13 February 2013, Prime Minister, Lord Tu’i‘vakano is leading a delegation to Tahiti this week (9-11th February) to meet with Pacific Energy Ltd officials and explore investments and business opportunism for Tonga in French Polynesia.

The visit is a kind invitation extended to the Prime Minister by the CEO and Chairman of Pacific Energy Ltd, Mr. Albert Moux who visited Tonga in July 2011.

While the Government is pursuing efforts to reduce the cost of fuel importation by way of direct shipment from Singapore to Tonga, the Prime Minister is considering an opportunity for Tonga to witness the operation and investment of Pacific Energy Ltd which based within the region, to make sound recommendations on the Government’s way forward towards achieving this goal. The Pacific Energy South West Pacific Ltd (Pacific Energy), a market leader in the Pacific Islands petroleum fuel market, is part of the Pacific Islands Energy PTE Limited (PIE) Group. The PIE Group (acquired Shell and BP Oil companies in the Pacific Islands and Mobil assets in some countries in the region. PIE has a long term contract and strategic alliance which guarantee access to the refinery and tanker operators in the region. Complimenting this supply arrangement and through the shipping company Petrocean, PIE operates its own 44,000 Tons Medium Range Tanker (MR) the “Maohi”, delivering even more flexibility to their supply management. In addition, it operates its own Local Coastal Tanker (LCT) to supply the other Pacific Islands from Fiji. Tonga’s delegation to Tahiti departed on 9 February. Accompanying the Prime Minister is Lady Tu’i‘vakano, Acting Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, and key officials from related Government sectors. The visit will conclude on 15 February before the delegation returns to Tonga.

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