



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER SOCIAL SERVICES

MEDIA RELEASE

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OPENING OF THE NIUE FOOU HOSPITAL ISOLATION WARD AND THE COVID RESPONSE LABORATORY

Alofi, Niue – 28 April 2022 – The Government of Niue (GON) together with the Department of Health yesterday, held a special opening ceremony for the Niue Foou Hospital new Isolation Ward and Laboratory.

Minister of Social Services Hon. Sauni Tongatule welcomed the official opening of the new Isolation Ward and Laboratory for the Niue Foou Hospital.

“It is timely, that we officially open and Bless these two significant assets as we move closer towards quarantine-free travel (QFT). The value of the investments made by our development partners, into Niue’s COVID response is hugely significant” said Hon. Tongatule.

“The building that you see before you, was constructed with funding from the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APRDF). It is built on a foundation that was laid 2 years ago as a means to urgently prepare for COVID-19 when it was first declared a global pandemic”.

The GON also acknowledged the hospital and medical equipment that was funded by various donor partners over the last two years to care for COVID patients if Niue were to ever have a case requiring hospitalisation “from the hospital beds, oxygen concentrators & ventilators to all the personal protective equipment, including masks and all consumables,” said Minister Tongatule.

“These have been made available because of the generous support of the New Zealand Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT), the Government of Japan, through its Grant Aid for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Niue, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme – Global Fund, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Akanesi Mataitonga Trust”.

The fully equipped pathology COVID-Response Laboratory was also blessed at the ceremony.

“Today we will also bless the COVID-Response Laboratory, which is used for all COVID testing. This is another significant investment made by the Government of NZ, (through MFAT), the Pacific Pathology Training Centre in Wellington, and the World Health Organisation.

The GON also took the time to acknowledge the family of the late Colleen Figo Misa Kulatea-loane who played an instrumental role in the Niue health sector during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and announced the dedication of the Isolation Ward in her memory.

At the ceremony, Minister Hon. Sauni Tongatule, expressed his sincere thanks to all the GON agencies who were involved in the success of the project. He also thanked the National COVID-Committee together with the Health Department who continue to advise, guide and implement Niue’s COVID-19 response.

The honour of cutting the kapihi for the isolation ward was given to the Premier of Niue and ADB Governor for Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi and Hon. Sauni Tongatule had the same honour for the laboratory.

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