

PSC BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY

ISSUE 4



Happy New  
Year from  
PSC!

New Years greetings to you all and welcome to PSC's Bi-Monthly Newsletter for January and February. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year ahead, may you find opportunities in the challenges ahead and may you reach new heights this year. We also would like to extend our appreciation to every Line Ministry who sent in their Highlights, Achievements and Events for this Issue as well as our previous issues- your contributions are acknowledged.

This issue features highlights and achievements from Government Ministries including the Public Service Commissions Office, to guarantee communications throughout the Public Service- this is one of our mediums of communications and we hope to continue providing bi-monthly updates to our readers, therefore your support is really much appreciated.

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# MEIDECC HIGHLIGHTS

## January-February

### 1.High Frequency (HF) Radio Communication training - Hosted by MEIDECC/Department of Communications & WFP, 23-27 January 2023

High Frequency (HF) Radio Telephone Operators Certificate Training hosted by MEIDECC – Communications Department Tonga in partnership with the Regional Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) - World Food Programme (WFP). This training is part of the final phase of ETC support response to the Tongan volcanic eruption and tsunami event as part of the deployment of the emergency communications infrastructure for the High Frequency (HF) emergency radio communications and coordination network.



# MEIDECC RETREAT

The Ministry's Heads of Departments Retreat was held on the 2nd & 3rd of February 2023 at the Katea Retreat out at Nakolo. The Retreat was opened by the Chief Secretary & Secretary to Cabinet, and Acting CEO for MEIDECC, Mr. Paula Ma'u. The attendees included the Directors of the 9 departments together with their Deputies. The main focus of the retreat was the Corporate Plan and Budget for upcoming FY2023-24. Retreat was successful and aim of the event achieved through various presentations, and interactive group discussions.



Revenue Collection hit 78.76% of target revenue as of 16 February 2023 MEIDECC/Department of Communications is responsible for the collection of revenue mainly from –

- Spectrum
- Radio/Network operators' licence
- Type Approvals.



# Tonga Statistics Department

## Newsletter: Jan – Feb 2023



The beginning of 2023 has been an eventful time for the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD). The department kicked start the new calendar year with a prayer gathering that was attended by Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Statistics on 10th January 2023. This event was followed by a Planning Retreat on 13th January 2023, where all staff participated.



Figure 1: 2023 opening prayer which was attended by Hon. Hu'akavameiliku.

During the first 2 months of this year, TSD hosted 2 national statistical workshops. The first national training was on Producing and Using Gender Statistics to Monitor SDG and Implement the Pacific Roadmap from 23 - 27 January 2023. This training was jointly organized, funded and facilitated by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), with the generous support of the Government of Australia. The second workshop was on Producing Official Population Estimates and Projections for Tonga, which was funded by StatsNZ and co-facilitated with the Pacific Community (SPC), from 13 - 17 February 2023.



Figure 2: Participants from the workshop on Producing and Using Gender Statistics to Monitor SDG and Implement the Pacific Roadmap

The key participants for both of these workshops were the data providers and users of these official statistics, which included Government ministries, non-Government agencies and stakeholders from the civil societies.



Figure 3: Participants and facilitators at the opening of the Population Estimates and Projections Workshop

TSD was pleased to release the result of Tonga's Household Income and Expenditure (HIES) Survey 2021 at the end of January 2023. This is the fourth HIES that was undertaken by TSD and it was carried out for eleven months starting from January 2021 to November of the same year to cover seasonality of income and expenditure. The full report can be viewed and downloaded from TSD's website <https://tongastats.gov.to/>.

During the first two months, several staff from TSD also had the opportunity to attend various workshops and trainings, both in country and overseas as well. These workshops, training and meetings are as follows:

- Ø Universal Periodic Review Write-shop
- Ø Rights to Information (RTI) Workshop
- Ø Labour Market Workshop
- Ø Financial Account Transaction and Positions
- Ø Data Analysis and Report Writing based on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Workshop
- Ø National Account Training
- Ø Maritime Transport Cost Data Regional Meeting
- Ø Economics External Sector Statistics Training

TSD is indeed grateful for all these opportunities, and would like to thank all the developing partners for willing to invest in building the statistical capacity of Tonga's National Statistical System (TNSS). These opportunities have provided TSD and the TNSS the key skills and techniques required to achieve the Statistics Department's vision of being Tonga's center of excellence in delivering quality, integrity, and expertise in providing Statistical services.



Figure 4: Left - UPR Write-shop and participants at the RTI workshop



Figure 5: Participants from the DARW workshop in Nadi, Fiji and the participants from the Financial Account Transactions and Position in Bangkok, Thailand

# Ministry of Fisheries

23rd January – 26th January: Ministry of Fisheries retreat and planning week

The Ministry of Fisheries held its annual Retreat and planning week at the Kupesi Hotel in Fua'amotu on the 23rd of January, 2023 and concluded on the 26th of January, 2023. The program was opened by the Acting Minister for Fisheries and Minister for MAFF, Lord Fohe. The theme for this new year is 'Year of Prosperity', a guiding light and driving force for all activities of the Fisheries Sector.

The Retreat also focused on revising the Ministry's Corporate Plan for the next three years and reviewing the Ministry's budget for the next financial year, 2023-2324. Representatives from the Public Service commission and the Prime Minister's office were invited to hold a session during the retreat to support and assist with the inquiries made by the Ministry.

The Retreat and Planning week brought together Senior officers of the Tongatapu office, as well as Officers in charge from the outer island offices of Eua, Ha'apai and Vava'u to discuss outcomes from the current financial year and to discuss new initiatives for the financial year 2023-2024.

The Retreat and Planning week concluded with a closing function at the Ministry of Fisheries office in Sopo.

30th January – 2nd February: SMA Manual in-house training

The Ministry of Fisheries held a four day training at the Ministry of Fisheries office commencing on the 30th of January. The training focused on Fisheries staff with key roles related to Special Management Area (SMA) activities. The training was a combined training conducted by the Fisheries Science division and the Fisheries compliance division. In attendance were the staff from the Fisheries Community Section and Compliance Division – Tongatapu and Fisheries staff from Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua.

The main purpose of this training was to train staff on the newly approved Special Management Area Manual. The SMA Manual is a summary and guideline for the SMA Communities to follow. The Manual provides specific instructions for communities when establishing a SMA, and the policies and regulations used to protect their SMAs. This in-house training also provided a chance for Fisheries staff to build their capacities in this area and also create a working procedure to communicate this SMA Manual into the SMA communities for implementation.

The training would prove beneficial for both the Ministry's staff and SMA communities, as the SMA Manual provides an exact roadmap for both to follow with regards to the establishment of an SMA, its rules and regulations and how to deal with non-compliance to SMA laws. The training also discussed the best way to impart the SMA Manual training into the SMA communities, their neighboring groups and those with interest from the general public.

16th February, 2023: Consultation for the development of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Tuna Project Proposal

The Ministry of Fisheries held a two days consultation for the development of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Tuna Project Proposal with consultants from The Pacific Community (SPC), Conservation International (CI) and a national consultant. This consultation started off in the Ministry of Fisheries office on February 16 and was brought to a close in the Fa'onelua Convention Centre on February 17th with the stakeholders. The CEO for Fisheries Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihī delivered the opening remarks and in attendance were Fisheries staff from the Fisheries Science Division and Fisheries Management & Development Division. Climate change threatens to disrupt the traditional supply of fish for food security of the people of the Pacific Islands and the vital contributions of tuna fishing to national economies. Therefore, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) aims to help develop a funding proposal for a program to manage the impacts of climate change on communities and economies are dependent on the fisheries sector which includes Tonga and 14 other Pacific Island countries. The major program is designed to help Pacific Island communities and economies to adapt in two main ways:

1. Increase access to tuna to fill the gap in fish supply by:

- a. Helping rural communities to scale-up the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) anchored in nearshore waters to catch tuna effectively and safely.
- b. Improving the supply of tuna for urban communities during transshipment of industrial tuna catches in regional ports.

2. Developing an Advanced Warning System (AWS) based on improved modelling to reduce uncertainty in the impact of ocean warming on tuna distribution.

The AWS will enable tuna-dependent Pacific Island countries to identify the effects of tuna redistribution on industrial fishing patterns with greater confidence, and negotiate effectively to retain the current economic benefits they receive from tuna regardless of the redistribution of the fish.

This consultation provided opportunities to identify priorities for strengthening the national Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) programme, assessing the potential to use bycatch from longlining operations, and using the results of the Advances Warning System. The outcomes of this consultation were very fruitful as the consultants were eager to address the needs of the stakeholders as they discussed the benefits which the GCF regional programme will offer in improving food security for Pacific Island communities and helping to secure important economic benefits that many of the island nations receive from tuna fishing.



# Ministry of Tourism



## Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Commemoration Exhibition Event

On Friday 13th of January, the Ministry of Tourism together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tonga Tourism Authority co-hosted the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH) Commemoration Exhibition Event. The event was held at the Queen Salote Memorial Hall. The commemoration exhibition is part of the program to commemorate the First Year Anniversary of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH) volcanic eruption that took place on the 15th of January 2022. The Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Samiu Kuita Vaipulu was the guest of honor. A special remark was also delivered by the guest of honor. The Hon. Minister for Tourism, Hon. Fekitamoelea 'Utoikamanu delivered the vote of thanks. The event was followed by a special tour of the exhibitions and the launching of the Tonga Tourism website [www.tongatourism.travel](http://www.tongatourism.travel). Several stakeholders and line Ministries including the WCCC, Tonga Red Cross, Donor Partners, NEMC, etc., participated in the booth display of various videos, photos, etc., from the HTHH volcanic eruption. The Ministry would like to acknowledge the stakeholders and the line Ministries who participated in celebrating the Commemoration Exhibition of the HTHH 1 Year Anniversary.



## Vava'u Welcome First Cruise Ship in 2023

Vava'u welcomed its First Cruise Ship for this year 2023. Paul Gauguin arrived in Vava'u on Monday 16th of January from Aitutaki, Cook Island. The Paul Gauguin left on Monday evening from Vava'u and bound for Savu Savu, Fiji. Paul Gauguin carries a total of 432 passengers including the crew members. With the majority of the passengers were Americans.



## Special Projects- Veimumuni Cave

A new rock fence is currently underway at Veimumuni Cave. The purpose of building the fence is to keep the soil away from getting into the water inside Veimumuni cave during heavy rain. And keeping the swine away.

## Ha'apai Commemorated Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai 1 Year Anniversary

A beach clean-up was held on Friday 13th of January to mark the 1 Year Anniversary of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcanic eruption that occurs on January 15, 2022. The Ministry of Tourism in Ha'apai worked closely with the Ha'apai Governor's office, town officers and district officers of Foa and Lifuka districts in cleaning up the beaches.



## Prize Giving Awards for the Matahau Villiage Clean-Up Inspections

The Beautification Unit presents on the 18th of January, the Prize Giving Awards for the Village Clean-up Campaign of Matahau Village at Matahau FWC Hall. This continued initiative is part of the village's 100% support of the theme Tonga Masani and for a more cleaner and greener Tonga.

We would like to acknowledge the Matahau Community for their on-going hard work to make it a habit and lifestyle to clean-up their village.



### Welcoming of Maiden Celebrity - the first cruise ship to Tongatapu

On Monday 23rd, the Maiden Celebrity cruise ship arrived at Nuku'alofa from Pagopago, American Samoa. Most of the passengers were Americans, New Zealanders and Australians.

This is the first time the Maiden Celebrity visited the Kingdom. As part of the welcoming program, the Guest of Honour, the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Samiu Vaipulu and the Maiden Celebrity crew exchanged gifts.

The Maiden Celebrity carries a total of 3816 including the crew and it left Tongatapu on Monday evening for Auckland, New Zealand.

### Meeting with the British High Commissioner H.E Ms.Lucy Joyce OBE

On Tuesday 24th, Hon. Fatafehi Lapaha Tuita and Anthony Cocker, Director of the Destination Development Division held a meeting with H.E Lucy Joyce OBE, the British High Commissioner to Tonga, and Deputy High Commissioner Paul Lawrence at the Ministry of Tourism.



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the tourism plans, including their Captain Cook Landing Site project and looking ahead in 2023 as Tonga's borders have reopened and visitors arrive in numbers, especially through cruise ships

### Faculty of Business and Public Administration Open Day

On Friday 27 January, the Director of the Industry Empowerment Division, Mrs. Magdalena Fifita was invited as a guest speaker to the Faculty of Business and Public Administration's Open Day at the Tonga Institute of Higher Education. There are two schools under this Faculty, the School of Accounting and the School of Tourism and Hospitality.

Mrs. Fifita spoke on the core functions of the Ministry of Tourism and job opportunities available for students and what is considered to be the most wanted skills and skill gap in the tourism business sector.



### Zuiderdam Cruise Ship in the Kingdom

The Zuiderdam cruise ship arrived in Nuku'alofa from Uturoa, Raiatea, French Polynesia on Monday morning 30th of January. The Zuiderdam carries a total of 2161 passengers including the crew.

The majority of the passengers were Americans. This is the second time the Zuiderdam has visited the Kingdom. The Zuiderdam left Nuku'alofa on Monday evening and bound for Auckland, New Zealand.



### Meeting with Asian Development Bank and World Bank



The Hon. Minister for Tourism, Hon. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu and the Director of the Industry Empowerment Division, Mrs. Magdalena Fifita held a virtual meeting with Jennifer Bartlet, Sara Currie, and Alcinda from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank to discuss the drafting of the new Tourism Road Map as a five year plan for the Ministry of Tourism. We, therefore thank the ADB and WB for their continuous support and assistance to the Ministry.

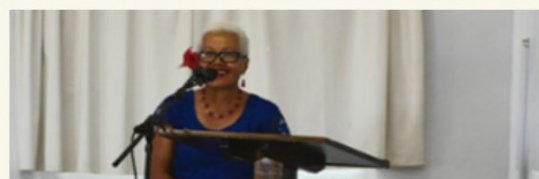




## Tourism Industry Training Certificates Awards



On Friday 3rd February, the CEO of Tourism, Mr. Sione Finau Moala-Mafi awarded the certificates to participants who participated in the Customer Service and Communication Training conducted by the Ministry of Tourism. The training was held from the 29th of August to the 1st of September 2022. There were two components of the training; theory and practical assessment. The practical assessment allowed the participants to utilize the skills and knowledge they gained from the training in their respective workplaces. The awards ceremony was held at Davina House. The Director of the Industry Empowerment Division, Mrs. Magdalena Fifita delivered the welcome remarks. The CEO, Mr. Sione Finau Moala-Mafi delivered the Vote of Thanks. A special remark from one of the participants was delivered by Mrs. 'Isapela Tafea of Nanisi's Place. Various participants who took part in this training, from the accommodation sector, restaurants tour operators and travel.



## Ministry's Farewell with CEO of Tourism



The CEO for Tourism, Mr. Sione Finau Moala-Mafi completed his term as CEO on Tuesday 7th of February 2023. A farewell program was held at Liku'alofa to mark this occasion. The Minister and staff of the Ministry would like to thank Mr. Moala-Mafi for his dedication and service to the Kingdom of Tonga during his role as CEO of the Ministry. We wish Mr. Moala-Mafi good health and all the best in his future endeavors and a big Malo Aupito for his services



# First Morning Devotion for 2023 with Prime Minister- Hon. Hu'akavameiliku



4th of January 2023-

The Public Service Commission was fortunate to have the Prime Minister, Hon. Hu'akavameiliku attend the first morning devotion program for the new year- 2023.

In his new years remarks, the Prime Minister encouraged the staff to invest in higher education and improve their health in order to carry out their duties well.

The program was also attended by the Acting Chairman, Sinilau Kolokihakaufisi and Commissioners Posesi Bloomfield and 'Eleni Mone. The Commission would like to extend our utmost appreciation to the Prime Minister for his support and guidance and we look forward to a happy and prosperous new year.

# PSC Retreat

New Wine into New Bottles, New New!



19th-20th January:

The PSC Office had a 2 day Retreat at Ancient Tonga to mark the beginning of the New Year and to further discuss the Key Priorities for the remaining Financial Year 2022/2023. The ACEO- Mrs. Victorina Kioa opened this retreat with the theme: "New Wine into New Bottles, New New!", followed by a brief introduction on the Agenda for this retreat. This retreat was an opportunity for our staff to prepare and plan for the year as well as identify the problems faced in the first half of the Financial Year, and what commitments and tactics we could use to tackle these issues- as a team.

We were fortunate to have Pastor Mark Stephenson join us in this retreat and we wish to express our sincere thanks for the words of encouragement that he prepared for us. This 2 Day retreat was filled with enriching and insightful discussions and we hope to carry out our work with new approaches that will strengthen the Public Service.



**PSC Outreach and Induction Program**

**With MET**

**GMS MU'a - Eastern District Primary School Teachers**



**GMS Fasi - Central District Primary School Teachers**

**PSC ran an Outreach Program for MET during their Planning week which ran from the 23rd of January to the 2nd of February 2023. The PSC Team took part and presented in the following centres:**

- GMS Fanga
  - GMS Houma
  - GMS MU'a
  - GMS Fasi
  - Tonga High School and Tonga College 'Atele.
- The program covered Policy Trainings, HR Reminders, The Code of Ethics and Conduct and any queries and concerns that the staff had. The Ministry Thanksgiving Prayer Service was held on Friday 3 February 2023. The Prime Minister presented the certificates to government scholars who have completed their studies in recognition of their excellent results. PSC Office took part in the MET



**Induction Program for the New Teachers which was conducted on Monday, 6th February 2023. We would like to thank MET for a successful and engaging Outreach Program, Thanksgiving Service and Induction Program, your participation and commitments are greatly appreciated.**

**Tonga High School Staff - Queen Salote Memorial Hall**



**Tonga College Staff - Mahamo'ui, 'Atele**



# PMO Presentation on Monitoring & Evaluation Framework



30th January 2023- PSC's Senior staff attended a Monitoring and Evaluation Training with Ma'ata Mafi from the Prime Minister's Office and Josephine Tu'ihalama and 'Asopesio Lakalaka from the Ministry of Finance. This training was on the approaches of the M&E and how it can be used to assess and measure the success and performance of PSC. This was an engaging presentation between PSC, PMO and Finance as we prepared for upcoming Tasks associated with the M&E. We are thankful to PMO and Finance for sharing their expertise and experience with us, we acknowledge that a lot of ground was covered across the various Divisions and their queries. We look forward to continuous engagements like this in the near future.



## Policy Consultations

making these Policy Consultations a success. Your Views and priorities expressed during these policy consultations are a useful reminder of why constant communication and consultations with Line Ministries are important.

PSC successfully conducted a few Policy Consultations to the Line Ministries upon their request to present during their retreats. The purpose of these policy consultations was to make the Ministries aware of the amendments made to the policies, give HR Reminders and most importantly allow the Ministries to ask questions, give their feedback and have a one to one discussion with PSC on any issues concerning them. The Team consisted of one representative from each Division to assist with the presentations and answering any questions. The following Ministries were:

- Ministry of Fisheries
- MEIDECC
- PMO
- MFA
- MOJ

We wish to extend our appreciation to these Ministries for their patience and commitments to



MEIDECC



PMO



MOJ



# HR FORUM

23rd Feb 2023:

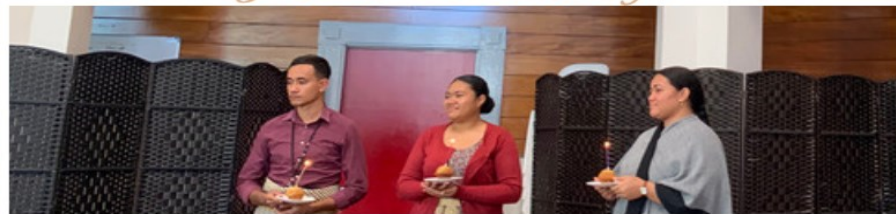
PSC Hosted a HR Forum at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre, where all HR Officers from the Line Ministries attended. This was the first HR Forum of the Year 2023 and it was a great opportunity for PSC to have all the HR Officers engage and address common HR Issues. This Forum also allowed members to share practice and policy, discuss case studies, listen to speakers talk on a range of topics and receive regular updates and amendments on the Policy.

PSC wishes to acknowledge all the hardwork and dedication put into this Forum and we thank everyone who attended.



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Jan-Feb Birthdays



## PSC RAFFLE

Join Our Raffle Now for a Chance to win great Prices!

How? - Purchase our Tickets from any of our Staff for just \$2

When? - Friday the 10th of February 2023!

Place and Time - PSC Office 4:30PM

The social Committee was formed at the beginning of this year to allow the staff to be involved in extra-curricular activities and allow social interactions between the staff. We have exciting activities planned for this year so keep updated with our upcoming Newsletters for more information!!!



# PSC TALATALANOA PROGRAM

PSC's Talatalanoa Program began on Monday the 27th of February and will run till the end of March. The first team left to Vava'u on Monday Morning for their Policy Consultations with the Line Ministries in Vava'u. The Team consisted of:

- Koenig Tu'uhetoka, DS, Remuneration Division
- Elisapeta Lemoto Fa'au, DS, Legal, Policy and Investigation
- Malia Pome'e Tonga, SAS, Human Resource Division
- 'Ilisapesi Veikune, SAS, Performance Division
- 'Ana Tautua'a, AS, Workforce Division

The first session was an induction program with all New Employees from MTED, MOJ and MOH and the second session was a Policy Consultation with employees from the Governor's Office and Finance.



Induction Program for New Employees



Policy Training with Governor's Office and Finance



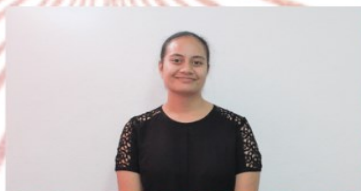
The PSC Office wishes to extend our gratitude to every Ministry for sharing events, achievements, highlights and articles for this edition. Ministries that wish to feature their highlights in our March-April Newsletter are more than welcome to. Please send Newsletter Articles to [oversight@psc.gov.to](mailto:oversight@psc.gov.to) by the 24th of April 2023.

## Behind the Scenes



- Nolini Vaka'uta
- Principal Assistant Secretary
- Workforce Development Division

- Sisilia Taulava
- Senior Assistant Secretary
- Oversight Division



- 'Omeia Lavemai
- Assistant Secretary
- Oversight Division