

24 June 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

### **TITLE: Drive to Limu...**

Went for a drive to Limu today. Roads were not bad. A few potholes but if you drive carefully you should not hit any. But there were a lot of 'Speedy Gonzales' drivers or is that *kamikaze*?

Road humps will start this year and these may stop speedsters. I remember in Dubai they had speed humps in the middle of the desert. I think they wanted people to slow down because of camels, and road to the airport had a speed hump zone seemingly at every 100 metres. So we'll start with road humps. Safety is too important to let silly drivers cause accidents and damage someone else or be killed, or damage their own cars or even someone else's property.

I also noticed a lot of activities: new houses, the cleanup of old houses and the surrounds etc. This was all good to see, and villages generally look trimmed and tidy. There was a bit of rubbish on the road sides so some people are still practicing those bad habits. No pride.

We are looking at helping people who may wish to spruce up their houses. We are trying to figure out the financing options including the Niue Development Bank. I must discuss with Wayne at the bank for some ideas.

But these activities will help create jobs and new businesses for those builders, plumbers, electricians etc.

We'll be renovating the Youth Centre by expanding its scope and this will hopefully turn it into a money maker. It looks tired and has had 6 bookings in 12 months. The committee are trying but its all small fry stuff.

I was going to call a meeting to get the youth parliament going again. I instructed them to do it but nothing's happened in almost a year. The youth parliament should be good learning experience for them.

The Old Folk's Companions programme starts this next week, I think. This is where old folks are visited by some volunteers to just have a chat or see how they are. The Health and Community Affairs departments will manage it, but they're taking their time.

I said I'd cook them something for an outing only to learn the women don't have a stove or oven. They didn't tell me but there was money left from the Korean funds we used to renovate their premises. They're an independent lot but they are active and still going strong.

The old folks will get some of the increases we promised. Others are trying to say they did it but when they were in government they did nothing. Hurry up and pay they say. Well if they had done their jobs I wouldn't be doing this.

So just a few bits and bobs to read.

Just of interest, we know how to measure GDP. So economic and finance information has good historical base.

But can we do the same with environment? Can we measure environmental capacity to help us with planning our use of the environment to maintain it sustainably for years to come? Clean pristine, clear, not polluted.

When I raised this in Manila recently, the President had just closed one tourist spot because the pollution was very bad. He was going to pick others as well. So you can imagine the idea of measuring environment capacity resonates in Singapore and the Philippines. The USA were very interested in the idea too.

We're giving it a go to see what factors we should use to provide the core information we will need. I think they try with environment impact assessments but these are specific and not expansive enough.

We'll see.

Until next time.

**[ENDS]**

---

**For more information, please contact the Office of the Premier on email:**  
[pats.sionetama@mail.gov.nu](mailto:pats.sionetama@mail.gov.nu) or [hender.poumale@mail.gov.nu](mailto:hender.poumale@mail.gov.nu); phone: +683 4200. Visit our  
website <http://niuepremierofficial.com/>

---