



## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### THE GON ICT WORKING GROUP REVIVED

**14 April 2022 – Alofi, Niue** – Today, the Government of Niue (GON) Information, Communication and Technologies (ICT) specialists met with the Minister of Finance and Infrastructure, Hon Crossley Tatui, to revive the GON ICT Working Group to make information, communication and technology developments much more transparent and accessible to the people of Niue.

Niue positions itself at the forefront of ICT development and coverage in the Pacific; however, operating without a formal ICT policy and a fragmented coordination structure hinders innovative and capital benefits from overseas professional ICT bodies.

The meeting was held at Fale Fono, Tialekula in Alofi, chaired by the Minister Hon. Crossley Tatui.

Frank Sioneholo of the office of Economic and Planning, organised the meeting for all the key stakeholders of ICT. He said, “For Niue’s ICT to progress, the mission must be redefined so that everyone benefits from the substantial investment in ICT and information is transparent”.

“We will involve other key stakeholders to ensure the Government has a proper ICT policy and authority. The plan is to establish and appoint a Policy Advisor in the proposed Ministry of Finance organisation structure”, said Frank Sioneholo.

The Director of USP Niue Campus, Seone Lolesio, said the ICT Working Group is needed to better coordinate ICT development matters in Niue.

“The University of the South Pacific prides itself at the forefront of ICT development in the region and is always willing to support the GON and the People of Niue in laying the foundation for inclusive education”, said Lolesio.

The meeting saw a great interest from the young ICT graduates who are eager to be involved in the long-term development of ICT in Niue.

Senior Customs Officer Chamberlain Pita briefed the meeting on the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), an integrated customs management system for international trade and transport operations in a modern automated environment. Niue will implement it soon.

Hender Poumale, of the India-Niue CEIT office, praised the talks for strengthening Niue’s ICT capabilities.

“I appreciate the meeting and contributions from the senior officials and looking ahead to discuss the ICT policy framework and assist in whatever role available to utilise my knowledge and skills more”, said Hender Poumale

Following the discussions, it was decided to resurrect the ICT Working Group and work towards formalising the GON ICT policy framework for Cabinet to consider and expedite the Communications Amendment Bill.

The ICT symposium, which took place in October 2020 in Matavai Resort, was pivotal in these advances.

**ENDS**

**For more information, please contact:**

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