



## Success Story: Tonita Andrike

Chief of Administration, Human Resources & Finance

RMI Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure & Utilities

My name is Tonita Andrike, and I am a proud recipient of the RMI Scholarship. I completed my elementary through high school education at Assumption Schools (Kindergarten–12th Grade). I later earned an Associate of Science in Elementary Education from the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), followed by a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a specialization in Human Resource Management from Colorado Technical University.

My educational journey has been far from easy. I resigned from the Public School System (PSS) after my request for educational leave was denied, a decision that pushed me to pursue my goals despite uncertainty. Throughout my studies, I faced many challenges—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. There were moments when I felt like giving up, but I continued because of the unwavering support from my family back home, my eldest children, my parents, and the constant encouragement I felt from the RMI Scholarship Office.

Three months before graduation, my father was admitted to the ICU. I almost missed my final exams, but by God's grace, I was able to bring my mom and younger sister to where I was studying so they could assist with his medical situation. Even during this difficult time, the RMI Scholarship remained by my side. Their continued support since the day I left the Marshall Islands made it possible for me to keep moving forward, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Today, I proudly serve my country as the Chief of Administration, Human Resources, and Finance at the RMI Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities. In this role, I contribute to strengthening government services, supporting employees, and helping guide organizational improvement for the benefit of our nation and our people.

To all the moms, parents, and students out there who feel that they cannot continue their education because they lack support — if I can do it, so can you. Someone once told me that I couldn't achieve what I dreamed of, and yet here I am, back home serving my country with pride. The journey may be difficult, but it is never impossible with determination, faith, and the right support system.

I encourage every Marshallese student abroad or aspiring to study overseas to keep pushing forward and remember that your success is also your country's success. And when the time is right, come home and serve — our islands need your knowledge, your skills, and your heart.

Kommol tata.