



**GOVERNMENT OF NIUE  
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016**

**Press Release**

**Honourable Premier highlights achievements during 2016 Constitution Day**

Alofi, Niue, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016: Honourable Premier Toke Talagi's message during his 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitution speech is a celebration of Niue's achievements and highlights since 1974 and the significant progress in which Niue has successfully established infrastructures to create a confident and robust economy.



Honourable Premier Toke Talagi reflected on Niue's status of Self Government in Free Association with New Zealand and the strong, enduring and mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.

The achievements by former Premier Sir Robert Rex with his Cabinet and Members of the Niue Assembly including Secretary of Government Mr Terry Chapman and their involvement in Niue's current status was also acknowledge with a special tribute by Honourable Premier Toke Talagi.

The most encouraging assurance of the work undertaken by the Government of the day is the list of evidence and the commitment demonstrated by the Government to its people.

- Continued free health care
- Continued free education
- A new Primary school

- Continued provision of power, water and telephones
- Continued pensions and child support
- \$2,000 support for each Newborn child
- Complete tar sealing of the main road around the island
- Removing asbestos from homes and removal off the island
- Kiwibank and internet banking with EFTPOS
- Improved ADSL
- Mobile phones with text and cheaper phone calls
- 100% increase in visitors to Niue since 2008 (4700 in 2008 to 8200 in 2015)
- More accommodation for visitors
- More restaurants
- Two flights from NZ a week during peak season
- Continued reliable shipping to Niue
- Niue's first shipping registry
- Better returns for use of upper airspace
- Increased revenues from coins and stamps with New Zealand Mint
- A gradual population increase with young couples returning to live
- Solar power being introduced
- More international friendships formalised
- Niue's Secret Water
- Niue's Secret Nonu
- The introduction of a 4 day working week for the Public Service

Honourable Premier Talagi said that irrespective of some challenging impacts, the Government have continued to create new businesses and improved the management and transformed administration to be more efficient and accountable.

He said that although donor funding is difficult to access when necessary it is important to strengthen long term strategies to address the gaps.

The public servants remunerations have increased by over 25 percent and he said, the Government still aim to achieve the 80 percent pay parity with New Zealand.

The increased 5 percent of the population since 2011 with more Niuean's returning to live on the island is also highlighted.

The Education sector support from Australia with the establishment of the new Niue Primary School is a good indication of the continuing partnership with Niue. He also acknowledged new partners such as Japan.

In conclusion, Honourable Toke Talagi expressed appreciation to all the stakeholders on the island for the continued support of the Government of the day, with a key message: **BUILD-PRESERVE-PROTECT-FOR THE FUTURE**

-End-

*A full copy of Honourable Premier Toke Talagis 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitution Speech will be available on the Premiers Office website.*