
KIRIBATI'S PRO-CHINA GOVERNMENT BARS FOREIGN OFFICIALS FROM VISITING UNTIL 2025, CITING ELECTIONS

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The government of Kiribati is suspending all diplomatic visits to the tiny Pacific Island nation until next year and has cancelled some already planned, because it is in the midst of an election process that could run for several more months, an official said Thursday.

The official in Kiribatis foreign ministry told The Associated Press that a message announcing the pause in diplomatic trips was sent earlier this week to countries that have diplomatic relations with Kiribati — a low-lying atoll of 120,000 people.

It follows escalating friction between Kiribati and Western nations — particularly Australia, a major aid donor — over the countrys deepening ties with China.

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