



FAKATUFONO NIUE

TAU TALA NIUE

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Tuapa Show Day



Acting Premier Hon O'love Jacobsen opening the Tuapa Village Show Day to enjoy their breakfast.

To all Niueans living at home, the rain, when it comes, is always considered a blessing for we can never have enough of it. The people of Tuapa welcomed it with open arms even if it meant that the entertainment activities planned to be viewed took place throughout the downpours during most of the morning. In spite of the rain being a 'nuisance' factor the visitors were not disappointed with what they saw, found or received.

Village Show Days are the early breakfast hunters' Mecca – one could see them, like an army of ravenous ants darting from stall to stall following the delicious aromas from smoking barbecues and umu cooked food that dominated the early morning atmosphere. Each person, having won the battle for the best bargains, found a likely quiet spot with their families and friends



Hosting local and visitors during a village Show Day is a large undertaking for any struggling community with declining number of residents, yet infused with an innate sense of ‘tribal pride’ support of any shape or form would be available to ensure its success – former residents from overseas, descendants living in other villages, project funding assistance from UNDP through the Community Centred Sustainable Development Programme [CCSDP] and an annual grant from the Government ensure the vitality and dynamic spirit of Tuapa Village is maintained.



Leading up to Tuapa’s Show Day were the handcraft exhibition, reef and ocean fishing activities and home and garden competitions held the previous week to keep the residents’ interest and motivation ‘on the boil’ because these community events were originally intended to showcase the village community and its residents.



“I wish you were here earlier this week to see the handcrafts by our men and women,” said Mrs Mata Talagi in her speech representing the village womenfolk. “This huge tent was full of exhibitions – women’s sewing, weaving, embroidery and floral arrangements and some very fine work from our men. We have worked very hard to make Tuapa beautiful. The extra special event that coincides with today is Father’s Day tomorrow – we would like to wish all fathers a wonderful day.”



The Agricultural produce:

Bananas, talo and yams dominated this year’s exhibition including a wide range of vegetables [onions, local spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, sugar cane] a promise that

will support the village's vegetable growing project of their proposed 10 ten mini farms to be funded under the UNDP/CCSDP sponsorship. The produce looked healthy and sought after by visitors who wanted to buy everything that there were available for sale.



The handcrafts we were told was only a small representation of the volume exhibited on Thursday the previous week. Sheets, pillowcases, hats, baskets and tablemats were of excellent quality, again eagerly sought after by the visitors.

The speeches: Mr Hale Ikitule, the current Village Council Chairperson, was very pleased with the response from former Tuapa residents [from overseas and from other villages] to help with the village's activities. He thanked the donors and sponsors, particularly the Government of Niue for all the assistance offered to help with keeping Tuapa a viable living community.



Tuapa is the first village in Niue to declare its boundaries a Smoke-Free Zone. "This is to keep our young people vibrant and healthy," village Ekepule Fisa Pihigia told his guests. In addition we are working towards making Tuapa an alternative energy community – already we have installed energy efficient light bulbs and we are looking at extending this to include solar power – this will be our contribution towards protecting our environment and our citizens. Lastly we are about to begin our latest project – the 10 mini farms to grow vegetables for ourselves as well to supply the many eating houses that we currently have. Extra income for these families will sustain our community in the years ahead. But we need a caterpillar



machine to make a start on this project. ”



Entertainment: No flower bouquets, hats or mats this year for the women of Tuapa, instead they paraded their latest hand sewn creations the way our women designed and made their clothes before the arrival of treadle and electric sewing machines. “It has been painstaking work but the results are worth the time and effort we put into the garments,” said one of the women. “But it’s a pity that we have to wear them in the rain.”



The young children danced their hearts out amidst the steady downpour as did their older brothers and sisters yet their enthusiasm sparkled and glowed much to the delight of the visitors who crowded the big tent for maximum views of their items. “Our island state is truly blessed,” announced Acting

Premier Hon O’love Jacobsen, “except that we do not really appreciate how better off



we are than most countries in the world. Tuapa has done very well and I congratulate you for it – you are a Smoke-free village, thanks to Ekepule Hon Fisa Pihigia who was a former Minister for Health; you are working towards an alternative energy village and I promise you that if I had known how to drive a caterpillar I would be here the next day to make a start on your mini farms project.”

Hon Jacobsen thanked the residents of Tuapa and the visitors, both local and from overseas for the support they have shown in coming to the Show Day. “This is the best way to show off our living communities and we all rejoice in the warmth of their hospitality.”



Primary School Celebrates World Literacy Day



'Literacy' by definition is a person's ability to read and write and our children have good cause to celebrate this milestone event on Friday last week when most of them turned up in their costumes or parts of their bodies appropriately decorated in the manner or colour of their favourite book characters.

Dr Priscilla Puamau, Director of the Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education [PRIDE] was invited to join the Primary School Assembly.



"Reading is not only just for pleasure," she told her audience of pupils, teachers and parents. "You read for knowledge so that you know what else is there in the world around you and as you grow older; reading will help you to gain qualifications that will get you a good job which will earn you a living. Now, hands up those of you who would like to be a teacher when you grow up? [about 80% of hands went up] and to be the Premier of Niue? [90% response for this question] – at this point TTN was delighted with the prospect that the future of our nation is heading in the right direction in that with good readers [and there are lots of them] we will have a steady supply of teachers and premiers to look after our country.



In recalling the words of Hon O'love Jacobsen at the Tuapa Show Day a week ago, that 'our island state is truly blessed' there can be no doubt that we are better off than most nations in the world. For years all our children from Primary to Niue School have received and completed free education and we can proudly boast that in so doing our entire reading age population can read and write. In recognising this we have therefore long achieved Goal No 2



of the MDG Indicators, while in many countries in the world children will never achieve or complete a full course of Primary Education.

Who do we credit for this miracle?

1. The arrival of the London Missionary Society during the 1860s established local schools in the communities and translated the Bible into the local vernacular and only by being able to read

that the people reaped the benefits.

2. The 1877 Education Act in New Zealand applied to Niue when the island became a NZ Territory after 1901
3. The people of Niue demanded a compulsory full public education for all children that was granted in 1953 when the Church surrendered its control to Niue Island Administration.
4. More recently during the past decade other interested philanthropists such as the Latter Day Saints donations of hundreds of new books to the school following Cyclone Heta in 2004, Reef Shipping which supported the 'Home Start Reading Programme and continues to donate new books to both the schools, and three months ago 'An Ocean of Books Organisation' {Jeff Evans and Fuli Pereira} sent hundreds of new and used books to the Niue Public Library and again for our two schools.
5. Niue Education currently has 1000 Titles of newly published books [written by local authors] that are due to be released before the end of this year, made possible under the direction of the PRIDE programme funded by EU and NZ Aid.
6. There were other organisations and private donors, too many to mention in this publication, who have been donating books to Niue.



Fuli Pereira [left] Jeff Evans and daughter Iutita, owners of 'An ocean of Books Organisation'

To date therefore we can be very proud of our Literacy record in that we can safely claim with confidence that Niue's literacy rate at 100% is one of the highest in the world.

Alofi North's fishing competition



By boat, canoe or on the reef – it made no difference to the residents of Alofi North as long as they have a line with a hook at the end of it – everyone knows that magical feeling when they catch their first fish.

TTN decided to follow the reef fishing fraternity last Saturday except that it was not the best idea we had, not with the tide on full and hanging on to an

expensive camera at the same time. It was fun though but we would have felt much better to be catching something...



We were just in time to photograph the catches of the boats and canoes fishermen. It was a good day all round with many large, freshly caught fish waiting their turn to be weighed.

Mr Meimei Lio surprised everyone when he arrived on the wharf with a catch that included a large sailfish, two yellowfin tuna and one other fish we could not identify [probably a black bass].



Most of the fish were yellowfin tuna and red bass [fagamea] although some of the earlier fishermen caught wahoo and skipjack.

Needless to say Mr Lio's sailfish was the heaviest and we also heard that all the catches were Barbequed in the evening and enjoyed by the communities and their guests.

The fishing competition was part of the Alofi North community's Show Day, now postponed to next week end, 25th September.

Part 2: PUBLIC EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE

Recommendations on the 2010/2011 Recurrent Budget

EDUCATION

The Committee noted that the Department of Education have removed one of the VSAT units and would recommend that this VSAT unit be utilized by Health Department for tele-medicine purposes.

The Committee recommend to the Government to allow the Private Sector to tender for provision of materials for the two schools and for the provision of the uniforms for Niue High School. The Committee note the substantial allocation for provision of materials for schools as business lost to the Niue economy because the Department is placing its orders directly to New Zealand.

Niue High School

The Committee noted that there seems to be a lack of coordination between the Education Department with Niue High School and NTDC. These two departments should play an integral role in the Governments long term economic development goals, in terms of developing the Government human resource needs. The Committee notes the students are not studying fields like Economics at the Niue High School. The Committee recommends that the Government review the Education courses available to students to reflect the Government long term economic development goals.

School Bus Contracts

The Committee recommends that the Government considers the possibility of bringing the school bus contract under the responsibility of the Infrastructure Department, under the Transport division.

The Committee further recommends that the Infrastructure Coordinator prepares a report on the Bus Contractors or Cabinet may undertake a review or the Committee may organize that report. The Committee notes that the School Bus Contract rates have not been reviewed for some time and recommends that Cabinet commission a review of the Contracts to determine if the contracts are cost effective based on the number of students and the allocation under the budget.

In addition the Committee that the report should also consider the possibility of the two schools starting at the same time to minimize the cost of transporting students to the two schools at two different times.

HEALTH

Chief Medical Officer

The Committee notes that the position of Chief Medical Officer is vacant and recommends that the position is filled as soon as possible.

Police & Immigration

Review of the Liquor Act

The Committee notes the need to amend the Liquor Act to reflect the reports from the Police Department with regard to underage drinking and licensed premises. The Committee recommends that the Government treat this with some urgency.

Immigration Stamp

The Committee recognizes the difficulties the Government have in the past in trying to deal with this issue. The Committee recommends that the Agent for stamping of visas to enter Niue without the requirement to purchase a return airfare should be at Auckland Airport two hours prior to the flight's departure.

PILLAR 5 - ENVIRONMENT

Environment Department & Niue Meteorological Office

Can Collection Recycling Project

The Committee recommends that the cost of empty cans is increased from \$0.05 cents to \$0.15 cents per can, being \$0.10 cents for collecting the cans and \$0.05 cents for crushing. The Committee recommends an environment tariff is for the import of aluminium cans is introduced at the rate of \$1.00 per carton of soft drinks or beer. The Committee further recommends that the Environment Department looks at recycling empty bottles such as wine and liquor bottles and also options to recycle plastic bottles.

Asbestos

The Committee recommends that the asbestos removal project be completed as soon as possible and that all asbestos roofing be removed off the island.

Rubbish Truck Contract

The Committee recommends the Department find a suitable rubbish collection truck as the existing truck is not suitable for rubbish collection. The Committee also recommends the Department to revise the contract as benefiting the new arrangement.

Donor Funds

The Committee notes the concern raised by the Department on the Government charging of NCT on donor procured equipment. The Committee recommends that procurement of any goods or equipment under donor project funds should be through the private sector outlets. This will eliminate donor expectations but also that Departments are reminded to support

local private sector by importing equipment through them. The Committee further recommend to the Government to ensure procurement policy will specify the support of private sector outlets.

Consultancy Agreements

The Committee recommends that the Environment Department advertise all contracts (whether for procurement of goods or for consultancy services) for public knowledge. The Committee believes that there are local residents who may be able to undertake these consultancies and this is in the interest of transparency. Some local residents have gained a lot of knowledge and information working for Government for a long period of time, such as between 10-40 years.

The Committee noted that there are opportunities available for local consultants to provide services to this Department. The Department will need to advertise for such consultants.

Meteorological Services

The Committee recommends that any overseas donor subsidies to all Government departments should be reflected in the budget as revenue.

PILLAR 6 – TĀOGA NIUE Taoga Niue Department

The Committee recommends that Taoga Niue should be fully funded and supported by Government. The Committee encourages the Government to continue to explore options for the building of the Kaina.

The Committee recommends that the Department resubmit the Niue Language Commission Bill and the Taoga Niue Bill for discussion by Assembly.

GOVERNMENT ASSETS

The Committee seeks further information on the old Treasury building with a view to leasing available space. The Committee recommend to the Government to maximize revenue opportunities from the rental of its properties.

Forum Assets

The Committee recommend to the Government to sell remaining Forum Assets such as the two white buses, the big white marquees and remaining VSATs and other audio equipment. The Committee is aware of the use of these Government assets are in direct competition with existing businesses. This practice is contradictive to Governments position on supporting the Private Sector. The sale of these assets will also save the Government in running costs and long term maintenance costs.

Conclusion

The Committee is satisfied with the Estimates of Expenditure & Revenue provided for discussion on the Annual Appropriation Bill 2010/2011. The Committee is satisfied that the Government has satisfactorily performed due process in transparency and accountability.

The Committee will however make the following general comments in concluding this report.

1. The Committee discussed in length the budget deficit and the reasons for this deficit. The Committee is aware that the reduction of the annual budget support from Constitutional partner New Zealand had impacted on this budget which resulted in this deficit. It is the opinion of the Committee that the Government should not be penalized in conditions set in 2007 with the \$1.4 million loan. It is the final view of the Committee that the Government performed its best in

meeting these conditions and the Committee is satisfied with the Government commitment to meeting these conditions.

2. It is the view of the Committee that the financial situation of the Niue Government is stronger than it was 2 and half years ago when this Committee first deliberated. This is evident in the improved performance of many departments which has reflected positively in the Governments strengthening financial position. The Committee also recognize that this position is a result of sound management and will encourage the Government to maintain this position if it is to meet its future development goals. The Committee though caution the Government that this position must be maintained and for departments to avoid unnecessary over-expenditure. The Government must continue to expand its revenue base to meet its long term objectives.
3. The whole of Government departments' outputs is still an issue with outdated outputs. The Committee encourages Department to identify a format that works for everyone as there seems to be a recurring issue. The outputs should be of measurable indicators to allow detail analysis of achievement of such outputs. There is room for improvement in this area.
4. The Committee will further suggest that the Government of Niue consider its investments into joint-ventures and other state owned companies with a view to maximize returns on those investments. The Committee suggests gradual payment of dividends to the Niue Government to improve its revenue options.
5. The Committee would also like to raise two issues that we discussed extensively,
 - (1) The need for another bulldozer to help with agricultural needs in addition to tourism economic projects.
 - (2) The PEC would also like to raise for Government consideration the request from the Chair of the House Committee to relook at the Civil List. Unfortunately PEC did not discuss the Civil List as that is still pending with a report from the Niue Public Service Commission. However we discussed in detail the option for retired members of the Assembly and former Speakers. We suggest Government consideration to include additional recognition for these former members and former Speaker by increasing their pensions accordingly. As former members we do not believe they need to wait for determination under the Civil List. The PEC strongly feels for these former members who have contributed so much to the development of Niue and have received no recognition in their retirement. We ask the Government to please consider this with some urgency.
6. The Committee wish to acknowledge the contribution of all Government, the HODs and senior management who attended PEC consultations. This indicates to the PEC Committee that the Departments are committed to the process of transparency and accountability. There are however key management areas that must be addressed to help improve the Governments revenue base and also limit excessive expenditure in certain areas. (ref. Attached list participants).
7. I wish to end by acknowledging the members of the Committee for your diligence in performing our role and oversight of the Governments financial expenditure and revenue. In our work we make hard and sometimes harsh recommendations but it would be remiss of us to avoid making such decisions. As elected officials we face constant public opinion when our decisions and recommendations are not received well but I believe that we have performed our role to the best of our abilities and as Chair of this Committee I thank you all for you integrity and hard work and for your support of my role.
8. To the Advisors from the Treasury Department Poi Kapaga, Doreen Siataga, Akata Bilitaki and Crossley Tatui, we thank you for your openness in helping the

PEC by providing the Committee with the assurances that the Governments financial position is being managed by capable professionals.

9. To the staff of Legislature, Moka Tano-Puleosi, Tina Tavita Makani, Tina Cooper and support staff, oue tulou for organizing the meetings for PEC and for your support. Our work would not have been done without your contribution. Fakaue Lahi.
10. Mr. Speaker, as Chairperson of the Public Expenditure Committee I and the members of the Committee take full responsibility for the wording and recommendations in this report of the Annual Appropriation Bill 2010/2011.

Gustava Esther Pavihi
Chairperson
Public Expenditure Committee

Niue Weather Outlook for July - September 2010

All indicators in the Pacific Ocean show that we are now in the early stages of a La Niña event. Computer models predict the central Pacific will continue to cool in coming months.

Signs of an emerging La Niña event have been apparent in the equatorial Pacific for several months.

Pacific Ocean temperatures have cooled steadily throughout the year, the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has increased in value and is currently around +21, trade winds continue to be stronger than average and cloudiness has remained suppressed over the central Pacific. All of these key indicators have now reached or exceed La Niña levels.

Climate Parameters: Rainfall Total (mm) 140.1
Number of Rainy Days - 19
Total Sunshine Hours - 170.2
Max.Temp.(Average) - 27.3°C [Min. Temp.(Average) 20.1°C
Average Relative Humidity - 85 %

Forecast Validation

Period Forecast consistent with Observed May, June & July 2010 – Normal, Between 252 & 382.3mm

The rainfall outlook Forecast for the September – October quarter is: “Below Normal” with a 65% chance of rainfall occurring, with the chance of receiving ‘above normal’ rainfall is next highest at 28%.

Implications for the visitors: That the May-August quarter is probably the best time to visit Niue when temperatures are cooler

Tau Talanoa:

- The Governor General, His Excellency Anand Satyanand has appointed and sworn in Mr Patrick Savage as Niue’s new Chief Justice. According to the Secretary of the Niue Department of Justice, Justin Kamupala, Chief Justice Isaac Wilson who is the Chief Justice of the Maori Land Court is not easily available but he will return from time to time to complete the cases that he was previously handling.

- Mr Frank Fakaotimanava-Lui has been appointed to Chair the Board of Niue Internet [commonly known as IUSN or Internet Users Society of Niue] Mr Fakaotimanava-Lui is a former Premier of Niue. IUSN was set up 13 years ago to manage the .nu domain name.

- The results of the second round of the Niue Rugby Sevens [Men] competition last week end showed marked improvement according to the organisers. With the third and final round remaining the present standings are as follows:



1. Tuapa
2. Alofi
3. Avatele
4. Hakupu
5. Liku
6. Hikutavake

- Ms Olive from ‘Whales Alive’ is very happy with the results of the recently completed whale research in Niue waters, despite the initial difficulties when the research vessel was capsized while on its way to Niue.

“I am extremely privileged at the closeness and the support from the local people and visiting yacht owners who have willingly offered their time to help with our research. I am very grateful for the hospitality of Niueans which helped to make our work enjoyable,” she told BCN last week. Although the visiting team and local non-government organisation Oma Tafua members were out every day on the water the number of humpback whales found were few.

“We found the same experience in Tonga and Tahiti,” said Ms Olive, “but we found other species, especially the sperm and sei whales, both of which were mercilessly hunted during the past two centuries.”

The team found and ID’ed 18 individual humpbacks [most at 12 miles out] that will become the core number for future references.

- Agriculture education programme at Niue High School has been diversified to include hydroponics gardening and livestock, namely chickens and pigs. ‘It is a holistic integrated farming approach that we hope that expose our students to employment or business opportunities,’ explained the teacher in charge of the programme. The students appeared to be quite enthusiastic engaging in an activity that are interesting, practical and manageable, a far cry from earlier years when ‘doing agriculture’ was regarded by most students as a punishment, such as weeding the school garden after school.

This is an FAO funded activity and is hoped to be self sustaining when the crops, eggs and meat are sold.

- The Government has appealed to the public for donations to assist with the rehabilitation of the Christchurch Earthquake victims. The Department of Community

Affairs has been asked to be the collection point for all forms of donations. BCN was planning to have a Radiothon Appeal to kick start the fundraising activities.



- Now that the Niue Outdoor services have destroyed all the flamboyant trees in an idyllic spot between the Industrial Park, Niue Prison and the Niue Golf Course we are at a loss as to what the Planning Department intends to do with it. Harder to understand is the demolition of a 50 year old prison warden's residence,

outbuildings for cooking and a servant's quarters, with its huge water tank.



Ok, the residence and its outbuilding have seen better days and it is not exactly of exquisite architectural marvel but it is nevertheless part of our past history that deserve a better method of demise. They could have scrubbed up quite nicely once renovated and it would probably cost less to bring up to standard rather than building a new one, handy for use especially with a lawn bowling

green nearby.

Some people suggested that building a 'Shopping Maul' [which is exactly what they have done with it] is being envisaged – the airport and all the other amenities [Golf Course, Prison, NPSB, Huihui and Fualahi subdivisions, Industrial Park, Hospital] in close proximity; a hotel or a Convention Centre.

We who worked across the road will miss the 12 flamboyant trees this Christmas and that is a shame, especially when we cannot blame Climate Change on this near desertification 'cleanup' operation.



- Spare a thought and prayer please for the Hipa family who this week lost their beloved mother and grand mother, Alitasi Hipa.

The Government and the people of Niue would like to express their most sincere sympathies and condolences to Dr Dick Hipa, his children and grand children for their loss.

- Please note: The Alofi North Show Day is postponed to next week end, 24th September

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