



13 October 2015

Letter No: 188
Ref. No: PRO/300/TON

Dear Board Members – Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme (TGSP)

Subject: Completion of Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme (TGSP)

I wish to share with you the enclosed final report of the Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme. TGSP concluded on 30 September 2015 having completed its Board-approved activities.

During its three years of operation TGSP has had a direct and beneficial impact on good governance in Tonga, and helped ensure continued progress among beneficiary organizations, including the Legislative Assembly, the Tonga Electoral Commission, and CSOs. This would not have been possible without your continued guidance, support and oversight of the programme as Board Members. Taking this opportunity, I wish to sincerely thank all of you as Board Members for your continued support and oversight of TGSP that transpired into so many successful achievements over the years.

Among its accomplishments, TGSP has improved procedural knowledge and legislative skills in Parliament, increased civic education among voters, and enhanced the democratic participation and empowerment of women. TGSP has also had a valuable impact on Tongan youth, helping increase their involvement in civic affairs and the electoral process. Youth have also featured large in the programme's anti-corruption work, which has also supported substantial parliamentary progress in this area.

Although TGSP has completed its activities, UNDP remains committed to supporting and strengthening good governance in Tonga. UNDP is developing a broader governance programme aimed at supporting citizen engagement, institutional strengthening, and effective democratic governance in Tonga and other Pacific Island Nations. While this is being developed, UNDP Governance Analyst, Mr Mohammed Mozeem based in our Suva Office (mohammed.mozeem@undp.org), or Country Development Manager, Ms Milika Tuita in Tonga (milika.tuita@undp.org) can be contacted for assistance.



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In the interim, I would welcome any suggestions or questions you might have regarding UNDP's governance-related initiatives in Tonga.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Osnat Lubrani', written over a light blue circular watermark.

Osnat Lubrani
Resident Representative

Enclosed

cc Mr. Va'inga Tone, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tonga
Ms Milika Tuita, UN Country Development Manager, Tonga
Mr Mohammed Mozeem, Governance Analyst, UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office