

KAFATAHA KI HA TONGA TU'UTAI 'I HE TAIMI FAINGATA'A NI



The Ministry of Revenue and Customs

Newsletter | October, 2021

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"Thank you for your time"

The official launching - Tax Week 2021

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs (MoRC) has officially launched the beginning of their tax week today, the 25th October 2021 by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Dr. Rev. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa.

The official launching was held, at the Taufā'ahau Domestic Wharf Building, and the ceremony was attended by Cabinet Members, Government Chief Executive Officer (s), and representatives of the government and public stakeholders.

The overarching theme for this year's tax week is

"SOLIDARITY FOR A PERPETUAL TONGA IN THIS CHALLENGING TIME."



Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Dr. Rev. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa delivering his keynote speech.

In the welcoming remarks, the Minister of MoRC, Hon. Tevita Lavemaau stated that solidarity of all crucial stakeholders is key for revenue mobilization, to enhance efficiency in service provision, revenue administration and collection.

Another significant milestone was launched today by the Prime Minister is the **Electronic Sales Register System (ESRS)**. A short demonstration was carried out for all invites to view how the ESRS operates. The public has been encouraged to request their receipts, which would prompt businesses to use the system. The Prime Minister concluded his speech by thanking MoRC staff for this great initiative and wishing 2021 tax week a success.

The CEO of MoRC, Mr. Kelemete Vahe then proceeded with the vote of thanks. He highlighted that this year's tax week differs to last year where there is a shift in approach from tax awareness to recognition of our business sector. The emphasis on our business sector is driven by the fact that the businesses are our major contributors of revenue which assists in financing our budget and the crucial needs of the nation during this challenging time.

This year, the MoRC tax week will include various events for various sectors throughout the week. Seminars will be conducted at Fe'aomoengalu Building for various sectors across Tonga starting tomorrow Tuesday 26th until Thursday 28th October. The tax week will conclude with a singing competition and awards ceremony on Friday, the 29th of October 2021 at Falemasiva Hall.

**"KETAU KAFATAHA KI HA TONGA 'OKU TU'UTAI HE TAIMI
FAINGATA'A NI"**

**"SOLIDARITY FOR PERPETUAL TONGA IN THIS
CHALLENGING TIME"**

Special Sunday service—Tax Week 2021



Above Photo: Preacher—Rev. Dr Tevita Koloa'ia Havea. President of Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. Sermon theme—“**OKU LAHI 'ETAU HE KO E MASIVA 'ILO**”



Above Photo: Front Row- Rev. Dr Tevita Koloa'ia Havea- President of Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Hon.Tevita Lavemaau - Minister of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs ,Mr. Kelemete Vahe (MORC-CEO) and some of the Ex-Revenue Officers and Senior Staff



Above Photo: Ministry's Choir 2021—“**JERUSALEM**”



Above Photo: Ministry's Choir 2021—“**JERUSALEM**”



Above Photo: CEO for MTED, Mrs Tu'ihalamaka, CEO for Land and Survey, Mrs Rosamond Bing, DCEOs and Senior Officers from Ministry of Finance



Above Photo: Staff of the Ministry after the Prayer service at the Centenary Church of Tonga, Nuku'alofa.



Photo Above: A photo taken after the prayer service at the Centenary Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga on the 24/10/2021,Nuku'alofa.This service was led by the President of Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Rev. Tevita Havea. This photo included the Minister , CEO ,Ex-Revenue Officers and the staff of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Tonga.

“Solidarity for a perpetual Tonga in this challenging time”

Collections-Launching



Photo Above: A short demonstration was carried out for all invites to view how the ESRS operates by the Prime Minister Hon. Pohiva Tu'ionetoa . This is a significant milestone for the Ministry



Photo Above : Guest of Honor ,Hon. Dr Rev. Pohiva Tu'ionetoa, Rev.'Ikani Taliai Tolu , Cabinet Members and Senior Staff of MORC.



Above Photo: Mr. Maamaloa Foto'ili the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Revenue Division) presenting the significant milestone for the Electronic Sales Register System (ESRS) demonstrated by the Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Rev Pohiva Tu'ionetoa



Above Photo: Entertainment of the day by the students of Tupou Tertiary Institute .



Above Photo: The Minister of MoRC, Hon. Tevita Lavemaau Lavemaau , Hon. Dr Rev. Pohiva Tu'ionetoa and Rev. 'Ikani Taliai Tolu.



Above Photo: Business partners



Chief Executive Officer Mr. Kelemete Vahe and staff of the Ministry of Revenue and Customs 2021.

"Solidarity for a perpetual Tonga in this challenging time"

TAX WEEK SEMINARS

We are incredibly grateful to have completed 3 days seminars of the Tax Week 2021. The MoRC conducted three sessions each day with a total of 9 business sectors. The MoRC staff presented some hot tax topics and wished to emphasize the adoption of **PARTNERSHIP** approach and the importance of these stakeholders and their revenue contributions to financing our operations, especially during these challenging times.

Some of the main issues discussed and proposed from the business partners includes the need for MoRC to enforce the registration of unregistered small business to ensure fair competition, on-going waiving of tax penalties, consideration for a reduction of CT rate, support the use of Electronic Sales Register System, rising of freight charge due to diversion of vessels, Brokers fees, Customs clearance process etc. The result of this 3 days seminar has reflected good feedbacks and proposals to ensure more efficient Tax and Customs administration. In addition, the ministry were able to measure the current level of Tax and Customs knowledge from each sectors which assist in designing proper strategies and treatments to improve compliance in this challenging time.

DAY 1—3 sessions

Government Ministries & Government Ministries



Non-Profit Organizations,



Transportation sector/car dealers and shipping agencies



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Tax Week Seminars-Day 2

Session 1- Retailer/Wholesaler/Hardware Sectors



Session 2- Tourism Industry



Session 3- Health Service/Lawyers /Consultancy/ Insurance/Communications & Broadcasting



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Tax Week Seminars-Day 3

Session 1 -Construction Industry



Session 2 -Agricultural/Fisheries/Exporter and Importer Sectors



Session 3-Financial Service Sector



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TAX WEEK 2021-SINGING COMPETITION



Above Photo-Winner of the Singing Competition -Kalapu Mosimosi Koula, Ma'ufanga



Above Photo-First Runner Up-Kalapu Kumi Hufanga 'anga, Haveluloto.



Above Photo-Second Runner Up - Kalapu Huolanga, Kolomotu'a



Above Photo-Kalapu Tu'ilevatai



Above Photo-Kalapu Toa Ko Va'epoua.



Above Photo-Kalapu Hala Tongaleva



Above Photo-Kalapu Vila Malia & Va'a 'Olive



Above Photo-Kalapu Fofu'anga



Above Photo-Kalapu Fasi mo e Afi.



Above Photo-Kalapu Hala Maumau Koula.



Above Photo- Kalapu Siulanga e 'ofa, Nukuhetulu



Above Photo-Kalapu Anomelie, Vaololoa.



Above Photo-Kalapu Funga'one-taka, Manuka.



Above Photo: Kalapu Tukulalo, Vaololoa



Kalapu Mosimosi Koula, Ma'ufanga

"Solidarity for perpetual Tonga in this challenging time"

NEW HEILALA TAX MEMBERS WITH NEW CATEGORIES

As part of the celebrations of the Tax Week 2021, the Ministry of Revenue and Customs announced new members to its Heilala Tax System and also place special recognition to its pioneer members.

The special recognition and awarding of certificates was held at the Closing program of the Tax Week, on Friday at the Falemasiva Hall after the singing competition of Kava Tonga Clubs.

The Heilala Tax System highlights the high level compliance, commitment and contribution from these taxpayers in payment of tax revenue especially during this challenging period.

A new category set for the Heilala Tax System was formalized and announced last Friday as listed below;

- Heilala Platinum-22 members
- Heilala Gold-24 members
- Heilala Silver -23 members
- Heilala Bronze-83 members

This award aims to encourage voluntary compliance with Customs and Tax Laws and regulations. The Ministry also avail a special Counter/ Receptionist to welcome any members of the Heilala Tax System, with special benefits available for its top members – Heilala Platinum as listed below;

1. Six months Blanket Tax Clearance
2. Special Reception – Heilala Room
3. VIP Drive Through for Revenue Department only
4. Entertainment provided through Free Digi TV and Wi-Fi
5. Complimentary Tea, Coffee, Water and Telephone
6. Direct Landline for correspondence
7. All employees are served in a designated room – Heilala Room for Revenue Department only
8. Membership Card for Revenue Office only

This year's Tax Week was officially opened with a Prayer Service at the Centenary Church in Nuku'alofa, officiated by the President of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga – Rev Dr Tevita Havea on the 24th of October 2021. The Prime Minister – Hon. Rev Dr Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa officially launched the Tax



Left -Right: Prime Minister Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa and Mr. Paula Taufa the Country Manager for Pacific Energy (South West Pacific) Ltd Trading



Left-Right: CEO (MORC) Mr. Kelemete Vahe, Honorable Prime Minister Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa and Lucy Pasifiki Tonga the manager of Leiola Group Ltd.



Representatives from Digicel Tonga



Representative from Jilong Enterprise Limited Trading



TCC representative- Mr. Sione Veikoso



A&A representative- Mrs. Suliana Afu



ANZ representative- Mrs. Malia Tonga.



Puloka Construction representative- Mr. Matani Puloka.



Representative from New Era Enterprises Co. Ltd

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

18th Pacific Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association Secretariat Annual Heads Meeting 2022.

Fiji now holds chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Tax Administrations Association Executive Committee for the remainder of this year till 2022 following the association's annual meeting today.

Eleven countries attended the meeting held virtually to discuss administrative matters and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the PITAA Secretariat based in Suva, Fiji.

"Tax administrations have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the economic downturn has translated to loss of tax revenues," PITAA Head of Secretariat, Koni Ravono said. "The Secretariat has a key role to play in assisting our members with their needs in terms of capacity building or other resources they may need."

"With the new approved PITAA Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024, the PITAA Secretariat's focus will be on assisting members address digitalization, information technology, enhance revenue mobilization efforts through capacity building, enhance best practices, and stakeholder engagement" added Koni Ravono.

"In the Pacific, we have been fortunate with the assistance received from international organisations such as the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center, Asian Development Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Network of Tax Organization and the World Bank Group."

Other members of the PITAA Executive Committee are Republic of Marshall Islands as vice chair, Papua New Guinea as representative of the Tier 1 countries, Solomon Islands as representative of Tier 2 countries and Federated States of Micronesia as the Tier 3 countries representative.



SOURCE : PITAA Facebook Page.

Cross-border paperless trade Virtual Meeting

Cross-border paperless trade has great potential to not only grow trade competitiveness, but also to support to nurture enabling environments for e-commerce and digital trade, which is instrumental for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), especially women and young entrepreneurs to benefit from trade. Paperless trade has also been recognized as an effective way to mitigate trade disruptions during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, providing for more seamless and resilient trade opportunities. However, paperless trade requires policy decisions, a robust technical infrastructure and a modern, efficient and effective legal environment.

Paperless trade supports the post-pandemic recovery of countries, with many direct benefits, such as minimizing human interaction and increasing visibility and traceability of shipments. Moreover, the availability of online tools and support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic minimized the disruptions of providing capacity building and technical assistance to countries. 8 assessments were conducted (Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan). Currently, there are 6 other countries with ongoing readiness assessment studies (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Tonga, Viet Nam), enabled by the online platform as well as various virtual support provided.

A webinar session in the Festival of Inclusive Trade 2021 - Global Trade Professionals Alliance (GTPA) Date: 26 October 2021



REMINDERS



" KAFATAHA KI HA TONGA TU'UTAI 'I HE TAIMI FANGATA'ANI "

Tau TOKONI KE TAOFI 'a e COVID - 19 'i he'etau fakahoko 'a e

1. Huhu Malu'i COVID - 19
2. Ngaue'aki e Ngaahi Naunau Malu'i ki he COVID - 19

Fetu'utaki mai ki he 7400650 & 7400651 ki ho mou 'Ofisi Tanaki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute ki ha Fakaikiiki. Ki ha ngaahi Faka'eke'eke fekauaki moe Huhu Malu'i COVID - 19 Fetu'utaki ki he 0800019.

Malo 'Aupito

Potungae Tanaki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute

Did you Know? CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMING !! For more information about imports of Goods like Fireworks, Food - Items, Christmas Presents, please call 7400650, 23651 or email infor@customs.gov.to, Main Office Fe'aomoengalu Customs Building.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR REVENUE & CUSTOMS AREAS

ATTENTION

PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED TO ENTER

ATTENTION

ALL CUSTOMERS MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING TO ENTER

- AIRPORT
- WHARF
- APPROVE PLACES
- WAREHOUSE
- REVENUE OFFICE

Government of Tonga
MINISTRY OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS

PUBLIC NOTICE

3 Days (72 Hours) Quarantine of International Cargo unloaded at Queen Salote International Wharf & Halaevalu International Wharf

Pursuant to directions of the Minister of Infrastructure , All international cargo unloaded at QUEEN SALOTE INTERNATIONAL WHARF(Nuku'alofa , Tongatapu) AND HALAEVALU INTERNATIONAL WHARF (Neiafu , Vava'u) must be quarantined for 3 Days (72Hours) before releasing from Customs Port of Entry

CUSTOMS
 Ministry of Revenue And Customs
 KINGDOM OF TONGA

Ministry of Revenue & Customs
 GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PRIVATE IMPORTS OF MEDICINES, VACCINES, THERAPEUTICS AND PHARMACEUTICAL GOODS

Bringing goods such as medicines, vaccines, veterinary medicines, therapeutics and pharmaceuticals into Tonga from overseas is called 'importing' and there are specific rules associated with importing that must be followed for all imported goods. Any good that comes from outside the Kingdom of Tonga into Tonga are considered 'imported' regardless of whether the good or goods are:

- ✓ New or used
- ✓ Gifts, donations or purchased.
- ✓ Intended for testing or intended for sale
- ✓ Samples or commercial lots
- ✓ Arrive in Tonga via air/freight, sea freight, express courier or postal mail
- ✓ Legal or illegal

Private importations of goods must be declared to a Customs Officer before the goods will be released to you. To facilitate release, you must bring the following information to Customs

NOT FOR SALE

CUSTOMS
 Ministry of Revenue And Customs
 KINGDOM OF TONGA

Í he taimi faingataá ni, óku malava pe ke ke fakahu ONLINE mai hoó fakamatala CT mo e PAYE. Ko e ngaahi fakamatala tukuhau kehe hange ko e fakataú, é malava pe ó send mai á e signed copy ki he cst@revenue.gov.to. Lesisita mai <http://etax.revenue.gov.to/> Fakaikiiki fetuútakei mai ki he 26432 pe ko hoó tohi maípe ki he peesi Facebook ko eni ke mau tokoni atu.

STAY SAFE TONGA!

Private importations of goods must be declared to a Customs Officer before the goods will be released to you. To facilitate release, you must bring the following information to Customs. Please contact these Border Agency.

Ministry of Health Tonga Ministry of Health Drug Regulatory Authority Central Pharmacy & Medical Store , Phone : 23200 / 7400163 Baron Road , Vaiola Motu'a	Customs Fe'ao Moe Ngalu Customs Building Phone : 23651 / 7400651 Queen Salote Wharf Ma'ufanga Tongatapu	Tonga Quarantine Quarantine & Quality Div. MAFFF Phone : 24257 / 24922 Alaivahamama'o Bypass Rd Queen Salote Qhwarf Ma'ufanga Tonga
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SPECIAL NOTICE

FANONGONONGO



FAKALAHÍ NGAÁHI TU'UTU'UNI KE TAU'Í - COVID 19

KUO PAU KE NGATA E NGAUE'AKI 'O E TU'UTU'UNI KOENI KI HE 'AHO 31 'O TISEMA 2021



1. Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuahu ngaue'aki 'a e hū mai 'o e kotoa 'o e ngaahi kotoa me'atokoni mo e ngaahi kotoa konisiuma fakataautaha, 'oku 'ikai ki he taumu 'a fakakomēsiāle.
2. Kuo pau ke faka'atā mei he tukuahu 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 fakakoto mo e ngaahi fale poloseki 'a e ako;



CUSTOMS

Ministry of Revenue And Customs
KINGDOM OF TONGA

FANONGONONGO



KUO KAMATA Í HE ÁHO 03 Ó MAÁSI, 2021 Á HONO TAPUI KE TOE HU MAI ÁE NGAÁHI SALIOTE MISINI UTA PASESE Í HE SIPINGA TAÚ MOTUÁ É 15 PE MOTUÁ ANGE AI.

» Koe ngaahi salioite misini 'eni kuo fou fakahangatonu pe ki he fefononga'aki 'a e kakai. Óku fakakalsi ia íhe ulu'i tohi tute fika 8703 'ihe sipinga óe ta'u motuá é 15 pe toe motuá ange ai.



KASITOMU

Potungauē Taraki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute
TONGA

Ka óku ke mahamahalo kiha meá óku ngali kehe, kataki Ta mai he Vave Taha!

24: TA KIHE 0800123

FIKA TAE MAMOHE KASITOMU



KASITOMU

Potungauē Taraki Pa'anga Hu Mai moe Tute
TONGA

TALAMAI HA
MEÁ TE KE
ÍLO KIAI HE
ÓKU IAI ÁE
TOTONGI

Takoni ki hono
tauí e faihala
moe koloa tapu

PUBLIC NOTICE



eTax System LINK UPGRADE

The public is hereby notified that the Ministry of Revenue and Customs e-Tax SYSTEM'S LINK has upgraded from www.revenue.gov.to/etax to etax.revenue.gov.to.

For those of you who need to comply through this Online Lodgment but are not yet registered, You are more than welcome to register now. You can lodge in your PAYE/CT returns via the following link:

etax.revenue.gov.to.

Apologies for any inconvenience we may cause.

Should you need further information, please contact us at 7400550, 26432 or email cst@revenue.gov.to or it@revenue.gov.to

Tonga



REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Ministry of Revenue And Customs
KINGDOM OF TONGA

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

We wish to acknowledge all Government line ministries and to the people of Tonga for their contribution and support

towards this edition of

The Ministry of Revenue & Customs newsletter

“Solidarity for a perpetual Tonga in this challenging time”

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at our direct line

+676 26-432 / cst@revenue.gov.to

Facebook Page-[Ministry of Revenue and Customs Tonga](https://www.facebook.com/MinistryofRevenueandCustomsTonga)

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Behind the Scene - TAX WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

