



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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DEPLOYMENT MISSION IN RELIEF OF CYCLONE GABRIELLE IN NEW ZEALAND (NZ), 2023

Alofi, Niue – 29 June 2023 – The Niue Emergency Recovery Team (NERT) traveled to New Zealand on Monday 26th of June 2023, to assist the Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group coordinated by its Recovery Structure and under the guidance of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in New Zealand.

In February this year, a National State of Emergency was declared in NZ following the severe weather events from the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Hon. Premier Dalton Tagelagi shared Niue’s support with Prime Minister Chris Hipkins to offer support and assist with the response.

“Niue would like to support and share our expertise in disaster management and recovery response with the Government of New Zealand and help ensure the well-being of those affected. It is also an opportunity to strengthen the leadership of Niue’s Emergency Management system,” said Premier Dalton Tagelagi.

The Niue Disaster Management Office (NDMO) assembled a team on Niue’s first international deployment mission to assist NZ during its recovery phase post Cyclone Gabrielle. NEMA had identified the region of Hawkes Bay for Niue to provide support under their “Ola Manuia Pacific workstream”. A framework that supports Pacific people through its vision “Thriving Pacific families in Aotearoa NZ”.

In its work, the NERT will map out projects needed to be undertaken during recovery and the set up four new Pacific Community Emergency Civil Defense Sites. The team will engage across stakeholders, with local councils and organizations to understand the Pacific community’s needs and share experiences from Cyclone Heta in 2004. The team will also consult with other councils in Wairoa, Napier, Central Hawkes Bay, and Hastings and establish close relationships within these groups.

The Niue Emergency Recovery Team is thankful for the opportunity offered by the Government of Niue and hopes the learning experience gained will be used to develop and enhance Niue’s recovery response on both national and local levels. The Government and its Cabinet wish the Team a safe journey and look forward to future active engagements.

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For more information, please contact:

For further information, please contact: Anzee Mougavalu, GON Communications Officer

niuegovernment.media@mail.gov.nu