

MARCUS STEPHEN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

The greatest lifter the South Pacific islands has ever produced and one of the most successful lifters in the Oceania and the Commonwealth, Marcus Stephen from Nauru, has today been elected President of the Republic of Nauru.

What a great achievement for this outstanding athlete.

Marcus, after he retired from competition in 2002, moved into politics and at the same time he worked tirelessly alongside Vinson Detenamo in the Nauru Olympic Committee and he has never moved away from his sport of weightlifting.

Since becoming a Member of Parliament, Marcus has held the post of Finance Minister, and lately Minister for Sport, Telecommunications and Transport. Today, as he is known throughout the South Pacific region and Oceania, **“the golden boy”** has achieved the highest posting in his country.

For many years, since I have known the Stephen family, his late father and dear friend of mine Lawrence Stephen, always used to say to everyone, **“One day my son will be the President of Nauru”**. I wish Lawrence was alive today to have seen this. He was so proud of Marcus.

Marcus achievements in weightlifting are second to none.

- His best performance was in the 59kg category. He snatched 130kg and clean & jerked 170.5kg in January 1996, which at the time was a new unofficial world record.
- He competed at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992, in Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000.
- One of the greatest achievements in his career was winning silver at the 1999 World Championships held in Athens. He clean & jerked 172.5kg in the 62kg category.
- At the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in 1990, Marcus won 1 gold and 2 silver medals. In Victoria in 1994 he won 3 gold medals. He won another 3 gold medals in Kuala Lumpur in 1998. Then he went on to win 3 silver medals at Manchester in 2002. This was his last official tournament.
- He was Oceania Champion in 1988,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98, 99, 2000.
- He won 12 gold medals at South Pacific Games and mini Games. 1989,1991,1997,1999

I have known Marcus since he started weightlifting in Melbourne in 1986 and I had the pleasure of coaching him for 16 years until his retirement from competition in 2002. Marcus has always been a humble individual. He was a tremendous competitor and admired and respected by all who know him. **A true champion.**

Due the friendly and humble nature of Marcus, Dr. Tamas Ajan, President of the IWF took an interest in this young man and also in the small island nation of Nauru. He made all efforts to ensure that Nauru became a member of the IOC in 1994, which enabled Marcus Stephen to compete at the Olympic Games for his country.

H.E. Marcus Stephen, congratulation in being elected President of the Republic of Nauru.

Paul Coffa
General Secretary
Oceania Weightlifting Federation

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