



**GOVERNMENT OF NIUE
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

10th August 2016

**Press Release
Thailand Ambassador Visits Niue**

Alofi, Niue, 10th August 2016: The Thailand Ambassador to New Zealand His Excellency Mr Maris Sangiampongsa arrived on the island yesterday Tuesday 09 August 2016 accompanied by the Niue High Commissioner to New Zealand, Her Excellency O'Love Jacobsen.



(Acting Premier Pokotoa Sipeli & His Excellency Mr Maris Sangiampongsa)

This is the first time the Thailand Ambassador has embarked on the island since the establishment of Diplomatic Relations with Niue in 2013.

His Excellency paid a courtesy visit on Acting Premier Honourable Pokotoa Sipeli at Falefono this morning prior to meeting the Minister of Natural Resources Honourable Billy Talagi as well as the Minister of Infrastructure Honourable Dalton Tagelagi and the Ministries Director Generals.

The Niue visit for His Excellency also included the Niue Fook Hospital where he provided funding of Ten Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five New Zealand Dollars (NZD10, 255) towards the purchase of a new autoclave machine for the Operating Theatre.



His Excellency Mr Maris Sangiaponga expressed the intentions of his Government to continue forge closer relationships with Niue.

“We would like to work very closely with all of you. And we like to show you that we are very serious to work with you.”

“This is the starting point that we are able to expand on the opportunities to work with you, not only for money but also in terms of training. We also have our own knowledge and expertise, we would be very happy to exchange those skills.”

Acting Premier and Minister of Social Services Ministry Honourable Pokotoa Sipeli acknowledged appreciation for the funds that will greatly assist the hospital.

His Excellency will be on the island till Friday and it is anticipated he will include a visit to Niue Tourism as well as Niue Primary School during his brief visit.

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