



# GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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## **NIUE HOSTS UNDP WORKSHOP ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION, OPEN GOVERNMENT AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

**Alofi, Niue – 9 November 2022** – The Government of Niue (GON) Crown Law Office, together with UNDP and United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC), hosted a programme on Open Government and Right to Information (RTI), delivered in a two-day workshop session on 7 – 8 November 2022 in Alofi, Niue.

The workshop aims to introduce the concept of the Right to Information and Open Government and outline links to transparency, accountability, integrity, and stakeholder participation.

Justin Kamupala, Niue’s Solicitor General says that the Right to Information and Open Government can refer to anything that supports the principles of transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation.

“We are thankful for UNDPs support to Niue under UNPRAC and the Government of New Zealand for funding this workshop. This workshop will be instrumental in helping Niue’s public officials understand that there is a lot more that can be done outside of the creation of laws to progress toward a more accountable and open government, such as the compilation and release of information that Departments are required to do as part of their day to day activities, including the development of policy on what types of information that could be proactively disclosed to our public,” says Kamupala.

Attendees will learn these concepts in the context of international standards and commitments including; article 19 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on the SDG 16, includes ensuring public access to information as a key aspect to achieving the overall goal of peace, justice and strong institutions

The Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, which is aimed at strengthening anti-corruption, transparency and accountability in the Pacific Island countries aligns with key regionalism agendas and frameworks.

Justin Kamupala, Niue’s Solicitor General says that access to government held information is a critical component of democracy and a foundational pillar of open government.

This workshop was invaluable for Niue’s public officials and helps to create better awareness of the right to information and open government, which could lead to the creation of a policy document on how Open Government principles should be applied for Niue,” says Kamupala.

**ENDS**

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