



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 6 - 2025/289

## Australia rice addresses shortage

*Australia Food Security and Humanitarian Assistance to Nauru*

This month Australia donated a consignment of rice to address Nauru's shortage as a result of delayed shipment of food and essential supplies.

On 11 April, His Excellency President David Adeang announced Australia's food security and humanitarian assistance of 20 tonnes of white rice in 10 kilo bags by the government and people of Australia. The consignment arrived by Nauru Airlines' charter flight on Saturday 12 April.

"The Government and the people of Australia have graciously stepped forward, offering their hand of support with a humanitarian assistance of rice supply arriving tomorrow, 12 April. To my fellow Nauruans, your government heeds your concerns and we endeavour to address those needs.

"This gesture of assistance is far more than an act of aid – it is a statement to the strength of the ties between our two nations and the shared values of compassion and humanity.



*Eigigu Supermarket and community leaders work together to distribute bags of rice, prioritising the elderly and disabled*

Eigigu Holdings Corporation and community leaders worked together to arrange distribution of the bags of rice, prioritising the elderly and disabled persons.

"Today (11 April), I address you at a time where we as Nauruans face yet another challenging time, but I come to you today also with immense gratitude and hope," President Adeang said.

"We find ourselves facing a critical shortage of one of our most essential food supply – rice, a staple nourishment and sustenance for our families and for our homes. In recent times, the scarcity of this essential commodity had caused strife amongst Nauruans and actions that are unnatural to our Nauruan values and principles. This Government recognises the worry this has brought about to our community.

"In our time of need, we are reminded of the enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity that transcends beyond borders.

Australia recognises our food security issues, and through the recently signed Treaty, this action is also a testament to that fact.

"To the Government of Australia and her people, on behalf of Nauru, I extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity will bring relief to many households. This will ensure that Nauruans can once again feel safe and free from worry on providing food for their households and families. This assistance not only meets a pressing need but also renews our spirit, reminding us that even in challenging times, we are never alone.

"As we receive this invaluable support, we recognise and acknowledge the importance of continued collaboration and mutual support.

"May I also take this opportunity to express my hope that in the period ahead we will continue to strengthen bilateral relations, based on mutual respect and understanding." //

## Heads of Department Meeting

The Heads of Departments (HODs) of the Nauru Public Service convened a meeting on Wednesday 16 April 2025, to discuss current challenges and reaffirm their collective commitment to strengthening collaboration and advancing a more effective and cohesive workforce.

His Excellency President David Adeang addressed the meeting, acknowledging the valuable contributions of public servants and the importance of maintaining public trust.

The President emphasised that with the government's continued efforts to improve terms, conditions, and privileges, there is a corresponding expectation of professionalism, accountability, and high standards of conduct.

The President encouraged HODs to lead by example - fostering strong work ethics and responsible leadership within their teams - underscoring that public service excellence is key to delivering meaningful outcomes for the people of Nauru.

Chief Secretary Leona Waidabu reminded HODs of key government policies relating to performance expectations, centralised procurement, official travel, vehicle use, and dress code.

She advised that the vehicle policy will be updated to ensure appropriate use and monitoring of government vehicles. Staff were also encouraged to consider vehicle sharing and make use of the free bus service provided for public servants.



*The President encouraged HODs to lead by example - fostering strong work ethics and responsible leadership*

The Chief Secretary also addressed other policy matters and advised HODs to adhere to the policies approved by the Cabinet.

HODs were also advised to review and realign their departmental budget proposals, prioritise practical solutions, and address internal challenges.

Improved communication between departments and with the Offices of the President and Chief Secretary was highlighted as essential to enhancing coordination and overall public service performance.

President Adeang said he would meet with HODs more regularly and informally to encourage open dialogue on how each department can contribute to shaping and strengthening government development programs and policies. These engagements will provide a platform for HODs to offer practical input and help drive collective progress across the public service. //

## Nauru officially closes Bangkok consulate, to reopen as embassy

The Government of the Republic of Nauru formally announced the conclusion of operations at its Office of the Consul-General in Bangkok, Thailand. This decision was endorsed by the government at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, 8 April 2025. It is part of the Government's broader efforts to strengthen and elevate its diplomatic engagement with the Kingdom of Thailand.

While the Consulate-General will cease operations, the Government of Nauru does not cease its presence. The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining and enhancing its diplomatic presence in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Plans are now underway to establish an Embassy, which will mark a new chapter in the bilateral relations between our two nations. Further details regarding the location and official opening of the Embassy will be communicated in due course.

This development follows the conclusion of a thorough and collaborative investigation conducted by the Governments of Nauru and Thailand into allegations raised in 2023 concerning purported illicit activities at a property leased by the former Consul-General, Onassis Dame.

The findings of this comprehensive inquiry have unequivocally determined that there is no evidence implicating Mr Dame in any wrongdoing. The case is now formally closed, and the Government of Nauru wishes to reaffirm Mr Dame's integrity and commend his service.

In view of these developments and as a proactive step towards reinforcing the longstanding and valued relationship between the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Thailand, the Government has resolved to transition to a new diplomatic framework, one that reflects the deepening of ties and the shared aspirations of both nations.

The forthcoming Embassy will be staffed with newly appointed personnel, equipped to further broaden and deepen bilateral cooperation.

The Government of the Republic of Nauru sincerely appreciates the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for its continued friendship and collaboration. As we look to the future, Nauru remains committed to working closely with Thailand to advance mutual interests further and uphold the enduring bonds of friendship between our countries.



## April Parliament - ministerial statements

### **Nauru Shipping Line**

Minister Lionel Aingimea told parliament updates of the Nauru Shipping Line in particular the ongoing issues faced by the Micronesia Pride (MP) resulting in delays to the service schedule.

With a transition in the technical management of the MP, NSL anticipates enhancements in maintenance, technical repairs, and service plans that will lead to improvements in both the vessel and service in the upcoming months.

Earlier in April, Bureau Veritas Class (BV CLASS) surveyors, the regional authority for vessels that must comply with regulations to operate and access ports in the Pacific, issued their certification in Suva, confirming compliance with maritime safety, security, and personnel standards for seaworthiness.



The MP voyage 44 was scheduled to arrive in Nauru on Wednesday, 16 April, transporting 160 general cargo containers, including East Micronesia Cable (EMC) containers for the installation of Nauru's underwater communications cable.

MP voyage 44 arrived at the Suva port for a 15-day layover to undertake repairs, during this time port state control officers boarded and found defects that required repair works. The MP therefore completed its cargo discharge and shifted to anchorage for repairs.

By mid-March the request for cargo reloading was denied due to a ship backlog at the Suva Port. Subsequent requests to berth was cancelled by the harbour master due to cargo hold issues and port state matters. By 5 April, the vessel eventually berthed for operations and finalised loading then departed Suva Port on 7 April.

A significant factor contributing to the delay in MP operations is the Suva Port, which is currently operating at 130 per cent of its capacity.

Additionally, MP has been tasked with the urgent collection of EMC containers to accommodate engineers traveling to Nauru for the EMC cable landing station.

Furthermore, MP is required to relocate specialised equipment from Suva to Tuvalu for the loading of equipment related to the Downer Airport Project. As a result, the MP was two to three weeks behind schedule; it was initially scheduled to arrive in Nauru on 22 March, but actually arrived on 16 April. //

### **The Department of Multicultural Affairs**

The Department of Multicultural Affairs is making strides in arrangements for the Regional Processing Centre (RPC) and the Alternative Pathways Program (APP).

President David Adeang announced in parliament this month the successful conclusion of negotiations with Australian on long-term funding for the RPC.

The new agreement is expected to complete its final approval stages in May and offers multi-year funding.

The shift from annual renewals delivers greater economic and fiscal stability for Nauru and supporting Australia's Operation Sovereign Border (OSB) policy.

To date, 93 transferees reside on Nauru, four of whom have been granted refugee status, while 89 under asylum seeker status are undergoing the appeals process.

Inspired by global best practices, Nauru implemented a revised Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, and completes initial refugee assessments within months, with the involvement of experienced legal practitioners.

This underscores Nauru's ability to serve as a credible regional processing hub, supporting Australia's efforts to manage irregular migration.

Meanwhile, the department's APP is providing opportunities for tertiary studies for Nauruans at Fiji universities with some currently enrolled in advanced diploma courses in joinery, culinary arts, and business management in Suva after completing foundational studies in Nauru. They are expected to graduate in December.

Fifteen high-achieving students are being prepared for further studies in Fiji, and new courses will run from May to June offering 19 different trade and discipline areas. //

### **Nauru Public Health**

The Minister for Nauru Public Health Maverick Eoe told parliament that the department remains dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing of every Nauruan citizen.

The Department has successfully conducted 11 health school screenings for the detection of underlying health issues, with strong support from parents, educators, and local organisations.

"These screenings not only foster collaborations among schools, families, and community groups but also play a crucial role in early identification of health issues, ensuring that timely interventions are made for our children," Minister Eoe said.

The Health SNAP program received a positive reception throughout the community and witnessed improvements in participants' understanding of health choices and empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their wellbeing.

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## April Parliament - ministerial statements

### **Nauru Public Health**

*...from pg 3*

The vaccination campaigns have made significant strides in fortifying the health of younger citizens; newborns received BCG vaccines to prevent tuberculosis, followed by the Penta-vaccines weeks after.

“These vaccines protect against various infections, such as whooping cough and hepatitis B,” Minister Eoe said.

The vaccination coverage of infants at six weeks is 95 per cent, 10 weeks at 94 per cent, 85 per cent at 14 weeks, and 77 per cent at 12 months. Furthermore, at 12 months, MMR vaccines are administered to protect infants against measles, mumps, and rubella.

The Minister told parliament that data from the Public Health shows the need to address critical health issues within the communities. Approximately 80 elderly individuals, four with limited mobility, and nine patients requiring catheters, and 327 cases of disabilities are registered in the support welfare system.

In response to these findings Minister Eoe says he is “pleased to announce that we have sought and received cabinet approval for the establishment of new positions within Nauru Public Health, focusing on In-Home personal care for eligible patients.

This initiative will be underpinned by government funding to ensure we meet our key performance indicators and effectively serve our community”.

### **Nauru Embassy in Beijing**

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea updated the parliament in April on the department's achievements and activities.

Nauru resumed diplomatic ties with China and officially opened its new Embassy in Beijing, China, on 31 March, following a formal dinner reception attended by the Minister for DFAT, Deputy Minister Hon. Russ Kun, Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Rebecca Amwano, Ambassador Chitra Jeremiah, and mission staff.

“The official opening of the embassy signifies the commitment of a strong and closer relationship between our two countries. I wish to note the warm welcoming and the hospitality of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The warm welcome was further met with genuine and honest dialogue upon my arrival and the Nauru delegation, a reflection of true partnership for a bright future ahead,” Minister Aingimea said.

The opening of national embassies in both countries allows immediate support and engagement to the Republic of Nauru, the People's Republic of China and their people.

The Minister congratulated DFAT and the Nauru Embassy for their successful inauguration and wishes the Nauru Embassy in China success in its duties.

Cabinet also approved an employment allowance to recognise the dedication of staff and to enhance their performance and productivity when addressing case loads that extend beyond their usual responsibilities during home visits and to ensure the patient receives attention, nourishment, and proper hygiene.

The department is finalising logistic arrangements to ensure the smooth implementation of the initiative.

“It is crucial, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge that the criteria for these services can evolve through training and education for families in caregiving roles. By empowering families to take ownership of their loved ones' care, we can foster a supportive environment that enhances overall wellbeing,” Minister Eoe said.

With high cholesterol and heart attacks affecting families and friends, the Department of Public Health is launching an initiative to mandate cholesterol screening and combat the threat and rising incidents of heart attacks.

“Together, we are making significant strides toward a healthier Nauru. These initiatives will profoundly impact the lives of our citizens, and I am confident that, with your support, we will achieve our goals,” Minister Eoe said and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of Minister Charmaine Scotty for the efforts and commitments that laid the foundation for the work done. //



**Foreign Minister Aingimea opens Beijing office**

Another notable accomplishment is the signing of an agreement on mutual visa exemption for citizens with specific Nauru and China passport categories on 22 March. The agreement will come into effect once both countries complete domestic legal procedures. //

## April Parliament - ministerial statements

### **Nauru Utilities Corporation**

State owned entity Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) has a substantial workload in maintaining water, fuel and sanitation services at its peak form to ensure the community is provided for.

Minister for NUC Reagan Aliklik told parliament this month that the thermal power plant adequately meets consumer demand which peaks at 6.20 megawatts, and one of its high speed engines has recently undergone a major overhaul, while another two are under repairs.

The delay in shipment has disrupted Nauru's food and oil supply and as such the NUC temporarily shut down an engine to conserve oil. In the meantime is importing oil via air freight to prevent power load shedding.

While solar energy is currently contributing nine per cent, the six megawatt solar project is progressing slowly.

The on-going dry spell has prompted the NUC to utilise privately owned water delivery trucks to meet the heightened demand for water, and recorded 66 megalitres from January to March.

Minister Aliklik noted that water production during this period exceeded consumer's daily demand reaching 79 megalitres.

The sanitation services is performing well with its holding storage capacity well above the collection rate.

NUC is also working with the Government of Israel in the commissioning of the treatment plant, while the progress on the new treatment plant funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is on track with procurement geared to commence in the second quarter of the next fiscal year.

The projected reduction in fuel costs by December 2024 was disrupted by the setbacks in the implementation of the six megawatt solar project. Thus halting capital works prompting management to reprioritise its operational expenses.

For the past eight months, NUC exceeded its projected income by 1.9 per cent but over spent by 6.3 per cent.

The power outage on 23 March to enable work on the solar integration phase was a success although it took longer than expected to complete. However, NUCs network is now suitable for the six megawatt solar when it comes on line. //



### **Department of Transport**

Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik updated parliament of the third Regional Aviation Ministers' Meeting (RAMM3) hosted by Fiji Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation in Suva, 19-21 March.

The event brought together aviation ministers and stakeholders from several Pacific Island countries, including Nauru, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Cook Islands.

Discussions centred on endorsing key documents vital to the development of aviation and the transport industry in the region.

A significant outcome of RAMM3 was the unanimous endorsement of the Suva Declaration on Strengthening Regional Partnership for a Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Aviation Connectivity.

This declaration builds upon the Port Moresby Declaration on Aviation Safety and Security Oversight and sets a comprehensive framework focusing on eight key pillars including strengthening regional collaboration; enhancing safety and security; promoting environmentally sustainable aviation connectivity; expanding inclusive and accessible connectivity; building capacity and resilience; enhancing international air law framework; advancing innovation and digital transformation; and ensuring financial and economic sustainability

These pillars reflect a shared commitment to advancing sustainable aviation and connectivity, ensuring the Pacific region remains resilient, competitive, and environmentally responsible in the face of global challenges.

The meeting also provided a platform to discuss enhancing regional air connectivity and infrastructure, advancing aviation safety and security standards, promoting sustainable aviation practices, and strengthening regional cooperation and policy alignment.

On the side event Minister Aliklik had bilateral meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister for Fiji, Viliame Gavoka, discussing collaborative works in developing technical capacity for civil aviation.

The Prime Minister invited Nauru to explore the training institutions which Fiji was equipped with and encouraged both countries to take advantage of the facilities available in Fiji as a means of enhancing small island cooperation and development.

Minister Aliklik also met with Kiribati's Minister for Transport Alexander Teabo to discuss possibilities for cooperative hours of flight operations during Nauru's period of runway resurfacing and UXO anomaly investigations. Further discussions will take place with relevant Civil Aviation Authorities of Kiribati.

"Nauru looks forward to further strengthening our regional position at the International Civil Aviation Organisation General Assembly to be held in Montreal, Canada in September this year," Minister Aliklik said. //



# April Parliament - ministerial statements

## Department of Sports

Deputy Minister for Sport Delvin Thoma updated the parliament on recent sporting events undertaken by the Community Project Unit (CPU) during the third and fourth quarters of 2024-2025 reporting period.

The CPU conducted term one outreach programs across Yaren and Nauru primary schools, for approximately 990 students from grades one to five. The sessions focus on educational enrichment and physical activity, supporting student development through structured school-based programs.

Nauru Athletics provided support during the Nauru College Sport Carnival with equipment and officiating duties, and reinforcing the importance of sports, promoting teamwork, discipline, and student well-being.

On 26 March the project engaged with community leaders to discuss proposals for collaborative community events, with 34 per cent of participants expressing interest in developing a calendar of activities, reinforcing the growing value of structured community sports programs in promoting health, inclusion, and youth development.

In collaboration with the Nauru Olympic Committee (NOC), the department awarded 61 certificates to community members who completed training in coaching, officiating, and sports administration under the Oceanic Sports Education Program in April 2024.

This strengthens the local sports workforce and supports long-term capacity building at the grassroots level.

Launched in March, the Raising Innovative Sports Enablers (RISE) collaborated with the NOC and the sports department to empower women with initiatives aligned with the NOCs goal to have 30 per cent sports leaders establish a pathway for women to leadership roles within Pacific nations; increase the technical and leadership skills for women in sports, and promote gender awareness across various groups, including males, youth, and people with disabilities.

DM Thoma acknowledged female ambassador for RISE, secretary for sports, Sheeva Cook, and male ambassador, the Speaker of Parliament, Marcus Stephen.

Nauru won the Best Nation award at the 2025 Asia/Pacific Powerlifting Championship, securing multiple medals and individual trophies.

Dave Mwaredaga set two world records in the 94kg class squatting 310kg and 322kg, as well as set a world open total record of 802kg, while Deamo Baguga set a world open record with his squat of 301kg.

At the same competition, Al Temaki achieved a personal milestone to squatting 400 kilos on the international stage. //

## Nauru Fisheries and Maritime Resources Authority

Minister for Nauru Fisheries and Maritime Resources Authority (NFMRA) Reagan Aliklik, informed parliament that the consultation meeting with pond owners on 14 March was a good turnout with participants supportive of reviving the Nauru and Aquaculture Association (NAQUA) and starting their milkfish farming.

The next meeting in May will appoint new office bearers and to review NAQUA's constitution.

The Fisheries Communication Strategy was conducted in March by CChange with 21 participants, and its outcomes report will be captured in the draft communication strategy prepared by CChange towards the end of April.

The inception meeting for the Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project (RCFAP) was held 8-9 April with a team of eight from the Pacific Community (SPC) facilitating the meeting.



Nauru Fisheries undertook its first engagement under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA), marking a key step in advancing regional fisheries cooperation.

Australia assisted Nauru in deploying aircraft to take aerial imagery, now kept in the Regional Management Facility (RIMF). This operation underscores practical NTSA benefits and sets a positive precedent for future regional collaboration.

The Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG) focused on strengthening regional collaboration in fisheries, with key discussions including operational challenges such as availability of aircraft surveillance, which the Forum Fisheries Agency acknowledged, with plans to upgrade aircraft and consider compensation for Nauru's lost patrol hours.

Other support include targeted capacity-building support from Australia, France's proposed training in ship-riding and pollution response, and New Zealand providing free online MCS training, including high seas boarding and inspection. The United States also extended an invitation to Nauru to attend a Ship Rider Symposium in 2026.

A new Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) officer was sent to the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) office in the Marshall Islands to undergo training with topics covering allocations and trading of vessel days, compliance and monitoring requirements, and reporting obligations using the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) web portal. //

## April Parliament - ministerial statements

### *Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation*

Minister for Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Reagan Aliklik updated parliament on the recent advancements in the development of the Micronesian Games stadium site.

He expressed his satisfaction with the completion of the site development project, which involved levelling 6.4 hectares of land to prepare for the sports stadium infrastructure for the upcoming 2026 Micronesian Games.

The NRC initiated this project a year ago and encountered various challenges along the way. However, with the support of the Government, they successfully overcame

these obstacles, leading to the completion of NRCs part in the project.

The Minister emphasised that this achievement demonstrates the capability of Nauruans to achieve their goals when united by a common vision.

Looking ahead, the NRC has begun collaborating with other partners to ensure efficient and effective teamwork, which will benefit both the NRC's future role and Nauru as a whole.

Minister Aliklik reaffirms that NRC will continue its efforts in alignment with the Nauruan government's vision and leadership. //

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## Bills

### *Building Control Bill 2025*

After a prolonged period of discussions and dialogue, the Building Control Bill 2025 was tabled at the 8 April parliament sitting by Minister Jesse Jeremiah that will address the essential matter of the quality of the construction of Nauruan homes.

“The requisite standard of the construction including sanitation is essential for our health and well-being. Constructing a house is an expensive investment. For that reason alone, the quality and standard of construction is not to be compromised.”

Coming into law with a set of building code, the Act will set a standard for the future construction of houses and buildings.

The building standards must be strictly adhered to so that there is value for the money that is used in the construction.

The Act also sets a guideline and a statutory requirement for the building contractors to comply with the respective architectural and civil engineering standards.

The Act prohibits the importation of modular construction or building, unless it is approved by the Committee.

A committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the Act. The Committee's functions are provided under Clause 6 which includes providing advice and formulation of policies relating to construction of buildings, and make recommendations to Cabinet relating to national building codes.

The clause also provides for approval of registration of building constructors, the granting of permits and certificates of occupancy, appointing building inspectors and other functions as provided under the Act.

The office of the Director of Building Control is also established and their function includes assisting and providing support to the Committee in the performance of its functions and exercising of its powers.

The National Building Code will provide for minimum standards in relation to building and building works and any other matter as directed by the Committee for the purposes of improvement of the quality and safety of buildings and building works. The Committee is also authorised to issue a Manual to supplement the National Building Code.

Building constructors will now be required to register under the Act and overseen by a registrar who is the Director of Building Control. Constructors will be required to demonstrate their capacity and capability to carry out building works.

The Act also provides a specific avenue for receiving complaints between constructor and those constructing and providing a grievance mechanism to resolve the dispute without going to the Court.

A person must obtain a building permit to commence building and building inspectors and the process to carrying our inspections are also provided. //



## Bills

### **Supplementary Appropriation Bill #5, 2024-25**

President and Minister for Finance David Adeang tabled the Supplementary Appropriation Bill #5, 2024-25, during parliament, 8 April, recognising total revenue of \$3.4m, with the same to be appropriated, resulting in a revised budget balance of \$200,000 for the year.

The Supplementary received \$2.6m in new revenue related to the Regional Processing Centre from Australia, and \$900,000 related to a prior year debt settlement from RonPhos.

Expenditure items include \$2.6m allocated to the Department of Multicultural Affairs, fully utilising the revenue from the Government of Australia to cover legal and judicial fees associated with the Refugee Determination Status processing; and \$900,000 for the fiscal buffer to fund future emergent expenditures. //

### **Correctional Service (Amendment) Bill 2025**

The amendment of the Correctional Services Act 2009 deals with disciplining of correctional officers for committing disciplinary offences. The disciplinary powers now transfers from the Chief Corrections Officer to the Chief Secretary. In tabling the bill, Minister for Justice and Border Control, Lionel Aingimea stated that "time and again, there have been issues raised on the objectivity of the Chief Correctional Officer's actions".

Transferring this responsibility to the chief secretary is not new; it was the position before the Correctional Services Act 2009 was brought into force. The offences are already prescribed by the Correctional Services Regulations 2020, and the procedure to hear and determine the offences will be under the Public Service Act 2016 and Public Service (Disciplinary) Regulations 2020.

A new subsection (3) provides that any incomplete determination of disciplinary offences by the chief correctional officer must be transferred to the chief secretary. The chief secretary must hear and determine those offences under the Public Service Act 2016. //

### **Bail (Amendment) Bill 2025**

Minister for Justice and Border Control Lionel Aingimea tabled the Bail (Amendment) Bill 2025 with changes to Section 4B of the Act to delete subsection (6), which ensures Section 4B continues to remain in force after the lapse of five years in October 2025.

The Bail Act 2018 was amended in 2020 by inserting Section 4B which dealt with limiting the granting of bail for certain offences. At the time it was necessary particularly due to the increase in the number of sexual offence cases involving children. There was also a growing concern on the offences which were committed against police officers. Both of which were committed at a high rate.

As criminal proceedings take time to be heard and determined by the courts, the accused are released on bail and return to the same households as the children victims and they continue to pose a threat to police officers. The mandatory remand had assisted in controlling this criminal activity as well as a substantial reduction of these offences.

Minister Aingimea stated that one of the criticisms of this provision is that some of the accused persons have been held in remand for no reason, stating, "they have a right to remain innocent and only be punished once found guilty".

"There is a need for this house to draw a balance between the 2 competing interests. The first is, that the sexual offences crimes are committed against children and women. Both categories need support of the law for their own security and survival," Minister Aingimea said.

"In case of harming police officers, this house has to consider that the police should have the full right to enforce the laws and maintain peace and order in the community. This can only happen if the people respect the police officers. For that reason, this law has provided them that security."

An accused person has the right of innocence, and that right is not taken away from him or her. They have the right to defend themselves in a trial before an independent Court.

However, by allowing the accused person to return to his or her family home or to interact with the respective police officers he or she has alleged to have harmed creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and hostility. This may result in more crimes being committed.

"In a way, the remand has prevented the accused person from committing further offences," Minister Aingimea said, reinforcing that "the balance lies in continuing with this provision. In order for Section 4B to continue to apply, Section 4B(6) needs to be repealed". //

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025**

Amendment of Section 12 Section 12(2) is deleted and substituted as follows:

'(2) Any hearing and determination for disciplinary offences against officers shall be conducted by the Chief Secretary in accordance with the rules of natural justice and with any procedures prescribed by regulations under the Public Service Act 2016.'

Amendment of Section 59 Section 59 is amended by inserting subsection (3) as follows:

'(3) All disciplinary proceedings that have commenced and have not been completed at the commencement of the Correctional Services (Amendment) Act 2025, shall be referred by the Chief Correctional Officer to the Chief Secretary for the hearing and determination under the Public Service Act 2016.'

RONLAW Online Legal Database



## Bills

### ***Nauru Small Business Enterprises Bill 2025***

The Nauru Small Business Enterprises Bill 2025 was tabled in parliament aimed at empowering Nauruan citizens to pursue financial independence through small business ownership, with funding of \$25,000.

The ground breaking “bill is designed to enable an individual to choose between employment and a business” Minister Maverick Eoe told parliament, 8 April, emphasising that starting a business requires financial capital which normally a person does not have.

The funding support includes access to free technical and business advisory services - to eligible Nauruan individuals or groups with viable business proposals. The program further prioritises empowering women, youth, and experienced tradespeople who may be unemployed but possess valuable skills.

The activities a person may engage their skills to start a small business enterprise ranges from manufacturing and processing of consumable products, professional services, tradesman services, wholesale and retailing of goods including franchise goods, general services including car rentals, security, car cleaning, cosmetics, hair and beauty salons, information technology with electronic repairs, agriculture, aquaculture, tailoring and sewing services, day care services for children, arts, entertainment and recreation, expanding of accommodation services including Air BnB services.

In a corporation or partnership, there is a strict requirement that 70 per cent of ownership be Nauruans.

To ensure sustainability of the business it must be earning a projected income not exceeding \$75,000.

The National Coordinating Committee will consider all applications and oversee the program to ensure transparency and effective use of funds.

The Committee will consider all applications provided it is submitted with some ingenuity and a realistic business prospect. Applications will be assessed based on sustainability, innovation, and a clear business plan. While new entrepreneurs are the primary focus, small existing businesses falling within the criteria are also welcome to apply.

Business owners may be required to present their business records to be reviewed. Failure to comply may result in withholding further assistance.

Providing false or misleading information when submitting applications may result in a penalty (monetary or jail time) if convicted.

Recognising land as a vital resource, the initiative encourages landowners to make use of their land for business use—either by starting their own ventures or leasing land to others.

As no banks in Nauru are giving out business loans the government of the day has taken steps in empowering private enterprise.

The Government of Nauru is committed to building an economy where all Nauruans have the tools and access to choose and succeed on their own terms.

The Bill endeavours to stimulate economic activity by generating employment opportunities through small business enterprises. //



### ***Foreign Investment Bill 2025***

The passing of the Foreign Investment Act at the 8 April sitting of parliament marks another important step in creating an enabling environment for foreign investment in Nauru.

As the world's smallest republic, Nauru envisions to continue advancing the development of its small economy towards a more diversified and sustainable future to support its growing population.

Minister for Foreign Investment Maverick Eoe MP., stated that the Act is a step closer to achieving the national priorities outlined in the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2019–2030, particularly the goal of developing an economy based on multiple sources of revenue.

The purpose of the Act is to establish a legal and regulatory framework that facilitates and increases foreign investment in Nauru. A Foreign Investment Authority will be established under the Act. This Authority will be responsible for promoting Nauru as an attractive investment destination and ensuring that all investors comply with the relevant requirements.

A key highlight of the Act is the provision of foreign investment guarantees, designed to create a thriving investment environment and provide necessary protections to investors.

While promoting foreign investment, the Act also takes special care to protect local interests through the establishment of a Reserved List—a list of sectors and business activities that are reserved exclusively for Nauruan nationals.

These include: phosphate industry, airline industry, shipping industry, utilities, land rehabilitation services, underwater fibre optic cables, product derived from stones or pinnacles in Nauru, product derived from trees in Nauru, grocery retail and wholesale, hotel and accommodation not less than \$5,000,000 capital investment, agriculture, cultural attractions (including cultural performances),

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## Bills

### **Foreign Investment Bill 2025**

*...from pg 9*

cafe, bakeries or pastry shops, ownership of galleries for painting or other visual arts, restaurants, retail of traditional or cultural handicrafts and artefacts (including commercial reproduction), taverns or public or kava bars, laundry or dry- cleaning, places offering internet access (eg, internet cafes), audio or video production, hire or sale and hair dressing salons, beauty parlours or health spas.

Depending on the nature of the investment, the Authority will have the right to set the framework for applying, reviewing, approving or refusing, extending, or cancelling foreign investment certificates.

Minister Eoe says this Act will enable an environment for foreign investment and aims to develop the Nauru private sector towards economic diversification, that “by the passing of this bill, we have opened Nauru's economic development to the world”. //

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### **Private Security (Amendment) Bill 2025**

The Private Security (Amendment) Bill 2025 was tabled at the 8 April parliament sitting with the addition of a new clause 22A. This provision empowers the Licensing Authority to restore a cancelled security licence.

A licence is valid for 12 months and Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea says in many instances, the holders of security licences fail to renew the licence once it expires.

“From the information obtained from the licence holders, is that, the licence is normally not renewed because of lack of any security contracts. Therefore, once they are able to secure any contracts for providing security services, they need the security licences to be restored.”

Before the amendment, the Private Security Act 2012 did not provide for the restoration of cancelled security licences, but there is provision under the Business Licences Act 2017 for restoring cancelled business licences.

A licensee may also inform the Licensing Authority if they do not intend to renew the licence for a fixed period of time, in which case, the licence remains in the record and is capable of being renewed any time.

The new provision allows for the restoration of a cancelled licence upon application by the last registered licensee; and may restore the cancelled licence to the last registered licensee, unless if after the cancellation is granted to another person, the Licensing Authority shall not restore the registration to the last registered licensee. //

### **Liquor Control (Amendment) Bill 2025**

The Liquor Control (Amendment) Bill 2025 introduces a new Part 7A under the Act establishing a comprehensive framework for the regulation and monitoring of kava bars, and enforcing a closing time of midnight.

President David Adeang tabled the Bill stating that the reason for regulating kava under this Act is for the rationale that its impact is no different from alcohol. The public is aware of restrictions on liquor consumption hours as such, adhering to the changes relating to kava, is no different.

This Bill is not to restrict kava drinking for any responsible individual but rather to regulate the opening hours of kava bars. The Bill also does not affect those who consume kava at home or other private places but are urged to consume kava responsibly bearing in mind that families and children are their primary responsibility.

The government urges that more time is spent with children and family. The intent of the Bill is to achieve this result.

“This may not provide an entire solution, but it is a beginning,” the President said.

Nauru has a number of kava bars operating and kava has become one of the leading social drinks for Nauruans’ entertainment and socialisation.

“Whilst kava provides relaxation and opportunity to meet for those who indulge in it, it is also becoming a concern for families. Those who engage in kava drinking tend to stay away from their homes and families for longer periods at night,” President Adeang said.

This tends to affect the sleeping patterns and homework commitments of the children. Late nights have also resulted in the children not being prepared for school in the morning and is affecting their education.

The new provisions stipulate that kava bar operators must apply for a licence with the Liquor Licensing Board, and as with a normal business licence display the licence at the kava bar; enforces operational hours; and provides for fees and penalties.

Failure to comply, the licence may be cancelled and the kava bar must close its business. Existing kava bar operators must obtain a licence within one month of the Bill’s enactment. //



## Interim airline CEO to lead services expansion and position in Pacific

Nauru Airlines appoints Captain Robert Eoe as interim CEO following endorsement of the Cabinet, 9 April.



*Captain Robert Eoe appoint as interim CEO*

The Cabinet formally appointed Captain Eoe to the position, effective 12 March 2025; a decision that will ensure continuity and progress in the company's operations during this pivotal time.

Captain Eoe previously served as deputy CEO and brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of the airline's operations and the regional market. The airline says his leadership will provide stability as Nauru Airlines continues to expand its services and strengthen its position in the Pacific aviation sector.

Captain Eoe will focus on key areas including: Operational Efficiency – to enhance flight schedules and ensure reliable services across the Pacific, including the popular Northwest Pacific Connector route.

Market Expansion - continue to build on recent successes, such as the increased frequency of flights and the reinstatement of services to key destinations. Strategic Partnerships - strengthen relationships with regional stakeholders and explore new opportunities for collaboration and growth.

The airline expresses sincere gratitude to outgoing CEO, Brett Gebers, for his unwavering dedication and commitment to Nauru Airlines during his tenure, recognising that his tireless work laid a strong foundation for the airline's future direction. The airline wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

Nauru Airlines appreciates the support of the government and looks forward to working closely with it.

The company remains committed to its mission of connecting Nauru and the Pacific community by providing essential air services to the region.

Nauru Airlines is confident that Captain Eoe's expertise will be invaluable in driving these efforts forward. //

## Nauru highlights climate resilience strategy at global citizenship forum

Nauru's High Commissioner to Australia, Camilla Solomon delivered a keynote address at the Global Citizenship Forum event in Abu Dhabi, 8 April, focusing on the critical importance of climate resilience for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The government of Nauru participated in the event hosted by international residence and citizenship advisory firm Henley & Partners at the Rosewood Hotel.

The high-level gathering brought together senior government officials, policy experts, and global stakeholders to explore the evolving role of investment migration in addressing pressing global challenges, including climate change, mobility, and sustainable development, as well as the shifting landscape of wealth migration and investment opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and beyond.

The High Commissioner outlined the country's lived experience as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations and highlighted the urgent need for new, sovereign approaches to financing adaptation.

The address introduced the Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program — the country's innovative national initiative launched at COP29 to mobilise private



*Camilla Solomon at the Global Citizenship Forum*

capital for essential infrastructure and services. Central to this strategy is the government's Higher Ground Initiative, which seeks to relocate vulnerable communities to elevated areas supported by sustainable housing, clean energy, and freshwater systems.

As High Commissioner Solomon affirmed in closing, Nauru is pursuing transformational change — turning private capital into a public good, adversity into opportunity, and vulnerability into enduring strength. //



## FEMM recommends PRF for leaders' endorsement

The Republic of Nauru continues to demonstrate its commitment to regional development and resilience and as a prominent advocate for the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF), has taken significant steps toward fostering long-term sustainability in the Pacific region.



*Nauru confirm commitment to sign PRF treaty*

Following months of dedicated efforts, the goal of finalising the PRF is now within reach.

Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma led the Nauru delegation to the Special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (Special FEMM) in Tonga on 26 March, endorsing the PRF, recommending it for consideration at the FEMM scheduled to take place in Samoa in July. Upon endorsement by the FEMM, the Treaty will be presented at the 54th Leaders Meeting for official signing.

On behalf of Nauru, His Excellency President David Adeang pledged \$1 million to the PRF at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders meeting in Tonga last year.

The contribution reflects Nauru's recognition of the importance of establishing an investment mechanism to support Pacific Island states without adding to their debt burdens.

Nauru's involvement in the development of the PRF has been unwavering, as evidenced by its active participation in workshops and negotiations aimed at finalising the Treaty text.

Nauru has confirmed its commitment to sign the Treaty at the upcoming leaders meeting in the Solomon Islands and subsequently ratifying it. This coagulates Nauru's role as one of the original eight countries to ratify the Treaty and bring it into force. This decisive action underscores Nauru's dedication to addressing the challenges faced by Pacific Island nations and providing practical, innovative solutions.

The PRF stands as a pioneering initiative—one of the first Pacific member-led and owned regional community resilience financing facilities. Nauru is proud to be at the forefront of this milestone, with the goal of bringing the Treaty into force in time for the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP30).

As one of the smallest yet resilient island states in the region, Nauru reaffirms its steadfast commitment to strengthening resilience and ensuring a sustainable future for the Pacific community. //

## Bangkok hospital formalise medical collaboration with Nauru

Health Minister Charmaine Scotty and Bangkok International Hospital assistant CEO Rattapong Ampanwong signed a medical service agreement formalising medical collaboration, 20 March.



*The agreement includes 10 per cent discount on nearly all medical services*

Minister Scotty expressed her enthusiasm for the renewal of this partnership after years of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She reaffirmed Nauru's commitment to increasing patient referrals to Bangkok Hospital, ensuring its citizens receive world-class medical care.

This agreement marks the second collaboration between both parties, following the initial signing in 2015. Mr. Rattapong recalled his first visit to Nauru that year, accompanied by a team of oncologists and cardiologists, to establish the first medical partnership. He expressed his deep impression of the country, describing Nauru as a peaceful state with good weather and, most importantly, warm and positive-minded people.

Over the years, Bangkok Hospital has welcomed numerous Nauruan patients, particularly for ophthalmology, oncology, and cardiology treatments. The hospital's team of specialised doctors is fully prepared to continue providing high-quality care for these critical conditions.

The renewed agreement includes a 10 per cent discount on nearly all medical services, covering:

- (a) 10 per cent off charges for medicine, room, laboratory, and X-ray services.
- (b) 10 per cent off charges at the dental clinic for selected treatments, including: operative dentistry; scaling and periodontal disease treatment; normal tooth extraction; surgical removal; and endodontic treatment.

This agreement underscores Bangkok Hospital's role as a leading international medical destination, dedicated to delivering top-tier healthcare to patients from across the globe. //



## Nauru embassy opens in Beijing

The Embassy of the Republic of Nauru was officially opened by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea at the Ta Yuan Diplomatic Compound Xin Dong Lu Chaoyang, Beijing, China, 31 March.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Deputy Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu along with Nauruan citizens in China and the official delegation from Nauru, gathered for this significant occasion.

Minister Aingimea says, “countries, regardless of size, strength and wealth are equals and important members of the integrated community. We also welcome and look forward to working together to advance President Xi Jinping’s vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and to progress joint efforts to address shared challenges for the mutual benefits of our peoples,” Minister Aingimea said.

Minister Aingimea also thanked the Government and people of China for their assistance and support, which enabled the



**Foreign Minister Aingimea thank China for support in embassy establishment**

opening of the new embassy, as well as those who contributed to the construction and outfitting of the building.

On January 24, 2024, Nauru and China resumed diplomatic relations based on the One-China Principle, marking a new chapter in bilateral ties. //

## Nauru, China exempt visa for specific passport categories

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea and Chinese Ambassador to Nauru Lyu Jin, officially signed an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption, 22 March.



**Visa exempted for diplomatic and official passport holders**

This agreement pertains to citizens who hold specific categories of passports from both China and Nauru, and will take effect on 1 May 2025.

Under this new arrangement, individuals possessing diplomatic and official passports will benefit from visa exemption privileges, which is expected to significantly enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen the ties between the two nations.

During the signing ceremony, Minister Aingimea thanked Ambassador Lyu and his team for their dedication to strengthening the Nauru-China relations. He expressed optimism for a stronger future, highlighting the importance of the agreement in fostering greater engagement and cooperation between the two countries. //

## Nauru and Uzbekistan establish diplomatic relations

The United Nations permanent representatives of Nauru and Uzbekistan signed a joint communique formally establishing the diplomatic relations of their countries in New York, 20 March.



**Ambassador Daniel (L) signs Nauru-Uzbekistan diplomatic establishment**

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru Ambassador Lara Daniel and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ambassador Ulugbek Lapasov, signed the communique on behalf of their respective governments.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Nauru and Uzbekistan underscores the importance of global connectivity and the value of fostering relationships between nations, regardless of size or geography.

Uzbekistan is a country in Central Asia, located north of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. It spans an area of approximately 448,900 square kilometres, extending 1,425 kilometres (885 miles) from west to east and 930 kilometres (580 miles) from north to south, and is primarily situated between the two major rivers, the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya. //



## Australia day celebration highlights strong Nauru partnership

His Excellency President David Adeang and cabinet ministers attended belated Australia Day celebrations, 16 April, hosted by the new High Commissioner, Matthew Barclay with speeches highlighting the close partnership and the Nauru-Australia Treaty.



*High Commissioner Barclay and President Adeang cut the Australia Day cake*

High Commissioner Barclay said “Australia and Nauru are intertwined, interlinked and indivisible” and underscored the deep rooted partnership built on over a hundred years of working together that is now bolstered by the signing of the Treaty earlier this year.

“This [signing of treaty] instantly reinforced what we already knew, there are no two countries anywhere in the world that are closer than Australia and Nauru,” Mr Barclay said.

“Through two world wars, through boom times and downturns, through recovery, we now stand together on the cusp of the brightest and most prosperous era of Nauru’s history. Economic resilience is key to that future.”

The High Commissioner adds that the Treaty relationship will ensure Nauru has a bank it can depend on; fiscal security to plan and invest in the future with certainty; ensuring security measures and police professionalism in the Pacific.

“Our treaty relationship will ensure Nauru can determine what its security interests are and safeguard these interests,” Mr Barclay said adding that the Treaty makes Nauru and the broader Pacific safer, stronger and more prosperous.

“Our treaty builds Nauru’s sovereignty and ensures that Nauru’s voice continues to be heard, not just in this region but across the world.”

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea reinforced that the Treaty does not have a negative impact on Nauru’s sovereignty, “if anything, it has enhanced it” as well as strengthened a number of areas including financial security, national policing, and food security for a resilient and stable Nauru.

“The Nauru-Australia Treaty our two countries have agreed to deepen and expand our security cooperation and consult and consider in the event of any kind of threat.”

The Minister says the Treaty goes a long way to addressing Nauru’s economic concerns emphasising that Nauru sees security concerns differently to Australia.

“Our security concerns are our financial security, a resilient and stable Nauru; an enduring prosperity, our national policing, our people.

Minister Aingimea added that the Treaty reinforces the partnership in another longstanding arrangement that in the absence of a Nauru mission in any country, the Australian mission in that country will offer consular assistance to Nauruans if needed.

“It is a privilege that is given to Nauru that no other country Australia gives to. We are the only one.”

Minister Aingimea thanked Australia for the kind donation of 20,000 kilos of rice in the past week in response to the shortage the staple food due to the delayed shipment of food and essentials to the island.

High Commissioner Barclay also presented three awards recognising exceptional contributions to the community. Christiana Detenamo was presented the Ata Amin Bwini award for exceptional leadership and contributions to the Australia-Nauru Partnership, including her pivotal role in advancing the Nauru-Australia Treaty; Loni Cain received the Community Hero Award for exceptional contributions to the Nauruan community, including her pivotal role in coordinating 20,000 kilograms of rice donated by Australia; and the Pacific Family Award was received by Dr Layana Menke on behalf of the Nauru National Youth Council, for bringing the voices of Nauru’s next generation of leaders, scholars, and creators to the shared Pacific region, including through active participation in regional forums and summits and community engagement activities in Nauru. //

## Unveiling traditional canoe

After months of meticulous measurements and detailing, the construction of a life-size traditional canoe was completed and unveiled, 17 April, a reminder of Nauru’s rich culture and arts.

His Excellency President David Adeang performed the ribbon cutting at Nauru Secondary School unveiling the impressive work of art.

The Department of National Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Naoero Museum embarked on the construction of the canoe focused on revitalising Nauru’s arts, culture and traditions.



The master builder behind this task is local craftsman Donald Apadinuwe, who specialises in local huts, model canoes and traditional ornaments. He led the construction of the canoe since October 2024.

Mr Apadinuwe said that that he was able to build the canoe with local woods and materials following the layout and intricate details outlined in the ethnology collection of Nauru recorded by Paul Hambruch of his expeditions in the early 1900s. //



## Nauru participates at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW

Ambassador Lara Daniel delivered Nauru's statement at the 69th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) at the UN Headquarters, New York, highlighting climate change as the "single greatest threat to our security and livelihoods, undermining stability and resilience across our Blue Pacific", 14 March.



*Nauru continue to strengthen legal protections and support services for survivors of gender based violence*

The rising sea levels, extreme weather, and environmental degradation pose significant security challenges, particularly for women and girls. Women, central to community resilience, must receive the necessary resources to implement sustainable solutions, the Ambassador stated in her address.

"We call for enhanced international cooperation to ensure gender-responsive climate policies are prioritised and adequately funded," Ambassador Daniel said.

Reflecting on the national progress made, Nauru has endorsed a Gender-Responsive Climate Change Policy, which incorporates gender equality into climate initiatives, disaster risk management, and pandemic responses, aligning with Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Añ Towepo Declaration from the Micronesian Minister for Women's Conference in April 2024 emphasises generational equity, ensuring that laws and policies are practical and consistent with the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA).

Nauru recently endorsed several policies, including the National Women's Policy, Sexual Harassment Policy, Gender Mainstreaming Policy, Child Protection Zero to Three Centre Policy, and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality Policies.

"Nauru remains steadfast in its commitment to eliminating gender-based violence. We continue to strengthen legal protections and support services for survivors, while working to shift societal attitudes through education and advocacy," the Ambassador said as she reaffirms Nauru's commitment to the BPA. //

## Ambassador Daniel posts Nauru's issues at the FFD4

UN Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru, Ambassador Lara Daniel, delivered a national statement at the Intersessional Consultation of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Financing of Development (FFD4), 24 March.



*The disparity in Nauru's grading misrepresents its economic reality and challenges*

Ambassador Daniel highlighted the issue with banking in Nauru as it suffers from "financial exclusion due to correspondent banking loss despite compliance with international standards".

With limited agency arrangement and no central bank, de-risking and de-banking activities continue to cause Nauru to be isolated from the global financial system, and the effects include rising costs, limited investment, and basic financial operations.

"We urge the incorporation of stronger language to address these banking relationships and we need concrete mechanisms to prevent prolonged unfair practices against our financial institutions and to maintain banking relationships," Ambassador Daniel said.

In her second keynote, she addressed the contradiction on Nauru's upcoming graduation from the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2026, being classified as a high-income country while at the same time being ranked as one of the top five most vulnerable nations under the Multidimensional Vulnerable Index (MVI).

"This disparity clearly illustrates how GNI (Gross National Income) per capita metrics alone fundamentally misrepresent our economic reality and development challenges. Temporary resource revenues skew these indicators, masking long-term vulnerabilities," Ambassador Daniel said.

Financial frameworks must address vulnerability indices and ensure smooth transitions to ODA graduation, but "there also needs to be explicit language addressing gross national income limitations as the sole criterion for graduation decisions. Such measures will help ensure that the transition supports sustainable and inclusive development".

The ambassador urged for the inclusion of language using complementary measures of progress that go beyond both the gross domestic product (GDP) and GNI, including the MVI, as a compliment to existing policies and practices to better support inclusive development. //

## Daniel accredited as Nauru's Ambassador to Cuba

Ambassador Lara Daniel presented her credentials to the President of Cuba, His Excellency Miguel Díaz-Canel in Havana, Cuba, on 25 February, formally accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nauru to Republic of Cuba.



**Ambassador Daniel (3<sup>rd</sup>) is third Nauru diplomat to Cuba**

Ms Daniel is the third diplomat to serve as Nauru's Ambassador to Cuba, following Marlene Moses and Margo Deiye.

Ms Daniel commenced her diplomatic career in 2010 as the Vice Consul at the Nauru Consulate located in Brisbane, Australia. Following this, she assumed the position of Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Nauru to the United Nations and also acted as the executive secretary during Nauru's leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) from 2011 to 2015.

Nauru and Cuba established diplomatic relations on 7 May 2002. //

## Wina pursues uni studies under Sir Hammer DeRoburt scholarship

The Government of Nauru is pleased to announce that the Sir Hammer DeRoburt, GCMG, OBE scholarship for 2025 has been awarded to Wina Ribauw granting her a fully funded study programme at the University of Queensland, Australia.



**Wina to pursue environmental management degree**

Mrs Ribauw possesses a robust background in project management and has held the position of Water Management Office at the Department of Climate Change & National Resilience, particularly within the water resources management division. Her professional interests centre around climate change and environmental management.

She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to pursue a Bachelor of Environmental Management (Honours) degree.

The Sir Hammer DeRoburt scholarship was established to support exceptional Nauruan students who wish to pursue higher education at the university level. //

## UN resolution establishes International Day for Judicial Well-being

With the support of 160 countries that voted in favour of the resolution, Nauru's first-ever United Nations resolution was passed.

This resolution establishes 25 July as the International Day for Judicial Well-being.

This day will provide an opportunity for judiciaries worldwide to effect change and implement measures to enhance working conditions and support mechanisms for judicial officers.

Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Lionel Aingimea presented the national statement at the 78th plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 4 March, saying the "initiative is of great significance to Nauru as we strongly believe that the well-being of judicial officers is fundamental to upholding the rule of law, judicial integrity, and the fair administration of justice worldwide".

"By adopting this resolution, the General Assembly sends a strong message that the well-being of judges is not a privilege but a necessity for the proper functioning of judicial institutions."

The resolution builds on global efforts, including the UN



**The resolution sends a strong message of the importance of judges' well-being**

Convention against Corruption and the Bangalore Principles of judicial conduct.

Last year Nauru convened a regional conference which led to the adoption of the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being on 25 July 2024.

This milestone also marks the first time Nauru has initiated and successfully facilitated a UN resolution since joining the United Nations, underscoring its growing leadership on global governance issues.

The Government has also declared 25 July as a national holiday [Gazette 113/25]. //



## RonPhos to restore railway infrastructure for efficient transportation

Minister for RonPhos Shadlog Bernicke and Ronphos officials were in Dubai, UAE, on 16 March, to attend a meeting with Unirail - an infrastructure company from India that focuses on various railway operations, including the development and maintenance of railways, locomotive management, and cargo handling.



*The railway restoration will potentially create jobs and reduced fuel consumption and emissions*

Minister Bernicke engaged with Unirail's Managing Director and CEO Imtiaz Farooqi, and Associate Vice President Satish Babua, and discussed a desktop study titled Sustainable Transport for Nauru – The Railway Solution for RonPhos.

The discussions centred on developing a cost-effective method for transporting phosphate rock in Nauru, covering the entire process from mining to shipment. This initiative seeks to promote economic development and enhance cost efficiency.

It will involve a feasibility study to restore the railway infrastructure previously used by the phosphate industry, potentially creating jobs in railway operations and achieving an estimated 82 per cent reduction in fuel consumption and emissions compared to the current truck-based system.

The proposed railway system is also expected to enhance the speed and efficiency of phosphate transport, supporting RonPhos' goal of increasing shipment and export volumes.

The Unirail team plans to visit Nauru in the coming months to conduct a detailed feasibility study and assess the technical requirements for the project's implementation. //



## Ambassador Pitcher views Nauru collection at German museum

Nauru's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva was welcomed to the German state-owned Museum 5 Continents in Munich, Germany, to view the Nauru collection rarely seen by the general Nauru population, 24 March.



*Ambassador Pitcher visits Museum in Germany*

The museum holds exhibitions of art and culture from North and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Ambassador Pitcher was accompanied by Mrs Pitcher and Germany's Honorary Consul to Nauru Martin Heyne, who has long been committed to Nauru.

During the visit, Ambassador Pitcher explored the Nauru collection which includes both artefacts that are no longer made as well as other items that are still being crafted by communities and utilised in the same way as they were 120 years ago.

The Nauru collection, which features 75 historical photographs, was donated to the museum by Max Biermann, a German Imperial Commissioner, in 1891 during the period of German colonial rule in Nauru.

As indicated in his memoirs, Biermann appears to have acquired some of the artefacts as gifts from prominent ranked Micronesians, as indicated in his memoirs. He also purchased other artefacts during his travels throughout the German colonial territories in Micronesia.

This museum visit was part of a broader trip to Germany. Ambassador Pitcher also toured the site designated for the upcoming honorary consulate in Germany and met with the appointed Honorary Consul, Martin Heyne.

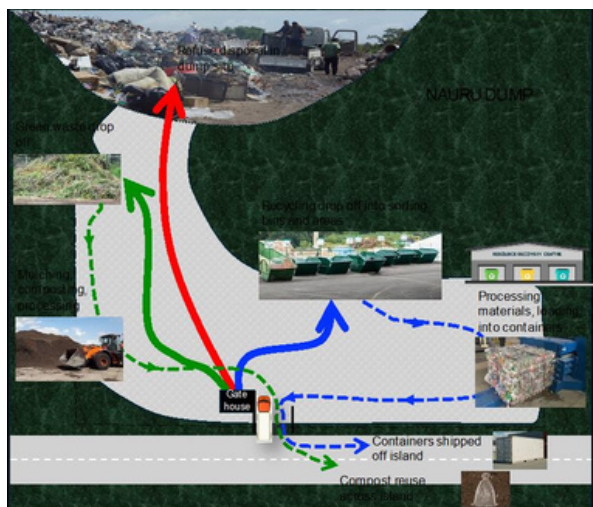
Nauru and Germany formalised diplomatic relations in 1984, and continue to build stronger relations. In 2023, Germany offered assistance for several initiatives in Nauru, including a collaborative project on climate and biodiversity with EcoNauru, along with other initiatives dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage. //

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## Nauru's dump set for major overhaul to boost recycling, sustainability

Nauru's dump will undergo a significant transformation in the next few years, turning it into a place for efficient processing of valuable waste. This initiative, funded by the Asian Development Bank, will create a modern Resource Recovery Centre at the current dump site.



**Construction of the new facilities is expected to start in early 2026**

The new centre will focus on separating materials that can be recycled or repurposed from general waste. Only non-recyclable refuse will be sent to the existing dump site. A key feature of the resource recovery centre will be an improved waste collection and drop-off system, designed to make it easier for businesses and the public to offload recyclables such as aluminium cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, and glass in to sorting bins. The centre will be equipped to sort, bale, and package these materials for shipment off the island.

In addition to recyclable materials, green waste such as trees and bushes can also be brought to the dump. This waste will be mulched and turned into compost, which can then be used to enrich the soil for local gardens and crops, further benefiting the community.

Collecting and recycling green waste and rubbish helps the environment and contributes to a clean, green future for Nauru and healthy rubbish-free oceans. By rethinking of this waste as a resource the amount of waste being disposed in the dump is reduced.

Construction of the new facilities is expected to start in early 2026, with the new facilities available for use in 2028. In the meantime, businesses and the public should continue to bring waste to the dump for safe disposal. //

## RonPhos, Kalyaan signs phosphate sale agreement

Minister for RonPhos Shadlog Bernicke formalised a phosphate sale agreement with Kalyaan Resources DMCC, a registered general exporter in Dubai primarily engaged in the trading of phosphate and other minerals globally, 16 April.



**RonPhos positions its contractual conditions of supply to ensure that quality penalties are limited in order to produce greater profitable returns.**

Minister Bernicke was accompanied by Speaker Marcus Stephen, Minister Maverick Eoe, and Ambassador David Aingimea, where they discussed the logistics of upcoming shipments, confirming two scheduled for May and June.

Looking ahead, they are planning a total of eight shipments for the year 2025, depending on competitive pricing. The meeting also included a review of the quality of past shipments and explored strategies for improvement.

Minister Bernicke says RonPhos has positioned its contractual conditions of supply to ensure that quality penalties are limited in order to produce greater profitable returns.

This agreement builds on discussions from a meeting on 17 March, where Minister Bernicke and Kalyaan Resources technical team reviewed strategies for improving the quality of rock phosphate products.

The Kalyaan team presented their preliminary findings from Nauru and highlighted the challenges faced in maintaining ore quality and production capacity. They proposed a strategic roadmap aimed at boosting efficiency and quality. The collaboration will prioritise immediate enhancements in quality by engaging technical experts and providing training for local workers, with plans for the Kalyaan team to return for additional studies and solutions. //

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