



Guests arrive at Namdrik for the Liberation Day event.

# Feeling liberated in Namdrik

A large delegation of VIPs descended on Namdrik Thursday and they were not disappointed: Liberation Day was a day of celebration, graduation, dedications, and launching of projects.

The RMI delegation was led by Minister Wilbur Heine, Iroij Council Chairman Kotak Loeak, Internal Affairs Secretary Daisy Momotaro, R&D Secretary Rebecca Lorennij, ADB Coconut Replanting Project Manager Dwight Heine, Yoshiko Capelle of the UN office in Majuro, USP Director Dr. Irene Taafaki and USP Outreach Coordinator Tamaraleale, and expert weaver Patsy Hermon.

Joining them was Senator Matlan Zackhras and Mayor Clarence Luther. Doug Carey, deputy chief of mission for US Embassy, attended as did Riyadh Mistry of IslandEco, which is also the project manager for the USDA Solar Freezer Project that Namdrik is a part of.

- Among the Namdrik activities:
- Graduation of 10 out-of-work



Left, The US Embassy's Doug Carey with Mayor Clarence Luther. Right, Iroij Kotak Loeak, Minister Wilbur Heine, and Mayor Clarence.



**'The US remains the highest contributor to Namdrik development, so during the ceremony Mayor Luther presented DCM Carey with the key to Namdrik Atoll.'**

girls who completed the four-month jaki-ed training with flying colors.

- Dedication of the Namdrik Education, Surveillance and Monitoring Center for the Marine Protected Areas and Pearl Farm

within the lagoon. The building was funded by a Non-Government Organization called Seacology that supports conservation initiatives globally. The two Secretaries assisted Jita Luther in the ribbon cutting while Iroij Kotak was

on hand to open the project.

- Launching of the ADB Coconut Replanting Project. Namdrik is the first of five atolls selected to start the nationwide coconut replanting project. As part of the ceremony, several coconut and pandanus seedlings were planted by VIPs.

- Dedication of the second phase USDA Solar Freezer Household Project. Namdrik received 36 freezer systems, bringing the total to 69.

Carey toured the public elementary school built with US Compact funds, and meetings were held with the Local Resource Committee on the implementation of the coconut replanting project. "The US remains the highest contributor to Namdrik development, so during the ceremony Mayor Luther presented DCM Carey with the key to Namdrik Atoll," said Zackhras.



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"All of these are big projects and perhaps could have been separated but we wanted to do everything in one go to implement them much sooner."