

# MINISTRY OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS NEWSLETTER



January - February 2024



## CONTACT US

	Customs	Revenue
	7400650	7400550
	Info@customs.gov.to	cst@revenue.gov.to
	Fe'aomoengalu Customs Building, Ma'ufanga.	Tungi Colonnade, 1st Floor.

Ministry of Revenue & Customs Tonga

<https://www.revenue.gov.to/>

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Revenue Division

## First Devotion for 2024



On January 8, 2024, the Honourable Minister for the Ministry of Revenue & Customs and the Ministry of Finance, Hon. Tiofilusi Tuieti, extended a warm welcome to the CEO and staff of the Ministry. In his address, he conveyed his best wishes for a successful year ahead and commended the workforce for their diligent efforts and achievements in the previous year.

## The Ministry together with Ministry of Trade and Economic Development (MTED) partner under Heilala Tax Services

On February 2, 2024, the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries of Trade and Economic Development & Revenue and Customs formalized their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement underscores their dedication to providing enhanced and streamlined services to participants of the MORC Heilala Tax Services Program. This ceremonial signing represents just one of the numerous initiatives planned by the Ministry for the year, aligning with the 2024 International Customs Day theme, "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose."



## Collaboration Session with the Department of Tonga Statistics



## Fostering Ongoing Collaboration with our esteemed partners in the Statistics Department:

A heartfelt thanks to 'Ativeniana Pomana and her dedicated team for their pivot role in facilitating a successful meeting.



## Paotoloaki Program

In February 2024, the Ministry proudly launched its inaugural program of Paotoloaki training sessions, aimed at enhancing public understanding of tax related issues and strengthening our relationship with taxpayers.

To date, two sessions have been conducted, with more planned in the forthcoming months.

The training focuses on two key areas: PAYE/Salaries and Basic Tax. We invite all individuals interested in expanding their tax knowledge to participate in these sessions, which are offered at no cost for registration!



KAMATA 'I HE 'AHO I SIULAI 2022:

1. 'EKE HO'O TALI TOTONGI

2. KA 'IKAI 'OATU, FETU'UTAKI MAI KI HE



## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance to the Revenue Services Administration Act 2021 and the Code of Conduct for the Public Service 2004, employees of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs **SHALL NOT** ask or receive directly or indirectly **ANY GIFTS OR FAVOURS** from suppliers, business partners and customers.

We would appreciate the public's cooperation and support in respect of this policy.

Thank you,

Ministry of Revenue and Customs







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## International Customs Day 2024



The Ministry commemorated International Customs Day by awarding certificates to Licensed Warehouse owners and Customs Brokers, in accordance with the event's theme: 'Customs Engaging Traditional & New Partners with Purpose'. Recognizing the vital role of stakeholder engagement in driving effective customs reforms, the Ministry reaffirms its commitment to collaboration. In response to the growing demands of trade, strategic resource allocation remains paramount, ensuring optimal outcomes for all parties involved.



## First Customs Brokers Forum



On January 17th, 2024, the very first Customs Brokers Forum of the year was convened, led by Mr. Sau Niulala this forum together with Ministry officials.

**Goal of this forum** was to address participants' concerns and reinforce the collaboration partnership between the Ministry and brokers, aiming to enhance operational effectiveness and mutual understanding.



## Tonga Customs pilot Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program

In keeping with the theme of International Customs Day 2024, and as part of its efforts to promote compliance and facilitate commerce, the Ministry of Revenue and Customs initiated the piloting of its AEO program, called the "Tonga Approved Secure Export Scheme".

Its goal is to assist Tonga's export industry by raising the bar for supply chain security and, in the end, creating mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with foreign customs authorities in the nations where our Tongan commodities are finally shipped.

**TONGA CUSTOMS HOTLINE**  
**HELP US PROTECT THE KINGDOM OF TONGA!**

Have you noticed something unusual on or around the coastline, aircraft, vessel, container or a person WITHOUT Customs Knowledge in Tonga? As a member of the community it's our role using our local knowledge to identify anything that is unusual or suspicious. Please do report us any suspicious activity to our 24-hour hotline number free-of-charge at any time regardless how minor it is.

**CALL 0800123**

*Your safety is in our hand, Your Identity will be protected*

