

LET US BE RESILIENT IN OUR VOYAGE FOR A PERPETUAL TONGA



The Ministry of Revenue and Customs

Newsletter | April ,2021

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"Thank you for your time"



Greetings from the Ministry of Revenue and Customs. On behalf of the Honorable Minister and civil servants, we are warmly greeted you to this special month. Why is this month special you may ask? It is a month of celebration. The celebration of family, mothers, fathers, and not forgetting our children. Your Ministry highly prioritizes the importance of family. Honestly it is untrue to state we are looking forward to the celebration of Mother's Day, because in the Ministry of Revenue and Custom, every day is a celebration of Mother's Day. We second Elder M. Russell Ballard's saying "There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood." On that note, I stand to represent the Ministry in thanking our mothers for being the constant support and guide for what we are today. Our dearest mothers within the ministry and to all in Tonga, THANK YOU! Wishing you all a flourishing and prosperous Mother's Day, filled with love and feasts.

Happy Mother's Day!

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord she shall be praised"

Psalms 31:30



Once again, warm greetings to all. Joined by the celebration spirit of the month of May, let us not forget our dearest fathers. Unlike our mothers, fathers are always working silently in the shadows. Their tears and fears are unseen. Their love is unexpressed. However, their care and protection remain a pillar of strength throughout our lives. Being the humble fathers that we are, we are aware that it is not us who will be celebrated on Fathers but our beloved wives again. Anyhow, I would like to wish the Fathers within the Ministry and to all in Tonga a blessed Father's Day. Even if your celebration is as much as getting a wish of "Happy Father's Day", do not forget that you are a legend.

Happy Father's Day!

FROM THE MINISTRY OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS



Regional Workshops

Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs joined a technical webinar conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to all Pacific Islands Tax Administration Associations members and international organizations on Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies at the Ministry's office on the 8th of March, 2021.

This webinar was to discuss the domestic resource mobilization (DRM) and fiscal policy in the region. The Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies aims to improve the quality, consistency, comparability and accessibility of revenue data for countries in Asia and in the Pacific and is a crucial information base to support tax policy and tax reform in the region. In 2020, the initiative produced harmonized revenue data for 21 economies in Asia-Pacific, presented in an annual publication and an online database. Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies is part of the Global Revenue Statistics Initiative, which covers more than 100 economies in the OECD, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies is jointly produced by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Centre for Tax Policy and Administration and the OECD Development Centre with the co-operation of the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Island Tax Administrators Association, and the Pacific Community and financial support from the governments of Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.. The senior officers of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs participated in this meeting.



Participants –All members of Pacific Islands Tax Administration Associations



Participants - Senior Revenue Officers (Revenue Division)

"Let us be resilient in our voyage for a perpetual Tonga"

Managing Tax Debt & Improving Filing Compliance Regional Workshop.



Participants -Managing Tax Debt & Improving Filing Compliance Regional Workshop.

The Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), Pacific Islands Tax Administration Association (PITAA) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) hosted a virtual workshop to discuss why filing, payment/collections and arrears management is important at the Ministry's office (Revenue Division).

The key outcome of this virtual workshop is to create a high-level plan to improve your outcomes within the region and agree further actions to update current operational plans, built knowledge and capability to improve filing, payment and debt/arrears management and shared good practice to lift the capability of the whole region (learnings and successes).

This workshop with starts today the 19th -23rd of April ,2021.

ENFORCEMENT & REVENUE TRAINING



Customs Officer : Mr. 'Esafe Huni



Customs Divisions : Mr. Kepueli Vea,
Mr. Sione Lomekina Vaka and Miss.
Teuila Polutele



Customs Divisions: Mr.s Ma'imoa Langa'oi,
Mr. Paulo Latu and Miss Anne Fangalahi.



Customs Divisions: Mr.s Ma'imoa Langa'oi,
Mr. Paulo Latu and Miss Anne Fangalahi.



Customs Divisions: Mr. Kepueli Vea, Mr. Sione
Lomekina Vaka and Miss. Teuila Polutele

CUSTOMS OFFICERS CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN ENFORCEMENT & REVENUE TRAINING DELIVERED VIRTUALLY AS PART OF THE OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANISATION'S 2020-2021

WORK PROGRAM OCO ONLINE TRAINING

Selected Customs Officials engage virtually in the Certificate Level III in Regional Customs Administration Course facilitated by the Oceania Customs Organization in partnership in collaboration with the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES), Charles Sturt University, Canberra, Australia.



"Let us be resilient in our voyage for a perpetual Tonga"

ASYCUDA WORLD SYSTEM INTRODUCTION IN TONGA TO BOOST CUSTOMS PROCESSING AND COLLECTIONS

As part of the PACER Plus ASYCUDA Project, Tonga Customs has been working with experts from the United National Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to build a ASYCUDA World system that is fit for Tonga's trade environment needs. The project commenced in Tonga in October 2020 with the establishment of a National Project Team to drive the project.

On the 14th April 2021, approximately 5 months into the Project, Tonga Customs launched its first Training program for the private sector and Customs officers under the Project. The first module of the training will cover the Manifest module of ASYCUDA World system and is expected to run over 2 weeks. Participating in this first module are Airline and shipping agents as well as freight forwarding agents and Customs officers.



Above Photo: Training
with the Shipping Agent

Above Photo: Training with
the Manifest Team

Above Photo: Training
with the Airline Agents

Above Photo: Training
with the Shipping Agents

Above Photo : Trainings
with the Freight Forwarder

INTERNAL EVENTS

CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT THE FRONTLINE EDUCATED ON THE COVID – 19 VACCINE

Our Customs frontline Officers at Fua'amotu International Airport and Queen Salote International Wharf today received valuable information and awareness from the Ministry of Health on the COVID – 19 Vaccine and the plans of the Government in relation to the commencement of Tonga's COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Dr. 'Ofa Tukia and her Team from the Ministry of Health delivering valuable information to frontline Customs officers on the COVID-19 Vaccine.



Facilitator - Dr.'Ofa Tukia (MOH)



Above Photo: Customs frontline Officers at Fua'amotu Airport.



Above Photo: Customs frontline Officers at Fua'amotu Airport.

Na'e lave monu 'ae kau 'ofisa Kasitomu 'i Mala'evakapuna pea mo Uafu Kuini Salote 'iha fakamatala mahu'inga meihe Potungaue Mo'ui felave'I moe huhu malu'I 'oe COVID-19, pea moe ngaahi fokotu'utu'u ngaue 'ae Pule'anga fekau'aki moe 'amanaki ke kamata 'ae huhumu'I 'oe COVID - 19. Na'e fakahoko 'e Toketa 'Ofa Tukia moe kau ngaue mei he Potungaue Mo'ui ha fakamatala matu'aki mahu'inga kihe kau 'Ofisa Kasitomu fekau'aki moe huhu malu'I e COVID-19.

"Let us be resilient in our voyage for a perpetual Tonga"

SUPERIOR INTERNAL MEETING

The CEO of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Mr Kelemete Vahe closely monitoring certain operations within the Ministry. These operations include the Operation Mercator which focusses on tax arrears, the Cash Register System operation and also a worldwide survey known as the International Survey on Revenue Administration (ISORA).



Above Photo :- Participants of this superior meeting .

Ko hono to e siofi mo muimui'i 'e he CEO Mr. Kelemete Vahe mo e kau 'ofisa ma'olunga 'o e va'a tanaki pa'anga hu mai fakalotofonua 'a e ngaahi polokalama ngaue 'a e Potungaue. 'Oku kau ki ai 'a e Operation Mecator fekau'aki mo e ngaahi mo'ua, misini tali totongi pea mo e savea fakamamani lahi ko e International Survey on Revenue Administration (ISORA)

TO E TALATALANOA PROGRAM

“TOE TALATALANOA” or “Let’s Keep Talking” is one of the Ministry’s ongoing priority, which centers on increasing awareness and providing taxpayers with the required assistance regarding their tax matters.

This month, our revenue officers were able to visit some of the government Ministries and private sectors for the purpose of our consultation on **NEW INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES** (sole traders & employees) effective on the **1st of July, 2021**.

Taxation Forum with all financial managers and accounts with these following ministries and sectors are:

- **Ministry of Education and Training**
- **Ministry of Tourism**
- **Tonga Fire & Emergency Services.**
- **Tonga Prison Department**
- **Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.**

With that said, we are here to assist you with your tax related issues or concerns (if any), and work collaboratively towards building our economy for a prosperous Tonga.

The more we talk, the clearer it will be.



With the staff of the Ministry of Education and Training



With the finance managers and accounts of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.



With the finance managers and accounts of Anga'ofa Timber.



With the finance managers and accounts of the Ministry of Tourism.



With the finance managers and accounts of Tonga Fire & Emergency Services.

Press Release



MINISTRY OF REVENUE AND CUSTOMS

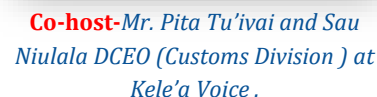
The General Public is hereby advised that the Government of Tonga has approved the new income tax rates for individuals and sole traders. These **new rates** are being introduced to support the people of Tonga during the current economic situation due to prolonged of COVID 19 and its negative impact on the economy.

These new rates as appeared below are to be effective on the **1st July 2021**.

NEW RATES (1 st July, 2021)	
Chargeable Income	Income Tax Rate
\$0 - \$12,000	0%
\$12,001 - \$30,000	10%
\$30,001 - \$50,000	15%
\$50,001 - \$70,000	20%
\$70,001 and above	25%

Please contact our Client Service Team at 26-432 or email cst@revenue.gov.to should you require further information

END.



FAREWELL WITH MRS. TEISA COKANASIGA

The Ministry held a farewell function on the first week of April for Mrs. Teisa Cokanasiga .

Mrs. Cokanasiga was one of the Senior Officers of the Ministry that had carried out her duty and commitment to the Ministry and the Government of Tonga for over 10 years. She began her journey with the Client Services Division and departed from the Ministry being the head of the Technical and Legal Services Section. The Ministry applauds Mrs. Cokanasiga' s many achievements and countless contributions to the Ministry and although it is a great loss, the Ministry wishes her well in her future endeavors.



The Honorable Minister of MORC –Mr. Tevita Lavemaau and Mrs. Teisa Cokanasiga



Senior Officers from both division with the Minister of MORC –Mr. Tevita Lavemaau and the CEO Mr. Kelemete Vahe



*Mrs Teisa Cokanasiga with her Team
Mrs. Lupe Hui and Miss Sesilia 'Akau'ola*

WELCOME
TO OUR NEW STAFF!



Miss .Heilala Fifita

Corporate Services Division

**WELCOME TO YOUR NEW FAMILY AND
WISH YOU ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR
JOURNEY AS A REVENUE OFFICER.**

Returned Scholar



REMINDERS

FAKAATA KI HE TUTE 'E NGAHI PISINISI FAKALOTO FONUA



Kapau 'oku 'iai hao laiseni pisinisi ?
 'Oku ke fiema'u ke hu mai ha ngaahi koloa ke tokoni ki ho'o
 pisinisi fakalotofonua ?
'Oku 'i ai e ngaahi monu'ia ki ho ngaahi pisinisi!

Kapau 'oku fiema'u ho pisini ha ngaahi misini :

- ngaahi naunau pe ko ha ngaahi me'a ngaue ke tokoni ki hono fa'u e koloa
- 'Oku 'i ai ngaahi Tukupau lea 'oku faka'ataa ke tokoni ki ho pisinisi



"Let us be resilient in our voyage for a perpetual Tonga"

FAKALOLOA 'E KOLOA TOKONI KI HE COVID - 19 EXTENTION COVID-19 IMPORT DUTY & TAX RELIEF

Kuo pau ke ngata e ngaue'aki 'o e tu'utu'uni koeni ki he 'aho 31 'o sune 2021

- ✓ Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuhau ngaue'aki 'a e hū mai 'o e kotoa 'o e ngaahi koloa me'atokoni mo e ngaahi koloa konisiuma fakataautaha, 'oku 'ikai ki he taumu 'a fakakomēsiale.
- ✓ Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuhau ngaue'aki hono hu mai 'o e kotoa 'o e ngaahi naunau langa ki hono langa 'o e ngaahi nofo'anga fakataautaha ngaahi fale poloseki fakakolo mo e ngaahi fale poloseki 'a e ako.



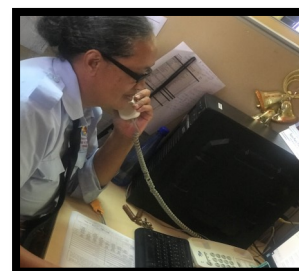
OUTBOUND CALL

The Ministry of Revenue & Customs is ongoing trying ways to
 establish good working relationships with

All Taxpayers by improving ways of communicating. We have no-
 ticed much improvement in this area.

Thank you all for your commitment and honesty.

Together we can make things better!!



Above Photo: Mrs. Lapulou 'Eukaliti.

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM CUSTOMS

FANONGONONGO



FAKALAHİ NGAHI TU'UTU'UNI KE TAU' - COVID 19
KUO PAU KE NGATA E NGAUE'AKI 'O E TU'UTU'UNI KOENI KI HE 'AHO 31' O SUNE 2021



PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF COVID 19 RELIEF
EXTEND from 31st March 2021 to 30th June 2021



1. Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuhau ngaue'aki 'a e hū mai 'o e kotoa 'o e ngaahi koloa me'atokoni mo e ngaahi koloa konisuma fakatautaha, 'oku 'ikai ki he taumu 'a fakakomēsiāle.
2. Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuhau ngaue'aki hono hu mai 'o e kotoa 'o e ngaahi naunau langa ki hono langa 'o e ngaahi nofo'anga fakatautaha, ngaahi fale poloseki fakakolo mo e ngaahi fale poloseki 'a e ako;



1. All imports of food items and personal consumer goods not for commercial purposes.
2. All import of all building materials for the constructions of private dwellings, community project buildings and education project Buildings.



CUSTOMS
Ministry of Revenue And Customs
KINGDOM OF TONGA



CUSTOMS
Ministry of Revenue And Customs
KINGDOM OF TONGA

REMINDER

Notice : Fakataputapui ki he Ngaahi Saliote Misini Uta Pase, Kataki fetu'utaki mai ki he 7400650 ki he fakaikiiki !!

FANONGONONGO



KUO KAMATA I HE AHO 03 O MAASI, 2021 A HONO TAPUI KE TOE HU MAI AE NGAHI SALIOTE MISINI UTA PASE I HE SIPINGA TA'U MOTUA E 15 PE MOTUA ANGE AI.

» Koe ngaahi saliote misini 'eni kuo fou fakahangatonu pe ki he fefononga'aki 'a e kakai. Oku fakakalsi ia ihe ulu'i tohi tute fika 8703 'ihe sipinga oe ta'u motua e 15 pe toe motua ange ai.



KASITOMU
Potungau Tanaki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute
TONGA

Kataki Fetu'utaki mai ki he 0800123 ka 'oku ke mahamahalo ki ha ngaahi me'a 'oku ngali kehe he ngaahi feitu'u ngaue 'e Kasitomu

Ka oku ke mahamahalo ki ha me'a oku ngali kehe, kataki Ta mai he Vave Taha!

24 TA KIHE 0800123

FIKA TAE MAMOHE KASITOMU



KASITOMU
Potungau Tanaki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute
TONGA

TALAMAI HA ME'A TE KE ILO KIAI HE OKU IAI AE TOTONGI

Tokoni ki hono tau'i e faihala moe koloa tapu

DUE DATES REMINDER!

Monthly Due Dates.

- 28th – Consumption Tax Return & Payment.
- 28th PAYE Return & Payment
- 28th WHT Resident/Non-Resident & Payment
- 28th Aircraft Income Tax & Payment
- 28th Ship Income Tax & Payment

Quarterly Due Date.

- 28th January – Tax Return & Payment.
- 28th April - Tax Return & Payment.
- 28th July - Tax Return & Payment.
- 28th October - Tax Return & Payment.

Annual Due Dates.

- 31st October - Personal Income Tax Return & Payment.
- 31st October – Company Tax Return & Payment.
- 31st August – PAYE Annual Return
- 31st August - PAYE Reconciliation Return

Tonga etax

REGISTER NOW !

www.revenue.gov.to/etax