

MINISTRY OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS NEWSLETTER



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HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Ministry's Media Open Day

Theme: Partnering with Media - Perceptions of a Modern Tax and Customs Administration



2. First Tongan Customs Officer to be trained and certified in Tonga as a dog handler





Photo above: Participants of the day together with



Media Open Day 2024

The Ministry was overjoyed to have completed a long-planned program for all Media partners with the theme “Partnering with Media: Perceptions of a Modern Tax and Customs Administration”.

The theme of this event was to develop the relationship between the Ministry of Revenue and Customs and our media partners. We are collaborating to create a brighter, more informed future by prioritizing transparency, innovation, and effective communication.

Thank you to all of the media representatives that participated and connected with us. Your participation and insights are vital as we face the difficulties of modernity. This relationship allows us to create public trust and effectively express our mission and vision.

Together, we are working toward a more transparent and inventive future. Here’s to continuing collaboration and progress.

Customs Detector Dog Handler

A graduation ceremony was held on the 14th June, 2024 to mark this milestone of a 6-week course completed by Tonga Customs’ officer, Tamale as the newest detector dog handler supported by Sergeant Sione Punaivaha and New Zealand-based Sergeant Mike Robinson. This milestone marks a significant step in enhancing our detection capabilities and strengthening our border security.

A heartfelt thank you to the New Zealand Police, New Zealand Customs and the Pacific Detector Dog Programme (PDDP) for their continuous support and dedication to our mission.



Pacific Islands Tax Administrations Association (PITAA) & Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) visit to Inland Revenue



The PFTAC Steering Committee had a large conference in the Kingdom to discuss budget implementation, economic growth, and other topics, and members from PFTAC seized the opportunity to undertake a site visit to the Inland Revenue in regard to Tax Administration.

It was a very nice visit; they were able to come in and experience firsthand the realities of our Revenue business in Tonga.

They had the opportunity to visit various departments and meet all of the personnel behind the scenes.

The day ended with a wonderful singing and kava for the guests and delicious food!



Government Forum Meeting (GFM)

We had a very fruitful forum and are excited to continue working with our colleagues from diverse Ministries. We would also want to thank everyone who attended this Government Forum Meeting (GFM), which focused on Pay As You Earn (PAYE) or employee salaries. We wish everyone good luck!



Strengthening strategies on combating counterfeiting and piracy for Customs administration Workshop

In Hanoi, Vietnam, at the Vietnam Customs School, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for the Asia-Pacific area collaborated to hold a regional workshop. The session covered the best methods for preventing piracy and counterfeiting in line with the WCO's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Strategy. Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vietnam were among the countries represented by the 27 supervisors and frontline officers in attendance, all of whom had experience protecting intellectual property rights in their respective Customs administrations. Customs Officer Mr. Kepueli Fifita attended this very important workshop.



Seizure of Firearms & Ammunitions by Tonga Customs

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs intercepted and seized 6 firearms and 12 cartons of ammunition that arrived in a 8x4 crate containing personal items consigned to a 38-year-old Tongan female of Halaleva, Tongatapu.

These restricted goods were intercepted on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 as a result of Customs' enhanced inspections. The consignment was originated from United States of America (USA).

These restricted goods were seized and investigations with the help of Tonga Police are ongoing.

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs' enhanced inspections process is part of efforts to intercept illicit goods such as illicit drugs, firearms, ammunition and other illegal imports.



Clean-up activity to support Public Service Commission's Month



The Public Service Commission commemorated the month of June by holding a Clean-A-Thon every Friday.

The Ministry was excited to promote this subject and participate in this clean-up effort every Friday to combat Dengue Fever and other diseases in support of the Ministry of Health.





NOTICE

Tu'utu'uni Lao (Fakatonutonu) ki hono Pule'i 'o e Tute mo e 'Ekisia 2023

'Oku fiefia 'a e Potungaue Tanaki Pa'anga Hu Mai mo e Tute ke faka'ilo atu kiate kimoutolu 'a e fakalelei fakamuimitaha na'e fakahoko ki he Tu'utu'uni Lao ki hono Pule'i 'o e Tute mo e 'Ekisia 2023, fekau'aki mo e saliate misini uta pasese 'i he motolo 'o e ta'u 'e 10 pe lahi hake 'o kamata mei he 'aho na'e hu mai ai.

Ko e fakataputapui 'o e hu mai 'o e ngaahi saliate misini 'e kamata ngaue'aki ia hili ha mahina 'e ono mei he 'aho hono kasete'i.

'Oku mahu'inga 'aupito ki he hou'eiki mo e kakai 'o e fonua kenau mea'i 'a e liliu koeni he'oku 'i ai 'a e tautea kiate kinautolu tenau maumau'i 'a e tu'utu'uni. 'Oku mau fengaue'aki fakataha mo e ngaahi va fekau'aki (Potungaue ki he Fakamatala'eam, Ma'u'angaivi, Ma'u'anga fakamatala, Ngaahi fakatamaki fakanatula, Atakai, Feliuliaki 'oe 'Ea mo e Fetu'utaki, Potungaue ngaahi ngaue'anga lalahi, Poate Taulanga mo e Royco) ke aofangatuku 'a e founa ngaue ke toe fakamalohi'i ange 'a e tu'utu'uni.

'Oku mau pou pou ki he taha kotoa ke nau talangofua ki he ngaahi tu'utu'uni ke fakasi'isi'i ha ta'efemahino'aki pe tautea.

Ki ha toe me'a makehe, kataki 'a'ahi ki he'emaui uespisaiti pe fetu'utaki ki he 'Ofisi 'o e Kasitomu.

— NGATA —



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