



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

MEDIA RELEASE

(08 October, 2019)

“The Appointment of Hon. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa as the New Prime Minister of Tonga”

The Hon. **Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa** on recommendation of the **Legislative Assembly** on 27th September 2019, has been Officially Appointed by *His Majesty, King Tupou VI*, Tuesday, 8th October 2019, as the 17th **Prime Minister of Tonga**. He is also the **Minister** responsible for **Public Enterprises**.

Hon. Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa, 68 of Talafo’ou, Tongatapu, was among two nominated candidates elected on Friday 27 September 2019, and won by 15-8 votes by the 23 elected members of the Tonga Parliament in a secret ballot.

He was former Minister for Finance, under the former Prime Minister, Hon. Samuela ‘Akilisi Pohiva, who passed away last month.

Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa studied Accounting at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand (CA) in 1982. He received a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia in 1993, and went on graduating with a Master of Business Accounting (MBA) from the same University in 1994. He received his Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) from the Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountant of New Zealand in 1999. He is a certified Management Accountant (CMA) from the Institute of Certified Management Accountants in Australia in 1997, and a receiver of a certificate of Civil Law from the University of the South Pacific.

The Hon. Tu’i’onetoa is a Doctor of Christian Ministry, from the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, Washington, USA since 2000.

He first joined the Tonga Civil Service in January, 1979. He was the Official Liquidator at the Department of Justice, commercial Division in Hamilton, New Zealand. He served as Tonga’s Auditor General (AG) from 1983-2014, before he was first elected to parliament in the 2014 General Election as People’s Representative for Tongatapu Constituency No.10. He was a Private Secretary to His Majesty from 1987-1988, and also clerk to the Privy Council during the same period.

In the Pohiva’s Government, Dr. Pohiva Tu’i’onetoa served as Minister for the, then Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries; Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Services. He became Minister of Revenue and Customs up to September 2017, where he was later appointed as Minister of Finance and National Planning in January 2018. He was a member and representative at the International Congresses of International

Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI); elected member of the Governing Board of INTOSAI for six years in 1992, and was reelected in 1998 for another six years until 2004. He attended the Conference of Commonwealth Auditors General, and the regional branch of INTOSAI the SPASAI. He was also Secretary General of SPASAI for 10 years from 1985-1994. He is currently one of the Governors of the World Bank – IMF.

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