

LAW WEEK 2017
Speech Competition
Theme: The Law and Good Leadership

Speech Topic: What is the relationship between the Law & Good Leadership?

“Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.”

This quote from American Pastor, John C. Maxwell, speaks directly to an experience I encountered as Head Girl Prefect in a conversation with a Form 3 student. He was inquiring about the results of my final examinations, and I confessed to failing one subject. His reaction? He was baffled to discover the Head Girl has a weakness, she is not perfect – she can also fail an exam! He started to see me in a different light. He held respect of a different degree for a leader who faced similar challenges as he did.

I realised that even the best leaders are not perfect. And an important aspect of being a good leader is acknowledging one’s faults. It is being willing to excel in areas of weakness by being humble enough to accept help when needed. Good leadership is **not** working the people, but working **WITH** the people. It’s developing relationships and learning and supporting one another.

John C. Maxwell says *“leaders who are effective, are leaders who are disciplined in their daily lives.”* A crucial part in exercising discipline is seen in how well you can follow a set of rules, and in this case – the law.

The Oxford Dictionary defines law “as a system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.” In other words – “dos and don’ts.”

In the Old Testament, God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites to live accordingly; in every sport there is a set of rules; in every school there are regulations and at home there are chores

and house rules. Even in our Constitution there are laws for the King and other leaders like the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as well as the people.

Laws are put in place as guidelines to living; to set apart good and bad; differentiate what is acceptable from what is not; it is there for our protection and security; and ensures peace and harmony. I believe leadership is based on the rule of law and it is impossible for there to be good leadership if the law is not sustained.

Good leadership, whether it is one leader, a government or a collective body of people, makes every effort to implement the law and improve it accordingly. To lead, is being the first to follow, but most importantly, being able to make the best decisions as a result of good understanding of the law. As we approach the General Elections, this is something I would like to see: for voters to pick leaders who can exercise good leadership; and to live under laws that can continually improve the standard of living for our people.

As my life as a high school student draws to an end this month, I look forward to the next step in life. I want to have access to every educational opportunity available. I want to live my life “to the best” I possibly can and I am confident that this can be achieved, no matter where you are in the world, as long as the bonds of the law and good leadership operate as one in that country.

I put my hope for a bright future in the hands of our leaders and in our law, which is summed up perfectly in the Constitution of Tonga’s Clause 17: Government to be impartial – *The King shall reign on behalf of all his people and not so as to enrich or benefit any one man or any one family or any one class but without partiality for the good of all the people of his Kingdom.*

Malo ‘aupito.

Anna Jane Vea

17 years old

Form 70

Tonga High School