



# Nauru Bulletin

Issue 8 - 2025/291

## Nauru hosts trust fund meeting for first time

Nauru hosted for the first time, the committee meeting of the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (NTF) for the People of the Republic of Nauru, 26 May 2025.



*HODs, state entities among invitees at the 36th quarterly meeting of the NTF committee*

The Fund's value as at 20 May 2025, stands at \$412 million with 76 per cent of the Fund made up of contributions from the governments of Nauru, Australia, Taiwan Province of China, New Zealand, and initially the Asian Development Bank.

Ongoing contributions and consistent growth will ensure the fund remains composed to meet the future needs of the government and the Nauruan people.

His Excellency President David Adeang, MP, as the finance minister chaired this 36th quarterly meeting at the Civic Centre Conference hall in Aiwo, with a special addition to the attendance.

This being the first NTF meeting to be held in Nauru, President Adeang shared a wider invitation to the heads of government departments, CEOs of state-owned entities, school students, community groups, and the private sector. There was positive feedback and appreciation from participants for the rare opportunity of sitting in on the committee meeting.

At the March meeting of the committee in Melbourne, Taiwan Province of China formally submitted notice of its intention to withdraw from the Fund. Due process is underway to ensure an orderly exit while protecting the Fund's interests.

The committee will next meet in Australia in August. //

## New citizens welcomed on eve of Constitution day

On the eve of Nauru's 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Constitution Day, 48 individuals took the final step in the process for Nauruan citizenship.

The cohort pledged their allegiance by taking the oath of allegiance or making an affirmation for Nauruan citizenship, 16 May, administered before Acting Chief Justice Kini Viliame Keteca and witnessed by His Excellency President David Adeang, Cabinet ministers, and members of the public.

Sixty-four individuals had received approval for citizenship by the Cabinet from 17 May 2022 to 16 May 2025, but had not yet taken the oath. According to the Naoero Citizenship Act 2017, a person who is granted citizenship shall take an oath of allegiance or make an affirmation at a public ceremony, unless exempted by the Minister for Justice.

Forty eight from that cohort were present at the oath ceremony in front of the government office.

In his address President Adeang said "we honour the courage, the vision and sacrifices of those who came before us, notably our founding president and the father of the nation, the late Hammer DeRoburt".

"Alongside him were many dedicated Nauruans who worked tirelessly to secure our independence and established the constitution that has guided our democratic path since 1968.

We remember their resilience and fortitude and their unwavering determination to build the sovereign nation of Nauru. It is because of their efforts that we the people of Nauru enjoy the freedoms, rights and opportunities that we have today. We should not forget the legacy they left us. The legacy we are bound to protect, build and honour for generations to come.

*(cont pg 2...)*

## New citizens welcomed on eve of Constitution day *(...from pg 1)*

As for the athletics carnival the following day, President Adeang hoped for an enjoyable day. “May it be a celebration not just of talent but also of unity and our combined national pride.”



**48 individuals swore the oath at citizenship ceremony**

Speaking in the vernacular, President Adeang welcomed the new citizens, that they will embrace as Nauruans and move forward to build Nauru and through prosperity and adversity.

His Excellency emphasises that Nauru and its people will give much in regards to wages, jobs, education and health, and rights and privileges as citizens of Nauru. In turn is the expectation of their contribution to nation-building and looking out for each other.

Secretary for Justice Jay Udit advised the cohort that “rights on one hand give you the opportunity to be part of the development process, whilst the duties on the other hand, oblige you to play a part in the development as part of the nation”.

“As citizens you must not become a burden, but an asset to the republic.”

“One of the privileges of becoming a citizen allows you to have a Nauruan passport. That passport not only allows you to travel all over the world but it also makes you an ambassador for the country. It is your duty to ensure that whilst enjoying your freedom of expression or movement, you must not in any way compromise the reputation and standing of your new home, our country.”

Before leading the oath and affirmation readings, Acting Chief Justice Keteca said they are not merely words on paper.

“It’s a pledge of loyalty. It’s a pledge before God, before His Excellency the head of state of this country, that you pledge your allegiance, you pledge your loyalty. You will obey the rules of this land, you may even have to fight its wars if called upon. So they are important and significant oath and affirmation that you will be saying this morning.”

Speaking on behalf of the new citizens, Lisa Karl said it is a proud moment for them and will use their new right to vote to make a careful and considered decision to move Nauru forward to prosperity.

“We will honour our mutual trust, it’s brought us to this moment. We will always do our best. We won’t ever take for granted the freedoms and opportunities afforded us in the Republic of Nauru.”

Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea said Nauru’s motto, God’s Will First, is the fundamental foundation that keeps the nation together.

This being an election year, Minister Aingimea highlighted civic duties such as voting, as “important decisions that now you take upon yourselves, upon your shoulders”.

“Because the decision you make will not only put parliamentarians into parliament, but it determines your future. It’s the decisions you make every day that affects your lives and it affects the life of this country.”

The Naoero Citizenship Act also states that a person of full age and capacity may renounce their citizenship, and alternatively citizenship may also be cancelled.

The Naoero Citizenship Act 2017 can be accessed at [RONLAW - Nauru's Online Legal Database](#) .//

## May Parliament ministerial statements

### **Department of Justice and Border Control**

Minister for Justice and Border Control (JBC) Lionel Aingimea presented an update in parliament, highlighting the new and improved RONLAW website which aims to provide convenient and efficient services information to the public.



The JBC department offers a variety of services to the public with 18 different sections. These include the Office of the Solicitor General, director of public prosecutions, public legal defender, legislative drafting, quarantine, Immigration, Passports, citizenship, adoption, business licence registry, corporations registry, trust registry, association registry, partnership registry, curator, intellectual property, dog management unit, and more.

To keep Nauruans informed, the initiative for a website creation began in 2020 when all the laws of Nauru were reviewed, combined, and published, and JBC launched its first website in 2023 at [www.justice.gov.nr](http://www.justice.gov.nr)

The department aims to ensure that the Nauruan people receive public services in the most convenient and efficient way. Several digitisation programmes are currently underway or nearing completion. This includes the rollout of e-passports, electronic recording, the granting and revocation of visas, and the digitisation of the entire business registration process.

*(cont pg 3...)*

# May Parliament - ministerial statements

## **Department of Justice and Border Control** (*...from pg 2*)

On 9 May, the updated RONLAW website was launched, offering enhanced user access, search features and electronic versions of the laws at ronlaw.gov.nr.

JBC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are working to publish 30 years of judicial work, law reports, and case laws from RONLAW. The website will feature gazettes and links to resources like PACLII and the Nauru Judiciary, along with new search tools and training sessions for users, including the Nauru Law Society.

This upgrade aims to improve access to legislation and justice for citizens, supported by UNDP funding. Additionally, the Department is reviewing its application to join the Egmont Group, which promotes cooperation among Financial Intelligence Units to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Joining will enhance information sharing and training opportunities, ensuring the regulatory framework remains up-to-date as the Government implements new developments.

Minister Aingimea emphasised that intellectual property is a valuable asset and many years, the registration of intellectual property in Nauru was neglected. In 2020, Nauru became a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, leading to updates in the country's laws.

As published in the government gazette, Nauru is now actively registering trademarks for businesses and owners worldwide. The department has recorded a significant number of trademarks.

Additionally, for the first time, the department has initiated the process of patent registration.

### **Lands fire**

Minister for Lands and Survey Asterio Appi reported to Parliament of the electrical fire which broke out at the lands office on 1 May, causing an estimated \$25,000 in damages.

The Nauru Emergency Services (NES) confirmed the fire was caused by an electrical malfunction from a split air-conditioning unit.

A single cabinet of more than 200 maps was the only asset of significant value that was lost. These original works and map drawings were done by former surveyors employed by the department for decade, who have since retired or passed on.

Minister Appi assured the public through the Parliament that all maps are on backed up software and every effort made to ensure similar incidents are prevented. //

## **International Civil Aviation Organisation**

The recent International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Facilitation Conference (FALC2025) held in Doha, Qatar, 15-17 April, concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Doha Declaration calling for strengthened border control harmonisation.

Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik joined transport ministers and senior aviation officials from around the world at the conference.

The minister's attendance reaffirms Nauru's standing in the global aviation community, commitment to ICAO standards and promotes alignment with Annex 9; support the finalisation and endorsement of the Doha Declaration; and to explore potential partnerships with other states in advancing border security, digital identity, and passenger facilitation.

Minister Aliklik said moving forward, it is recommended that the government initiates inter-agency consultations to assess current level of compliance with Annex 9, and explore Nauru's enrolment in the ICAO Public Key Directory, which would support secure travel document verification.

He also highlighted the need to enhance national policies and legislation to uphold the rights of person with disabilities and victims of aviation incidents; and collaboration with the Ministry of Health to develop a national aviation health emergency preparedness plan, in line with international health regulations and best practices. //

Read the supporting story in [Nauru Bulletin #7-290](#)

### **Women and Social Development Affairs**

Minister Charmaine Scotty updated parliament on the Department of Women and Social Development Affairs (WASDA), highlighting key progress in policy endorsement, engagement with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW, legal framework reviews, and the completion of Nauru's 10-year strategic plan.



The department secured endorsements of several crucial policies including the Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy, marking it the first policy of its kind in Nauru with zero tolerance stance on harassment.

The National Women's Policy and Gender Mainstreaming Policy were also revised to enhance women's empowerment and integrate gender considerations in all sectors of government planning.

*(cont pg 4...)*

## May Parliament - ministerial statements

### **Women and Social Development Affairs** (...from pg 3)

Additionally, Nauru's first formal engagement with CEDAW focused on technical assistance for gender data systems and legal reforms.

WASDA completed a national consultation on the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act, gathering vital data on enforcement gaps and survivor services through a nationwide questionnaire. The analysis will inform Phase II of the review process – drafting targeted amendments and policy recommendation for legislative reform.

Looking forward, WASDA is focusing on key initiatives such as the 10-year strategic plan (2025-2035) for Nauru, which focuses on social development, gender equality, and child protection.

WASDA will also be hosting the sixth Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence and Family Protection Legislation in August on island with participation from Pacific Island peers, legal experts, and civil society representatives.

This event is an opportunity to showcase Nauru's progresses and learn from regional experiences. Minister Scotty encouraged Parliament Members to continue supporting these transformative efforts to make sure no one is overlooked.

"We are entering a time of change. From policy reform to regional leadership, Nauru is not just fulfilling its responsibilities – it is influencing the discussion.

"The Department of Women's and Social Development Affairs is dedicated to ensuring that all Nauruans – particularly women, children, and vulnerable groups – are protected, respected, and empowered." //

### **Education**

Minister for the Department of Education and Training (DOET) Asterio Appi reported to Parliament, 13 May, the department's achievements of the first quarter noting progress across key performance areas in enrolment, teacher qualifications, reduced reported bullying and diversified learning plans.



**Classroom support officers is improving student behaviour**

Pre-primary enrolment reaching 90 per cent demonstrates increased focus in the foundational years. The Australian DFAT-funded education programs continue to support the department's efforts in the early school years.

Teachers holding diploma and degree qualifications have increased to 73 per cent; while a partnership with the University of the South Pacific is being negotiated to further strengthen teacher capacity with local teachers, particularly in early childhood and inclusive education.

A 29 per cent reduction in reported bullying across the schools is improving the school culture.

The Amin Karoe initiative is a program that places a support officer in each classroom to curb student disruption is improving school culture, school safety and provided a valuable opportunity for the school community to connect with parents, families and the wider community.

The Amin Karoe program is being implemented at Nauru College and Nauru Primary School with plans to expand to Nauru Secondary School.

A diversified learning plan for students at the Able Disabled Centre has completed aimed at ensuring learning plan that caters to their individual strengths and needs.

The Australian High Commission also donated to the centre a washing machine and dryer to assist with maintaining a health school environment, and a minivan for the centre's dedicated use.

The department continues to work on strategies to address challenges including improved attendance. The efforts are designed to incorporate the support of representatives from the communities and existing mechanisms, aimed at strengthening shared responsibility with parents and the wider community.

Professional development on high-impact teaching strategies and diagnostics assessments in the early school years are being implemented with targeted interventions to take place in October. Student progress are tracked and monitored.

A teacher appraisal framework aligned with regional standards is being proposed to address teacher retention and attract qualified teachers.

The global issue of teacher shortage is also negatively impacting Nauru's education system.

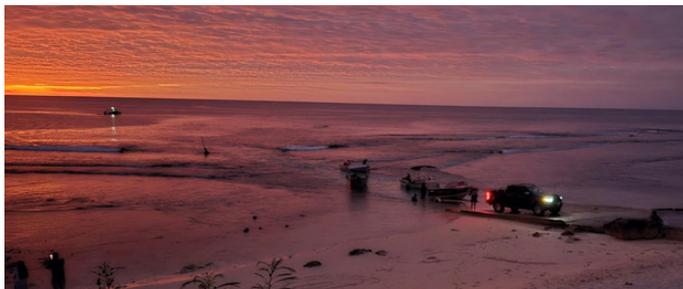
Stemming from the recent Conference of Pacific Education Ministers in Port Moresby, Nauru will delve into developing a policy for the use of the Nauruan language in schools.

Minister Appi says this will guide and promote efforts to preserve the Nauruan language and cultural identity, while highlighting that expanding digital capabilities to bridge gaps and enhance learning outcomes remains a key objective. //

# May Parliament - ministerial statements

## Fisheries

The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is actively undertaking a broad range of work across its oceanic and coastal sectors as well as support for community fisheries.



*Fishermen returning at sunset*

The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) under the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) has 138 fishing days remaining and has so far generated revenue totalling over \$44 million, the majority of which comes from members trading fishing days.

The state-owned entity is also pursuing outstanding payments from domestic and bilateral partners.

Staff have attended several regional meetings including consultations in April with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on annual reporting obligations, the PNA FSMA officials meeting in Nadi, Fiji on the Regional Access Licence criteria, and the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) officials meeting held in Niue this month centred on regional issues on strategic fisheries management.

The FFC meeting was underway at the time of the parliament sitting. Minister Aliklik will share the outcomes of the meeting at a later date.

Locally, plans to re-establish a supply of milkfish fry for pond owners is experiencing delays due to a shortage in the supply from Tarawa.

Redeploying fish aggregating devices (FAD) lost during bad weather maintains the FAD program, and while they improve data collection of both pelagic and reef fish, Minister Aliklik said it is also important to increase the biological sampling coverage of food fishes of Nauru.

“This will enhance our knowledge and understanding of the different species of fish, their maturation and growth rates. Exploratory fishing for the diamond back squid continues.”

Meantime, the community fisheries team is still assisting communities in developing their capacity to manage and monitor their adjacent coastal marine environment.

Discussions at the 17<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries meeting in Hobart, Tasmania at the end of April, included emerging priorities for the region, and the need for streamlined technical assistance from the Pacific Community (SPC).

Also raised is the notable shortfall in resources allocated to coastal fisheries and aquaculture program of SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) division, and the importance of collective support from fisheries ministers.

Other coastal projects either awaiting finalisation and resumption include the Resilient Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project (RECAP), MiCOAST project and the regional tuna project which is a Green Climate Fund US\$156 million project that Nauru stands to benefit through support for artisanal FADs, safer boat designs suited to Nauru's waters, and possible opportunities in tuna processing. //

## Transport

Minister for Transport Reagan Aliklik commends the contributions of local and Australian personnel for the ongoing investigation work for unexploded ordnance (UXO) on the airport runway.

The process remains a vital step in Nauru's preparations for the full runway resurfacing later this year.

Clearing these subsurface anomalies is critical for ensuring the safety of future airport operations, safeguarding aviation personnel, and maintaining compliance with international civil aviation standards.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance airport safety and efficient, a new check in baggage x-ray screening system was installed replacing 20-year old equipment.

A technician from New Zealand undertook the installation and provided necessary maintenance to ensure optimal functionality. There are plans for another three baggage screening machines.

Meanwhile, the department has successfully done trial runs of the two electric buses to assess vehicle performance, driver handling, and route suitability.

The e-buses are a step closer to providing safer, cleaner, and more accessible transport options for the Nauruan community.

Minister Aliklik urges the public to treat the new buses with respect and care. “Everyone has a role to play in preserving their condition and ensuring the continuity of this valuable service.”

The land transport division will also be reviewed, focusing on improving accountability and initiating reform measures for underperforming staff, underpinned by the standards and expectations of the public service. //

# May Parliament - ministerial statements

## **Nauru Police Force**

Minister Lionel Aingimea provided updates on the initiatives led by the Nauru Police Force (NPF) and a summary of activities this year.



**NPF is addressing a number of national initiatives at community level including and legislation review**

Since April, the NPF reinstated quarterly meetings with community and church leaders, with the next meeting planned for July. These meetings are crucial for strengthening partnerships, especially in improving cooperation on youth issues and other community activities.

NPF has also launched nationwide awareness campaigns focused on cyber security and traffic safety, with successful rollouts in Denig, Menen, and Aiwo, and the rest of Nauru to follow.

Moreover, the NPF along with various government agencies, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to tackle transnational crimes, enhancing our commitment to international cooperation and bolstering our border security capabilities.

In terms of legislative progress, the Nauru Police Force Bill has been sent to the Justice Department for final review, representing a key achievement in Nauru's legislative efforts. Since mid-last year, the NPF has been functioning without a legal advisor, and are actively working to resolve this issue, with valuable support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Regarding official travel, two NPF members have successfully completed a four-month secondment with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, where they received specialised training and earned Level 2 certification in the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Course. These two members are the first and only officers qualified to handle EODs.

One officer is on a six-month secondment at the Pacific Transnational Crimes Centre in Samoa, while another is participating in a year-long language exchange in China to enhance our language and cultural skills.

Two female officers are currently on six months training in Pinkenba, Australia, under the Pacific Police Support Program, and three male officers are scheduled for deployment in August 2025.

Another two officers are in Papua New Guinea for a four-week Investigative Skills Program training at the Regional Centre of Excellence in Bomana, marking the first training under the Pacific Police Initiative at this centre.

This month, seven members of the NPF travelled to Australia for Pre-Selection Assistance and Assessment Team (Pre-SAAT) training and Assessment for Mission Service (AMS) training, supported by the Australian Federal Police. If successful, they will qualify for UNPOL Deployment, making them the second group from Nauru.

“As Minister of Police, I am pleased to announce the launch of the Nauru-Australia Policing Partnership (NAPP) Phase 2, starting on 15 July 2025 and concluding in 2029.”

Senior representatives from the AFP are expected to visit Nauru to sign the new NAPP (Phase 2) in June with Acting Commissioner Imran Scotty and Assistant Commissioner Nigel Ryan officiating the signing.

NAPP Phase 2 will focus on two key outcomes: enhancing operational policing capabilities and strengthening NPF leadership through improved management and policy frameworks.

Key areas include: Operations (Investigations, Community Policing, Police Protective Service, Prosecutions, Maritime, and Priority Offences) and Corporate Reform (Legislation & Governance, Leadership, Wellbeing & Fitness, Human Resources, Learning and Development, and Professional Standards).//

## **Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation**

Following land clearing works at the site for the national sports stadium, the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) met with Chinese engineers to discuss site plans involving infrastructure.

Chinese construction company CHEC and the Department of Sports requested NRC to prepare an additional hectare of land on the site for equipment laydown when construction commences.

Another 7000 square metres will also need to be elevated by three metres north-west of the construction site.

NRC continues to assist with raw materials for CHEC's work at the Aiwo harbour development project and Downer NZ for the airport resurfacing project.

Minister Aliklik urges motorists to be cautious and remain alert to heavy traffic along the topside dirt road as construction projects are underway.

The Nauru Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Project (NSRUDP) is also meeting relevant departments and consultants in regards to a proposed amendment to the NRC Act to include a waste management component.

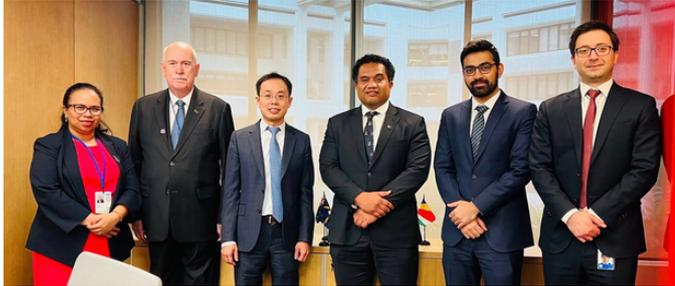
The public is asked to comply with directions of staff at the dumpsite in preparation for the commencement of the NSRUDP project.

Additionally a separate meeting with BECA consultants centred on solid waste management and a draft service level agreement between NRC and the Department of Environment, Management and Agriculture (DEMA). //

## May Parliament - ministerial statements

### **World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund**

Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma updated parliament on his recent trip as the alternative governor to the 2025 World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Spring meeting in Washington, DC, on behalf of His Excellency, President David Adeang, 21-25 April.



**DM Thoma reaffirms importance of international engagement in shaping Nauru's future**

During the meeting, Nauru's delegation engaged in high-level discussions advocating for economic interests and raising key issues that impact Nauru, such as the need to defer Nauru's Official Development Assistance (ODA) graduation in 2026 to a high-income country.

"We made it clear such a graduation does not reflect the reality of our circumstances, given our extreme economic vulnerability, climate-related risks, and dependence on limited and unsustainable revenue sources," Deputy Minister Thoma said.

He also emphasised the importance of recognising the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) as a more appropriate measure for the access of grants and concessional finance.

"This is especially vital for the Small Island Developing States like ours, where income alone does not capture the full scope of our development financing," DM Thoma said.

He recapped the government's commitment to building a more resilient economy through private sector growth, a stronger financial system, and climate adaptation initiatives, and discussed state-owned enterprise reform explored new opportunities, and regional and international development challenges.

"The IMF and the World Bank expressed strong support for our efforts to strengthen economic resilience and diversify our sources of revenue."

Preparations are now underway for the IMF Article IV Consultation Mission to Nauru, which will take place from 30 June to 11 July 2025."

DM Thoma added that the meetings reaffirm the importance of international engagement in shaping Nauru's future, that the government continues to work with partners to ensure Nauru's vulnerabilities are recognised, and that the people can benefit from sustainable economic stability and development progress.

### **Nauru Utilities Corporation**

Nauru Utilities Corporation is performing above expectations ensuring the community is provided with safe and reliable power, water, and sanitation services.

Minister Reagan Aliklik told parliament this month that the NUC's thermal energy capacity at 7.8 megawatts is well above the peak demand of 6.0 megawatts even with two engines down.

Once they finish repairs and back on line in June, it's expected to boost thermal generation by 19 per cent. NUC's solar production yields an average of 368,957 kWh per month.

Delays to the solar project has pushed back the completion date to July.

Monthly water delivery averages 22 mega litres despite the limited number of water delivery trucks. Monthly water production, at 28.1 mega litres, so far exceeds consumer demand.

Sanitation services collected 222,000 litres of waste water.

The construction of the pipeline and treatment plant for the urban development project will commence later this year and expected to be completed in 2027 and 2028, respectively. Once complete, NUC will have the capacity to supply water to 1,215 customers through a water pipeline in densely populated areas. NUC will also have the capacity to treat collected waste water.

### **National Emergency Services**

Minister for National Emergency Services (NES) Jesse Jeremiah updated parliament on the safe removal of the first unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the Nauru Airport runway during the UXO investigation and the runway resurfacing project.

Of the total 96 anomalies, one UXO was found on Saturday, 10 May, and protective measures were swiftly implemented and the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) was stood up at the Nauru Police headquarters.

Within the 150-metre radius evacuation zone, nine houses and one business were evacuated as the UXO threat was addressed.

"I am pleased to report that the UXO was successfully neutralised and removed within the allocated timeframe, with the site restored and ready to use for that evening's flight," Minister Jeremiah said.

At the time, the UXO investigation was halfway through its removal stage, with 54 of the 96 anomalies investigated. The project was anticipated to be completed by the end of May.

Minister Jeremiah urged the public to avoid unnecessary danger and comply with the NES and the Nauru Police Force (NPF) to accelerate the project, and thanked everyone involved for their hard work in ensuring the public's safety at all times. //

## Asian Development Bank in Milan, Italy

## Supply Bill 2025 and Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.6) 2024-25

As reported in the Nauru Bulletin #8 on 9 May, Deputy Minister for Finance Delvin Thoma presented to parliament this month of his official engagement and participation with President David Adeang at the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Milan, Italy.



**ADB supports Nauru in a number of key areas including maritime transport, renewable energy, and urban development**

DM Thoma reaffirmed the government’s appreciation of the ADBs continued partnership and highlighted the formalisation of a landmark US\$37.5 million investment in sustainable urban development.

The project will significantly improve essential infrastructure and complement ADB’s ongoing support through the port project and solar farm project, both key to achieving Nauru’s 50 per cent renewable energy target.

DM Thoma reiterated concern about its graduation from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Official development assistance (ODA) recipient list in January 2026, which could possibly deem Nauru ineligible for certain ADB funding.

Deputy Minister Thoma also had bilateral meetings on the margins of the ADB meeting proper centred on supporting Nauru’s technical, infrastructure, financial, energy, urban development, and digital connectivity needs. //

As Minister for Finance, His Excellency President David Adeang tabled the Supply Bill 2025 for \$83,374,527. In accordance with Article 61 (1) of the Constitution of Nauru, the Supply Bill will expire on 30 September 2025 or on the passing of the Appropriation Bill for 2025-26 whichever is earlier.

When a budget has not been passed and certified by 10 June, Article 61 (1) of the Constitution allows the Cabinet to recommend to Parliament a Supply Bill to authorise the withdrawal of moneys from the Treasury Fund for the purpose of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the functions of Government of the Republic of Nauru in the new financial year.

The amount made available under this Supply Bill and available for the first quarter of the new financial year, will be 21 per cent of the total appropriation for 2024-2025.

President Adeang also tabled the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.6) 2024-25 recognising an additional \$300,000 to be withdrawn from the Treasury Fund for expenditures. The revised budget balance for the year will be \$200,000. //

### Acts amended, exempting reporting bodies

Amendments to four Acts of Parliament tabled at the 13 May parliament sitting centred on the granting of exemptions for reporting entities, person, activity, or a class of activities from specific provisions of the Act or modify how the Act applies to them.



- The laws under discussion are:
- Anti-Money Laundering and Targeted Financial Sanctions (Amendment) Act 2025
  - Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime (Amendment) Act 2025
  - Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act 2025
  - Business Licences (Amendment) Act 2025

For the Anti-Money Laundering and Targeted Financial Sanctions amendments, the exemptions now available under Sections 128 and 131 will be reflected across Nauru’s financial regulatory framework.

The amendment to the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act is the insertion of Section 81, also authorising the relevant minister to make determinations for exemption.

*(cont pg 9...)*



## Amendment Bills

### Acts amended, exempting reporting bodies

(...from pg 8)

In regards to the Consumer Protection amendments, while Nauru is committed to ensuring fair competition, the proposed amendment also ensures we are able to foster global cooperation. And the exemption is reserved for cases where the body or entity in question is already rigorously regulated under equivalent consumer protection laws and regulatory framework of another country or the entity itself places sufficient administrative or internal rules to protect the people of Nauru.

A new Section 27 of the Business Licences Act providing for exemption has only become necessary to ensure that there is a bank operating in Nauru. It is one of the pre-requisites which the Commonwealth Bank requires for the Government of Nauru to grant.

However, a determination for exemption by the relevant minister can only be made if the Cabinet is satisfied that the person or activity covered by the determination is adequately regulated under respective and relevant legislations and supervised by relevant authorities of another country.

These amendments are undertaken to specifically accommodate the preconditions put in place by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

It is expected that the Bank as a financial entity will comply with the requirements of Financial Action Taskforce Standards in its operations in Nauru, and the Bank has assured of its compliance. //

### ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL (NO. 2) 2025

Section 41(3)(b) of the Electoral Act 2016 is amended by decreasing the transfer fee for voters from \$1000 to \$500.

The reduction of the fee will enable more voters to transfer if they had intention to do so but did not have the necessary financial capability. //

## UXO removal from runway handover

The handover of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on 23 May marked the end of the successful completion of the UXO investigation and removal phase of the runway resurfacing project.

President David Adeang and Minister for Emergency Services Jesse Jeremiah signed the declaration ending the state of disaster that was declared on 25 April 2025.

The handover was just hours after the last two anomalies were investigated. Two 500-pound bombs and one five-inch naval shell were uncovered and rendered safe. The three UXOs are now on public display at the Naoero Museum.

The Department of Transport announced in early April that following a thorough evaluation by UXO experts for the runway resurfacing project, the number of identified anomalies significantly reduced from 237 to 96.



(Right) RPS lead EOD Technician, Brian MacIntyre, explaining the UXO and render safe exercise to President David Adeang and Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay.

Due to the reduced number of UXOs the investigation phase was also reduced to begin from 30 April to 3 June. Ultimately, the operation was completed ahead of schedule on 23 May.

At 6am on 30 April, the UXO investigation and removal phase of the Nauru Airport Runway Resurfacing Project began.

Further investigations revealed that of the 96 metal anomalies only three were identified as UXO.

The UXO are remnants of World War II and have been beneath the airport runway for 80 years.

Secretary for Emergency Services, Barassi Botelanga says he's "struck by the symbolism" of this project.

"For over 80 years since the end of the Second World War, tens of thousands of flights have taken off and landed, just right there - carrying our loved ones, family and friends - but beneath its surface lay these deadly threats," Mr Botelanga said.

"Although buried and appeared harmless, we know from recent examples in other parts of the world that these bombs, triggered by vibrations from aircraft landing or taking flight, could have exploded and taken the lives of everyone on any one of our flights."

The Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) is funding the runway resurfacing project, with contract engineer Beqa, and explosives experts RPS responsible for the render safe procedures.

Secretary for Transport Nodel Neneiya said the handover ceremony is a milestone that has brought Nauru significantly closer to achieving a safer and more compliant aviation environment.

(cont pg 10...)

“This project has been more than an exercise in historical recovery. It was first and foremost a critical step towards meeting civil aviation safety standards with the detection and safe removal of dangerous wartime remnants, we have cleared a path for uninterrupted progress in the airport runway resurfacing project, and reduced a major operational risk that has loomed for decades,” Mr Neneiya said.

Over 2,400 people were evacuated from homes, schools, the government office and businesses over three evacuation alerts. The three evacuation centres were utilised by 128 people, noting also passengers who had their flights delayed.

Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay described is as a “great day” to come together and celebrate the cooperation that Nauru and Australia share, and that neighbouring countries that depend on Nauru as a hub for transport will be able to travel safely into the future.

“Walking into the Cabinet room or speaking to the president and asking to dig up his runway and look for bombs is never an easy thing. But we were lucky that his Excellency the President and the Cabinet were very supportive of this endeavour from the get go.

Discoveries were made on 10 May on the eastern side of the runway, Yaren; 16 May on the central section of runway, Yaren; and on 21 May on western side of runway, Boe.

When a UXO is confirmed, the public is advised that a 150-metre evacuation zone will be activated, and required residents, schools, and businesses in the area to evacuate temporarily. Road blocks and evacuation measures would be put in place to enable the render safe operation using a low-order burn technique. Affected residents were advised to pack essential items such as clothing, toiletries, medications, ID, and other personal necessities for up to three days.

The operation was made possible with the support, diligence and hard work of the governments of Nauru and Australia, agencies and key partners from Australia and Nauru. //

### **TVET awards 175 graduates**

His Excellency President David Adeang and Minister Charmaine Scotty attended the graduation ceremony of 175 students of the newly established Department of Vocational Training and Professional Development, 24 May.



**Australian High Commissioner Barclay congratulates Cert IV Train the Trainer awardees, Viviani Brechtefeld and Declan Dageago**

The 175 graduates is a culmination of three years’ TVET learning in the fields of national skills sets, Certificate II TAFE in engineering, electrotechnology, construction automotive, and hospitality. The highest qualification received was Certificate IV Train the Trainer.

Department Secretary Sharina Debye said the department continues to strengthen to better serve the needs of the community and students.

“Today, we are not only celebrating the completion of your training, we are marking the beginning of many bright and promising futures.

Ms Debye thanked families and supporters for their encouragement in helping the graduates reach this milestone.

“And to our graduates: remember that the skills you’ve gained here are just the beginning. Continue to learn, to adapt, and to lead with integrity and excellence. Your success is our success — and we believe the future is brighter because of you.”

Also in attendance were Australian High Commissioner Matthew Barclay, and Chinese Ambassador Lyu Jin. //

### **Nauru FIU bids for Egmont membership**

Nauru’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) successfully completed an onsite assessment of its systems in preparation for it bid for membership in the Egmont Group, an international network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIU).



**FIU team meets with Deputy Secretary Finance Customs Richard Brennan (far right)**

The process requires a sponsor and the Australian government financial intelligence agency Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and the Cook Islands FIU are co-sponsoring Nauru’s Egmont membership bid.

Representatives from the sponsoring agencies were on island mid-May and met with stakeholders from the public and private sector, most of whom are members of the Nauru Anti-Money Laundering framework in Nauru including reporting entities such as Western Union and the Bendigo Bank Agency.

The team was met with overwhelming support for Egmont membership from the government during their meeting with Minister for Justice Lionel Aingimea and Secretary for Justice Jay Udit who is also chair of the Nauru Anti-Money Laundering Governing Council (AMLGC).

*(cont pg 11...)*

Nauru FIU Supervisor Rajas Swamy says the mission achieved the planned agenda beyond expectation underscoring that the “benefits of becoming a member gives a very high reputational image for Nauru as a whole in terms of being compliant with international standards on money laundering and terrorism related activities”.

Membership in the Egmont Group offers several benefits, primarily focused on enhancing information sharing and cooperation to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and related crimes.

Other benefits include expert advice, training and capacity building, facilitate operational cooperation among member FIUs, improve national anti-money laundering programs, and access to secure efficient communication and information exchange with member FIUs.

The final report and application for membership will be submitted to Egmont for consideration at its meeting in Luxembourg, 6-11 July, which Mr Udit and Mr Swamy will be attending.

Nauru’s application will be submitted and presented by the co-sponsors, AMTRAC and the Cook Islands FIU at the plenary.

If the application is accepted at the Egmont plenary in July, it will then be submitted to the Egmont Working Group in January 2026 for all heads of FIUs that are members of Egmont to admit Nauru as a member. //

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## Ambassador Pitcher presents credentials to Switzerland

Ambassador Frederick William Pitcher formally presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Her Excellency Honourable Karin Keller-Sutter accrediting him as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nauru to the Swiss Confederation, 3 May.



*Ambassador Pitcher and delegation following the presentation of credentials*

Their presence underscores the significance of the occasion and Nauru’s growing engagement in multilateral diplomacy.

Prior to his diplomatic appointment in Geneva, Ambassador Pitcher served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Nauru Maritime and Port Authority and the Nauru Shipping Line. With a leadership experience in maritime governance, Ambassador Pitcher brings to his diplomatic role a deep understanding of regional development, trade logistics, and sustainable maritime operations—areas that are vital to Nauru’s socio-economic resilience and global engagement.

The Republic of Nauru looks forward to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Switzerland and other partners in Europe, particularly in areas such as sustainable development, climate change, human rights, health, education, security and innovation. //

The ceremony held in the Swiss capital, Bern, marks an important step in strengthening diplomatic relations between the Republic of Nauru and Switzerland.

During the meeting, Ambassador Pitcher and President Keller-Sutter engaged in meaningful discussions on the geopolitical landscape of Nauru and the wider Pacific region.

The Ambassador also highlighted Nauru’s commitment to building a climate-resilient nation and its active role in regional and international climate change advocacy in multilateral Geneva.

Ambassador Pitcher was accompanied by his spouse, Juliana Pitcher, the First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Nauru in Geneva, Joanie Hartman, and the Honorary Consul-Designate of the Republic of Germany to Nauru, Martin Heyne.



## Nauru, Oman sign joint communique formally establishing diplomatic relations

The United Nations permanent representatives of Nauru and Oman sign a joint communique formally establishing the diplomatic relations of their countries in New York, 15 May.



*Nauru-Oman relations presents opportunity for enhanced cooperation*

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru Ambassador Lara Daniel and the Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman Ambassador Omar Said Al-Kathiri, signed the communique on behalf of their respective governments.

The historic ceremony presents opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Nauru and Oman and underscores the importance of global connectivity.

Oman is an Arab nation with an area of approximately 309,500 square kilometres, situated on the south-eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

It is a strategic location bordering the United Arab Emirates to the northwest, Saudi Arabia to the west, and Yemen to the southwest, while overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Oman Sea.

The country is governed as an absolute monarchy under the leadership of His Majesty Haitham bin Tariq Al Said. //

## France ambassador presents credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang received the Ambassador-designate of the French Republic, Julie Le Saos for the presentation of credentials accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of Nauru, 14 May.



*Ambassador Le Saos began her career in foreign affairs in 2006*

Ambassador Le Saos was met on arrival at the government office by the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Rebecca Amwano, and then escorted by the Acting Commissioner of Police Imram Scotty for the inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour, before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of her Letter of Credence.

President Adeang said Nauru deeply values France's long standing friendship and engagement in the region, and that she has the full support and assistance of the Nauru government during her tenure.

"Your government's pledge to increase development aid fivefold, prioritising climate action, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience, demonstrates a sincere commitment to the Pacific and is greatly appreciated."

The President acknowledged France's Indo-Pacific Strategy and the 2021 European Union Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, both of which align closely with the aspirations and needs of the island nations.

"These frameworks provide a strong foundation for enhanced collaboration in addressing shared challenges and advancing regional stability and development."

Ambassador Le Saos began her career in foreign affairs in 2006 at the Embassy of France in Beijing, and engaged in civil volunteer work in Tokyo, as well as worked with the directorate of United Nations international organisations, directorate of strategic affairs in security and disarmament, cultural attaché in Washington, DC., and more recently as deputy head of mission at the Embassy of France in Canberra from 2020.

The Ambassador is based in Suva, Fiji. //

**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**  
**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.

## UK high comm credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang received the High Commissioner-designate of the United Kingdom, Paul Robert Turner for the presentation of credentials accrediting him as the High Commissioner Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Nauru, 14 May.



*High Commissioner Turner's experience covers the UK government and international organisations*

High Commissioner Turner was met on arrival at the government office by the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Rebecca Amwano, and then escorted by the Acting Commissioner of Police Imram Scotty for the inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour, before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of his Letter of Credence.

President Adeang expressed sincere appreciation for the United Kingdom's efforts in promoting security, stability in the Pacific through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.

"We also acknowledge and welcome very much the UK's pledge to enhance its presence in the Pacific through the UK-SIDS Partnership Strategy and generous commitment of \$40 million to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

"These initiatives are timely and vital as our region continues to confront the profound challenges posed by climate change, economic vulnerability, and shifting global dynamics."

President Adeang says Nauru stands ready to continue working closely with the UK on shared priorities, and offered the government's full support and cooperation during the high commissioner's tenure.

High Commissioner Turner's experience covers the UK government and international organisations, including the World Bank, African Development Bank and EU. With the UK Department for International Development (DFID), he oversaw development portfolios in East and Southern Africa and worked with the World Bank-IFC on economic reform programmed in China, and led development teams in a range of fragile states including Afghanistan and the Western Balkans. Earlier in his career, Mr Turner was a private secretary to ministers in DFID and the Home Office.

The High Commissioner is based in Honiara, Solomon Islands. //

## Switzerland ambassador credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang received the Ambassador-designate of Switzerland, Barbara Anna Gonzenbach for the presentation of credentials accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to the Republic of Nauru, 14 May.



*Ambassador Gonzenbach is assured of Nauru's full support and cooperation throughout her tenure*

Ambassador Gonzenbach was met on arrival at the government office by the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Rebecca Amwano, and then escorted by the Acting Commissioner of Police Imram Scotty for the inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour, before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of her Letter of Credence.

President Adeang said Nauru values Switzerland's support and long-standing commitment to peace, democracy, multilateralism, sustainable development, and efforts to support priorities that resonate with Nauru's development goals such as global climate initiatives and resilience-building.

"As a small island developing state, Nauru faces complex challenges that require strong partnerships and shared advocacy on the international stage. We believe that through closer cooperation with Switzerland, we can explore new areas of collaboration in environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and capacity development."

President Adeang assured the ambassador of the government's full support and cooperation throughout her tenure.

Ambassador Gonzenbach joined the Swiss diplomatic service in 2007 in the International Organisations section of the Bern based Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and later headed the human rights, legal and financial team at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York.

She was also appointed deputy head of mission in Singapore and prior to her assignment in Canberra, Australia, she worked in the Security Council section of the FDFA's UN Division in Bern.

The Ambassador is based in Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory. //

## Museum holds consultation on heritage path

The Naoero Museum held the first national consultation meeting on the 1972 World Heritage Convention, 23 May, with key stakeholders from the public service.



*Nauru is compiling potential heritage sites for review*

The consultation is aimed at identifying how Nauru can tap into the system and utilise the opportunities available under the Convention, as well as discuss and identify heritage sites and priorities.

The meeting marks the first step in consulting with stakeholders on moving forward and utilise available funds to best assist Nauru.

Director of the Naoero Museum, Horacio Cook facilitated the meeting which included UNESCO experts joining via video conference, led by Ms Himalchuli Gurung, Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The meeting touched on the Convention, UNESCO cultural programmes in the Pacific and heritage initiatives, international assistance, and an overview of the heritage issues in Nauru.

The Convention applies to both natural and cultural aspects and qualification for world heritage protection is measured by the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) mechanism.

The OUV comprises three pillars: meeting the criteria; integrity and authenticity (cultural WHS only); and protection and management.

A site that qualifies for permanent protection is deemed to have exceptional significance surpassing national boundaries and is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole, both present and future generations.

However, while some sites may not qualify for world heritage protection, countries are responsible to protect their own heritage by other means, including undertaking other character exercises and declaring them heritage sites at the national level.

Nauru is the latest country to ratify the 1972 Convention in July 2024. Nauru currently does not have world heritage properties; however a list of potential heritage sites is being proposed and will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Having ratified the Convention, Nauru is able to submit nomination proposals for properties to be considered for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Nauru's first international assistance will commence on 23 June, involving site inspections, stakeholder meetings, and work on national heritage legislation.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre assists states parties for the implementation of the Convention such as with nominations and training, and monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties in collaboration with the advisory bodies.

The five C's of the UNESCO World Heritage constitute the strategic objectives of the Convention - credibility, conservation, capacity-building, communication and communities. //

## ABD ops review mission to Nauru

Members of the Asian Development Bank Country Operations Review Mission (CORM) met with President David Adeang 13 May, as part of the bank's visit to share key discussions on the overall performance of the ADB portfolio and discuss strategic priorities and possible projects and programs for 2025 to 2028.



*Photo: (L-R) ADB Nauru Principal Country Officer John Limen, Principal Project Officer (Infrastructure) Pivithuru Indrawansa, Regional Head Operations Coordinator Rustam Ishenaliev, President David Adeang, Country Operations Head Kamel Bouhmad, Senior Project Management Specialist Sandeepani Kodituwakku, and Senior Operations Assistant Afif Haider.*

The key discussions include operations to advance Nauru's public sector reforms, strengthen climate resilience and private sector development, and support human capital development. These include the port, solar farm, water supply, sanitation, and solid waste. //

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## Mexico ambassador credentials

His Excellency President David Adeang received the Ambassador-designate of Mexico, Ernesto Céspedes Oropeza, on 16 May, for the presentation of credentials accrediting him as the very first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States to the Republic of Nauru, since the two nations established diplomatic relations in 2001.



*Mr Oropeza is the first ambassador of Mexico to Nauru*

Ambassador Oropeza was met on arrival at the government office by the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Rebecca Amwano, and then escorted by the Acting Commissioner of Police Imram Scotty for the inspection of the Nauru Police Force Guard of Honour, before being escorted to the Office of the President for the presentation of his Letter of Credence.

President Adeang said the accreditation of Mr Oropeza as ambassador to Nauru is a valuable opportunity to deepen and strengthen the bonds of cooperation and mutual respect between the two nations.

“We look forward to collaborating with you to explore new areas of mutual interest in multilateral forums and as well as in fields such as climate action, education and sustainable development.”

Ambassador Oropeza joined the Mexico foreign office in 1985 and throughout his career in Mexico, held various positions related to consular documents, human rights, relations with the Mexican Congress and Senate and organised civil society, organisation of international conferences, diplomatic security and crisis management.

From 2003 was the director general for global issues such as Mexico's multilateral foreign policy on environmental issues, gender equality, disability, health, migration, refuge, terrorism, drug trafficking, and transnational organised crime particularly trafficking in persons.

He also served in Mexico's foreign missions as deputy head of mission, first secretary, consul general and ambassador from 2017 to 2023.

The Ambassador is based in Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory. //

## Redesigned legal database launched

The justice department launched the redesigned online legal database RONLAW, with enhanced search tools and access to case laws, 9 May.



*Justice Minister Aingimea hopes the new design will ensure better access to legislation and legal instruments*

Then Acting President and Minister for Justice and Border Control (JBC) Lionel Aingimea said “over the years we have seen the Republic of Nauru lead in the Pacific region in relation to certain legislative reforms relating to international compliance and standards.”

“Nauru is currently one of the few Pacific Countries with a legal website of its own apart from PACLII, where electronic versions of the laws and other legal instruments are accessible by the public.”

RONLAW was initially launched in July 2011, with support from the Legal Information Access Project funded by New Zealand and managed by the Office of the Nauru Parliamentary Counsel.

JBC eventually took over updating it with technical assistance from the ICT department. Advancements in technology promoted the need to improve user experience with RONLAW.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed to the website's enhancement, implementing improvements based on user feedback from the previous version.

The new site features enhanced search tools, including a keyword search across the entire database and access to case law on heard cases from the courts of the Republic, a feature that was missing in the earlier version.

Minister Aingimea extended his appreciation to website developers Approbus Pvt Ltd, and UNDP for their assistance and funding, and the JBC and ICT departments for working together to bring about the new website.

“It is my hope that this new RONLAW website will ensure better access to legislation and legal instruments and with that, better access to justice to ensure justice for the people of the Republic.”

The website will be regularly updated and can be viewed at [ronlaw.gov.nr](http://ronlaw.gov.nr) //

## Stats office launches national youth monograph

The Bureau of Statistics launched the Nauru National Youth Monograph derived from key findings from the 2021 Nauru population census and surveys.



Stats office launches national youth monograph

With technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the documents launched on 21 May focus on the statistics and trends for Nauru's youth.

Youth in Nauru is defined as the age group 15 to 35, and constitutes 2,041 males and 1,922 females; while the international definition of youth aged 15 to 24 years old recorded 1,022 males and 986 females.

Statistics officer Lindsay Thoma says the key highlights of the monograph are the high rate of teenage pregnancy, household overcrowding, the youth finding themselves as head of the household due to their parents dying young, and the need to acquire information and communication technology skills to ensure greater chances for employment opportunities.

The report finds hygiene and sanitation infrastructure slightly worse in households headed by young people.

The onset of fertility and mean age of marriage are relatively low in Nauru, but establishing an independent household tends to occur relatively late partly due to the difficulty of finding affordable housing. Limited housing results in more than half of young people still living with their parents or relatives until they are in their 30s.

Having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the Pacific region, threatens the formation of the human capital of young people, especially girls.

On average, girls enter marriage or union earlier than boys, at 24.3 years and 26 years old respectively, about a year and a half older than in 2011.

The report says young women who are married or in a stable relationship are less likely to attend school than those who are single. The same is true of women who have given birth.

The age group 15-34 years has the highest five-year geographic mobility rate, meaning they move from house to house more often than other age groups, while 20 to 29 year olds are more vulnerable to violent crime and motor vehicle accidents than the general population.

Most young people in Nauru have been to school, with only 5.4 per cent of males and 3.3 per cent of females aged 10-24 having never attended school, in 2021. These figures are slightly higher than in 2011.

Fifteen to 19 year old still living with their mothers are likely to still be at school. Most young people complete some secondary school, 48.8 per cent of males and 49.9 per cent of females aged 20 to 24 have completed upper secondary level or higher.

To realise potential benefits of a demographic and gender dividend, several things need to be achieved such as a policy framework that fosters human resource and provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to contribute to the labour market and to society.

Other policies include increasing the number of people that complete higher education and those that move on towards tertiary education; policies to address the shortage of affordable housing; and economic policies that enhance the growth of the most competitive, productive, and labour-intensive sectors of the economy.

Other features to address are reducing incidents of teenage pregnancy, and public health issues. //



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