



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Minister of Social Services, Hon Sauni Tongatule Meeting with the Aotearoa New Zealand's Minister for Pacific Peoples and Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Aupito William Sio on the eve of the 48th Constitution Commemorations

Alofi, Niue - 17 October 2022 - The Minister of Social Services, Hon Sauni Tongatule is excited to welcome Aotearoa New Zealand's Minister for Pacific Peoples and Associate Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon Aupito William Sio to Niue and look forward to meeting him again tomorrow at a special Vagahau Niue Roundtable.



Hon Sio and the Pacific peoples in New Zealand recently launched the Pacific Languages Strategy and he will speak briefly about this Strategy at the Vagahau Niue Roundtable.

The Pacific Languages Strategy has three key objectives for Vagahau Niue; “recognise the value of Vagahau Niue across Aotearoa, strengthen pathways and resources for learning Vagahau Niue and learning in Vagahau Niue and create environments for Vagahau Niue to be used more often and in more spaces.”

According to Minister Tongatule meeting Minister Sio at a Vagahau Niue Roundtable tomorrow is a positive development following Minister Mahuta's announcement of a 'regional language cooperation initiative and support to reinvigorate collaboration between the Niue Language Commission and Te Taura Whiri' when she visited last August.

The Vagahau Niue Roundtable titled “Explore Challenges for Learning and Revitalising Vagahau Niue for Niue and Aotearoa within the Pacific Languages Strategy” offers the privilege to three young Niue peoples to share their views of the challenges and solutions for learning and revitalise Vagahau Niue and how we can collaborate and enhance our Niue peoples efforts in Aotearoa to grow more Vagahau Niue speakers.

This reinvigoration for Vagahau Niue signifies fresh hope of an 18 year old agreement made at the Tāoga Niue Fono in 2004 under the Vagahau Niue pillar; Encourage Niue Peoples abroad to promote and maintain the use of Vagahau Niue and to maintain links with the homeland’.

According to the Minister, he hopes that this initial meeting will be the catalyst for future collaboration between the Komisina Vagahau Niue and the people of Niue and the Niuean diaspora in Aotearoa New Zealand so we do not have to wait another 18 years before we bring into reality our tupuna's wishes and dreams.

The theme for the roundtable aligns with the Government of Niue's 48th Constitution Theme 'Innovations for Sustainable Development - Fakatūleva e aga fakamahomoatu' of innovations in Vagahau Niue and how we can support our peoples in New Zealand to grow more fluent speakers of Vagahau Niue.

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