

PSC NEWSLETTER

MARCH-APRIL



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Greetings and welcome to the March and April 2023 edition of the bi-monthly newsletter from the Office of the Public Service Commissions. This issue aims to provide an overview of the main highlights and activities conducted by PSC during the mentioned months, as well as feature the achievements and highlights of various government ministries.

We hope that this newsletter will serve as a means of communication to all our stakeholders, customers, and readers who are interested in staying updated about the Public Service. We appreciate all the contributions made to our newsletter so far and are committed to working with line ministries to create insightful content for our readers.

Line ministries that would like to feature their highlights or achievements for May and June are encouraged to submit their contributions before July 7th, 2023. We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and look forward to bringing you more updates in the future.



Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for the Office of the Public Service Commission

Mrs. Victorina Laukaupo'uli Afeaki Kioa of Tongoleleka, Fanganonu, Pangai Ha'apai and Ma'ufanga, Tongatapu, residing at Tofoa, has been appointed by Government on the 15th March 2023 as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Office of the Public Service Commission (PSC). Her new appointment is for a period of four (4) years. She is taking over as CEO from Dr Lia Maka who retired late last year.



Mrs. Kioa joined the Office of the Public Service Commission in April 2019 as Deputy Secretary. She looked after the Oversight Division, Workforce Development Division and Corporate Service Division. She has been the Acting CEO for PSC since October 2022.

Before joining the Office of the Public Service Commission, Mrs. Kioa served in various managerial roles for over fifteen (15) years in the private sector here in Tonga and the United States. Her career started at the National Reserve Bank of Tonga in 1994. She was Administration Manager for the Pacific Finance Ltd group of Companies, Manager for the Tonga Business Enterprise Centre, Acting CEO for the Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industries Inc., and served as a Board Director for the Tonga Red Cross Society.



Mrs. Kioa holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (1994) from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and a Master of Arts in International Human Resource Management (2011) from the University of Westminster, London, United Kingdom. She is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), London, UK since 2012.



The Public Service Commission welcomes Mrs. Victorina Kioa's appointment as the new CEO for the Office of the Public Service Commission and wishes her success in her term in Office.





Appointment of the Government Statistician for the Tonga Statistics Department



Mr. Sione Fo'iakau Lolohea of Tu'anuku, Vava'u, residing at Sopu, Kolomotu'a, has been appointed as the new Government Statistician for the Tonga Statistics Department. Mr. Lolohea's employment by Government is for a period of four (4) years, effective 11th April 2023. He is taking over as Government Statistician from Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita who resigned last year.



Mr. Lolohea's career started as a Secondary Teacher at the 'Atenisi Institute in February 1991 to 1996. His career in the Public Service began in February 2002 when he was appointed as an Assistant Graduate Teacher at the Ministry of Education. In August 2003, Mr. Lolohea was promoted to the position of Statistician at the Tonga Statistics Department. Since then, Mr. Lolohea has taken up various senior positions at the Statistics Department. In September 2008 he was promoted to the position of Senior Statistician, in June 2015 as Principal Statistician and in June 2017 as Assistant Government Statistician. He has been the Acting Government Statistician for the Statistics Department since August 2022.



Mr. Lolohea holds a Master of Social Science with First Class Honours from the University of Waikato in New Zealand (2016), Bachelor Degree in Social Science from the 'Atenisi University in Tonga (1990), and another Bachelor degree in Geography, Population and Marine Affairs from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji (2001). Mr. Lolohea also received an official Statistics Certificate from the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (UNSIAP) in Japan (2005).

The Public Service Commission welcomes Mr. Sione Lolohea's appointment as the new Government Statistician for the Tonga Statistics Department and wishes him success in his term in Office.



APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Mr. 'Isikeli Ngalu Oko of Niutoua, Afa, Tongatapu and Tungua, Ha'ano, Ha'apai has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Ministry of Education and Training. Mr. Oko's employment by Government is for a period of four (4) years, effective on 12th April 2023. He is taking over as the new CEO from Dr. Tangikina Moimoi Steen who completed her employment contract last year.

Mr. Oko's career in the Public Service began in January 1986 when he was appointed as an Assistant Graduate Teacher at the Ministry of Education and Training. In 1992, Mr. Oko was promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer & Acting Principal for the Niufo'ou District High School at Niufo'ou and in 1993 as a Senior Lecturer & Course Coordinator for the Community Development Training Center (CDTC) of the Ministry of Education and Training. Since then, Mr. Oko has taken up various senior positions at the Ministry. From the years 2000 - 2002 he was promoted to the position of Deputy Principal of the Tonga College 'Atele in Tongatapu and Vava'u High School in Vava'u. In 2003, he was promoted as the Principal for 'Eua High School for two years, Principal for CDTC from 2006 – 2008 and Principal for Tonga College 'Atele from 2009 – 2011. Then in April 2011 he was promoted to the position of Chief Education Officer, in June 2016 as Deputy CEO for the Learning and Teaching Division (Primary Education), and in October 2021 as Deputy CEO for Learning and Teaching Division (Secondary Education). He has been the Acting CEO for the Ministry since November 2022.

Mr. Oko holds a Master of Public Administration from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand (2008), Bachelor degree in Agriculture from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji (1985), and a Diploma of Teaching from the Auckland College of Education in New Zealand (1989).

The Public Service Commission welcomes Mr. 'Isikeli Ngalu's appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Education and Training and wishes him success in his term in Office.



APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM



Mr. Viliami 'Alamameita Takau of Ma'ufanga, Tongatapu and Tongoleleka, Hihifo, Ha'apai has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Tourism. Mr. Takau's employment by Government is for a period of four (4) years, effective 13th April 2023. He is taking over as the new Chief Executive Officer from Mr. Sione Moala - Mafi who completed his employment contract in February this year.



Mr. Takau's career started in Dunedin, New Zealand as an Accounting Peer Tutor at the Otago Polytechnic from 2001 to 2002, and a House Master at the John McGlashan College in Dunedin, New Zealand from 2005 to 2006. Then in 2007, he was employed as a Financial Advisor for the AUSAID funded Ha'apai Outer Islands Electrification Project in Tonga. Between the years 2003 to 2012, he served in various managerial roles as a Department Manager for Rebel Sports in New Zealand from 2003 – 2008 and a Manager for Foodstuff South Island Ltd, Dunedin Branch from 2008 to 2012.



Mr. Takau returned to Tonga in 2012 and was employed as an Assistant Group General Manager for the Pacific Retail Ltd in Tonga, a General Manager for the Leiola Group Ltd in Tonga from 2012 to 2013, General Manager for HR & Corporate Services of the Pacific Finance & Investment Ltd in Tonga from 2013 to 2014. He joined the Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. as their Chief Executive Officer, and in 2016 became a Director of the Tonga Transport Boards (Tonga Airport Ltd, Ports Authority Tonga and Friendly Islands Shipping Agency Ltd) and later became Chief Executive Officer of the Friendly Islands Shipping Agency Ltd. His most recent role was General Manager for the Tonga Tourism Authority from June 2021.



Mr. Takau holds a Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship and a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting from the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He also holds a New Zealand Institute of Management Diploma in Management and a NZ Diploma in Business from Otago Polytechnic.

The Public Service Commission welcomes Mr. Viliami Takau's appointment as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Tourism and wishes him success in his term in Office.



Fisheries Highlights

15TH SPC HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING: MARCH 20TH – 24TH, 2023

(Noumea, New Caledonia, March 20th – 24th, 2023)

The Heads of Fisheries Meeting is held annually and hosted by SPC Headquarters in Noumea; hence this year marks the 15th Heads of Fisheries Meeting and other related project meetings. The purpose of this annual meeting is to provide an oversight of all SPC's work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss relevant topics of regional interest. It covers SPC's Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes, and Directors Office which collectively forms the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (FAME).

Tonga delivered its country statement on the impacts of Climate Change and COVID-19 with its current and planned national activities/initiatives that are underway to manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change on its fisheries and aquaculture. Special Management Area programs, FAD projects, aquaculture, diversification (development of giant squid fisheries) are amongst activities/initiatives currently implemented.

The Tonga delegation is headed by the CEO for the Ministry of Fisheries, Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi with Mr. Poasi Ngaluafé (Deputy CEO-Fisheries Science), Dr. Siola'a Malimali (Deputy CEO-Fisheries Management), Mr. Martin Finau (Head of Section-Aquaculture) and Ms. Sela Kioa (Fisheries Science Lead). Tonga wishes to express gratitude for the continuing support and assistance from SPC and development partners such as World Bank, New Zealand, FAO, FFA, ACIAR and others. We hope that we will continue to maintain strong partnerships in the future as we continue to work collaboratively.

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) CONSULTATION - TONGATAPU

[Basilica, Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu , March 29, 2023]

The Ministry of Fisheries conducted a consultation with fisheries stakeholders on the 29 March, 2023 in the Basilica conference room. The Fisheries Management and Development Division led this consultation just as they conducted in 'Eua, Ha'apai and Vava'u in the past months. Stakeholders involved in these consultations were representatives from all SMA communities, National Fisheries Council and Snapper License holders, who are consistently conducted trolling fishing.

The main objectives of this consultation were to inform stakeholders of all objectives and management measures within the FAD management plan. The development of this new management plan is the Ministry's



L-R: Poasi Ngaluafé, Dr. Siola'a Malimali,

Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi(CEO), Martin Finau, Sela Kioa

effort to ensure that our fishing activities are ecologically and economically sustainable and will enhance food security and improve livelihoods of the Tongan people.

The Kingdom of Tonga has had an adhoc FAD programme for many years, with the first FADs deployed by Fisheries in the early 1980s. Currently, MoF is deploying FADs to promote offshore fishing as an alternative fishing ground for coastal fishers (as part of the Special Management Area (SMA) programme), and to support the fisheries disaster response following the Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha'apai (HT-HH) volcanic eruption and tsunami. Local sportfishing groups have and continue to deploy anchored FADs for their specific use. There is currently an estimated 9 anchored FADs deployed in Tongan waters.



REMOTE SATELLITE AND FIELD MONITORING WORKSHOP

[Sopu, Tongatapu, March 28 – 31, 2023]

The Vava'u Environment Protection Association (VEPA) held 4 days of workshop with the Fisheries Science Division staff at the Ministry of Fisheries office in Sopu from March 28- 31, 2023. This workshop and training was conducted and fully supported by the Waitt Foundation and Waitt Institute with Jennifer Lemmos from the University of Queensland, Dr Chris Roselfsema, Meredith Roe and Ms. Karen Stone from VEPA providing the Ministry of Fisheries with the capacity and skills to advance survey methodology through remote satellite.

The main purpose of this workshop was to enhance skills and knowledge on mapping and field data, and recording changes to the intertidal mudflats and near shore reef coast. This training included skills-based learning of the mapping software QGIS and utilizing satellite images before and after the volcanic eruption and tsunami of Jan 15, 2022. They also conducted field work to enhance participants' understanding of the collection of benthic habitat data and extracting mapping data for management and research purposes. A demonstration on using drones for small scale mapping was also performed as part of the training.



TONGAFISH PROJECT SUPPLIES MINISTRY OF FISHERIES WITH VEHICLE, DRONES AND TABLETS

[Sopu, Tongatapu, 13 March, 2023]

The Tongafish Project, funded by the World Bank, gladly handed over to the Ministry of Fisheries a supply of vehicle and equipment to empower the Ministry and advance their performance in certain areas.

The vehicle and equipment supplies were handed over by the World Bank Task Team leader, Nina Doetinchem and Project Coordinator George Vete to the CEO of the Ministry, Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi. The goods included a Compliance 4 Wheel Drive vehicle to be used by the Ministry of Fisheries in Ha'apai for their compliance activities. Along with the vehicle were 4 unmanned aircraft vessels (drones), to support with monitoring and surveillance of the Fisheries Compliance Division. To add on, 10 creel survey tablets were also awarded to the Fisheries Science Division to assist with monitoring of fish catch and where multiple fish species can be captured at one time. These tablets will build the capacity of Fisheries Science and its respective staff in this area.



George Vete to the CEO of the Ministry, Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi. The goods included a Compliance 4 Wheel Drive vehicle to be used by the Ministry of Fisheries in Ha'apai for their

compliance activities. Along with the vehicle were 4 unmanned aircraft vessels (drones), to support with monitoring and surveillance of the Fisheries Compliance Division. To add on, 10 creel survey tablets were also awarded to the Fisheries Science Division to assist with monitoring of fish catch and where multiple fish species can be captured at one time. These tablets will build the capacity of Fisheries Science and its respective staff in this area.



Figure 2 Rajnesh Reddy from M&J Water Tank Company gladly hands over Compliance Vehicle to Mele 'Atuekaho, HOD of Fisheries Compliance Division. Also pictured on the left is George Vete, Project Coordinator of the Tongafish Pathways Project.

Ministry of Tourism Highlights

March Issue

Special Projects in Vava'u

Mt. Talau

On Tuesday 21 of February, the contractor began their work on the stairway at Mt. Talau



Veimumuni Cave

Constructing a retaining wall at Veimumuni Cave has been completed.



Nuku Island

A new bathroom was constructed at Nuku island. The island is often enjoyed by foreign and local visitors for picnics and leisure activities .

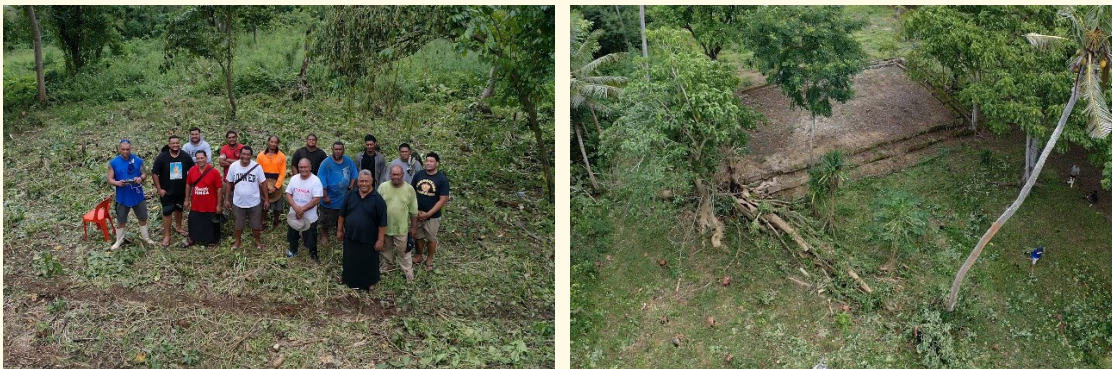


Maintaining of Tourism sites & Signages

The beautification team continues with their daily works of maintaining the tourism sites. The team also mowed the lawn around the village signages from Faleloa to Pangai and along the Holopeka road.



Conservation Project at Heketa Heritage Site, Niutoua



The Culture and Heritage Division, led by the World Heritage Unit conducted a five-day conservation project at Heketa heritage site. The Heketa heritage site is one of the Tu'i Tonga's royal settlements located at Niutoua. This site is a well-known tourist attraction because of the Ha'amonga Trilithon and Maka Faakinanga. The conservation project carried out consisted of cleaning up the undergrowth and unwanted vegetation around the site including conservational work for the back compound of the Langi Heketa. The World Heritage Unit will work in cooperation with members from the Niutoua community to maintain the grounds. The conservation project began on the 20th of March to the 25th of March.



Revitalization Project: Kupesi making

The Culture and Heritage Division plans to implement a revitalization project on the community based Inventory project. This will feature a revitalization of Kupesi making. The project aims to revive traditional practices as such and ensure it is passed on to the next generation. This project proposal has been submitted to donor partners and awaits confirmation of funding. Meanwhile, preparations for the project implementation are ongoing.

UNESCO Funded project: Capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies for small Island Developing States in the Pacific and the Caribbean



The Culture and Heritage Division looks to implement a UNESCO funded project aimed at Capacity building for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in emergencies in small developing states in the Pacific and Caribbean. Led by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit, the project aims to support villagers from Kanokupolu and 'Atata, two of the most vulnerable and affected settlements in the recent Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami catastrophe. A project proposal has been submitted to UNESCO and awaits confirmation of funding. The project will target communities at risk of natural disasters and ensure capacity building to safeguard intangible cultural heritage that may be at risk during national emergencies. Upon confirmation of funding, the Culture and Heritage Division will carry out this project accordingly.

Seatrade Cruise Global 2023



The Seatrade Cruise Global 2023 was attended by the Tongan delegation at Fort Lauderdale Florida from the 27th – 30th of March 2023. The Tongan delegates met with various cruise liners to discuss future opportunities for cruise ships in Tonga. An additional 10 cruise liners have been confirmed to visit Tonga, 5 of which will be Maiden Calls.

Republic of Germany's Special Envoy for the Pacific Islands visited the National Museum



On Thursday 30th of March, the Acting CEO for Tourism, Mrs. Pulupaki Ika was at the Tonga National Museum to warmly welcomed the Republic of Germany's Special Envoy for the Pacific Islands, Her Excellency, Ms. Beate Grzeki. Her Excellency was invited to view the museum's collection of our cultural wealth and artifacts; with discussions of possible future collaborations alongside cultural institutions in Germany.

Meeting of the Community of Practice for Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism



The Director of the Industry Empowerment Division, Mrs. Magdalena Fifita attended the Meeting of the Local2030 Islands Network Data for Climate Resilience Community of Practice and Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism Community of Practice in Hawaii on the 2nd – 6th of April 2023. The meeting is hosted by the Local2030 Islands Network in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana (PRiMO).

The Communities of Practice aim to provide space for Island leaders, practitioners, and technical experts to share best practices and lessons learned, receive technical training, and exchange knowledge and unique island experiences in a collaborative, peer-to-peer forum.

Ha'apai Welcomed its First Cruise Ship Hanseatic Nature



The Hanseatic Nature arrived in Ha'apai and docked near Uoleva island. The Cruise ship is the first to have visited Ha'apai this year since the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to have stopped over in Vava'u and Tongatapu. The Governor of Ha'apai, Dr. Pita Faiva Taufatofua presented a gift of good will to the captain of the Hanseatic Nature upon arrival.





The Easter Choral Night Festival was held on Wednesday 5th of April at Queen Salote Memorial Hall. The theme of this joyous event was *"Christ's Victory at the Cross"* which aspired to emphasize 'what we celebrated then is what we continue to celebrate today- *"Christ's risen from the dead"* representing the literal meaning of Easter and the true spirit of celebration here in Tonga. We were fortunate to have the presence of Prince Taufa'ahau Manumataongo, Princess Halaevalu Mata'aho and Princess Nanaspau'u Eliana, who were the guests of honors. Among other guests who attended the program were Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Samiui Kuita Vaipulu and his wife, Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister for Tourism, foreign dignitaries, principles of the invited schools, parents and the community as a whole.

The program featured live brass bands from five secondary schools: Tailulu College, St. Andrews High School, 'Apifo'ou College, Tonga College and Lavengamalie Christian School. A special item was performed by Ms. 'Atolomake Helu and Mr. Siasoi Lomu.

The Ministry would like to acknowledge the principles of the school who took part in this event for their ongoing support. It is our sincere hope that with the many challenges we have faced as a nation and people, such an occasion will uplift and revitalize our energies and spirits for the great journey ahead.

36th Council of Pacific Arts

The 36th Council of Pacific Arts and Culture was held from the 13-17 March, 2023 at East West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii. 27 countries across the Pacific were present. The primary purpose of this meeting was to confirm logistic support and the relevant arrangements for the upcoming 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture with the theme Regenerating Oceania (HO'OULU LAHUI).

April Issue

Easter Choral Evening





Welcoming of the New CEO for Tourism

Mr. Viliami Takau was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Tourism. He resumed office on Wednesday 12 April. Mr. Takau was the former General Manager for the Tonga Tourism Authority.

Having worked in several corporate and financial institutions, Mr Takau has significant experience including with Tonga's Chamber of Commerce & Industry and as a Director of the Tonga Transport Board (Tonga Airport Ltd, Ports Authority Tonga and Friendly Islands Shipping Agency Ltd). A welcoming program was held on Monday 17 at the Ministry of Tourism. The program was joined by Hon. Fatafehi 'o Lapaha Tuita, Hon Fekitamoealoa 'Utoikamanu, Mr. Viliami Takau's family, President of the Tonga Tourism Association, Mr. Siosaia Moehau and board representative Simana Kami.



Traditional Tongan Dance Class

The Culture and Heritage Division of the Ministry began its Traditional Tongan Dance Classes for this year on Tuesday 11 April at Queen Salote Memorial Hall. With the purpose to encourage the preservation of our traditional dances for the generations. The classes are delivered by the Culture and Heritage Performing Arts Instructor Mr. Kotoni Siale and assisted by the Ministry's staff. Similar to the previous dance classes, the sessions are available for both boys and girls within the ages of 5 years old right through to the high school ages of 15 and above. The children are initially taught the basics of traditional dancing to start and from there they ultimately go on to perform two items finishing off with a combined Ma'ulu'ulu. The classes will come to an end on the 1st of June with a dance recital and perform the big finale on June 2nd where the children will showcase the traditional dances learnt.





Tonga Statistics Department

Newsletter: March – April 2023

International Women's Day (IWD) March 8th 2023

Tonga Statistics Department joined the celebration of the International Women's Day with all the Tongan women today at the Queen Salote Memorial Hall. The theme for this year is "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality".



We showcased the digital transformation of data collection, which we first used pen and paper (PAPI) before we upgraded to the computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) format in 2016. The latest development was in 2022, where telephone was used for data collection also known as Computer-Assisted Telephonic Interview (CATI) method.



We attest to the theme of this year's International Women's Day and its importance through our digital transformation.

Technical R Training for LNOB Analysis in Tonga (March 10th 2023)



Participants from various ministries at the opening of the Leave No One Behind Technical R-Training

In collaboration with the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD) and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), Tonga hosted its first face-to-face Technical R-Training on Leave No One Behind (LNOB) from March 8-9, 2023. The training, led by Mr. Selahattin Selsah Pasali and Ms. Sejal Surendra Sood from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), took place in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

The [LNOB platform](#) is a user-friendly tool developed by the UN-ESCAP to improve the understanding of how different circumstances intersect and create inequalities in access to basic opportunities covered by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary aim of this statistical training was to enhance national capacities in building the evidence base for developing policies that reduce inequality of opportunity and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring that everyone is included.

Retirement of the Assistant Government Statistician (AGS) (March 21st 2023)



On March 21st 2023 the Tonga Statistics Department held a farewell ceremony for the retirement of the Assistant Government Statistician Mrs Masivailo Kauvaka Masila of Makavae Vavaú and Fahefa Tongatapu. And the resignation of Mrs Ana Kuliha'apai a Senior Statistical Assistant.

Mrs Masila has served in different high positions within the department such as being Acting Government Statistician from Dec 2015-July 2016 after the retirement of the former Government Statistician then Mr Ataata Finau. On September 13th 2019 Masivailo Masila was appointed as Assistant Government Statistician (AGS) until her retirement with a total of 21 years of service for the Tonga Statistics Department and Government of Tonga. We thank Mrs Masila for service and dedication and wishes her well on her retirement.



The department also farewell Mrs Ana Kuliha'apai of Tu'anuku Vavau, Kahoua Tongatapu. Mrs Kulihaapai a Senior Statistical Assistant has served in the Department for 26 years until her resignation to move with her family overseas. We thank Mrs Kulihaapai for her service over the years and wishes her well with her family.



AGS Masivailo Masila and Ana Kulihaapai with their families and the Economics Team.

Appointment of the Tonga Statistics Department (April 11th 2023)

On 11th April 2023, Mr. Sione Fo'i'akau Lolohea of Tu'anuku, Vava'u, was appointed as the new Government Statistician for the

Tonga Statistics Department, effective on the same day.

Over the years, Mr. Lolohea was promoted to various senior positions within the Tonga Statistics Department, including Senior Statistician and Principal Statistician. Mr. Lolohea has been serving as an Assistant Government Statistician since 2017. Since the departure of the former Government Statistician in August 2022, Mr. Lolohea has been serving as the Acting Government Statistician until his appointment.

On 12th April 2023, the Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, the Prime Minister and Minister for Tonga Statistics Department, joined the staff in the TSD office for a prayer service in congratulating Mr. Sione Lolohea and extending well wishes for his successful four-year term in office.



After the signing of the Government Statistician's contract; Government Statistician Lolohea, Hon. Prime Minister & Chairman of the Commission. (11 April 2023)



The CEO and Government Statistician for Tonga Statistics Department Mr Sione F Lolohea and staff

*The Honorable
Prime Minister
Hu'akavameiliku
with the new ap-
pointed Govern-
ment Statistician
and staff after the
morning prayer in
the Tonga Statistics
Department*



Economic Impact survey (14th April 2023)

Tourism is a significant contributor to Tonga's economy, with a focus on ecotourism, adventure tourism, and cultural tourism. The cruise industry has also become increasingly important to the sector, with several cruise lines visiting the country's port each year. To better understand the impact of this industry, the Tonga Statistics Department conducted a survey at Vuna Wharf, gathering information on travelers' profiles, expenses, and opinions. On April 14th 2023, the department held its third cruise ship passengers' economic impact survey coinciding with the Celebrity Eclipses visit to Vuna Wharf. This was the ship's second visit to Tonga, bringing over 3000 passengers. We would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism, Tonga Tourism Authority, and Ports Authority Tonga for their assistance and continuous support in making this survey a success.



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PRISONS NEWSLETTER

JAN - MAR 2023



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) - TONGA'S FOURTH STATE REPORT

A three (3) -days Write-Shop was held on the 16th - 18th January, 2023 at the Tano'a International Hotel to provide technical support for Tonga's UPR Working Group (WG) on the drafting of Tonga's fourth national report. This event provided an opportunity for the UPR WG stakeholders to reflect on the UPR reporting process, discuss key challenges, past achievements and progress in light of the Hunga-Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Write-Shop was successfully launched by the then Hon. Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Justice - Samiu K. Vaipulu.



*Above: The Hon. Acting Prime Minister with members of Tonga's UPR Working Group and development partners.
PC: The South Pacific Community*



Tonga's UPR Journey

Tonga's first National report was submitted to the UN OHCHR in May, 2008. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Prime Minister's Office were responsible for preparing and coordinating Tonga's first national report.

On 27 January 2012, His Majesty's Cabinet approved the establishment of the Government UPR Working Group to consult, write and present Tonga's second National Report on Universal Periodic Review to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Tonga submitted its second cycle national report in January 2013 and third national report in January, 2018. Tonga's Fourth National Report was submitted on 6th Feb, 2023 and will be presented on the 43rd Session of the UN Universal Periodic Review Working Group in May 2023.

Left: Tonga's UPR WG Secretariat Team: Ms. 'Eleni Mone with MOJ Legal Officers 'Ana Lau Laupea'alu and 'Elenoa M. Takataka

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PRISONS



It is also highlighted here that Mr. Miles Young, Director of SPC's Human Rights & Social Development Division was able to pay a courtesy call to the Hon. Acting Prime Minister Samiu Kuita Vaipulu at the Ministry of Justice in January, 2023.



Left: SPC's Human Rights & Social Development Director Miles Young and the Hon. Acting Prime Minister engaging in discussion on areas where SPC/HRSD is able to provide assistance and continue on their successful cooperation.



Above: SPC's Human Rights & Social Development Director Miles Young visiting the staff of Family Protection Legal Aid Centre where SPC was in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in establishing the FPLAC Centre.

YOUTH DIVERSION SCHEME



TRAINING - NUKUNUKU POLICE STATION

Trainings on the Youth Diversion Scheme were also successfully completed for the Nukunuku District Police officers which was held on 8th - 9th February, 2023.

On the 3rd February, 2023, His Majesty's Cabinet approved the continuation of the YDS Pilots in Lapaha and the commencement of the YDS at Houma (TBU), 'Eua and also other identified appropriate communities.

*"KOE HAKAU 'O E 'AHONI, KO E FONUA 'O E KAHU'U. KO 'ETAU FANAU KO E
MATA'I KOLOA KE OHI MO FAKAHINOHINO MO TEUTEU'I 'A HONAU KAHU'U"
- REV. TITO KIVALU*

The Nukunuku District officers and Town officers training was conducted at Houma, where four (4) church leaders from the FWC, FCOT and the LDS attended by invitation.

TRAINING - NUKUNUKU DISTRICT AND TOWN OFFICERS



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HEADS OF DEPARTMENT RETREAT

2-24 February 2023

Kupesi Hotel, Fua'amotu



The Minister of Justice officially opened the retreat with words of encouragement to the Heads of Divisions, with reminders for operation of the Ministry to be made within the Ministry's budget constraints.

Various guest speakers included Vaanonu Hoeft from the Budget Division, Ministry of Finance, Mesui Ve'a from the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office and Senior officers from the Public Service Commission.

Left: The Hon. Minister of Justice Mr. Samiua Kuita Vaipulu, Chief Executive Officer Mrs. Manakovi Temaleti Aleamotu'a Pahulu, Head of Corporate Division Mrs. Eileen Fonua, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Tonga, Chief Bailiff Officer Mr. Paula Fe'aomoeata, Vital Statistics Officer Mrs. Kafolatu Mafile'o, Chief Probation Officer Mrs. Kelela Fetu'u, Acting Deputy Secretary Ms. Piula Lokotui with senior officers from the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Vaanonu Hoeft facilitated the HODs discussions around the Ministry's Draft Budget 2023/24 and the challenges we have faced in the past and how we they could be overcome.

Mr. Mesui Ve'a discussed the ideal Draft Corporate Plan 2023/24 and including the Corporate Plan traffic lights.

These discussions were very helpful and had assisted the HODs in compiling, reviewing and finalizing their respective Corporate Plans.



The second day saw discussion held by the Accounts Division and Assets and Procurement, AAP FY 2022/2023, Compliance, Drafting the APP FY 2023/2024 and the challenges faced by the Division.

The Corporate Division HOD, Mrs. Eileen Fonua talked about the Ministry's Performance Management System, the outcomes of previous year's PMS & trends, and the Ministry's traffic lights and challenges.

The HODs heard from Miss Haitelenisia Mataele from the Tonga Justice Sector Support Program on one of the Ministry's new initiatives - the Youth Diversion Scheme noting the intention for the Youth Diversion Scheme to be implemented and operated by the Probation Office. Miss Mataele also informed the meeting that a Youth Diversion Bill 2023 is in the final stages of being drafted.

The awesome team from the Public Service Commission were very responsive to questions from the staff, providing clarification on certain areas such as recruitment, leave entitlement, overtime, critical posts and other areas of interest raised.



Pacific Regional Forum on National Human Rights Institutions



From the Ministry's Leadership and Legal Policy Division, Ms. 'Ana L. Laulaupea'alu and Mr. Taufu'i 'A E Valu Naufahu attended the first ever Pacific Regional Forum on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in Nadi on 21-22 February, 2023.

The NHRI Forum saw participants from 15 Pacific Island Countries, including Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The aim of the regional forum was to facilitate dialogue among Pacific government representatives to share experiences, challenges and identify strategies to establish NHRIs in Pacific Island countries across the region.

Above: Hon. Lynda Diseru Tabuya – Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation of Fiji together with LeHon. Lynda Diseru Tabuya – Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation of Fiji together with Legal Officers Ms. Ana. Laulaupea'alu and Mr. Taufu'i Naufahu.

TONGA NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

TNCPP



Above: Ms. 'Eleni Mone, SPC's Country Focal Officer for Tonga, presenting to the Nukunuku kainga on the TNCPP. Also in the picture is Mrs. Betty Blake from Ma'a Fafine and Ms. 'Ana L. Laulaupea'alu of the MOJ.

Below: The Consultation Team during their radio talk back shows on 87.5FM and Kele'a Voice FM, where public raised concerns regarding existing legislation and the Policy.



The Tonga National Child Protection Policy Committee is chaired by the CEO of the Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Temaleti Manakovi Aleamotu'a Pahulu. LLPD legal officer, Ms. 'Ana L. Laulaupea'alu is the Committee's secretariat. The Committee members include, but is not limited to, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Police, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Committee has completed consultation on the TNCPP, which saw consultations with the outer islands and all the villages in Tongatapu. During the months of Jan – Feb, the Committee's Consultation Team held successful consultation sessions with both public members, radio audiences and youth groups..



Consultation with the Tonga National Youth Congress. Pictured above is Ms. 'Eleni Mone, directing youth to participate in the group activities. Also pictured here is Ms. Dorothy Fau'onuku from UNICEF, Ms. 'Ana L. Laulaupea'alu from MOJ and Mr. Viliami Folaumahina from Save the Children Australia

CONSULTATIONS & RADIO PROGRAMS



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



Professional Diploma in Legal Practice

FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023

Eleven (11) students who successfully completed their Professional Diploma in Legal Practice were admitted as Legal Practitioners of the Tongan Legal Bar at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre on 24 March, 2023. The Counsels were admitted to the Bar by the Lord Chief Justice Whitten with Justice Tupou. Appreciation is extended to the Registrar of the Suprme Court, Mr. Tevita Fukofuka for facilitating the PDLP admission, with Miss Salote Veikune of the Supreme Court, malo e ngaue! Welcome to the legal fraternity, Counsels!

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister Samiu Kuita Vaipulu moved the admissions of his staff, Mr. Taufu'i 'A e Valu Naufahu and Mrs. 'Elenoa Ma'u Takataka. Also pictured here is the President of the Tonga Law Society, King's Counsel Mrs. 'Alisi Taumoepeau.





16th March 2023: CEO Forum

The Office of the Public Service Commission held its first CEO Forum for the year 2023 on Thursday, 16 March 2023 at the Ministry of Revenue and Custom's Conference Room at the Fe'aomoengalu Building at QS Wharf. Participated at the Forum were the Chairman and Commissioners from the Public Service Commission and fifteen (15) CEOs from various Ministries, and the supporting staff from the office of the Commission. The Forum was a success from the joint collaboration and support of the Attorney Generals Office and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. The Commission extend its utmost appreciation to the continuous support from the Solicitor General and Acting CEO for Lands and Natural Resources.



5th April 2023: CEO Induction for New Appointed CEO's

It is the role of the Office of the Public Service Commission to conduct an Induction program for every newly appointed CEO to the Public Service and this has been the common practice with previous CEOs. On Wednesday, 05 April 2023 the Senior Executive Services of the Office hosted the Induction program for the newly appointed CEO for Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Mr. Michael Cokanasiga and the newly appointed CEO for the Office of the Public Service Commission, Mrs. Victorina Kioa. The purpose of the Induction program is to help CEOs settle into their position at their respective Ministry and they need to understand what is expected of them in their role as Chief Executive Officer.

11th April 2023: CEO Forum

The Office of the Public Service Commission held its second CEO Forum on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 at the Fa'onelua Convention Center. The forum was a success with the assistance and contribution of the Ministry of Health and the Tonga Statistics Department. The forum was chaired by the CEO of the Commission and participated by sixteen CEOs and supporting staff from the hosted Ministries and PSC. The Commission is grateful for the continuous support from the CEO for Health and the Government Statistician and their staff.



PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Major Achievement for March - April 2023

Key Activities for the month of March 2023

- ♦ Due date for Submission of Line Ministries PMS MYR Results for 2022/23 FY on 03 March 2023.
- ♦ Completion of OMC Directions and APRA for PMS Results for 2021/22 FY on 24 March 2023.
- ♦ Submission of PMS Results for 2021/22 FY and approval from Cabinet on 31 March 2023.

Next Month Activities

- ⇒ Dissemination of Quarterly Reports for Both Quarter two (2) three (3)
- ⇒ Reconciliation and Finalization of PMS MYR Results for 2022/23.
- ⇒ PMS Work Attachment for new PMS Managers
- ⇒ Dissemination of Workplan for Tonga's Public Service Month

Key Activities for the month of April 2023

- ♦ Submission of PMS Results for 2021/22 FY to Finance on 06 April 2023.
- ♦ Continuous reconciliation of LMs PMS MYR Results via email by the PMS Team with responsible PMS Managers.
- ♦ Submission of Line Ministries PMS Quarterly Report for Quarter three (3) deadline on 19 April 2023.
- ♦ Analysis of LMs PMS Quarterly Report for Quarter three (3).

Contact Us:

pms@psc.gov.to

OR call us 7400316

MARCH-APRIL

WORKFORCE DIVISION

1st of March 2023

Induction at 'Eua for new employees in the Public Service. This Training was held the MAFF Office ('Eua).



7th March 2023

Induction training at Ha'apai for new employees in the Public Service. This training was held at Ha'apai High School.



1st- 15th March 2023

PSC Outer Island Policy Trainings:

- Vava'u
 - Ha'apai
 - 'Eua
- with all Line Ministries.

14th March 2023

Completed internship program with Hephzibah Hakeai on 14/3/23. Mr. Hakeai is now a full-time staff of PSC.



16th March 2023

Induction training for new employees in the Public Service. This induction was held at the Bureau of Statistics Conference Room. WDD led this training with the help from presenters from:

- Retirement Fund Board
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Revenue and Customs



Number of Exits from Public Service for Quarter 3 (January - March 2023)

20th – 24th March 2023

Nolini Vaka'uta participated in the Singapore Strategic Leadership and Public Governance



5th April 2023

Nolini Vaka'uta joined a Public Service Fale Integrity and Ethics program (via zoom)



EXIT

Exit From The Public Service

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PSC TALATALANOA PROGRAM 2023

Continuation of Vava'u Talatalanoa Program



1st March 2023

Morning Session: PSC Policy Training with staff from MIA, MOI, Fisheries and MFA at MIA's Conference Room.



1st March 2023

Afternoon Session: PSC Policy Training with MEIDECC and MLNR.



2nd March 2023

Morning Session: Policy Training with MTED, MORC and MOT. Training was at the Governor's Conference Room.



2nd March 2023

Afternoon Session: Policy Training with MAFF.



2nd March 2023

Morning Session: Policy Training with MOH.



6th March 2023

PSC held the first Policy session at Ha'apai with staff from MPE, MIA, MTED, MOJ and GOH at the Governor's Office of Ha'apai



7th March 2023

PSC Held an induction Program for all new Civil Servants of Ha'apai at Ha'apai High School Hall. Attendants were from MAFF, MIA, GOH, MET and MOI.

8th of March 2023

Third session in Ha'apai with staff from Ministry of Finance, MAFF, Fisheries and MEIDECC which was held at the Ha'apai High School Hall.



HA'APAI TALATALANOA PROGRAM



9th of March 2023



PSC carried out the Talatalanoa Program at Ha'apai High School Hall for the staff of MOI, MOT, MORC and Finance. Another Session was held at Fusipala Hospital for the staff of MOH.

10th of March 2023



PSC's Policy Training with MET was the last Talatalanoa Program for Ha'apai.

'Eua Talatalanoa Program

1st of March 2023

PSC held an induction training for New Civil Servants of 'Eua at the MAFF Conference Room. Participants were from MIA and MET. Congratulations to everyone on your new appointment.

Australia Public Service Visit

On March 27th and 28th, 2023, the Public Service Commission of Australia paid a visit to the Office of the Public Service Commission in Tonga.



Laura Johnson, the Executive Director of the International Team, and Ingrid Nielsen, the Assistant Director, met with the Management Team of PSC. As a gesture of gratitude, we organized a farewell event for them at the Waterfront Restaurant before their departure. During the event, we had the honor of introducing them to the Australian High Commissioner, HE Rachael Moore.



We are excited about strengthening our relationship with APSC, our senior counterpart, and collaborating more closely with them.

DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

International Women's Day



Picture from Ministry of Internal Affairs Facebook Page.

On March 8th, 2023, the women of PSC participated in a March alongside other Line Ministries from the Basilica Church to the Queen Salote Memorial Hall in celebration of International Women's Day. The theme for the event was "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality," and it was a time to honor the achievements of women in Tonga and recognize the progress that can be made when we work together. The program continued at the Queen Salote Memorial Hall, where Hon. Dulcie Elaine Tei, People's Representative Tongatapu 6, was the guest of honor. We extend our congratulations to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a successful event and pledge our support for the promotion of innovation and technology in advancing gender equality in Tonga.

PSC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PSC hosted a Fellowship Program on March 16th, 2023, in collaboration with the Workers Fellowship Group. The service took place at the PSC Office and was attended by various notable figures, including Mrs. Victorina Kioa, the CEO of the Commission, Mrs. Linda Folaumoetu'i, the Attorney General of Tonga, Mrs. Lu'isa Manuofetoa, President of the Workers Fellowship, Rev. Dr. Feke Mafi and the PSC Staff. In addition, the Tonga Police Band joined the attendees in the service. We express our gratitude to Mrs. Manuofetoa and the fellowship group for providing spiritual encouragement, and we eagerly anticipate more opportunities for fellowship programs in the future.





Mr. Siale Junior 'Akau'ola of the Public Service Commission travelled to Wellington- New Zealand to undertake a short-term training course with the "Wellington Uni-Professional & Skills Consulting Group" for 2 months. Mr.'Akau'ola is one of the successful applicants for the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship- a scholarship offered by the New Zealand Government to professionals



from eligible Countries, including Tonga. NZ's Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni, welcomed a cohort of emerging Pacific leaders to Aotearoa New Zealand participating in this Programme . This group of Pacific leaders will participate in a bespoke leadership training programme that supports partner countries to build knowledge and skills.

This milestone marks one of New Zealand Government's commitments to the Dawn Raids apology. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the New Zealand Government for the provision of these scholarships to better improve their leadership and practical skills of our public servants, we are confident that these trainings will help make a positive difference in Tonga.

We wish Mr.'Akau'ola and the rest of Team Tonga all the best and congratulations to you all.

PSC SOCIAL COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

PSC's monthly celebrations continue, and this time the Social Committee organized a Morning tea to celebrate the staff members who were born in March and April. The event was a way for us to extend our warm wishes and offer birthday greetings to all those born in March and April



PSC FAMILY PICNIC

On the 1st of April 2023, PSC organized a Family Picnic at the beach. The Social Committee took charge of providing food and beverages for everyone to relish. The picnic was funded from the money raised through our Raffle, which made this event possible for all of us to enjoy.



PSC RAFFLE

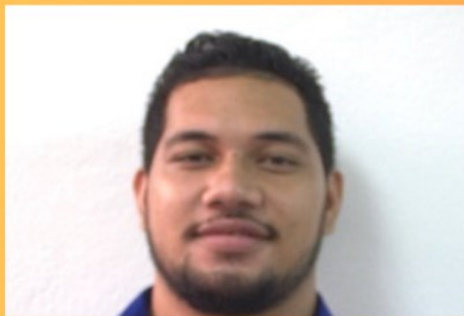


The PSC Office held its first raffle of the year, which included prizes such as Poultry, Crops, Gift Baskets, Liquor, Gift Cards and more. This event was organized by the social committee in hopes to fundraise money for extra curricular activities that the staff of PSC wishes to have throughout the year. Congratulations to all the lucky winners on their win, we would also like to express our appreciation to all those who purchased our raffle tickets and supported the event. We will continue to provide updates on our upcoming social events and look forward to our next raffle with you all!.

WELCOME NEW PSC STAFF



Muna Moa Loto Tuiano



Hephzibah Hakeai



Matangimalie Tu'iono

Corporate Governance Division Corporate Governance Division Corporate Governance Division



Akesa 'Ahokava
Performance Development Division



Fua Holani
Oversight Division

BEHIND THE SCENES



Nolini Vaka'uta
Principal Human Resource
Officer (Acting Deputy
Secretary for Oversight
Division)
Workforce Development
Division



Silia Taulava
Senior Human Resource
Officer
Oversight Division



'Omeia Lavemai
Human Resource Officer
Oversight Division

We at PSC are immensely thankful for the valuable contributions that are made towards our Bi-Monthly Newsletters. Our goal is to provide our readers with engaging and informative content in a prompt manner. We extend an invitation to all Line Ministries who wish to showcase their accomplishments or noteworthy events in the upcoming issue (May-June) to submit their entries before the 7th of July 2023.