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Media Release

NTAIC acknowledges passing of NLC Chairman

It's with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Northern Land Council (NLC) Chair, Dr Bush-Blanası who passed away last night.

As the inaugural Co-Chair of the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) and member of the former Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) Committee, Dr Bush-Blanası was instrumental in the setup of NTAIC.

As the Chair of the NLC, he along with the three other NT land councils lobbied the Federal Government to give Aboriginal people in the NT a seat at the table and control the beneficial payments from the ABA.

Dr Bush-Blanası was there from the beginning at the first joint Land Council meeting at Kalkaringı in 2016, at Barunga in 2018 and in Alice Springs in 2021. When the reforms to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)* were finally passed in December 2021 he said that it was now the real work starts.

He believed that the reforms to ALRA and the creation of NTAIC was a vote of confidence in Aboriginal Territorians. We now hold control to invest in their own social, cultural and economic aspirations, using money generated from their own lands.

"It saddens me that I have lost my friend and mentor, but Aboriginal Territorians have lost a great leader and while I am Chair of the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation, I will work hard to ensure that his legacy continues," said Ms Barb Shaw, Chairperson, NTAIC.

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