



# THE REFORMER

## The Official Six-Monthly Newsletter of the Samoa Law Reform Commission

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### REVIEW OF THE TRAFFIC LAWS OF SAMOA

As highlighted in the last Issue, the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa stemmed from a number of concerns around the increase of traffic related incidents over the years. A preliminary legislative review by the Samoa Law Reform Commission (SLRC) in 2019 highlighted the dire need for Samoa to review, reform and update all of Samoa's scattered, overlapping, duplicated and outdated traffic laws.

On 19 April 2023, Cabinet approved the Commission's Discussion Paper for the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa, through FK(23)15. The Commission then met with its key stakeholders in preparations for public consultations.

In May - June 2023, the Commission conducted its around the country public consultations. We make special mention of our partners who accompanied us and assisted in our consultations:

1. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) - our doorway to the communities; and
2. Land Transport Authority (LTA), Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services (MPPCS), Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI) - who accompanied us throughout our consultations.

The following stipulates the progress of this Review for the period of this newsletter January - June 2023:

STAGE OF THE LAW REFORM PROCESS	DATE	DETAILS OF PROGRESS
Stage 3 Discussion Paper	14 April 2023	Discussion Paper endorsed by Hon. Minister of the Samoa Law Reform Commission
	19 April 2023	Discussion Paper approved by Cabinet pursuant to FK(23)15
Stage 4 Stakeholders/Public Consultations	<b>STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS</b>	
	11 May 2023	Pilot Consultation with EFSS Alafuaga Parish
	22 May 2023	Land Transport Authority (LTA); and Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services (MPPCS)
	23 May 2023	Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI); and Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration (MJCA)
	<b>UPOLU PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS</b>	
	24 May 2023	Venue: DBS Conference Room Attendees: Taxi and Bus Operators, and Rental Cars Businesses Operators
	25 May 2023	Venue: Marina Square Methodist Church Hall Attending Districts: Safata 1 & 2, Siunia and Falealii 1 & 2
	26 May 2023	Venue: Faleafu Methodist Church Hall Attending Districts: Sasa Alofi 4, Alga 1 & 2, Faleafu 1 & 2, Sasa Alofi 1 & 2, and Faleafu 3
	29 May 2023	Venue: Sasa Alofi 4, EFSS Church Hall Attending Districts: Lotofofo, Lepa and Sasa Alofi 1 & 2, Alafuaga Inua 1 & 2, and Alafuaga Inua 3
	30 May 2023	Venue: TATTE Building, Apia Attending Districts: Vaimauga 1 - 4, Vaa o Fonoti and Ananua 1 & 2
31 May 2023	Venue: TATTE Building, Apia Attending Districts: Faleafa 1 - 4, Sagaga 1 - 4, and Asua Alofi 1 - 3	
<b>SAVAHU PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS</b>		
05 June 2023	Venue: Agita o Pinau Hall, Saleiloga Attending Districts: Faasaleiloga 1 - 5, Faleafu 2 - 3 and Sasa Alofi 1 & 2	
06 June 2023	Venue: Eggenau, EFSS Church Hall Attending Districts: Gagaemua 1 - 3 and Gagaemua 1 - 2	
07 June 2023	Venue: Sasa Alofi 4, Methodist Church Hall Attending Districts: Faleafu 1, Sagaga 1 - 2, Alafuaga 1 & 2, Faleafu 3, and Faleafu 4	
08 June 2023	Venue: MWCSO Hale Samoa, Saleiloga Attendees: Taxi, Bus and Rental Cars Operators	
<b>WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS DUE DATE</b>		
30 June 2023	<b>DUE DATE</b> for written submissions in relation to the Discussion Paper	

*"The Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa aims to address concerns relating to the increased number of traffic related incidents affecting the Samoan communities."*





**Afioga Leauana Sheliza Tapuai**  
**Acting Executive Director**

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Talofa and welcome to the Reforamer Issue 2 for the year 2023! This issue provides our partners with an update on our work in the last 6 months (January - June 2023).

The Samoa Law Reform Commission hit the ground running coming into 2023, as our team set our eyes on meeting our set targets for the end of this financial year. Our priority was to complete our long anticipated Discussion Paper for the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa (a project initiated about 4 years prior) in order to proceed to the next stages of this review. We look back to what was a busy and trying 6 months and are in awe of God's faithfulness and guidance upon the Commission and how much He has enabled us to achieve despite our numbers. For this, we give back all thanks and glory God! Faafetai le Atua!

I wish to acknowledge the collective efforts and commitment of our Team in the last 6 months, at the end of which we were able to:

1. launch the Final Report for the Review of the Family Laws of Samoa in January 2023 (and we were able to distribute copies of this Report (English & Samoan) to Sui o Nuu & Sui Tamaitai o Nuu in Upolu and Savaii in acknowledgement of their support during Public Consultations);
2. complete the Discussion Paper for the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa (endorsed by Cabinet in April 2023);
3. complete a total of 4 consultations with key stakeholders for the Traffic Laws Review;
4. complete a total of 11 around the country public consultations for the Traffic Laws Review;
5. have our Annual Report 2021/2022 endorsed by Parliament in January 2023;
6. have our Ministry Quarterly Report (MQR) for quarter 2 and quarter 3 submitted to PSC in January and April 2023 respectively; and
7. complete our very first Samoan Language Training "Aoaoga mo le Vaogagana o Fesoootaiga" in our efforts to better communicate with our communities.

E avefa fo'i lenei avanoa e faailoa ai sa matou faafetai tele i a matou paaga; o e sa tuu mai le tauau e tausoa le faatinoina o galuega iloilo a le Komisi.

- Faafetai i le Afioga i le Minisita o le Komisi o le Toefuataiga o Tulafono a Samoa mo lau taitaiga, faapea lou tali leleia o le Komisi nei i taimi uma matou te saili atu ai i lau fesoasoani aua le agai i luma o a tatou iloilo. Faafetai taitai. Faafetai foi tapuai i faiva o le Komisi.
- Faafetai tele Samoa, o Alii ma Faipule, Faletua ma Tausi, Saoao ma Aumaga, le mamalu i le atunuu mo lo outou sao taua ma le lalago mai i le tau matimatiina o a tatou Tulafono.
- Faafetai i Ofisa o le Malo mo lo tatou galulue faatasi ai, mo la outou foi lagolago i a matou sailiga mo ni faamaumauga manaomia, faapea le faamaninoina o nisi vaega taua mo a tatou iloilo.
- Faafetai foi i paaga a le Komisi o loo maua ai fesoasoani tau tupe (Donor Partners) mo lo outou aao mafola.

Ia faamanuia tele le Atua!

O la matou tatalo faifaipae ma le loto maua i lo tatou atunuu mo la latou lagolago faifaipae, aemiase o paaga, i le fesoasoani mai i le Komisi. Tatou te faalagolago i le Atua soifua e fesoasoani mai aua le toe poupouina o tulafono mo le lumanai manuia o Samoa!

Enjoy Reading! Soifua ma ia Manuia!

**Review of the Arms Ordinance 1960**

Following the last update, the Commission further consulted the MPPCS in November 2022 as a refresher meeting to reconfirm the scope of this Review. At the end of that meeting, the Commission completed its preliminary research and analysis with the aim to develop a Discussion Paper in which will set out our preliminary research findings. We are now at the final stages of drafting our Review of the Arms Ordinance Discussion Paper.

It is expected that when this Discussion Paper is submitted and endorsed by Cabinet, the Commission will move on to conduct its around the country public consultations. In these Consultations, we will explain the law and seek the public's and the relevant stakeholders' views and comments which will guide out recommendations on what needs to be reformed and improved in our Arms Ordinance 1960, for the benefit of Samoa.

**LAUNCH OF FINAL REPORT**

**Review of the Family Laws of Samoa**

The Commission successfully launched its Final Report on the Review of the Family Laws of Samoa on 26 January 2023, following approval from Cabinet pursuant to FK (22) 49, dated 21 December 2022.

The Commission invited key stakeholders to attend a Special Wrap-Up Consultation to acknowledge all our partners who were involved in the Review of the Family Laws of Samoa, and to present copies of our Final Report to each stakeholder.

The key stakeholders invited include the Ministry of Justice & Courts Administration, Ministry of Police & Prisons, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Scientific Research Organization of Samoa and the Ministry of Health.

The UNDP Spotlight Initiative was also invited as they provided funding assistance to fund part of this project.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR Assistance

## COMMENTS/FEEDBACK BY THE COMMISSION

From January to June 2023, the Commission has undertaken legal and doctrinal research on two requests from other Government Ministries. These types of requests usually require that the Commission researches and provides responses and comments on a given legal query or issue. The following table highlights some of the requests received by the Commission:

NAME OF REQUEST	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF COMPLETION
Samoa's Draft Report for the Convention on Enforced Disappearance (CED)	24 February 2023	03 March 2023
NHRI State of Human Rights Report 2023 (Questionnaire) Children's Rights in Samoa by the Office of the Ombudsman	13 December 2022	09 February 2023

The Commission has endeavored to respond speedily and effectively following its legal research and analysis.

## PARLIAMENTARY SUMMONS

The Commission was invited by the following Parliament Committees:

PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE	REPORT DISCUSSED	DATE
Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions & Constitutional Offices Parliamentary Committee	1. Lipoti Faaletausaga a leKomisi o le Toefuataiga o Tulafono a Samoa, Tausaga Faaletupe 2021/2022; 2. Ripoti Faaiu 25/22, Iloiloga o Tulafono Tau Aiga a Samoa	10 February 2023
Standing Order, Electoral, Petitions & Constitutional Offices Parliamentary Committee	Report on the Operations of the Samoa Audit Office for Fy 2019/2020 - Samoa Audit Office, Report on Irregularity for FY 2019/2020	12 February 2023
Finance and Expenditure Committee	Iloiloga o le Tala Faatatau Autu o Tupe mo le Tausaga Faaletupe 2023/2024	09 June 2023

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

### ALL STAFF

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Aoaga mo le Vaogagana o Fesootaiga (Samoan Training)	National University of Samoa - Center for Samoan Studies	03 April - 8 May 2023	SLRC Conference Room	All Staff Legal and Corporate Services

### LEGAL DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Professional Mediation Skills Training	Samoa Law Society	06 - 07 March 2023	Samoa Shipping Corporation Conference Room	Sheliza Tapuai Mearold Viliamu Lizatalei Hakai-Stanley Hope Crichton
Statistics Forum	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	20 April 2023	Tanoa Hotel Conference Room	Tapuala Mearold Viliamu

### CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION

Training/Course Title	Provider	Date	Location	SLRC Employee
Government of Samoa Communication Liaison Officer's Network	Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet	28 February 2023	TATTE Conference Room	Florita Tupai
Finance One	Ministry of Finance	23 March 2023	MOF Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima & Phillia Leleimalefaga
Special Human Resource Coordinators Forum	Public Service Commission	20 April 2023	Development Bank of Samoa Conference Room	Florita Tupai & Fugalaau Siaki
Special Human Resource Coordinators Forum	Public Service Commission	20 June 2023	PSC Conference Room	Leaumoana Salima Lasalo Salima, Phillia Leleimalefaga & Fugalaau Siaki
Child Sensitive Social Protection Workshop	MWCSD	20 - 22 June 2023	Taumeasina Island Resort Conference Room	Tovale Filipo

## FAREWELLS



Faaau Kolia  
Legal Analyst

[19 April 2021 - 13 February 2023]

Faaau Kolia commenced work at the Commission on 19 April 2021 as a Legal Analyst. On 13 February 2023 Ms. Kolia resigned to pursue a calling in another office. In her time with the Commission she contributed into carrying out legal researches that assisted immensely with law review projects undertaken by the Commission.

The Commission commended Ms. Kolia's hard work and wish her well on her next endeavour.

## NEW RECRUITS



Malota Vili  
Driver

Malota Vili commenced work at the Commission on 25 January 2023 as the Diver.

The Commission is pleased to welcome Mr. Vili and look forward to working with him in the future.

## PROMOTIONS



Hope Crichton

Legal Analyst to Senior Legal Analyst

Ms. Crichton commenced work at the Commission as a Legal Analyst on 29 November 2021. On 28 March 2023, she was promoted to Senior Legal Analyst.

Ms. Crichton has demonstrated commitment and dedication to the work of the Commission and well deserves this timely promotion. Congratulations Ms. Crichton!



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Pilot Public Consultation on the Review of the Traffic Laws of Samoa, 11 May 2023, EFKS Alamagoto



Stakeholder Consultation with Land Transport Authority (LTA) 22 May 2023 @ 10.00am, LTA Office



Stakeholder Consultation with the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services (MPCCS), 22 May 2023 @ 2.00pm, MPCCS Headquarters



Stakeholder Consultation with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI), 23 May 2023 @ 10.00am, SLRC Conference Room



Stakeholder Consultation with the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration (MJCA), 23 May 2023 @ 2.00pm, MJCA Training Room



Public Consultation with Heavy Duty Vehicles Businesses Operators, Buses and Taxis Operators, 24 May 2023 @ 9.30am, DBS Conference Room



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONT'D



Public Consultation with Car Rentals Operators, 24 May 2023 @ 2.00pm, DBS Conference Room



Public Consultation, 25 May 2023 @ 9.30am, Maninoa Siumu, Methodist Hall,



Public Consultation, 26 May 2023 @ 9.30am, Faleatiu Methodist Hall



Public Consultation, 29 May 2023 @ 9.30am, Saleapaga EFKS Hall



Public Consultation, 30 May 2023 @ 9.30am, TATTE Conference Centre, Apia



Public Consultation, 31 May 2023 @ 9.30am, TATTE Conference Centre, Apia



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONT'D



Public Consultation, Salelologa, 05 June 2023 @ 9.30am, Apita o Pisaga Hall



Public Consultation, 06 June 2023 @ 9.30am, Fagamalo EFKS Hall



Public Consultation, 07 June 2023 @ 9.30am, Sagone Methodist Hall



# SLRC CORNER



Mother's Day Celebration

Contact us  
**HAVE YOUR SAY**



Faigalotu for the Opening of the Courts, and Swearing in of LTC Vice President



Certificate Ceremony for the Aoaoga mo le Vaogagana o Fesootaiga Samoan Training

## SLRC IN THEIR BEST SMILES

1st Floor, Fiame Mata'afa  
Mulinnu II Building



28493/28493



commission@samoalaw  
reform.gov.ws



@samoalawreformcommi  
sion

THANKS FOR  
READING!

GOD BLESS!!