

**THE**

# **MINISTRY OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS NEWSLETTER**

**February 2020**

Malo e lelei and Welcome to February Newsletter. Thank you for choosing us to be a part of your day and we are sure that you will soon feel the sense of pride we share in belonging to this growing chapter. The information enclosed will help you make the most of our service.

## **MORC'S MISSION**

*"To establish and promote **highest standards** of **professionalism** and **good working relationships** with all stakeholders"*

## **Vision**

*To be **recognized** as the **best Ministry** amongst all government Ministries*

## **Values**

*Leadership, Transparency, Accountability, Integrity, Honesty, Respect, Commitment, Responsive, Fairness.*



- **Clean hands** with soap
- **Cover** nose and mouth
- Avoid **close contact** with anyone cold or flu
- Avoid unprotected with **live farms animals**

Team Client Service hosted several trainings and Friendly Visits to different organizations and businesses as a general awareness.

# TRAININGS

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs hosted an Employment Income Training with the aim of enhancing the public's knowledge and skills on issues regarding employment income. CT and PAYE training run as requested to solve any difficulties facing by Tax Payers.

We are also pleased to inform the public that the Ministry is willing and able to conduct trainings for anyone regarding any tax related issues upon request. Should you have any queries or require assistance with any training arrangements or for Client Services assistance, please contact our office @ ph: 26432 or email us at: [cst@revenue.gov.to](mailto:cst@revenue.gov.to)



**Employee of Naulala Catering**  
**Miss Mana Kite.**



**Talitha Project Manager Miss**  
**Vanessa Heleta and Staff.**

Employment Income definition as per Income Tax Act



## FORUM

**Taxation Forum for Tonga Chamber of Commerce & TBEC !!**



**Employees of Christ University**  
**in Pacific Mrs. Kilisitina Saulala**  
**and Paula Latapu**



Ministry of Revenue and Customs hosted a Taxation Forum at Fe'ao mo e Ngalu (Customs Office) for Tonga Chamber of Commerce and Industries. This is one of our planned activities to update and clarify more on the responsibilities of the Ministry. This inspire the bond of working together with TCCI and TBEC members to shape successful in the future.

Mrs. Cokanasiga presented on the New RSAA Bill and Mr. Niulala on the roles of the Ministry. Member's raised their issues and staff assisted in answering all questions to solve all matters.

We are looking forward to continue on in working together with TCCI & TBEC members for the development of our country, Kingdom of Tonga.

**Funaki Enterprises: Mr. Mataele**  
**Funaki**

### Importance of Tax planning

- Tax planning is important for
  - Taxpayers
  - Government and
  - Society as well.

The Policy Kraft



**Councils, CEO and Members of TCCI and TBEC with MoRC Staff**

# OVERSEAS WORKSHOPS

## PITAA – MANAGEMENT OF TAXPAYER SERVICE REGIONAL WORKSHOP



*Participants from Management of Taxpayer Service Regional Workshop*

*Photo Credit: PITAA Facebook*

Nominated senior officers Mr. Pita Tu'ivai and Mrs. Muimuinoa Funaki elected to attend four days' workshop led by the Pacific Islands Tax Administration Association on Management of Taxpayers Service at Nadi, Fiji.

In anticipation of tax reforms within Pacific countries the Workshop aims to "Develop and strengthen modern taxpayer service management knowledge and skills of countries in the region". The workshop is tailored to give a practical understanding of contemporary taxpayer service and education practices to taxpayer services staff who will be directly involved in leading and managing the design and delivery of taxpayer services in your own country.

## OCO- Regional Workshop on Customs on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement and Information Sharing Platforms.



*Participants at the Regional Workshop on Customs Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement, Nadi, Fiji*

*PC: OCO Website*

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Customs Divisions) Mr Michael Cokanasiga' and Mr. Sau Niulala attended a workshop on Customs Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement in Nadi, Fiji from 12-14 February 2020.

This Regional workshop was organized by Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) in collaboration with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), and React successfully.

The workshop was attended by 16 senior customs staff (11 male/5 female) from 13 OCO member countries. Presenters included the USPTO, OCO, INTA, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, INTERPOL, PSI, React, Phillip Morris International, Fiji's Intellectual Property Office, Fiji Pharmaceuticals & Biomedical Services and the Consumer Council of Fiji.

## AUDIT- Receipt and compliance Workshop

Nominated Revenue Officer, Mr. Vaka Futu Seau was elected from the Ministry of Revenue and Customs (Revenue Division) to participate a training at Noida, India on Receipt and Compliance Audit aimed to provide an overview of the best practices and contemporary principles of Receipt and Compliance Audit, from the 10th of Feb-06th March, 2020. The participants would be taken through the process of Receipt and Compliance Audit in phased manner which would equip them with the necessary knowledge and skill set to be able to conduct and supervise audits. This training hosted at the International Center for Information. Systems & Audit, fully funded via Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programmed by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.



*Participants from Receipt and Compliance Workshop*



# PARTNERSHIPS

## JOINT PATROL OPERATIONAL PREPARATION MEETING AT HMAF NAVAL BASE.

Have you noticed anything that looks unusual on or around the coastline? As a member of the community, your local knowledge makes you ideally placed to identify anything that appears unusual or suspicious, or people or craft that seem out of place? Please do report us any suspicious activity to our 24-hour hotline 0800123 at any time regardless how minor it is. 📞📞

Customs Division is pleased to be working in partnership with the His Majesty Army forced to achieve their goal of creating a “Safer and more secure and Prosperous Tonga”.



*Pictured-Mr. Sau Niulala a Senior Assistance Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the rest of the Joint Patrol Operational*



*Pictured - His Majesty Army Force officers that joint this Patrol Operational.*



*Pictured – Joint Patrol Operational Team at Vava’u Compound*

## INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IN WHALE WATCHING AND SWIMMING INDUSTRY.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS



The Ministry of Revenue and Customs conducted its second meeting with its Partnership Government Stakeholders to establish and promote highest standards of professionalism and good working relationships with all stakeholders.

Representatives from Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Marine and Ports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MoRC staff attended at the Revenue Conference Room, Nuku’alofa.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH TONGATAPU OPERATORS



*Participants from the Partnership Forum with Tonga Tongatapu Operators*

Ministry of Revenue and Customs second Forum with Whale Watching and Swim Operators in Tongatapu is to encourage, improve and enable voluntary overall compliance in Whale Watching Industry. It was hosted at the Revenue Office, Nuku’alofa.

This Forum gave opportunities for the members to raise issues they have encountered in past years which we can all work together towards a safer and prosperous Tonga.

Industry Partnership Project Team are looking forward to comprise the outer islands (‘Eua,Vava’u and Ha’apai )soon.

# TIME RELEASE STUDY



## Nuku'alofa Port Time Release Study aimed at reducing time and cost for legitimate Traders

Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs Mr. Kelemete Vahe announced today Tonga would conduct its first Time Release Study (TRS) of Sea Cargo Clearance procedures at Port Nukualofa between 4-11 February 2020.

He said, simplified and transparent trade procedures are a key component of good trade policy and vital for economic growth. Internationally, border clearance procedures result in some of the most significant and time-consuming delays in cross border trade and add significant costs to import/export transactions. Eliminating bureaucratic bottlenecks, streamlining processes and implementation of modern automated systems and non-invasive technologies, are critical to improving trade facilitation and is a priority for the Ministry.



Queen Salote Wharf: Where Trade and Export in Tonga



### What is the TRS?

The WCO Time Release Study (TRS) is a unique tool and method for measuring relevant aspects of the effectiveness of operational procedures that are carried out by Customs, other regulatory actors and the business involved in the standard processing of imports, exports and in transit movements. It seeks to accurately measure these elements of trade flows so that related decisions to improve such performance can be well conceived and thereby carried out.

The Time Release Study is a unique tool and method developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for measuring the actual performance of Customs and other clearance activities as they directly relate to release and clearance times at the border. It will also provide detailed information, analyses and advice on border clearance processes to assist the Government to improve its trade facilitation performance. This TRS follows on from a successful 2019 5-day training workshop, jointly organised by the WCO, World Bank Group and Ministry of Revenue in Tongatapu to enhance the internal capacity of all government agencies, private sector, and logistics operators involved with imports and exports to strengthen their capacities to conduct a TRS and build a consensus for coordinated border management reforms.



#### Monthly Due Dates.

28<sup>th</sup> – Consumption Tax Return & Payment.

28<sup>th</sup> PAYE

Return & Payment

#### Quarterly Due Date.

28<sup>th</sup> October – Tax Return & Payment.

28<sup>th</sup> January - Tax Return & Payment.

28<sup>th</sup> April - Tax Return & Payment.

#### Annual Due Dates.

31<sup>st</sup> October- Personal Income Tax Return & Payment.

31<sup>st</sup> October – Company Tax Return & Payment.

31<sup>st</sup> October – PAYE Annual Return