



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

14 April 2016

GOVERNMENT SEEKS CONTINUATION OF FREE WIFI SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF NIUE

The Government of Niue was deeply concerned with Rocket Systems' announcement that it will terminate the free internet service that is provided to the people of Niue under an arrangement with the Internet Users Society Niue (IUSN) for nearly 20 years, and Rocket Systems' further announcement yesterday.

In 1999, the Niue Government entered into an arrangement with IUSN, whereby IUSN would provide a free internet service to the people of Niue. Rocket Systems facilitated this free service.

This free internet service has become a valuable service for the people of Niue and the private sector. Based on the expectation of this service being free, many individuals and the private sector have invested their own money in infrastructure for this free service and relied on it for their domestic and business use.

In March 2016, without any prior notice to the Government Rocket Systems announced that free internet services were being withdrawn from April 2016. This was a unilateral decision to end the free internet services.

The Government has written to both IUSN and Rocket Systems with its concerns, requesting comment. To date, the Government has not received a response from either Rocket Systems or IUSN as to the reasons or justifications for terminating the free internet service.

The Government is also concerned that Rocket Systems has proposed to charge for internet services and expand its product offering without seeking appropriate regulatory approvals. The position of the Government is absolutely clear. Whilst the Government encourages and supports business development, all businesses must comply with the law.

In relation to the provision of free wifi, the Government is taking urgent steps to address how free wifi can continue to be made available to the people of Niue.

-End-