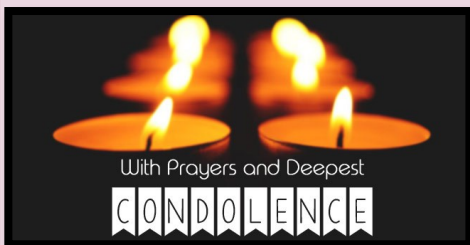




## PSC Newsletter: September | October 2020

### Office of the Public Service Commission

#### *Honouring our Fallen Civil Servants*



This newsletter is dedicated to our dearest colleagues who have died in service during September & October 2020. Your service for the Country is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.



#### *Breast Cancer Pinktober*

*Working Smart with our Hearts*

## Welcome to PSC Newsletter

### PSC Newsletter Volume 20 covers events from the Public Service for the months of September & October 2020.

The PSC Office wishes to extend its gratitude to every Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA) for sharing events, articles, highlights and achievements for this edition. We also acknowledge the feedback and encouragement, received for earlier editions of our newsletters. MDAs are more than welcome to share their events through our newsletter.

Please send newsletter articles to [oversight@psc.gov.to](mailto:oversight@psc.gov.to) for inclusion in the 21st Edition by 7 December 2020.

### September - October Events

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- Remuneration - JD Training to MDAs	
- Performance Development - Trainings	
- Workforce Development - Trainings	
- Oversight - TV & Television Program	

### Up coming events:

⇒ World Diabetes Day .....	14 November 2020
⇒ Law Week .....	15 - 20 November 2020
⇒ World Antibiotics Awareness Week .....	18 - 24 November 2020
⇒ White Ribbon Day .....	25 November 2020
⇒ International Disability Day .....	3 December 2020



Pinktober—Breast cancer awareness month



The Minister for Finance, Hon. Tevita Lavemaa presents a donation from the Ministry of Finance to Hon. Frederica Tuita Filipe, the President of the Tonga Breast Cancer Society





## Ministry of Tourism

### World Tourism Day—Sunday Service Theme: “Building Peace, Fostering Knowledge”



Sunday service with the Feohi'anga Mo'ui Fo'ou 'Ia Kalaisi Church at Fatu Hall, Tatakamotonga to commemorate World Tourism's special day. This joyous occasion was graced with the presence of the Guest of Honor, Her Royal Highness, Princess Salote Mafle'o Pilolevu and Lord Tuita. Among the guests were local dignitaries and tourism operators. The Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa had the pleasure of delivering a heartwarming sermon to the church and guests. This was also a special Sunday for all women in Tonga including the women in the Feohi'anga Mo'ui Fo'ou 'Ia Kalaisi Church as they received their September calling. Her Royal Highness, Princess Salote Mafle'o Pilolevu Tuita and Hon. 'Akosita Havili Lavulavu were among the women who received their September calling.





## Ministry of Education & Training

### World Teacher's Day



Guest of Honour, Hon. Siaso Sovale, Minister for Education and Training



"Leading in Crisis; Reimagining the Future"

Dr. Tangikina Steen, Chief Executive Officer for Education and Training



Reverend Kingitoni Mafi

Every year, World Teachers' Day reminds us of the critical role teachers play in achieving inclusive, quality education for all. This year's World Teachers' Day has an even greater significance in light of the challenges that teachers have faced during the COVID-19 crisis. As the pandemic has shown, they make a crucial contribution to ensuring continuity of learning and supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their students. Because of COVID-19, nearly 1.6 billion learners – more than 90% of the world's total enrolled student population – have been affected by school closures. The COVID-19 crisis has also affected over 63 million teachers, highlighted persistent weaknesses in many education systems and exacerbated inequalities, with devastating consequences for the most marginalised. In this crisis, teachers have shown, as they have done so often, great leadership and innovation in ensuring that **#LearningNeverStops**, that **no learner is left behind**. Around the world, they have worked individually and collectively to find solutions and create new learning environments for their students to allow education to continue. Their role advising on school reopening plans and supporting students with the return to school is just as important. We now need to think beyond COVID-19 and work to build greater resilience in our education systems, so we can respond quickly and effectively to these and other such crises. This means protecting education financing, investing in high-quality initial teacher education, as well as continuing the professional development of the existing teacher workforce.



Without urgent action and increased investment, a learning crisis could turn into a learning catastrophe. Even before COVID-19, more than half of all ten-year-olds in low- to middle-income countries could not understand a simple written story. To build a more resilient teacher workforce in times of crisis, all teachers should be equipped with digital and pedagogical skills to teach remotely, online, and through blended or hybrid learning, whether in high-, low- or no-tech environments. Governments should ensure the availability of digital infrastructure and connectivity everywhere, including in rural and remote areas. In the context of COVID-19, governments, social partners and other key actors have an even greater responsibility regarding teachers. We call on governments to protect teachers' safety, health, and wellbeing, as well as their employment, to continue improving teachers' working conditions, and to involve teachers and their representative organizations in the COVID-19 educational response and recovery. Today, we collectively celebrate teachers for their continued commitment to their students and for contributing to the achievement of the 2030 targets under Sustainable Development Goal 4.



We commend educators for the central role they have played, and continue to play, in responding to and recovering from this pandemic. Now is the time to recognize the role of teachers in helping to ensure a generation of students can reach their full potential, and the importance of education for short-term stimulus, economic growth and social cohesion, during and after COVID-19. Now is the time to reimagine education and achieve our vision of equal access to quality learning for every child and young person.



## Ministry of Revenue & Customs

### LAUNCHING OF TAX WEEK 2020

Theme: “Let us be resilient in our Voyage for a perpetual Tonga”

#### Photos from the programs



The Honorable Prime Minister, Rev Dr Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa launched Tonga’s Tax Week 2020, with a theme “Let us be resilient in our Voyage for a perpetual Tonga”

This is an annual program organized by the Ministry of Revenue & Customs, which focuses on empowering the people to learn more about the core duties of the Ministry as well as it strives to contribute to Tonga’s economy through revenue collection, border security measures and trade facilitation.

The launching program was attended by the Hon Minister of Revenue & Customs – Hon Tevita Lavemaau, some of the Chief Executive Officers from various government Ministries, representatives from local schools, representatives from the private sector and stakeholders and other invited guests.

In the key note address, to mark the launching of the Tax Week, the Hon. Prime Minister highlighted the importance of this year’s theme and the importance of unity as a nation in times of disasters and adversities.

The Prime Minister also calls on the Ministry of Revenue and Customs to maintain its resilience whilst performing their duties in serving the country. Various competitions was organized to be held throughout this week, which involved competitions for local schools. These programs were held via the Radio stations where students were encouraged to participate in order to win a prize.

A combined prayer service was held on Sunday 27th of September to mark the completion of Tax Week 2020 at the Centenary Church, Nuku’alofa.





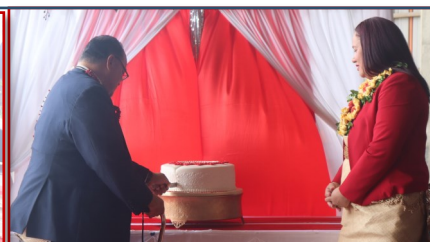
## Ministry of Infrastructure

### Opening of Tonga's New Domestic "Lulutai Airlines" at the Fua'amotu International Airport



The Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, officially opened Tonga's New Domestic Airline "Lulutai Airlines" at the Fua'amotu International Airport on Wednesday, 23rd September 2020. As Aviation Safety Regulator (Civil Aviation Division), Minister for Infrastructure and Tourism, Hon. 'Akosita Havili Lavulavu delivered the opening remarks commenting on Lulutai being a safe and

reliable means of transportation, "From 1937 until now, Lulutai Airlines Limited is the 12th Airline to operate in Tonga. Of the 11 Airlines before Lulutai, 1 of them was operated by the Government." The Lulutai staff were called to stand as introduction to those who attended the program. The key note address was delivered by the Prime Minister and also the cutting of the Ceremony cake before the vote of thanks from Minister of Finance, Revenue, Customs and Statistics, Hon. Tevita Lavemaau and closed off with a prayer from Rev. Dr. Tevita Koloa'ia Havea.





## Ministry of MEIDECC

### International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

### Theme: 'Good Disaster Risk Governance'



Every year the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) joined the international community to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) usually falls on October 13th. In light of this global event, NEMO typically hosts activities to raise people's awareness on the importance to reduce their exposure to disasters. In alignment and agreement with international theme for this year's IDRR day, which is 'Good Disaster Risk Governance', the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lord Fakafanua and the Honorable Prime Minister, Rev. Dr. Tu'i'onea Pohiva jointly launched the National, District and Village Emergency Management Plans, the ToR and SOPs for the Emergency Clusters System at the Tongan Parliament.



GPS Holoepoka, Ha'apai

**Left:** Mrs. Lu'isa Taunga & Mrs. 'Esita Liu Polo conducted awareness to build up the capabilities of the Teachers and students - preparedness for the Tropical Cyclone Season



Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness at Tokomololo LDS

**Left:** Mr. 'Aisea Fungavai, presenter to ensure the members know their responsibilities in preparedness, response for any Natural Hazards.



Disaster Risk Reduction Training at Nukuleka Village

NEMO team (Lead by the Director for NEMO, Mr. Mafua-i-Vai'utukakau Maka) conducted Disaster Risk Reduction at Nukuleka. According to the Geographic Location of the Village are vulnerable to the Natural Hazards.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated October 13th as the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction. In keeping with the Day's focus on the impact that disasters have on people's lives and wellbeing, this year's theme is about conveying the message that many disasters can be avoided or prevented if there are disaster risk reduction strategies in place to manage and reduce existing levels of risk and to avoid the creation of new risks. What that amounts to is "good disaster risk governance." Tonga is continuously on topping the list in the disaster risk ranking developed by World Risk Report. As per latest report, Tonga is at second highest in the world from the risk of natural hazards, only next to Vanuatu, another Pacific neighbors (World Risk Report, 2020). Government of Tonga, until now, has been able to provide the immediate support required to her citizen considerably effectively and efficiently. But the fact is that in providing response to the past emergencies, the other development needs of Tonga and consequently resources required are being compromised. Compounded with the impact of COVID-19 to the national economy, the cyclones of the scale like of TC Ian or TC Gita or any other disaster will be pushing Tonga to its limit. And the impact of climate change is very likely to generate more intense cyclones in future, which will then have bigger impact to the economy. Tongan government is also increasingly focusing on disaster risk reduction and better preparedness to save the life and properties of Tonga. Cluster system established in country, emergency management plans prepared at national district and village levels all are examples of Tongan government realization of the need for better planning and preparedness. Ministry of MEIDECC and NEMO on behalf is taking lead in Tongan government's effort in disaster risk reduction. Revision of existing Emergency Management Act to accommodate changed context at local level as well as need to accommodate the concept of disaster risk reduction into the Act is another example and very opportunity Tonga has. Having a clear national disaster risk reduction strategy and planning will help Tonga in moving further in this direction. NEMO will continue to work with key stakeholders to build the awareness of the general public through organized activities with various communities and groups to promote preparedness to face disasters.



## Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Forests



### World Food Day



**Theme: “Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our Actions are our Future”**

World Food Day (WFD) 2020 and FAO’s 75th Anniversary commemorated in Tonga on 16 October, 2020. This year, WFD events held at the Indoor Stadium at ‘Atele. The guest of Honour was the Hon. Prime Minister, Rev Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa.

The WFD theme this year calls to “Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together”. The theme tagline was “Our actions are our future” reinforcing the call for action to overcome the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through enhancing productivity and upgrading and diversifying production value chains.

The WFD2020 theme and activities recognize the increased agricultural activities at the community level by all the districts of Tongatapu. Similar agricultural activities occur in the outer islands, Vava’u, Ha’apai, ‘Eua and the Niua. The program of the WFD included pre-judged competitions that focused on self-sufficient activities at the seven districts of Tongatapu. This included household vegetable gardening, fruit tree planting, home-based poultry and layers. Other pre-judged competitions involved food business operations and Food Safety inspections. The rest of the competition was on the WFD exhibitions and displays. This engaged private sector food-related businesses and retailers, farmers, schools, exporters that were involved in making sustainable food, available and affordable.

The theme emphasized on the need to make

sure that our food systems **grows** a variety of food to **nourish** growing population and sustain the world we are living in, together. The theme re-emphasized the importance for Tonga to make food choices that improve both our health and that of our food systems. The current engagements with private sectors, community groups, households and schools in vegetable gardening, poultry raising, fruit tree planting support healthy eating in order to reduce alarming rate of non-communicable diseases in Tonga.

The WFD exhibition featuring stakeholders, community groups, exporters, food vendors and food-related partnerships clearly indicated the status of food systems in Tonga. Most exhibitions by community groups, food businesses, exporters and food vendors. Both agriculture and fisheries exhibitions confirm the two main sources providing a variety of food for sustainable and healthy Tonga.

Special performance by the Government Primary School of ‘Atele was the climax of the WFD. Songs and poems composed for the WFD theme and costume parade on various food types assured that the WFD is reaching out to the young generation.

The commemoration of WFD each year calls for actions. Despite the unprecedented circumstances of the WFD2020, Tonga can still take advantage of this important opportunity to feature food and the agricultural sector.





## National Bureau of Statistics

### World Statistics Day



**Theme: Connecting the World with the Data we can trust"**

On 20th October 2020, the Department of Tonga Statistics marked Tonga Statistics Day 2020 under the theme "Connecting the World with Data we can trust" at Liku'alofa, Tonga National Centre.

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga Lord Fakafanua, who was the guest of honor of the event said, the theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data innovation in the public good in a national statistical system. As we celebrated world statistics day today, we are joining the world in advocating for all decisions particularly those that will impact people to be evidence-based. Hence, based on trust, trusted data means it is accurate, timely, authoritative, data that must be used not only in policy decisions but also in a work designed program for targeted people in need throughout all of Tonga. It is a powerful tool to assist policymakers, decision makers, businesses and households alike in this challenging time during this period of the novel coronavirus pandemic, we heavily rely on statistics to track the status of the pandemic and its economic and social impacts.

He also congratulated the Department of Statistics for the launch of the Tonga Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in which he hoped that the parliament and government will use it for policy intervention.

#### UNICEF Deputy Representative Programs

Ms. Vathinee Jitjaturunt read a joint statement from UNICEF and UNFPA via video conference said that Tonga has achieved a major milestone in the release of MICS Survey. "I'm proud to say Tonga has achieved a major milestone in the release of MICS Survey, being the second country in the Pacific Region to release the final results, the updated data even more critical now amidst COVID-19 which is altering the life of children and women especially the most vulnerable."

She also stressed the need for Tonga to use the available data to focus on the most vulnerable. Two major reports were released at the event, The SDG Progress Report and the Tonga Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey ( Tonga MICS) Report. Copies of the Reports were presented to the Guest of Honour Lord Fakafanua by the Minister of Finance and National Planning, Hon Tevita Lavemaa.

World Statistics Day was initiated by the United Nation on this day back in 2010. It aims to raise public awareness and build trust in official statistics and to promote the work of statistics throughout the world.





## Ministry of Justice

### Justice Week

Theme: "Justice For All"



Launch of Justice Week 2020, Guest of honor, Hon. Samiu Vaipulu, Acting Minister for Justice

The Ministry of Justice and Prisons Department commenced its Justice Week for the year 2020 from the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020. The Ministry of Justice and Prisons Department wishes to highlight that their essential services with the Ministry are for the people of Tonga including Portfolio Leadership, Policy and Legal Advice, Secretariat and Administration Support, Judiciary, Court Enforcement Services, Civil Registration, Enforcement Services, Electoral System and Family Protection Legal Framework. The Ministry of Justice held several competitions and programs throughout the week to commemorate its Justice Week. This included debate, theme, speech and Tiktok competition. In addition, radio talk-back shows, site visits and community outreach programs were also conducted throughout the week.



Hon. Samiu Vaipulu, Acting Minister for Justice and Prison with Chief Magistrate Lokotui and some of the Senior Magistrate at the service on Sunday.



Father Loni Mafi

The Ministry marked the opening of Justice Week 2020 on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 with a prayer service held at Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua. The service was led by Father Loni Mafi. The attendees included the Hon. Lord Chief Justice Michael Whitten and his wife Mrs Whitten, Acting Judge Hon. Justice Langi, Chief Magistrate Sione Folau Lokotui, Magistrate Mafi, Magistrate Tuita, Magistrate Ma'u, Magistrate Kuli, the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Justice Temaleti.M.A Pahulu, Police Commissioner Stephen Caldwell, Prisons Department Officers and the rest of the staff of the Ministry of Justice. The service was followed by a luncheon held at 'Oholei Beach Resort.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 the Ministry officially launched its Justice Week for 2020 at Epworth Hall with the guest of honor in attendance; the Acting Minister for Justice, Hon. Samiu Vaipulu. The Launching included distinguished guests such as the Hon. Lord Chief Justice Michael Whitten, Police Commissioner Stephen Caldwell, Madame Attorney General Linda Folaumoetu'i, Solicitor General Sione Sisifa, CEO for Custom and Revenue Mr Kelemete Mahe, Chief Magistrate Folau Lokotui, Prisons Commissioner, Mr Semisi Tapueluelu CEO for Ministry of Justice Temaleti.M.A Pahulu and SPC Country Focal Officer Ms 'Eleni Mone. The launching of the Justice Week 2020 program commenced with an opening prayer led by Rev. Tevita 'Ofahulu followed by the welcoming remarks delivered by Chief Magistrate Folau Lokotui. The official launching of the program was conveyed by the guest of honor, the Acting Minister for Ministry of Justice Hon, Samiu Vaipulu. In addition, a traditional dance was performed by Ms Salote Latu of the Corporate Service Division as the entertainment for the day before the closing remarks was delivered by Mrs. Temaleti.M.A Pahulu. CEO of the Ministry of Justice.



Welcoming Remarks, Chief Magistrate Folau Lokotui



## Ministry of Justice

### Justice Week Theme: "Justice For All"



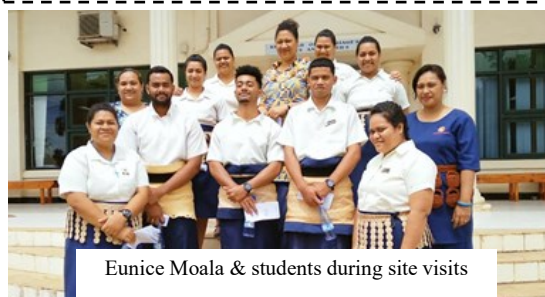
Teams that participated in the Debate Competition

Following the official launch of Justice Week 2020, the debate competition commenced. It included two (2) groups, the first being youth group category (ages 15-30) and adult's group category (31+) where contemporary topics relating to the theme of the Week were discussed. On the same day, a pre-recorded radio program at A3Z was held with the Acting Registrar for the Supreme, Mr. Tevita Fukofuka and the Principal Registrar, Mrs. Eunice Moala for the Magistrate Courts and it was anticipated this program was aired later that day. In the latter part of the day a Radio Talk back show at 87.5FM was held with the Deputy Secretary for the RGO, Mr. Seniloli 'Inoke in attendance to address the public's questions and comments on RGO matters. This was followed by the outreach programs to the communities of Tongatapu (Tongatapu 1, Tongatapu 2, and Tongatapu 3) in the afternoon with each representative from the Ministry's respective division in attendance.



Teams that participated in the Debate Competition

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, **site visits** were held at the Ministry of Justice for secondary school students – Tonga High School, Tonga College 'Atele, and tertiary students from USP, Tonga. The site visits included the Supreme Court, Magistrate Court, Family Protection Legal Aid Centre and the Registrar General's Office. The purpose of these site visits was to provide an overall insight into the Ministry's core functions and services to the public.



Eunice Moala & students during site visits

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, was the deadline for the participants to the competition events - "Theme Making", "Tiktok Competition", and "Speech Competition". On the same day, a radio talk-back program commenced at 3:00 pm to 4:00pm and was held with the Family Protection Advocate for the Family Protection Legal Aid Centre, Miss Vika 'Akau'ola and Mr. Taufu'i Naufahu from the Leadership & Legal Policy Division in attendance to address the public's questions and comments. This was followed by outreach programs to the communities of allocated districts for Tongatapu 3, Tongatapu 5, Tongatapu 6, Tongatapu 7, Tongatapu 8 and Tongatapu 9. The objective was to provide some of the basic services of the Ministry to the communities. The outreach team was divided to four (4) teams consisting of representatives from the seven divisions of the Ministry of Justice.



Community Outreach throughout Tongatapu

On Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020, was the prize giving day for the winners of competition events - debate, speech and Tiktok competition. This was held at Bahai Hall with the guest of honor in attendance, Acting Supreme Court Judge, Hon. Justice Langi, Chief Officer Executive, Mrs Manakovi Pahulu and the rest of the staff of the Ministry of Justice and Prisons, including the winners of the competitions.



Seniloli 'Inoke & students during site visits



Official launching of Justice Week 2020



Key note Address from the Guest of Honor



CEO for Ministry of Justice Temaleti M.A Pahulu, Official Closing of Justice Week 2020



Speech Competition winner Mr Koloa'ia Tautua'a, Closing Ceremony



Community Outreach throughout Tongatapu

The conclusion of the Justice Week was held that afternoon with a Fiefia Night social function themed **Black and Gold**. This function was for the staffs of the Ministry of Justice and Prisons Department to celebrate the end of Justice Week 2020.



## Ministry of MEIDECC

### National Climate Change Awareness Week

Theme: “Building a Resilient Tonga ”

Tree planting activity for the most vulnerable to climate change



The Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of MEIDECC on the second day of the National Climate Change Awareness Week, Monday 21 September 2020, conducted a Tree Planting Activity for People Living with Disabilities and Special Needs.

The five sites in Tongatapu were the Alonga Center and National Visual Impairment Associations in Pea, the ‘Ofa, Tui moe ‘Amanaki (OTA) Center in Kolofo’ou, the Mango Tree Center in Houmakelikao, the Special Inclusive Class at GPS Ngele’ia and a residence in Houma representing the elderlies or Kau Toulekeleka of Houma. The tree planting activity was a close partnership between the Department of Climate Change and other government ministries and departments, non-government organizations and youth groups. Through the tree planting activity, the participants supported the most vulnerable population in a simple but inclusive and effective climate action– planting trees for both adaption and mitigation purposes.

Planting trees not only fostered inclusive climate change actions but

also enhanced the tree’s environment benefits such as increase biodiversity, reduce flood risks and preventing soil erosion. Moreover, planting trees is an investment for future sources of income, nourishments, traditional medicine and materials for cultural needs. The trees that were planted included fruit trees and cultural Trees such as ‘avoka, tamaline, mei, kuava, fekika, moli, siale, maile, uhi, ahi, hehea and langakali. The Organizations that participated in the tree planting activity were from the Department of Environment, Forestry Division (MAFF), Youth and MIA, Non-government organization including Tonga community Development Trust, Tonga Red Cross Society, CARITAS Tonga, Civil Society Forum Tonga, Langafonua ‘a Fafine Tonga, and Live and Learn Tonga, and youth groups including the Tonga National Youth Congress, Tonga Employment and Entrepreneurship. The tree planting activity was inspected by Lady Tuna Fielakepa from Lagafonua ‘a Fafine Tonga, the CEO for MEIDECC Mr. Paula Ma’u and the Director for the Department of Climate Change, Ms Lu’isa Tu’i’afitu Malolo. (PC: Tonga gov portal)



### Coastal Clean- up and Coastal Tree Planting in Western Communities

As part of the National Climate Change Awareness Week 2020 program, the Vulnerability and Adaption Division of the Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of MEIDECC led a coastal clean-up and coastal tree planning program at Kolovai, ‘Ahau, Kanokupolu and Ha’atafu communities on Wednesday morning 23 September, 2020.

The program emphasized communities in the Western District which are vulnerable to coastal erosion due to sea level rise and high tides to engage in a coastal clean-up and coastal tree planting. The Vulnerability and Adaption Division highlighted the tree planting by distributed coastal plants including Telie, Fotulona, Fao and Toununi with a total of twenty (20) plants for each community who participated to help prevent coastal erosion.

The Parliament Representative of Tongatapu 5 Hon. Losaline Ma’asi, Hihifo District Officer, Town Officers and communities of Kolovai, ‘Ahau, Kanokupolu and Ha’atafu, Tonga National Youth Congress, Live & Learn, Tonga Community Development Trust, Tongatapu 5 Youth Council, Natural Resource Division Ridge to Reef Project, Department of Environment, Fo’ituluta Women’s Group, Tonga Development Bank Staff and Department of Climate Change were participated in this program.

An evidence of cooperation and partnership were revealed in the great attendance and participant of stakeholders during the coastal clean-up and coastal tree planting to “Build a Resilient Tonga”. (PC: Tonga gov portal)





## Ministry of Internal Affairs

### Safety and Protection Cluster Meeting



The Ministry of Internal Affairs Safety and Protection Cluster held its first meeting on Wednesday, 16 September, in the conference room of the Tonga Statistics Department, chaired by Dr. Fotu Fisi'iahi, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

During the meeting, each member shared their essential needs, as well as progress updates on completed, ongoing and future work plans. Dr.

Fisi'iahi, then advised the members to submit reports for them to obtain the support they need to ensure the continuity of their services for the safety and protection of the people.

The discussion included the current status of the working committee in terms of disaster preparedness, in which the members recognize the need to work closely together, to be well prepared when disasters occur.

### Caregivers Training

Hon. Vatau Mefi Hui, Minister of Internal Affairs, opened the annual training for caregivers at Queen Salote College Hall on Tuesday 29 September, 2020 hosted by the Social Protection and Disability Division. The training began from the district of Nuku'alofa and will continue to the rest of Tongatapu.

This training aims to significantly enhance the knowledge and skills of caregivers on how to ensure the health and well-being of people with disabilities, consultation on issues related to climate change, disaster recovery responses and

the Disability Welfare Scheme new policy. Also included in the program was the screening of people with disabilities for the new disability welfare scheme, which comes in three categories, an individual with one form of disability received \$30 pa'anga, a person with three disabilities received \$90 pa'anga.

This training was made possible through the cooperation between the Social Protection and Disability Division, collaborating with the Ministry of Health, Tonga Red Cross, MEIDECC and other stakeholders.



### World Suicide Prevention Day 2020



September every year. This year the National Committee for Suicide Prevention under the Church Leaders Desk of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

“Hope When There is No Hope,” the theme for this year’s World Suicide Prevention Day, an annual event marked on the 10th of

hosted a Radio Talkback show at 87.5FM and a Radio and Television Program at the TBC. These programs focus on raising public awareness of suicide prevention and educating them through a positive message of encouragement that there is hope when it seems like there is no hope.



### Training on the Safety and Protection of Children



Affairs, Church Leaders Desk, in collaboration with the UNICEF held a 2 day train the trainers’ workshop at the Toutaimana Residence, on 21 and 22 September, 2020. The purpose of this workshop is to train the community members as first responders to assist children in the event of natural disasters, how they are to respond, what problems children face, how to identify those who need support, and how to provide them with the right

To ensure the safety and protection of children, the Ministry of Internal

support they need. Dr. Fotu Fisi'iahi, CEO of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said that this training is not only to ensure the safety and protection of children, but to be sure, there are people in the community who will be the first to responders to children in the event of disasters.

Dr. Fisi'iahi said that after natural disasters occur, aiding assistance will focus on restoring shelters while neglecting the children. At the same time, he encouraged those taking part in the workshop not to take this task lightly. They were also encouraged not to wait until disasters come before offering assistance, but to make it their everyday duty to ensure children are safe from human-made disasters such as drugs and alcohol. The workshop involved District and Town Officers, Parents, Counselors, Community Police and Youth Members and was facilitated by Mafi Lutui Hoa and Lavinia Halafuka from Church Leaders Desk.



## Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources

### 2-Day Training for Kakala Papai Fatu 'o Tongatapu 5 Youth Council



The R2R Team worked together with Ms Emele Petelo from Civil Society Forum Tonga to lead the training based on enhancing the Council Member's capacity and training them how to write up a project proposal, governance and roles/responsibilities.

### Global Navigational Satellite System Campaign



This week-long GNSS campaign is part of the annual maintenance of the national geodetic network by the Geodetic Survey of the Ministry. Its purpose is to re-observe annually these primary first and second order geodetic control marks in Tongatapu.

### Outer Island Visit - Account Section



Our Account - Finance officers visited our sections at Vava'u and Ha'apai with the purpose of updating the Land Register/ Lease Record and Payment, and to give training to our staff in the islands with any questions or concerns regarding Finance.

### Climate Change Project



Commemorating the National Climate Change Week- "Takanga 'etau fohe ki ha Tonga 'oku tu'uloa". Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources together with Tongatapu 5's Youth Council supporting Ministry of MEIDECC's Pick Up Rubbish Programme.

### Training on Tax



The Finance Section hosted trainings about tax for a week with each division of the Ministry. This was a great opportunity for officers to ask questions and for the Finance team to answer and clarify.

### MAFF Training with MLNR



The Ministry reached out to the Ministry of Agriculture for a training on how to take care of and raise chickens, and getting vegetables seeds to grow. The purpose of this event is to encourage staff to be prepared with healthy food supplies during this pandemic.



## Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL APPOINTED FOR THE KINGDOM OF TONGA



On Friday, 02 October, 2020 Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Donna Stephenson (also known as Dana Elizabeth Stephenson) was appointed as the new British Honorary Consul for the Kingdom of Tonga. The short ceremony, held at the Office of the Prime Minister, was officiated with the presentation of the Letter of Exequatur by the Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, the Prime Minister of Tonga.

The presentation of the Letter of Exequatur on behalf of His Majesty's Government, granted the authority to the Honorary Consul to operate within the consular district of the Kingdom of Tonga and to exercise consular services to British nationals in Tonga. In addition to this appointment, approval has also been granted for the appointment of Ms. Lucy Rebecca Joyce (OBE) as the next British High Commissioner to Tonga, with residence in Nuku'alofa.

Mrs. Stephenson is a fully qualified law practitioner in Tonga (since 2007), specializing in commercial and business law. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the Auckland University School of Law and has practiced in New Zealand and New York (USA) prior to

commencing in Tonga in 2007 as partner of the law firm, Stephenson Associates. She is the daughter of Mr. Steve and Mrs. Ann Edwards of Nuku'alofa.

Present at the ceremony were Honourable Cabinet Ministers, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet Mr. Edgar Cocker, Lord Privy Seal and Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Viliami Malolo, and senior officers of the Foreign Ministry and the Cabinet Office. Mrs. Stephenson was accompanied by her parents and her husband, Mr. Ralph Stephenson.





## Public Service Remuneration

### Job Description Training to MDAs

JD Training sessions were conducted to Ministries, Department and Agencies as from September to October, 2020 by the Public Service Commission's Remuneration Team as tabulated below;



HMAF



TFES & Tonga Prison



MOH (Medical Doctors)



AGO



NBoS

#### September

Date	Ministry
2 Sept 2020	Ministry of Health (Pharmacist Division)
3 Sept 2020	Ministry of Trade & Economics Development
4 Sept 2020	Attorney General Office
7 Sept 2020	Public Service Commission
8 Sept 2020	Ministry of Fisheries
9 Sept 2020	National Bureau of Statistics
10 Sept 2020	Prime Minister's Office
11 Sept 2020	Ministry of Infrastructure
14 Sept 2020	Ministry of Revenue & Customs
15 Sept 2020	Ministry of Public Enterprises
16 Sept 2020	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22 Sept 2020	Ministry of Health (Radiographer Division)
23 Sept 2020	Ministry of Health (Clinical Nurses)
23 Sept 2020	Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### October

Date	Ministry
2 Oct 2020	Ministry of Tourism
5 Oct 2020	Palace Office
7 Oct 2020	Ministry of Finance
8 Oct 2020	Ministry of Health (Dental Division)
12 Oct 2020	Ministry of Justice
13 Oct 2020	Ministry of Finance
14 Oct 2020	Ministry of Health (Medical Doctors)
14 Oct 2020	Ministry of MEIDECC
16 Oct 2020	Ministry of Health (Public Health)
20 Oct 2020	Tonga Fire Emergencies Services and Tonga Prison
21 Oct 2020	Ombudsman
23 Oct 2020	His Majesty Army Forces
26 Oct 2020	Ministry of MEIDECC (Climate Change Division)
28 Oct 2020	Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forest



MAFF



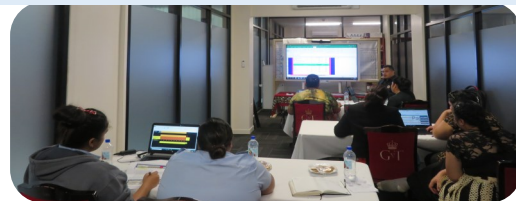
MTED



## Public Service Performance Development

### Key Activities for the month of September 2020

- ◆ PMS Team conducted PMS EFY Reconciliation with PMS Managers of twenty-five (25) Ministries
- ◆ Preliminary analysis of Line Ministries PMS EFY Results on Original submissions for 2019/20 FY
- ◆ Provide Train the Trainer (5 sessions) Phase 9 on CHARS Dashboard Initiative for seven (7) ministries who completed their Flow Chart Process Mapping (Fisheries, MAFF, MPE, MTED, MORC, MOT & PMO).
- ◆ Submission of Flow Chart documents for nine (9) Ministries on 25 September 2020 (Palace, MIA, TFES, TSD, MLNR, Finance, MEIDECC, AGO & MFA).
- ◆ Flow Chart discussion with MET and MOH, which had initiated to pilot only in some of the divisions within these two (2) ministries.



MORC, MOT & MTED PMS Managers during TTT Program Phase 9 on CHARS Dashboard



HOD PDD during PDP Training for PSC staff on the 15 September, 2020

### Key Activities for the month of October 2020



PMO PMS Managers during TTT Program Phase 9 on CHARS Dashboard

- ◆ Train the Trainer Phase 9 on CHARS Dashboard for Prime Minister's Office on 01 October 2020.
- ◆ Due date Submission of Line Ministries PMS Quarterly Report for July to September 2020 to the PMS Team on 09 October 2020.
- ◆ Convene of first (1st) Oversight Moderation Committee Meeting on 21 October 2020.
- ◆ Approval of New Initiative for piloting of the devolution of PMS Status Check for nine (9) Ministries for 2020/21 FY.
- ◆ PMS Status Check for line ministries on PMS readiness for 2020/21 FY commenced on 26 - 30 October 2020.
- ◆ Providing PMS presentation to MOH new Inductees on 09, 22 & 28 October 2020.

#### Note:

Line Ministry to ensure PMS Forms for all Permanent Employees and Daily Paid Labors are in place in preparation for the PMS Mid Year Review 2020/21 FY.



For more information email us at [pms@psc.gov.to](mailto:pms@psc.gov.to)  
OR Call 7400312



## Public Service Workforce Development

### Workforce Development Division Trainings

No.	Title	Date	Trainer	Target Participants	No. of Participants	Venue
1.	Induction Training	3/9/20	Mr. Fe'ofa'aki Fusikata (RFB) Mr. Pita Tu'ivai (MORC) Mrs. Makeleta Siliva (Finance) Mrs. Nolini Vaka'uta (PSC)	New Student Nurses (Ministry of Health)	36	Queen Salote Institute of Nursing and Allied Health
2.	Introductory to Data Analysis using Excel Training	8/9/20 to 10/9/20	Mr. Maletino Hola (Statistics Department)	All LMs Data Analysts or staff with similar roles	Day 1 - 35 Day 2 - 37 Day 3 - 32	Statistics Department Conference Room, TMF Building Level 1
3.	Leadership Training	11/9/20 & 23/9/20	Ms. Katrina Ma'u Fatiaki (Consultant)	PSC Office Senior Staff	Session 1 - 22 Session 2 - 19	PSC Office Training Room, Level 1, PTH Building
4.	Customer Service Training	29/9/20	Ms. Linda Maue (TBEC)	5 LMs Frontline Staff (MOH, MOJ, MORC, MOI, MLNR)	25	Ministry of Revenue and Customs Fe'ao Mo e Ngalu Building, Conference Room, Level 1
5.	Healthy Eating Tips Training	27/9/20	Ms. Tinalasa Vunipola (MOH) Mrs. Meleane Fifita (MOH) Ms. Fiona Mahe (MOH) Ms. 'Ilisa Lefai (MOH)	All PSC Staff	23	PSC Office Training Room, Level 1, PTH Building
6.	Public Service Principles & Values	29/9/20	Mrs. Nolini Vaka'uta (PSC)	PDD & WDD team	5	PSC Office Conference Room, Level 1, PTH Building



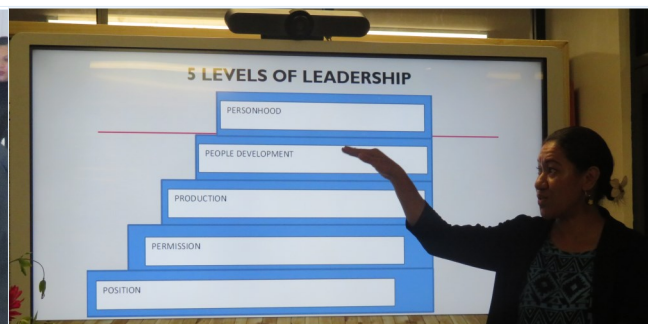
**Above:** New Student Nurses during Induction Training on 3/9/20, Queen Salote School of Nursing (MOH)



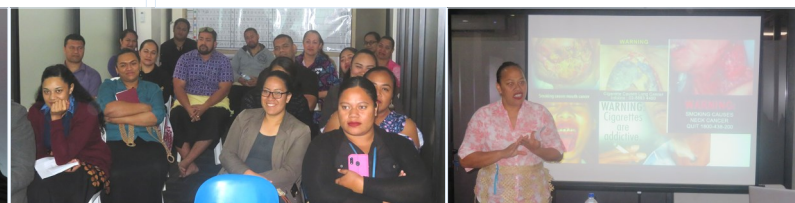
**Above:** Customer Service Training 25 participants, 29 September 2020, Below left: Ms. Linda Maue



**Above:** Participants & Trainer during Introductory to Data Analysis using Excel Training on 8/9/20 to 10/9/20, Statistics Department



**Above:** Ms. Katrina M. Fatiaki (Trainer) & participants at Leadership Training on 11 & 23 September 2020



**Above :** PSC staff and MOH staff during the Healthy Eating Tips Training on 22 Sept 2020, @ PSC Office

**PSC Mission:** "To deliver quality services with passion, integrity and efficiency in enabling platforms"  
**PSC Vision:** "To be a trusted, respected and internationally reputed Public Service"



## Public Service Oversight

### Television program on Social Media Guidelines



**L to R:** Dr. Lia Maka (CEO of PSC), Ms. Linda Folaumoetu'i (Attorney General of AGO) and Ms. Viola Ulakai (CEO of TBC)

On Thursday 15th October 2020, the second television program for 2020 was successfully conducted at the Tonga Broadcasting Commission at Fasi mo e Afi. This program was based on the awareness program for Social Media Guideline to the Public Service. The program was facilitated by Viola Ulakai and was attended by the following panelists: the Attorney General, Ms. Linda Folaumoetu'i and Dr. Lia Maka, CEO of Public Service Commission.

**COVID-19 Special Recruitment:** The Office of the Public Service Commission wishes to acknowledge all the efforts made from line ministries to meet the 14 September, 2020 vetting submission deadline as per the Cabinet directive. A total of 506 positions were vetted and only 211 were approved, a 42% approval rate. Line Ministries are advised that the vetting process has come to an end with the last meeting of the sub-committee held on 22 October, 2020. Any late submissions now await a further decision of the Cabinet on a way forward. We commend the tireless efforts of the vetting sub-committee members in making time for the meetings. Line ministries are reminded that vacant positions that were not approved to proceed with the recruitment process still remain with your respective Ministries until government's cash flow position improves.

We wish to acknowledge every contribution to the PSC Newsletter. We appreciate very much the articles and information shared in this newsletter. We also acknowledge the Facebook pages, official Govt. Ministry's Facebook page and individual pages, which we received photos from, thank you for allowing us to use your photos.

For any events, achievements, or annually celebrated events please send articles to [oversight@psc.gov.to](mailto:oversight@psc.gov.to)

for our next newsletter by **07 December, 2020**.

## Behind The Scene



**Victorina Kioa**  
Deputy Secretary  
Oversight



**Lavenita Fakava**  
Assistant Secretary  
Oversight



**'Ana Ma'afu**  
Senior Assistant  
Secretary  
Oversight



**Maa'imoa Mafile'o**  
Senior Assistant  
Secretary  
Oversight