

#### **FAKATUFONO NIUE**

# TAU TALA NIUE

TTN #65 August 20th, 2010

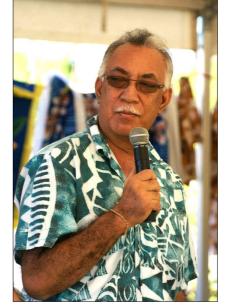
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#### The best Lakepa Show Day yet

To local visitors it was the best and the most successful Lakepa Show Day yet and the words spectacular and breathtaking comes close to describing the event – none of us realised that Lakepa has so many young people. How the local residents achieved this is no secret according to Emani Fakaotimanava-Lui.

"It was great that our young people, some who live in other villages but mostly our local residents, got together and in the process of supporting each other we added a few more items to the normal programme which from there everything just gelled. We were happy with our performances, our guests were held spellbound and our organisers were not disappointed in the way it turned out. In fact some of the tourists were intrigued and interested enough that they stayed behind after the last



item to try on some of the costumes that we used – that was pretty cool."

But no Village Show Day is without a 'few words' from the sponsors and organisers. Village Council Chairperson, Mr Sionepele praised the young people of Lakepa for the effort that they had put into the event and thanked the donors and sponsors for their continuing contributions, and the government not only for the annual grants that Lakepa receives but more so for the cleaning up operation that left the village looking bright, clean and sparkling.



Kupa Magatogia, the village Ekepule thanked the past and present government for the continuing support the village received to help with Lakepa's activities, in particular the refurbishment of Lialagi school building which will offer accommodation for visiting families and tourists, or for the benefit of the local community groups such as computers classes, gymnasium, pre-school as

well as weaving classes.

"But as our tupuna used to say, 'don't stop there, keep sending those blessings in the form of funds and donations – it all helps towards the good of our village community."





Premier Talagi, the Minister for Community Affairs, officially opened Lakepa's Show Day. "I am very pleased to see that you and your community have been working hard together to showcase your village and your homes, your crafts, the food in the stalls and the fruits from your land – this is a good, positive sign that shows the community's dynamic spirit. I congratulate you all in the way you have used whatever you have received to build something for your community. The Lialagi project is progressing well and it will provide accommodation opportunities for groups who will come next year for the Cultural Festival. The government is very happy to support village communities with projects that will benefit their members."

But from the initial outset it was all go – there was food aplenty to be bought from the many stalls surrounding the

village green, while quite a few wanted to try their luck on the golf and ball rolling competitions, and more still, especially the men, wanted to have a turn or three at *tika* throwing, a popular sport enjoyed by our ancestors.

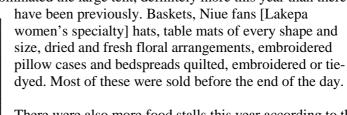


A new item in their calendar of events which proved popular was the Malēloa Challenge kilometre run that was held prior to the actual Show Day. "The trophies for the men's and women's categories, presented by Siala Magatogia and Cayman Tamate will mean that this event will be contested annually from now on as a permanent fixture for our community," explained TaniRose Fakaotimanava—Lui. Mrs Melanie Magatogia won the men's while the women's was won by ...

There were separate prizes for other competitors in other age groups.

**Agricultural produce:** The past twelve months must have been good for growers compared to the sparse volume of single row exhibits of the last three years. There were enough talo, bananas, tapioca, yams, kumara and vegetables [tomatoes, onions, cucumbers and local *sinapi* [spinach] to name but a few] displayed to fill a whole tent.

Women and men's hand crafts dominated the large tent, definitely more this year than there



There were also more food stalls this year according to the organisers, a sign that the local residents are determined to participate and making sure that their visitors did not go without sampling Lakepa's friendliness and hospitality. Umu cooked food, especially succulent pork, chickens and fish were quickly snapped up by famished customers while barbequed breakfast fare of chicken, fish and sausages continued well into late morning.

The new items this year included the Maleloa Challenge [already mentioned above] a Mr Lakepa young men's body building event [won by Solar Ikiua] that were added on to the *tika* throwing, basket weaving competition but the most amazing are the number of performers in the Lakepa Youth Dance Troupe that kept us visitors royally entertained for an hour.



Local



residents were pleasantly surprised that Lakepa could come up with that many young people, some of whom we were told, are descendants of the village who live in other communities. With all the talents on the centre stage we were kept wonderfully entertained as the troupe romped through a repertoire of chants, dances and 'moves' that bewildered and astonished the





spectators with such energy that only the young could conjure with delightful exuberance.

The focus in making the Lakepa Youth the centrepiece of the Show Day seems to be the common trend in this year's Show Days and Lakepa is no exception. The cultural performing arts and the beautiful catchy tunes resonating on stage and you hear it regularly now and again on TV is a healthy sign of Niue creativity and innovation. Culture evolves and so as language and our expression of our cultural heritage is constantly being lifted to suit the times. TTN wishes to encourage all the 2010 Village Performing Arts Groups to organise with BCN to get those unique songs recorded and the Village Councils from each respective village to document these compositions and meanings for the education of our generations.

Well done Lakepa, we certainly enjoyed ourselves and are looking forward to next year's encore performance.

Part 1 of the PEC

#### **PUBLIC EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE**

#### Recommendations on the 2010/2011 Recurrent Budget

The PEC met from the  $14^{th}$ ,  $16^{th}$ ,  $17^{th}$ ,  $21^{st}$ ,  $22^{nd}$ ,  $24^{th}$ ,  $28^{th}$  &  $29^{th}$  June and  $14^{th}$  &  $16^{th}$  July 2010 and considered the 2010/2011 budget estimates under its Terms of Reference (attached).

Membership of the PEC includes the following:

1.	Esther Pavihi	Chairperson
2.	Maihetoe Hekau	Vice-Chair
3.	Jack Lipitoa	Member
4.	Dion Taufitu	Member
5.	Dalton Tagelagi	Member
6.	Bill Motufoou	Member
7.	Terry Coe	Member

Government officials present at the meetings:

8. Doreen Siataga Acting Financial Secretary

9. Poi Kapaga Budget Officer

10. Akata Bilitaki Assistant Budget Officer

11. Crossley Tatui Internal Auditor12. Moka Tano-Puleosi Clerk to the Assembly

13. Tina Tavita Makani Assistant Clerk

After wide consultations with all government departments the Public Expenditure Committee make the following recommendations under the existing format of the Budget Estimates Document in line with six pillars in the Niue National Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

### PILLAR 1 FINANCIAL STABILITY

#### Treasury, Bond Store, Administrative Services, Government Residences

#### **Bond Store**

The Committee recommend to the Government to review and revise its Liquor Licensing procedures to allow private sector to import and sell liquor on Niue. The committee recognizes that the current system of the Bond Store is not conducive to the Government long term goals of supporting the private sector and advancing tourism in Niue. The Committee further recommends that this process be undertaken as soon as possible.

#### **Government Residences**

The Committee recommend to the Government to review and revise its Property investments with the Government residences and to privatize the management of these properties. The Committee notes that these properties have been used as added value to packages for Expatriate employees and to pay for by Government. The Committee strongly recommends that this process be reviewed as the Government is not receiving proper and fair returns on its property investments.

The Committee further recommends to the Government to sell off some of its properties with a view to reinvest back into improving the conditions of the existing properties or to build new properties.

#### **Tax Reform**

The Committee notes the success of the tax office from the assistance provided by officers from the New Zealand Inland Revenue Department. The Committee recommends that the Government seek continuation of this arrangement with NZIRD until such time as the capacity of the Niue Tax Department is assured of continuing on its own.

The Committee recognizes the Governments need to capture revenue lost should it fulfill the Committees recommendation to privatize the Bond Store and its other retail outlets, the Committee further recommend that the Government act accordingly with its Tax reforms. The Committee notes the need for the Government to lower the threshold for businesses to register for NCT. Lowering this threshold from \$200,000 to \$150,000 per year will capture revenue for the Government and to capitalize on its loss of revenue from the privatization of its retail outlets.

The Committee further recommends additional revenue for the Government by reviewing the Tariffs on items like wine, for the Government to consider imposing specific tax per bottle or per cask as opposed to tax on volume. This will ensure the importation of quality wines as part of tourism development purposes.

#### **Training and NTDC**

The Committee recommends that NTDC identifies training awards appropriate to Niue's development goals and strategies and essential services, for example there are no training awards in hospitality and tourism related fields to follow with the Governments long term economic goal of developing the Tourism industry.

The Committee recommends to the Government to review the long term benefits of the existing Reverse Scholarship Scheme given that this scheme has been in place for some time now.

The Committee notes the long running concerns over Human Resource Development needs of various sectors including Health with nurses etc, Education with teachers, and other specialized professions such as Economists.

#### **PILLAR 2 – GOVERNANCE**

### Premiers Department, Niue Public Service Commission & Justice, Lands & Surveys Department.

The Committee recognizes the importance of accountability in Government Departments and again recommends that the Government Departments include in its future Budget Estimates the funds received from outside donors for project work or other reasons. The Committee is aware that a report of Donor Funds is completed however, the Committee has yet to receive this report.

#### **Niue Public Service Commission**

The Committee remains concerned at the resource capacity of certain key Government Departments such as Crown Law Office, Legislature and Economic Planning & Statistics. The Committee feels that the lack of capacity of these departments, including the Education Department with teachers and the Health Department with nurses and medical staff, is affecting the essential services provided by Government. The Committee recommends that the Government must review its Public Service structure and address these key areas of concern.

The Committee further recommends to the Government that the Niue Public Service Commission must furnish the Assembly with reports of the Public Service and its plans on Public Sector Reforms. It is rather difficult for the Committee to form a picture of the long term goals of the Public sector without having the information available.

The Committee also recognizes the New Zealand Government position on the size of the Public Service however the Committee feels strongly that the responsibility for the Public Service and its functions lies with the Niue Public Service Commission.

The Committee would like to remind the Government that reports from the Public Service Commission on the status of the Public Service as per Constitution requirement remains outstanding. This practice is not acceptable and is not practicing good governance.

#### Legislature

The Committee recommend to the Government to consider separation of budget support for Legislature in future budgets. In terms of transparency, it is important for the Legislature to be responsible for their own budget management instead of being managed by Corporate Services.

#### **Justice Department**

The Committee recommends that all Government lease agreements with landowners be centralized with the Justice and Lands Department. The Committee further recommends that all leases be deposited in the Crown Law Office.

The Committee also recommends that the Government ensure good working relations with landowners and to ensure timely payment of the land leases. The future development plans of the Government will be dependent on such issues as land lease agreements which make this an important area in terms of long term economic development.

#### **Government Official Travel Policy**

The Committee notes that some official travel is not fully funded from outside sources. Full funding means that travel, accommodation and per diems are paid. The Committee further seeks information on travel that is funded by outside sources and to compare this with any per diems paid by the Government, if any.

The Committee recommends that the Government Travel Policy is reviewed and evaluated and to be catergorised and treated according to Ministerial, Members of Legislature, Officials (senior and junior) and other types of Government representation.

## PILLAR 3 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Public Works Department, Telecom Niue, Niue Power, Bulk Fuel, Tourism and BCN

The Committee noted the developments with the Infrastructure division comprising of the Public Works Department, Bulk Fuel, Niue Power Corporation, Airport & Civil Aviation and Telecom Niue. The Committee is aware of positive progress in all these Departments with particular emphasis on future business plans of the Departments. The Committee is aware of major improvement to the Niue Power Corporation with the European Union Renewable Energy project and also the NZAid funded improvement to Telecom infrastructure. The Committee is therefore optimistic that there will be improved performance by all these Departments.

#### **Namukulu Retaining Wall Project**

The Committee recommend that the Infrastructure Coordinator provides information on the Namukulu Project.

The Committee further recommend that the Public Works Department assist the work of the Namukulu Project. The responsibility for assessment of public facilities lies with the Department of Public Works.

The Committee recommend that PWD contribute input into the project and to ensure completion of the project before end of 2010.

The Committee further recommends that the tar-sealing of the road is completed this financial year.

The Committee is grateful to the Namukulu Council for taking on this long outstanding project. The Committee noted the Community involvement indicates the importance of this project.

#### **Post Office**

The Committee recommend to the Government that the Post Office should only provide postal and stamps sales and to stop the sale of stationery. This is consistent with liberalizing of other Government retail outlets such as the Bond Store.

#### **Airport & Civil Aviation**

The Committee recommend to the Government to collect revenue from the use of the Airport facilities. The revenue for rental of airport facilities remains outstanding. The Committee is also aware that there will be improved revenue from Landing Fees considering the plans for A320 aircraft expected to start in December 2010. The Committee has not received any updated revenue projections at the time this report was compiled.

#### **Broadcasting Corporation of Niue (BCN)**

The Committee recommend to the Government to remove the charges for Television Niue. The Committee feels that the existing system is not satisfactory and the paying customers are

paying for everyone else to watch TV Niue for free. The Committee recommends that the Government reduces BCN Expenditure Budget by the same amount expected in Revenue, for example, remove \$15,000 from expenditure budget and remove such revenue projection, essentially we are recommending that TV Niue become free to air.

The Committee however recommend to the Government to collect surcharge or luxury tax on all Sky Pacific subscribers on the island. The Committee feels that BCN and ultimately the Niue Government is utilizing its resources to provide services to a foreign network and not making sufficient returns. The Committee recommends to apply a 25% tax on annual subscriptions to SKY Pacific which should improve this revenue projection for BCN.

### PILLAR 4: SOCIAL Community Affairs, Education, Health, Police & Immigration

#### **Community Affairs**

**National Library** 

On the basis of cost analysis, the Committee recommends that the Government considers merging the two libraries; the Committee relies on Cabinet to determine appropriate location of Library facility.

#### **Welfare Benefits**

The Committee is concerned with the management of the Welfare Benefits for Hardship/Disadvantage as many of the recipients do not qualify under the current criteria. A report commissioned by the Committee indicates abuse of certain conditions.

The Committee is concerned that while the population has decreased the number of welfare beneficiaries has increased and strongly recommends that the Community Affairs policy for Welfare Benefits is reviewed.

The Committee further recommends that the Government limit the budget allocation for Hardship/Disadvantage, this budget limit will ensure that role and function of the Welfare Committee is controlled and managed by available resources. The Committee strongly recommends that the Welfare Committee comply with existing legislation with regard to special benefits.

The Committee recommends that the policy should specify disability as a separate category but recipients must be assessed by the Health Department.

PEC findings on the Special Benefits (Hardship, Disability & Disadvantage)

The Committee notes the following information on recipients of the special benefits:

Hardship & Disability	42
Hardship 55-59 pensions list and have written seeking	
financial assistance	36
Total Number of special benefits recipients	78

#### Some of the findings of the Internal Auditor reveal the following:

Receive special benefit plus superannuation	11
Retired public servants without superannuation payments	3
Were previously recipients of the old 55 pension payment	16
Have irregular private sector jobs	3
Near 60 year olds – are within a year or less from	
eligibility for pension	7
Receive superannuation, run a business or part time	
contract employment	10

#### **Village Council Financial Assistance Allocation**

The Committee recommends that the provision for Village Councils is increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per annum. The Committee recalls the motion passed by the Assembly in 2009 for additional resources to be made available for village beautification and improved village public health issues like the issue of abandoned homes in villages. The Committee recognize the need for improved support with recommendation for Alofi South to receive \$15,000 and the other 13 villages to receive \$10,000 each. This recommendation will mean an increase in the total allocation to \$145,000.

The Committee recommends that the outstanding Village Council Bill is finalized for tabling at the Legislative Assembly.

#### **Community & NGO Grants**

The committee recommends that all NGOs must submit proposals for the use of Government grants. This is an exercise in accountability and transparency which requires all Community groups such as Women's, Sports, Religious, Youth and Private Sector to present these proposals before release of public funds.

[Part 2 will be published in the next issue, TTN #66]

Niue Council of Women Celebrate their Arts and Crafts in technicolour.

We have always known how beautiful our women are at any age and we have evidence to support this fact, for example for a start from the Miss Niue Pageant three weeks ago.



This week we were treated to more of the same – the Niue Council of Women [NCW] held a Hand Craft Show Day at Makini Hall in Alofi, to display the fruits of their talents, especially in weaving, sewing, needlecraft, embroidery and floral arrangements.

The event was further enhanced by the women themselves, positively glowing in their bearing and deportment and tastefully garlanded in shell and fresh flower necklaces to match their creations that were prominently displayed around them – it truly was a wonderful sight to be so greeted as we were enveloped in the songs and the

collected gaiety from our happy, joyous hostesses.

At first sight as we entered the hall the atmosphere held promises of a huge extravagant party encased within a technicolour bubble, an unbelievable mixture of colour, clashing yet merged delightfully to create a pleasurable aura of companionship that this group of women have

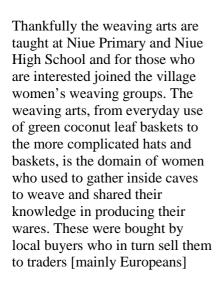
been sharing and cultivating in harmony with each other.



"What you see has a price – that is everything is for sale," we were told. It was wall to wall [or table to table] display of some of the most beautiful examples of women's handcraft to be seen in recent times. Hand crafts, especially in weaving, dominated the tabletop exhibits with the walls hung colourful samples of pillowcases and quilted bedspreads. We were later informed that Makini Hall was not large enough to hold all the exhibits so the group had decided to hold supplementary display later this year, 'probably in October' where we will see creations of large *ti vaevae* [hand-made] quilts and dye-tie materials.



Of concern, according to the NCW President Ms Lapati Paka is the smaller number of women who constitute the membership of the Council. "We need to be more firm with our children if we are to maintain our cultural arts," she told us. "The most important is the cultivation of the pandanus plants because without this fibre we cannot maintain this craft that our weavers were well known for in the South Pacific, but it has not been easy to sustain the interest among our young women."







who have contacts in the region, or else the more entrepreneurial individuals would ply their wares on visiting ships.

The Niue Council of Women meet regularly every Wednesday morning at Makini Hall in Alofi to discuss issues of national and local interest as well as sharing their arts and crafts techniques. All tourists' visitors are welcome and bring your wallet when you visit, you might find a nice souvenir to take with you back home.

The group planned to have another exhibition late next month except this time emphasis will be on the larger sewing [hand and machine made] bed spreads because there was not sufficient room at Makini Hall to display their products.

#### Tau Talanoa:

- The Solomon Islands has a new Prime Minister, Hon Danny Philip. Although he has the top job his majority in the House was reduced to one after one of his main supporters collapsed and died.
- In a meeting at Falefono last week a core group, led by Taoga Niue Manager, Ms Moira Enetama, was appointed to organise next year's 2011 Niue Culture Festival. The focus according to Premier Talagi is to 'look at Niuean Culture and to concentrate on the aspects of it that need reviving in the hope of 'unifying' Niueans where ever they can be found.' Ms Enetama hopes that there will be enough interest generated overseas to make a pilgrimage of the cultural kind for this event.

We also heard that there is a big group coming from Australia – for those of you who are still contemplating, take the plunge and come and visit, there is still adequate time to start saving your airfares especially all those Niue expatriates who have never visited Niue in the last 30-40 years. Come and see for yourself, you might end up liking it and decided to remain.

 Disposal of old government departments' old records has been declared 'improper and insecure' according to the Public Service Commission Chair, Mr Poni Kapaga.
 Assistance to dispose of such material 'should be conducted in the way that preserves the confidentiality of any information contained' and that Taoga Niue should be consulted for assistance in the matter.

We are or we should be concerned about government materials that have been earmarked for destruction because of their potential archival value. Sensitive documents have been known to be retained with limited public access to them and declassified in the future and destruction of them seems wasteful of potential archival resources.



Thanks to Testament Aue from Niue
 Quarantine and Ms Grizelda Mokoia from
 Niue Health for the advance warning
 regarding 'unwanted pests' hitching a free
 ride inside electronic appliances [such as
 computers and cameras] and in personal

luggages while our people travel overseas on government or private businesses.

Quarantine Officer Mr Aue made a plea to all travellers to '...please be careful of where you park your lap tops whilst travelling overseas as it may provide a place to hide for unwanted insects such as these ants in which we would not want to come to Niue. Ants especially the Red imported Fire ant is becoming a real problem in countries such as Australia, Japan, PNG, USA etc mainly because they eat everything that is edible and have a nasty sting like that of hornets or wasps. Severe cases has led to blood infection from the stings and has resulted in death. So please, please take care of where you put your laptop whilst travelling overseas so as to protect our small island from such small invader.'

Red imported fire ants are reddish brown in colour, although some have a shiny opaque black abdomen. Size varies from 3-6 mm in length.



Native to South America, red imported fire ants are capable of spreading across wide areas and pose a direct threat to human health and lifestyles, as well as our native flora and fauna. The ants are effective foragers and they are aggressive. If disturbed, they will sting to defend their nest and surrounding area, and the stings can be painful for both humans and

animals.

Red imported fire ants also cause damage to agricultural equipment, roads and electrical equipment due to size and location of nest mounds.

It may well be worth our while pointing out to our overseas hosts not to offer our travellers cheap accommodation where the risk of picking up unwanted 'hitch hikers' or better still to avoid eating any food while using or handling your electronic gear. A new case of these ants was discovered by NZ border control last week from a traveller from Fiji.

Advertisement 36th Constitution 'Water Song Competition.'

Kua amanaki e Matakau IWRM mo e PACC ma e tau Fakaholoaga Fakaohooho ke leveki e vai ke Fakahoko ai taha **Siviaga Lologo Ke he Vai** ke lata mo e fiafia Pule Fakamotu ke 36 aki . Amanaki ke Fakahoko e Fetoko Siviaga Lologo nei he Afiafi Faiumu 23 Oketopa 2010, 6:00 he afiafi, Fale Tolo he Motu i Paliati.

Kua Uiina atu e Tau Mamatua Fifine, Tau Mamatua Taane, Tau Fanau Fuata mo e tau Fanau Ikiiki ke lafi auloa ke taute e tau matakau.

Koe Fakaveaga Kehe Tau Lologo:

"Kau Fakalataha, Fakaaoga, mo e Leveki e Vai ha Niue",

**Tau Veveheaga:** Matakau Ikiiki: 7 – 9 tagata

Matakau Lalahi: 10 e numela tagata ki luga.

Ko e Vagahau Ke Fakaaoga: Faka-Niue

Koe Fakailoaga fakamua a nei ke tuku atu taha Magaaho ke talaga mo e fakaako e tau lologo to hoko e Pule Motu ia Oketopa 2010.

Kaeke ke manako vala tala ti Fakamolemole matutaki ke he Ofisa IWRM numela foni 4223 pihia kehe Ofisa PACC numela foni 4021 po ke finatu tino ke he Faahi Papiliki po ke Faahi Takatakaimotu i Fonuakula.

The Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Projects as part of its Awareness Programme will be organising a **Water Song Competition** for the 36th Constitution Celebrations; this song competition will be held on the evening Saturday 23rd October 2010, 6:00pm, Muilti-purpose Hall, Paliati. Therefore, Women, Men, Youth and Children are invited to form Groups to participate in this Competition.

Theme is: "Kau Fakalataha, Fakaaoga, mo e Leveki e Vai ha Niue", "Unite, Utilise and Protect Niue Water".

*There will be two Categories:* Small Group: includes 7 – 9 people

*Large Group:* 10 people – and over

The Language to use: Should be mainly Niuean

This first notice is to give sufficient time for all to prepare and practice the songs before Constitution in October 2010.

For more information please contact IWRM Office on phone 4223 or PACC Office on phone 4021 otherwise call in person to IWRM office at Public Works Department and PACC at Environment Department.

Fakaue Lahi.

#### Apologies:

- This issue is almost two weeks overdue I was away in Fiji last week attending a WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organisation] meeting for Regional USP Campuses representatives. To add insult to injury I went down with a flu bug infection this week...
- To the Fatalupe Family of Emani and TaniRose Fakaotimanava-Lui, my sincere apologies for the error in which I wrote 'Matalupe' instead of Fatalupe. Sorry about that, not that it was uncomplimentary by any means the Fatalupe family [as you can see from the photo in page 8, TTN #64] members are all extraordinarily good looking, don't you think?
- Finally to Ekepule Esther Pavihi and the members of PEC for the alleged 'misinterpretation and of trivialising' of the hard work on the 'PUBLIC EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE: Recommendations on the 2010/2011 Recurrent Budget. As the document was too lengthy for this publication the Editor decided to summarise the main points for easy readability by my readers. There was no intention, deliberate or otherwise, to trivialise or misinterpret the contents therein.

In retracting my summaries I have decided to print the entire document in full, but in two parts, to avoid taking up too much space. May I also offer my congratulations for the PEC Team and the contributors to this document for an excellent work they have achieved in the Recommendations on the 2010-2011 Recurrent Budget.

The Editor of this publication personally accept all responsibilities for any comments in this publication.

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