

# PRESS RELEASE



Office of the Public Service  
Commission  
NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

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11<sup>TH</sup> October 2021

## REMINDER FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN NON-POLITICAL PUBLIC SERVICE

1. The Public Service Commission respectfully reminds the general public, and particularly public servants, of the requirements of the law regarding public servants engaging in political activities, and the responsibility to serve impartially regardless of their personal political beliefs.
2. The *Public Service Act 2002* requires public servants to perform their duties in an impartial, ethical and professional manner without involving in any political activities. This includes public servants not associating with any association that has a political mandate which is or may be contrary to Government policy.
3. Public servants must be effective and efficient in serving the Government and the public they serve. Public servants must serve in an impartial, professional and competent manner. They must perform their duties in a manner that meets and promotes effectiveness, efficiency and transparency in a non-political manner.
4. The *Public Service Act 2002* also requires public servants to perform their duties to the Government, without partiality. They are accountable to the Government, and to the public they serve irrespective of their personal political beliefs and affiliations. Public servants are not to promote a political mandate that is contrary to that of Government policy.
5. Producing policy is the mandate of Government as it relates to all public services delivered for the public. The Government's plan for the coming four (4) years was outlined in the 2022-2024 Budget Statement. This was the outcome of dialogue held across all islands during Parliamentary Visits in 2020 and 2021.
6. The Government's work that has been approved in annual and medium term budget statements. This work is the outcome of various levels of planning and dialogue through Parliamentary or Ministry visits and other relevant reports. Public servants, particularly at the leadership level are responsible to plan, execute and monitor this work.
7. Public servants are accountable to the Government of the day, which means promoting and advocating that Government's policies. As such, public servants are accountable to their Ministers and the Government to implement Government policies and programs. In implementing these policies and programs, public servants must be non-political.
8. As the country heads into the general elections, the Public Service Commission stands ready to receive any complaints or issues regarding public servants who may be in breach of these requirements.

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