



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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NIUE ASSEMBLY PASSES FIRST READING OF THE 2026/2027 APPROPRIATION ANNUAL BILL

Alofi, Niue – 10 June 2026 - The Niue Assembly has passed the First Reading of the Appropriation Annual Bill for the 2026/2027 Financial Year, presented by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dalton Tagelagi.

In his Budget Statement, the Prime Minister outlined the Government's focus on protecting the people of Niue, maintaining essential public services, and investing in the country's future growth.

The Government noted that while tourism remains an important driver of the economy, global uncertainty and rising travel costs are expected to affect visitor numbers. Other ongoing challenges include limited domestic revenue, workforce shortages, and reliance on imported goods and external support.

The proposed Budget includes total expenditure of \$83.4 million against projected revenue of \$65.8 million, resulting in a deficit of \$17.6 million.

The Prime Minister said "This gap should not be interpreted as public debt or structural fiscal weakness. Rather, it reflects the full and transparent cost of delivering government services, alongside planned investments in infrastructure, development priorities, and national resilience.

Importantly, the Government is not undertaking any borrowing, and Niue remains debt free. The budget approach ensures that development spending and essential services are maintained while preserving fiscal sustainability."

Key areas of investment include tourism and economic development, climate resilience, renewable energy, health, education, public utilities, and infrastructure. Approximately \$2.78 million has been allocated for capital projects to maintain important public assets and services.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the continued support of development partners, including New Zealand, Australia, and other regional and international partners.

During the debate, Members of Parliament highlighted the importance of strengthening domestic revenue, improving spending efficiency, and supporting sustainable economic growth. The Government welcomed these discussions as part of the budget review process.

The Appropriation Bill will now be referred to the Public Accounts Committee for review before returning to the Niue Assembly for its second and final readings.

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