

15 August 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TITLE: The Assembly today was interesting for the wrong reasons**

The Assembly today was interesting for the wrong reasons. What should have been a discussion of the estimates from State Owned Enterprise (SOEs) turned into something. It was clear that the opposing Member of Parliaments (MPs) were not interested in the truth just noise. I also realised that perhaps they don't understand budgets and how they are structured. So they tend to talk about anything but.

I tend to switch off when that happens and sometimes just join in for fun.

I will not bore you with the details but a budget basically has income expenditure and outcomes.

The irony is that they say when they passed the Act in 1997 the provisions in there were wrong. We did not pass the Act. They did. We're not aware of the loopholes or mistakes that were made then.

The membership of the board as per the act are the Minister of Finance who is chair, Government Solicitor and Financial Secretary. They could nominate someone in their place and this has been done a number of times.

Someone did say that the revenues were \$8m from the SOEs but wanted to know how the estimates could project such.

The fact is all the SOEs including the Broadcasting Corporation of Niue (BCN) and Niue Power Corporation are making money. Even Civil is making money.

The profits belong to the only share holder the Niue Government.

We are pleased to see we have gone from zero revenues to \$8m in 10 years. That must surely be commended.

Give the government credit for that at least

Telecoms is established by and Act and so is BCN.

I suspect they want to take over and start losing money and we go backwards once more.

So interesting day. Must say though I tend to switch off.

I'll be attending the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Forum with Maureen, Pats and Lady Emeline. The Chinese have very generously offered to pay. The Chinese have also invited me to meet him and other Pacific Island leaders in Papua New Guinea in November.

The Australians have finally paid over \$2m for the waste project.

We are currently working with NZ on funds for projects. They have approved funds for the purchase of a new kato crane. It will be able to lift 40ft containers.

We are working with them and also asking the USA to fund a motorised barge The USA defence attaché was here.

The Cuban Ambassador was also here to present his credentials. We discussed the supplying of a female Doctor. We'll discuss this and hope to have a positive outcome soon.

The Fale Tau Tāoga Niue opening in October the 19<sup>th</sup> with Moira, Ida, Annemarie and Christine coordinating are well in place.

Should be a great day. Tāoga is such an important part of our lives.

The new solar project has been stopped by me because I'm unhappy with what they are doing. Testing their systems may well cause huge and I'm not prepared to allow them to take the risk

**[ENDS]**

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