



Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 – 2027/28

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations	3
1. Foreword from the Attorney General	4
2. Message from the Solicitor General	5
3. Executive Summary	6
3.1 Mandate	6
3.2 Vision, Mission and Values	7
3.3 Key Legislations, Policy Decisions & Conventions	7
International Law Adviser	9
National Committee/Taskforces	10
3.4 Stakeholders	12
3.5 Result Map	13
3.6 TSDFII/SDGs/Regional Frameworks/Government Priority Agenda (GPA)	14
3.6.1 GPA, Sector Plans, Regional & Community Development.	18
4. Office Overview	20
4.1 Office Outputs Grouped into Divisions/Sub-Programs and Programs	20
4.2 Organizational Revised Structure	28
Organizational Structure - Priority and comments	29
Priority Positions for the next Financial Year 2025/26 to 2027/28	29
4.3 Summary of the Attorney General's Office Planned Major Reforms / Initiatives	30
5. Ministry Budget and Staffing	33
6. Programs and their sub-programs	34
6.1 Program 1 - Leadership and Policy Advice	34
6.1.1 Sub-program 1.1: Office of the Attorney General	34
6.1.2 Sub-program 1.2: Office of the Solicitor General	37
6.1.3 Sub-program 1.3: Corporate Services Division	39
6.2 Program 2 - Legal Services	44
6.2.1 Sub-program 2.1: Legislative Drafting Division	44
6.2.2 Sub-program 2.2: Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section	50
6.2.3 Sub-program 2.3: Civil, Land and Family Litigation	58
6.3 Program 3 - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	62
6.3.1 Sub-program 3.1: Criminal Division	62
Annex A: CHALLENGES / Gap analysis	69
Annex B: Documents contributing to the Attorney General's Office Mandates	70

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AG	Attorney General
AGO	Attorney General's Office
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
FY	Fiscal Year
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
GPA	Government Priority Agenda
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
TSDFI	Tonga Sustainable Development Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SG	Solicitor General
CLF	Civil Land and Family Division
LDD	Legislative Drafting Division
CSD	Corporate Services Division
LAIL	Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section
NAPID	National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs
CTS	Case Tracking System

1. FOREWORD FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



I am pleased to present the summary for the Corporate Plan and Budget for the Attorney General's Office for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28.

It is apparent that we are currently operating in an environment that is subject to rapid and complex changes. Accurate, defensible and timely legal advice is crucial for the Attorney

General's Office to deliver to His Majesty's Government to assist them in making the right decision and to strengthen the rule of law. Representation of the Crown in criminal and civil matters must be carried out professionally and legislative services must be delivered accurately and in a timely manner. It is vital for the Attorney General's Office to anticipate and adapt to changes both at an individual and organisational level and to ensure a fair and effective justice system is provided to the Kingdom of Tonga.

This Corporate Plan and Budget maps out the areas in which we recognise changes are needed, in order to achieve our mission and vision. The ongoing changes, in particular our organisational restructure is crucial to enhance legal services and outputs to be delivered in our current operating environment and within the next three financial years. This emphasis is coupled with our focus on the Government Priority settings continuing the operations of all seven (7) priority agendas (GPAs) under the three thematic areas of: **National Resilience, Social Sector Development and Economic and Public Sector Development**. This Plan clearly assists in supporting the vision of the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga's Strategic Development Framework II for: **"A more progressive Tonga supporting a higher quality of life for all"**.

The Corporate Plan provides an ambitious workplan and challenges are expected. However, I am confident that as a team committed to the course, working collaboratively with the Solicitor General and Attorney General staff, the objectives of this Plan will be achieved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Simiki Folaumoetuli'.

Linda Simiki Folaumoetuli
Attorney General



2. MESSAGE FROM THE SOLICITOR GENERAL



The Attorney General's Office is pleased to present its Corporate Plan for the next three financial years, 2025/26 to 2027/28 as support for His Majesty's Government's long term Tonga Strategic Development Framework II, the Government Priority settings relevant to the Office for the financial years 2025/26 – 2027/28, and in accordance with section 18.1 of the Public Service Policy Manual.

This corporate plan is to set out areas where the Office intends to improve its performance for the enhanced delivery of our Office organisational outputs through the use of clear key performance indicators (KPIs). It is to ensure that legal services and related activities delivered by the Office to Government is efficient and effective. This plan also focuses on improvement and enhancing performance of the Office in an efficient, effective and affordable manner.

The Office is looking forward to implement the ongoing changes highlighted by the Attorney General, in order to achieve our mission and vision. The new changes, in particular our organisational restructure is crucial to enhance legal services and outputs to be delivered in our current operating environment and within the next three financial years. This emphasis is coupled with our focus on the Government Priority settings relevant to the Office for the next three financial years.

The objectives and strategies set out in this plan are subject to amendments. It sets the targets that the Office aims to achieve and the pathways to achieve it. However, these objectives are flexible and can change due to sudden changes in policy, finance, personnel, and the introduction of new technology.


Sione Finau Sisifa
Solicitor General



3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 Mandate

The Attorney General's Office is under the direction of the Attorney General, as First Law Officer of the Crown in accordance with clause 31A of the *Constitution of Tonga*. The Attorney General is not a Cabinet Minister, or a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Privy Council. However, the Attorney General is a member of the Judicial Appointments and Discipline Panel Judicial Committee and is ranked at Ministerial level.

The Constitution provides the Attorney General with the powers to exercise complete discretion to exercise legal powers and duties, independently without any interference from any person or authority.¹ Hence the Attorney General's Office operates in accordance with the *Constitution of Tonga* and 36 Acts and regulations which establish the Attorney General's Office's mandate and statutory roles.

Supporting this is the Attorney General's Office's vision which is to ensure that **“The Attorney General's Office is reliable for providing excellent legal services with professional integrity”**. This supports the national impact of the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II) which is to support **“A more progressive Tonga supporting higher quality of life for all”**.

¹ *Act of Constitution of Tonga* [Cap 2] (Tonga), Clause 31A(2).

3.2 Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Attorney General's Office is reliable for providing excellent legal services with professional integrity.

Mission

To provide professional, independent and quality legal services to His Majesty's Government and to support and maintain the integrity of the Kingdom's judicial system.

Values

- Integrity, Professionalism, Independence, Quality
- Efficiency, Responsiveness, Timeliness
- Commitment, Dedication
- Teamwork, Harmony, Loyalty

3.3 Key Legislations, Policy Decisions & Conventions

Laws and Regulations relevant to Attorney General's Office

The Office's main mandate is provided by clause 31A of the Constitution. **Annex "A"** provides a full list of key legislation that establishes the statutory functions and duties of the Attorney General's Office.

In addition, work is in progress on Cabinet directives to:

- (1) Amend the Act of Constitution of Tonga to establish the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This amendment provides that the responsibility of criminal prosecutions currently vested in the Attorney General, will be vested with the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure the impartiality and integrity of criminal prosecutions in the Kingdom. This proposed amendment was previously passed by the Legislative Assembly on 28 August 2014, as part of the Act of Constitution of Tonga (Amendment) Act 2014, but it did not receive Royal Assent. During the year 2023, Cabinet has considered and approved the amendment to the Constitution to effectively appoint the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Constitution and consequently establish the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The amendment Bill will be subjected to the legislative process. It has been passed by the Legislative Assembly on 15 October, 2024 and it was submitted for Royal Assent to His Majesty and Privy Council on 20 November, 2024. On 13 December, 2024, the submission did not receive Royal Assent. Although the submission did not receive Royal Assent, the office continues business as usual and intends to re-submit in the coming years.
- (2) Establish the Central Treaty Repository for the Kingdom of Tonga pursuant to Cabinet Directive and as agreed to between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney General's Office under its International Law Division.

- (3) CD448 of 26 May 2023: International Law Division of the Attorney General's Office be designated as Tonga's Central Treaty Repository, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- (4) CD707 of 4 August 2023: Tonga Core Team (MFA, MEIDECC, AGO)
- (5) CSCMBECS: CD 1079 of 24 November 2023: endorsement of baselines subject to approval of HMAF
- (6) CD 358 of 14 April 2023: Paragraph 2: International Law Division, Attorney General's Office to hold the role as Secretariat of the Committee with support from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- (7) Anti-corruption – Committee established by Cabinet Decision.

Other urgent legislative work in progress includes the following:

(1) The Office continues to support major law reforms in different MDAs. Amongst the major law reforms for this financial year that the Office assists with by providing public consultations and drafting services are:

- (a) **Criminal Law Reforms** – Supreme Court Judges have recommended together with the support of the Attorney General several law reforms to the Tongan criminal laws which the Office intends to submit to His Majesty's Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly during this financial year. A summary of the reforms are as follows –
- (b) Amendments to the Evidence Act to remove the corroboration requirement for accomplice evidence, this is seen in the case of *Rex v Fanguna Alalea* (Unreported, CR 11 of 2020, 13 March 2020) and *Rex v Ma'ake Kali* (Unreported, CR 16 of 2019 of 26 September 2019). Furthermore, there is a proposed amendment to further add an exception to the hearsay exception in section 89 of the Evidence Act. This stems from an observation in *Rex v Rodney Tomasi* (Unreported, CR 70 of 2019). The nature of the provision being proposed is an "interests of justice" exception similar to the one in the UK Criminal Justice Act (2003). Two amendment Bills were made to the Evidence Act namely, the Evidence (Amendment) (No.1) Act 2024 and Evidence (Amendment) (No.2) Act 2024. Both amendments were approved by Cabinet on 4 November 2022 to be processed. After due process, it was submitted again to Cabinet on 30 May 2023 for approval to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. The Cabinet approved the first Act to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly on 7 June 2023 while the second Act was deferred on 2 June 2023. The second Act was later approved by Cabinet on 7 June 2023 to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. Both Acts were then submitted to the Legislative Assembly on 15 June 2023. The first Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2024 while the second Act was passed on 20 February 2024. Both Acts were submitted for Royal Assent to His Majesty in Privy Council on 5 April 2024 and both Acts received Royal Assent on 26 April 2024. These Acts were both gazetted on GSE No.6 of 2 May 2024.
- (c) Amendments to the Supreme Court Act proposed as a result of comments from the Supreme Court Judgement in *Rex v Koloamatangi* (CR 106 of 2013), in relation to group trials to be tried together. If matters with multiple Accused persons split their election to be tried by judge and jury and judge alone, all persons are to be tried by judge and jury, which preserves the right to a judge and jury trial under the Constitution. This will avoid the waste of time and resources by holding two separate trial and the real danger of having inconsistent verdicts. This was passed by the Legislative Assembly 10 October, 2024 and submitted for Royal Assent to His Majesty in Privy

Council on 20 November, 2024. On 13 December, 2024 the submission received Royal Assent and GSE No. 23 of 19 December, 2024.

- (d) **Computer Crimes Law Reforms** – The Attorney General's Office continues to work closely with Prime Minister's Office in looking at amendments and a revised Computer Crimes Bill to reflect the current cybercrime issues in Tonga and worldwide. The Office has submitted the Computer Crimes Bill 2022 to His Majesty's Cabinet and approved to be processed on 13 May, 2022 and approved again on 3rd May, 2024 to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. On 16, July, 2024 it was submitted to the Legislative Assembly for upcoming deliberation. This Bill will address the ongoing online security threats to Tonga through the social media platforms and other related mediums. The Computer Crimes Bill was submitted to the Legislative Assembly together with 4 other consequential amendments to the Copyright Act, Evidence Act, Interpretation Act and Tonga Police Act. These are currently with the Legislative Assembly to be discussed in the upcoming session.

International Law Adviser

The Attorney General's Office as Principal Legal Advisor to Government encapsulates the function of the Attorney General's Office as the International Law Adviser through its International Law Division providing legal advice to all Government MDAs on international law issues, representing Tonga at bilateral and multilateral negotiations and in international disputes, negotiating and drafting multilateral and bilateral legal instruments, assisting in the translation of Tonga's international obligations into domestic legislation, advising on the domestic implementation of Tonga's international obligations and handling and processing all formal requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

In addition, a new section has been created under the International Law Division called Treaties Section pursuant to the Cabinet Directive. The Division with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serves as the central coordination body for all treaty making activities undertaken by Tonga. In this regard, the Treaties Section is the central repository of treaties for the Kingdom of Tonga. It looks into streamlining and standardizing the procedures involved in the treaty-making process and providing information relating to Tonga's treaty practice.

The Attorney General's Office are active members of various forums -

Regional

- Pacific Islands Forum
 - Forum Officials Committee Subcommittee on Sea-Level Rise and International Law
 - Teiniwa Vision Taskforce
 - Pacific DSM Technical Working Group

- Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (Current Chair for the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network Working Group on Cybercrime, and Member of the Pacific Island Law Officers' Network SGBV Working Group)
 - Pacific Legislative Drafters Steering Committee
 - Cyber crime committee
- Pacific Prosecutors Association
- Pacific Legislative Drafters' Forum
- Pacific Ocean Alliance

International

- Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APGML);
- Council of Europe Protocol Drafting Working Group;
- International Association of Prosecutors (IAP);
- Asset Recovery International Network – Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP); and
- G7 24/7 Network Group;
- Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, Commonwealth Senior Official Law Ministries Meeting; and Commonwealth Law Ministries of Small Commonwealth Jurisdictions.
- United Nations Office of Legal Affairs
- Alumni Network of the Asia Pacific United Nations Regional Course for International Law

National Committee/Taskforces

The Office is involved in different taskforces -

- Tonga Universal Periodic Review Working Group established in 2018
- Oceans Committee established in 2015
- Cabinet Subcommittee on Maritime Boundaries and the Extended Continental Shelf established in 2007
- Cabinet Sub-Committee on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption
- Illicit Drugs Response Steering Committee as per Cabinet Decision No.486 of 18 July 2018. This Committee is looking at implementing the Tonga National Illicit Drugs Policy as approved by Cabinet Decision No.1138 of 17 October 2019. The Office plays an important role in the prosecution of drugs cases and the drafting of amendments to the current Illicit Drugs Control Act.
- Facebook Review Committee as approved by Cabinet Decision No.1312 of 22 November 2019. This Committee is responsible for working with Facebook to combat the ongoing seditious and defamatory comments against the Royal Family and the Government.
- Tonga Law Enforcement Agencies Committee as per Cabinet Decision No. 459 of 11 July 2014. This Committee facilitates information sharing, cooperation and collaboration between the Law Enforcement Agencies of the Government in the investigation and prosecution of serious crime.
- National Taskforce/ NEMC on Covid-19 established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 86 of 5 February 2020. This Taskforce was established to coordinate holistic approach to address covid-19 issues.
- Cabinet's Working Group on Serious Financial Crime (WGSFC) established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 769 of September 2018, Cabinet Decision No. 1110 of November 2018, and Cabinet Decision No. 1122 of October 2020. The role of the WGSFC is to implement and support the directions of the Cabinet Committee on Serious Financial Crimes (CCSFC), and Cabinet. Make appropriate recommendations to the CCSFC in performing the CCSFC's mandate. Keep the CCSFC updated on development in the commission of serious financial crimes in the Kingdom, and also

regionally and internationally, and also propose policies, strategies and legislation used to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious financial crime offenders in an effective manner. Implement any directions from the CCSFC pursuant their mandate, or any other directions from Cabinet.

- Road Maintenance Fund Steering Committee: (Section 9 (2)(h)) of the Roads Act [Cap.24.02]; - Solicitor General
- Selection Panel for the Commissioner of Prisons (Section 4(3)(c) of the Prisons Act [Cap.20.21] - Solicitor General only
- Charge Formulation Committee (Section 7A(1)(c)) Solicitor General or his representative Public Service (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations [Cap. 04.36.2]
- Government Procurement Committee [Regulation 5(2)(d) of the Public Procurement Regulations [Cap.04.37.7] - Solicitor General
- Council - Section 5(f) Health Practitioners Review Act [Cap.28.10] - Solicitor General
- Environmental Assessment Committee Section 13(1)(b) Environment Impact Assessment Act [Cap.47.04]
- Energy Advisory Committee Section 18(1)(h), Energy Act 2021
- National Climate Change Coordinating Committee (Section 18(2) of the Tonga Climate Change Fund Act 2021
- National Disaster Risk Management Committee (Section 37(1)(h) of the Disaster Risk Management Act 2021
- Failure of an essential service or infrastructure: Lead agency or agencies and Authorised Personnel (Schedule 1 of the Disaster Risk Management Act 2021)
- Family Protection Advisory Council Section 37(3) Family Protection Act [Cap.6.02]
- Mental Health Advisory Committee (Law practitioner nominated by Attorney General) Section 122(h) of the Mental Health Act [Cap.28.20];
- National Food Council (Section 39(1)(e) - Attorney General or nominee), Food Act 2020
- National Food Emergency Committee (Section 43(3), Food Act 2020
- National Trade Facilitation and Policy Committee
- Ocean 7 Committee
- National Suicide Prevention Committee
- Menal Health Advisory Committee
- Government Law Committee
- Sub-drafting Committee

Working Group

- Universal Periodic Review Working Group
- Technical Working Group for Trafficking in Persons - Thematic Area 8
- Migration Sustainable Development Policy Technical Working Group
- PRF Technical Working Group

3.4 Stakeholders

The Attorney General's Office is an Office committed to providing professional, independent and quality legal services to His Majesty's Government. The Office recognizes that improving its performance is important to ensure that the rule of law is observed in all Government decisions.

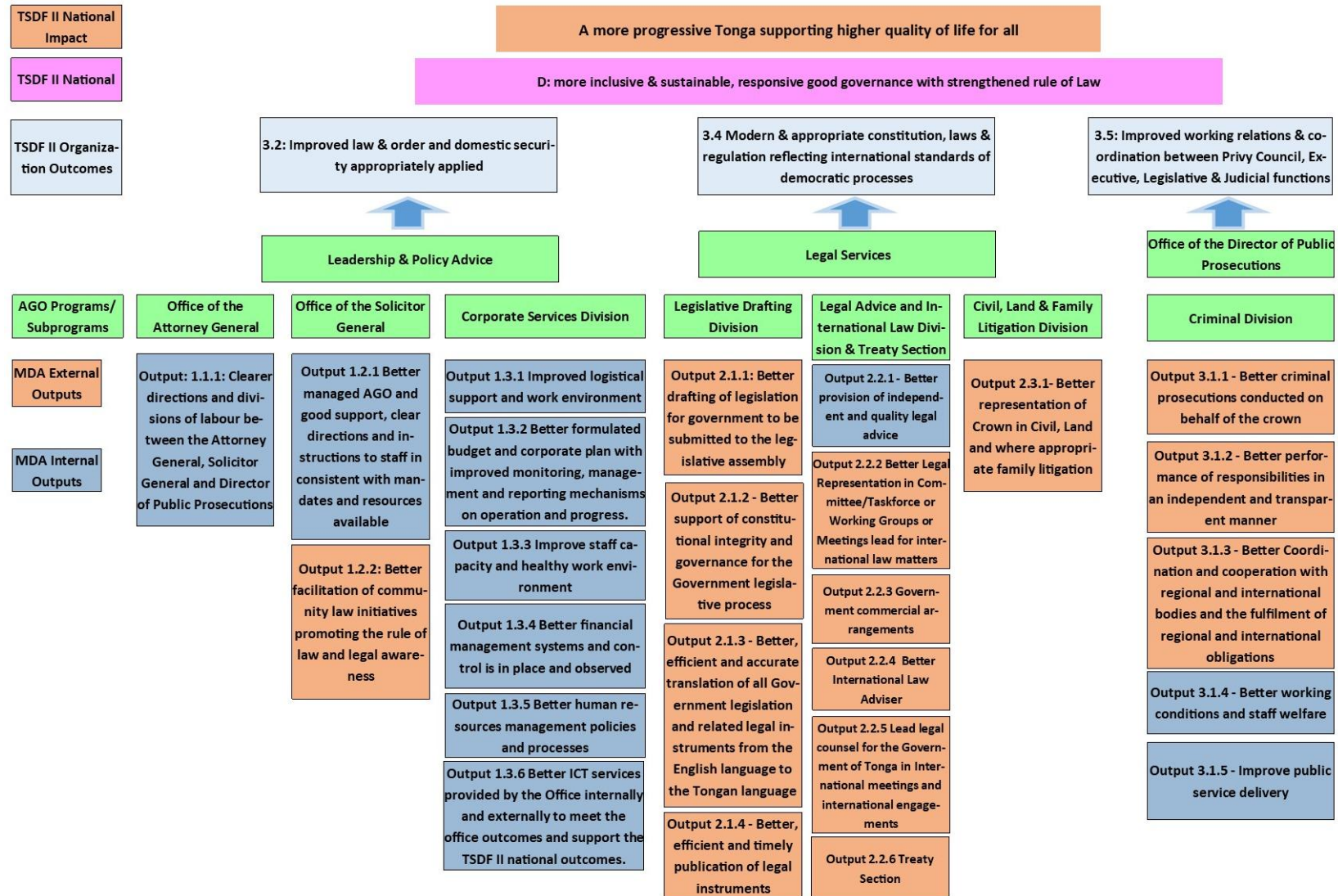
The Office's key priority stakeholders are Cabinet, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. As the principal Legal Advisor to Government, the Office provides legal advice to all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Office is also actively involved in public consultations with the general public upon requests from Government MDAs.

However, it is important to note the Office is a relevant stakeholder when it involves consultations with non-government organisations in Tonga. The Office actively works with development partners, regional and international organisations when they provide technical assistance and training for non-government organisations.

Stakeholders by Relationship to the Attorney General's Office

No.	Stakeholder	Customer of AGO	Supplier to AGO	Partner with AGO	Oversight of AGO
1	His Majesty the King in Privy Council	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Cabinet	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Legislative Assembly	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	MDAs	✓	✓	✓	
5	Public Enterprises	✓	✓	✓	
6	Businesses	✓	✓		
7	NSA, CSO	✓	✓	✓	
8	General Public	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Development Partners	✓	✓	✓	

3.5 Result Map



AGO Results Map – Discussion

The Results Map reflects the Attorney General's Office organizational external and internal outputs and how it supports the TSDF II organizational outcomes, TSDF II national outcomes and ultimately supporting the TSDF II national impact. The Attorney General's Office is funded under three (3) programs: (1) Leadership & Policy Advice, (2) Legal Services and (3) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Results Map reflects the divisions and their relevant outputs. The AGO's outcomes are classified and delivered by seven (7) sub-programs. The seven sub-programs are as follows:

- (1) Office of the Attorney General
- (2) Office of the Solicitor General
- (3) Corporate Services Division
- (4) Legislative Drafting Division
- (5) Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section
- (6) Civil, Land and Family Litigation Division
- (7) Criminal Division

Each program and divisions' outputs contribute to the delivery of AGO's TSDF II Organisational outcomes and supporting the TSDF II National Outcomes. This Corporate Plan will set out each division's internal and external outputs and its contribution for a more progressive Tonga supporting higher quality of life for all.

3.6 TSDFII/SDGs/Regional Frameworks/Government Priority Agenda (GPA)

The Attorney General's Office is classified by TSDF II under the Political Pillar to support National Outcome D which is a more inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance strengthening the rule of law. Under good governance, the Office is to be accountable, transparent, responsive, inclusive and participatory and follow the rule of law. Under the rule of law, the Office is to ensure accountability of government under the law, clear and modern legal frameworks, enactment, administration and enforcement is inclusive, fair and efficient with easy access to justice.

The Office under the Political Pillar directly supports all the Sustainable Development Goals. **Table 1** illustrates the linkages of the SDGs to the Tonga National Outcomes and the Attorney General's Office mandates.

Table 1: Cascade linkages of the Sustainable Development Goals to the Tonga National Outcomes, and the Attorney General's Office ²

Goals	Sustainable Development Goals	SAMOA Pathway	TSDF II - NO	GPA	Linkage to the Attorney General's Office Outputs
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Clause 6	A, C, F	1, 3, 4, 5 and 6	AGO assists with the national implementation of appropriate social protection systems and measures for all to achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable.
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Clause 59	A, B, F, E, G	1, 3, 4, 5 and 6	AGO assists with ensuring legislative frameworks are in place to build resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages	Clause 60	C, F, G	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	AGO assists with ensuring that sufficient legislative frameworks are in place to strengthen the prevention of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Clause 34	C	3, 4, 5 and 6	AGO assists with ensuring that sufficient legislative frameworks are in place to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable education and to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Clause 27(h)	C, D, E, F	1 to 7	AGO assists with ensuring that sufficient legislative frameworks are in place to include gender mainstreaming and inclusion.
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of	Clause 64 & 65	F, E, B	1 to 7	AGO assists to strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

² Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015-2025 (May 2015) 98.

	water and sanitation for all				
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Clause 47 to 50	E, F	1 to 7	AGO assists with ensuring that legislative frameworks are in place to strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Clause 23 to 29	A, E, C, F, G	1 to 7	AGO assists with ensuring that legislative frameworks are in place to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environment for all workers.
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Clause 27(b)	E, C, A, F, G	1 to 7	AGO assists with devising and implementing policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Clause 6&7	G, A, C, G	1 to 7	AGO assists with supporting the adoption of policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies to progressively achieve greater equality.
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Clause 30	B, D, E, C, F, G	1 to 7	AGO assists with the strengthening of efforts to protect and safeguard Tonga's s cultural and natural heritage.
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and	Clause 68&69	A, F, G, C, E	1, 3, 4, and 6	AGO assists by supporting policy makers to ensure that legislative frameworks are in place to provide universal access to safe, inclusive

	production patterns				and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older person and persons with disabilities.
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Clause 31 to 46	F, C	1 to 7	AGO assists by supporting the promotion of public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities.
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Clause 53 to 58	F, E, D	1 to 7	AGO assists by ensuring that legislative frameworks and efficient prosecutions are in place to regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans. AGO also assist by ensuring that legislative frameworks are in place to conserve coastal and marine communities.
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Clause 94	F, D	1 to 7	AGO assists by ensuring that legislative frameworks are in place to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods.
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build	Clause 83 to 86	D	1 to 7	AGO is in the forefront in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all.

	effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.				
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Clause 96 to 101	G, E, F, C, A	1 to 7	AGO assists by ensuring that succinct legislative frameworks are in place for the implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access consistent with the World Trade Organization decisions.

3.6.1 GPA, Sector Plans, Regional & Community Development.

AGO supports all the Government Priority Agenda areas by providing excellent legal services with professional integrity. The AGO's mandate is cross-cutting on all Government Priority Areas, as all areas require legislative mechanism for enforcement and legal advice. In addition, we advise on all class A Illicit Drugs Investigations; We conduct all prosecutions for Class A Illicit Drugs; We initiate and process all illicit drug related legislative amendments; We conduct all drug proceeds confiscation and forfeiture. Listed below are the Government Priority Agenda of the upcoming budget cycle and its specified activities aligned with our office existing obligations:

1. **Objective 1: National Resilience**

- GPA 1: Climate and Disaster Resilience
 - Ongoing Implementation of the Disaster Risk Management Act 2021 led by the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) with the need to review past experience, lesson learnt and issues, including the utilization of humanitarian resources as part of the disaster preparedness program.
- GPA 2: Combat Illicit Drugs
 - Implementation of the National Action Plan for Combating Illicit Drugs (NAPID), through a medium term budgetary towards increasing quality of services to reduce supply and the use of illicit drugs effectively, and address harm reduction processes by providing treatment and rehabilitation services to support drug addicts' re-integration into society.
 - Review the progress of implementing the NAPID and prepare a report to assist policy makers in designing policies that are appropriate to ensure sustainability of this initiative.
 - The allocation for the Illicit Drugs Response Fund of \$5.0m in the current year FY 2025 under the Ministry of Finance's vote will be reallocated amongst the relevant MDAs such as the Ministry of Police,

Customs Department (Border Control) and the Prisons Department in FY 2026 (through their budget and corporate plan submissions) to lead the necessary efforts

2. **Objective 2: Social Sector Development**

- GPA 3: Reduce Poverty and protect Vulnerable groups
 - Special attention to review policies to support programs in relation to returnees.
- GPA 4: Quality Education
- GPA 5: Quality and Affordable Healthcare

3. **Objective 3: Economic and Public Sector Development**

- GPA 6: Realizing the Economic Potential to boost Growth
- GPA 7: Public Sector Efficiency
 - Organizational Review as part of the overall public sector reform program including the implementation of the Public Finance Management Road Map (PFM);
 - Ongoing government support towards access to finance to support key sectors, including education through the Government Development Loan (GDL facility at TDB), with the need to strengthen compliance.

Overall, the AGO supports all Sector development plans and community plan specifically where it requires legal activities mandated by the Attorney General Office.

4. OFFICE OVERVIEW

4.1 Office Outputs Grouped into Divisions/Sub-Programs and Programs

The Attorney General's Office has three programs (Leadership & Policy Advice, Legal Services and Office of Public Prosecutions). There are seven (7) sub-programs/divisions as follows -

- (1) Prog 1 Sub-prog 01: Office of the Attorney General
- (2) Prog 1 Sub-prog 02: Office of the Solicitor General
- (3) Prog 1 Sub-prog 03: Corporate Services Division
- (4) Prog 2 Sub-prog 01: Legislative Drafting Division
- (5) Prog 2 Sub-prog 02: Legal Advice and International Division & Treaty Section
- (6) Prog 2 Sub-prog 03: Civil, Land and Family Litigation Division
- (7) Prog 3 Sub-prog 01: Criminal Division
 - a. This division is under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions and oversees, by delegation from the Attorney General for all criminal proceedings on behalf of the Crown.

It is important to highlight that the structure of the Office fully reflects the Office's main functions and to ensure that the Office delivers its functions in accordance with its vision to provide excellent legal services to His Majesty's Government with professional integrity.

Program	Relevant program/ sub-program	Relevant outputs(s)	Activities/ Strategies	Responsible Division
Program 1– Leadership & Policy Advice	Sub-program 1.1– Office of the Attorney General	Output 1.1.1 – Clearer directions and divisions of labour between the Attorney General, Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions	1) Issue legal advice to His Majesty's Cabinet and CEOs, OLA-Speaker, Palace Office, Lord Privy Seal 2) Issue of clear directions and divisions of labour for the Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions including Heads of Divisions and Seniors 3) Internal Meeting 4) Committee meetings and regional 5) Number of approvals	Office of the Attorney General
	Sub-program 1.2- Office of	Output 1.2.1 – Better managed AGO with good support, clear directions and	1) Review & submit AGO Corporate Plan 2) Review & submit Annual Management Plan to AGO	Office of the Solicitor General

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 – 2027/28

	the Solicitor General	instructions to staff in consistent with mandates and resources available.	3) Review & update Standard Operating Procedures (4) Review and submit Annual Report (5) Receive and implement direction from AG (6) Issue directions to HODs	
		Output 1.2.2 - Better facilitation of community law initiatives promoting the rule of law and legal awareness	(1) Plan & facilitate the annual AGO Law Week Programme (2) Assist MDAs upon request with their public consultations and awareness on draft Bills & Regulations	Office of the Solicitor General
	Sub-program 1.3- Corporate Services Division	Output 1.3.1 – Improved logistical support and work environment	(1) Provide better customer service for AGO staff/Public (2) Provide efficient & reliable transport services (3) Manage vehicle log book (4) Maintain clean working environment. (5) Upkeep Asset registry	Corporate Services Division
		Output 1.3.2 - Better formulated corporate plan with improved monitoring, management and reporting mechanisms on operation and progress.	(1) Plan and develop a Corporate Plan for every financial year (2) Develop an Annual Management Plan (3) Prepare biannual M&E (4) Draft annual reports	Corporate Services Division
		Output 1.3.3 - Improve staff capacity and healthy work environment	(1) Conduct continuous internal trainings for support staff (2) Promote healthy living activities	Corporate Services Division
		Output 1.3.4: Better financial management systems and control is in place and observed	(1) Prepare AGO budget to reflect the Corporate Plan (2) Prepare Revenue return (3) Prepare end of month expenditure report (4) Prepare Annual forecast and review (5) Process sun system orders & pick up (6) Review salary/wages and submit (7) Prepare allowance payments	Corporate Services Division
		Output 1.3.5 - Better Human Resources Management policies and processes	(1) Implement the PMS system (2) Conduct recruitment process (3) Manage & monitor attendance book (4) Manage staff leave	Corporate Services Division
		Output 1.3.6: Better ICT services provided by the Office internally and externally to meet the Office outcomes and support the TSDF II national outcomes.	(1) Maintain the office databases and IT systems (2) Update the Office website, social media & general database (3) Conduct inventory check on equipment/assets	Corporate Services Division

Program 2 – Legal Services	Sub-program 2.1- Legislative Drafting Division	Output 2.1.1: Better drafting of legislation for Government to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly.	(1) Liaise (initiate and coordinate) with relevant MDAs to obtain drafting instructions for drafting their relevant bills and subsidiary legislation (2) Drafting bills and subsidiary legislation for Government to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly (3) Vet and review draft Bills and subsidiary legislation for Government before it is submitted to the Legislative Assembly (4) Provide Secretariat duties to the Government Law Committee and facilitate Law Committee Meetings (5) Facilitate Sub-Drafting Committee Meetings (6) Provide cabinet submission and correspondences with the Legislative Assembly and Palace Office in relation to legislation	Legislative Drafting Division
		Output 2.1.2 - Better support of constitutional integrity and governance for the Government legislative process	(1) Update and maintain the Government annual legislative program (2) Implementation of Cabinet Decisions in relation to legislative changes (3) Assist Government MDAs with their public awareness programs in relation to their relevant laws, draft Bills and subsidiary legislation (4) Provide legal advice to AG and SG on constitutional amendments and legislative amendments	Legislative Drafting Division
		Output 2.1.3: Better, efficient and accurate translation of all Government legislation and related legal instruments from the English language to the Tongan language	(1) Responsible for translating and vetting the translation of all Government Bills, subsidiary legislation and related legal instruments (2) Facilitate Sub-Translation Committee Meetings (3) Format legislation in accordance to the Tongan formatting style (4) Proof-read the Tongan version of the legislation	Legislative Drafting Division
		Output 2.1.4 – Better, efficient and timely publication of legal instruments	(1) Publication of all Acts, subsidiary legislation and relevant legal instruments on relevant Tonga Government Gazette (2) Publish all Acts, subsidiary legislation and relevant instruments on AGO website	
	Sub-program 2.2 – Legal Advice	Output 2.2.1 - Better provision of independent and quality legal advice	(1) Provide legal advice upon MDAs request in any areas of law; (2) Draft, review, vet and negotiate contracts and any other legal or policy documents;	Legal Advice and International Law Division &

	and Internatio nal Law Division & Treaty Section		(3) Providing legal clearance of contracts and other legal or policy documents through the issuance of a "certificate of clearance" (4) Facilitate capacity building in the field of legal advice and legal research for Government legal counsels (5) Support and promote rule of law initiatives at the community level through law week	Treaty Section
		Output 2.2.2 - Better Legal Representation in Committee/Taskforce or Working Groups or Meetings lead for international law matters	(1) Attend, participate, and provide legal counsel in statutory established committees, taskforces or working groups to ensure compliance with the laws of Tonga as directed by the Attorney General or Solicitor General; (2) Represent the Attorney General's Office, the Government of Tonga in domestic meetings, workshops and taskforce ensuring rule of law	Legal Advice and Internationa l Law Division & Treaty Section
		Output 2.2.3 – Government commercial arrangements	(1) Provide legal advice on public enterprises related matters; (2) Provide legal counsel and advice on shareholders rights and responsibilities; (3) Provide legal advice on banking related arrangements for the Government; (4) Provide legal advice on Government procurement and support the Solicitor General in the Government Procurement Committee; (5) Provide legal advice on cross-border commercial contracts and agreements (6) Provide legal advice on commercial arrangements with Countries or Donor Partners (7) Meeting and negotiate with legal counsels of parties engaging in commercial dealings with Government	Legal Advice and Internationa l Law Division & Treaty Section
		Output 2.2.4 – Better International Law Adviser	(1) Provide legal advice to Government on international law (2) Provide legal advice to Government on legal obligations under international law (3) Attend, participate and represent the Attorney General's Office and Government of Tonga in bilateral and multilateral negotiations; (4) Represent the Government of Tonga in peaceful settlement of dispute forums and before international dispute bodies; (5) Draft, vet, negotiate and review multilateral and bilateral legal instruments the Government intends to	Legal Advice and Internationa l Law Division & Treaty Section

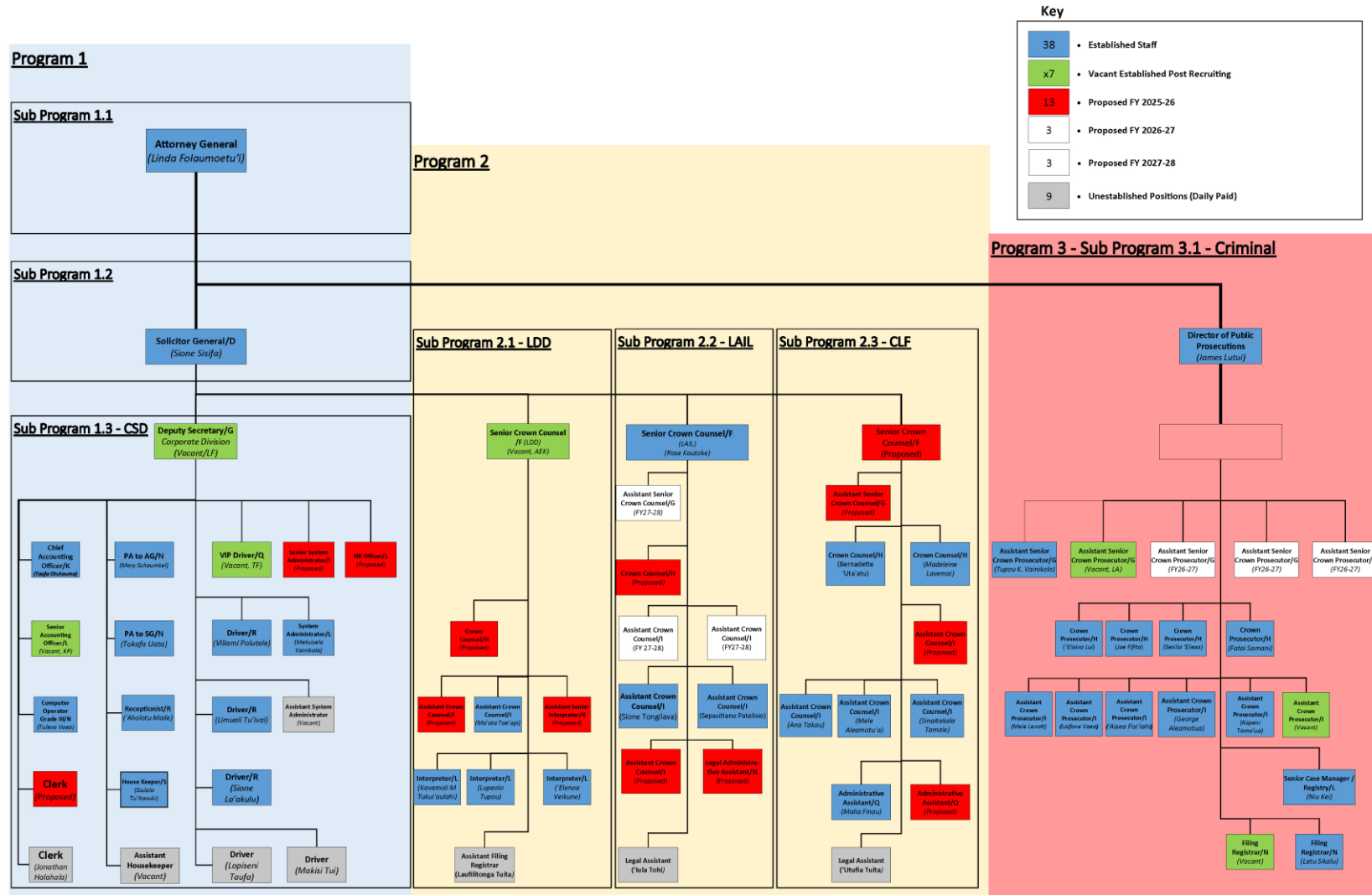
			<p>sign onto providing a certificate of endorsement .</p> <p>(6) Secretariat for the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Maritime Boundaries and the Extended Continental Shelf</p> <p>(7) Undertake focal point duties for the United Nations Office for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and United Nations Convention Against Corruption</p>	
		Output 2.2.5 – Lead legal counsel for the Government of Tonga in international meetings and international engagements	<p>(1) Legal counsel for the Government of Tonga in international meetings;</p> <p>(2) Represent Government in regional and international legal committees;</p> <p>(3) Drafting and/or vet statements and interventions of the Government of Tonga to ensure alignment with international law;</p> <p>(4) Draft and/or vet soft law instruments;</p> <p>(5) Maintain internal overseas travel reports and resources and facilitate access for use all AGO Counsels and Government lawyers;</p> <p>(6) Meet and coordinate with regional and international groupings, organizations and committees as directed by Government.</p>	Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section
		Output 2.2.6: Treaty Section	<p>(1) Develop, manage and maintain Tonga's Central Treaty Repository;</p> <p>(2) Develop and provide legal advice on Tonga's treaty guide and practice, procedural matters relating to the conclusion of agreements including instruments of ratification/accession, full powers;</p> <p>(3) Publish, translate and disseminate treaty information to Government and public at large;</p> <p>(4) Address legal questions from Government regarding the implementation of its treaty obligations;</p> <p>(5) Assist Government in drafting and preparation of reports required under Treaty obligations;</p> <p>(6) Attend, engage and participate in Treaty related Committees, Working Groups, Taskforce, established by the Government of Tonga such as the UPR WG, National Trade Facilitation Committee, United Nations Convention Against Corruption Committee;</p>	Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section

			(7) Liaise with depositaries of treaties concerning treaty related information and updates	
	Sub-program 2.3 - Civil, Land & Family Litigation	Output 2.3.1 - Better representation of the Crown in civil, land and where appropriate, family litigation	<p>CIVIL</p> <p>(1) Represent the Crown in all civil matters</p> <p>(2) Implement Cabinet instructions to act for Government implemented on time</p> <p>(3) Compliance with all Court Orders</p> <p>(4) Initiation of meetings with Government MDAs or request for instructions</p> <p>(5) Preparation of case briefs for the SG to approve</p> <p>(6) Monthly trainings (civil procedures)</p> <p>(7) Draft Statement of Claim / Statement of Defence and other relevant Court documents</p> <p>(8) Maintaining correspondence with the Courts and opposing Counsels on the progress of the matter or any issue directed by the Court</p> <p>(9) Legal Research and preparation for trials, hearings, legal submissions and appeals in Court</p> <p>(10) Report back to relevant MDAs on the results of cases</p> <p>LANDS</p> <p>(11) Represent the Crown in all land matters</p> <p>(12) Implementation and compliance with all Court orders and directions relating to land actions brought against the Minister of Lands</p> <p>FAMILY</p> <p>(13) Implementation of Court Orders in a timely manner, on instructions to act as Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)</p>	Civil, Land and Family Litigation Division
Program 3 – Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	Sub-program 3.1- Criminal Division	Output 3.1.1 Better criminal prosecutions conducted on behalf of the crown	<p>(1) Prepare criminal briefs for criminal matters with appropriate recommendations</p> <p>(2) Review of Tonga Police Professional Standard Unit Complaints</p> <p>(3) Court Appearances</p> <p>(4) Conducting criminal trials in the summary jurisdiction, enhanced jurisdiction, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal</p> <p>(5) Drafting, preparing and translation of court documents</p> <p>(6) Review decisions of Magistrates or Supreme Court Judges for appeal to Supreme Court (Appellate Jurisdiction) or Court of Appeal, respectively</p> <p>(7) Conduct Legal Research</p>	Criminal Division

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (8) Reporting to Police all closed criminal matters (9) Correspondence with Courts, Police and MDAs (10) File noting of criminal files (11) Service of court documents (12) Maintaining an updated database for all criminal matters (13) Maintaining work allocation calendar (14) Police Trainings 	
		Output 3.1.2 3.1.2 Better performance of responsibilities in an independent and transparent manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Adherence to the Prosecution code (2) Adherence to DPP General Instructions (3) Adherence with Court service time requirements and Practice Direction (4) Consultation with complainant's, deceased person's family members, Investigating Officers, Relevant Organisations and Police Commissioner before Crown Offers No Evidence or enters Nolle Prosequi) (5) Preparing and serving Prosecution Indicative Sentencing Submissions and Information for Self-Represented Defendant's on the Criminal Trial Process (6) Timely distribution and publication of judgements, decisions and court orders (7) Improve reporting requirements to relevant MDAs 	Criminal Division
		Output 3:1.3: Better Coordination and cooperation with regional and international bodies and the fulfilment of regional and international obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Participation in the Joint Law Enforcement Agencies Committee (2) Enhance coordination with the Serious Organised Crimes and Transnational Crimes Unit (SOCTCU) (3) Participate in all Pacific Island Law Offices Network (PILON) programmes (4) Deal with Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Requests (5) Participate in APG, FATF, ARIN-AP initiatives and programs (6) Participate in cybercrime initiatives and programs (7) Participate in IAP initiatives and programs 	Criminal Division
		Output 3.1.4: Better working conditions and staff welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Adequate resources, stationery and equipment for staff (2) Adequate office and working space (3) Safe working environment and conditions (4) Support staff healthy living initiatives and staff recuperation (5) Enhance office morale through social and team bonding activities 	Criminal Division

			(6) Adequate remuneration, benefits, entitlements and privileges for staff (7) Ensure office is adequately staffed	
		Output 3.1.5: Improve public service delivery	(1) Better, safe and comfortable office space for briefing of witnesses (2) Updating of victims, complainants and family of deceased persons of the status of their matters (3) Liaise with the Women and Children Crisis Centre and the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children where appropriate (4) Catering for the transportation needs of witnesses (5) Adequate areas for receiving and meeting with members of the public including virtual meeting	Criminal Division

4.2 Organizational Revised Structure



Organizational Structure - Priority and comments

The organizational structure reflects the staffing resources of the Attorney General's Office but there are positions that the office hopes to create in the near future. Please find below priority positions the Office has identified as critical positions for the next financial year. It is important to note that once the pending amendment to the Constitution of Tonga is enacted, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be established. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be a separate Office from the Attorney General's Office, but still sharing the Corporate Services.

This separation is to ensure independence of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from the Attorney General's Office, especially when the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will prosecute clients of the Attorney General's Office or staff of the Attorney General's Office.

The Director of Public Prosecutions will then report activities to the Attorney General, but the Director of Public Prosecutions will not be under the direction of the Attorney General. Hence the Director of Public Prosecutions will be a constitutional body like the Attorney General. The organizational structure also introduces new critical positions that the Office hopes to establish in the next financial year.

Priority Positions for the next Financial Year 2025/26 to 2027/28

We also have plans to create the following positions in the near future as funds allow and 7 daily in which were detailed in the Staff proposal to the Public Service Commission:

4.3 Summary of the Attorney General's Office Planned Major Reforms / Initiatives

The major change in the AGO's recurrent budget allocation for the FY 2025/26 to 2027/28 comprise of the funding for reform and new initiative to identify critical needs to address the performance gaps of the Office. The proposals/identified gaps including resources to fund the existing activities of the Office and to reflect the office structure.

No	Program #	Sub Program #	New Initiatives / Reforms	Activities	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	Justification
1	Prog 1	01-AG	New Initiative	Legal books	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Legal books required by the AGO and approved by the Attorney General
2	Prog 1	02-SG	New Initiative	Duty allowance	\$124,763	\$124,763	\$124,763	Duty allowance for AGO lawyers
3	Prog 1	03-CSD	Reform	New vehicle x2	\$200,000			One off payment to purchase x2 vehicles to replace AGO 5 and AGO 6 due to both more than 10 years and expenditure is more than value to date
4	Prog 1	03-CSD	New Initiative	Microsoft 365	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	Microsoft 365 provides powerhouse of tools, designed to make work easier.
5	Prog 1	03-CSD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Senior System Administrator (Band I)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	To overlook and manage all IT related matters of the office. There is only 1 System Administrator.
6	Prog 1	03-CSD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Human Resource Officer (Band L)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Currently there is no Human Resource staff hence the need to lead Human Resource activities.
7	Prog 1	03-CSD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Clerk (Band N)		\$15,000	\$15,000	To support the functionality of the Finance section.
8	Prog 2	01-LDD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Crown Counsel (H)		\$34,000	\$34,000	The division currently does not have a Crown Counsel to support the Senior Crown Counsel in which the SCC is currently vacant since Aug, 2024 and the only Assistant Crown Counsel is currently acting and leading the Division. In addition, a need for an additional Assistant Crown Counsel to support the legislation team share the work load given there is only one ACC whom is the acting for the Division.
9	Prog 2	01-LDD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Crown Counsel (I)		\$30,000	\$30,000	
10	Prog 2	01-LDD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Senior Interpreter (Band K)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Increase translation work and recognition of a Assistant Senior Interpreter to assist the Senior Crown Counsel with vetting the translation of the Bills and Regulations.
11	Prog 2	02-LAIL	New Initiative	New office space	\$58,200			One off payment to create new office space for LAIL movement from level 2

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

								to level 3 due to staff over crowd in level 2
12	Prog 2	02-LAIL	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Senior Crown Counsel (Band G)		\$40,000	\$40,000	The division has collated the index for the Tonga Treaty Collection and will further develop the Central Treaty Repository which plays a vital role in assisting Government Day to day legal needs which includes legal advise, drafting and vetting of legal documents in maintaining open communication channel for ministries. In addition, the division has been tasked with the responsibility of developing the Central Treaty Repository for Tonga which will be a useful resource in assisting Government and its International legal obligation as well as financial commitments that are tight to these legal commitments.
13	Prog 2	02-LAIL	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Crown Counsel (Band H)	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	
14	Prog 2	02-LAIL	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Crown Counsel x2 (Band I)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
15	Prog 2	02-LAIL	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Legal Administrative Assistant (Band L)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
16	Prog 2	03-CLF	Reform	Domestic travel	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Increase from \$4,000 due to new directions, the Guardian Ad Litem does not just conduct home assessments to the outer islands during the circuits however will be expected to travel regularly due to urgent custody matters including applications up to Niua island groups
17	Prog 2	03-CLF	Reform	Computer Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Due to the current market price of accessories increasing, the current budget for this vote is insufficient/not enough to purchase relevant supplies and software. Also mindful of when supplies break down and need replacement
18	Prog 2	03-CLF	Reform	New Computer Supplies	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	Due to the current market price of laptops increasing, the current budget for this vote is insufficient/not enough to purchase a proper laptop. The most recent laptop purchased for our new CC employee costs 3,800 for the laptop alone which resulted in having to transfer
19	Prog 2	03-CLF	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Senior Crown Counsel (Band G)			\$46,000	It is very important for the Office to have a Senior person to overlook this division to ensure that all submissions and documentary requirements are prepared in a timely manner, as costs to government can be imposed if such requirements are not met.
20	Prog 2	03-CLF	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Senior Crown Counsel (Band H)			\$40,000	It is very important for the Office to have a Senior person to overlook this division to ensure that all submissions and documentary requirements are prepared in a timely manner, as costs

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

								to government can be imposed if such requirements are not met.
21	Prog 2	03-CLF	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Crown Counsel (Band I)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
22	Prog 2	03-CLF	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Administrative Assistant (Band L)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	It is very important for the Office to have a Senior person to overlook this division to ensure that all submissions and documentary requirements are prepared in a timely manner, as costs to government can be imposed if such requirements are not met.
23	Prog 3	01-CD	New Initiative	Staff proposal: Assistant Senior Crown Prosecutor x3 (Band G)		\$120,000	\$120,000	There is only one Assistant Senior Crown Prosecutor within the Office and the alternate ASCP is currently vacant.

5. MINISTRY BUDGET AND STAFFING

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget, summarized in Figure 1 and staff summarized in Figure 2 are required.

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2024/25 (est recurrent)	FY 2024/25 Proj (dev)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	1.62	-	1.54	-	1.59	-	1.59	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.11	-	0.14	-	0.14	-	0.14	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.20	-	0.15	-	0.19	-	0.19	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	0.10	-	0.10	-	0.15	-	0.15	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	1.30	0.21	1.29	0.40	1.36	0.20	1.36	0.20
Price and awards (15xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Assets (20xx)	0.09	-	0.03	-	0.03	-	0.03	-
Total Budget	3.43	0.21	3.26	0.40	3.46	0.20	3.46	0.20
Total (Recurrent & Development)	3.64		3.66		3.66		3.66	

Figure 1 Ministry total budget (\$M)

Notes:

1. Established and Unestablished staff is all expenditures under CAT 10 and 11
2. Ministry Operational Costs is for Program 1, 2, 3 all expenditures under CATs 12, 13, 14.
3. Assets are expenditures under CAT 20

Ministry Total Staff by Key Category

Category	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Executive Staff (Band C-H)	0.71	0.71	0.71
Professional Staff (Band I-L)	0.47	.47	0.47
Other Staff (Band M-S)	0.12	.12	0.12
Total Established Staff	1.30	1.30	1.30
Unestablished Staff	0.14	.14	0.14
Total Staff	47	47	47
Total Recurrent Costs (\$ m)	1.43	1.43	1.43

Figure 2 Ministry total staff by key category (\$M)

Notes:

1. These based on the recurrent ministry costs (excluding Overtime, Acting and Benefit, Duty Allowance)

6. PROGRAMS AND THEIR SUB-PROGRAMS

6.1 Program 1 - Leadership and Policy Advice

The Leadership and Policy Advice program is administered by the Offices of the Attorney General, Solicitor General who provides both external legal advice and guidance to all Government ministries, departments and agencies in Tonga. The Solicitor General leads and oversees the development, management and implementation of the internal outputs of the AGO programs and sub-programs.

Program 1 (Leadership and Policy Advice) consists of 3 sub-programs –

- (1) Sub-program 1.1: Office of the Attorney General
- (2) Sub-program 1.2: Office of the Solicitor General
- (3) Sub-program 1.3: Corporate Services Divisions

6.1.1 Sub-program 1.1: Office of the Attorney General

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 1.1(\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.24	0.29	0.33	0.31
Executive Staff	1	1	1	1
Prof Staff (Band I-L)				
Other Staff (Band M-S)	2	2	2	2
Total Established	3	3	3	3
Unestablished	3	3	1	1
Total Staff	6	6	6	6

Figure 3: Sub-program 1.1 Office of the Attorney General total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.24	-	0.27	-	0.27	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.05	-	0.05	-	0.05	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.03	-	0.04	-	0.04	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.07	-	0.03	-	0.03	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Assets (20xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- Ongoing.

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

To ensure the efficient management and efficient delivery of the Office's outputs, the Office needs clear, consistent leadership from the Attorney General with a clear division of labour between the roles of the Attorney General (Leadership), the Solicitor General (Management) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (Management).

The main function of the Office is to provide legal advice to His Majesty's Cabinet, represent Government in all land and civil litigation, and conduct all criminal prosecutions and legislative drafting services to Government.

The Office of the Attorney General is the main channel for the overall distribution of the Office's mandates, in particular the delivery of services to high level policy stakeholders such as Privy Council, His Majesty's Cabinet, Legislative Assembly, Courts of Tonga, Diplomatic Corp, development partners and relevant international and regional organisations. This work is supported by the all the divisions who channel all the Office activities at their appropriate levels.

Outputs

Output 1.1.1 – Clearer directions and divisions of labour between the Attorney General, Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARGETS #	INDICATORS #	Recurrent %	Development %
1) Issue legal advice to His Majesty's Cabinet and CEOs, OLA-Speaker, Palace Office, Lord Privy Seal	Percentage of the implementation of Cabinet Decisions.	50	50	50	50	16.3	16.3.2	70	
2) Issue of clear directions and divisions of labour for the Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions	Accuracy of clear directions and divisions of labour to SG, DPP and HOD/Ss	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.3	16.3.2	25	

including Heads of Divisions and Seniors									
3) Internal Meeting	Number of meetings	48	48	48	48				
4) Committee meeting and regional	Number of committee meetings attendance	21	21	21	21	16.3	16.3.2	5	
5) Attorney General approval	Number of approvals required of the Attorney General		20	20	20				

6.1.2 Sub-program 1.2: Office of the Solicitor General

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 1.2 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.11	0.11	.11	.11
Executive Staff	1	1	1	1
Prof Staff (Band I-L)				
Other Staff (Band M-S)	3	3	3	3
Total Established	4	4	4	4
Unestablished				
Total Staff	4	4	4	4

Figure 4: Sub-program 1.2: Office of the Solicitor General total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.14.	-	0.14	-	0.14	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.62	-	0.62	-	0.62	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
**Assets (20xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- Ongoing

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

This is the top-level management of the Office and it is critical for the overall performance of the Office. The Office of the Solicitor General is responsible for the following –

- (1) Ensure a sound management and administrative system is in place to effectively and efficient implement the directions of the Attorney General and the Government.
- (2) Manage, with the Head of Divisions, the clarification of the mandate of the Office establishing its outputs, the delegation of the outputs with clear identification of resources required to deliver the outputs.
- (3) Supervise, monitors and support the HODs in the delivery of their respective outputs consistent with the resources they have been allocated.
- (4) Set the overall tone for good management, strong commitment to learning and building of capacity, and a positive, inclusive and supportive culture within which staff can perform well.

Following the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Solicitor General is the main channel for all the Office activities. The work of the Office of the Solicitor General is supported by all the divisions.

Outputs

Output 1.2.1 – Better managed AGO with good support, clear directions and instructions to staff in consistent with mandates and resources available.						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARGETS #	INDICATORS #	Recurrent %	Development %
(1) Review & submit Corporate Plan to AGO	Timely submission of CP to AGO for final review.	1	1	1	1	16.3	16.3.2	30	
(2) Review Annual Management Plan progress reports	Timely review of AMP Quarterly reports on time.	4	4	4	4	16.3	16.3.2		
3) Update Standard Operating Procedures	Timely review of SOP	12	12	12	12	16.3	16.3.2		
Complete and submit Annual Report	Complete and submit AR in accordance with the Public Service Act	1	1	1	1	X	X		
Received directions from AG	85% Implement	85%	85%	85%	85%	X	X		
Issue of clear directions to HoDs	85% Implement	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.3	16.3.2		
Output 1.2.2: Better facilitation of community law initiatives promoting the rule of law and legal awareness									
▪ Support the Attorney General in facilitating community law initiatives such as the annual law week.									
Assist Government MDAs in public consultations and awareness programs on draft Bills and Regulations.									
(1) Plan & facilitate the annual AGO Law Week Programme	(1) Timely submission of Law Week activities for approval to the Solicitor General (2 weeks prior) (2) Timely submission of the Law Week budget to the Solicitor General for approval (2 weeks prior). (3) Timely submission of work plan for annual law week. (2 weeks prior)	1	1	1	1	16.3	16.3.2	70	

	(4) Timely review of feedback forms after the Law Week programs (within 2 weeks following)								
(2) Assist MDAs upon request with their public consultations and awareness on draft Bills & Regulations	(1) Timely responses to MDA requests for public consultations (within 2 weeks) (2) Prepare minutes of public consultations & awareness programs (within 1 week following) (3) Timely review of results of the feedback forms after the public consultations. (within 2 weeks following)	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.3	16.3.2		

6.1.3 Sub-program 1.3: Corporate Services Division

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 1.3 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.18
Executive Staff	1	1	1	1
Prof Staff (Band I-L)	3	4	4	4
Other Staff (Band M-S)	2	2	2	2
Total Established	6	7	7	7
Unestablished	4	4	4	4
Total Staff	10	11	11	11

Figure 5: Sub-program 1.3: Corporate Services Divisions total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.21	-	0.21	-	0.21	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.04	-	0.04	-	0.04	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.11	-	0.11	-	0.11	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	0.10	-	0.10	-	0.10	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.54	-	0.55	-	0.55	-
Price and awards (15xx)						-
**Assets (20xx)	.03	-	.03	-	.03	-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- Ongoing

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

The Corporate Services Division implements obligations under the Public Financial Management Act, Treasury Instructions, Income Tax Act, Public Service Act and Public Service Instructions to ensure that the AGO divisions operate effectively and efficiently.

This Division is responsible to support the Solicitor General with the overall management of the Office and assisting the Divisions to operate effectively and efficiently. It covers all the standards administrative functions of the ministry, financial management, human resource management, asset management, records and files management, vehicle logistics and management of the Office building. The Corporate Services Division consists of the following sections –

- (1) Finance Section
- (2) Human Resource/Planning Section
- (3) IT Section
- (4) Asset Section
- (5) Administration and Logistics Section

Outputs

Output 1.3.1 – Improved logistical support and work environment.						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARG ETS #	INDICA TORS #	Recur rent %	Develop ment %
(1) Provide better customer service for AGO staff/Public	Percentage of satisfactory survey	Commence 25/26	4 to 5 stars per quarter	4 to 5 stars per quarter	4 to 5 stars per quarter				
(2) Provide efficient & reliable transport services	(1) Number of complaints from staff against transport service (2) Number of vehicles checks per quarter	<5 per quarter 6 vehicles	<5 per quarter 6 vehicles	<5 per quarter 6 vehicles	<5 per quarter 6 vehicles	16.3	16.3.2	20	

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

(3) Manage vehicle log book	Percentage of vehicle log completed	100% completion	100% completion	100% completion	100% completion	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Maintain clean working environment	(1) Number of complaints from staff in regards to office cleanliness per quarter (2) Number of complaints from staff in regards to maintenance of building (broken/maintain)	<5 per quarter	<5 per quarter	<5 per quarter	<5 per quarter	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Upkeep Asset registry	Annual Asset Registry submitted to MOF	Annually (July)	Annually (July)	Annually (July)	Annually (July)				
Output 1.3.2: Better formulated corporate plan with improved monitoring, management and reporting mechanisms on operation and progress.									
Consolidated Corporate Plan and Annual Management Plans and update through Monitor & Evaluation and Annual Report									
(1) Plan and consolidate AGO Corporate Plan for every financial year	(1) Submit 1 st draft CP to SG (2) Submit final draft CP to SG (3) Submit final revised CP to SG	1) Quarter 3 2) Quarter 4 3) Quarter 1	1) Quarter 3 2) Quarter 4 3) Quarter 1	1) Quarter 3 2) Quarter 4 3) Quarter 1	1) Quarter 3 2) Quarter 4 3) Quarter 1	16.3	16.3.2	20	
(2) Develop an Annual Management Plan	(1) Submission of AMP to SG	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Prepare biannual M&E	(1) Submit M&E biannual 1 (Jul-Dec) (2) Submit M&E biannual 2 (Jan-Jun)	1) Quarter 1 2) Quarter 3	1) Quarter 1 2) Quarter 3	1) Quarter 1 2) Quarter 3	1) Quarter 1 2) Quarter 3				
(4) Draft annual reports	(1) Submit Annual Report to SG	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	16.3	16.3.2		
Output 1.3.3: Improve staff capacity and healthy working environment									
Provide professional and administrative support staff to be mentored to create a performance culture which reflects high level or team work, harmony and collaboration to build organisational capability									
(1) Conduct	(1) Number of internal	1 per quarter	1 per quarter	1 per quarter	1 per quarter	16.3	16.3.2	10	

continuous internal trainings for legal & support staff (e.g. Fortnight presentations for legal staff)	trainings for staffs								
(2) Promote healthy living activities	Number of healthy initiatives implemented per month	1	1	1	1				
Output 1.3.4: Better financial management systems and control is in place and observed Provide effective financial management systems and controls are in place and observed, expenditure remains within budget parameters and maximize the use of government resources and avoid wastage at all times.									
(1) Prepare AGO budget to reflect the Corporate Plan	(1) Draft Budget submission (2) Revised Budget submission.	Quarter 3 Quarter 1	Quarter 3 Quarter 1	Quarter 3 Quarter 1	Quarter 3 Quarter 1	16.3	16.3.2	20	
(2) Prepare Revenue return	(1) Annual revenue return (R8, R4) (2) Monthly revenue return (R7, R6)	(1) August (2) Before 28 of every month	(1) August (2) Before 28 of every month	(1) August (2) Before 28 of every month	(1) August (2) Before 28 of every month	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Prepare end of month expenditure report	Number of reports submitted to Executive Committee per quarter	12	12	12	12	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Prepare Annual forecast with regular update	Submission of Annual forecast	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	Quarter 1	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Prepare and process: sun system orders and pick	Timely processing of purchase requests from Staff	< 5 working days upon receipt	< 5 working days upon receipt	< 5 working days upon receipt	< 5 working days upon receipt	16.3	16.3.2		

up; prepare vouchers for invoice payments									
(6) Review salary/wa ges and submit	Timely processing of salary and wages	95%	95%	95%	95%	16.3	16.3.2		
(7) Prepare allowance payments	Timely processing of allowance payments	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
Output 1.3.5: Better Human Resources Management policies and processes Provide appropriate human resources management policies and processes that will increase organizational and individual capability are in place, and employees are provided with reasonable opportunities for personal and professional development.									
(1) Implemen t the PMS system	1) Submit MYR to SG 2) Submit EFY to SG. 3) Submit PMS IIP to SG 4) Submit bi- annual PMS report	1) Q3 2) Q1 3) Q1 4) Q1 and Q3	1) Q3 2) Q1 3) Q1 4) Q1 and Q3	1) Q3 2) Q1 3) Q1 4) Q1 and Q3	1) Q3 2) Q1 3) Q1 4) Q1 and Q3	16.3	16.3.2	20	
(2) Conduct recruitme nt process	Percentage of AGO quarterly vacancies filled.	100% within 1.5 months	100% within 1.5 months	100% within 1.5 months	100% within 1.5 months	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Manage and monitor attendanc e book	Percentage of staff signing the attendance book monthly	100%	100%	100%	100%	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Manage staff leave	Timely submission of leave forms to SG for approval	Within 2 days of request	Within 2 days of request	Within 2 days of request	Within 2 days of request	16.3	16.3.2		
Output 1.3.6: Better ICT services provided by the Office internally and externally to meet the Office outcomes and support the TSDF II national outcomes. ▪ Daily update of all AGO databases to ensure that all work on files are updated. Provide quality ICT services to the Attorney General's Office operations.									
(1) Update the Office Criminal, Civil, Family, Land and Public Service Tribunal	(1) 1) Uptime of databases and IT systems (2) 2) Back up of databases and IT systems (3) 3) Update of databases and IT systems	(1) >4x a week 2) >4x a week 3) >4x a week 4) >5 per quarter	1) >4x a week 2) >4x a week 3) >4x a week 4) >5 per quarter	1) >4x a week 2) >4x a week 3) >4x a week 4) >5 per quarter	1) >4x a week 2) >4x a week 3) >4x a week 4) >5 per quarter	16.3	16.3.2	10	

Case database	(4) 4) No. of complaints								
(2) Update the Office website & general database	(1) Timely update of website (www.ago.gov.to) (2) Uptime of AGO website	>4x a week	>4x a week	>4x a week	>4x a week	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Conduct inventory check on equipment/assets	(1) Consolidate with Property Officer of IT (2) Number of checking of equipment/assets/updating to DS	(1) Once per month	(1) Once per month	(1) Once per month	(1) Once per month	16.3	16.3.2		

6.2 Program 2 - Legal Services

The Legal Services program is administered by the following divisions/sub-programs –

- (1) Sub-program 2.1: Legislative Drafting Division
- (2) Sub-program 2.2: Legal Advice & International Law Division
- (3) Sub-program 2.3: Civil, Land and Family Litigation Division

All these divisions are under the directions of a Senior Crown Counsel (D/CEOs) and the Senior Crown Counsels ultimately report to the Solicitor General.

6.2.1 Sub-program 2.1: Legislative Drafting Division

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 2.1 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.15
Executive Staff	1	2	2	2
Prof Staff (Band I-L)	4	5	5	5
Other Staff (Band M-S)				
Total Established	5	7	7	7
Unestablished	1	1	1	1
Total Staff	6	8	8	8

Figure 6: Sub-program 2.1: Legislative Drafting Divisions total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.18	-	0.16	-	0.16	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.01	-	0.01	-	0.01	-

Travel and Communication (12xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	.07	-	.09	-	.09	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
**Assets (20xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- On-going

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

The Legislative Drafting Division has the overall responsibility for drafting Government legislation to ensure that new, amending or repealing legislation are legally sound. As the principal drafter for His Majesty's Government, the key role of the Legislative Drafting Division is to produce plain language drafts that are legally correct and give effect to Government policy. In drafting legislation, the Legislative Drafting Division acts on instructions from instructing Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

In order to perform this responsibility in an independent and transparent manner, the Legislative Drafting Division is not involved in creating policy or in developing policy and legislative proposals. Rather, its role in the legislative development and drafting process begins once it receives a Cabinet Decision to draft a Bill, regulation or other legislative instruments for Government to give effect to a particular policy.

In undertaking this role, the Legislative Drafting Division works closely with the relevant Ministry, Department or Agency responsible for a legislative proposal to receive and clarify drafting instructions, to draft and revise legislation, as well as to support stakeholder consultations.

If it does not have the capacity nor expertise to draft a certain legislation, the relevant Ministry, Department or Agency will be responsible for engaging a consultant drafter to assist with legislative drafting. In any event, all legislative drafting work of Government must be vetted by the Legislative Drafting Division before they can proceed to the Cabinet Law Committee and subsequently to Cabinet.

In drafting legislation, the Legislative Drafting Division does so with specialized skills and expertise.

For all legislative drafting projects, the Legislative Drafting Division needs to be consulted and kept informed throughout all stages of legislative drafting. The Legislative Drafting Division designates a legislative drafter or legal officer to provide drafting support. If the legislative drafting project involves a legislative drafting consultant, the designated Legislative Drafting Division drafter will liaise with the drafting consultant and the drafting instructor on the development of the draft.

Other important responsibilities facilitated by the Legislative Drafting Division includes formatting draft legislation into the Tongan legislative style, translating or vetting the translation of all legislation from the English language into the Tongan language, providing Secretariat assistance to the Cabinet Law Committee, and gazetting and publishing passed and royal assented legislation.

The Legislative Drafting Division has four main outputs –

2.1.1 Better drafting of legislation for Government to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly

2.1.2 Better support of constitutional integrity and governance, legislative and statutory enforcement powers

2.1.3 Better, efficient and accurate translation of all government legislation and related legal documents

2.1.4 Better, efficient and timely publication of legal instruments

Outputs

Output 2.1.1: Better drafting of legislation for Government to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly.						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Targets #	Indicators #	Recurrent	Development
1. Liaise (initiate and coordinate) with relevant MDAs to obtain drafting instructions for drafting their relevant bills and subsidiary legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of meetings Number of correspondences via Email and telephone calls 	50	50	50	50				

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

2. Drafting bills and subsidiary legislation for Government to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly	Accuracy of draft in compliance with the drafting instructions	85%	85%	85%	85%	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10. 7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b .1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a. 1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
3. Vet and review draft Bills and subsidiary legislation for Government before it is submitted to the Legislative Assembly	1) Accuracy in compliance with the drafting instructions 2) Structure in compliance with Legislative Drafting Manual 3) Format in compliance with the Legislative Drafting Manual	85%	85%	85%	85%	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10. 7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b .1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a. 1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
4. Provide Secretariat duties to the Government Law Committee and facilitate Law Committee Meetings	Number of meetings	18	20	20	20				
5. Facilitate Sub-Drafting Committee Meetings	Number of meetings	30	30	30	30	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10.	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b		

						7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	.1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a. 1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
6. Provide cabinet submission and correspondences with the Legislative Assembly and Palace Office in relation to legislation.	Number of Cabinet submissions	20	20	20	20	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10. 7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b .1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a. 1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
Output 2.1.2: Better support of constitutional integrity and governance for the Government legislative process Support and implement directions of the Attorney General in provision of advice to His Majesty's Cabinet, Government MDAs in support of Constitutional integrity and governance.									
(1) Update and maintain the Government annual legislative program.	1) Every fortnight	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10. 7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b .1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a.		

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

							1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
(2) Implementation of Cabinet and Privy Council Decisions in relation to legislative changes	1) Number of Cabinet Decisions implemented in a FY 2) Number of Privy Council Decisions implemented in a FY	(1) 10 (2) 10	(1) 10 (2) 10	(1) 10 (2) 10	(1) 10 (2) 10				
(3) Assist Government MDAs with their public awareness programs in relation to their relevant laws, draft Bills and subsidiary legislation	Number of consultations	20	20	20	20				
(4) Provide legal advice to AG and SG on constitutional amendments and legislative amendments	Number of legal advices issued	20	20	20	20				
Output 2.1.3: Better, efficient and accurate translation of all Government legislation and related instruments from English language to the Tongan language support of legislative and statutory enforcement powers Support and implement directions of the Attorney General in the enforcement the Attorney General's legislative and statutory enforcement power.									
(1) Responsible for translating and vetting the translation of all Government Bills, subsidiary legislation and related legal instruments	(1) Number of translated Government Bills, subsidiary legislation and related legal instruments	30	30	30	30	1.3,1.5,3 .5,3.7, 4.3,4.4, 5.1,5.6, 5.c, 6.b, 8.8,8.9, 10.4,10. 7,11.2,1 1.4, 11.7, 12.5,12. 7,13.2,1 4.4,15.8, 16.3,16. a,16.5,1 7.18	1.3.1, 1.5.1,3.5 .2,3.7.1, 4.3.,4.4., 5.1.1,5.6 .2, 5.c.1,6.b .1,8.8.2, 8.9.2,10. 4.1,10.b. 1,11.2.1, 11.4.1,1 1.7.2,12. 5.1,12.7. 1,13.2.1, 14.4.1,1 5.8.1,16. 3.1,16.a. 1,16.5.1, 17.18.2		
(2) Facilitate Sub-Translation Committee Meetings	Number of Sub-Translation Committee Meetings	40	40	40	40				
(3) Format legislation in accordance to the Tongan formatting style	Number of formatted legislations	20	20	20	20				

(4) Proof-read the Tongan version of the legislation	Number of Tongan legislations that have been proof read	20	20	20	20				
Output 2.1.4 – Better, efficient and timely publication of legal instruments									
(1) Publication of all Acts, subsidiary legislation and relevant legal instruments on relevant Tonga Government Gazette	Number of legal instruments published in the Tonga Government Gazette	25	25	25	25				
(2) Publish all Acts, subsidiary legislation and relevant instruments on AGO website	Number of legal instruments published on AGO website	25	25	25	25				

6.2.2 Sub-program 2.2: Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 2.2 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.14	.13	.13	.13
Executive Staff	1	2	2	2
Prof Staff (Band I-L)	2	3	3	3
Other Staff (Band M-S)				
Total Established	3	5	5	5
Unestablished	1	2	2	2
Total Staff	3	7	7	7

Figure 7: Sub-program 2.2: Legal Advice and International Law Division & Treaty Section total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program according to the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.12	-	0.12	-	0.12	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.02	-	0.02	-	0.02	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
**Assets (20xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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For sub-program 2.2, there are a total 6 outputs to reflect the three main functions undertaken by the Division. These three main functions are Legal Advice, International Law, and Treaty Section (established pursuant to Cabinet Decision 448 of 26 May 2023. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has agreed that, the Treaty Section would be best placed with the Attorney General's Office given its expert capacity. This will however operate in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reasons for changes

The reason for the changes is to ensure that most of the key functions of the Division are categorized in a manner that reflects the ongoing work of the Division and allows for accountability in the corporate plan and budget format.

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

This sub-program is led by a Senior Crown Counsel (D/CEO).

Legal Advisor Role

This division focuses on providing professional, independent and quality legal advice on all legal issues to His Majesty's Government, and to support and maintain the integrity of the rule of law in the Kingdom. This is reflected in Outputs 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3.

This work is undertaken through:

- (1) Provision of independent and quality legal advice.
- (2) Representation in Committees (statutory based or Cabinet committees), Taskforces or Working Groups. A number of Committees the SG or the Division participates in include the following: -
 - (a) Statutory Committees
 - Government Procurement Committee
 - Environment Impact Assessment Committee
 - National Emergency Management Committees
 - Mental Health
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - (b) Cabinet Committees
 - (c) Ad Hoc Committees established to deliver on a certain output for a certain period of time.
 - (d) Participation in domestic meetings hosted either by MDAs or Government stakeholders

International Law Adviser

The Office's mandate as Government's International Law Adviser is a specialist area of law given Tonga's international engagements and the need to advance and protect Tonga's national interests. The International Law Division plays a key role in advising Government in its obligations under international law, negotiating treaties and other international documents as requested by Government. These roles are, to an extent, reflected in Outputs 2.2.4 and 2.2.5.

Treaty Section

The third main component is the Treaty Section as described in the previous page and reflected in Output 2.2.6.

Outputs

Output 2.2.1: Improved provision of independent and quality legal advice Ensure the operation of the Office is aligned with Government's TSDFII and outcome objectives						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity:	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARGETS #	INDICATORS #	Recurrent	Development
(1) Provide legal advice upon MDAs request in any areas of law	(1) Percentage of Legal Advice issued (2) Percentage of meetings convened or correspondence with MDAs for legal advice issues	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.a	16.1.1, 16.3.2, 16.2.3, 16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(2) Draft, review, vet and negotiate contracts and any other legal or policy documents	(1) Percentage of contracts and any other legal or policy documents	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(3) Providing legal clearance of contracts and other legal or policy documents through issuance of "certificate of clearance"	(1) Percentage of legal clearance of contracts and other legal or policy documents through issuance of "certificate of clearance"	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.a	16.1.1, 16.3.2, 16.2.3, 16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(4) Facilitate capacity building in the field of legal advice and legal research for Government legal counsels	(1) Percentage of capacity building in the field of legal advice and legal research for Government legal counsels	4	4	4	4	16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.a	16.1.1, 16.3.2, 16.2.3, 16.5.1, 16.a.1		

(5) Support and promote rule of law initiatives at the community level through law week	(1) Percentage of promote rule of law initiatives at the community level through law week	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 1	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 1	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 1	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 1	16.1, 16.2,16. 3, 16.5,16. a	16.1.1,16. 3.2, 16.2.3,16. 5.1, 16.a.1		
Output 2.2.2: Better Legal Representation in Government or National Committees/Taskforce or Working Groups or Meetings									
Ensuring delivery of mandates comply with the laws of Tonga and legal procedures are followed									
(1) Attend, participate, and provide legal counsel in statutory established committees, taskforces or working groups to ensure compliance with the laws of Tonga as directed by the Attorney General and/or Solicitor General	(1) Percentage of committees attended (2) Percentage of legal matters dealt with (3) Percentage of reports prepared (4) Number of action points implemented	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.1, 16.2,16. 3, 16.5,16. a	16.1.1,16. 3.2, 16.2.3,16. 5.1, 16.a.1		
(2) Represent Government or Attorney General's Office in domestic meetings, workshops and taskforce ensuring compliance with the law	(1) Percentage of committees attended (2) Percentage of legal matters dealt with (3) Percentage of reports prepared (4) Number of action points implemented	85%	85%	85%	85%				
Output 2.2.3: Improved Government commercial arrangements									
To provide legal advice to Government on commercial arrangements									
(1) Provide legal advice on public enterprises related matters	Percentage of advice on public enterprises related matters	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(2) Provide legal counsel and advice on shareholders rights and responsibilities	Percentage of legal counsel and advice on shareholders rights and responsibilities	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(3) Provide legal advice on banking related arrangements for the Government	Percentage of advice on banking related arrangements for the Government	85%	85%	85%	85%				

(4) Provide legal advice on Government procurement and support the Solicitor General in the discharging responsibilities under the Government Procurement Committee	Percentage of advice on Government procurement	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(5) Provide legal advice on cross-border commercial contracts and agreements	Percentage of advice on cross-border commercial contracts and agreements	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(6) Provide legal advice on commercial arrangements with Countries or Donor Partners	Percentage of advice on commercial arrangements with Countries or Donor Partners	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(7) Meet and negotiate with the legal counsels of parties engaging in commercial dealings with Government	Percentage of advice on negotiate with the legal counsels of parties engaging in commercial dealings with Government	85%	85%	85%	85%				
Output 2.2.4: Better International Law Adviser									
To provide legal advice to Government on international law issues in order to assist and facilitate the implementation of Clause 31A which is linked with Clause 39 of the Constitution of Tonga									
(1) Provide legal advice to Government on international law	Percentage of advice on legal advice to Government on international law	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(2) Provide legal advice to Government on legal obligations under international law	Percentage of advice on legal advice to Government on legal obligations under international law	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(3) Attend, participate and represent the Attorney General's Office and Government of Tonga in bilateral and	Percentage of advice on representation at bilateral and multilateral negotiations	85%	85%	85%	85%				

multilateral negotiations									
(4) Represent the Government of Tonga in peaceful settlement of dispute forums and before international dispute bodies	Percentage of advice on settlement	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(5) Draft, vet, negotiate and review multilateral and bilateral legal instruments the Government intends to sign onto providing a certificate of endorsement	Percentage of advice on negotiate and review multilateral and bilateral legal instruments	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(6) Secretariat for the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Maritime Boundaries and the Extended Continental Shelf	Percentage of advice on Secretariat obligation for the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Maritime Boundaries and the Extended Continental Shelf	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(7) Undertake focal point duties for the United Nations Office for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and United Nations Convention Against Corruption	Percentage of advice on focal point duties for the United Nations Office for the United Nations Convention	85%	85%	85%	85%				
Output 2.2.5 Lead legal counsel for Government of Tonga in international meetings and engagements									
Ensuring international engagements and advancing Tonga's interests align with international law									
(1) Legal counsel for the Government of Tonga in International Meetings	(1) Percentage of international meetings attended abroad (2) Percentage of international meetings attended in Tonga	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%				

	(3) Percentage of international meetings attended virtually (4) Percentage of Legal tasks undertaken								
(2) Represent Government in regional and international legal committees	Percentage of representation of Government in regional and international legal committees	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(3) Drafting and/or vetting statements and intervention of the Government of Tonga to ensure alignment with international law	(1) Percentage of statements and interventions or drafted and vetted	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(4) Draft and/or vet soft law instruments	(1) Percentage of soft law instruments	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(5) Maintain internal overseas travel reports and resources and facilitate access for use of all AGO Counsels and Government lawyers	(1) Updated monthly	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(6) Meet and coordinate with regional and international groupings, organizations and committees as directed by Government	(1) Percentage of soft coordination	85%	85%	85%	85%				
Output 2.2.6: Treaty Section									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement Cabinet Directive 448 of 26 May 2023 on Treaties as part of Tonga's laws 									
(1) Develop, manage and maintain Tonga's Central Treaty Repository	(1) Fully establish the online version of the central treaty repository (2) Publish the full version of the Tonga Treaty Collection Annually (3) Publish Tonga Treaty Series Annually (4) Disseminate Treaty Information to all	(1) 85% (2) 0 (3) 0 (4) 0	(1) 0 (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 0	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%	(1) 85% (2) 85% (3) 85% (4) 85%				

	MDAs or relevant MDA								
(2) Develop and provide legal advice on Tonga's treaty guide and practice, procedural matters relating to the conclusion of agreements including instruments of ratification/accession, full powers	(1) Percentage of legal advice on Tonga's treaty guide	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(3) Publish, translate and disseminate treaty information to Government and public at large	(1) Percentage of translate and disseminate treaty information	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(4) Address legal questions from Government regarding the implementation of its treaty obligations	(1) Percentage of response in addressing legal questions from Government	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(5) Assist Government in drafting and preparation of reports required under Treaty obligations	(1) Percentage of drafting and preparation of reports required under Treaty obligations	85%	85%	85%	85%				
(6) Attend, engage and participate in Treaty related Committees, Working Groups, Taskforce, established by the Government of Tonga such as the UPR WG, National Trade Facilitation Committee, United Nations Convention	(1) Percentage of engage and participate in Treaty related Committees, Working Groups, Taskforce	85%	85%	85%	85%				

Against Corruption Committee									
(7) Liaise with depositaries of treaties concerning treaty related information and updates	(1) Percentage of liaison with depositaries of treaties concerning treaty related information and updates	85%	85%	85%	85%				

6.2.3 Sub-program 2.3: Civil, Land and Family Litigation

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 2.3 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.19	0.16	0.16	0.16
Executive Staff (Band E-H)	2	2	2	2
Prof Staff (Band I-L)	2	3	3	3
Other Staff (Band M-S)	1	1	1	1
Total Established	5	6	6	6
Unestablished	1	1	1	1
Total Staff	6	7	7	7

Figure 8: Sub-program 2.3: Civil, Land and Family Litigation total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.16	-	0.18	-	0.18	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	0.01	-	0.01	-	0.01	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
**Assets (20xx)	.	-		-		-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- On-going

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

This sub-program is currently lead by the Solicitor General and supported by two Crown Counsels, 2 Assistant Crown Counsels and an Administrator. This division will be responsible for the following activities -

- Representing the Crown civil in all land and where appropriate, family litigation.
- Performing law officers' roles for the Judiciary.
- Performing responsibilities in an independent and transparent manner.

Outputs

Output 2.3.1: Better representation of the Crown in civil, land and where appropriate, family litigation and Tribunals						SDG/TSDf		Budget	
Activity:	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARGETS #	INDICATORS #	Recurrent	Development
CIVIL (1) Represent the Crown in all civil matters	(1) Timeliness (2) Resolved in the best interest of Government (3) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(2) Compliance with all Court Orders	(1) Timeliness (2) Courteous and Responsiveness	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(3) Initiation of meetings with Government MDAs or request for instructions.	(1) Timeliness	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(4) Preparation of case briefs for the SG to approve.	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(5) Quarterly trainings (civil procedures)	(1) Timeliness (2) Effectiveness	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(6) Draft Statement of Claim / Statement of	(1) Timeliness (2) Courteous	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

Defence and other relevant Court documents									
(7) Maintaining correspondence with the Courts and opposing Counsels on the progress of the matter or any issue directed by the Court.	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(8) Legal Research and preparation for trials, hearings, legal submissions and appeals in Court	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(9) Report back to relevant MDAs on the results of cases	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	85%	85%	85%	85%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
LANDS (10) Represent the Minister in all land matters	(1) Timeliness (2) Resolved in the best interest of Government (3) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(11) Implementation and compliance with all Court orders and directions relating to land actions brought against the Minister of Lands	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%	16.1, 16.2,16.3, 16.5,16.a	16.1.1,16.3.2, 16.2.3,16.5.1, 16.a.1		
(12) Initiation of meetings with Government MDAs or request for instructions.	1. Timeliness	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(13) Preparation of case briefs for the SG to approve.	1. Timeliness Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(14) Quarterly trainings	1. Timeliness Effectiveness	80%	80%	80%	80%				

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

(15) Draft Statement of Claim / Statement of Defence and other relevant Court documents	1. Timeliness Courteous	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(16) Maintaining correspondence with the Courts and opposing Counsels on the progress of the matter or any issue directed by the Court.	1. Timeliness Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(17) Legal Research and preparation for trials, hearings, legal submissions and appeals in Court	1. Timeliness Accuracy	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(18) Report back to relevant MDAs on the results of cases	1. Timeliness Accuracy	85%	85%	85%	85%				
FAMILY (19) Implementation of Court Orders in a timely manner, on instructions to act as Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)	1. Timeliness 2. Implementation in the best interest of the Child	80%	80%	80%	80%				
TRIBUNAL (20) Represent the AGO in all tribunal matters	1. Timeliness 2. Resolved in the best interest of the statutory authority	80%	80%	80%	80%				
(21) Preparation of Tribunal submissions and all relevant documents	1. Timeliness 2. Courteous and Responsiveness	80%	80%	80%	80%				

6.3 Program 3 - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Director of Public Prosecutions directs the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Director of Public Prosecutions is responsible for all criminal litigation.

The above roles of the DPP is conducted with the support of the ICT and Filing Division in ensuring efficient case management and the reduction in backlog of cases in the Tongan Courts. This program works closely with the Tonga Police and the Courts (Magistrates Court, Supreme Court, Land Court, Court of Appeal).

6.3.1 Sub-program 3.1: Criminal Division

Total Staff by Key Category Sub-Program 3.1 (\$M)

Budget	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Total Recurrent (\$ M)	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
Executive Staff (Band D-H)	8	7	7	7
Prof Staff (Band I-L)	3	6	6	6
Other Staff (Band M-S)	2	3	3	3
Total Established	13	16	16	16
Unestablished	0	0	0	0
Total Staff	13	16	16	16

Figure 9: Sub-program 3.1: Criminal Division total Expenditure total staff by key category

To deliver outputs to the standards set out for each division/sub-program the overall budget (\$M)

Expenditure Item (\$m)	FY 2025/26 (est recurrent)	FY 2025/26 Proj (dev)	FY 2026/27 (est recurrent)	FY 2026/27 Proj (dev)	FY 2027/28 (est recurrent)	FY 2027/28 Proj (dev)
Established Staff (10xx)	0.51	-	0.51	-	0.51	-
Un established Staff (11xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel and Communication (12xx)	0.03	-	0.02	-	0.03	-
Maintenance and Operations (13xx)	0.00	-	0.05	-	0.05	-
Purchase of Goods and Services (14xx)	0.05	-	0.05	-	0.05	-
Price and awards (15xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-
**Assets (20xx)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Change in Program from Last Corporate Plan and Budget

Change from last CP&B	Ongoing	Minor change	Major Change	New
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Reasons for changes

- Establishment of new positions two (2) Assistant Crown Prosecutor and a Filing Register.

Division(s)/Subprograms Responsible

The Criminal Division is under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Division consists of nine Crown Prosecutors, which is a reduction of eleven from the previous financial year. There is a need to recruit new Crown Prosecutors to replenish the numbers.

Outputs

Output 3.1.1: Better criminal prosecutions conducted on behalf of the Crown (His Majesty the King and the Community at large)						SDG/TSDF		Budget	
Activity:	KPIs	2024/25 (baseline)	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	TARGETS #	INDICATORS #	Recurrent	Development
(1) Prepare criminal briefs for criminal matters with appropriate recommendations	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(2) Review of Tonga Police Professional Standard Unit Complaints	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Court Appearances	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Conducting criminal trials in the summary jurisdiction, enhanced jurisdiction, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness (4) Structure and Format (5) Efficiency	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Drafting, preparing, and translating of	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		

Attorney General's Office Corporate Plan & Budget 2025/26 - 2027/28

court documents	(4) Structure and Format								
(6) Review decisions of Magistrates or Supreme Court Judges for appeal to Supreme Court (Appellate Jurisdiction) or Court of Appeal, respectively	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(7) Conduct Legal Research	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(8) Reporting to Police all closed criminal matters	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(9) Correspondence with Courts, Police and MDAs	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(10) File noting of criminal files	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(11) Service of court documents	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(12) Maintaining an updated database for all criminal matters	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(13) Maintaining work allocation calendar	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(14) Police Trainings	(1) Accuracy (2) Comprehensive ness (3) Structure and Format (4) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		

Output 3.1.2 Better performance of responsibilities in an independent and transparent manner Support and implement directions of the Attorney General in performing legal powers and duties in an independent and transparent manner in accordance with Clause 31A (2) of the Constitution.									
(1) Adherence to the Prosecution Code	(1) Accuracy (2) Comprehensive ness (3) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(2) Adherence to DPP General Instructions	(1) Accuracy (2) Comprehensive ness (3) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Adherence with Court service time requirements and Practice Direction	(1) Timeliness (2) Efficiency	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Consultation with complainant's, deceased person's family members, Investigating Officers, Relevant Organisations and Police Commissioner before Crown Offers No Evidence or enters Nolle Prosequi)	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Preparing and serving Prosecution Indicative Sentencing Submissions and Information for Self-Represented Defendant's on the Criminal Trial Process	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(6) Timely distribution	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		

and publication of judgements, decisions and court orders									
(7) Improve reporting requirements to relevant MDAs	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
Output 3:1.3: Better Coordination and cooperation with regional and international bodies and the fulfilment of regional and international obligations									
(1) Participation in the Joint Law Enforcement Agencies Committee	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(2) Enhance coordination with the Serious Organised Crimes and Transnational Crimes Unit (SOCTCU)	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Participate in all Pacific Island Law Offices Network (PILON) programmes	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Deal with Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Requests	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness (4) Structure and Format	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Participate in APG, FATF, ARIN-AP initiatives and programs	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensive ness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(6) Participate in cybercrime	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%				

initiatives and programs	(3) Comprehensiveness								
(7) Participate in IAP initiatives and programs	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Comprehensiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
Output 3.1.4: Better working conditions and staff welfare									
(1) Adequate resources, stationery and equipment for staff	(1) Sufficiency (2) Efficiency (3) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(2) Adequate office and working space	(4) Sufficiency (5) Efficiency (6) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Safe working environment and conditions	(1) Adequacy (2) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
(4) Support staff healthy living initiatives and staff recuperation	(1) Adequacy (2) Efficiency (3) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
(5) Enhance office morale through social and team bonding activities	(1) Sufficiency (2) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
(6) Adequate remuneration, benefits, entitlements and privileges for staff	(1) Adequacy (2) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
(7) Ensure office is adequately staffed	(1) Sufficiency (2) Efficiency (3) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%				
Output 3.1.5: Improve public service delivery									
(1) Better, safe and comfortable office space	(1) Sufficiency (2) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		

for briefing of witnesses									
(2) Updating of victims, complainants and family of deceased persons of the status of their matters	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(3) Liaise with the Women and Children Crisis Centre and the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children where appropriate	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(4) Catering for the transportation needs of witnesses	(1) Timeliness (2) Accuracy (3) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		
(5) Adequate areas for receiving and meeting with members of the public including virtual meeting	(1) Sufficiency (2) Effectiveness	90%	90%	90%	90%	16.3	16.3.2		

ANNEX A: CHALLENGES / GAP ANALYSIS

Listed below are our challenges identified and reported throughout the financial year 2023/24, continuing to current financial year 2024/25 and we aim to also use as a mechanism for our upcoming planned activities in this Corporate Plan processes.

Division	Challenges	Way forward
101: Office of the Attorney General's Office	Awareness on the mandate of the Attorney General's Office	Awareness and outreach - The Attorney General Ministerial Outreach program.
102: Office of the Solicitor General's Office	As reflected in all divisions	As reflected in all divisions
103: Corporate Services Division	Efficiency and sustainability tools and resources of Government Process	Ensuring key tools are available for the efficiency of the office and key roles within the Corporate are in place given there is no Human resource and or Training officer and most sections consist of only one staff.
201: Legislative Drafting	Inadequate staffing	Re-evaluation of JDs/Recruitment
202: Legal Advice/ International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate staffing • Waiting for the contribution of other Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve turnover time from MDAs • Re-evaluation of JDs/Recruitment
203: Civil, Lands and Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting instructions from Government MDAs • Lack of cooperation with MDAs and or incomplete or unsatisfactory instructions from MDAs • Inadequate staffing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve turnover time from MDAs • Re-evaluation of JDs/Recruitment
301: Criminal Division	High turnover of Senior staffs Non-appearances by Accused persons before the Courts	Re-evaluation of JDs/Recruitment

ANNEX B: DOCUMENTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE MANDATES

The mandates, statutory functions and duties of the Attorney General is established by the following key legislation:

Legislation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act of Constitution of Tonga; 2. Anti-Corruption Act; 3. Consumer Protection Act; 4. Charitable Trusts Act; 5. Court of Appeal Act; 6. Copra Act; 7. Criminal Offences Act; 8. Crown Proceedings Act; 9. Ombudsman's Office Act; 10. Defamation Act; 11. Divorce Act; 12. Electoral Act; 13. Extradition 'Act; 14. Fisheries Management Act; 15. Foreign Evidence Act; 16. Guardianship Act; 17. Intoxicating Liquor Act; 18. Immigration Act; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Legitimacy Act; 20. Law Practitioner Act; 21. Public Finance Management Act; 22. Public Enterprises Act; 23. Pharmacy Act; 24. Supreme Court Act; 25. Tobacco Control Act; 26. Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act; 27. Medical and Dental Practice Act; 28. Maintenance of Illegitimate Children Act; 29. Magistrate's Court Act; 30. Mental Health Act; 31. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act; 32. Nurses Act; 33. Retirement Fund Board Act; 34. Tonga Law Commission Act; 35. Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crimes Act 36. Wharves Act 37. Family Protection Act
National Policies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2. Government Priority Agenda 	