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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

THEME: REMAINING RELEVANT AND GETTING GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN

The Office of the Ombudsman is happy to issue a news release highlighting the official communiqué of the Australasian Pacific Ombudsman Region (APOR) conference held on 13th October, 2022, and its 34th annual Members' meeting on 14th October, 2022, in Wellington, New Zealand.

The theme of the conference “*Remaining relevant and getting government to listen.*” It was co-hosted by Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass as Regional President and New Zealand Chief Ombudsman and International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) 2nd President Peter Boshier. It coincided with the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Ombudsman in Aotearoa, New Zealand, being the first office outside Scandinavian countries and in the Pacific region.

The APOR member countries, Tonga included, agreed to be a global leader of Ombudsmanship and *model exemplar* in the region. The conference further reaffirmed the importance of two major international agreements aimed at protecting the ombudsman and their work.

The first was the Venice Principles on the protection and promotion of the Ombudsman Institution adopted by the Venice Commission in 2019. It set out the international standards for the Ombudsman institution, including a firm legal foundation at the constitutional and statutory level; election of Ombudsman at the highest possible extent the authority, impartiality, independence and legitimacy of the institution; the freedom from any instruction from any authority and the need for sufficient and independent budgetary resources.

Secondly, the conference reaffirmed *The role of the Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law*. This is based on the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16th December 2020 that acknowledged the Venice Principles; upheld the importance of the Ombudsman role; and to create and strengthen the independence and autonomous Ombudsman institution.

The meeting further reiterated the importance of the role of the Ombudsman for the promotion of good public administration, protection of and respect for citizens' rights and wellbeing and fundamental freedoms, strengthening of public service through the rule of law, transparency, accountability and fairness.

Other areas of importance included the independence of the Ombudsman, show solidarity to counter the challenges of climate change as well as committing and cooperating on best practices with members and the wider Ombudsman fraternity.

The Ombudsman, Mr. 'Aisea Taumoepeau, SC., led the 4-member delegation from Tonga to APOR 2022.

End.

For further detail, please contact the Communications & Media Division on email - cmd@ombudsman.to or telephone: 7401451.



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ONGOONGO TUKUATU

Tusite, 'Aho 1 'o Novema, 2022

KAVEINGA: KE KEI 'AONGA E NGAUE 'A E 'OMIPATIMENI MO TALI UI KI AI 'A E PULE'ANGA

'Oku fiefia 'a e 'Ofisi 'o e 'Omipatimeni ke tuku atu e ongoongo 'o fakamamafa'i e fakamatala kuo tuku mai mei he konifelenisi 'a e kau 'Omipatimeni 'o e ngaahi fonua 'o 'Esia mo e Pasifiki (APOR) 'o e 'aho 13 'o 'Okatopa, 2022, mo 'enau fakataha hono 34 'i he 'aho 14 'o 'Okatopa, 2022, 'i Uelingatoni, Nu'u Sila.

Ko e kaveinga 'o e konifelenisi "*Ke kei 'aonga e ngaue 'a e 'Omipatimeni mo tali ui ki ai e pule'anga.*" Na'e fakatou tataki ia 'e he 'Omipatimeni 'a Vikatolia, 'Asitelelia, Deborah Glass 'a ia ko e Palesiteni fakafeitu'u ia 'o e APOR pea mo e 'Omipatimeni Pule 'a Nu'u Sila Peter Boshier 'oku ne toe hoko ko e Palesiteni hono 2 'o e Kautaha 'Omipatimeni Fakavaha'apule'anga (IOI). Na'e fakahoko fakataha e konifelenisi mo hono katoanga'i 'o e 60 Ta'u 'o e 'ofisi 'Omipatimeni 'a Nu'u Sila, 'a ia ko e fuofua 'ofisi 'omipatimeni ia na'e fokotu'u 'i ha toe fonua kehe mei he ngaahi fonua Sikenitovinia (Scandinavian) mo e 'uluaki 'i he Pasifiki.

Na'e felotoi 'a e ngaahi fonua memipa he APOR, 'o kau ai 'a Tonga ni, kenau hoko ko e fakatātā'anga 'o e ngaue faka-'Omipatimeni tu'ukimu'a he feitu'u ni. Na'e toe fakapapau'i mo e mahu'inga 'o e ongo felotoi fakavaha'apule'anga ki hono malu'i 'o e 'omipatimeni mo 'enau ngaahi ngaue.

Ko e 'uluakí ko e Tefito'i Mo'oni Venisi (*Venice Principles*) ki hono malu'i mo hono hakeaki'i 'o e ngaahi 'ofisi 'omipatimeni 'a ia na'e tali 'e he Komisoni 'a Venisi 'i he 2019. 'Oku fakahā ai 'a e ngaahi tu'unga fakavaha'apule'anga ki he ngaahi ngaue 'a e 'Omipatimeni, 'o kau ai ha fa'unga

fakalao malohi mo faka-konisitutone; ko hono fili ha ‘Omipatimeni ‘i he tu’unga ma’olunga taha ‘o e mafai, taau mo totonu, tau’atina mo fakalao; tau’atina mei ha fa’ahinga kaunoa mei ha ma’u mafai kehe pea mo e fiema’u ha patiseti fe’unga ‘oku tau’atiná.

Ko e uá, na’e toe fakapapau’i ‘a e *Fatoniga* ‘o e ‘*Omipatimeni mo e ngaahi fa’unga fakalelei vā ki hono paotoloaki mo malu’i e ngaahi totonu ‘a e tangata, pule lelei mo e pule ‘a e lao.* ‘Oku makatu’unga ia mei he ngaahi Tefito’i Mo’oni Venisi na’e tali ‘e he Falealea Lahi ‘a e Kautaha ‘o e ngaahi Pule’anga Fakatahataha (UNGA) he ‘aho 16 ‘o Tisema, 2020. ‘Oku fakamahu’inga’i ai ‘a e fatongia ‘o e ‘Omipatimeni; pea ke fokotu’u mo fakaiviva e tau’atina ‘a e ngaahi ‘ofisi ‘o e ‘Omipatimeni.

‘Ikai ngata ai, na’e toe fakamamafa’i ‘a e mahu’inga ‘o e ngaue ‘a e ‘Omipatimeni ki hono hakeaki’i e ngaue taau ‘a e pule’anga, malu’i mo faka’apa’apa’i e ngaahi totonu ‘a e kakai mo ‘enau mo’ui pea mo e ngaahi teifto’i tau’atina; pule ‘a e lao, ‘ata ki tu’a, tali ui ki he fatongia mo e ngaue taau mo totonu.

Na’a nau toe tokanga makehe ki ha tokoni fakalukufua ki he ngaahi pole ‘o e feliliuaki ‘a e ‘ea pea mo e vilitaki mo fetokoni’aki hono fakahoko e fa’unga ngaue ‘oku lelei taha ‘i ‘Esia mo e Pasifiki pea mo fakavaha’apule’anga.

Na’e taki ‘a e ‘Omipatimeni, Mr. ‘Aisea Taumoepeau, SC., ‘i he kau fakafofonga ‘e toko 4 mei Tonga ni ki he APOR 2022.

End.

Ki ha ngaahi fakamatala kehe, kataki ‘o fetu’utaki ki he Va’a Fetu’utaki & Mitia ‘i he ‘imeili - cmd@ombudsman.to pe telefoni: 7401451.