

Tuvalu to form new government early next week

By Online Editor
5:03 pm GMT+12, 21/09/2010, Tuvalu



PACNEWS understands that possible candidates for the prime minister include former diplomat, Enele Sopoanga

Tuvalu's new government is expected to be formed early next week, a week after the island nation voted in 15 Members of Parliament.

"We are hoping that if everything goes to plan, our MP's will form a new government by Monday or Tuesday in time for the country's Independence Day celebrations, said Panapasi Nelesoni, the country's secretary to government.

He told PACNEWS from the capital, Funafuti that a few more MP's from the northern islands are expected to arrive on Friday (25 Sept) to start the consultation process.

"Most of the MP's are already on the main island. Once the rest of the MP's arrive, they will discuss amongst themselves the formation of a new government.

"If everything goes to plan and a new government is formed then a short parliament session will be convened to elect a new speaker of parliament to be presided over by the Governor General, said Mr Nelesoni.

A new speaker will be chosen from one of 15 elected members of parliament.

He said the plan is to have a government in place before the island nation's 32 Independence Day celebrations on 01 October.

It appears that the current caretaker government, led by Apisai Ielemia will be returned to power, whether under the same leadership remains to be seen.

Most cabinet ministers in the Apisai Ielemia government were re-elected.

PACNEWS understands that possible candidates for the prime minister include former diplomat, Enele Sopoanga and long time MP, Kausea Natano.

Mr Sopoanga is one of the five MP's elected to parliament for the first time. The others are Monise La'afai (Nanumaga), Fauoa Maani and Vete Sakaioa (Niutao) and Isaia Taeia (Nui).

SOURCE: PACNEWS