



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE SEEKS CLARIFICATION FROM PREMIER ON PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Alofi, Niue – 14 February 2024 – The Chair of the Constitution Review Committee (CRC), Hon. Billy Talagi, and the Committee convened a session on Monday 12 February 2024, seeking insights from the Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi, regarding the proposed amendments to Article 2 of the Constitution. The focus of the discussion centered on the rationale, objectives, and outcomes of increasing the number of Ministers in Cabinet, alongside the proposed method for amendment and the envisaged direction for the expansion.

In response to the Committee's inquiries, Premier Tagelagi outlined the fundamental reasons behind the proposed amendment, emphasizing the need to address the existing imbalance in the decision-making capacity within Cabinet. The Premier underscored objectives aimed at enhancing inclusivity, expertise, and policy competence within the Executive, while also striving to improve government efficiency.

Premier Tagelagi further elaborated on the reasoning behind the proposed expanded Executive, emphasizing the facilitation of quicker decision-making during crises, informed decision-making through specialized knowledge inclusion, and improved coordination within the public service and community.

The Premier highlighted the importance of addressing potential negative outcomes, such as resource constraints and abuse of power, through appropriate checks and balances.

In concluding his remarks, Premier Tagelagi emphasized the progressive nature of self-government and advocated against stagnation, urging a responsive approach to societal demands. He encouraged reflection on the work of early Constitution Review Committees, emphasizing the importance of collective progress and collaboration towards a prosperous future for Niue.

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