



Office of the Public Service Commissions Newsletter

“A Fit for Purpose Public Service”



Welcome to PSC Newsletter Vol. 4 which covers events for July to August 2021

July—August Events

- * Ministry of Infrastructure
 - Construction Day for Tonga
- * Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Food
 - National Food Summit Dialogue
- Ministry of Trade and Economic Development
 - Trade Week
- Ministry of Justice
 - Justice Week
- PSC Office Events
 - CEOs Forum
 - Dedication of the PSCs revamped Office
 - PSC Retreat/ All Staff Meeting
 - Performance Development Division

Construction Day for Tonga



THEME: Ministry of Infrastructure Tonga wishes to recognize and celebrate the dedicated, hard-working people contributory in building and connecting our communities through construction.

AIM: To further advocate this field and provide potential career pathways for the Technical students of Tonga

VISION: Building the community resilience in the construction sector and promoting build back better

Advocacy: A 'One Day Event' to showcase all the practical work of the Technical students in Tertiary and also High School. Building the capacity of the small and medium construction contractors.

A Day for the students and construction contractors to meet and discuss potential career opportunities for them.



It was very important to recognize the people in this field, and especially the TVET students undertaking the different fields of this sector. This is a day to highlight their practical work demonstrated inside the classroom as well as outside on the field. We have engaged all these schools namely for Tertiary schools: Fokololo 'o e Hau, Monfort Technical Institute, Tupou Tertiary Institute and for High Schools: Tonga College 'Atele, Toloa High School, Tailulu College to display all their practical works on the event. The other Construction Companies, Consultants and Suppliers of this sector were also present to display all their related services to construction.

Cont. of Construction Day for Tonga

For the first time, the Ministry of Infrastructure was able to display the services they provide for the construction sector, the contribution of the education system in Tonga, and the production of the Hardware Suppliers were all displayed at the Maamaloa Field, Kolomotu'a Tongatapu.

There were scholarships of \$3000/school for 3 Tertiary Schools – Fokololo 'o e Hau, Monfort Technical Institute, Tupou Tertiary Institute and \$2,000/school for 11 High Schools – Tupou College Toloa, Tupou High School, Tonga College 'Atele, Tailulu College, 'Apifo'ou College, Takuilau College, Lavengamalie College, Hofangahau College, 'Eua High School, Tonga High School and St. Andrews High School were awarded to all the Technical Schools in Tonga as well as special prizes awarded from participating in the event.



The most important award of the Day was awarded to the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa with a National Park given for the people of 'Eua located at Malau as the CONSTRUCTION DAY GIFT OF 2021.



The Ministry together with its CEO wishes to continue this event in the coming years for career pathway opportunities for the technical students and to advocate the importance of this sector in contribution to the economic development of the country as well as Building the resilience of the community to future disasters. Natural Disasters has costed the Government a huge amount of money to recover from, and so we are looking at ways to move the focus of Government from Reconstructions after promoting risk reductions at the technical level to build the resilience capacity of the communities. We are fortunate to witness all the hardworking people in this sector that assisted us to successfully complete some of our projects especially the TC Gita & Harold Housing Reconstruction Project, Multipurpose Community Halls with medium level contractors as a way to strengthen their capacity in this sector. We have completed 343-cyclone houses rebuild for TC Gita and TC Harold and 12 Multipurpose Community Halls with 40 houses from SINO Construction Company currently under construction set to be completed by September 2021.

National Food System Summit Dialogue

Theme: Sustainable, Health and Safety Food System for Tonga in 2030



The United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 - PRE_SUMMIT Meeting was held on the 26th to the 28th of July 2021 at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarter at Rome.

This was a Virtual Meeting that was attended by the Convenor, Lord Tu'ilakepa, Hon Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fishery; Assistant Convenor, 'Isileli 'Aholelei, Deputy Director and Head of MAFF-Food Division; UN Coordinator for Tonga, Sione Hufanga; Assistant FAO Representative to Tonga, Paumolevuka Likiliki; FAO Consultant, Dr Sione Vailala Matoto and the Ministry of Fishery Representative, Dr Siola'a Malimali. The 3 days meeting were attended by 100 countries of where more than 500 delegates attended in person and more than 20,000 people attended virtually from member countries, including the team from Tonga.

The Tonga FS Summit Committee was on the subject since March 2021 concluded based on its National FS Summit Dialogue, pre-meetings and consultations with a **THEME: "Sustainable, Health and Safety Food System for Tonga in 2030"**. This becoming an ultimate Vision of the game solutions Tonga endeavours to develop for our FS to substantiate sustainability of the food productions from the challenges of Climate Change and limited resources, ensure healthy diets from the challenge of NCDs and Covid-19 and the food standards must be reliable and enforce for the people to consume safety food at all time

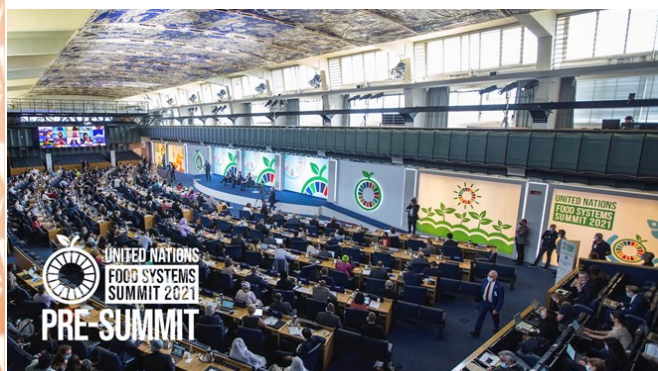
The Food Systems Summit is guided by a set of seven principles of engagement. Underpinning each of these principles is the Summit's vision of an equitable and healthy future for all, and one that gives voice to citizens in every country of the world. Everyone is invited to become a Food Systems Hero, host a Food Systems Dialogue, spread the word about food systems transformation, or find another way to support the Summit process. The Summit is open to all, and it belongs to us all. It is ours to create; we must define and build a strong food system, together. What does a strong food system mean?

1. Act with urgency:
2. Commit to the Summit:
3. Be respectful:
4. Recognise complexity:
5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity:
6. Complement the work of others:
7. Build trust:

Base on the Convenor's Pre-Meetings (3) and the National FS Summit Dialogue that convened on the 3rd of July 2021 at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre. Tonga will focus its FS Game Solutions for transforming and developing its Food System in the following Key Sectors:

- Fishery Sector;
- Livestock Sector;
- Agriculture Sector;
- Local Food Processing and Manufacturers.

Theses 4 areas have been conveyed to the UN for future development of Tonga while recognizing the importance to educate our people to consider seriously the essential of nutritious and balance diets. The National threat of NCDs remains the biggest challenge for transforming and reshaping our National FS in the next 10 years.



Finance Week

Taumu'a: Ke Potongi e Mo'ui 'a e Fonua ke Tuha mo e Kelesi Taumama'o 'a e 'Otua



The Ministry's CP 2021/22 stated the major reform initiatives included the need to improve communications and foster a better public awareness of the Ministry's vital responsibilities for Government and the country as a whole and the planned "MINISTRY OF FINANCE WEEK" for July 2021 with further, outreach programmes arranged by respective Divisions for relevant stakeholders, not only in Tongatapu but also Team visits for the Outer Islands. The week commenced with the Sunday Service at the Nuku'alofa FWC at 10.00am where the Choir of the Ministry led the service and some of the staff taking part in the service. The Official Opening Ceremony of the Foundation Week by the Prime Minister on 12 July 2021 included the launch of the Resilient Strategy and Poverty Reduction Programme. The awareness programmes of the week included TV/radio programmes led by CEO and Head of Divisions, Exhibitions at Falemasiva of the Divisions including Projects with school quiz, "tik tok" and poetry competition during 13-15 July 2021.

The winners for school quiz was 'Apifo'ou College and "tik -tok" competition for healthy students was Tailulu College. The winners of the first prizes for poetry competition were: Wailea Lolohea of Ha'alalo GPS (for Primary Schools) and Tu'amelie Fatu of Tonga College (for Secondary School). The e-Government Project was launched on Friday 16 July 2021 followed by boat cruise.



Justice Week : Children, Youth, Law and Justice

OPENING OF JUSTICE WEEK 2021

On Sunday 22nd August, 2021 the Ministry of Justice marked the opening of their annual Justice Week with a church service held at the FWC Moulton Chapel, Tupou College Toloa. The sermon was led by Rev. 'Alifeleti 'Atiola, Principal of Tupou College & General Secretary of the FWC of Tonga. Present at the service was the Minister for Justice & Prisons, Hon. Samiu K. Vaipulu, Hon. Lord Chief Justice Whitten & the Supreme Court Judges, Chief Magistrate Lokotui & Magistrates, Chief Executive Officer, Temaleti M.A Pahulu, Prisons Commissioner, Head of Divisions, staffs of the Ministry, and joined by various secondary schools from Tonga College 'Atele, Beulah College, Lavengamalie College, Tupou College Toloa, Tailulu College and Takuilau College and Tupou High School. Justice Week is an imperative event to the Ministry because it is an initiative which intended to provide the public with information and on the various roles carried out in the Ministry and the core function that relate to the public.

JUSTICE WEEK'S EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

The Ministry of Justice conducted a series of events and activities from Monday 23rd— Friday 27th August, 2021, to promote its Week for 2021. These included a Poetry Competition for Primary Schools, a Speech Competition for Secondary Schools and a Debate Competition for Tertiary School + Youth. In addition, outreach programmes to Secondary schools and communities and Site Visits to the Ministry were held throughout the week. It was crucial that the events and activities held for Justice Week reflected the theme for 2021—*Children, Youth, Law & Justice*. There were also radio talkback shows which was led by various service divisions including the Supreme and Magistrate Courts, Family Protections Legal Aid Centre (FPLAC), Registrar General's Office, Bailiff and Probation Units providing and discussing their main functions and services provided to the public. To conclude Justice Week for 2021, the Ministry of Justice assembled a Public Booth Display in which all divisions participated to provide their awareness materials and resources pertained to their core functions and the theme of the week together with invitations for relevant stakeholders including Ministry of Internal Affairs, NGO's such as Tonga Leiti Associations, Women and Children Crisis Centre, and Lavame'a Disabled Association.



OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF JUSTICE WEEK

On Monday 23rd August, 2021, Hon. Samiu K. Vaipulu officially launched Justice Week 2021 with a noteworthy remark from the Hon. Lord Chief Justice Whitten at Queen Salote College Hall, Nuku'alofa. The event was attended by Supreme Court Judges, Magistrate Judges, Diplomatic Corps, Chief Executive Officers, Prison Officers, NGO's and Staffs of the Ministry of Justice & Prisons. The welcoming remarks was delivered by CEO, Temaleti M.A Pahulu. The opening and closing prayer for this official launching led by Rev. Semisi Kava. There were three entertainments for the day performed by children from various Primary schools, a group tau'olunga from the Corporate Services Division and Magistrate Courts followed with a closing remarks delivered by Senior Magistrate Langi.



Trade Week: Investing in Tonga's Economic Recovery



For four days, the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development was buzzing with business. The Ministry grounds were packed with private sector businesses selling all kinds of locally produced goods – Kava, liquor, handicrafts, oils and ointments, artwork, clothes, tapa and all sorts products. The Ministry's public sector partners were present to exhibit the work they do in the fisheries and agriculture sector, internal affairs and customs, and higher education institutions showcasing their skills and knowledge learnt in their institutions, to name a few.

From the 24th to the 27th of August, the Ministry made history by hosting its first ever Trade Week. The event was in partnership with stakeholders from the public and private sector to cooperate and boost Tonga's economic recovery following on from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative is essential to support the efforts of all stakeholders to remain resilient through the global effects of COVID-19 and to cope with the new norms we find ourselves in. Stakeholders in both the public and private sector have been affected one way or another and it is therefore the Ministry's responsibility to accommodate their venture to remain adaptive to the new norm through activities, exhibitions and networking provided for by the Trade Week, allowing stakeholders to share information and resources.

The Trade Week was opened by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Rev. Pohiva Tuionetoa in an OPENING CEREMONY on Tuesday 24th of August followed by a short tour of the exhibits to mark the opening of the Trade Week booths to the public. On the same day, the Ministry launched various services that will assist stakeholders as well as the public to conduct business and interact with businesses in a way that is mutually beneficial:

A historical moment as the Ministry signs MOU with the Tonga Chamber of Commerce and Industry AND MORDI to mark the beginning of a new working arrangements moving forward.

Free new business license registration until the 24th of September 2021.

Buy Tonga Made (BTM) Business Catalogue and BTM Facebook Platform: The 2021 – 2022 edition of the BTM directory was launched. It details the Tongan owned businesses and locally manufactured products to inform the public of the great services and products offered by Tongans for Tongans. These are also made available online through the BTM Facebook Page which was also launched.

Business - Consumer Relations Guide: The first of its kind, the business-consumer relations guide assists in informing business and consumers of their rights and responsibilities to ensure a fair-trade market in Tonga when conducting business.

Tonga Trade Portal Website: The first of its kind, the website will assist consumers and businesses in the process of purchasing major goods and services in Tonga.

MTED Website: The official Ministry Website was launched where all the services the Ministry provides for the public will be made available and accessible to all.

Exporter Freight Assistance Program: This program was launched to enable local exporters to export their products at low costs with the Ministry taking the freight costs upon themselves.

Katoanga Koloa Fakatonga Initiative: This program was launched with the purpose of connecting koloa fakatonga markets overseas with the local women "lalanga" groups in Tonga by providing a platform that enables fair trading in this industry.

Cont. MTEDs - Trade Week



During the week, the Ministry hosted ten secondary and high schools in a tour of the Ministry grounds and the exhibits. The purpose of this activity was to familiarize students with the business environment and the services they provide to enable a business environment that supports greater economic development. There were other activities prepared for them including a drama highlighting the Ministry's support for education and "saying no to child labour". In addition, there was a Ministry quiz with prizes and giveaways sponsored and provided by the Ministry and various businesses.

The Ministry hosted an AWARDS NIGHT on Wednesday evening, 25th August, for local businesses in exports, for business compliance and for customer service. The Buy Tonga Made and Exporter Awards saw 24 export businesses in different categories – handicrafts, tuna ex-

ports, agricultural exports, etc - awarded a cash prize of as much as \$5000 in recognition of their business efforts during the COVID-19 period. The Business Compliance and Outstanding Customer Service Awards saw 13 businesses as much as \$500 for business compliance in recognition of complying with various legislations enforced by the Ministry and \$400 for great customer service in recognition of some businesses' outstanding efforts to accommodate customers in various categories including hospitality, food industry, barber shops and hair salons, to name a few, chosen by the public through an online poll.

The Trade Week ended on a high note on Friday evening, 27th of August, with a CLOSING DINNER graced by Lord and Lady Fakafanua awarding recipients for the best booths during the week were awarded as well as awards for poem competition, song competition and video advertisement competition which were promoted a few months prior to the Trade Week commencing. Lord Fakafanua in his vote of thanks noted the importance of the Trade Week in encouraging business, especially in this difficult time when we are dealing with the effects of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges, the Trade Week had achieved its objectives and purpose:

- To provide a platform for all organizations that are involved in facilitating economic and trade activities to come together and showcase to the general public and businesses the type of services they can access from each respective organization;
- To consistently improve the relationships of all stakeholders in the economic sector;
- To provide an opportunity for an informal but meaningful dialogue between the government and the private sector;
- To provide programs and activities that will allow youths to start thinking about their future and the economy.



CEOs Forum



For these two months, there were two CEO Forums hosted. The 1st Chief Executive Officer's Forum meeting was held on Thursday, 05th August, 2021 at the Department of Statistic's Conference room. It was hosted by the Office of the Public Service Commission and was chaired by the PSC CEO, Dr. Lia Maka. The 2nd Chief Executive Officer's Forum meeting for was held on Thursday, 19th, August 2021 at the Ministry of Revenue and Customs Conference Room, Fe'aomoengalu Building. It was hosted and chaired by CEO Revenue and Custom, Mr. Kelemete Vahe. A presentation was given by the CEO Revenue and Customs, Mr. Kelemete Vahe based on the Ministry's best practice idea shared during the Public Service Month program titled "Kafataha". In his presentation, he addressed the importance of team work and having a close relationship with the public as this is the main contributing factor to how the Ministry has collected the highest revenue in comparison to the past six (6) years.



Dedication of PSCs Revamped Office



The dedication of the Office of the Public Service Commission's revamped Building was held on Thursday, 01st July, 2021 at the Prime Minister's Office premises. The Guest of Honor for the ceremony was the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i''onetoa and it was opened with an opening remarks given by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Simione Sefanaia. Following the opening remarks, was a report on the work that has been completed which was presented by Halatoa Taufa, Senior Quantity Surveyor for Ministry of Infrastructure. On behalf of the PSC Office, Mr. Sinilau Kolokihakaufisi, Deputy Chairman of the Commission, gave the vote of thanks to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Contractor and relevant stakeholders for their corporation in revamping the building. Rev. Dr. Mele'ana Puloka ended the ceremony with the dedication of the building. A tour of the building was led by the PSC CEO, Dr. Lia Maka to mark the opening ceremony.



The program was also attended by Commissioner, Mr. Posesi Bloomfield, Mr. Kaveinga Tu'itahi and Mr. Taniela Fusimalohi, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, CEOs and staff from Line Ministries and staff of the PSC Office.



PSC Office Events– Retreat



The PSC Office held its retreat for this financial year 2021-2022 on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July, 2021 at the Vakaloa Beach Resort. The theme for the retreat was “**Integrity**”. Dr. Lia Maka, CEO of the PSC Office welcomed the staff and acknowledged everyone for their hard work and dedication throughout the previous Financial Year. The retreat consisted of divisional discussions on the Corporate Plan, Annual Management Plan, presentations on the Remuneration Classification of Posts, M&E Dashboard results for 2020-2021 FY and a short presentation from PSC returning scholar, ‘Alamoni Nafe. His Lordship Fakafanua was the Guest of Honor and presented on ‘Integrity’ to all the staff. His words of encouragement was well received and will be a great source of assistance to us in this FY. DS Moleni Ika presented to His Lordship, one of our new initiatives, the automated system of tracking employees performance.

Staff Meeting



The PSC Office’s first All Staff Meeting for this Financial Year 2021-2022 was held on Wednesday 14th July, 2021. The CEO, DR. Lia Maka opened the meeting with a prayer. She then continued and delivered her word of thanks to all staff for the hard work in the previous financial year especially with relocating to the newly renovated office at the Old Prime Minister’s Office premises. The agenda for the meeting was on:

- Public Service Day
- Office rules and Instructions
- Annual Report
- Monthly Report
- PMS



Performance Development Division

Key Activities for the Month of July

Dissemination of the Circular Savingram to Line Ministries (Schedule I & II) on 14th July, 2021 regarding the public Service Month Programs;

PMS Sub-Committee meeting with line ministries PMS Managers to discuss events relating to Public Service Month. This meeting was held on 20th July, 2021 and was attended by 34 PMS Managers.

Dissemination of Line Ministries PMS Quarterly Feedbacks for April—June quarter.



Above & Below: PMS Managers during a PMS Sub-Committee Meeting on 20 July



Key Activities for the Month of August

Implement the Public Service Month Activities;

- The Best Practice Sharing Conference was held at Fa'onelua Convention Centre on 04 August, 2021 which attended by line ministries under schedule 1 and 2. A total of nine (9) ministries shared their Best Practices during the conference; MORC, MOI, MET, MTED, Finance, PMO, Fisheries, MAFF & PSC Office.

- Jerusalem Dance Challenge was held on the 06 August, 2021 at the Falemasiva Tailulu Hall where a total of nineteen (19) MDA's participated.

Line Ministries PMS End of Financial Year Results for 2020/21 FY was submitted to the PSC Office on the 20 August, 2021.



Workforce Development Division

Key Activities for the month of July 2021

- ◇ Update of the Workforce data for the Annual Report for the 2020/21 FY and revision of the Public Service Annual Workforce Training Plan for the new financial year.
- ◇ Mrs. Nolini Vaka'uta attended a one (1) day Workshop on “How TVET Change Happens in Tonga”. It was facilitated by the Ministry of Education and Training and APTC (Australian Pacific Training Coalition) .
- ◇ Facilitate the Consultant’s meeting schedule on Fraud Policy Guidelines Consultation from the 19 July 2021—27 August 2021 to Line Ministries and Donor Partners visits.
- ◇ Review of the Office of the Public Service Commission’s Induction delivery format for new government employees.



Building & Construction Industry Team during the TVET Workshop



TVET Change Happens Workshop facilitators and participants



Hospitality and Tourism Industry Team during group discussion

Key Activities for the month of August 2021

- ◇ The Public Service Workforce Training Plan for the FY2021/22 was approved on the 24 August 2021 and disseminated to all Line Ministries Training Officers.
- ◇ Review of the Annual Public Service Workforce Training Catalogue for the FY2021/22 completed.
- ◇ Confirmation of the Leadership Training funding proposal has been passed on for consideration.
- ◇ Confirmation Training Officers from all Line Ministries for the FY2021/22

Next Month Activities :

- Workforce Division to host two (2) interns from TIHE for the duration 20 September 2021—26 November 2021
- Induction Program for MET new staff on the 22 September 2021

Farewell PSC Staff



Ms. Lu'isa Lapao'o



Mr. 'Isileli Tapueluelu

The PSC Office farewelled two of our staff; 1) Mrs Lu'isa Lapao'o, Principal Assistant Secretary, Human Resources Management Division; 2) Mr. 'Isileli Tapueluelu, Computer Programmer, Information Communication Technology. Thank you for your years of service and hard work dedicated to the PSC Office, you will be missed and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

The PSC Office wishes to acknowledge the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Food, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Justice for their articles and support towards this Volume of PSC Newsletter.

We hope the Public Service will be better informed of events, achievements and annual occasions through this medium of communication. For any events, achievements, or annual occasions please send articles and photos to newsletter@psc.gov.to by **05 Nov, 2021** for the compilation of our Sept-Oct 2021 Volume.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Siniteke Fotu
Assistant Secretary, Communication and Engagement
Oversight Division