



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PREMIER OF NIUE MEETS WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE COOK ISLANDS, HON. ROBERT TAPAITAU AND NIUEAN RESIDENTS IN RAROTONGA

Alofi, Niue – 24 October 2022 – Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi had the honour of meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Robert Tapaitau and Special Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum and Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Tapaeru Herrmann on his arrival to Rarotonga on Friday afternoon, 21 October 2022.

Key issues discussed during the bilateral discussions held in the VIP lounge upon Premier's arrival included; - flight connectivity, economic recovery, pandemic response and recovery, and the recent announcement by the U.S. towards recognition of both Cook Islands and Niue sovereignty.

I welcomed the opportunity to meet with DPM Robert Tapaitau and Special Envoy Tapaeru Herrmann and have an exchange on a wide range of topics," said Premier Tagelagi.

Talks also extended to regional initiatives, including the Cook Islands' assumption of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders (PIFL) chair responsibilities and hosting the PIFL meeting by the Cook Islands in 2023.

"This was a welcome opportunity to catch up with Premier Tagelagi on bilateral and regional matters," said Special Envoy Herrmann.

"The Cook Islands and Niue have much in common on recent regional and international developments, including the recent Cook Islands/French Polynesia flights connectivity, and U.S. recognition of the Cook Islands and Niue sovereignty will see elevated levels of collaboration with Niue in the coming months," said Special Envoy Herrmann.

Following bilateral talks with DPM Tapaitau and Special Envoy Herrmann, Premier Tagelagi was welcomed by the Niue community members who celebrated Niue's 48th constitution in Avarua.

Premier also took the time to meet with representatives for Air Rarotonga to explore flight options for Niue with Air Raro.

Premier Tagelagi also took the time in Rarotonga to share his thoughts on climate change with SPREP ahead of COP27, set to be held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

“The 1.5 °C target is the goal of the Paris Agreement, which calls for countries to take concerted climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global warming.”

“It’s important that we continue to send this message to the world as we emit the least carbon emissions in the Pacific, but we are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. All our efforts in building resilience and reducing our carbon emissions are nothing if the rest of the world doesn’t do something about it.”

“It’s not just for the Pacific, but for the sake of the whole world that we achieve 1.5 °C, or lower, degrees Celsius,” says Premier Tagelagi.

Premier Tagelagi, upon his departure from Rarotonga to Aotearoa, New Zealand, took the opportunity to meet with the King’s Representative to the Cook Islands, Sir Tom Masters.

Premier Tagelagi travelled to Rarotonga on an Air Rarotonga charter flight to Niue and today arrived in Busan, South Korea, with his delegation to attend the 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers meeting.

Premier Tagelagi would like to thank the Niuean residents of Rarotonga for hosting himself and his delegation on their transit to Aotearoa, New Zealand.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Rhonda Tiakia GON Communications Officer, niuegovernment.media@mail.gov.nu