



## GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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### **TIDE GAUGE RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND MURAL LAUNCH**

**Alofi, Niue – 29 August 2024** – On the 22nd August 2024, the Niue community gathered beside Sir Robert’s Wharf in Alofi to celebrate the commissioning of a newly built tide gauge hut and the unveiling of a culturally significant mural. This event marks a major milestone in Niue’s journey towards enhanced climate resilience, following the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Tino in January 2020, which destroyed the original tide gauge, mast and fibreglass communications hut located on the wharf.

The new tide gauge hut, has been constructed from robust materials and has been strategically relocated to higher ground, it symbolises a commitment to building infrastructure that can withstand the increasing intensity of tropical cyclones.

The tide gauge in Niue is one of fifteen strategically placed stations across the Pacific as part of the Pacific Sea Level and Geodetic Monitoring Project. These tide stations play a crucial role in monitoring sea levels and climate data, capturing measurements every minute. The data collected is integrated with vertical land motion observations, providing essential information for long-term sea-level monitoring.



This data is not only valuable for understanding and predicting tide levels but is also vital for real-time observations, tsunami monitoring, and supporting the maritime industry. The information gathered aids in mapping maritime boundaries, enhancing emergency response efforts, and contributes significantly to scientific research. For a remote island nation like Niue, this tide gauge is indispensable for public safety and the sustainable management of marine resources.

The successful re-establishment of the Niue Tide Gauge was made possible through the collaboration of local contractors, government departments, and community members. Their dedication and expertise were crucial in overcoming the challenges posed by the rebuild.

“I am thankful to Jica Vakaafi for delivering a beautiful artwork that links climate to traditional knowledge. Thanking Celine Beckers and team from COSSPAC and PSLGM, Bureau of Meteorology for all their support. Lastly the Government of New Zealand for their support, our local contractor Stone Solutions Albert Hekesi and Government of Niue for the ongoing support” said Director of Niue Meteorological Service, Rossy Mitiepo.

The tide gauge is part of the Pacific Sea Level and Geodetic Monitoring (PSLGM) network, which has been providing critical sea-level data across the Pacific for more than 30 years.

"The success of the Niue Tide Gauge rebuild highlights the power of collaboration. The combined efforts of local contractors, government departments, and international partners have ensured that this vital infrastructure is more resilient than ever," said Jeff Aquilina, Project Lead for PSLGM.

Celine Becker, the COSPPac Program Manager, emphasised the importance of this infrastructure for the Pacific community, "We hope this new tide gauge, built with resilience in mind, will stand strong for many years to come, helping Niue and the broader Pacific community monitor sea-level changes with confidence".

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