

“Outreach is the Duty of All Ombudsman Staff”

– ‘Alisi Numia Taumoepeau, KC (Kingdom of Tonga Ombudsman)

ISLAND-HOPPING

The Office of the Ombudsman Tonga conduct outreach designed to bring the information and services of the Office to the public, inclusive of all remote villages in the outer islands. This consists of different proactive outreach, in particular, island-hopping.

Island-hopping allows the staff to travel to the outer islands of Tonga, consisting of 3 main island groups, to engage with the people. This outreach program educates all people of the Kingdom on the measures in place that uphold good governance, as well as how and when to utilise these measures.

I. Ha’apai Island Outreach (January 2024)

Our investigation team, Roman Vaihu (Director of Investigation), Pilimisolo Tamo’ua (Principal Investigating Officer) and ‘Etivoni Pifeleti (Investigating Officer), island-hopped through the islands of Ha’apai. When arriving in Tungua, the target-island, at 4 am, the team rested on the beach in an open veranda of a storage hut, awaiting daylight. The team was able to interact with the people of Tungua who lodged complaints.



Tungua beach ‘accommodation’ where investigating officers stayed from 4am till daylight



Investigating Officers waiting to disembark the boat at the seashore of Tungua



Investigating Officers at Tungua educating students and villagers on the duties of the Office

II. Vava’u Island Outreach (June 2024)

The Staff Members of our Vava’u branch conducted an interactive outreach program in Vava’u to the retail and wholesale shops, from one side of the island to the other.



Executive Officer of Vava’u OMB Office conducting outreach at a wholesale store

III. ‘Eua Island Outreach (July 2024)

The outreach team to ‘Eua consisted of Sateki ‘Ahio (D/CEO), Pilimisolo Tamo’ua (Principal Investigating Officer) and ‘Ofa Tu’i’onetoa (Investigating Officer). The team engaged with the people, institutions and communities of ‘Eua.



Principal Investigating Officer, Pilimisolo Tamo’ua, conducting outreach at the community of ‘Eua



D/CEO Sateki ‘Ahio and Investigating Officer ‘Ofa Tu’i’onetoa educating the students of ‘Eua High School



D/CEO and Principal Investigating Officer engaging with the people of ‘Eua

Map of the 3 outer island groups of Ha'apai, Vava'u and 'Eua

