

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



1) Remarks Ombudsman

Malo e lelei from The Friendly Islands!

The opening of the Ombudsman office in Ha'apai, Pangai in the Ha'apai Group north of Nuku'alofa on the 9th December 2025 has been referred to *"The convergence of monumental threads in Tonga's legal history."*

These are the 150th Anniversary of the Constitution of Tonga. The 50th Anniversary of the mystery cross at Pulela'a and the opening of the Ha'apai ombudsman office dedicated to good governance and integrity.

Island hopping is the order of the day for the Tongans who live in Tonga's sea of Islands. The Speaker of Legislative of Assembly of Tonga and his delegation were hosted by the Ombudsman Office at Neiafu, Vava'u and Pangai, Ha'apai in this quarter.

Wishing you all well in this year as we carry out our mandate of fairness and reasonableness.

Mrs. 'Alisi Numia Taumoepeau, KC

Ombudsman.

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2) Highlights

JANUARY

- 5 January 2026 - Back to work
- New Prime Minister, Lord Fakafanua
- New Cabinet
- 13 January 2026 - Soft Opening of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga.

FEBRUARY

- Speaker of Legislative Assembly visits Ombudsman office Neiafu Vava'u .
- Ombudsman Vava'u Outreach

MARCH

- Speaker of Legislative Assembly visits the new Ombudsman office Panagi Ha'apai.
- Ombudsman Ha'apai Outreach
- 12 March 2026/Public Holiday. —100th Anniversary of Queen Salote College .

Good Governance Advocacy

The Ombudsman Act 2001.

It is much more than a list of 31 sections. It is a promise that every person in this Kingdom deserves to be heard, especially those who feel ignored or overwhelmed by the administrative processes of the government bureaucracy.

This Act represents a fundamental legal commitment to the principles of fairness, accountability, transparency, and the protection of individual rights. Statutes may appear rigid but this Act is a safeguard, designed to ensure that the relationship between the State and its people remains grounded in fairness, integrity, and mutual respect.

This legal regime operates in a real-world context, and may be examined through three essential parts. The first part ensures that the Ombudsman remains fully independent and free from outside pressure. The second, grants the Office the authority and power to investigate and uncover the truth. The third, guarantees that when issues arise between citizens and government ministries, departments or agencies (excluding the Legislative Assembly, Privy Council, Judiciary and the Armed Forces). There is a clear, fair process to investigate and provide recommendations going forward.

3) Ombudsman Vava'u hosts the Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Tonga.

On February 23, 2026, the Lord Speaker of the Parliament of Tonga, Lord Vaea, visited at the Office of the Ombudsman in Neiafu, Vava'u. This was part of outreach to the electoral districts of Vava'u .



Front Row— Lord Vaea (Speaker) , 'Alisi Numia Taumoepeau (Ombudsman)

Back Row— Tepola Fonongaloa , Fifita Fili, Mosese Uili, Gloria Pole'o, Roman Vaihu (CEO of Ombudsman)

The CEO, Roman L .Vaihu delivered the welcome remarks, Senior Investigation Mosese Uili made the presentation based on the complaints received by the Vava'u office in the last 5 years.

The Office sonata, "Ki-Ama", composed by the late, Dr. Rev. Mohenoa Puloka.

In music was the entertainment the Lord Speaker of Parliament thanked the Ombudsman and the staff for their work in the district of Vava'u over the past five years. It was noted that the Ombudsman's job is not an easy one, for complaints must be recorded and information collected. Communication and cooperation with the Departments must be maintained, and once that information is obtained, analysis must be carried out to determine whether it is in conformity with the provisions of the Law. the Olympian was invited to host the Congratulations on the conclusion of the program. The Ombudsman gave Lord on behalf of the office in Neiafu.

4) Ombudsman Ha'apai .

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

The Office of the Ombudsman had the honour of hosting the Speaker of Parliament, Lord Vaea, during his recent visit to the Ha'apai Office. Despite heavy rainfall and unfavourable weather conditions, all officers remained committed to ensuring that the programme prepared for the Speaker's visit proceeded as planned. Including building a make shift walkway over the flooded. The programme was carefully coordinated by the team present.

Mr Mosese Uili as Master of Ceremonies and prayer was delivered by Mr Siaosi 'Atiola, followed by a welcoming address

from the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Roman Vaihu. The team also presented an overview power point of the Ha'apai Office, highlighting the nature of complaints received from the people of Ha'apai and the surrounding island groups over the years.



Gloria Pole'o, 'Alisi Taumoepeau, Lord Vaea, Roman Vaihu, Sisilia Tokai

Mosese Uili, Siaosi 'Atiola

The Speaker's keynote remarks, expressed his appreciation for the Office of the Ombudsman and recognising its ongoing commitment to upholding its core values and mandate. The programme concluded with the benediction by Mr Siaosi 'Atiola.

The visit to Ha'apai was positive and productive. Attendance of Sunday service at FWC,Pulela'a. The team worked diligently to ensure the successful delivery of the programme and to facilitate meaningful dialogue regarding the Office's work in the outer islands. Importantly, the visit also provided an opportunity to assess the operational needs of the Ha'apai Office. The recruitment of experiences staff is a priority and the finishing touch to the office.



Douglas 'Akau'ola, Tevita Kafoa, Roman Vaihu, 'Alisi Taumoepeau, Pita Taufatofua, Mosese Uili, Sisilia Tokai

At the Mystery Cross , SUTT Siaosi Tupou 1 Church Pulela'a, Pangai Ha'apai

5) Outreach and Community Engagement / Ha'apai Masani

Nature / Peace / History / Culture

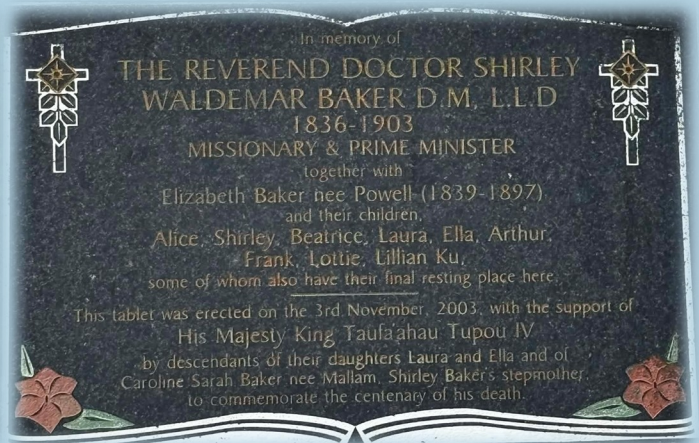
These photos were taken in the Ha'apai community during a the outreach to the Ha'apai office.

I.



The Langi Olovehi , was built around the end of the 18th century as the tomb of the of Nanasipau'u .The royal burial site is located near the Velata Mound Fortress in Hihifo on Lifuka Island. It is an important historical landmark. Princess Nanasipau'u is the 8th Queen of Tonga. Makahokovalu son of Princess Fatafehi Latufiueka and third Tuita Kahomovailahi and heir to the Tuita but died before succeeding to the title .Manumataongo is the son of the last Tu'i Tonga, Laufilitonga.

II.



Rev. Shirley Baker , Memorial Statue , Pangai, Ha'apai

It is fitting that Rev. Shirley Baker is remembered for his contribution in the draft of the Constitution 1875, in the year of the 150th Constitution anniversary.

In May 1898, he returned to Tonga permanently and settled in Ha'apai, where he had built a small house. There, he lived with his three unmarried daughters, who established a school. He also supported the family income by providing and dispensing medicines.

The Shirley Baker memorial statue was erected with the support of His late Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou iv.

6) Reaching out to young people



Photo/Manoa Media

As young people, we should note and comply with the Ombudsman Act 2001. It gives us an avenue to speak up when there are issues relating to administration in government ministries, departments and agencies. It is not just a law, it is our voice, our protection, and our chance to be heard.



*Tourists walking through **Faleloa** on their way to Sandy Beach.*



The peaceful and calm way of life, Ha'apai

Tonga Government approved and declared Thursday 12 of March 2026 a one-off public holiday. Queen Salote College marked its centennial with a church service followed by grand celebration at Mala'e Pangai Lahi in Nuku'alofa.

It was truly a memorable day for families and friends from Tonga's outer islands, as well as those who travelled from overseas to celebrate together. Every mother in Tonga and overseas who once attended Queen Salote College and it was one of the most memorable and meaningful days of their lives.

7) Monthly Devotion

January— Roman L. Vaihu led the January monthly devotion.

February—Pilimisolo Tamo’ua led the morning devotion for the month of February.

March— Mosese Uili and Etivoni Pifeleti led the March monthly devotion.



January



February



March

- Investigator, Mr Siaosi ‘Atiola has joined General Attorney
- Assistant Legal Officer appointed as, Miss Manutu’ufanga Faletau is now appointed as Investigator



Manutu’ufanga Faletau
The new Investigation Officer

8) Rewarding Diligence

Staff of the Month

During the quarter, staff are recognized with SOTM awards for their dedication and commitment to the office. The Staff of the month is specially honored in January to March for their consistent diligence throughout the year and for upholding the values of good governance and integrity.

January—Pilimisolo Tamo’ua (Principal Investigation Officer)

February —Tepola Fonongaloa (OIC Vava’u)



March — Mosese Uili (Senior Investigation Officer)



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