



NATIONAL STATEMENT
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF
HON. TIMOTHY IKA MP – MINISTER FOR HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF NAURU
AT THE
76th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA76)

Mr. President
Director General
Honorable Ministers
Excellencies

Ekamawir Omo.

At the outset, I am honored to convey on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Nauru, heartfelt congratulations to the World Health Organization on its historical 75th Anniversary. Mr. President, the theme adopted for WHA76, “Saving Lives: Driving Health for All” is indeed more relevant and one that each government strives to implement.

I am pleased to report that based on the principles of Universal Health Coverage, the Government of Nauru is committed to promote, protect and maintain the health and well-being of all Nauruans.

The Nauru government continues to focus on expanding and improving health services to ultimately reverse Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), reduce Overseas Medical Referrals (OMR), and establishing a reliable schedule of visiting specialized medical teams to address the health needs of the island. The government of Nauru recognizes that good health and the wellbeing of the people is an inclusive process requiring a holistic approach. In this regard, the government is implementing strategies to encourage stronger community engagement and empowerment.

The Government of Nauru offers free Health Services to all in the spirit of equality. However, Nauru has limited medical specialists and will require assistance and support especially in the fields of Cardiology, Nephrology and Neurology. Having specialists on the island will not only reduce the government's OMR budget but also provide the broader community with access to quality services.

Nauru receives ongoing support for NCD screening and management from a full-time Taiwan Technical Mission doctor. In the post-pandemic environment, we have commenced a schedule of visiting medical specialist teams, again with support from Taiwan.

While our emphasis is on increasing investment in prevention and health promotion, there is still a need to address prevalent challenges. For a small nation like Nauru, one of these challenges is ensuring the appropriate skill-mix of our Health Care workers. This can be addressed through recruitment of relevant health workers who can provide quality services.

We call on the W.H.O for technical support to strengthen Health Service Planning, Primary Health Care concept of "Womb to Tomb", and concepts focusing on behavioral change and empowerment of communities. We further need to plan and strengthen Mental Health Care and augment existing Rehabilitation and Palliative Care Services for our people.

Tubwa okor.