

# H.E. Kitlang Kabua



Hon. Ms. Kitlang Kabua assumed her post as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in June 2022. Minister Kabua was first elected to the Legislature of the Marshall Islands (Nitijeļā) representing Kwajalein Municipality in the 2019 Marshallese general election. She was 28 at the time of her election, making her the youngest person ever elected to the Nitijeļā. In addition to this, Minister Kitlang is also the first female senator representing Kwajalein Municipality. In 2020, Minister Kabua was appointed as the Minister of Education, Sports and Training—one of ten elected Ministers in the Presidential Cabinet. As the Minister for Education, Sports, and Training, Minister Kabua sought to improve Standard Achievement Test scores for Marshallese students and worked on sending assistance teams to the outer islands.

She also worked on the introduction of a full week of hot lunch program at public schools, which originally only provided hot lunches for only three days. Minister Kabua also assisted in the implementation of a targeted track system of education to better cater to the needs and aptitude of students.

Since her appointment to the Presidential Cabinet, Minister Kabua has played a key role as a member of the negotiating team for the renewal of the Compact of Free Association with the United States. Her reassignment as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2022 came on the heels of her appointment as Chairperson of the Compact Negotiation Committee. As lead negotiator, Minister Kabua successfully negotiated increased funding for the renewed compact, which will support the Marshall Islands as they work to improve their infrastructure, combat climate change, and address the legacy of nuclear testing in their islands. From 2020-2022 she also served as the Chairperson for the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport. She currently serves as the Chairperson of the Telecommunications Steering Committee.

Prior to her election, Minister Kabua acted as Special Advisor to the senior management team at the Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resources, Inc (KAJUR) from 2015 until 2018. From August 2018 till her election in 2019, Minister Kabua worked as the Ebeye Project Representative on Phase II of the World Bank-funded Pacific Resilience Program—a series of projects to strengthen Pacific Island countries' resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

## MEMBERSHIPS:

- Chief Negotiator, Compact Negotiation Committee
- Chairperson, Telecommunications Steering Committee
- 2020 to 2022 – Chairperson, Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport
- 2016 to 2022 – Vice Chairperson, Land Registration Authority Board
- 2015 to Present – Kwajalein Educators Association
- 2014 to 2022– Board Member, National Board of Education