



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL—LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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3. Maritime Zones Amendment Act 2015
4. Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Act 2015
5. Fair Trading Amendment Act 2015
6. Personal Property Securities Amendment Act 2015
7. National Kidney Foundation Amendment Act 2015
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1. Seminar on Community Sector Project Plan 2010-2015
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6. National Alcohol Control Policy 2015 Stakeholder Consultation.
7. 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations (Sustainable Development Goals and Target)
8. Launching of Criminal and Civil Divisions Manuals

Talofa lava and welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Legislative Drafting Division's Newsletter for the year 2015. This edition will cover an update of all the events occurring from January to March 2015. These events include Bills passed by Parliament and workshops and training attended by the Legislation Drafting Division. The first quarter of this year has certainly been a busy period in relation to Parliament sittings, as Parliament sitting is now held every month since January.

Having said that, we wish everyone an enjoyable and safe 2015.

From the Attorney General and the Legislative Drafting Division, happy reading!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Lizatalei Hakai

(Editor)

Some members of the Legislative Drafting Division during the Team Capacity Building Activity at Vaisala Hotel, Savaii in early January 2015.



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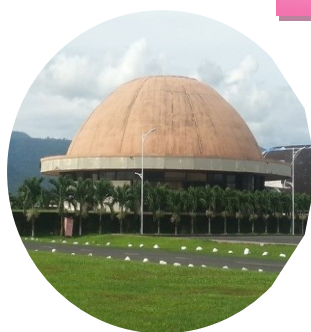
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PARLIAMENT UPDATE 2015 (JANUARY—MARCH)

REMAINING PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS—2015



MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
April		21st			
May		26th			
June		09th			
August		18th			
October		20th			
November		17th			
December		15th			

Parliament Sitting Update — 20 - 23 & 26 - 27 January

Bills introduced (First Reading)

- ◆ Petroleum Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Credit Union Bill 2014
- ◆ Citizenship Investment Bill 2014
- ◆ Ports Authority Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2015

Bills completed second reading

- ◆ Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015
- ◆ National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2014 (referred to Select Committee)
- ◆ Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Bill 2014 [tabled under urgency certificate]

Bills - consideration in detail

- ◆ Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015
- ◆ National Kidney Foundation Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ Maritime Zones Amendment Bill
- ◆ Personal Property Securities Amendment Bill 2014

Parliament Sitting Update — 17 - 20 February

Bills completed second Reading:

- ◆ Petroleum Amendment Bill 2014 (referred to Select Committee)
- ◆ Credit Union Bill 2014 (referred to Select Committee)
- ◆ Citizenship Investment Bill 2014 (referred to Select Committee)

Parliament Sitting Update — 17—20 March

Bills introduced (First Reading):

- ◆ Teachers Bill 2015
- ◆ Geneva Conventions Bill 2015
- ◆ Water Schemes Bill 2015
- ◆ Road Traffic Amendment Bill 2015
- ◆ Acts Interpretation Bill 2013

Bills completed second reading and referred to Select Committee:

- ◆ Ports Authority Amendment Bill 2014
- ◆ National Provident Fund Amendment Bill 2015
- ◆ Teachers Bill 2015
- ◆ Geneva Conventions Bill 2015
- ◆ Water Schemes Bill 2015
- ◆ Road Traffic Amendment Bill 2015
- ◆ Acts Interpretation Bill 2015

ACTS PASSED FROM JANUARY—MARCH 2015

NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE PASSED
1 Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.1) 2014/2015	23 January 2015
2 Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Amendment Act 2015 (passed under Urgency Certificate)	26 January 2015
3 National Kidney Foundation Amendment Act 2015	27 January 2015
4 Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Amendment Act 2015	27 January 2015
5 Fair Trading Amendment Act 2015	27 January 2015
6 Maritime Zones Amendment Act 2015	27 January 2015
7 Personal Property Securities Amendment Act 2015	27 January 2015
8 Statistics Act 2015	19 March 2015
9 Public Finance Management Amendment Act 2015	19 March 2015
10 Public Holidays Amendment Act 2015	20 March 2015
11 Metrology Act 2015	20 March 2015
12 Health Promotion Foundation Act 2015	20 March 2015
13 Electoral Amendment Act 2015	20 March 2015



Parliament sessions are now held at the Samoa Conference Centre which commenced in the February Sitting

PARLIAMENT UPDATE 2015 (JANUARY—MARCH)

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION SIGNED/ PROMULGATED BY HEAD OF STATE, CABINET, MINISTERS, BOARD OR OTHER AUTHORISED AUTHORITY

1. General Price Order (No.1) 2015—signed on 30 January 2015 and commenced on 13 February 2015
2. Customs Regulations 2015—signed and commenced on 19 January 2015
3. Office of the Attorney General's Employment Guidelines 2015—signed and commenced on 25 February 2015
4. Public Finance Management (Government Vehicles) Regulations 2015—signed and commenced on 3 March 2015
5. Attorney General's Office Directives to Lawyers in Ministries and Public Bodies (Attorney General's Directive 2015, No.1) - signed and commenced on 10 March 2015
6. Road Traffic Amendment Regulations (NO.2) 2015—signed and commenced on 11 March 2015
7. Road Traffic (Payment of Fines) (Schedule Amendment) Regulations 2015—signed and commenced on 11 March 2015
8. Land Transport Authority (Licence Fees and Other Charges) Amendment Regulations 2015—signed and commenced on 11 March 2015

SUMMARIES OF LEGISLATION PASSED (JANUARY—MARCH) 2015

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (NO.1) 2014/ 2015

The Act authorises the issuance of **\$10,790,305** out of the Treasury Fund and apply to Outputs/Sub-outputs delivered by Ministries and Departments, Outputs provided by third parties and transactions on behalf of the State for the Financial Year ending on 30th June 2015. The Act further provides for the reduction of amounts earlier appropriated for particular Ministries and Departments which is equivalent to **\$2,635,762**.



MARITIME ZONES AMENDMENT ACT 2015

This Act amends the Maritime Zones Act 1999. The Act re-defines the “high and low water marks” and demarcates the contiguous zone for the purposes of the State carrying out its powers and the measures that can be taken within the contiguous zone. The Act also amends the term “continental shelf” broadening it, in order to be in line with international standards.



SUMMARIES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

PUBLIC BODIES (PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY) AMENDMENT ACT 2015

This Act amends the Public Bodies (Performance and Accountability) Act 2001 (PB Act) to give effect to the newly established Ministry of Public Enterprises. It makes consequential amendments to the Public Finance Management Act 2001 to move sections and Parts dealing with public bodies under that Act, to the PB Act. Under the PB Act, it empowers the Financial Secretary or the Chief Executive Officer to review, investigate or inspect records pertaining to public bodies if they fail to implement their corporate plans and if there are any irregularities in managing their monies or properties. This Act was passed under an urgency certificate on 24 January 2015.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION OF SAMOA AMENDMENT ACT 2015



This Act amends the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Act 2008, to allow the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (Organisation) to undertake the testing of narcotics and food. The assessment and analysis of food and narcotics will be included as an objective and function of the Organisation. Also, the assessment of environment impact will be regarded as both an objective and function of the Organisation.

SUMMARIES OF LEGISLATION PASSED (JANUARY–MARCH) 2015 CONT'D

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITIES AMENDMENT ACT 2015



This Act amends section 34 of the Personal Property Securities Act 2013. This is a minor amendment to delete reference to the identification number and replace it with the debtor's name.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION AMENDMENT ACT 2015

The Act amends the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Act 2005 in relation to the Board of Directors. The Cabinet must now consider the new criteria under the Act when advising the Head of State on the appointment of members of the Board of Directors.



FAIR TRADING AMENDMENT ACT 2015

This Act amends the Fair Trading Act 1998. The Act empowers the Chairperson of the Prices Control Board to sign off Price Orders and in his or her absence, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour is authorised to sign on behalf of the Board. This is to avoid having to obtain the signatures of all members of the Board (under the current law).



STATISTICS ACT 2015

The Statistics Act 2015 ("Act") repeals and replaces the Statistics Act 1971. The objective of the Act is to update the law governing the collection, recording and analysis of statistical information, for the purpose of dissemination of official statistics. The Act also takes into account best-practice in relation to the same. The Act strengthens aspects of the Statistics Act 1971 which include:

- the role of the Government Statistician in data collection;
- the independence of the Government Statistician in data collection; and
- the confidentiality of the information collected, except in certain circumstances which includes, but is not limited to matters of national interest or security.

With the passing of the Act, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics will have the following functions:

i. the primary function to give effect to the following purposes-

- a) co-ordination, collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics in accordance with best practice;
- b) conduct of regular censuses and surveys;
- c) compliance with Samoa's international obligations in relation to statistics;
- d) carrying out any other functions in respect of registries and statistics;
- e) carrying out any other functions and powers that may be conferred on the Bureau or the Government Statistician under this Act or any other enactment; and

ii. other functions conferred by the Minister, the Act or any other enactment.

**"LAW IS ORDER AND GOOD
LAW IS GOOD ORDER"**

ARISTOTLE

SUMMARIES OF LEGISLATION PASSED (JANUARY–MARCH) CONT'D

HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION ACT 2015

The Health Promotion Foundation Act 2015 (“Act”) establishes the Samoa Health Promotion Foundation (“Foundation”) and provides for its objectives, functions and powers, as a result of one of the Government initiatives on health sector reforms. The purpose of the Act is to separate the 2 basic health service roles of preventative and curative roles. The Foundation is now responsible for the preventative role such as focusing on the promotion of health and the delivery and implementing of activities which promote the health of the Samoan people. The Ministry of Health on the other hand carries out the curative role which focuses primarily on its regulatory and monitoring roles.



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT ACT 2015

The Act amends the Public Holidays Act 2008 (“Principal Act”) and repeals the Shops Ordinance 1961. The amendments include:

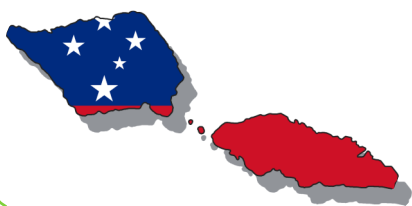
- the revision of the definition of shops to link it with any premises regulated under the Business License Act 1998 that sell goods or services;
- provide additional powers of the Head of State to declare any day during a state of emergency as an emergency holiday for purposes of protecting employees’ remuneration (those who work during state of emergency); and
- empower the Minister to declare a day required by an employer as employer’s holiday for the employees of employer.

The Act also provides that for both ‘emergency holiday’ and ‘employer holiday’, the employees who work during these holidays are to be paid a special rates for wages.

METROLOGY ACT 2015

The Metrology Act 2015 (Act) repeals and replaces the Measures Ordinance 1960, to revamp the national system of measurement for Samoa in accordance with international standards. The Act provides standards for units of measurements, approval process of all types of weights and measures or measuring instruments used in trade. The Act also makes provisions for the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour in relation to certification of inspection of agencies, measurement standards, packaging, verification, inspection and adjustment of equipment and measuring instruments. This Act was passed on 20 March 2015 and commences on a date to be nominated by the Minister.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT ACT 2015



This Act amends the Electoral Act 1963 to give effect to the recommendations in the 2012 Commission of Inquiry into Electoral Matters. This Act basically replaces the individual voters roll with two urban constituencies, but to be restricted to the boundaries of Faleata and Vaimauga Territorial constituencies only. The amendment also includes the removal of the power of the Pulenu’u in certifying candidates, presentation of the O’o and momoli to be undertaken after the declaration of polls, and also general increases in penalties under the Act.

PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT ACT 2015

The Act amends the Public Finance Management Act 2001 (Principal Act) to provide for the following:

- specifies the Minister’s responsibility to coordinate activities of all sectors relating to implementing development projects and other aspects of economic plans approved by the Legislative Assembly, and for planning managing and utilising of development cooperation activities and resources;
- inserts new section in the Principal Act to provide for the purposes of State borrowing;
- inserts new Part in the Principal Act to provide for the objective of debt management, provisions for a debt management strategy and to include debt management in annual report from Treasury tabled before the Legislative Assembly; and
- financial statements prepared by the Financial Secretary must be prepared in compliance with cash basis public sector financial reporting standards, developed by the International Federation of Accountants. These include summary receipts and payments included in departmental annual reports and also contents of financial statements that must also comply with cash public sector reporting standard requirements by International Federation Accountants.

EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015

SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY SECTOR PROJECT PLAN 2010-2015 (SEMINAR) TO'OA SALAMASINA HALL—29 JANUARY 2015

A Seminar was conducted by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to discuss opinions on the issues in relation to the Community Sector Plan 2010-2015 (Plan). The Plan aims to enhance village governance and leadership through traditional and alternative livelihood opportunities and strengthening coordination at National level in order to allow for community empowerment and economic independence. The purpose of the Seminar was to discuss whether or not the same Plan will be used for another 5 year period from the years 2015 -2020. The discussions on the Plan included the following;

- enforcing and improving development of wealth and general welfare of villages and communities;
- recognising disability needs by the Government;
- improving health of children by introducing ways to ensure safety of children; and
- improving general welfare of youth by introducing ways of safeguard and protection.

It was conveyed by community representatives who attended the Seminar that the same Plan should be used for the period of 2015-2020. Titilua Aiono from the Legislative Drafting Division attended the Seminar.

LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS WORKSHOP—OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONFERENCE ROOM

Ms Georgia Drake who worked within the Civil Division, as part of the Australian Aid Volunteer Programme (also a Human Rights Lawyer) conducted a training on Legal Research Skills with the Office of the Attorney General on 6th of February, 2015. Junior lawyers from Prosecution, Civil and the Legislative Drafting Divisions attended the training. The training involved developing certain research skills such as how to read cases, understanding the research process as well as knowing how to navigate online legal databases with particular use of search operators. This training worked on not only the theory side of researching but also on the practical side. It was seen as a valuable training for young lawyers of the office, given that most of the work carried out involves thorough research and mastering these skills are essential.

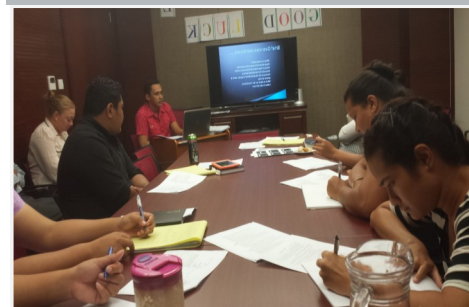
Much appreciation is credited to Ms Drake for sharing her knowledge during her stay with us in the Attorney General's Office.

Well wishes Georgia



CYBER SECURITY POLICY CONSULTA- TION MCIT, CONFERENCE ROOM 28 January 2015

Kylie Wilson, Sosefina Fa'amausili and Brigitta Faafiti-Lo Tam from the Office of the Attorney General attended the Cyber Security policy consultation (Consultation) that was held at the Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology (MCIT). The purpose of the Consultation was to assist the Policy Division of MCIT in finalising the Cyber Security Policy (Policy) by allowing the relevant stakeholders and participants to suggest any final comments and feedback regarding the same. The Consultation was divided into two parts. The first part was by way of a power point presentation that touched on the background information which gave a recap on the previous consultation that were held in the past, and the issues that were discussed before. This was also to remind stakeholders and the participants on the severity of cyber security not just in Samoa but also globally. The second part was by way of group discussions whereby the participants were divided into 2 groups and were given instructions and issues to work on. Participants were required to present on the issues regarding the 5 Policy goals to assist MCIT in improving the Policy and to finalise it.



CIVIL DIVISION TRAINING

FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2015

Attorney General's Office Conference Room

The Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney General conducted an induction training for its new lawyers and a refresher for its old members on the main functions of the Civil Division.

The purpose of the training focused mainly on **advice writing**, however it also covered the following topics:

- Ethics;
- Creation of File and File Management;
- File Database;
- Contract
 - Procurement
 - Evaluation
 - Review of Contracts; and
- Litigation



Senior members of the Division conducted the training, namely, Kalameli Seuseu, Sefo Ainuu, Sosefina Faamausili, Ane Iati, and Dominic Talouli. The training also included members of the Legislative Drafting Division and the Criminal Division. The training was very informative and it provided an insight to the work done by the Civil Division and most importantly all participants were trained on how to produce effective legal advice writing, which is something that is generally done not only by the Civil Division but also by the Criminal and Legislative Drafting Division.

EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015 CONT'D

SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT, SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY REGIONAL RIGHTS RESOURCE TEAM & UN WOMEN CONSULTATION ON ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING AROUND THE FAMILY SAFETY ACT 2013 (23-27 February 2014) TANOA HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM



A training was hosted by the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), and conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and UN Women on “***Advocacy and Lobbying around the Family Safety Act 2013 (Act)***”. This training was carried out within one week by presenters from the RRRT, Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu and Ms. Neomai Maravuakula. The purpose of this training is to provide capacity development support on advocacy and lobbying to grantees of the UN Women Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Fund. This included the provision of basic knowledge and skills on the legislative change process which builds on existing knowledge of governance, civic education, leadership and human rights with a specific focus on addressing elimination on violence against women and girls. Participants from SVSG and other Government Ministries including Lizatalei Hakai from the Office of the Attorney General attended this training.

Assistant Attorney General from the Legislative Drafting Division, Loretta Teueli was also present to discuss the background of the Act including the progress and the challenges faced by Samoa since the Act was enacted. It was also fortunate for participants to hear from Judge Leilani Tuala Warren of the Family Court to discuss the process of how protection orders are filed to court, the role of the court and the police in enforcing such order and also the advantages and disadvantages of protection orders on the complainant. Presentations and activities were undertaken throughout the week to raise awareness among participants in understanding the importance of the issue of violence against women, as this is not a problem only Samoa is facing however a universal problem that needs to be prevented.

NATIONAL ALCOHOL CONTROL POLICY 2015 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CONFERENCE ROOM 1, 11 MARCH 2015

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is currently in the process of finalising its first draft of the National Alcohol Control Policy 2015 (“Policy”) as per the World Health Organisation recommendation, for a comprehensive approach concerning the effective control of alcohol use and its associated harms. The Consultation was conducted by MOH to invite stakeholders from respective government Ministries and Corporations, members of the private sector, members of Non-Government Organisations and the Civil society to provide and discuss alcohol-related information but not limited to the following:

- drink driving guidelines and standards;
- traffic accidents related to alcohol;
- alcohol related crimes and offences;
- suicide attempts;
- alcohol legislation and policies;
- services provided in all settings (i.e. counselling services);



CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015 CONT'D



- excise tax on alcohol;
- technology for testing alcohol volume;
- illegal and unrecorded alcohol; and
- accident compensation for victims' families etc.

The consultation was also an opportunity for the stakeholders and participants to identify key areas of improvement in order to assist MOH in ensuring the Policy is effective in all aspects of alcohol-related information. It is hoped that the policy will become an effective tool to decrease harms associated with alcohol use throughout Samoa.

Kylie Wilson from the Legislative Drafting Division attended this Consultation.

2015 INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS)

NEW YORK 23–27 MARCH

Assistant Attorney General Loretta Teueli (above) attended the Post – 2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations (Sustainable Development Goals and Targets) held in New York from 23rd – 27th March 2015 which focussed on sustainable development goals and targets in preparations for the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda which will take place in September 2015. Samoa along with other commonwealth Countries was invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to gauge experience of the negotiations with specific reference to Goal 16 which has targets on promoting the Rule of Law.

The rule of law for small states is important because it is not just a national issue, in a world where most everything is connected, the rule of law is an international issue, and how it is promoted and respected in other countries, tends to have an impact in other countries.

The experience provided valuable insight into how important it is for Samoa to have in place measurable indicators that would allow Samoa to be able to provide a measure where that would allow Samoa in meeting targets set for the rule of Law.

The sharing of experience and challenges was very fruitful.

Samoa would once again like to thank the Commonwealth Secretariat for this invaluable experience which although takes place at an international level, will have evident impact on the national level.



EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015(CONT'D)

LAUNCHING OF THE CIVIL DIVISION'S PROCUREMENT & CONTRACT TEMPLATES MANUAL, CIVIL PRACTICE STANDARDS ("CPS") and CRIMINAL TEAM GUIDE FOR DUMMIES BOOK

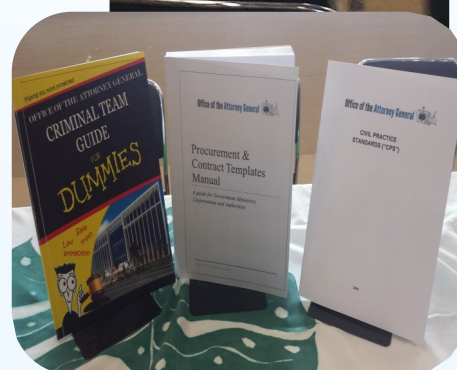
The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") witnessed two of its divisions launch their respective manuals and guides on February 12, 2015.

The Civil Division launched 2 of their books:

- ♦ **Procurement and Contract Templates Manual: *A guide for Government Ministries, Corporations and Authorities***- this particular Manual provides a guide to all procurement entities on updates and standardized procurement and contract templates to be used by various Government procurement entities. The Manual only serves as a guide in relation to templates concerning the most simple and most common procurement, contract work and services within the Government.
- ♦ **Civil Practice Standards ("CPS") 2015** – the CPS are the standards required for each individual involved in the provision of legal services, particularly those within the Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney General. By adhering to these standards of excellence, the values of the Office are reflected and enhanced.

The Criminal Division also launched their **Criminal Team Guide for Dummies ("Guide")**. The purpose of the Guide is to assist new Prosecutors with the work carried out, to ensure that the systems and processes within the Office, and the templates used are being understood and followed by the Prosecutors.

The launching of these books was witnessed by not only members of the OAG but also in-house counsels, private firms and members of the Police force.



ANNUAL JUDICIAL CHURCH SERVICE 2015

The annual church service for the Samoa Judiciary took place on Friday 16 January 2015. The service was conducted to bless the work of the Judiciary Service for the year 2015. Members of the Judiciary, Law Society as well as Ministries and officials attended the service which was held at the Court House Mulinu'u. His Honour, Chief Justice Patu Falefatu Sapolu gave the keynote address.



*"Pi'iama i lo tatou Fa'avae aua e
Fa'avae i Le Atua Samoa" ...*

*His Honour Justice Patu Falefatu
Sapolu*

EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015(CONT'D)

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION TEAM CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITY 23—25 JANUARY VAISALA HOTEL SAVAII 2015

The Legislative Drafting Division commenced its year with a team capacity building trip to Vaisala, Savaii in early January 2015. The main objective was to re-cap on what Legislative Drafting is, and its relevance and the legislation process it requires to follow. It was also an opportunity to present a short induction training to the new lawyers of the Division and to encourage team work and development through drafting skills in all aspects, not only as an individual, but as a team.

Other activities identified and discussed were the members of the Legislative Drafting Division's goals for 2015 and what they aim to achieve throughout this year. The exercise allows the team leaders to offer words of mentoring especially to the new lawyers, to assist and encourage them in their new journey ahead. Insights from senior members of the team (Loretta, Rupeni and Constance) were very useful for the development of junior lawyers not only as legislative drafters but as lawyers in general.

The retreat, concluded with farewelling one of the longest serving member of the Division, **Constance Tafua Rivers**. She has been with the team since 2005 and has contributed so much in the development and the work of the Division. She is now with the Civil Division and no doubt her transfer was a huge loss for the Legislative Division. We wish her all the best with her new post and with all her future endeavours.



FAREWELLS

FAREWELL SINE & GEORGIA

The Office of the Attorney General bid farewell to Sine L. Koria and Ms Georgia Drake. Sine L. Koria was one of the longest serving member within the Office who worked in the Civil Division for over a period of 6 years. Sine now holds a post as the Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Legal Division, at the National Provident Fund.

Ms Georgia Drake on the other hand is a volunteer and also worked 2 days a week within the Civil Division as part of the Australian Aid Volunteer Program. She volunteered for the Legislative Assembly, however our Office was fortunate enough to have her with us to share her knowledge and experience, being part of our Office.

We wish you both all the luck for your pursuits not only in your new job but also in life. God Bless!!



EVENTS FOR JANUARY—MARCH 2015 CONT'D

ADMISSION TO THE SUPREME COURT OF SAMOA

Seven new lawyers from the Office of the Attorney General were sworn in by His Honour Chief Justice Sapolu. Titilua Aiono, Kylie Chanel Ivonne Wilson, Fuihui Ioane, Chrisanthy Anne Amosa, Ryan Solomona Masinalupe, Alesana Tumua and Lizatalei Hakai were moved by the Attorney General Aumua Ming C. Leung Wai and supported by Tafailagi Peniamina (representative of the Samoa Law Society).

In addressing the newly admitted Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court, *Chief Justice Sapolu* stated:

"What you make of yourself as a lawyer no longer depends on your degree but it depends on yourself. To become a truly accomplished lawyer requires commitment, perseverance and good character. You will find that to be truly effective in the practice of the law requires continuous study of the law."

"Tautai a'e" ma ia manuia le alo atu i le isi la'asaga fou!!



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION 2015

WELCOME MEIAPU FA'ASAU & MEAROLD VILIAMU

The Legislative Drafting Division would also like to welcome on board its newest members to the team, Principal Legislative Drafter, Meaiapu Fa'asau and State Solicitor, Mearold Viliamu. Meaiapu Fa'asau previously worked as a Legal Drafting Officer at the Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat in Fiji and Mearold Viliamu worked as a Legal Research Officer at the Legislative Assembly.

No doubt they are going to be an asset to the team.

Malo le tau, malo le onosa'i ma ia manuia galuega ua tofiaina ai oulua!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parliament Sitting

21 April 2015

Ming C. Leung Wai, Attorney General

Loretta Teueli, Assistant Attorney General

Rupeni Nawaqakuta, Legislative Drafting Advisor

Meiapo Fa'asau, Principal Legislative Drafter

Leitu Moananu, Senior Legislative Drafter

Steffany L. Meredith, State Solicitor

Siovia F. Liu, State Solicitor

Mearold Viliamu, State Solicitor

Lizatalei Hakai, Law Clerk

Kylie Wilson, Law Clerk

Titilua Aiono, Law Clerk

Losa Kelekolio, Senior Legal Secretary

Terina Sefo, Part Time Law Clerk

Fa'alau Laga'aia, Part Time Law Clerk

Tiresa Ioelu, Part Time Law Clerk

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the information contained in this Newsletter is not intended to be taken as legal advice and therefore should not be relied upon as such. Any fault in the accuracy of the information in this Newsletter is ours alone.