



For Immediate Release

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News Release

Niue Parliamentarians Seek to Join Global Anti-Corruption Network

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law.

Alofi, Niue – Niue’s Legislative Assembly parliamentarians are aiming to form a Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) national chapter and gain a deeper understanding of the [United Nations Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#), following a three-day workshop in the Pacific island nation last week.

“Our parliamentarians want to learn more about GOPAC and the UNCAC and how they can provide more thorough oversight of financial activities in our economy and country,” said Legislative Assembly Speaker the Hon Togiavalu Pihigia.

Acting Premier the Hon Billy Talagi, in opening the workshop, said: “Governance is one of our stated national pillars. Transparency and accountability is to be practiced by all levels of government, the Assembly, and the community.”

The Acting Premier, Assembly members, parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders attended the three-day workshop provided by the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), and GOPAC through the [United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project \(UN-PRAC\)](#).

GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde, who facilitated the workshop on behalf of GOPAC, remarked that there was strong interest from Assembly members on learning about best practices and the role of parliamentarian-driven initiatives to build integrity and oversight of government.

“A majority of Niue’s parliamentarians, including the Speaker and Deputy Premier, attended the workshop, have signed up as GOPAC members, and have endorsed an official request to the parliament to establish a GOPAC national chapter in Niue,” said Mr Hyde.

UN-PRAC Adviser Annika Wythes emphasised that parliamentarians have a key role to play in preventing and indeed fight corruption, often leading by example.

“While Niue may face different challenges than other Pacific nations, there are many benefits for Niue to join forces with the 11 Pacific countries that have already ratified the UNCAC,” said Ms Wythes.

Included in the workshop was a dedicated session on the financial oversight role of Public Accounts Committees (PAC), with the New Zealand Parliament’s PAC Chair and GOPAC Member, Hon David Bennett, assisting as a resource person.

The Government of Australia is supporting the UN-PRAC project, a four-year USD\$ 4.3 million endeavour involving the 15 Pacific nations and being implemented jointly by UNODC and UNDP.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 57 national chapters on 5 continents. GOPAC supports its members’ efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support. Visit GOPAC on the web at gopacnetwork.org, on Twitter at twitter.com/GOPAC_Eng, and on Facebook at facebook.com/gopacnetwork.

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