infrastructure and operational efficiency.

The work included radio relay station restoration, ice maker machine maintenance and training, installation of a new generator, maintenance of the NF1 vessel which was inactive for over a year, is now operational, and is also available for hire, Monday to Friday. NFMRA staff also received capacity building in a sushi and sashimi workshop. //

March parliament: Bills

Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2024

Ninety days after the introduction of the proposed Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2024, to amend Article 19 of the Constitution of Nauru, the bill was debated on and approved by the required two-thirds majority of the members of Parliament, on 11 March.

President David Adeang introduced the bill on 26 November 2024.

A secret ballot was taken in parliament, resulting in 15 votes for, and two against, subsequently passing the bill allowing the president to appoint up to seven cabinet ministers, an increase of one minister.

The maximum number of ministers, including the president, is now eight. The amendment also removes the minimum number of ministers under Article 19(1).

Over time the number of departments has increased to 25 and state-owned enterprise to 22, gradually increasing the functions, duties and responsibilities of ministers to a substantial level.

While there are deputy ministers, they do not have the full constitutional authority to perform the responsibilities of a minister and are always acting under the instructions of a minister.

Having considered the workload of the ministers, the government agreed that the number of ministers needed increasing.

Amending Article 19 requires an interval of not less than 90 days between the introduction of the proposed law in Parliament and the passing of the proposed law by Parliament; and it is approved by not less than two-thirds of the total number of the members of Parliament. //

Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2025

The tabling of the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2025 sought to amend Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act 2008 relating to the salaries of the president, ministers, deputy ministers, speaker, deputy speaker and Members of Parliament.

The proposed amendment was debated and passed by the parliament in the form of the Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.2) 2024-25, to allocate funds to fund the increase of the salaries.

However, since the salaries and allowances of all Members of Parliament including the President and Cabinet Ministers are provided under the Act, there is a need to make these amendments to ensure the salary increase is paid lawfully.

Clause 4 provides for the amendment of Schedule 1 of the Act. The amendment reflects the increase in the salary for the Speaker of Parliament, Minister assisting the President, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament.

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Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2025

The provision also reflects the correct salary amounts currently being paid; including the transitional and savings provision which validates any payment already made to the increase of these salaries before the commencement of the bill. This is to ensure such payments are made pursuant to the bill and lawfully.

This is a result of the enactment of the Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.2) 2024-2025 where Parliament passed the budget to allocate funds to fund the increase of the salaries.

However, since the salaries and allowances of all Members of Parliament including the President and Cabinet Ministers are provided under the Act, there is a need to make these amendments to ensure the salary increase is paid lawfully. The provision also reflects the correct salary amount of the President, Deputy Speaker and Ministers which are currently being paid.

Clause 5 provides for the insertion of a transitional provision in relation to this Bill. The transitional and savings provision validates any payment already made to the increase of salaries of the President, Minister Assisting the President, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Speaker of Parliament, Deputy Speaker and Members of Parliament before the commencement of the Bill. This is to ensure such payments are made pursuant to the Bill and lawfully.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, this is a very short Bill. The subject matter of the Bill has already been debated and passed in this house in the form of the Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.2) 2024-2025. This relates to the salaries of the President, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the proposed amendment seeks to amend Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act 2008. This is a consequential amendment arising from the Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.2) 2024- 2025. Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum summarises the Bill's provisions. Sir, I respectfully request that the accompanying memorandum be read and incorporated into the Hansard Reports. //

Survey Bill 2025

The Survey Bill 2025 repeals and replaces the Survey Act 1961 and repeals the Survey Marks Act 1925; both will be consolidated in the new Survey Act 2025.

Consolidating the two Acts will not affect the surveys which have already been undertaken but will bring them under the new Act. There have not been substantial amendments made to the 1961 Act since it was enacted.

While Nauru changed its measurements from imperial to metric system in 1973, there has not been any other

substantial amendments made to the 1961 Act since it was enacted.

Neither have there been any changes on the use of the survey instruments although in practice, this has changed, this new Act will regularise this.

The bill recognises that technology for land survey has changed dramatically with comprehensive devices such as the global positioning system (GPS), mapping systems and global navigation satellite system, which are all fundamental systems for surveyors.

The demand for residential and commercial land use rises with the increase in population, coupled with the pressure by the government on requiring more land to be able to provide all the social services and economic development of the country.

The boundaries of lands are also becoming increasingly important including disputes over access ways and while the bill will not solve these problems, it will provide a mechanism by which survey will need to be undertaken to clearly identify all the markings and boundaries of land.

Part 1 of the Bill provides for the objectives of the Bill which is to ensure that Nauru's survey plans are in accordance with the international standards, digitisation of survey plans, and upgrading of the instruments for the surveys. Also, the public are to have access to the registered survey plans.

Part 2 provides for the administration of land management and its functions under the secretary. Surveyors and field officers will now be issued certificates and licences respectively.

Part 3 of the bill is focuses on surveyors and field officers and what is required of them in experience, knowledge, skills and other qualifications.

Part 4 provides for the survey of lands, while part 5 looks at offences such as carrying out a survey by a person who is neither a registered surveyor nor a licenced field officer. The penalty is a fine of not more than \$2000 or term of imprisonment of not more than 12 months or both. This is one of a number of offences listed under the Act.

Part 6 provides for miscellaneous matters such as allowing the director, surveyor or field officer to pass over or through land belonging to any person in order to measure bearing, affix or set up survey control stations and anything necessary for the survey or inspection of the same, with reasonable notice.

Part 7 provision for repealing of the previous Acts and a Savings Clause for maps, plans of surveys prepared and registered with the department, as well as any application, investigation and legal proceedings under the repealed Acts.

This ensures that whatever was done under the repealed Acts is considered to have been done under the new Survey Act 2025. //

Bills

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2024-2025

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2024-2025 reflects updated revenue and expenditure estimates since the last Supplementary was presented. Revenue increases \$5.4 million in new RPC reimbursable revenue from the Government of Australia has been received and will be recognised in this supplementary.

The expenditures include for the presidency and ministerial departments, chief secretary's office, Bureau of Statistics, foreign affairs, the Fiji consulate and Beijing embassy to cover increased expenditure not anticipated in previous supplementary bills.

The Department of Internal Affairs which is tasked with managing the administration and operations related to receiving and hosting special cohort transferees from Australia, also receives an allocation.

In line with maintaining Nauru's fiscal responsibility measures, \$2.4 million is provided to the Fiscal Cash

Buffer to address urgent and unavoidable expenditures that may arise for the remainder of this financial year.

No allocation is made toward the Trust Fund in this bill.

President Adeang noted that government will recognise the \$15 million budget support revenue from the Government of Australia and account for it in the revenue estimates for this financial year, which will have no impact on the overall budget position.

The second and final tranche of the budget support of \$5 million for the 2024-25 financial year was accounted for in Supplementary Appropriation No 3, passed in January, this year.

With the passing of the Bill, the approved 2024-25 Budget recognises total revenue of \$20.4 million, comprising the \$5.4 million RPC reimbursable revenue and \$15 million from the budget support funds.

It will also appropriate new expenditures of \$20.4 million, resulting in a revised budget balance of \$200,000 for the year. //

Minister Maverick Eoe sworn in as newest member of cabinet

Maverick Eoe was sworn in as the eighth and newest member of Cabinet by Acting Chief Justice Kiniviliame Keteca, and witnessed by His Excellency President David Adeang, ministers and deputy ministers, 12 March.

Minister Eoe is assigned the ministries of sports, Nauru Public Health, Commerce and Foreign Investment, and Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority.

Having served as deputy minister in two administrations, and now as minister, he says, is a privilege to experience the different dynamics.

He says there are ministries that carry heavier responsibilities but will earnestly execute his ministerial duties.

President Adeang acknowledged Minister Eoe's contributions and expressed his utmost confidence and trust in his competence, ability and leadership, without question.

"I say with confidence that we will stand behind our minister, and do what he can in the remaining months of our parliamentary term.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," the President said. "That applies to becoming a minister and it applies to all of us. [There is] much work to be done and this is only the first step of many."



Maverick Eoe swore the oath of office on his appointment as minister

Minister Eoe's appointment comes one day after the successful passing of the proposed amendment to Article 19 of the Constitution of Nauru in parliament, 11 March, to increase the number of ministers by one, allowing the president to appoint up to seven ministers.

The process requires a two-third majority of votes from MPs for the bill to pass. The secret ballot resulted in 15 votes for, and two against the proposal. //

Bilateral meeting with International Seabed Authority

Bilateral talks between Nauru and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) highlight the crucial need to enhance the capacity of Pacific Small Island States (PSIDS) to effectively participate in seabed activities, 11 February.

By prioritising strategic partnerships and targeted training initiatives, significant progress can be made in participation and development within the region.

The meeting, held in New York, was with Deputy Minister for Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority Delvin Thoma, Deputy Minister for Justice and Border Control Isabella Dageago, Nauru's Permanent Representative to the ISA Ambassador David Aingimea, and Secretary General of the ISA Leticia Carvalho.

The meeting underscored a collective commitment to effective ocean governance, with aspirations to strengthen collaborative efforts and engage with Nauru and other key stakeholders.



(L-R) ISA Ambassador David Aingimea, ISA SG Leticia Carvalho, Deputy Minister Isabella Dageago, Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma.

DM Thoma and his delegation extended their congratulations to Ms Carvalho on her appointment as ISA Secretary General. In response Ms Carvalho emphasised her commitment to fostering close collaboration with Nauru, expressing a strong interest in understanding Nauru's priorities to facilitate equitable opportunities for mutual advancement. //



35th NTF meeting, membership change

His Excellency President David Adeang along with Ministers Reagan Aliklik and Deputy Minister Maverick Eoe attended the 35th official committee meeting of the Intergenerational Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of Nauru at the BDO office in Melbourne, 6 March.



Nauru Trust Fund committee convene their quarterly meeting in Melbourne, Australia

The Fund's earnings will enable the Government of Nauru to invest in key sectors, such as education, health, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure to benefit the People of Nauru.

As of February 2025, the Fund's value stood at \$411million. With ongoing contributions and consistent growth, the Fund remains poised to meet the future needs of the Government and its people.

Taiwan Province of China has formally submitted a request to withdraw from the Nauru Trust Fund. The Committee has agreed to facilitate a smooth and orderly exit while ensuring the continued protection of the Fund's interests.

The Chairman has invited the committee members to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Nauru Trust Fund in Nauru in May 2025. //

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.

Vehicle handover to Department of Multicultural Affairs

The Government of Nauru handed over 10 Toyota Hilux, Rocco and Pre-runner, twin cab vehicles, to the Department of Multicultural Affairs (DMA) in front of the government offices, 13 March.



President David Adeang presents keys of the first vehicle to DMA Secretary

His Excellency President David Adeang, with Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma presented the vehicle keys, first to DMA Secretary Daniel Eoe followed by his staff.

Mr Eoe says the vehicles will enhance the department's transport capabilities and support the staff in carrying out their duties and obligations in running the Regional Processing Centre (RPC).

He encouraged his staff to be diligent in looking after the vehicles that have been entrusted to them by the government. //

ADB visit member countries

Members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board met with His Excellency President David Adeang as part of the bank's visit to member countries in Asia and the Pacific with the aim of ensuring a more prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable region by ending extreme poverty, 3 March.



ADB Regional Director Shane Rosenthal (standing 4th from left) and the ADB board of directors team, seated, led by Executive Director Made Wijaya (3rd from right) with Nauru's Secretary of Finance Novena Itsimaera.

By visiting member developing countries, board members gain valuable insights into the local context, culture and economy that are not easily understood from written sources.

President Adeang underscored that, "since the commencement of co-financing operations in 1996, the bank has remained a key development partner, assisting us in critical areas such as maritime transport, renewable energy, urban development, and importantly, governance reforms".

The establishment of the ADB country office in Nauru has further solidified commitments, ensuring that the collaboration remains strong and responsive to Nauru's evolving needs.

During the dinner reception, President Adeang shared that Nauru has graduated from being a grant-only recipient to mixed grant and concessional loan recipient due to its improved debt status from high risk to moderate risk.

The President also announced that secretary of finance Novena Itsimaera will soon commence her two-year term as ADB's executive director support advisor for Nauru. //

An infographic titled 'MENTAL HEALTH' with a blue background. On the left, there is a silhouette of a human head with a glowing brain. The text on the right reads: 'MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1963 SECTION 4 OF THE ACT REQUIRES: Individuals may be classified as mentally impaired if they are unable to manage themselves or pose a risk to their own or others safety. Personal beliefs or activities like political opinions or alcohol consumption should not automatically classify someone as mentally impaired. Designated mental health facilities, including public hospitals and health centres, are empowered to provide necessary care and oversight.'

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Act 1963 aims to define and support individuals with mental impairments while ensuring public safety and respecting personal rights.

These measures aim to balance public safety with individual rights, promoting understanding and support within our community. Stay informed and share this update widely.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1963
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Follow on Facebook
ADB IN THE PACIFIC

Awareness on airport runway resurfacing project

Nauru Emergency Services (NES) and Nauru Police Force (NPF) are working with integrated services provider, Downer, in raising awareness for the Nauru runway resurfacing project, 14-19 March at the Centennial Hall.

Downer is an Australian and New Zealand company with a reputable background and expertise in integrated infrastructure services, including transport infrastructure, social infrastructure, rail and transit systems, among others.

The awareness campaign focuses on informing stakeholders and the general public in getting an insight into the scopes of work and what will be implemented at the runway, including safety measures on roads, heavy machinery, UXO scanning and diffusion, evacuation plans, and exercises taken in place.



Community awareness session conducted at Centennial Hall

Stakeholder and Environment Manager, Craig Smart, led the awareness with his team and Project Manager Peter Murr.

The project is also hiring labourers (site setup), administrators, truck drivers, machine operators, and field assistants. They can be reached for further information at nauruairportproject@downergroup.com or 5547630. //

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated with the opening church service at Orro Congregational Church, Aiwo, 8 March, and attended by the Acting President Jesse Jeremiah, Madam Jeremiah, Cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.



Acting President Jesse Jeremiah and Madam Jeremiah at the opening church service at Orro Congregational Church

As it is each year, the service was organised by the Department of Women and Social Development Affairs (WASDA) and the call to worship led by Pastor Amo Jeremiah.

Master of Ceremonies Marjorie Karl led the program with hymns, and prayers from women representing various departments and organisations.

The service was followed by luncheon and skit presentations by school and youth groups focused on building families for life. //

Land lease exposition

The Department of Land Management kickstarted its Five-Year Land Lease Review Expo at the Sports Complex with a good landowner turnout, 12-14 March.

The expo provides a bridge between the government and landowners to get a clear vision of their leasing agreements and policies and to provide transparency for both parties.



Land management team engage with landowners

Landowners were encouraged to attend the expo to get an insight into the current rates, maps, what their land is used for, and if there are any changes to the lease.

During the expo, presentations, questions, one-on-one consultations and refreshments were provided to the landowners and attendees during the three-day expo.

For more information contact 5573762 / 8880519. //

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



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