

1 August 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TITLE: Bits and pieces**

The idea of localising the Tourism director position has been tried. Didn't work well. We employ a number of experts to help us do jobs our own people struggle with. The idea of using these people which include almost all departments on the island.

But these people are ignored and only a favoured few are subjected to very close attention though this has been basically name calling. There's a large envy streak involved.

It's why I do what I do. As I've said to the media, I don't care or tolerate fools very well.

But Felicity, Wayne Harris Daw, Charles Cooper and Toni, they are the culprits who have done excellent jobs and got the hard treatment from the fringe benefits on the island.

Toni and I do fill in at BCN. We get picked on which doesn't bother either of us. But what I hear is: "Felicity, Wayne and Charles are the real villains. They cannot do anything right. If we had Niueans running these we'll triple and quadruple profits or numbers".

Between the 3 of them they've managed to generate considerable revenues for the country. To the cry hards, it's really tough to hear me say that. And by the way we have expatriates in Health, Education and Telecom. Oh and BCN as well.

Yeah right, shows a very shallow understanding of the commercial realities that we face. All three plus others we use do an excellent job. Just happy to have them. So get over it I don't care or consider any comments you all make either direct or by innuendo.

You have to giggle when Alofi North member swore she knew on good information that the vehicles purchased by ministers etc were \$1,000 each. No idea who her spy was but I'd demand my money back if I was her. All the cars are sold based on values Director Christine Ioane obtains from mechanics. These are not shonky deals.

But let's start a rumour Terry is good at rumours. Add the 4 stooges who have an opinion and I can rest easy.

Some of us will pretend we know things and I suspect if the government changes all the people who have helped us will be sacked quickly and just as quickly everything will slide backwards.

Without prejudice all these workers have contributed to the economic growth and finance of Niue. There's a lot more to be done so we're not resting on our laurels.

I suppose if they had bothered to read the budgets of the SOEs they would be able to determine if they are doing well or not. But the focus was on the law which allows SOEs to exist. And the member concerned after admitting she was in cabinet when the law was passed, recalls it was for trading

Then add the focus on the fact Felicity in Tourism did not appear in the PAC meant she was not doing a good enough job. Never mind the increased flights and numbers of tourist who are arriving. That seems to be ignored.

It's old style politics. Pick on people don't worry about the results. Mind you I suspect they think that the increase in numbers has nothing to do with Felicity and her team.

Both Wayne and Felicity are doing a great job for Niue. I'm very pleased with them

But they also ignore the expatriate doctors, nurses, teachers, technicians. I think I also made mention of the very confidential nature in some of our dealings with the companies we work with.

I think there are deals which we've made which would be general fodder for the likes of Coe. But then he hid the .nu deal from the public as well.

**[ENDS]**

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