

10th Year Anniversary – English Version

(January 2019)

INTRODUCTION

(Ulupale)

It has been 10 years since the Commission was established in 2008. Its establishment was a significant milestone for Samoa to have in place an Office which focuses on the review and reform of our laws to promote our customs and traditions. In celebrating its 10th year Anniversary in November 2018, the Commission put together various displays in its Office showcasing its achievements, the journey of its projects since 2008 and a banner containing the total number of laws passed by the Parliament of Samoa. This video presentation is divided into 4 Parts:

Part 1- The total number of laws passed by the Parliament of Samoa.

Part 2- The number of territorial constituencies represented by the Members of Parliament of Samoa

Part 3- The Government Ministries and Corporations that administer the laws of Samoa

Part 4- The work or projects of the SLRC since its establishment in 2008

We acknowledge the past leaderships which have paved the way towards the Commission's 10th year celebration, Honourable Justice Tafaoimalo Leilani Tuala Warren; and Leota Theresa Potoi, as well as staff members who have worked in the Commission in the past. We also acknowledge the assistance of our Advisory Board and their contribution in the work of the Commission.

PART 1- THE FABRIC OF LAWS OF SAMOA OR ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

(Sheliza)

Samoa has its own unique traditional structure and designations. Our leaders have already been chosen, they are the orators and high chiefs from our villages and districts, who are elected and appointed into Parliament. They are tasked to deliberate on and pass laws for the benefit of Samoa. The total number of laws of Samoa since its independence in 1962 to December 2018 is 287.

(Ruta)

The 287 laws of Samoa are listed in alphabetical order (A-Z) as shown in the banner displayed. The laws are in the Samoan and English languages. In reforming the laws of Samoa, the Commission strives for our laws to be developed in our own mother tongue, the Samoan language, so that our people can read and understand our laws..

Part 2- The number of Constituencies represented by the Members of Parliament of Samoa

(Mearold)

There are 41 territorial constituencies provided for under the Constitution of Samoa 1960. There are 6 territorial constituencies with 2 additional Members of Parliament. There are 2 urban constituencies. In summary, there are 50 Members of Parliament. Their duty under the Constitution of Samoa 1960 is to 'make laws for the whole or any part of Samoa'.

Part 3- The Government Ministries and Corporations that administer the Fabric of Laws of Samoa

(Liza Talei)

As previously mentioned, there are 287 laws of the Parliament of Samoa as of December 2018. Who is responsible for implementing and administering each law? From the Commission's review, there are 58 Government Offices to date. There are:

- 5 Constitutional Offices;
- 6 Statutory Offices;
- 15 Government Ministries; and
- 32 State Owned Enterprises.

These Government Offices are responsible for implementing and administering our 287 laws. Our Fabric of Laws review reveals that the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration has the most laws (50) to administer. To be followed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. It is important to note that two or more Offices are responsible for the implementation and administration of some laws. The goal is that, all Offices need to work together to effectively implement and meet the objectives in the legal frameworks set out in our laws.

Part 4- The work or projects of the SLRC since its establishment in 2008

30 Projects

(Grace)

Since its establishment in October 2008, the Commission has reviewed a total of 30 law reform projects. These projects were either referred by the Honourable Prime Minister, Cabinet, or the Attorney General.

(Hana)

Of the 30 projects referred to the Commission, 26 have been completed, and 4 are ongoing. Of the 26 projects that have been completed:

- 12 projects have resulted in new laws which were passed and enacted by Parliament
- 3 projects resulted in draft bills awaiting to be passed by Parliament
- 3 projects resulted in the recommendations, to draft the relevant Bills
- 6 projects resulted in the recommendations, to amend the whole legislation or parts of the legislation,
- For the last 2 projects, the Commission has provided advice to Ministries on the content of the reviews carried out by them on the laws they administer.

(Faapale)

Adhoc References

The Commission has also received ad-hoc requests and directives for reviews, as part of its mandate, to **“advise government Ministries and agencies on the reviews of the laws conducted by these Ministries and agencies.”** Since the establishment of the Commission in 2008, the Commission has received more than 20 ad hoc requests, to assist Ministries and agencies with their reviews.

Parliamentary Summons

As part of its mandate in ensuring that the laws of Samoa are kept in a modern state which meets the needs of our Government and the community, the Commission has been summoned by Parliamentary Committees to make submissions on Draft Bills before Parliament. In the past years, the Commission has been summoned 7 times by Parliamentary Committees to provide advice on the Draft Bills before Parliament.

CONCLUSION: FINAL WORDS

(Teleiai Dr. Lalotoa Mulitalo)

Our final words are these - We are thankful and appreciate our country's continuous support to the work of the Commission completed thus far.

We thank you for your patience and positive responses, when we call on your support. Thank you for your contributions and sharing your views on the past law reform projects. This has enabled the Commission to celebrate their past 10 year's achievements today.

But the Commission will continue to need your assistance. We do believe that, "many coconuts produce an abundance of oil", we still need your wealth of knowledge to help inform appropriate laws for Samoa.

We are also blessed by your prayers. May our Heavenly Father continue to provide guidance for the work of the Commission, and the decision making by our Government. As your public servants, we believe that working together as a country will enable us to build laws that are more applicable and appropriate for Samoa in these modern times.

May God continuously bless Samoa

SOIFUA MA IA MANUIA!