

## Palauan delegation advances sustainable ocean management at Tokyo Forum

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See story on page 2

## VP Oilouch accepts Vice-Chair role at World Health Assembly

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See story on page 3

## Upcoming Graduation Dates:

Belau Modekngel School: June 05, 2025 10 a.m. (BMS Gym)  
Palau High School: June 06, 2025 9 a.m. (PCC Cafeteria)  
Mindzenty High School: June 07, 2025 9 a.m. (MHS F.K.Y Gym)

Palau's First Newspaper

Thursday, June 05, 2025

THIS IS PALAU



"The government shall take no action to deny or impair the freedom of expression or press"

Volume 34 • Issue 44 • tiabelaunewspaper@gmail.com

Article 4, Section 2-Palau Constitution

## Finance minister appointment to expire June 8th



Rudimch Udui

The second appointment of Kaleb Udui, Jr. as the Minister of Finance will expire again on June 8th for second time if his answers to Senate questions are not notarized and submitted in time.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Mark Rudimch said it's up to him to provide notarized responses as those he submitted were not.

See Finance on page 7

## Emmaus-Bethania High School starts off high school graduation season

By Elilai Rengiil

Emmaus-Bethania High School (EBHS) kicked off this year's high school graduation season on Wednesday, May 28, as ten students proudly crossed the stage during the school's 9th Commencement Exercises.

Valedictorian of the EBHS Class of 2005 is Cooper Ngirakesau Tkel

See Emmaus on page 7



(Photo credit: Embassy of Japan in Palau)

## Australian federal police to assist in games security, police to do daily check points, foot patrol, use CCTV to monitor traffic

New Minister of Justice Jennifer Olgeriil announced during the Press Conference on Wednesday that the Australian Federal Police in conjunction with the regional Pacific police organization will send 15 to 17 police officers from the Pacific countries to assist with the Bureau of Public Safety in providing safety and security the Mini Pacific Games.

The Games will be held for ten days from June 29 to July 9, 2025 in venues mostly in Koror but also in Airai, Melekeok, and Ngirwal. Twenty-three countries are expected to participate in the Games

which were held in the Solomon Islands two years ago.

The minister also said that security and safety will be priority in the coming days over driving on the streets with the Police to do foot patrol in downtown Koror and maintain road checkpoints every day especially now with the schools out and graduations being held and with Mini Games coming on

the way. She mentioned that they will continue to focus on illegal drugs and will be monitored as well as other crimes with the more use of CCTV.

The minister disclosed that they are 23 persons including 19 men and 4 women in custody awaiting trial on drug cases as they cannot pay their bails that the courts had set. In addition to those

See Justice on page 7



Olgeriil

## Ngerbeched Head Start Class of 2025, biggest among 4 in Koror



## Pacific media face reckoning after US aid cuts

America's retreat from foreign aid is being felt deeply in Pacific media, where pivotal outlets are being shuttered and journalists work unpaid.

The result is fewer investigations into dubiously motivated politicians, glimpses into conflicts otherwise unseen and a less diverse media in a region which desperately needs it.

"It is a huge disappointment ... a senseless waste," Benar News' Australian head

of Pacific news, Stefan Armbruster, told AAP after seeing his outlet go under.

Benar News, In-depth Solomons and Inside PNG are three digital outlets which enjoyed US support but have been cruelled by President Donald Trump's about-face on aid.

Benar closed its doors in April after an executive order disestablishing Voice of America, which the United States created during World

War II to combat Nazi propaganda.

An offshoot of Radio Free Asia (RFA) focused on Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Benar kept a close eye on abuses in West Papua, massacres and gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and more.

The Pacific arm quickly became indispensable to many, with a team of reporters and freelancers working

See Pacific media on page 7

23 days from today June 05 before the Pacific Mini Games on June 29 to July 9, 2025



## Palauan delegation advances bilateral cooperation and sustainable ocean management at Tokyo Forum



From left to right: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, President Surangel Whipps Jr., and former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the 30th Annual Future of Asia Forum Commemorative Dinner

By Elilai Rengiil

Last month, President Surangel Whipps Jr. led the Palauan delegation to Tokyo, Japan for the 30th annual Future of Asia Forum, hosted by Nikkei. During the event, President Whipps Jr. spoke on a panel focused on sustainable ocean management, while the delegation engaged with Japanese experts and officials to advance ongoing initiatives and strengthen bilateral cooperation between Palau and Japan.

The official Palauan delegation consisted of Senate Floor Leader Kerai Mariur and Delegate Yutaka Gibbons Jr.

During the panel for the Future of Asia Forum, President Whipps Jr. discussed Palau's use of traditional knowledge in maintaining healthy fisheries stating, "Our culture has a system of what we call 'bul' which includes marine management that's been practiced for thousands of years... the ocean is part of our culture, and is something we have to be good stew-

ards of and continue to manage so that our children can enjoy the same."

The panel—moderated by Atsushi Sunami, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation—centered on the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration. Notably, this was the only event during the forum in which the President addressed the audience directly.

Before the forum, the delegation met with Professor Emeritus of Keio University Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino, an advisor to Palau's Economic Advisory Group to discuss Palau's Savings Bond Initiative.

The initiative is set to be managed under the new Debt and Investment Office, established by President Whipps Jr. by Executive Order No. 493 prior to his departure to Japan.

Additionally, the delegation was able to meet with Japan's Finance Minister Kato Katsunobuto strengthenbi-lateral ties

See Palauan delegation on page 7

## \$480 to be released on June 24th

Although RPPL 12-1, which was signed into law last Sunday, June 1, authorizes a \$480 subsidy for low-income senior citizens and disabled persons—a promise made over six months ago—Finance Ministry officials announced during the weekly press conference that the funds will be released nearly a month later, on June 24, 2025. The distribution will take place at the new One-Stop Shop in central Koror, near Erngul Park.

Finance, Budget, and Planning Director Kaleb Udai Jr., a former minister and current appointee to the Finance Ministry, told the conference that he approved the necessary paperwork yesterday to facilitate the release of the funds.

Elway Ikeda, Director of Revenue and Taxation, confirmed that the funds will be distributed on Tuesday, June 24. He added that the number of eligible recipients is expected to exceed two thousand compared to last year. His office will coordinate with the Social Security Office to verify eligibility.

The \$480 grant, along with the \$200 child subsidy and tax refunds for individuals earning less than \$30,000 annually, were cited as key benefits of the controversial new tax law—PGST, a 10% tax on imports and sales—that took effect in 2023 and has contributed to an increased cost of living in the country.



### Republic of Palau Financial Institutions Commission

Surangel & Sons Bldg., 2nd Floor, Erngul Road, Belau, Koror  
P.O. Box 10243 Koror, Republic of Palau 96940 / Tel: (680) 488-3560/3604 / info@rofpc.org

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>
<b>OPENING DATE:</b>	June 3, 2025
<b>CLOSING DATE:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>SALARY:</b>	<b>GL-13/1-S, \$20,665.00 – \$22,704.00</b> (\$794.81- \$873.23) CONTRACT
<b>LOCATION:</b>	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMISSION KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING:</b>	LOCAL
<b>DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:</b>	Provide support for the daily operations of the Financial Institutions Commission (FIC) in the area of administrative and office management:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver effective administrative support for the day-to-day operations of the FIC.</li> <li>• Maintain accurate and up-to-date fiscal, personnel, and other essential records of the FIC.</li> <li>• Ensure that the office facilities and staff are adequately equipped and supplied to support efficient operations.</li> <li>• Coordinate logistical arrangements for travel, meetings, conferences, events, and other activities.</li> <li>• Document and maintain records of all FIC meetings, including preparing and taking meeting minutes.</li> <li>• Serve as the primary administrative point of contact for the FIC.</li> <li>• Draft responses and address general inquiries and correspondence received by the FIC.</li> <li>• Monitor and track submission of period reports required from financial institutions by the FIC.</li> <li>• Engage in cross-training with the Corporate Registry Specialist to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill that role when required.</li> <li>• Performs other duties as assigned by the Executive Commissioner and/or Governing Board of the FIC.</li> </ul>

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** AS degree Office Administration, Business or related field. Must be able to speak and understand the Palauan language. Prior work experience in related field is desired but not required. **FIC is seeking a motivated individual with a strong desire to learn and grow professionally.**

Submit resume and cover letter to [admin@rofpc.org](mailto:admin@rofpc.org). Any questions, please contact FIC at 488-3560/3604.

Protecting and ensuring the integrity of, and confidence in, the financial sector of the Republic of Palau.



### BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Executive Building, National Capitol, Ngerulmud  
P.O. Box 6011, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940  
Telephone: (680) 767-2415 | Fax: (680) 767-2416  
E-Mail: [hr@palaugov.org](mailto:hr@palaugov.org) | Website: <http://palaugov.pw/hr>

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR) of the Government of Palau will be soliciting and accepting sealed bids/proposals from interested businesses, qualified individuals, agencies, or institutions to provide the Bureau of Health System Administration with a Professional Office Space.

This will be a competitively negotiated contract. The services requested will be fully funded by local funds. The specifications along with the evaluation criteria and all other requirements are being prepared and shall be made available on June 10, 2025. The solicitation and bidding periods shall continue for more than 30 days or for a minimum of 15 days as determined by the Procurement Officer. The specifications will also be made available on PalauGov's website <https://www.palaugov.pw/rfp-bids/>. Interested vendors may obtain copies of specifications by contacting Bureau of Human Resources.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO.	: PCS-2025-36
PUBLIC NOTICE	: May 26, 2025 – June 9, 2025
BIDDING PERIOD	: June 10, 2025 – June 24, 2025
BID OPENING	: June 25, 2025

Proposals or offers may be submitted at the National Treasury at the Finance Building in Koror or the Executive Building in Ngerulmud, Melekeok. For more information regarding this notice, please contact BHR by calling **+680 767-2415/1126** or emailing [hr@palaugov.org](mailto:hr@palaugov.org).

## VP Oilouch accepts Vice-Chair

## role at World Health Assembly

By Elilai Rengiil



Oilouch

Last month, Vice President and Minister of Health and Human Services Raynold A. Oilouch accepted the Vice Chair position of the Committee A Executive Board at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), marking only the second time a Micronesian nation has held this prestigious role.

Vice President Oilouch led the Palauan delegation to the event that took place from May 19th to the 27th at the Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Palau is a voting member state of the WHA under the Western Pacific Region (WPRO).

Of the several agenda items discussed during the meetings, two critical items were successfully adopted, the Pandemic Agreement and the Biennial Program Budget for 2026-2027.

After three years of negotiations, the Pandemic Agreement was successfully adopted by all 124 member states present at the event.

Introduced by WPRO Regional Director Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, the Pandemic Agreement aims to strengthen global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response and increase global cooperation to ensure stronger and more equitable response to future pandemics.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus states, "The world is safer today thanks to the leadership, collaboration and commitment of

our Member States to adopt the historic WHO Pandemic Agreement."

The Biennial Program Budget for 2026-2027 of \$4.7 billion was approved, a 20% decrease from the previous budget. However, WPRO Regional Director Dr. Piukala announced the budget reduction will not affect Palau, and announced future plans to increase funding for Palau and other smaller member states.

Vice President Oilouch delivered Palau's statement to the assembly on the last day in attendance emphasizing the importance of WHA's theme, "One World for Health," and the significance of inclusivity and the right of health to every human being by requesting the support of participating nations to allow Taiwan to be invited as an observer in the WHA. Over half of the assembly were in support of Taiwan's inclusion.

## PICRC Researcher Gains Advanced Deep-Sea Training at University of Hawaii

Ms. Maikani Andres, a dedicated researcher from the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), recently completed a specialized training in deep-sea research at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Deep-sea Animal Research

Center (DARC). Held from March 27 to April 4, 2025, the training focused on deep-sea video annotation, significantly strengthening Palau's capacity for offshore marine research and conservation.

The program utilized ex-

tensive video footage collected during the 2024 deep-sea expedition conducted by the Exploration Vessel (E/V) Nautilus, operated by the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET). From October to November 2024, the expedi-

See PICRC researcher on page 7

## BNM Initiative seeks to unite youth in raising voices on climate awareness

By Elilai Rengiil



The singer of the "Footprints in the Sand" educational recording found online, Jaylene Louis (r) and videographer Nishida Ryota at Belau National Museum

Voices of the Earth Campaign, an initiative by Belau National Museum (BNM) and Music Dance Art, is looking to unite youth voices in raising climate awareness by inviting children to sing an original climate awareness song, "Footprints in the Sand."

The song, composed by Benina Berger and Akisha Natashi, and translated into Palauan by Malo Paulus, began as a way to introduce climate awareness to children through art.

Today is World Environment Day and the theme for this year is "Tackling Plastic Pollution", with an increase of plastic pollution in Palau the song aims to instill values of environmental activism or "activism" in the youth and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Next week, interested participants can attend a practice and recording session at the Belau National Museum in the mornings on June 11 and June 13, and June 18 and 20.

Elementary school stu-

dents attending the Music-danceart summer program will also be learning the song and performing it on June 26th.

Open to children ages 6-14 years old, the campaign encourages parents and guardians to support their children by teaching them the song and assisting with recording and submitting their video performance by July 31st.

More information about the song and submissions can be obtained by messaging Musicdanceart on Facebook or calling Belau National Museum at 488-2655 or 775-5630.

# E-CIGARETTES ARE ILLEGAL!

## NO person shall PURCHASE, POSSESS, or CONSUME an ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE within the Republic of Palau.

RPPL No. 11-27

For more information, please contact the Prevention Unit at 488-8118/8119. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram @the Palau Prevention Unit.

### Kom kmal mesulang!

\*This publication was supported by the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number, 6 NU58DP006683-05-01 funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.



## PICRC Represents Palau at 50th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting



From May 10th to 16th, the Palau International Coral Reef Center's (PICRC) Chief Executive Officer Roxanne Sual Blesam and Research Director, Geraldine Rengil, attended the 50th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Geraldine Rengil

(USCRTF) in Washington, D.C., serving as Palau's Point of Contact to the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC). The bi-annual meetings bring together representatives from U.S. coral reef jurisdictions to collaborate on conservation strategies. Palau, through PICRC, hosted the 14th and 42nd USCRTF meetings in 2005 and 2014, respectively, which were considered among the most informative, engaging and productive sessions, highlighting coral reef resilience and cultural connections.

The United States All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC) was established in 1996 when the governors of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands designated Points of Contact (POCs) to coordinate coral reef conservation and protection strategies. The Freely Associated States (FAS), the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau, were invited to join the USCRTF as non-voting members and participate in the AIC as affiliate members starting in 2000. The FAS were included in the recently passed Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2024 that reauthorized the CRTF and appropriated funds for associated management-oriented research and activities. The AIC functions as an inter-governmental body that develops coordinated, science-based approaches to coral reef management, identifies priority needs, and advocates for resources. It also serves as a key advisory group to the USCRTF, ensuring local and regional voices are represented in national coral reef policies.

This year's meeting ad-

ressed key issues such as improving water quality to support healthy coral reef ecosystems in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; tackling the impacts of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) in the Caribbean while strengthening prevention and preparedness efforts in the Pacific; scaling up coral reef restoration; and exploring

See PICRC Represents on page 7

## FIB fills key vacant positions Raymond August named new Executive Director

Koror, Palau (June 3, 2025) — The Foreign Investment Board (FIB) is proud to announce that it has filled key vacant positions and launched staff training this week — an important step in delivering our mission with efficiency, integrity, and innovation.

Our mission: "To promote and facilitate responsible foreign investment that contributes to the sustainable development of the Republic of Palau."

Leading this renewed effort is new Executive Director Raymond August, who took the helm of the office in April. Under his leadership, the Board has already begun implementing digital improvements to better serve the public — including making key applications and forms available via email and enabling online payment options for business convenience.



"We're building a team and a system that puts transparency and service at the center of everything we do," said Director August. "Our goal is to make it easier for investors to do business in Palau while upholding our laws and values to protect the people of Palau."

Foreign investment is key to expanding Palau's tax base, creating jobs, and unlocking new opportunities for growth. FIB proudly supports President Surangel S. Whipp's vision

of a diverse and resilient economy that ensures a Kot a Rechad er Belau.

About Palau's Foreign Investment Board: The Foreign Investment Board (FIB) is a governmental body responsible for approving and regulating foreign investment in the Republic of Palau. FIB is governed by a board of presidential nominees and operates under the Foreign Investment Act, codified at Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Pa-

See FIB on page 7



BUREAU OF  
REVENUE &  
TAXATION

PSA 25 – 09  
June 04, 2025

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Social Assistance Payment Disbursement

The Bureau of Revenue & Taxation announces that with the long-awaited passing of the supplemental budget, which was signed into RPPL 12-1, the social assistance payment of \$480 will now be disbursed.

Disbursements will start **Tuesday, June 24, 2025**, at the BRT Offices located at the **One Stop Shop Building from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

This payment is for retired Palauan citizens age 60 or older, or Palauan citizens receiving disability insurance benefit from the Palau Social Security Administration.

#### Who is eligible?

You may qualify for this payment if you meet the following criteria:

- You are a Palauan Citizen, and
- You are either:
  - Retired and 60 years of age or older, or
  - Medically retired and currently receiving Disability Insurance issued by the Palau Social Security Administration
- You are a current resident of the Republic of Palau, and
- You have no employment earnings, and
- You did not receive any wages and salary tax refund for wages earned in 2024

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email to [taxhelp@palaugov.org](mailto:taxhelp@palaugov.org) or phone call to (680) 488-2465, 2580, 3303, 2702.

P.O. Box 6069 Koror, Palau 96940  
Tel: (680) 488-2465/2580/3303 | Fax: (680) 488-3844  
URL: [www.palaugov.pw/brt](http://www.palaugov.pw/brt)

## Palau president wants Taiwan to get a fair go at PIF

Palau's president wants to see Taiwan given full access at this year's Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' meeting.

It was great to see 17 out of 18 leaders in Tonga for last year's meeting, Surangel Whipp's Jr said - a sense of unity he wants to continue.

"That's the record since we've gotten back together. Let's ensure that that continues, because that's what we need to see."

He said he has heard that "there's been some difficulty in Taiwan gaining access".

Whipp's asked the PIF team to make sure they are doing all that it's responsible to do, to make sure the forum conference is a success, and everybody's there that's supposed to be able to participate.

A Solomon Islands Government spokesperson said at this

## Study shows Pacific nations 'sandwiched' between storm bands

A climate scientist has discovered that two specific bands of the globe are warming faster than elsewhere.

Auckland University's Dr Kevin Trenberth led a study examining where heat - captured by the ocean - travels and accumulates.

The first band - at 40 to 45 degrees latitude south - is heating at the world's fastest pace, with the effect especially pronounced around New Zealand, Tasmania, and Atlantic waters east of Argentina.

The second band is around 40 degrees north, with the biggest effects in waters east of the United States in the North Atlantic and east of Japan in the North Pacific.

Dr Trenberth said it could be why storms that track to New Zealand - from an area warming at a slower rate - seem to strengthen once they get there.

He said it's "striking" and "unusual" to see such a distinctive pattern.

stage the government is not in a position to comment on participation or related arrangements for the PIF Leaders' Summit.

They pointed out that the registration process for the summit has not yet opened and formal invitations will be issued in due course.

"As host, Solomon Islands continues to work closely with the Forum Secretariat and Forum Member countries on all preparations."

Whipp's has just arrived back from a state visit to Taiwan, where its foreign minister Lin Chia-lung expressed his country's appreciation for Palau's consistent support on the international stage.

Three Forum members - Tuvalu, Palau and Marshall Islands - have diplomatic ties with Taiwan and not China.

Taiwan has been a develop-

ment partner since 1992. China has been a dialogue partner of the PIF since 1990.

Last year, RNZ Pacific captured China's representative to the meeting in Tonga asking Cook Islands prime minister Mark Brown to change the final

communique which recognised Taiwan and China separately.

Earlier this month, Solomon Islands' prime minister Jeremiah Manele warned government workers against engaging with "Taiwan".

In a statement, Jeremiah Manele reaffirmed his government's commitment to the One-China Policy.

The ABC reported a newly appointed government minister was pressured by China to quit an international group critical of its policies.

Beijing's Embassy in Honiara said the allegations are baseless.

It said China will never interfere in Solomon Islands internal affairs and also firmly oppose any other countries' interference in Solomon Islands' internal affairs.

The president of Kiribati, Taneti Maamau, and top diplomats from Niue, Tonga, Nauru, Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa have been in China for a two-day meeting.

In a joint statement, published to the website of China's foreign affairs ministry, the parties said: "All parties recognize that there is but one China in the world, that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, and that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China."

"China firmly opposes 'Taiwan independence' in all forms and commits to realizing national reunification, which has gained wide understanding and support at the meeting."

"China firmly supports Pacific Island countries in upholding their sovereignty and territorial integrity."

See Study shows on page 7

See Palau president on page 7

## Pacific doctors coping with dengue cases, say health leaders

Most dengue fever outbreaks are not slowing down in the Pacific but there are hopes this will change as the weather gets colder and drier.

Samoa's director general of health Aiono Dr Alec Ekeroma said the country saw 56 new cases of the viral infection last week, which is close to a third of the confirmed cases since January.

Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands have all declared dengue outbreaks. All countries apart from the Cook Islands have recorded at least one death.

Aiono said Samoa's Ministry of Health is encouraging people to stamp out breeding grounds, which is preferred over spraying campaigns.

"The chemicals [are] expensive and it's not as effective as we would like it to be, so it's better actually that we engage the community to destroy breeding sites," Aiono said.

He said health care staff are managing.

"The good thing is that there's been no very sick cases really recently, so in fact looking at the data there's no one in the hospital right now."

Fiji Medical Association president, Dr Alipate Vakamocoea thinks Fiji is about to hit its dengue peak.

"It's seasonal, so it should be on its way down and we've seen the numbers from the Central Division start to come down," he said.

He said there had been significant public health campaigns to clean up and reduce the number of mosquito breeding sites.

A statement from Cook Islands Ministry of Health on Friday said five cases were considered active, there have been 17 cases since February, and 97 dengue tests have been done.

"The average rate remains stable at approximately 1 - 2 confirmed cases per day," it said.

Tonga has had 815 cases. (RNZ)

## Congratulations Class Of 2025



Palau's First Newspaper

# TIA BELAU

THIS IS PALAU

TIA BELAU NEWS is published every Monday and Thursday by TBN Publishing Company in Koror, Republic of Palau. We welcome contributions by our readers through comments, letters, pictures, contributed stories or articles which should be no more than 300 words. We reserve the right to refuse any material that is deemed to be defamatory, frivolous, and false and does not serve the purpose of the mission of this paper.

Our mission is to inform, seek the truth, and provide a forum for exchange of ideas and for advancement of freedom of information and democracy and for preservation of culture, environment, and sovereignty of Palau.

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## FRESH NEWS

We go where the ACTION is!

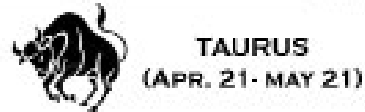


## WEEKLY GUIDE HOROSCOPE



**ARIES**  
(MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Is it not what you wanted for yourself, Aries? When you are living your manifestations, it often does not strike as a blessing initially because you imagine a world without obstacles, but life loves hiccups. As they say, if you want to live the dream, you've got to do the work. And you have done the work, now that you are living your dream, are you busy looking only at the work that goes in, or are you also taking a moment to enjoy the blessings and recognising the manifestations that have come to life? You are in this for the long haul. As you lay foundations for lasting peace, contentment and laughter, know that you are safe.



**TAURUS**  
(APR. 21- MAY 21)

Pick the pace, Taurus, all while you also maintain your tempo. Old ways of thinking and acting need to exit the front door, and you need to really sit with yourself and ask some tough questions. How willing are you to reach a truce, how willing are you to adapt to new ways of functioning and how willing are you to power through these changes with flexibility and adaptiveness? Trust us, you won't be a sellout if you tweak your ways, instead, you will begin to get more done, more effectively and really get the ball rolling in your life finally.



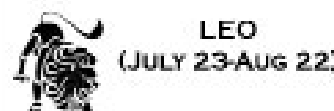
**GEMINI**  
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Something you embarked upon is now beginning to give you a semblance of rewards and recognition. Gemini, as new opportunities present themselves, your angels remind you to keep your mental fire in the forefront so that you can see solutions where necessary and humour where essential. Not everything is meant to last, and you are about to witness a whirlwind of change in your life, all for the better. If you are planning on paying debts off, this is your season to make that blessed beginning, and if you are looking for support in any way, this is your time to open your arms skyward and ask for all you need.



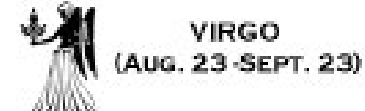
**CANCER**  
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Your plans are on track, Cancer, some may need revision, some may need patience, and some most definitely need you to power through with grit and determination. The Universe is giving you another chance to master grace and grit together - and of course, you love to live through your challenges and spit them out like some other. Focus on your communication and make time for self-care so that you are not running around like an electrified grizzly bear, losing your breath and temper at the drop of a hat. You know, with just a little planning, you can master even patience and love. Find ways to incorporate ease into your life while you also get things done at lightning speed. Irony, I know, but it is possible, you know it!



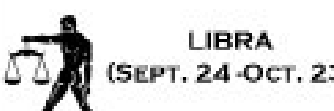
**LEO**  
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

You have gone deep into your learning and growth process, and here you are - emerging not only victorious, but also beginning to feel like life has begun happening for you. This wish-fulfillment stage in your life is here to stay, but you must also know how to care for it. Staying humble is first on the checklist, followed by staying enthusiastic and approaching each day as if it were your first and last, and getting into these doing your thing with like-minded folks and party invites. Leo, maintaining a fine balance between learning, sowing and reaping all with utmost humility is your game plan, okay?



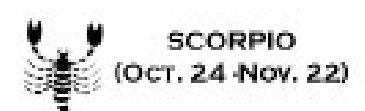
**VIRGO**  
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Get your freak on! Virgo, you know you can be a crazy one, and it is time to get that bizarre, eccentric, quirky streak online. You know that moment when you are just about to jump off for your divine experience? It's not just adrenaline, it is the choice and willingness to give something exhilarating a shot. This is that moment in time for you. Stop, pause, reflect, integrate and decide to jump off the cliff whenever you are ready, but make it quick if possible. You are in for the ride of your life, and bello, you know you are going to love it!



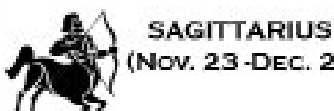
**LIBRA**  
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

A sense of lack or worried vibes may have filled your life recently, Libra, and it may have pushed you to your limits. However, here you are - turning the wheel of fortune in your favour, where everything you touch is defined, meaningful and turns to instant gold - be it your work, relationships or anything else. Your perseverance, hard work, faith and courage have led you to this point where things begin to sail smoothly. New support and resources come forward in unexpected ways, and your intuition? Well! It has not spoken more clearly in a long time! What are you waiting for?



**SCORPIO**  
(OCT. 24-NOV. 22)

You've done the work on your relationship, especially your most prized personal ones, and Scorpio, honestly, some bitter pills may have had to be swallowed, however, you are better for it. You are now in a space where you are creatively stimulated, dreaming of abundance and probably even cashing in on it, and life begins feeling a lot funner for the most part. You know you are a sucker for harmony and peace, and dear Scorpio, you've got yourself committed in a pool of love and kindness lately. The support you've extended outwards for so long is coming back to you in unexpected ways. Life feels good. Justice tastes sweet.



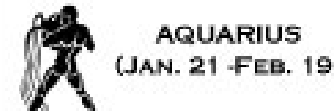
**SAGITTARIUS**  
(NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

You have built something, and now may be the time to take it to the next level. But going solo may not be the wisest option, and you may feel stuck with the way ahead from this point on. Get on a call with a mentor, seek relationship advice from someone well meaning but on a similar wavelength, get yourself enrolled in that course to uplevel your skills, get an expert opinion on your business and blindspots, sign up for therapy to overcome persistent challenges - just do what it takes to get a third party objective perspective on whatever it is that you are dealing with. You may not be able to see it yet, but it all adds up, and you are now ready to jump over a few steps.



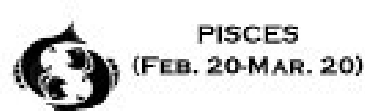
**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC 22- JAN. 20)

There are no coincidences, Capricorn, and you have chosen what you have because you wanted to. But stop, are you getting so involved in this situation that you cannot see beyond it? Often, creative thinking gets you going and feeling more productive than robotic hard work. Now, we are not endorsing the sit-and-wait-for-the-cosmos-to-work-for-you philosophy. Instead, we are simply suggesting mixing things up. All work and no play did make Jack a dull boy, and my precious human being, you are no different. Spice things up - embrace new opportunities that fill your heart, not just your pocket, and you will find your way back to yourself once again.



**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

What is not to like when your life feels like a celebration, Aquarius? Say yes to that mid-week sandowner, say yes to that idea, say yes to that bubbly itching to come out and play and say yes to that interesting person waiting to take you out on a coffee date. Your personal life feels like it is blooming, and you could not be in a happier space, at least a more neutral space. However, remember not to make promises when you are happy and never give up when you are down. It's that kind of day where you enjoy the ups while they are here, and remember to feel grateful for the tiniest blossoms that sprout on your plants.



**PISCES**  
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Fearing missing an opportunity, looking sideways instead of forward to avoid something, or simply taking on so much that you have no ounce of energy left to address the elephant in the room, Pisces? Whatever the case may be with you, running away is no solution. When things begin turning one after another, we get it, it can feel like a task holding onto what you've got left and perhaps your perspective on life may also begin feeling bleak and undernourished. However, your angels remind you that it is in your hands to turn your gaze away from burnt bridges and truly look at what lies ahead. You may not have the dish ready, but you surely have the right ingredients that go in - even if you can't see them yet.

## Sudoku NUMBER PUZZLE

Source: Simple Sudoku

**PUZZLE TBM 34-44**

			2				9	7
2			8		1			
5	8	7				3		
	1	2		6			7	
	4					9		
						2	3	
		5				7	8	4
			7		9			3
4	7			8				

**SOLUTION TO PUZZLE TBM 34-43**

6	3	7	1	5	8	2	4	9
9	2	8	4	3	7	5	6	1
4	1	5	6	2	9	7	3	8
7	5	1	8	6	2	3	9	4
3	6	2	7	9	4	1	8	5
8	9	4	3	1	5	6	7	2
2	7	3	9	8	1	4	5	6
1	8	6	5	4	3	9	2	7
5	4	9	2	7	6	8	1	3

**A SAMPLE PUZZLE**

	7	9					1	
	2	3	8			6	7	
	6			2	7			
	7	8		5				
5		2		6		3		
				1		9	5	
			6	3		8		
8	4				9	2	1	
2				1	3			

### Solving Directions

**Standard Sudoku:** To solve a Sudoku puzzle, place a number into each box so that each row across, each column down, and each small 9-box square within the larger diagram (there are 9 of these) will contain every number from 1 through 9. In other words, no number will appear more than once in any row, column, or smaller 9-box square. Working with the numbers that will lead to the correct solution.

**Extreme Sudoku:** Follow the same rules as for a Standard Sudoku; however, in these puzzles, each of the two long diagonals (which are shaded) must also contain every number from 1 through 9.

### Getting Started

Look at the ninth column of the example puzzle A. There clues in the puzzle that will tell you where in this column, the number 3 belongs. The first clue lies in the eighth column of the diagram. There is a 3 in the fifth box. Since numbers can't be repeated in any 3x3 grid, we can't put a 3 in the fourth, fifth, or sixth boxes of the ninth column.

We can also eliminate the bottom three boxes of the ninth column because there's a 3 in the 3x3 grid as well. Therefore, the 3 must go in the second or third box of the ninth column. The final clue lies in the second row of the diagram, which already has a 3 in it. Since numbers can't be repeated within a row, there's only one box of the ninth column.

Continue in this manner using the same type of logic and elimination, until the puzzle grid is completely filled in.

## New Chapter, Shared Future: Australia commits \$24.75m to SPREP

Australia is taking meaningful action on climate change - at home and in partnership with the region. We are making huge investments in our own energy transition. To achieve our target of 82% renewable electricity by 2030 (up from 32% in 2022) and net zero by 2050. To meet Paris Agreement goals, we need the largest economies - both advanced and developing - to quickly decline their emissions. Australia has a strong record of backing sizable and long-term Pacific-solutions to a changing climate, including the Pacific Resilience Facility.

The Government of Australia has bolstered their commitment to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with an additional AUS\$24.75 million. The announcement was made during the annual high-level consultations between the Government of Australia and SPREP in May 2025, building on longstanding partnership.

SPREP Director General, Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, welcomed the announcement, saying:

"Australia continues to be one of SPREP's most significant and enduring partners. This renewed funding is especially valuable in contributing to our core financing that allows us to plan and implement our programs with confidence and continuity, responding to the urgent environmental challenges faced by our

Pacific communities."

This next phase of partnership marks a deepening of Australia's commitment to Pacific-led solutions and underscores the importance of sustained investment in regional institutions.

Ms Emily Luck, Head of Delegation and Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Regional, Climate and Communications Branch at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said:

"We are proud to continue our close partnership with SPREP to deliver outcomes that matter to Pacific peoples. This funding reflects Australia's commitment to listening and responding to Pacific priorities in climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and environmental governance. We value SPREP's regional leadership and technical expertise, and we look forward to continuing our work together to build a healthier, more resilient Pacific."

As SPREP's largest core contributor, this new funding builds on a longstanding partnership between Australia and SPREP, reflecting shared priorities to protect the Pacific's environment, respond to climate change, and strengthen resilience for future generations.

What Australia's funding means for Pacific communities:

Climate Resilience in Villages and Communities: funding helps SPREP support national and local governments to develop and implement climate adaptation

plans—improving early warning systems for cyclones, promoting ecosystem based adaptation and natural solutions and guidance for environmentally sustainable relocation of communities under threat from rising seas.

Protecting Nature and Traditional Knowledge: funding helps preserve critical ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, and forests that provide food, cultural identity, and natural protection against disasters. It also supports work with communities to integrate traditional environmental knowledge into policy.

Jobs and Capacity Building: Local experts, youth, and government officials benefit from training and employment through SPREP-led programmes in environmental monitoring, project management, data collection, and conservation—building long-term skills and leadership.

Early Warning and Disaster Preparedness: Australia's long-standing support for meteorological services has been delivered in partnership with SPREP, helping the region to forecast extreme weather more accurately and reach vulnerable communities sooner—saving lives and livelihoods.

Amplifying the Pacific Voice: Australia's funding supports Pacific participation at global climate and environment forums, such as the UNFCCC COP, ensuring Pacific priorities are heard and respected on the world stage.

### Justice...from Page 1

in custody, the minister revealed that the regular convicted criminal s imprisoned are 81 (74 men and 7 women) totaling 104 occupying the old prison built for

### Pacific media...from Page 1

in 15 countries on a budget under \$A1 million.

"Our coverage of decolonisation in the Pacific received huge interest, as did our coverage of the lack women's representation in parliaments, human rights, media freedom, deep sea mining and more," Mr Armbruster said.

In-depth Solomons, a Honiara-based digital outlet, is another facing an existential threat despite a proud record of investigative and award-winning reporting.

Last week, it was honoured with a peer-nominated award from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan for a year-long probe into former prime minister Manasseh Sogavare's property holdings.

"We're just holding on," editor and co-founder Ofani Eremae told AAP.

A US-centred think tank continues to pay the wage of one journalist, while others haven't drawn a salary since January.

"It has had an impact on our operations. We used to travel out to do stories across the provinces. That has not been done since early this year," Mr Eremae said.

A private donor came forward after learning of the cuts with a one-off grant that was used for rent to secure the office, he said.

Its funding shortfall - like Port Moresby-based outlet Inside PNG - is linked to USAID, the world's biggest single funder of development assistance, until Mr Trump axed its multi-billion dollar budget.

Much of USAID's funding was spent on humanitarian causes - such as vaccines, clean water supplies and food security - but some was also earmarked for media in developing nations, with the aim of bolstering fragile democracies.

Inside PNG used its support to build an audience of tens of thousands with incisive reports on PNG politics: not just Port Moresby, but in the regions including wantaway province Bougainville that has a long history of conflict.

"The current lack of funding has unfortunately had a dual impact, affecting both our dedicated staff, whom we're currently unable to pay, and our day-to-day operations," Inside PNG managing director Kila Wani, told AAP.

"We've had to let off 80 per cent of staff from payroll which is a big hit because we're not a very big team.

"Logistically, it's become challenging to carry out our work as we normally would."

20 and can accommodate up to 40. She added that she and other officials will go to the new prison in Ngchesar to see what needs to be done and consult with the president on what is becoming critical situation.

### Emmaus...from Page 1

rakesau Tkel and the salutatorian is Jireh Ngrirachemoi.

### Finance...from Page 1

When asked whether or not he would withdraw his nomination as he is already the Director of the Bureau of Budget, Finance, and Planning, controlling money in and out of the government, he answered: "It is up to the President adding that there has to a Minister of Finance".

With five days more before expiration of his appointment and without notarized answers before the Senate, it is not likely that the committee will hold a hearing on Monday.

### Palauan delegation...

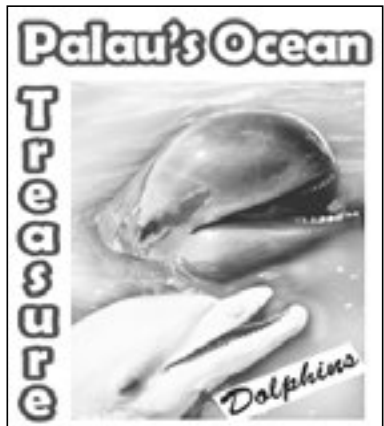
from Page 2

between the two countries and discuss the new direct flight between Japan and Palau commencing in October of this year.

Tourism expansion in Palau was also a focus for discussion between the two countries as the official delegation, with Ambassador Peter Adelbai, met with the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPLF).

Senator and Floor Leader Kerai Mariur expressed gratitude for JPPFL's continued support for projects that improve Palau's quality of life, while JPPFL Chairwoman Shinako Tsuchiya showed appreciation for Palau's continued support in finding and returning Japan's war casualties.

The Nikkei hosted event, Future of Asia Forum, serves as a global forum where political, economic, and academic leaders from across the Asia-Pacific come together to exchange views on regional challenges and solutions. Marking its 30th anniversary, this year's forum was themed, "Asia's Challenge in a Turbulent World."



### PICRC researcher...

from Page 3

tion conducted 16 dives within the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) using the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) Hercules.

Ms. Andres received hands-on training in annotating footage from one of the expedition dives, using the Video Annotation and Reference System (VARS) to log and identify marine organisms to the most precise taxonomic level possible. She also conducted quality control on the dataset, extracted relevant data from the platform, and carried out preliminary analyses, gaining critical skills in deep-sea biodiversity assessment.

"Expanding access to deep-sea research training is essential, as it enables researchers to better understand offshore habitats," said Ms. Andres. "By building local expertise in deep-sea science, we strengthen our capacity for offshore marine research, enhance our understanding of deep-sea biodiversity, and contribute valuable data to guide informed conservation decisions."

Ms. Andres' participation in this training represents a major advancement in strengthening Palau's deep-sea research capabilities. The skills and knowledge she acquired will play a vital role in ongoing efforts to explore and understand Palau's deep-sea biodiversity, supporting broader marine research and conservation initiatives.

### PICRC Represents...from Page 4

sustainable, long-term funding opportunities for restoration activities. Discussions also focused on federal and non-federal funding mechanisms for coral reef management across states, territories, and FAS.

The weeklong meetings concluded with a Business Meeting led by Nicole R. LeBoeuf, NOAA Assistant Administrator, and Angel A. Demapan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs at the Department of Interior. Highlights included the U.S. AIC Committee Chair's report, a film trailer showcasing the Marshall Islands' new National Marine Sanctuary around Bikar and Bokak Atolls, an update from the USCRTF Steering Committee, and presentations from various working groups.

Representatives from all seven U.S. coral jurisdictions, the FAS, and the U.S. Fishery Management Councils contributed thought-provoking insights on the importance of coral reefs to island economies, communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

"Attending the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting allows Palau to share our unique experiences and challenges. It is a vital opportunity to build stronger partnerships, advance the conservation of our coral reefs and identify ways to access funding opportunities," said PICRC's Director of Research, Geraldine Rengil.

Palau is proud to be part of these important discussions and looks forward to attending the 51st meeting in Puerto Rico.

### FIB...from Page 4

lau National Code, along with its implementing regulations.

Foreign investment is essential to Palau's continued economic growth, helping expand the country's tax base and providing employment opportunities. It also presents a relatively untapped opportunity for savvy investors. In recent years, and particularly during the global pandemic, FIB has redoubled efforts to reduce bureaucracy and facilitate investment. (Office of the President, Palau)

### Palau president...from Page 5

ing their sovereignty and independence."

Meanwhile, a regional architecture review (RRA) has entered its final stage.

It's the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' response to the increasing interest from a growing number of Forum dialogue partners wanting a seat - and a say - at the regional decision-making table.

Palau's president has made it clear to the RRA committee that, "it is important that all our partners are able to be present at PIF".

### Study shows...from Page 5

ocean, and sending off along their track.

"No doubt the heat will come back into these regions, because of the way in which the winds are changing in the atmosphere."

For New Zealand and its neighbours, Dr Trenberth said that these findings could help explain why each new year breaks heat records.

"It comes back to what is really going on in the oceans," he said.

"They have now warmed up so that they are major players in the global warming picture." (RNZ)







**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS**

*June 2025*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ONLINE RE-REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT  
FOR ALL CORPORATION  
(FOR-PROFIT & NONPROFIT)**

The Financial Institutions Commission ("FIC") launched the new Online Corporate Registry on **January 20, 2025**, accessible at [www.palauregistries.pw](http://www.palauregistries.pw).

For-Profit and Nonprofit Corporations are required to re-register online within one year of the registry's launch and obtain a new Certificate of Incorporation. Re-registration is free during this one-year period. The re-registration in 2025 will satisfy your annual report requirement for 2025. The next annual report will be due in 2026 on the month of the corporation's incorporation date and is done online and does not require financial information. (*The Annual Report paper form previously required by the Office of the Attorney General, due July 31<sup>st</sup> annually, is no longer required.*)

**FIC IS NOT REQUIRING OVER DUE ANNUAL REPORTS. CORPORATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RE-REGISTER AND UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION ONLINE EARLY.**

Although the re-registration period is one year (from January 20, 2025), corporations are encouraged to re-register early to obtain their new Certificate of Incorporation and Good Standing status. Failure to re-register within the allotted time will result in the entity being administratively dissolved by the Registrar.

For instructions on how to re-register, e-mail the following information to FIC: Entity Name, Contact Person, Email Address, and Telephone Number.

**V. Tikei Sbal**  
Financial Institutions Commission  
Registrar of Corporations  
[registrar@palauregistries.pw](mailto:registrar@palauregistries.pw)

**copy to:** Kedul Andreas  
Corporate Registry Specialist  
[crspecialist@palauregistries.pw](mailto:crspecialist@palauregistries.pw)

**OTHER BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS:** PARTNERSHIPS, CREDIT UNIONS, AND COOPERATIVES REMAIN THE SAME, PAPER-BASED PROCESS. ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE JULY 31<sup>TH</sup> EVERY YEAR, SUBMITTED TO FIC. CONTACT FIC VIA EMAIL TO OBTAIN ANNUAL REPORT FORMS. *Annual fee and penalty for late filing remain the same.*

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