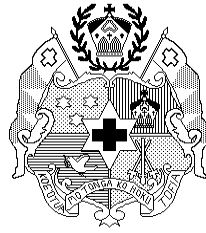


Correspondences to

Acting Attorney General and Director of  
Public Prosecutions  
Attorney General's Office  
First Floor, Taumoepeau Building  
Corner of Fatafehi and Salote Roads  
Nuku'alofa  
KINGDOM OF TONGA



Contact Details

Postal Address PO Box 85, Nuku'alofa,  
Kingdom of Tonga  
Telephone (676) 24 055 / 24 007  
Fax (676) 24 005  
Office Hours 8 30 am-4 30 pm, Mon - Fri  
Email [dpp@crownlaw.gov.to](mailto:dpp@crownlaw.gov.to)  
Website [www.crownlaw.gov.to/cms](http://www.crownlaw.gov.to/cms)

Our Reference: AK 733/17- c.14

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**TONGA HOSTS THE 2017 MEETING OF THE PACIFIC LEGISLATIVE**  
**DRAFTERS' TECHNICAL FORUM**  
**24 August 2017**

- 1 The Attorney General's Office wishes to announce that, on behalf of the Tonga Government, it will host the 2017 Meeting of the Pacific Legislative Drafter's Technical Forum this week at the Tanoa International Dateline Hotel.
- 2 The Technical Forum is a gathering of legal officers who draft legislation on behalf of Governments in the Pacific. The Technical Forum acts as a network for providing support and sharing of expertise, and to facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learnt.
- 3 It was established in 2007 as an initiative of the 2006 Pacific Working Group on Legislative Drafting, coordinated by the the Commonwealth Secretariat in pursuance of a mandate by Commonwealth Law Ministers for the development of solutions for alleviating the problem of legislative drafting capacity constraints within small island countries.
- 4 The Technical Forum had its first meeting in 2007 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and the meeting in Nuku'alofa, will be its sixth (6) meeting. Participation of representatives from the Pacific countries was funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Attorney General's Department, and organised by the Pacific islands Forum Secretariat and the Attorney General's Office of Tonga.

- 5 The Technical Forum commenced with a technical workshop held on 23 to 24 August 2017, with a theme of training on legislative drafting guidelines for domesticating model legislation. The training was delivered by Mr Rupeni Nawaqakuta, an expert legislative drafter who has worked in the Pacific region for many years.
- 6 The formal meeting of the Technical Forum will then be held on Friday 25 August, and will be opened by Hon Sione Vuna Fa'otusia, Minister for Justice and Prisons, and Chairman of Cabinet's Law Committee. The Cabinet's Law Committee vets draft Government legislation for legal and policy compliance before they are presented to Cabinet for approval to be tabled before the Legislative Assembly for approval, and then presented to His Majesty the King for Royal Assent, before it is published in the Government Gazette to bring it into force.
- 7 The objectives of the formal meeting are to discuss progress against the goals of the Technical Forum's Regional Action Plan, and to report on new and ongoing opportunities for improving access to high quality legislative drafting services, and ways forward for advancing the Technical Forum.
- 8 The meeting is attended by representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Comonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Office of the International Federation of the Red Cross. In-house legal counsel and policy officers from Tongan Government Ministgries and Agencies also attended to share local experiences.

----- **MEDIA RELEASE ENDS** -----

**For further information or clarification, please contact:**

Mr 'Aminiasi Kefu,  
Acting Attorney Genenral and Director of Public Prosecutions,  
Attorney General's Office

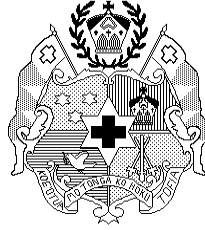
Telephone Numbers: (676) 24055/24007 (Office), (676) 25347 (Direct), (676) 7715314  
(Mobile)

Facsimile: (676) 24005

Email: [dpp@crownlaw.gov.to](mailto:dpp@crownlaw.gov.to), [aakefu@gmail.com](mailto:aakefu@gmail.com)

Correspondences to

Acting Attorney General and Director of  
Public Prosecutions  
Attorney General's Office  
First Floor, Taumoepeau Building  
Corner of Fatafehi and Salote Roads  
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Contact Details

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Fax (676) 24 005  
Office Hours 8 30 am-4 30 pm, Mon - Fri  
Email [dpp@crownlaw.gov.to](mailto:dpp@crownlaw.gov.to)  
Website [www.crownlaw.gov.to/cms](http://www.crownlaw.gov.to/cms)

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**‘OFISI ‘O E ‘ATENI SENIALE  
FAKAMATALA FAKA‘ATĀ KI HE MITIA  
FAKAHOKO ‘I TONGA NI ‘A E FAKATAHA ‘A E KAUFĀ‘U LAO  
FAKAANGAANGA ‘A E PASIFIKI KI HE 2017  
24 ‘Akosi 2017**

- 1 ‘Oku loto ‘a e ‘Ofisi ‘o e ‘Ateni Seniale ke fakaha tene fakafofonga’i ‘a e Pule’anga Tonga ki hono fakahoko ‘a e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale ‘a e Kau Fa’u Lao Fakaangaanga ‘a e Pasifiki ‘i he uike ni ‘i he Hotele Tanoa International Dateline.
- 2 Ko e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale ni ko e fakataha ia ‘a e kau ‘ofisa lao ‘oku nau fa’u ‘a e ngaahi lao fakaangaanga ma’a honau ngaahi Pule’anga takitaha ‘i he Pasifiki. ‘Oku hanga ‘e he Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale ni ‘o faka-faingamalie’i ‘a e ngaue fakataha ke poupu’i mo vahevahe ‘a e ngaahi ‘ilo, taukei, pea mo e ngaahi lesone kuo ako mei he ngaahi ngaue faka-fa’u lao fakaangaanga.
- 3 Na’e fokotu’u ‘i he ta’u 2007 ‘i he fokotu’u na’e ma’u ‘i he 2006 mei he Kulupu Ngaue ‘a e Pasifiki ki he Fa’u Lao Faka-angaanga, ‘i ha ngaue fakataha pea mo e Va’a Faka-Sekelitali ki he Ngaahi Fonua Kominiueli, ‘o fakatatau ki he tu’utu’uni ngaue mei he Kau Minisita Lao ‘a e Ngaahi Fonua Kominiueli ke fa’u ha ngaahi founa ke vete ‘a e ngaahi palopalema mei he nounou ‘a e ngaahi founa ngaue fa’u lao fakaangaanga ‘oku fuesia ‘e he ngaahi fonua ‘otu motu iiki.
- 4 Na’e ‘uluaki kamata ‘a e fakataha ‘a e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale ni ‘i he 2007 ‘i Port Vila, Vanuatu, pea ko e fakataha ‘i Nuku’alofa, ko e fakataha hono ono (6) ia. ‘Oku faka-

pa'anga 'a e kau mai 'a e kau fakafofonga mei he Pasifiki 'e he Pule'anga 'Aositelelia 'i hono fakafou 'i he Potungaue 'a e 'Ateni Seniale 'o 'Aositelelia, pea na'e fokotu'utu'u 'a e fakataha 'e he Va'a Fakasekelitali 'a e Ngaahi Fonua Pasifiki pea mo e 'Ofisi 'a e 'Ateni Seniale 'i Tonga ni.

- 5 Na'e kamata'aki 'a e fakataha 'a e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale 'i hono fakahoko 'a e fakataha ngaue faka-tekinikale 'i he 'aho Pulelulu 23 mo e Tu'apulelulu 24 'Akosi, 'o fakatefito ki he ako felave'i pea mo e ngaahi fakahinohino faka-fa'u lao fakaangaanga ki hono fakalao'i 'a e ngaahi lao fakaangaanga mei he ngaahi talite faka-mamani lahi. Ko e ako ko 'eni na'e fakahoko ia 'e he tokotaha taukei fa'u lao-fakaangaanga 'i he Pasifiki ko Rupeni Nawaqakuta.
- 6 'E fakahoko leva 'a e tefito'i fakataha 'a e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale 'i he 'aho Falaite 25 'Akosi, pea 'e fakaava ia 'e Hon Sione Vuna Fa'otusia, ko e 'Eiki Minisita Lao mo e Pilisone, pea mo e Sea 'a e Komiti Lao 'a e Kapineti. Ko e Komiti Lao 'a e Kapineti 'oku ne hanga 'o vakai'i 'a e ngaahi lao fakaangaanga 'a e Pule'anga, kimu'a pea fokotu'u ki he Kapineti ke tali ke fakahu ki he Fale Alea ke tali, pea fokotu'u ki he 'Ene 'Afio ke ne Fakamo'oni Huafa ai, kimu'a pea pulusi 'i he Tohi Kasete 'a e Pule'anga ke fakahoko ko e lao ke ngaue'aki.
- 7 Ko e ngaahi taumu'a 'a e tefito'i fakataha ke alea'i 'a e ngaahi ngaue kuo fakahoko 'o fakatatau ki he ngaahi taumu'a na'e fokotu'u 'e he Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale 'i he'ene Palani Ngaue Faka-Feitu'u, pea ke lipooti ki ha ngaahi faingamalie fo'ou pea 'oku lolotonga ngaue'aki ke fakalalakaka 'a e ngaahi ngaue faka-fa'u lao fakaangaanga, pea mo hono alea'i 'a e ngaahi founa ke toe fakalalakaka'i ai 'a e fakataha 'a e Fakataha Faka-Tekinikale.
- 8 'Oku kau 'a e kau fakafofonga ki he fakataha ni 'a e kau fakafofonga mei 'Aositelelia, 'Otu Motu Kuki, Ngaahi Siteiti Fakatahataha 'o Maikolonisia, Fisi, Kilipasi, Naulu, Nu'usila, Palau, Papua Niu Kini, 'Out Motu Pitikeni, Lepapulika 'o e Ngaahi 'Otu Motu Masolo, Ha'amoia, 'Otu Motu Solomone, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Va'a Faka-Sekelitali 'a e Ngaahi Fonua Pasifiki, Va'a Faka-Sekelitali 'o e Ngaahi Fonua Kominiueli pea mo e 'Ofisi 'i he Pasifiki ki he Kautaha Fakatahataha 'a e Kolosi Kula. 'E kau atu foki ki he

fakataha ‘a e kau ‘ofisa lao faka-Potungaue mo e kau ‘ofisa fa’u tu’utu’uni mei he ngaahi Potungaue ‘a e Pule’anga Tonga.

----- NGATA‘ANGA ‘O E FAKA‘ATĀ -----

**Ki ha toe fakamatala, kātaki ‘o fetu‘utaki kia:**

‘Aminiasi Kefu,

‘Ateni Seniale Le‘ole‘o mo e Talekita ki he Ngaahi Talatalaaki Hia ‘a e Pule‘anga,

‘Ofisi ‘o e ‘Ateni Seniale

Fika Telefoni ‘o e ‘Ofisi: (676) 24055/24007 / Laine Hangatonu: (676) 25347 / Fika telefoni to‘oto‘o: 7715314

‘Imeili: [dpp@crownlaw.gov.to](mailto:dpp@crownlaw.gov.to)