



Premier's Department  
Fale Fono  
PO Box 40  
Alofi  
Niue

# Press Release

Contact: Premier's Office

Phone: (683) 4200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NIUE GOVERNMENT PUZZLED BY IUSN APPOINTMENT**

ALOFI, NIUE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010: The Premier of Niue, Hon. Toke Talagi was surprised but very pleased at the appointment of former Premier Hon Fakaotimanava Lui as the new chair of IUSN.

The premier hopes that Hon Lui's appointment will help broker the current stalemate in final negotiations between the Niue Government and IUSN/Semich for a fair and final settlement of the long standing and outstanding dispute between the two parties over the poor internet services that Niue has been receiving from IUSN and the substantial revenue generated by the sale of Niue's domain name .nu worldwide.

Premier Talagi who has been instrumental in leading the negotiations, had hoped that Niue's telecommunications would be improved and be available to all citizens on Niue as promised by IUSN. Unfortunately in a survey conducted as part of its investigations, only half of the island's villages and citizens have been getting

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internet services. The services have also been very poor and unreliable in some of the villages.

The Premier is very pleased to note that IUSN has improved and increased its bandwidth and has again promised to provide internet to all citizens on Niue.

This response might also have been prompted by the Niue Government's recent decision to establish its own internet services to all citizens. This \$1.4m project will be funded by NZ and should start before the years end.

Premier Talagi says that if the parties fail to agree, the Government will be lodging its request to ICANN/IANA for re-delegation of the domain name back to the government.

If successful, this will reverse a decision made by Hon. Lui's government in 1999 when the domain name was handed to Semich for the promise of free internet.

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