

Niue's Very Own Public Seal – Palātaue ha Niue

The Seal of Niue was approved by Cabinet under article 15 of the Niue Constitution. The Niue Legislative Assembly of 29th September 2021 passed an Act for the use of the Seal of Niue and to provide for the Coat of Arms and related matters.

In 1974 Niue became a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand. The Constitution of Niue provides that there shall be a Public Seal of Niue, to be in such form or forms as the Cabinet from time to time approves. At the time of self-government, Cabinet agreed to continue to use the New Zealand Coat of Arms as the Public Seal of Niue. This was a temporary measure until the Cabinet approves a different form or forms as envisaged in the Niue Constitution.

As a young nation Niue has come a long way to creating its own identity and positioning itself to stand out in the world through its diplomatic partnerships and regional and international relations.

The Niue Public Seal represents Niue and all its distinct features in particular cultural significance, country history, and geographical appropriateness. It is also a fundamental part to foster Niue's position in the world and will be a symbol for all Niue peoples. It reflects the features that sets Niue apart as a country and an image to sustain Niue's political dynamics.

Custody of the Seal - the Seal of Niue shall be in the custody of the Speaker.

Use of the Seal - the Seal of Niue may be used by the Speaker, on the advice of Cabinet, for the authentication of any public document in relation to the Government of Niue or for the execution of any document required by law to be executed under the Seal of Niue.

Judicial Notice of the Seal - Judicial notice shall be taken of the Seal of Niue in all Courts.

Offences - a person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred penalty units and imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years who – (a) uses the Seal of Niue without prior authority; (b) makes a copy or imitation of the Seal of Niue without prior authority.



Description of the Seal : The nation of Niue is bound to God and respects the Queen of England as its Head of State. The government and its people are joined together in defending, fostering and strengthening the values of the nation which are represented by the unique environment we all live in.

Motto: “Atua, Niue Tukulagi - God, Niue Eternally”

Crown: The Crown represents the Sovereign as the Head of State. It also represents Niue’s historical affiliation with Great Britain and the arrival of the **Gospel**.

Outer Circle: The Outer Circle represents the 14 villages of Niue and is in the form of a traditional Niue garland that is presented at ceremonies as a gift that symbolises honour, welcome and respect.

The traditional Niue design represents the binding of Niue to the rest of the world, with the world being represented by the circular shape of the design. The crown resting on top of the garland shows the utmost respect and honour the people of Niue have for the Sovereign.

But most significantly for the tagata Niue, the Outer Circle depicts an umbilical cord; the spiritual connection of the tagata Niue to the land and the ocean that surrounds it.

Inner circle: The Inner Circle represents the natural and unique environment of Niue. The fonua (land) is nurtured to provide for the sustainability of the tagata Niue and the spirit of unity by the people to gather, guard and protect its natural resources.

The triangular shapes within in the Inner Circle represent the hiapo designs to signify the jagged coral and the harsh coastal environment of Niue frequently described as the Rock of Polynesia.

Tree: The tree and the designs of the flora of Niue represents life. The designs are based on the original Niue Hiapo representing life, sustenance, culture, prosperity and the tagata Niue.

Katoua: These two cleaving clubs are the katoua that represent defence and security. The clubs are bound together symbolising the unity of Tafiti and Motu. Together, they can fulfil the vision of, “Working Together to Protect the People and the Environment”.

Concepts to the design of the Niue Public Seal were provided by Mr. Kenneth Green of Alofi. The Tāoga Niue Council and Vagahau Niue Commission collaborated with Niue Crown Law Office and New Zealand Mint to the presentation of design for Cabinet’s approval. The work commenced in 2016 under the guidance of former Minister Tāoga Niue and Premier of Niue, the late Sir Toke T Talagi, KNZM.