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MEDIA RELEASE

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HOSTS PACIFIC REGION CYBERCRIME
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING AND NETWORK 24 – 26 FEBRUARY 2016**

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

17 MARCH 2016

- 1 On 24 to 26 February 2016, the Attorney General's Office hosted a 3 day regional workshop at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre on cybercrime training specific to the criminal justice systems in the Pacific region.
- 2 The main objective of the workshop was to discuss common challenges inhibiting detection, investigations and prosecutions of cybercrime and related crime in the region. One of the significant outcomes was consideration of the creation of a regional network of contact persons platform for collaboration and cooperation in cybercrime related issues in the Pacific region
- 3 The training was organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the International Association of Prosecutors, the Council of Europe, the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network and the Attorney General's Office
- 4 The event was sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Council of Europe within the framework of the Global Action on Cybercrime (GLACY) Project, and the Attorney General's Office.

- 5 The training was conducted by 5 facilitators from the Commonwealth Secretariat, International Association of Prosecutors and Council of Europe who are all notable experts in their fields
- 6 The Acting Attorney-General of Tonga, 'Aminiasi Kefu said he hoped the network will become a “platform for regular collaboration and assistance between Pacific countries on cybercrime.”
- 7 “It is important to build regional awareness among government officials, such as regulators, investigators and prosecutors, that it is time to address cybercrime effectively and efficiently, because despite what they may think and see, cybercrime is already a threat in homes, workplaces and communities,” he said.
- 8 One of the participants, David Toganivalu, Director of Public Prosecutions for Nauru, said: “The conference was important to understand what is cybercrime and the threat it has in the Pacific region. It is a global crime that crosses between borders in seconds and has had and will continue to pose a great threat to vulnerable Pacific island states.
- 9 “We are now in a better position to respond to this global threat. We were able to meet our other counterparts from within the region and have now established a working relationship with our law enforcement colleagues from the Commonwealth Secretariat and other relevant specialists from the UK, New Zealand and Australia,” he added.
- 10 Shadrach Haruna, Legal Adviser at the Commonwealth Secretariat, who co-ordinated the meeting, said: “Cybercrime respects no national boundaries. Traditional ‘offline’ crimes have increasingly either migrated to cyberspace or now require electronic evidence to effectively prosecute them. This platform is not just for sharing of information and intelligence on the dynamics of the crime but also to provide a hub for co-operation at the regional level.”
- 11 There were ten Pacific countries who attended the training, including, Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands,

Tonga and Tuvalu. A number of Pacific countries could not attend because of the effects at the time of Tropical Cyclone Winston on air travel to Tonga through Fiji.

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