

4 October 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TITLE: The Assembly this week**

There were two bills introduced; Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Bill and the University of the South Pacific Convention Bill.

A letter from the auditors exposing the reasons why they have not been able to provide the financial audited accounts since 2014.

Their letter and the qualifications of the annual audits are standard and normal. They appear to try and express an opinion about the public service transformation and have not understood it at all.

10 auditors turn up each year and cannot assist with the accounts.

The government will be getting an independent audit opinion to advise if matters can be improved. Sometimes we are fearful of the audits but that fear has been misguided.

The flag-raising ceremony during constitution caught the opposing team by surprise and shows a lack of understanding of our status. We are just following normal practice worldwide. This was announced 2 years ago.

It's a colonial thing and not appropriate at this day and age. Poor little local colonial pretenders showing their true colors. Nothing to do with audits, or suddenly poor relations with New Zealand.

Our partnership with New Zealand remains strong and the fact we will not include them in the formal parts of flag raising is not intended to insult.

The Ambassador for China and Australian High Commission will be official guests and special guests.

It was also interesting to hear the others ask about the revenues were collecting from ship registry and the SOEs

Roundabout way but quite clear.

And water that Coe hates and wants to stop at any cost.

**[ENDS]**

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