

28 August 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TITLE: New initiatives**

Actually this is what this government does well compared to before. As can be seen the SOEs whatever you might say or think have all been loss making or poorly performing government departments heavily dependent and subsidised by the government into better performing operations. A lot of work has gone into this transformation to achieve better results.

As well a lot of work has gone into new ventures and other sovereign assets to achieve better revenue results. Water bottling, coin and stamps, upper airspace, ship registry have been the result. There will be others new and improved returns from negotiations government is negotiating now.

So over the past 10 years that's what we have done. It looks at change which improves our revenue capacity. We call this the transformation. Physically the changes we found easy. Psychologically though our folk are so used to not really being concerned about productivity the mental transformation is taking longer to change and bed in.

The move to negotiate better funding from donors, the potential of joining the ADB is another.

We do need a well-structured responsive finance sector. NDB must have sufficient capital to fund business growth.

The other important infrastructure we need to stabilise include reliable shipping, more responsive and reliable airline capacity.

We spend money on the port and airport to cater for our international transport links.

The continuing push to increase tourism and now other new initiatives to diversify our economic capacity to allow us to ride out any international economic or financial variability which impact our economy directly or indirectly is vitally important.

In the next few weeks the government will be making two substantial announcements with respect to new revenue options being negotiated currently. If both pan out it will help add to our economic diversity and will bode well for Niue's future ability to generate revenues and become self-sustaining.

This means we can afford to increase pay and pensions by tax reforms reducing income tax and increasing indirect tax.

But we must also ensure education health and our basic infrastructure is more reliable and maintained well and modernised

There will be other ideas and potential new partners but that's in the future.

Why are we so driven with this?

Revenues gives people better incomes, better more reliable infrastructure and better support for educating our children, health of our people and the overall wellbeing of the community.

We're pleased about the population trends. Stopping the continuing decline and showing increase. Early days yet but indications look promising.

A lot more houses are being renovated, new houses built, more businesses started and the general wellbeing of the community feels relaxed

Therefore the quality of life feels better.

The truth about the uga ban.

What is biodiversity? Why do we talk about it and what does it include? Do we include people or is it only the animals, birds and trees.

The uga ban has been romanticised and fantasied. Uga had been banned for a few years by cabinet decision well before we became government. It could not be changed by officials. But they did without cabinet authority in 2013 or so.

So when we became aware and became concerned with the numbers shipped out weekly we re-imposed the ban and advised officials they don't decide on the ban or lifting the ban. That's a cabinet decision.

The ban was imposed but we had no real control till x-ray machines were installed. Currently we're working closely with NZ to x-ray food bins if our x-rays are not working. Ugas were still be taken and we're trying to get instant fines imposed if people are caught.

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