- **Operating Highlights:**

  The Sustainable Economic Development group agreed that they have to meet with Council of Iroj (COI) to talk about register their lands for business developments. This is the result of the consultations gearing up for the National Socio-Economic and Climate Summit Program, 28-31 January 2025

  The Authority (LRA) is joining with the Marshall Islands Development Bank (MIDB) and Office of Commerce Investment and Tourism (OCIT) in promoting business opportunities for Marshallese and investors in the RMI. The first meeting conducted by LRA, MIDB and OCIT was with the Members of Council of Iroj (GOI). The results are very positive as all of the Iroj and Leiroj present expressed their willingness to encourage their people and themselves to participate in the initiative and register their lands and open them for business.

  LRA, MIDB and OCIT continue to working closely with private citizens, local banks, donor partners and private investors in regard to land matters in the RMI to facilitate both public and private businesses.

  The Authority continues not only to provide the essential services to people, government, private sectors through recording their land documents and registering individual land titles and interests. Authority also continues to working closely with private citizens, local banks, donor partners and private investors in regard to land maters in the RMI to facilitate both public and private projects.

  The Authority also work with Marshallese citizen in the United States regarding their needs for housing and other assistance.

- **Looking Ahead**

  Authority is looking forward to work with government established agenda goals and objectives to promote and further improve overall quality of life in the RMI for the good and betterment of all, including the future generations. Authority is also committed to work with private citizen, private sectors, local banks, donor partners and government agencies to further improve doing business and business opportunities here in the RMI. Authority is also looking for fund for new computer system, old system is broken and need new system.

  Authority is also looking forward to have a second meeting with the Council of Iroj (COI), as most of the members are new and need to know about LRA, their responsibility for promote and further enhance over developments and quality of life throughout RMI for the betterment of all , and the further generations.

Making amendments to LRA existing Law. Meet with MIDB Board of Directors concerning land matter.

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The LRA 2025-2030 Planning and Budgeting Framework and Forward Work Program, outlines the organization, roles and responsibilities, goals, objectives and budgeting. It brings together, in one document, all the information that is important in guiding the work program that the office can continue to provide timely and reliable statistical outputs for the people and the government.

The creation of this framework assists LRA in keeping track of its current and future work programs, and also provides the government and any potential investors, donors a view for securing lands for project implementation. In addition, this framework it designed for LRA to continue to partner with Office OCIT and MIDB and other lending institutions to promote and further enhance housings developments and business opportunities for the Marshallese people.

The capacity of LRA staff to register and record and provide various services for land owners, private sectors, government and partner donors is important for the government of the Marshall Islands, as well as development partners.

LRA takes huge pride in the work and the accomplishments made with the register and recording of land documents, and improvements in its service to public, private sectors and donor partners since its creation in 2003.

LRA also makes it standard practice that all staff are given various levels of responsibility, from daily routines to develop budget and attend public hearing and budget hearing. This is the best one of the best ways to develop staff capacity and future management capacity. LRA staff are expected to exercise initiative to help solve problems and help find solutions. A major challenge for LRA for short and long term is the need to improve computer data system to better register and record land documents and safeguard them.

The LRA: Is a component unit of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Established pursuant to the Land Recording and Registration Act of 2003 24 MIRC CH3. The Authority began operations as statutory cooperation on 14 October 2004.

- There are four primary purposes of LRA:
  - To provide frame work for the people of the Marshall Islands to voluntarily registrar their interests in the land in order to produce certainly of identity of legal owners of land and interests in the land and to facilitate investment development in the RMI;

  - To provide a legal regime satisfactory to land owners, lessee, investors and lending institutions in order to facilitate investment and long- term real estate financing;
  - To maintain and keep records of land and land transactions open to the public and to facilitate bring land into market place in the Republic; and
  - To provide for standards and criteria for land leases in the Republic in order to protect land interest holders and investors

- Authority is responsible for the Secured Transaction Filing Office where business and private citizen can make loans with local banks using their moveable properties as collateral. Authority is working closely with the local banks on the secured transaction to secured privates and business loans, as a result more loans have being issued out. One example is more vehicles loans for taxi business and private usages.

- Authority shall take measures to improve its efficiency including but not limited to the following:
  - Applying up to date and modem organization system;
  - To avoid excessiveness, extravagance and waste;
  - To operate within the capacity limits of the LRA;
  - To improve overall human resources by identifying training, professional development and continuing education programs;
  - Create an environment of purpose, duty to country, respect for one another and understanding that what the LRA is doing is important to the national development of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

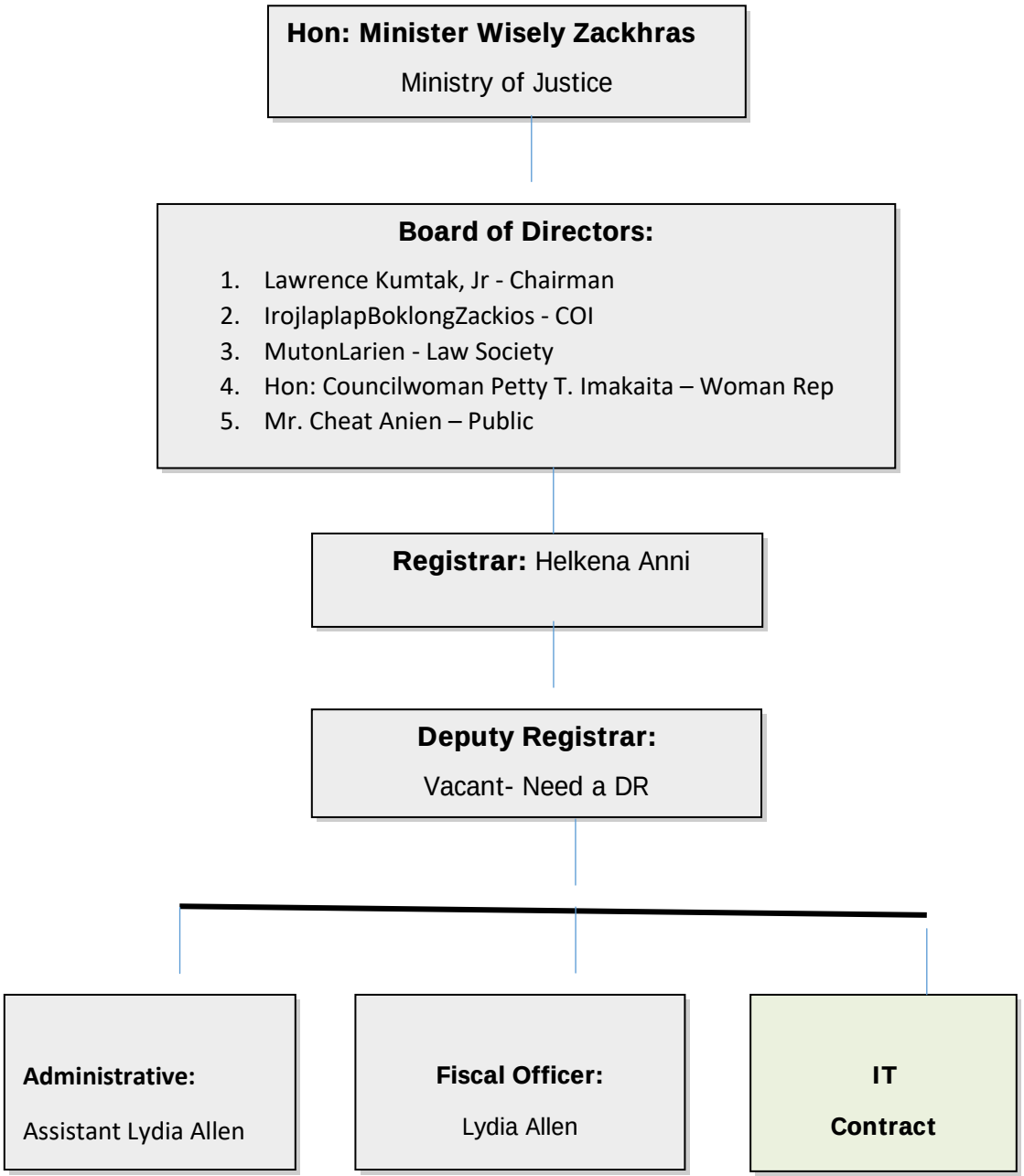
In addition to the powers and duties conferred to it by the *Land Recordings and Registrations Act of2003,* the LRA shall take measures to improve its efficiency including but not limited to the following:

- Applying up to date and modem organization system;
- To avoid excessiveness, extravagance and waste;
- To operate within the capacity limits of the LRA;
- To improve overall human resources by identifying training, professional development and continuing education programs;
- Create an environment of purpose, duty to country, respect for one another and understanding that what the LRA is doing is important to the national development of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

LRA is working closely with the local MIDB and OCIT on Mortgage/ business/housings Working closely with OCIT and MIDB in promoting business among Marshallese, especially young people.

2. ORGANZATION Chart

Figure 1: **LRA Organization Chart**



FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

I. Current Assessment

In order to assist further improve and develop the general fiscal and operation, it is very necessary to give extra consideration into areas of performance and budgeting. There is a greater need for more staff trainings in budgeting, consultations and presentations. There is also greater need for the land owners to register their land interests and titles in order to lessen land confusion and improve business opportunities. Therefore, there is a plan to have a joint consultation conduct by OCI, MIDB and LRA with all Local Governments and Landowners throughout the RMI.

II. Accomplishments FY 2024

- LRA continues to work closely with MIDB and OCIT in promoting business opportunities for both Marshallese and Investors.
- Continue to record and file land documents,
- More housing mortgage are recorded
- More lease / Mortgage are recorded and written letters have been forward to MIDB for loan approval
- Pacific Island Development Bank – Housings
- Register ownership
- Recording land documents

III. The result of the cooperation between OCI, MIDB and LRA is that more young Marshallese are using their mortgages to take loans from MIDB and developed their and earning more incomes.

IV. Additionally, the cooperation between USDA, LRA and MIDB housing is that more new housings constructed throughout the RMI. This means more revenues for the RMI.

V. Challenges:

a. Budget
b. New Databases
c. 2 more staff
d. Office