



25 May, 2011. **Minister for Finance and Revenue; Hon. Sunia Fili** vote of thanks at the official opening of the UNDP office in Nuku'alofa.

- **Lord Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister of Tonga,**
- **Honourable Ministers of the Crown,**
- **H. E Knut Ostby, Resident Representative of the United Nations,**
- **Member of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Distinguished Senior Government Officials,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Government of Tonga and the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, I am privileged and honored to be part of the official inauguration ceremony of UNDP office in Tonga.

In 1999, Tonga attained its membership in the United Nations and today marks a milestone of its strengthened partnership through expanded presence in the Pacific, and more so with the establishment of the United Nations Development Programme office here in Nuku'alofa Tonga.

We welcome UNDP to the Friendly Islands wholeheartedly as a development partner and we are happy to host with sincere gratitude for the benefit of the Government of Tonga gained.

Since 1999 UNDP has been an integral part of the development of Tonga through the provision of assistance in various areas such as the;

- Millennium Development Goals and its initiatives in Tonga;
- Development Partnership towards achieving AID Effectiveness;
- Ongoing support for United Nations coherence to name a few

We trust this office will provide great benefit to the people of Tonga by way of deepening the working relationships between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Tonga. This new premise reaffirms UNDP's commitment to assist Tonga's development agenda by bringing various international and regional experiences together, and providing better support to the people of Tonga. I am sure the opening of this office symbolizes that the United Nations through the United Nations Development Programme can proactively provide effective and timely assistance.

With these few words, let me conclude by thanking the Lord Prime Minister and the Hon. Ministers of the Crown, Nobles of the Realm, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Government Senior Officials and Non Governmental Organizations for their ongoing support in the initiative launched today and best wishes to the Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Knut Ostby for the successful fruition of this partnership.

MALO 'AUPITO and Tu'a 'ofa atu

ENDS.

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