



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW SECURITY SCREENING SYSTEMS HANDOVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

Alofi, Niue – 17 May 2024 – The Government of Niue received new security screening systems through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ). This initiative is part of the Official Development Assistance aimed to improve aviation security in nine Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Niue is the first to receive this equipment with the formal handover taking place on the 16th May 2024 at Hanan International Airport.

The formal handover highlights a long-standing partnership, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MFAT, CAANZ, and the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO). For the past 15 years, CAANZ has been providing capacity assistance to the Government of Niue. Through this partnership, CAANZ's Principal Advisor Aviation Security has worked closely with Niue Police and other border agencies to ensure robust aviation security services at Hanan International Airport.



In September 2017, during the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in Apia, Samoa, the New Zealand Government announced a \$12 million aviation security package to support PICs. This funding primarily aimed to provide PICs with the latest security screening technology, aligning them with international standards across the Asia-Pacific region. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the commissioning and installation of this equipment, but the project has now resumed with Niue as the first recipient among the nine PICs.

The installation in Niue began on Saturday 11th May 2024. As of Monday, May 13 2024, some of the equipments have been utilised and the system should be fully operational by the end of May 2024. The outdated X-ray systems are prepared for disposal and return to New Zealand.

Technical and operational training for Niue Police and other border agencies is currently underway which is led by Smiths Detection Engineers and a representative from the New Zealand Aviation Security Service. The training also includes provisions for ongoing service, maintenance, and after-hours support.

The Minister for Finance and Infrastructure, Hon. Crossley Tatui, expressed gratitude to the New Zealand Government for their assistance in various projects, including the resurfacing of the airport runway. Despite delays caused by COVID-19, progress is evident with developments such as the airport car park, airport fencing, and the implementation of a security screening system. He emphasized the importance of capacity building for the effective operation and maintenance of these airport resources.

The Government of Niue extends special thanks to Ryan Kersten (CH Robinsons) for logistical support, Apicharn Woonu and Surachet Chankaen (Smiths Detection) for their dedicated installation efforts, Michael Greenslade (New Zealand Aviation Security Service) for his invaluable training, Jeremy McPheron and Bailey Welch (CAANZ Project team) for their hard work, Athol Glover (Principal Advisor Aviation Security, CAANZ) for his expert guidance, and Gaylene Tasmania (Deputy Secretary to Government and Chair for the Airport Committee) and Timothy Wilson (Chief of Niue Police) for their unwavering support and commitment to the project.

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