ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ITS CONSTITUENT DIVISIONS

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

FORWARD

The Office of the Attorney-General (hereinafter "Office) is pleased to present this report to the Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, pursuant to the *Office of the Attorney-General Act of 2002*. The Report covers the activities of the Office and the constituent Divisions, for the Financial Year 2023/24. Although the Office and it constituent Divisions continue to discharge their functions to the best of their abilities, a number of challenges continue to hinder performance in a few areas, such as lack of or no budget for necessary personnel and delays in the hiring process,. The Office and Divisions continue to look at strategies (administrative, financial and otherwise) to overcome these challenges.

Bernard J. Adiniwin
Attorney-General
Republic of the Marshall Islands

INTRODCUTION

This Annual Report is hereby submitted to the Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor and the Cabinet pursuant to the *Office of the Attorney General Act of 2002*. The Report highlights activities in the various areas of responsibility and as mandated under the aforementioned Act and other laws of the Republic. Moreover, the Report also references challenges and proposals to alleviate and/or to mitigate these challenges.

The work of the Office is organized into internal divisions established for the different aspects of the operations. The Divisions established consist of a Criminal Division, a Civil Division, Passports and Citizenship Division, IT Division, Budget and Administration Division, the Division of Immigration, and the Division of Labor.

OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE

The Office was established under Article VII, Section 6, of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Under Article VII, Section 3, the Attorney-General, advises on legal matters referred to him by the Cabinet, the President or a Minister, and is responsible for instituting, conducting or discontinuing any proceedings for an offense alleged to have been committed, and for seeing to it that the laws are faithfully executed. The Constitution provides that the Office shall carry out its mandate independently.

Additionally, the Office is vested with other functions pursuant to legislation. These Acts further provide to the Office duties and responsibilities specific to certain areas, and in some instances, far and beyond the administrative capacity of the Office. In the ensuing paragraphs, the Report provides an overview of each of the different aspect of the core functions of the Office.

Overview of the Legal Services

The Office is the principal legal office of the Government, tasked with the primary function of advising the President, the members of Cabinet, the line ministries, government agencies, local governments and statutory corporations on legal matters. This is a critical function in that the provision of legal advice is necessary to facilitate the smooth implementation of government policies, ensuring that such policies and their implementation by the relevant agencies are carried out within the ambit of the law and the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In this respect, the Office works closely together with the line Ministries, government agencies and statutory corporations to ensure that the work of government is carried out unhindered and, most importantly, the services to the Marshallese people flows smoothly.

The Office currently continues this important work with the Office of the President and Cabinet, along with the Ministries of—Finance, Banking and Postal Services; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Transport and Communications, and Information Technology; Health and Human Services; Natural Resources and Commerce; Works, Infrastructure and Utilities; Custom and Internal Affairs; Justice, Immigration and Labor; Education, Sports and Training. The Office also attends to the legal needs of other government agencies, agencies and the statutory entities such as the EPA, RMI Ports Authority, MIMRA, MIDB, MIR, MISSA, MAWC, and AMI. Furthermore, the Office provides legal assistance all local governments, through the Local Government Advisor Office at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Given the scope and the demands of these duties, it is of the utmost importance that the Office receives the necessary support, in terms of the infrastructure, personnel, finance, and other resources to enable the Office to discharge these functions in a satisfactory manner.

Finally, the Office is involved with every project team coming to the Marshall Islands that requires an amendment to legislation or opinion on existing legal arrangements. It is required to provide a legal opinion on all external grants. The demand by consultants, aid partners and foreign governments for zoom conferences and meeting has placed a significant burden on the time and resources of the Office.

Overview of the Duties of the Criminal Division

The Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands vests in the Attorney General, the responsibility for the processing, instituting and conducting criminal proceedings. To this end, a Criminal Division is established to carry out these tasks. The Division is headed by a Chief Prosecutor, and consists of other assistant attorney generals to prosecute misdemeanor and felony cases at the District Court and High Court. In addition to prosecutions on Majuro, the attorneys of the Criminal Division regularly travel on circuit to Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll, to attend to criminal cases on Ebeye. Crimes investigated, referred, pending and/or prosecuted in this reporting period and those pending from previous fiscal years are reported by the Criminal Division in "Annex A" below. Although the Division had recently hired 4 new Assistant Attorney-General right out of law school, the Division also lost 1 experienced prosecutor through resignation.

Overview of the Duties of the Civil Division

The Civil Division addresses all civil litigation initiated by the Government. The Division also defends civil litigations against the Governments. The Division assist the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General is providing legal advice to all Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Statutory Authorities, State-Owned Enterprises, and others.

Areas of Demand for Legal Support

The demand for legal services covers a wide spectrum of legal needs and covers legal services to:

a. the Office of the President and the Cabinet;
b. the 10-line Ministries;
c. 7 state owned enterprises;
d. international affairs;
e. corporations and filings;
f. legislative drafting;
g. firearms applications reviews;

h. civil litigation;
i. international grant negotiations;
j. UNCAC point of Contact and Reviews;
k. legal Support to Banking Sector Reforms and preparation for RMI's mutual evaluation by APG;
l. review of contracts;
m. review of international agreements;
n. treaties and conventions;
o. Government land lease;
p. passport issuance, passport program, passport renewal and general legal advice and daily legal queries; and
q. others.

The Division is staffed by the Chief of the Civil Division and two Assistant Attorney-Generals, one of which also serves the Registrar of Corporations. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General are also responsible for various items of work that fall under the purview of the Civil Division. Other tasks that fall under this Division include the review of Cabinet Papers, and the tasks assigned under the Government's Agenda 2023/2024 calendar.

The Division also sits on a committee tasked with review of all government land leases. The Division has been responsible for the drafting and review of a number of Bills and amendment Bills prior to introduction in the Nitijela.

Registrar of Corporations

The work of the Registrar of Domestic and Authorized Foreign Corporations also comes under the Civil Division. The work is currently assigned to an Assistant Attorney-General in the Division, by Cabinet appointment, serving as the Acting Registrar for Domestic Corporations under the Association Law. The Registrar's work over the course of the last fiscal years has brought about a more stringent oversight and therefore compliance by domestic entities, the timely filing of annual returns, modernization of the Business Corporation Regulations, closer interaction with stake-holder agencies, due diligence and background checks, and an up-to-date list of registered entities.

Since the year 2021, the Registrar as well as the Foreign Investment Business License unit also oversees *Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO)*, a new type of corporation. This has been passed through the recent amended *Non-Profit Entities (Amendment) Act 2021.* The Decentralized Autonomous Organization Act, 2022, deals with for-profit DAOs, and has been amended several months ago.

The Office is also recipient of international requests for legal assistance from countries abroad. Since December of last year, we were able to provide service to various countries in relation to both serving documents to and requesting information from the relevant agencies in the RMI. The total number of services done since then is 56.

Overview of the Duties of the Passports and Citizenship Division

The Division of Passports and Citizenship is responsible for the issuance / renewal of passports and the review of applications for citizenships. The Division is headed by a director and utilizes the deputy director and the administrative clerks in the Administration for support. The Division administers this process with support from the Passport Panel under the *Passport Act, 2022*. Release of a major audit of the Division between 2015 and 2017 continues to require addressing. Recently, the Division was able to obtain the budget to hire 2 Passport Officers to assist in processing application forms for and the issuance of passports, one each for Majuro and Ebeye. More will be needed in the coming years.

Overview of the Information Technology Division

The Division of IT is a newly established division and is responsible for providing, supervising and directing all services of IT in the Office of the Attorney General. In addition, when needed, technical assistance and advisory is extended to the Office of the Minister of Justice, Immigration and Labor, the Division of Immigration, and the Division of Labor. This Division is currently headed by the IT Director with the assistance of a Deputy Director, the latter of which was recently hired. Further improvements of this Division will continue to progress through the coming years. More detail on the work of this Division is included in “Annex B” of the Report.

Overview of the Division of Immigration

The Division of Immigration is an entity established by *Immigration Act 2006*, and is headed by a Director with the support of a Deputy Director, and a number of Immigration officers both in Majuro and Ebeye. The functions of the Division include: reviewing and processing of visa applications; carrying out immigration clearance procedures at approved airports and sea ports; enforcing shore pass procedures; carrying out routine inspections of premises; issuing citation notices pursuant to penalty provisions under the Act or regulations; processing removals of over-stayers and other illegal entries; liaising with the Attorney General's Office, Public Safety, Labor Division and other appropriate Government agencies for the effective implementation and enforcement of the Act and regulations; carrying out any other functions as necessary for the effective enforcement of the Act and regulations. The work achieved by the Division in the last 12 months is elaborated in the report by the Division, attached as "Annex C" below.

Overview of the Division of Labor

The Division of Labor is responsible for the effective implementation of the provisions of the *Labor (Non-Resident Workers) Act, 2018*, enacted to control and regulate the entry of foreign nationals into the domestic workforce, to prevent saturation of the work force with foreign labor at the expense of nationals of the RMI. The key functions of the Division of Labor are at the minimum, to process applications for work permits; review and provide recommendations on the issuance of work permits; perform investigatory functions as necessary for the effective enforcement of the Act and regulations; oversee, monitor and review the recruitment of non-resident workers and make recommendations to the Attorney-General as necessary; revocation of Work Permits in conjunction with the Director of Immigration; liaise with members of the Police, Immigration Division, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Finance and such other Government agencies for the effective implementation and enforcement of the Act and regulations. The Division was formerly placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, but recently transferred by Act to the Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Labor, specifically the Office of the Attorney-General, in early 2018. A detailed report on the work carried out by the Division, highlighting key challenges to the Division is annexed herewith below in "Annex D".

In addition to its statutory duties, the Division has been responsible for administration of the unemployment scheme under the US Cares Act called the PUA. The scheme has involved renting more office space and hiring additional temporary staff.

Challenges

As alluded to earlier, despite best effort to discharge the functions of the Office in an efficient manner, the Office continues to be confronted by a number of significant challenges, the most obvious of which is office space. The efficient delivery of legal services, cannot be properly undertaken without publicly accessible office, and with constituent divisions spread out in other locations. Furthermore, it is important that, as the principal legal office of the Government, the Office must have access to a secure work environment, secure internet connectivity and storage of all Government legal documents, data and information. These are critical challenges given that the office is responsible for the management and administration of RMI Passports.

The Divisions of Immigration and Labor continue to be housed in different locations, with the former re-locating to Rairok. This will increase the difficulty in improving the service delivery to applicants given that those who are issued with work permits will then need work visas to be issued by Immigration. Needless to say, the payment of any types of visa will need to be paid at the Ministry of Finance.

More challenges are identified in the Annexes below.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Office and its constituent divisions have again over the course of this reporting period, given their best to addressing the needs of Government and the public at large. Although a number of challenges had confronted the effective delivery of legal services and advice, these challenges represent a minute percentage of the work output by the Office and the Divisions. Notwithstanding, we recognize this as a challenge and look forward to working together with the Minister for Justice, Immigration and Labor, the Public Service and other agencies of Government,

to institute administrative, financial and personnel measures, to address these challenges. We again look forward to the support of the Cabinet in this endeavor.

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX A	CRIMINAL DIVISION
ANNEX B	DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ANNEX C	DIVISON OF IMMIGRATION
ANNEX D	DIVISON OF LABOR

ANNEX A
CRIMINAL DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

I. Introduction

1. Executive Summary

This Annual Report provide a comprehensive review of the prosecutorial activities conducted by the Criminal Division of the Attorney-General's Office for the fiscal year 2023-2024. It outlines case statistics, notable case outcomes, key challenges faced, collaborative efforts, and our plans to improve efficiency and accountability within the criminal justice system. This report reflects our commitment to upholding justice, maintaining public safety, and protecting the rights of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

2. Introduction and Mission

The Criminal Division is tasked with representing the Republic in criminal cases, ensuring justice is served, and upholding the rule of law. Our mission is to prosecute criminal cases fairly, efficiently, and with integrity while supporting crime prevention and community safety initiatives. Through effective prosecution and collaboration, we strive the enhance public trust in the legal system. Article VII, Section 3(3) of the Constitution vested with the Attorney General's Office makes the Attorney General responsible for instituting, conducting or discontinuing any proceeding for an offense alleged to have been committed and for ensuring that the laws of the Republic are faithfully executed. All the prosecutors within the Criminal Division by delegation exercise that authority on behalf of the Attorney General.

3. **Criminal Division Personnel**:

No.	***Title:***	***Name:***	***Current Employment Status***
1.	Assistant Attorney-General/Chief Prosecutor	Mr. Cutty Wase	Permanent
2.	Assistant Attorney-General	Mrs. General Yolanda Lodge-Ned	Resigned
3.	Assistant Attorney-General	Mrs. Abunaba Takabwebwe	Resigned
4.	Assistant Attorney-General	Mr. Joe J. Lomae	To be transferred
5.	Assistant Attorney-General	Ms. Cherlina Loeak	Permanent
6.	Assistant Attorney-General	Ms. Maniana Muller	Permanent
7.	Assistant Attorney-General	Ms. Marlene Mawilong	Probation
8.	Assistant Attorney-General	Ms. Mulan John	Probation
9.	Trial Assistant	Mr. Helber Nemna	Resigned
10.	Trial Assistant	Mr. Clary Makroro, Jr.	Par-time

4. **New Hires**.

This fiscal year the Attorney-General's Office hired 5 new prosecutors and a part-time trial assistant. Within the same period, 2 prosecutors resigned from their post and one will be transferring to the Nitijela to take up the Legislative Counsel position that has been vacant for years.

5. **Overview of Prosecutions**

Case Type by Court Level

This year, the Criminal Division of the Attorney-General's Office prosecuted cases across the three levels of the judiciary: the Supreme Court, the High Court, and the District Court. Each court handles cases based on its jurisdiction, with more severe or complex cases assigned to the higher courts. Below is a breakdown of the types of cases handled in each court:

a. Supreme Court: This court handles appeals and constitutional questions. The types of cases are appeals of High Court convictions, cases involving constitutional challenges, and other significant legal interpretations.

Caseload Statistics

Jurisdiction	Total Case Filed	Case Disposed of	Cases Reaffirmed	Pending cases
Supreme Court	3	3	3	0

b. High Court: This court handles serios felony cases and cases requiring jury trials, such as major financial crimes, violent crimes (e.g. murder, sexual assault), complex drug cases, and property crimes (e.g. burglary, criminal trespass and theft), cases involving high-value fraud.

Caseload Statistics

Jurisdiction	Total Case Filed	Case Disposed of	Conviction	Pending Cases
Majuro High Court	19	5	4	14

Ebeye High Court	4	4	4	0

c. District Court: This court handles misdemeanor cases, traffic offenses, and minor criminal cases. The types of cases are minor theft, property crimes, lower-level drug offenses, traffic related offenses.

Caseload Statistics

Jurisdiction	Total Case Filed	Case Disposed of	Conviction	Pending cases
Majuro District Court	254	235	Tbp	19
Ebeye District Court	21	17	Tbp	4

These statistics reflect our office's workload distribution and cases outcomes across different court levels, underscoring our commitment to prosecuting cases proportionately to the level of offense.

6. Collaborative Efforts

Throughout the year, the Attorney-General's Office partnered with other governmental bodies, international organizations, and community stakeholders to strengthen the justice system and improve outcomes. Key collaborations include:

a. FBI: Regular coordination with the FBI on more complex cases such translational crimes, Human Trafficking and drugs.

b. Police Departments and other reporting agencies: Regular coordination with law enforcement in investigations and evidence gathering, executions of search and seizure warrants.

c. International Partners: Partnerships with agencies such as the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) on professional developments especially relevant and needed trainings for prosecutors in the areas of cybercrimes, sexual and gender-based violence, corruption and money laundering.

7. Challenges and Solutions

a. The Office faced several challenges this year:

i. Resource Constraints: Limited personnel affected our ability to handle increasing caseloads.

ii. Case Backlog: Delays due to high volumes and lack of expat and career prosecutors for conflicting cases.

b. Solution and Actions Taken:

i. Hiring and Training: Ongoing efforts to recruit skilled and experienced prosecutors and provide staff with training.

ii. Case Prioritization: Streamlining case processing and prioritizing cases based on urgency and community impact.

8. Training and Professional Development

Recognizing the importance of professional development, our office conducted and participated in several training programs this year:

a. Workshop on Implementation of the Regional Guideline: Training in partnership with the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON), focusing on how to implement

the Regional Guideline designed to supports victims of sexual and gender-based violations in criminal cases.

b. Webinar on Evidentiary Standard & Money Laundering Prosecution Best Practice: Training in partnership with Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering focus on how to secure the evidence gathered in an investigation to pursue a successful Money Laundering-related prosecutions.

c. Drug Unit Commander Course: Training in partnership with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) designed for commanders responsible for supervising operational drug enforcement unit.

d. Workshop on Countering Trafficking in Persons. Training in partnership with the Asia Foundation, RMI Taskforce on Anti-Human Trafficking and US Army 351 Civil Affairs focus on countering trafficking in persons.

e. Trial Preparation and Courtroom Skills by Senior Prosecutors: Practice training sessions to enhance litigation skills and courtroom performance.

These programs ensure that our team remains skilled, informed, and prepared to meet the demands of their roles.

9. Goals for Next Fiscal Year

To build on the progress made this year, our goals for the upcoming fiscal year include:

a. Reducing Case Backlog: Expending case resolution by refining procedures and leveraging technology.

b. Enhancing Community Engagement: Increasing outreach efforts to better understanding community needs and promote crime prevention.

c. Expanding Training Programs: Introducing more specialized training sessions to cover emerging types of crimes, such as cybercrime.
d. Improving Victim Support: Establishing programs to provide greater assistance to crime victims during and after trial proceedings.

10. Acknowledgments

We extend our gratitude to Attorney-General Bernard J. Adiniwin and Deputy Attorney-General Johnathen Kawakami, the judiciary, law enforcement, defense counsel, community partners, and international organizations for their cooperation and support throughout the year. Our work would not be possible without these collaborative relationships.

11. Conclusion

This report reflects the dedicated efforts of our prosecutor and support staff in upholding justice and protecting the community. While challenges remain, we are committed to pursuing justice with transparency, diligence, and fairness.

Through continued collaboration and commitment to improvement, the Criminal Division of the Attorney-General's office looks forward to another year of serving the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

ANNEX B
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) DIVISION - ANNUAL REPORT 2024

I. Introduction

The IT Division is responsible for providing, supervising and directing all services of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Office of the Attorney General. In addition, when needed, technical assistance and advisory is extended to the Minister of Justice's Office, the Divisions of Immigration, and the Division of Labor. This division is currently headed by the IT Director and is supported by the IT Deputy Director, with the possibility of further expansions. Further improvements and implementations of this division will continue to progress through the coming years.

II. Key Responsibilities

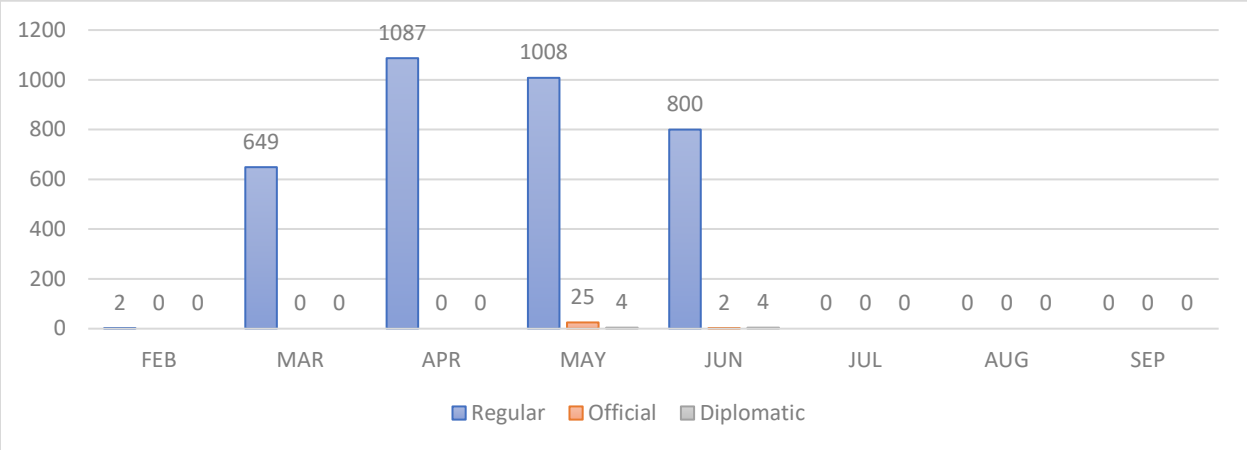
1. Design, Develop, Implement and Manage all aspects of the Office of Attorney General ICT operational needs;
2. Directs the Planning and Development of the Office of Website to include all Client/Customer Services and user Support for Staff;
3. Supervises and Directs activities of the Network and provides hands-on support as needed;

III. Completed Projects

1. RMI Passport Project: Phase 1 – Soft Launch on *February 23* and full deployment on *March 4*.

Outcomes

- New Passport Issuance System designed for the RMI.
- Dashboard that provides real time data that can be shared or audited.
- New Passport Printer with a Book Feeder for continuous prints.
- Spares equipment and parts are provided.
- Old system database migrated into the new system, including a Backup System in place.
- Automated backup system for the Passport Database.
- Multiple Enrollment Stations for fast processing.
- Multiple security elements on the passport bio page. Applies to all booklet types.
- Stock Management System to monitor and control the passport stock and inventory.
- Ticketing System to address and medicate any issues with the system or equipment.
- Certified Staff after training and on the Issuance System, Stock Management, Server & Database Management, Enrollment Station Deployment, and Passport Printer Management & Service Maintenance.
- Transitional Passport Issued since *February 23* until *September 30*:

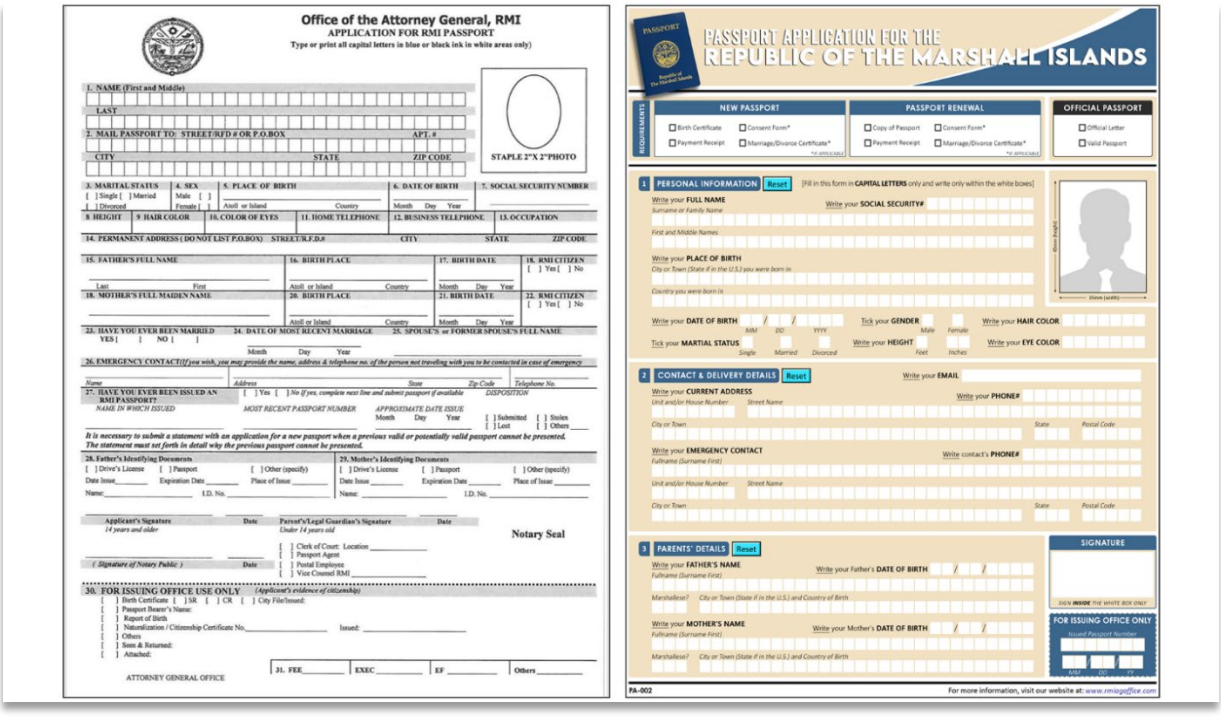


Regular Passport: 3546	**Official Passport**:27	**Diplomatic Passport**: 8

2. Redesigned and update the Passport Application.

Outcomes

- Modernize, simple and easy to understand.
- Encoded (Auto-Capitalization and reset feature), fillable form.
- Able to capture a clear signature for those unable to use the signature pads.
- Hyperlink encoded to the Office's website.



IV. Ongoing Projects

1. RMI Passport Project: Phase 2 – The Office has officially entered a contract with the same passport vendor to further upgrade the Passport System.

   ### Projected Outcomes

   - Marshall Islands becomes the 3rd Pacific Island country to issue ePassport.
   - New passport designs, multiple security elements and additional VISA pages.
   - Deployment of Automated Fingerprint Issuance System (AFIS).
   - Deployment of Enrollment Kits outside the RMI (Ebeye, Consulates & Embassies).

2. Further improvement and optimization of the Office network infrastructure.

   ### Outcomes

   - 24U Network Rack utilized to mount and organize all Network Hardware/Cabling.
   - Dashboards available to monitor the network activities.
   - Ease of access to monitor and control from a mobile phone.
   - Notifications sent in the event of network abnormality or intrusions.
   - Access Points upgraded. Wi-Fi 6 capability. Better, faster and seamless connectivity.
   - Security Cameras linked to the Network.
   - Power Distribution, Surge Protection and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) are interconnected with all hardware. Power can last up to 2-4 hours, depending on usage.

3. Office Servers
    - Servers were fully operational and served the purpose of being a file server, printer server, active directory, passport database and backup.
    - Servers went down on July 16 due to faults and are to be packed and shipped to its manufacturer for replacement (under warranty). In the meantime, another server is currently enroute to the Office to restore passport operations.
4. Replacement of Office devices at each workstation with newer models.
5. Transfer of old or damaged devices to either the Supply Office or other Offices under the Ministry that needs it, e.g., the Marshall Islands Police Department (MIPD).
6. Development of the Office Website is still ongoing. Delay of contents.
7. Design for the Business Cards are to be finalized and to be shared for review and approval. Once approved, each staff member will get 100 worth of high-quality business cards.
8. The Office received its Conference System and its currently awaiting to finalize its installation. Training will be provided on how to use afterwards.

V. New Projects

1. Installation of Network Attached Storage (NAS) that will be used as a File Server.
2. Installation of Network Video Recorded (NVR) that add more storage to security cameras.
3. Installation of a security lock system and access at the Passport Printing room.
4. Changing the Office network Internet Protocol (IP) ranges.
5. Develop IT Policies & Procedures.
6. Installation of Starlink. Equipment is currently enroute to the RMI.

VI. Collaborations

1. Office of the Attorney General / Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MPWIU)
    - **Project 1**: Design the floor plan for the Passport Printing Room, Storage Room, and Hallway into one single room to meet the pre-requisite provided by GET for the
      Status: Completed. (Link 01) (Link 02)
    - **Project 2**: Assess Office buildings to start planning out the network infrastructure. Office locations – The old K&K Movie Theatre and the Entertainment Center.
      Status: Completed. Although, the plans to move to these sites were canceled due to unsafe building structures.
    - **Project 3**: Create a ceiling accessway and install a new outlet for the network rack in the middle room.

Status: In progress – Preparing quotations for needed items to complete task.

2. Office of the Attorney General / Marshalls Energy Company (MEC)
    - **Project 1**: Installation of a backup generator for the entire Office floor. MPWIU will also be involved at a later stage.
      Status: In progress – Awaiting generator assessment from MEC.

3. Office of the Attorney General / Division of Immigration
    - **Project 1**: Installation of a Unifi Network Controller that provides real-time traffic dashboards, visual topology maps, video and optimization tips. This will also include the installation of a camera systems. Further expansion will depend on the outcome of the project.
      Status: In progress – Equipment sets are currently enroute to the RMI.
    - **Project 2**: Deployment of Body Cameras. This will include training and development of a policy and implementing it. Further expansion will depend on the outcome of the project.
      Status: In progress – Body cameras and straps are currently enroute to the RMI.
    - **Project 3**: Replacement of old devices at each workstation with newer models.
      Status: Ongoing. 10 devices replaced so far.

4. Office of the Attorney General / Interpol
    - **Project 1**: Updating the **EdisonTD** database – Country: Marshall Islands.
      Status: Completed – Browse the website at: (Link)

      Instructions: Enter the site, and press the "OK" button to enter the "Country" selection page. Select the letter "M" from the category and look for "Marshall Islands." The first type of passport displayed is the recent update.
    - **Project 2**: Update the Database once the ePassport Booklet has been deployed.
      Status: Pending – Awaiting the specimens for the new RMI ePassport Booklets.

5. Office of the Attorney General / National Telecommunications Authority
    - **Project 1**: Restore the Secure Document Issuance System (SDIS) on a temporary server provided by NTA. Temporary Server will be returned once the Office receives the new server, including the completion of data migration.
      Status: Completed – GET Tech Support was able to restore the system on *September 29*.
    - **Project 2**: Installation of Internet Protocol (IP) Phones
      Status: Pending – The Office is on the waiting list. A total of 17 phones (possibly more) will replace the current Private Branch Exchange (PBX) phone system.

- **Project 3**: Install a server or NAS at NTA for backup purposes, e.g., passport database, file server, etc.
  Status: Pending – Awaiting replacement server.

6. Office of the Attorney General / Accenture / RMI Digital Unit
   - **Project 1**: Possibility of deploying Microsoft 365, plus other applications and services.
     Status: Pending
   - **Project 2**: Modernize Government Processes and Technology. Increasing collaborations and sharing between departments.
     Status: Pending
   - **Project 3**: Government Services available Online. E.g., possibility of applying and paying for Passport online.
     Status: Pending

VII. Duty Travel

1. Fiji (Nadi) – Pacific Cyber Capacity Building and Coordination Conference (P4C)

Summary

The P4C aims to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity between Pacific partners and establish a collaborative, best-practice approach to future CCB efforts. It will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders in the region to meet and discuss what is working, what is not and why, while planning concrete actions that work for the Pacific context to sustainably strengthen capacity for the future.

Outcomes

- Workshop Report: (Link)
- Panelist member. Exposing the RMI by sharing its Cyber Journey.
- Established network and partnership among other Pacific Island countries.
- Joint collaboration with Fiji in establishing a Regional Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Cooperation Group.
- Invitation to become a member of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE).
- Invitation to the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building (GC3B).

2. Kwajalein (Ebeye) – Site Visit

Objective

To assess the Division of Immigration's branch office and their passport operations. Provide technical support if required.

Outcome

- Identified areas of the Passport Service that has issues and in need of improvement.
- Identified tools/equipment for operational needs.
- Provided urgently needed technical support (repair and upgrade workstations) across 5 different offices.
- Provided training and recommendations to staffs on site.

3. Fiji (Nadi) – International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) Meeting and Seminar

Summary

Representing the RMI as an ICAO Member State, the Office was invited to join the meeting and seminar as a key representative of the Government of the Marshall Islands, to find out information on the latest developments and discuss current issues related to Traveler Identification as it relates to foundational identity.

Outcome

- Workshop Report: (Link)
- Access to information that is not available online in regards to passport issuance, new securities, and fraudulent passports & methods.
- Sharing of information with other Pacific Island countries.
- Received Polycarbonate Passport and ID Specimens with latest security elements and technology.
- Established network and partnership among other Pacific Island countries.
- Plan for Joint Collaboration with Papua New Guinea to share ePassport Issuance journey and tips to other developing Pacific Island counties.
- Invitation to annual ICBWG events.

VIII. Challenges

1. Constant unexpected Power Outages.

Outcome

- Loss of 3 Servers (faulty – same component for all)
    - SDIS offline for more than
    - Loss of Passport Database
        - (Note: Offsite Backup available)
    - Loss of Passport Database backup
    - Loss of Shared Files & Active Directory

PERSONNEL

The Division consists of a 13-member team on Majuro & Ebeye. The division's main headquarters on Majuro consist of the Director, the Deputy Director, IT technician and eight (8) Officers. The Ebeye field office comprises of the Assistant Deputy Director and two (2) Officers on staff. Other than the described functions mentioned above, Ebeye Immigration has an additional function such as the processing of passport applications. There is a vacant post for an IT Administrator that has not been filled since FY23.

Name	Current Title	Date of Hire	Last Salary Increase
BALOS, Mercyba	Director	April 18, 2016	May 2021
KRAMER, Amber	Deputy Director	Sept. 12, 2022	March 26, 2024
Vacant	Information Technology Officer		
KABUA, Roderick	Controller III	Feb 15, 2021	Mar 26, 2024 (Increment)
PAUL, Danny	Controller III	Dec 14, 2015	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
ZEDKEIA, Helon	Controller II	Jan 13, 2003	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
BOTLA, Abner	Controller II	Oct 12, 2008	Mar 26, 2024 (Increment)
NOTE, Michael	Controller II	Apr 19, 2017	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
LANGINBELIK, Henrick	Controller I	May 22, 2019	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
HAISA, Hiram	Controller I	May 22, 2019	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
NIMOTO, Junson	Controller I	May 22, 2019	Mar 26, 2024 (Salary Adjustment)
LOJKAR, Gabriel	Asst. Deputy Director	Oct 05, 1999	Aug 28, 2020 (Increment)
PAUL, Julian	Controller I	Jun 03, 2019	March 26, 2024 (Increment)
BULLES, Haritha	Controller I	Aug 12, 2024	N/A

Day-To-Day TASKS

The following are the Divisions day-to-day tasks that are carried out by the current Immigration staff. Each of the three (3) areas labeled below are rotated amongst three teams of three (3) on a weekly basis. An Information Technology Officer (IT) is needed and will have primary functions; however, will be trained to carry out the roles and responsibilities of an Officer and will always be on standby status to assist in any of the areas below.

Office Operation (3 Officers on Duty)

- Visa applications: receive, review and prepare for Director's approval
- Alien Registrations: receive, review and prepare for Director's approval
- Processing of entry authorizations
- Processing of Bond Refunds
- Processing Visa Revocations
- Filing and record maintenance
- Daily correspondents domestic and international and general office administration

Border Control: Airport (3 Officers on Duty)

- Entry and Departure inspections of travelers and aircrafts, including after normal working hours and weekends and public holidays
- Identify over-stayers and report to Director for issuance of Removal/Deportation orders
- Data processing through the Border Management System (MIDAS) recording and monitoring travelers' movements in and out RMI

Border Control: Seaport (3 Officers on Duty)

- Processing via the MIDAS entry and departure of travelers (officers, crew and passengers) and vessels;
- Issuance of shore pass and monitor strict enforcement of the Curfew hours (12am-6am)
- Ensure the 24-hour notice of vessel arrival is being complied with
- Issuance of infringement notice to non-compliant vessel company, vessel agent or traveler

REVENUE:

All fees prescribed and collected under the Act must and are paid directly to the Ministry of Finance and deposited into the Ministry of Justice Special Revenue Fund in accordance with *43 MIRC Chapter 1, Section 195*. Such fees as prescribed in the Immigration Regulations 2009. Schedule 1 includes, visa application fees, annual registrations, fines/penalties for non-compliance and administrative fees for immigration background clearance and security bond.

(Table 1)

Payment Category	**Account**	**FY24**	**FY23**	**FY22**	**FY21**	**FY20**
Application Fees (Visa & Annual Reg.) Fines, Penalties, Other Fees/Charges	**806215/ 806220/ 806225/ 806350**	$430,289.00	$374,824.00	$319,225.88	$252,830.00	$190,040.00
Non-Resident Security Bond	**850030**	$172,300.00	$166,000.00	$34,500.00	$38,000.00	$41,500.00

BORDER STATISTICS

One of the many functions of the Division is carrying out immigration clearance procedures at an approved port of entry (*43 MIRC Ch. 1, Sec 106*). This function requires the physical inspections of a craft or vessel and its' passengers including its' crew.

Year to date in FY24 ***(9.16.24***), the Division processed a total of travelers **45,596** including RMI citizens entering and exiting the Republic at ALL authorized ports of entry.

AIRPORT MOVEMENTS

The number of RMI Citizens exiting and entering the Republic year to date in FY2024 with a total of **20,855** out of the **45,596** total travelers. A total of **11,292** RMI citizens departed within the FY24.

AIRPORT REFUSAL

(Table 2)

NATIONAL	SURNAME	SEX	AGE	REASON
China	YU	M	32	Travelled with Forged entry document
Kiribati	TEKINENE	M	51	In-Admissible Traveler – prior Violation (Overstay E1 Visa)
Kiribati	ROBATI	M	63	In-Admissible Traveler – prior Violation
Solomon Islands	SIKE	F	27	No Valid Visa
Sri Lanka		M	58	NO Valid Visa

TOP 10 NATIONALITIES BY AIR INBOUND/OUTBOUND

(Table 3)

NATIONALITY	TOTAL	ARRIVED	DEPARTED
USA	9610	4811	4799
Philippines	1638	798	840
Federal States of Micronesia (FSM)	2650	1353	1297
Kiribati	1365	683	682
Fiji	917	490	427
Australia	793	391	402
China	719	357	362
Taiwan, ROC	669	352	317
Indonesia	481	259	222
New Zealand	467	203	264

No. of AIRCRAFT

(Table 4)

Commercial	Military	Special Flights (Charters, Private, Medivacs, Fuel Stopovers)	Total Aircrafts
Asia Pacific Airlines - 146 United Airlines – 395 Air Nauru - 103	135	Special Flights- 341	**1120**

SEAPORT MOVEMENTS

The RMI, specifically Majuro Port, known as one of the busiest transshipment ports, has shown an increase from the last reporting period after the lift of Cov-19 restrictions. The number of vessels are mainly purse seine trawlers, long line trawlers and reefer carriers or also known as "mother ships" a total of **358** fishing vessels. A total of **106** other sea vessels that were processed- freighter, tanker and yacht with **18,286** total crew and passengers processed and documented all together.

TOP 10 NATIONALITIES VIA SEAPORT

(Table 5)

NATIONALITY	TOTAL	ARRIVED	DEPARTED
Philippines	5096	2948	2148
Indonesia	4737	2608	2129
Federal States of Micronesia	230	121	109
Kiribati	320	164	156

China	2446	1357	1089
Vietnam	2410	1259	1151
Marshall Islands	235	130	105
Taiwan, ROC	909	487	422
Myanmar	496	272	224
Japan	200	178	22

REGISTERED FOREIGN RESIDENTS FY24

Every foreign person who intends to enter the Republic for work, investment or study is required to hold a valid visa. If such person is issued a valid visa and intends to remain in the Republic for a period of more than six (6) consecutive months is required to register as a foreign resident each calendar year. This includes spouses and dependents under the age of 18 if applicable.

Pursuant to *43 MIRC Ch. 1, Section 130 and 140*, the Director of Immigration has the authority to issue the following visas:

- Diplomatic visas (D-1) shall be valid for a period of up to two (2) years with multiple entries;

- Business visas (B-1) shall be valid for a period of up to two (2) years with multiple entries. Business visas shall be issued to a person who has a Foreign Investment Business license (FIBL) and a work permit.

- Work visas (E-I) shall be valid for a period of up to two (2) years, or a lesser period which corresponds to the length of the work permit for multiple entries. Before the issuance of a Work visa a person must possess a valid work permit.

- Student visas (S-I) shall be valid for a period of up to twelve (12) months with multiple entries. A person applying for such visa must obtain a visa before coming into the Republic. Before the issuance of such visa the Director of Immigration must be satisfied that person has been accepted to an academic institution. Student visa shall only be issued to a person intending to attend college level. The holder shall not be allowed to seek or to be engaged in any employment and business activities in the Republic,

- General visa (G-l) shall be valid for a period of up to two (2) years with multiple entries. The holder is prohibited to engage in any business activities in the Republic. Persons who are eligible for a General Visa:
    - *legal spouse; (ii) dependent child.*

- Dependent Adult Visa (DA - 1) shall be valid for up to two (2) years with multiple entries. The holder is prohibited to seek or to be engaged in any employment or business activities in the Republic.

- Temporary work visa (TE-l) shall be valid for a period of up to six (6) months with multiple entries

Resident Visa (R-1) shall be valid for a period of up to five (5) years for a person who is the holder of a Certificate of Actual Residence that issued prior to or following commencement of the Actor is a naturalized or registered citizen of the Republic but does not hold an RMI passport; or is an honorary citizen of the Republic but does not hold an RMI passport.

(Table 6)

NATIONALITY	B1	C1	D1	DA1	E1	G1	S1	TE1	R1	EX	TOTAL
Australia (AUS)			3		8	3				6	***20***
Austria (AU)	1	1									***2***
Azerbaijan (AZE)						1					***1***
(BGO)										1	***1***
Brazil (BRA)					1						***1***
Canada (CAN)					3	5		1		1	***10***
China (CHN)	15			9	189	63	3	1			***281***
Denmark (DNK)					2						***2***
Germany (DEU)					1	2				3	***6***
Ethiopia (ETH)										1	***1***
Fiji (FJI)				4	71	40	3			83	***201***
Finland (FIN)					2						***2***
Great Britain (GBR)		2			2	3		2		1	***10***

Indonesia (IDN)		1			8	2		6			***16***
India (IND)	1				10			1		6	***18***
Italy (ITA)				1	1					3	***5***
Irag (IRQ)										1	***1***
Jamaica (JAM)					1						***1***
Japan (JPN)	1		1	1	12	11				28	***54***
Kenya (KEN)					2			1			***3***
Kiribati (KIR)				4	51	34	1			24	***114***
Korea (KOR)	4			2	3	4		2			***15***
Malaysia (MYS)					1	2					***3***
Malawi (MWI)					3	5					***8***
Nepal (NPL)					2					8	***10***
New Zealand (NZL)		1			1	11			1	4	***18***
Nigeria (NGA)					7					7	***14***
Norway (NOR)										1	***1***
Pakistan (PAK)					4						***4***
Panama (PAN					1						***1***
Philippines (PHL)	5		1	13	903	59	2	9		115	***1107***
Papua New Guinea (PNG)					5	3				11	***19***
Sri Lanka (LKA)					2					1	***3***
Solomon Islands (SLB)				1	8	8	2			27	***46***

Spain (ESP								1			***1***
Thailand (THA)	2				26			1			***29***
Tonga (TON)					5	9				5	***19***
Trinidad and Tobago (TTO)					1						***1***
Tuvalu (TUV)				3	9	6				17	***35***
Turkey (TUR)					5						***5***
Taiwan (TWN)			12		8					17	***37***
Uganda (UGA)											***0***
Uzbekistan (UZB)										1	***1***
Vanuatu (VUT)					3			1			***4***
Vietnam (VNM)					1						***1***
South Africa (ZAF)					8	6					***14***
Zimbabwe (ZWE)					2						***2***
TOTAL	**29**	**5**	**17**	**38**	**1372**	**277**	**11**	**26**	**1**	**372**	**2148**

Note: highlighted have most count registered foreign resident

IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATIONS

Non-compliance investigations and enforcement did not happen as regularly as expected due to lack of manpower and limited resources. Site visits and raid plans have since been delayed however with the hope of increased manpower and a dedicated Compliance Unit, such operations will be conducted regularly. Even so with all the constraints and challenges, the Division had still managed to enforce its regulations on non-compliance offenders and those responsible by serving Infringements and Removal Orders.

IMMIGRATION REMOVALS

A total number of Removal Orders were issued upon individual who have violated their Visa Conditions, have overstayed or have been convicted of crimes committed in the RMI.

(Table 7)

Case Ref	Name of Offender	Nat'l	Sex	Known Company/Sponsor	Violation/ Offence	Case Status
572/04-24	DE RAMOS, Gina R.	PHL	F	Triple J/Ebeye	No valid visa	close/departed RMI
573/04-24	AYSO, Nolie L.	PHL	M	Ebeye Kwaj.	No valid visa	close/departed RMI
574/04-24	DALIVA, Victor Jr.	PHL	M	MIR/Ebeye	No valid visa	Pending (Potential TIP Victim)
574A/04-24	MURRAY, Jack	PNG	M	HD Intl Inc.	No valid visa	Pending
858/05-24	ASTELERO, Ma Roema Reyes	PHL	F	KBE	No Valid Work Permit & No Valid Visa	Settled/Paid Penalty Fine #24389
586/05-24	PELLERIN, Mary chelyn Floren	PHL	F	Huayan store	No valid visa	Pending
588/05-24	HU, Xiaodong	CHN	M	Delap Auto Service	no valid visa	Pending
587/05-24	GARCIA, Charlito Encio	PHL	M	ELM Motor	Failed to renew visa	Case closed/Have visa
582/05-24	HANSEN,Sosefo Okusitino	TON	M		Overstayed his visitor visa/fail to exit	Pending
579/05-24	AROITO, Tematoa	KIR	M		Overstayed his visitor visa/failed to exit	Pending
582/05-24	BAACK, Michael	AUS	M	BAACK,Rachel (IOM)	No valid visa	Pending
578/05-24	BWAMON, Tiroko	KIR	M		Overstayed his visitor	Pending

					visa/failed to exit	
576/05-24	TIBWE, taboanna	KIR	F		Overstayed her visitor visa/fail to exit	Pending
587/06-24	BUCLASAN,Darwen Pangayo	PHL	M	Huayan store	No valid visa	Pending
586/06-24	BAUTISTA,Jhoanne Marie	PHL	F	Taste of Asia	Contract terminated/ failed to exit	Voluntarily exit. Case closed
591/07-24	ZHANG,Yumin	CHN	F	You You Apt./Delap	No valid visa	Pending (Investigation)
592/07-24	WU, Aizhu	CHN	F	Z Brother	No Valid visa	Pending (Investigation)
590/07-24	QIU, Xin Bin	CHN	M	Z brother	No valid visa	Pending (Investigation)
593/08-24	RABOSA,Marites Destriza	PHL	F	Taste of Asia	Contract Terminated. Remained without valid visa	(Potential TIP Victim)
596/09-24	DOLMER, Stephen	CAN	M	SV Leviathan	Overstayed his visitor's visa	Pending court
594/09-24	ALMARIO,Gilbert Rivera	PHL	M	General Asia Pacific Construction	Contract Terminated. Remained without valid visa	
595/09-24	VULAI, Losana	FJI	F	Ebeye calvary School	Contract Terminated. Remained without valid visa	Voluntarily exited - Canceled removal order
559/10-23	BERENATI, Tion	KIR	M		Overstayed his visitor	Pending

					visa/failed to exit	
554/10-23	TANEKA, Mbwe	KIR	M		Overstayed his visitor visa/fail to exit	Pending
545/10-23	TANETTOA, Temoaniti	KIR	M		Overstayed his visitor visa/fail to exit	Pending

OVERSTAYER (List of Over stayers FY24)

Immigration Regulations 2009 Part VIII sect. (1) "The following acts shall constitute a violation under these Regulations:" (i) "remaining in the Republic after the expiry of Visa or Permit;"

The list below contains persons entered at our approved ports for the purpose of visiting, transiting and or returning foreign residents. The list excludes names for privacy purpose but shows what nationality, gender and visa type an individual had overstayed.

(Table 8)

NATIONALITY	MALE	FEMALE	VISA TYPE	TOTAL
Afghanistan	**1**			**1**
Andorra	**1**			**1**
Argentina	**1**	**1**		**2**
Australia	**45**	**16**		**61**
Austria	**3**	**3**		**6**
Azerbaijan		**1**		**1**
Bangladesh	**2**			**2**
Barbados	**1**			**1**

Belgium	**3**			**3**
Bhutan		**1**		**1**
Bosnia and Herzegovina		**2**		**2**
Bulgaria	**6**			
Cameroon	**2**			**2**
Canada	**16**	**3**		**19**
China	**418**	**68**		**486**
Colombia	**2**			**2**
Costa Rica	**5**			**5**
Croatia	**12**			**12**
Czech Republic	**3**			**3**
Denmark	**3**			**3**
Dominican Republic	**2**			**2**
Ecuador	**6**			**6**
Egypt	**1**			**1**
Fiji	**111**	**79**		**190**
Finland	**3**			**3**
France	**7**			**7**
Germany	**25**	**24**		**49**
Ghana	**6**			**6**

Greece	**1**			**1**
Honduras	**2**			**2**
Hungary	**2**			**2**
India	**37**	**5**		**42**
Indonesia	**527**	**6**		**533**
Israel	**1**			**1**
Italy	**3**	**1**		**4**
Jamaica		**2**		**2**
Japan	**162**	**61**		**223**
Kiribati	**146**	**74**		**220**
Kuwait		**1**		**1**
Kyrgyzstan	**1**			**1**
Kuwait	**1**			**1**
Latvia	**3**			**3**
Liberia	**1**			**1**
Lithuania		**1**		**1**
Malawi	**4**	**1**		**5**
Malaysia	**4**	**1**		**5**
Maldives	**1**			**1**
Mexico	**3**	**1**		**4**

Montenegro	**2**			**2**
Myanmar	**109**	**2**		**111**
Nauru	**7**	**5**		**12**
Nepal	**4**	**1**		**12**
Netherlands	**1**	**2**		**3**
New Zealand	**17**	**13**		**30**
Nigeria	**5**	**4**		**9**
Pakistan	**4**	**2**		**6**
Pakistan	**5**			**1**
Panama	**2**			**2**
Panama	**18**	**13**		**31**
Paraguay	**2**			**2**
Philippines	**826**	**200**		**1026**
Poland	**12**	**3**		**15**
Portugal	**1**			**1**
Korea	**52**	**5**		**57**
Romania	**4**	**1**		**5**
Russia	**15**			**15**
Samoa	**1**	**4**		**5**
Saudi Arabia	**4**			**4**

Senegal	**7**			**7**
Singapore	**5**			**5**
Solomon	**25**	**11**		**36**
South Africa	**7**	**8**		**15**
Spain	**19**	**1**		**20**
Sri Lanka	**20**			**20**
Sweden	**8**	**3**		**11**
Switzerland	**4**	**1**		**5**
Taiwan	**52**	**13**		**65**
Tanzania	**1**			**1**
Thailand	**14**	**2**		**16**
Tonga	**5**	**9**		**14**
Trinidad and Tobago	**1**			**1**
Tuvalu	**10**	**14**		**24**
Uganda		**1**		**1**
Ukraine		**2**		**2**
United Kingdom	**26**	**10**		**36**
Vanuatu	**2**	**1**		**3**
Venezuela	**4**			
Vietnam	**101**	**3**		**104**

Zimbabwe	**2**	**1**		**3**
TOTAL	**3056**	**690**		**3,746**

DEPORTEE (RMI CITIZEN): 57

The Division received a total of RMI returnees from the United States being deported for crimes committed involving in serious and petty crimes.

(Table 9)

MONTH	SURNAME	FIRST NAME(S)	GENDER	OFFENSE
OCT	BETWELL	RB	M	Manslaughter shows a propensity towards violence
	ANJURON	Carvie	M	
NOV	JOKLUR	Sammy J.I	M	Convicted of Sexual Assault
	LOEAK	Arijet	M	
DEC	ELMI	Mear	M	Domestic Violence; Abuse in the presence of a child
	SORIMLE	Helena B.	F	Amphetamine, synthetic narcotic – sell, receive stolen property x2, fraud – illegal use
JAN	ELIKO	Yoshiro	M	
	YEN	Cary	M	Money laundering – remarks, conspiracy (Use when no underlying office USC Sec 371)
	EDWIN	Erjin	M	Assault charge, disorderly conduct
	ROGER	Rana	F	Failure to appear x3, amphetamine possession x2; narcotic equip - possession
FEB	BOSIN	Mal	M	Lascivious acts with a child
	JOASH	NICHOLAS	M	*Assault, resisting arrest, obstruct police; eta 2/8/24*
	LEJOHN	Hal	M	Child neglect, DV, escape from custody
	SAMUEL	Isaac	M	
	LUTHER	Arommon	M	Forced entry, flight escape
MAR	ALEX	Marvin	M	
	TANI	Jackton	M	Failure, sex assault

	LAIJO	Conald	M	Failure to appear, stolen property; eta 3/21/24
	LUTHER	Beed	M	Known management problem/defiant and belligerent to ICE Ofcrs
	TEOREA	Junior	M	Burgulary/battery; POB Kiribati
APR	JOHN	Beijok	M	
	LAJUON	Tashi	M	
	JAMES	Arthur	M	
	RIKLON	Dwight M.	M	DV, threats to staff
	JIBAUR	Stephen	M	Burglary; Absconder
MAY	KUNIO	Jibbwe	M	Domestic battery, determined to be violent
	MAKRORO	Lobby	M	Aggravated assault, resisting Ofcr
	JIBKE	Joseph	M	Failure to appear, drug trafficking
	WINSON	Mikeo	M	Burglary/Assault
	JIBAS	Jimmy	M	Battery and public order crimes
	JACKLICK	Zackios	M	Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon
	SIMEON	Recemond	M	Larceny
	BINEJAL	Joab	M	Marijuana possession, shoplifting, and failure to appear
JUNE	DANNY	Maxine		
	JOHNSON	Anderson	M	
	RANNY	Jokon	M	
	MEJBON	Rubon	M	Trespassing, contempt of court, burglary and dangerous drugs
	MOHANG	Lester R.	M	Narcotic equip-possession, larceny from building, licensing violagtion, larceny, flight-escape, obstruction police, contempt of court, public order crimes
JUL	ANDY	Andy	M	Domestic assault and battery with dangerous weapon
	DANIEL	Ricky	M	History of violence/battery
	ELCAR	Atra	M	Aggravated assault/obstruct police
AUG	LAFITA	Lewis	M	Assault, burglary and battery
	KIRA	Patrick	M	Domestic violence and determined to be violent
	TIMOTHY	Allen	M	Criminal sexual conduct and aggravated assault
	KONOU	Carlson	M	
	ANNI	Russel	M	

	ENOCH	Richey	M	Assault
	MAUDRIK	Mariano	M	Battery
	BUNGITAK	Hernet	M	Sex offense and violent
	JOEL	Willy	M	
	JOMI	Jonathan	M	Robbery
	LORAK	Paulson	M	Larceny x2
	BANKE	Resmond	M	Assault and terroristic threats; eta 9/12/24
	BOLKEIM	Randy	M	DV x2
SEPT	BETWEL	Jilly	M	Assault and aiding prisoner escape
	LAMI	Biti	M	Failure to appear xr4, forgery x2, fraud-insufficient funds check x2, probation violation
	LOVE	Matauto	M	Aggravated kidnapping and assault

CAPACITY BUILDING and DEVELOPMENT

Trainings and Workshops

1. Fundamentals of Human Resources in Oct 2023flight and accommodation.
2. Gender Empowerment in Oct 2023
3. Coconut Rhino Beetle Inspection Training on Cargo in Oct 2023
4. Oil Spills by EPA on Oct 27, 2023
5. National Employment Policy Workshop by RMI on December 10, 2023
6. Vehicle Policy by RMI on December 8, 2023
7. Leadership Training for HODs by Glenn Furuya in Jan 2024
8. CTIP Training for Prosecutors & Law Enforcement by the US Department of the Army in Jan 2024
9. States Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool Workshop by MOHHS on Feb 7, 2024
10. Maritime Domain Awareness by the US Coast Guard in May 2024
11. Search And Rescue (SAR) Training by the Japan Coast Guard in Jan 2024
12. In-Country Consultation on Pacific Islands Forum Regional Workshop in March 2024
13. Board Vessel Search and Seizure training by the UNODC in April 2024
14. RMI's National Action Plan to Combating Anti- Human Trafficking Workshop in April 2024

15. Intelligence Analysis Workshop in April 2024
16. Project for enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region Training by the Japan Coast Guard in May 2024
17. Border Security & Processing techniques Training by the US CIA in May 2024
18. Pacific Immigration Development Community 26th Regular Annual Meeting in June 2024
19. Maritime Crimes Investigation Training by UNODC in June 2024
20. Actively participating in an IT apprenticeship program course by CMI
21. Workshop on International Civil Aviation Org (ICAO) passport standards & requirements in Fiji
22. Human Rights Reporting and Implementation with Impact OSS (RMI Government-Pacific Community)
23. Implementation of the Marshall Islands Pledges for Human Rights (RMI Government- United Nations)
24. Narcotics Investigations Course by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in August 2024
25. DigitalRMI on August 12, 2024
26. Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy/ Policy Consultation by OCIT in August 2024
27. Human Rights & International Humanitarian Law by the U.S. Defense Institute of

CONCLUSION

Clearly, the importance of the role of the Division of Immigration in facilitating the business of government cannot be over-emphasized. The responsibility to ensure that the work of government is carried out in accordance with the law, the responsibility to ensure that the immigration laws are adhered to, the responsibility to ensure that the requirements are met and in compliance with the proper issuance of RMI visas, the responsibility in carrying out the procedures for the removal of persons who are in the Republic unlawfully and thereby securing the borders of the Republic. By the same token, the Division can only be effective in the discharge of these duties, if it has at its disposal the necessary tools. At the present time, there are obvious constraints, financial and otherwise. It is the hope of the Division that this brief presentation can provide an insight into the work of the Division, and an understanding of the issues confronting the Division as we strive to facilitate the important work of government. If no positive or supportive action is taken, these issues will remain to undermine the performance of the Division of Immigration consequently creating a larger vulnerability to the security of the Republic. We look forward to your support.

ANNEX D

DIVISION OF LABOR ANNUAL REPORT 2023

1. Introduction

Implicit in the Labor (Non Resident) Workers Act is that the administration of the Labor (Non-Resident) Act is the responsibility of the Labor Division. This is echoed in Labor (Non-Resident) Workers Act, which amends the "previous law relating to the employment of non-resident workers in the RMI, in particular to streamline the procedures for obtaining work permits, stipulate criteria for the issuance, renewal and transfer of work permits, and to ensure the efficient administration and enforcement of the Act".

That there is hereby established, within the Ministry of Justice, a Division to be known as the Labor Division. The Division is comprised of: a Director; Deputy Director; Labor officers. Officers and the Deputy Director are accountable to the Director. The Director shall be accountable to the Attorney General on all Labor matters as maybe be required in pursuant with Labor (Non-Resident Workers) Act, 2018.

2. Labor Fund Collection

From **October 1, 2023** to **September 1, 2024**, the Labor Division had processed **1,002** applications and issued work permits to workers from both the private and public sectors (this number collected is from Majuro only). Furthermore, for Fiscal Year 2024, the Labor Division collected a total of **$ 276,405.00.** This total is the sum of all application fees only collected under the Act for FY24.

Table 1. By Nationality

COUNTRY	# OF EMPLOYEE
AUSTRALIA	3
CANADA	1
CHINA	116
DENMARK	2
SPAIN	1
FINLAND	1
FIJI	31
GBR	2
GEO	1
INDONESIA	7
INDIA	18
ITALY	1
JAPAN	8
KENYA	3
KOREA	2
KIRIBATI	35
SRI LANKA	1
MALAWI	2
MALAYSIA	1
NIGERIA	3
NEPAL	2
NEW ZEALAND	2
PAKISTAN	2
PANAMA	1
PHILIPPINE	711
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	2
PARAGUAY	1
SOLOMON ISLANDS	5
THAILAND	22
TONGA	1
TURKEY	4
TUVALU	2
VANUATU	4
SOUTH AFRICA	4
TOTAL	**1,002**

3. **Active Work Permit for FY 24**				
Year	**Male**	**Female**	**Permit Type**	**Total**
FY 24	825	177	General; Extension; FIBL; FP; TP;	1,002

4. On-going Activities

As a member of the Joint Labor Relations Board (JLRB), Labor continues to consult with USAKA on verifying that all current third country contractor personnel are incompliance with the foregoing provisions including valid visas and health certificates and immunizations as may be appropriate. Given the relationship between requirements for workers visas, and nonresident worker permits under the Labor (Non-Residents) Workers Act, as amended, the Labor Division at Ministry of JIL, and the Office of the Attorney General should coordinate and clarify their procedures. The Division and the Government should request a listing of times when third country contractor personnel have been hired and when the US Government has notified the RMI Government of its intention to hire these workers for better monitoring of third country nationals, foreign workers.

Labor Minimum Conditions Act. Comments from ILO to this draft legislation has already been given to the Office of the Attorney General for review and hope to be introduced in the next upcoming Nitijela session in January of 2025.

Labor Strategic Plan already been submitted for final review with Dr. Theresa and the Office of the Chief Secretary.

The OSH Act was passed in December of last year. We have entered into contract with Marsol Firm to draft and develop our OSH Regulations.

5. Emerging Demands

The virtual absence of employment protection legislation for its resident workers is identified as an important void that has to be addressed urgently. RMI's labor legislation primarily regulates non-resident workers. There is limited labor legislation regulating the working conditions of public sector workers which are primarily determined by the Public Service Commissioner. Legislation that cover local workers include The *Minimum Wage Act* of 1986 as amended in 1995. The challenge for RMI is to undertake Labor law reforms that are in conformity with international labor standards ensuring protection for its workers, while also taking into account the growing role of the private sector. Institutional mechanisms with the capacity to implement the reforms are lacking and have also to be addressed.

As stated, RMI became a member of the ILO in 2009 and has only ratified ILO's Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2009) and Seafarers Identity Convention (C.185). The ILO being a tripartite agency of the United Nations has been providing technical assistance to the Government, Employer and Workers Organizations in various areas of International Labour Standards, Employment Creation, Social Protection and Tripartism.

In November 2017, the ILO Director for Pacific Island Countries, Mr Donglin Li presented the benefits of ratifying C182 at the Cabinet meeting on 16th November 2017. Among 187 ILO member states, 181 have ratified the C 182. There are only 6 countries that has not ratified C182, including 5 from the Pacific and RMI is one of the 5 countries in the Pacific. Should RMI ratify any of ILO's conventions, it will demonstrate RMI's commitment to international obligations and domestic constitutional and moral obligations. The Division of Labor recognizes that there is room for improvement in its areas of functions and looks forward to more revamped Division.

6. Constraints and Challenges

1. The Division of Labor is unable to fully enforce the Labor (Non-Resident) Workers Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act, due to inadequate funding resources and staff. Taking into consideration the amount of work permit applications that are submitted each year and the need to do onsite visit every now and then to ensure that employers and

employees are incompliance with the Labor laws, it is imperative that the Division of Labor hire more staff.

2. The Division of Labor no longer has the power to require that employers wishing to employ non-resident workers to train Marshallese counterparts.

7. Recommendations

To address the challenges discussed above the following steps are recommended:

1. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the utilization of funds in the Labor General Fund Account to fund needs of the Division, such as supplies, training, and hiring of more staff.
2. It is recommended that more posts be created within the Division of Labor to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the Labor Non Resident Workers Act 2018 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 2023.
3. It is recommended that a labor market study be conducted to confirm the labor market needs of the RMI.
4. The Division of Labor is linked with Employment Services providers and registered job seekers, primarily the office of the National Training Council.
5. A system needs to be put in place linking Labor, Immigration, AG, FIBL Unit, Customs, MISSA and MALGOV for better monitoring of the newly established Minimum Wage Act to ensure compliance from all sectors.