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STATEMENT ON ARNHEM LAND VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER TONY ABBOTT

Monday, 23 June, 2014

The Chairman of the Yothu Yindi Foundation and the Gumatj Corporation, Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM, today welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Tony Abbott that he will spend a week in Arnhem Land in September.

"At the Garma Festival in 2013 I invited the Prime Minister to spend a week with the Yolngu community, on Yolngu land, and I am pleased that he has accepted my invitation," Mr Yunupingu said.

"This is a significant commitment from Mr Abbott, and one that is very welcome. It will be the first visit of its kind by a sitting Prime Minister.

"The Prime Minister will have an opportunity to be a part of our community and to live and work sideby-side with Yolngu men and women.

"He will also have a number of opportunities to talk and engage with senior men and women who are landowners and who carry deep ceremonial and cultural authority.

"This is a chance to engage on a deeper level about the issues that continue to challenge all of us."

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