



T E V A K A I

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If you have any notices, updates or stories that you would like to share please email Kula Teao: kteao@hotmail.com

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Greetings one and all and welcome to this edition of Te Vakai.

In this edition we have a new monthly feature which has been dubbed “Spotlight on” with the emphasis on our Tokelau communities scattered all over the world. To launch this new feature we have the honour and pleasure of presenting our readers with an article about some of the goings on in Oahu, Hawaii with particular focus on Te Lumanaki o Tokelau i Amelika. Many thanks to Betty Pedro Ickes for her contribution to Te Vakai.

Also, due to popular demand, included in this edition is the Inauguration speech of Ulu o Tokelau, Foua Toloa.

Unfortunately, due to telecommunications issues on the villages we are unable to provide any village updates for this edition.

1. Department of Health Update

As at Friday 15th May 2009, 34 countries have confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1. The most significant from Tokelau's perspective is that of New Zealand, whose number of confirmed cases has risen by four, taking the figure from 7 - 9.

This is worrying for the Department of Health as most travellers to Tokelau come through New Zealand.

Although Tokelau has zero cases, stringent screening and monitoring will continue and the Department is also working very closely with the Samoan Ministry of Health, Public Health division and Port authorities to ensure Tokelau remains H1N1 free.

Main actions to date:

- i. Implementing border measures between Apia and Tokelau
- ii. Screening and monitoring all passengers to Tokelau in Apia
- iii. Sourcing urgent supplies: Medical and Pharmaceutical
- iv. Communications

Tokelau has managed to contain the threat from H1N1 because of its isolation in the Pacific. The intention is to maintain this containment effort because we have a vulnerable and precious population and the strategic goal is to keep Tokelau Pandemic H1N1 free.

Response Objectives

1. To support effective border surveillance
2. To support operations to contain and treat (as necessary) any cases of Influenza A (H1N1)
3. To establish an enhanced surveillance system that will identify imported and community cases of Influenza A (H1N1)
4. To keep Government, the health sector, and the public informed of the current situation
5. To lead the all-of-government response

6. To review pandemic management planning, readiness and capability
7. To take any preparatory steps necessary to maintain a heightened readiness for pandemic management

The international situation is reviewed on a daily basis due to the nature of the outbreak and a regular communication is held with Minister of Health, GM, Apia and Ulu o Tokelau. The sailing of the MV Lady Naomi departed Apia on Friday 15th May 2009 with passengers and this was dependent on ALL passengers attending a compulsory health screening. If a passenger is scheduled to travel on that sailing but does NOT attend the health screening, they WILL NOT be permitted to travel. Those also wanting to travel to Tokelau outside of Apia must be in Apia for a minimum 2 weeks prior to travel to Tokelau.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Until further notice, please note that any person/s intending to travel to Tokelau needs to be symptom-free and is required to have a minimum stand down period of two weeks to be taken in Apia.

Symptoms include:

- **Sore throat**
- **A temperate below 38 degrees**
- **Runny nose**
- **Dry cough**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Nausea**
- **Vomiting**
- **Diarrhoea**
- **Headache**
- **Muscle Ache**
- **Fatigue**
- **Sneezing**

It is also noted that this virus is continually mutating and causing concern globally as scientists race to create a vaccine.

The Department of Health would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved and affected by these precautionary measures for their patience and understanding.

For further information, please email doh@lesamoa.net

The Department of Health is also continuing business as usual and is in the process of purchasing equipment for the three hospitals, finalising programme/project specifications for each Atoll and planning for strategic initiatives for 2009 - 2010.

The Cervical Screening programme continues and the specimens from Nukunonu have already been sent to New Zealand for processing.

The MV Tokelau was also fumigated and is no longer fondly known as 'The Cockroach Express'.

2. Department of Transport and Support Services:

Please be advised that anyone planning to travel to Tokelau over the next few weeks should keep in regular contact with the Department of Transport and Support Services as sailings are dependent on the status of the global H1N1 pandemic.

All travellers are also reminded of the Department of Health directive that all intended passengers must complete a 2 week stand-down period in Apia, and a compulsory health screening prior to travel to Tokelau.

If you have any queries please email the Travel Officer, Apia Tyson Wright tyson@lesamoa.net

3. Department of Education Update

3.1 Teachers' workshop in Atafu and Nukunonu

As reported on in the last update, workshops for teachers at Matiti School and Matauala School were underway as we went to print. After the completion of these, the Curriculum and Assessment Adviser reported that for both schools, year plans and sample unit plans in the different subject areas were completed.

Specifically, Matiti School has demonstrated positive outcomes in the quality of plans for Science and the processes for monitoring completion of unit plans. Year plans for Tokelau and English were completed but units of work still need to be completed as well as identifying and obtaining teaching materials relevant for each subject and year level. Matauala School achieved some of its outcomes in completing year plans and sample unit plans. However, there is a major concern that due to the large changeover of staff there are now more untrained or inexperienced teachers at the school. This situation is a major constraint to curriculum

implementation which ultimately affects the quality of learning. The Department of Education will make recommendations to each Taupulega in regards to the issues raised for both schools.

The workshop for Tialeniu School was planned for the next school holiday break but this will have to be reassessed in regards to the Influenza A H1N1 safeguards which are affecting our shipping schedule.

3.2 Work Attachment for Data Management Officer

Hana Tui, the Data Management Officer for the department completed a three week work attachment with the Samoa Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC), in Apia. The attachment was completed with the Policy, Planning and Research division with the purpose of identifying methods and techniques for education data collection and analysis which may be useful for the Tokelau Department of Education. Hana has initiated networks in the Samoa education sector which will prove useful to her role and it is hoped that she will be able to transfer skills learned to enhance our education data collection, collation and analysis.

The Department of Education greatly appreciates the support that has been given by the Samoa Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, notably through the CEO, Tautapilimai Levaopolo Tupae Esera. The department has benefitted through the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Tokelau and the Government of Samoa, in that we continually utilise the printing services and curriculum resources of MESC. The Department of Education has planned other joint activities with MESC in the near future and encourages other departments to make use of opportunities to seek assistance from their counterparts in the Samoan public service also.

3.3 Year 12 results for 2008

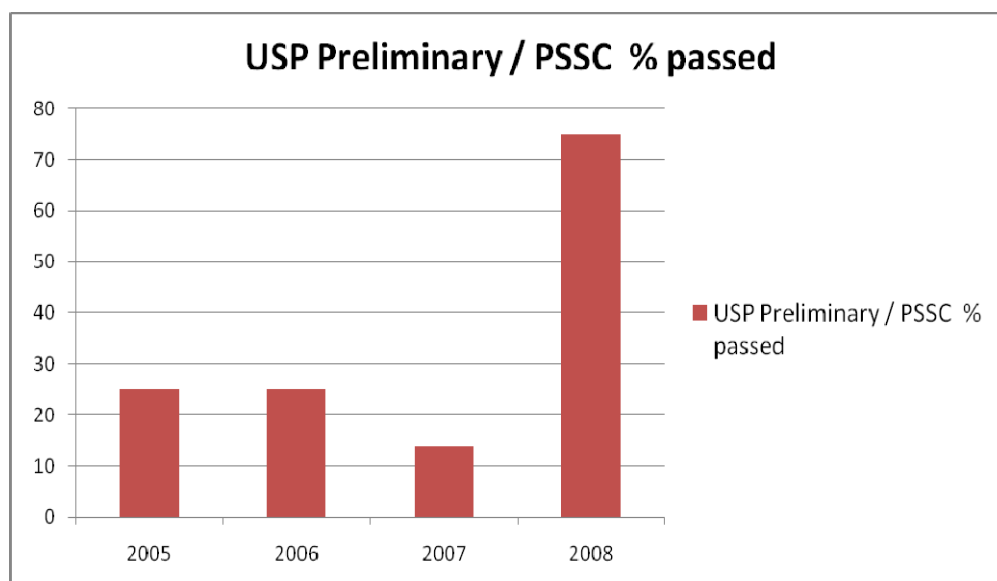
The senior secondary education programme on Tokelau, commenced at the start of 2008. Eight (8) students were eligible to study at the USP Preliminary level courses based on the Form 5 national examination results at the end of 2007. Prior to 2008, scholarship students studied in Samoa and the equivalent examination which they took was PSSC.

Table 1 and Graph 1 show the results gained by the students in PSSC (from 2005 – 2007) and USP Preliminary (2008). To qualify for a tertiary foundation course, students must gain a total of 14 or under from the results of their top four subjects in PSSC or pass 7 courses in USP Preliminary.

TABLE 1

USP Preliminary / PSSC (scored under 15 in PSSC and passed 7 USP Preliminary courses)			
Year	Total students	No passed	% passed
2005 (PSSC)	12	3	25
2006 (PSSC)	8	2	25
2007 (PSSC)	7	1	14
2008 (USP Preliminary)	8	6	75

GRAPH 1



Comment

The results for 2008 have been outstanding with 6 Year 12 students (from a cohort of 8) who have qualified to study at foundation level (Form 7) in 2009. The more able students can now sit the equivalent to PSSC directly after Year 11 (form 5) whereas if they had schooled in Samoa, they would only have studied at this level and sat PSSC exams after a further two years of schooling (Year 13).

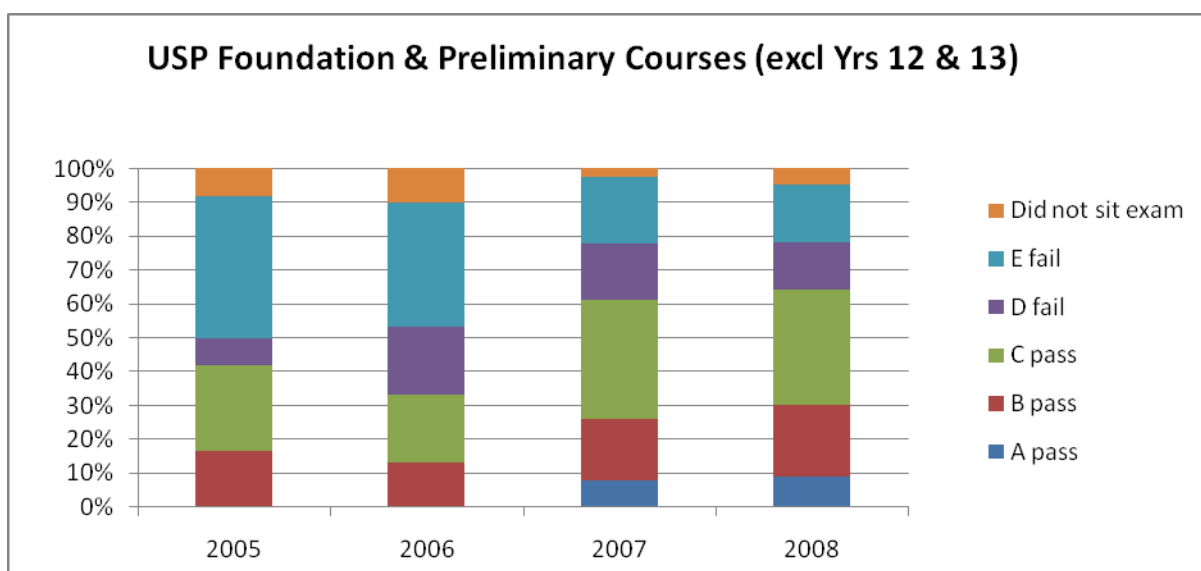
3.4 Academic results for students completing USP Preliminary and Foundation courses

Table 2 and Graph 2 below show the percentage pass rate of USP Preliminary and Foundation Courses for Scholarship students from 2005 to 2008. These figures exclude results for students in the Year 12 and Year 13 Programme.

TABLE 2

USP Preliminary & Foundation Courses (excl Years 12 & !3)								
Grades achieved	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
A pass	0	0	0	0	6	8	8	9
B pass	2	17	4	13	14	18	20	21
C pass	3	25	6	20	27	35	33	34
D fail	1	8	6	20	13	17	13	14
E fail	5	42	11	37	15	20	17	17
Did not sit exam	1	8	3	10	2	2	5	5
Total courses sat	12	100	30	100	77	100	96	100

GRAPH 2

**Comment:**

Prior to 2007, scholarship students completing USP Foundation courses to try to gain entry into tertiary study were located in Apia and completed their studies at Alafua Campus. In 2008, all scholarships students in this category, were transferred to Tokelau. The effect of this relocation on the academic results of such students due to the relocation to Tokelau has been minimal, and in fact in 2008, the percentage of papers passed increased slightly from 61% in 2007, to 64%. The other positive outcome has been that USP on Nukunonu and Fakaofu have a greater presence within the community.

4. Teletok Update

On Saturday, 9 May at approximately 9am the old internet system stopped working as a result of a modem failure on Fakaofu. The equipment was returned to Apia with the team from NZ to effect repairs at SamoaTel.

The installation team from NZ completed their installation rounds of the three atolls and left Fakaofu Sunday, 10 May. The antenna installed (supplied by them) on Fakaofu had a faulty part so the new system isn't working yet. The local technicians are installing a smaller antenna to get the internet up and running on Fakaofu. Tests are continuing on the new internet system on Nukunonu with Pacific Teleports of Australia.

Not so good news on Atafu with both their internet and telephones going down approximately 1 May 09. The technician is stuck on Fakaofu with the spare parts because of a travel ban installed by Health. The repairs will be effected as soon as the travel ban is lifted.

The available communication to Atafu is via USPnet internet, SSB radio, and a satellite phone on loan from UNDP +881641414823. The telephones are working on Nukunonu and Fakaofu but have no internet currently.

5. Office for the Council of the Ongoing Government

5.1 Influenza Pandemic (Influenza A H1N1 or Swine flu)

Many of you have been following the development of this pandemic through television media coverage and other sources. Here in Apia the Department is working together to support the Health Department to make sure that Tokelau is well prepared in regards to any development concerning this influenza outbreak.

Tokelau's needs and interests are being carefully and closely monitored by New Zealand and the Administrator and his team are working closely together with New Zealand Authorities to ensure that we stay well supported.

As part of Tokelau responding to the current outbreak the Health Department has advised that we restrict and monitor border access to the villages. This situation is monitored daily and as a result, the MV Lady

Naomi departed Apia on 15th May, carrying 64 passengers. This is due to the previous sailing on the 5th of May was restricted to carrying cargo only, stranding many travellers in Apia until the restriction was lifted.

Any decisions on subsequent sailings will be taken on a case-by-case basis as we monitor the global situation and how that may impact Tokelau. Our office here in Apia, worked closely with stranded passengers to provide reasonable support and assistance.

Inter-atoll travel was temporarily blocked as a precautionary measure. We hope that these interim measures reflect the right balance between precautions set for our people and the daily activities that will allow our communities to function well.

We wish to thank those passengers who found themselves marooned in Apia for their patience and understanding as we worked through the best options to safeguard Tokelau from this pandemic.

Our office would also like to extend our thanks to the Health and Transport and Support Services for their tireless efforts during these trying times.

5.2 Changes in National dates

The unpredictable nature of this pandemic has given us little leeway to manage any disturbance to the current national programmes and activities.

As a result, a consultation paper was provided by the GM, Apia for consideration by the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau providing various options for changes of dates of upcoming activities. Most importantly dates for the General Fono scheduled for May 2009, and the proposed visit of the Council to New Zealand/Australia.

Council will have their planned session in Apia 25-27 May to discuss pressing issues and also finalization of dates for national activities.

5.3 Tokelau Shipping Project

In the meeting of the Project Governance Board on 5th May, it was evident that the contract for the building of the new vessel was yet to be finalized. There were still outstanding issues in terms of technical, contractual and pricing aspects.

In terms of pricing the New Zealand Government noted the 61% increase in P&O's proposed daily charter rates and remains unsatisfied with the reasons given by P&O for the increase. It is important to note that any increase above 10% requires cabinet approval. The New Zealand team

have reaffirmed that they will provide more frequent advice in terms of the progress of the negotiations.

During the Board meeting, we were advised that while the New Zealand negotiators have received preliminary information from Treasury that New Zealand cannot agree to pay a 25-year daily charter fee in USD, consideration is also being given to significantly resolve the currency issue by purchase of the vessel. This option will be raised with further discussions with New Zealand Treasury next week.

In the meantime Tokelau was reminded to finalise its Transport Task Force (TTF) to provide a consultative and transport policy building entity in Tokelau. The TTF model which was proposed during the February Council session will also serve as Tokelau's decision making group during implementation of a proposed Tokelau Shore Infrastructure Project. A contract with the successful tenders for a Tokelau Shore Infrastructure Project is expected in the third quarter of 2009. Urgent works are expected to be completed before the arrival of the new ship, which is presently delayed to the second quarter of 2011.

5.4 Tokelau Infrastructure Project

We have received informal advice from New Zealand, that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Murray McCully, is still considering the approval of the Letter of Variation to release funding for the construction of the schools and hospital to the tune of NZ\$6.6m. Through the Administrators office, New Zealand has requested that Tokelau revisit and consider cost cutting to the amount of NZ\$1.4m.

During subsequent discussions with the Administrator, we advised that before the IDP Steering Committee considers any cost cutting measures for the Office of the Administrator to update/advise Council. It appears that New Zealand will not release funding under the Letter of Variation until the cost cutting is complete.

It is fair to say that the cost cutting measures mooted by New Zealand i.e. decreasing the sizes of the schools and the hospital has been met with vehement opposition. The Senior Management Team (SMT) are working together to provide advice, where alternatives will be explored and recommendations will be presented to Council for their consideration.

5.5 Budget Blowout

The Department of Finance has advised that the current projected overspending to 30 June 2009 could easily rise above NZ\$1m. As a result of this over spend, we are hoping to hold most of the national activities in the new financial year rather than the year ending 30 June. It is important that necessary precautions are taken to ensure that our deficit does not increase and that we are looking after our local priorities. As a result of this substantial overspend, there have been some ideas forwarded by the SMT for the consideration of Council e.g. suspending travel and possible non attendance to regional and international meetings.

5.6 Staff Vacancies

TOKELAU Director of Transport and Support Services

The Tokelau Government invites applications for the position of Director of Transport and Support Services. The successful applicant will be responsible for oversight of all transport-related requirements of Tokelau, including shipping services to and between the three atolls. Support services cover activities relating to the internal affairs of Tokelau's government and village councils.

The position is based in Apia, Samoa and involves regular travel to Tokelau. The successful applicant will be contracted for two years with the possibility of further extension.

A full job description for the position, including remuneration, and closing date for applications can be requested from:

Human Resources Manager, Government of Tokelau, Apia, Samoa
Email: tua5fafau@lesamoa.net

Tokelau Liaison Officer, Office of Administrator of Tokelau, Wellington:
Email: filipo.lui@mfat.govt.nz

TOKELAU
Economic Development Adviser

Suitably and qualified persons are invited to apply to the position of Economic Development Adviser with the Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The position is responsible for the development and implementation of a National Economic Development Plan, provision of economic development advices to the Tokelau authority, and to ensure the achievement of economic development initiatives on the three villages.

Skills and Experiences Require:

Minimum qualification of a Bachelors degree in, Economics, or related areas, at least 5 year of relevant working experience in project management & planning, sound research knowledge and analytical skills, and demonstrated knowledge of policy development are essential. Excellent verbal & written communication skills in English & Tokelau language, and good negotiating skills and computer literate in Windows 2000MS Excel/Word/Access) are desirable.

It is anticipated the successful applicant will be contracted for 3 years. The position is based in Atafu, Tokelau, and may require taking regular visit to the other atolls and Apia. Salary is negotiable with the successful applicant.

Closing date for applications will be 11th May 2009. Please contact the below emails for further details if require.

Human Resources Manager, Tokelau Office, Apia, Email:
tua5fafau@lesamoa.net

Tokelau Public Service Liaison Officer, Wellington, Email:
filipo.lui@mfat.govt.nz

6. Spot light on: Oahu, Hawaii

Aloha from the North Pacific shores of Hawai'i,

Vikia te Atua! Fakatalofa atu ki te mamalu ma te paia o Tokelau. Momoli atu o matou alofaaga mai Hawai'i mo koutou uma lele te kaiga o Tokelau kua nonofo i fenua kehekehe. Momoli atu foki te fakafetai ki te afafine ko Kula Teao mo te valakauliaga o he leo mai te matou pito fenua.

We, in Hawai'i are delighted be included in this issue of *Te Vakai*. This year, we celebrate the 5-year anniversary of Te Lumanaki o Tokelau i Amelika—School of Tokelau Language, Arts, & Culture. The School, which has an open-door policy, is managed and operated by the non-profit organization, Te Taki Tokelau Community, Inc. Te Taki will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the end of the month where new board members and executives will be elected and installed. Te Taki's mission is:

“to revitalize the language and culture of Tokelau; and to enhance social and economic self-sufficiency of Tokelauan people in the United States.”

Under the Artistic Direction of Mas and Bonnie Patelesio; and the support of teachers, parents, and Elders, Te Lumanaki School continues to share the culture of Tokelau through performances of *pehe ma fatele* at venues throughout the island of Oahu; most recently, at the East-West Center's Annual International Festival; and the Honolulu City and County-sponsored “First Fridays” in downtown Honolulu—a monthly event that brings culture, art, shops, galleries, restaurants, and entertainment to the people of Honolulu in the downtown district. This is Lumanaki School's third invitation to both events. At “First Friday” February 2009, Lumanaki and other Pacific Islands performers celebrated works by world renowned Pacific Islander artists like the Maori Writer-Professor Witi Ihimaera and Tongan Lalava Artist and Sculptor Filipe Tohi.

Lumanaki School is proud to announce that one of its Senior students, Hana Thompson, daughter of John and Milo Thompson was awarded a \$10,000 Scholarship from Notre Dame de Namur University in California, which she will be attending this Fall. As a four-year Lumanaki student, Hana continues to be an excellent role model for our Tokelau community. She is positive proof that learning a second language, i.e., bilingualism enhances the students' learning skills.



Pictured above are some of the students of Te Lumanaki o Tokelau i Amelika, during the Tokelau Easter Sports and Cultural Tournament 2008, Hutt Valley, New Zealand

As we work to develop Tokelauan language education material, we look forward to the launching of the new Tokelau Language Curriculum being developed in Aotearoa New Zealand, and welcome any contributions of Tokelau language materials from the reading audience. Contact Betty Ickes at cell [808-352-0608]; email [ickes@hawaii.edu].

As we say here in Hawai'i, Mahalo nui loa; Fakafetai lahi lele.

7. SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM IN MOTION

General Manager, Apia Jovilisi Suveinakama in action at the Senior Management Team meeting held on Wed 5th May.



Pictured are: Dr Tekie Iosefo – National Clinical Advisor, Zak Patelesio – Director of Transport and Support Services, Jovilisi Suveinakama – GM, Apia, Lee Pearce – Director of Health, Liza Kelekolio – Health Manager, Apia.

***Inauguration Speech of Ulu o Tokelau, Foua Toloa
Fakafo, Sat 21st February 2009-05-18***

Reverend Elder Mose Kelehoma, Rev Iutana Pue, Fehoahoani Pasi Niko, te kau hauatea, honourable members of the “Fono a Aliko o Fakafo”, Honourable members of the General Fono, the outgoing Ulu O Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Pio Tuia, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau, na Aliko Pulenuku, Tinielu Tuumuli, Lino Isaia and Nouata Tufoua, the Administrator of Tokelau, David Payton and your delegation from NZ, family and friends, ladies , gentlemen and our children who are gathered here today. Malo ni and greetings.

I am very humbled and it is with great pleasure that I address this first session of the General Fono for 2009, a very special moment for my family and myself in my inaugural address as Ulu o Tokelau.

Firstly I would like to congratulate and thank the outgoing Ulu, Aliko Faipule Pio Tuia, for his leadership in this role during the last year. I wish him good health and wise counsel for our remaining time together in the Council of the Ongoing Government of Tokelau and the challenges that lie ahead.

In my first speech as Ulu o Tokelau, I would like to be frank about what I see are the challenges for us as we navigate our way into the second decade of the 21st century.

The elected leaders of Tokelau have a clear mandate from their constituents on the direction they want our nation to take. My term as Ulu, is only for one year, and in this time I pledge to carry out my role in an honest and just manner, to progress Tokelau’s social environmental and economic goals.

In this vein, therefore, the work has begun in developing and implementing Tokelau’s National Strategic Plan for the next 5 – 10 years.

This is a vital milestone as it will provide the blueprint for the vision and direction for our nation’s future. Our nation’s Strategic Plan will assist in many ways:

- It will provide guidance for our leaders to ensure that principals of good governance are adhered to;
- It will provide the priorities for which Tokelau’s infrastructural development programme can be aligned;
- It will facilitate ways in which good national policies can be developed so that decisions can be made in an informed and timely manner without imparting blame on those who must make the hard decisions.
- Most importantly, the National Strategic Plan will set out the broad areas of development as identified by Tokelau.

This would indeed be a change from the current situation, where funds from outside agencies for Tokelau are often not used for the purpose for which the

funds were obtained, underutilized and do not always make a difference to the social, environmental or economic needs of the people.

The General Fono is the highest power in the land and the major instrument by which decisions that may affect the future of Tokelau will be made. This instrument must be sharp and well tuned. In saying this, the General Fono must be given the time to consider in an informed manner, all matters that come before it. Its decisions are binding and will determine the future for our children and therefore our General Fono delegates must be well prepared, and be willing to contribute to open and honest discussions.

Consensus decision making is the ideal in our General Fono but this should not mean that we keep delaying making decisions, as is often the case. With open and honest discussions, together with good independent advice and information to back up our views, Tokelau's General Fono can make good and timely decisions.

The Taupulega have the responsibility to ensure that the vision and direction for Tokelau as articulated in its National Strategic Plan is implemented through its public services, programs and projects at the village level.

The Taupulega has the difficult task of making sure the needs of all village individuals and families are met in the best way possible with the limited budget at its disposal. The challenges it faces in these modern times can be distressing and again as in the case of the General Fono, our leaders at the Taupulega level must rely on competent service provisions and independent and good advice from its public servants.

Our national and village public service is the engine room for our nation. The leaders may be able to provide vision and direction but it is the public service that carries out the work which leads to these milestones. We need a public service with committed and hard working individuals who are prepared to work as part of a bigger team to achieve Tokelau's stated goals and targets.

Good public servants can put aside their political aspirations and focus on the work necessary in their sector to achieve set goals and targets. The leaders of Tokelau rely on the engine room for its strength.

Good decisions are worthless unless the public service has the means to carry out these decisions. The means to carry out these decisions lies in the quality of our public service. It is my wish that we work together to ensure that Tokelau attains this in a speedy manner.

New Zealand is a very important partner in our development. Tokelau is part of New Zealand but is also independent of it, in the way we govern our own nation in the faka-Tokelau – the Tokelau way.

While God is at the foundation of Tokelau, it is New Zealand who gives this foundation the nourishment for growth. We thank New Zealand for nurturing Tokelau to this stage. I believe our relationship with New Zealand can be

strengthened further, and am sincere in my thanks to New Zealand in the way it has strived to allow Tokelau to come to the table as an equal partner in decisions relating to economic support.

The officials who work with us to implement these arrangements are to be commended for their patience. My hope is that at the negotiating table as well as at the utilization stage, the values and principles of respect, accountability and transparency will apply and determine the decisions made.

The current Council of the Ongoing Government of Tokelau has two more years to serve. My address to you today has focused on what I believe to be the factors which will make our nation of Tokelau stronger to take on the challenges of our modern times.

The theme which I hope has come through in this address is that of unity.

This address in my inauguration as Ulu o Tokelau acknowledges how we must all work together in our various roles to carry out our delegated responsibilities for the collective good of our people.

My fellow Council members, my role as Ulu will be meaningless without your collective support. I look to you for counsel and advice. I am looking forward to my term as Ulu o Tokelau and pray that we will continue to work together for the social, economic and environmental betterment of our people.