

Promoting judicial competence for Tokelau

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Jasmine Netzler



PROMOTING JUSTICE: Rosa Toloa from Atafu, Tokelau and Ana Gaulofo of Fakaofu, Tokelau.

The delivery of justice that is accessible and timely to the judicial needs of the people of Tokelau is the overall goal of a week-long orientation workshop organised by the Pacific Judicial Development Programme (PJDP).

The week-long workshop is currently underway at the Ministry of Justice Courts and Administration at Mulinu'u. Titled 'Tokelau Judicial Orientation Course' His Honour Chief Justice Patu Tiava'asu'e Falefatu Sapolu delivered the Keynote Address at the official opening.

The workshop addresses three objectives to ensure that the 30 participants involved understand the main aims behind the course.

These objectives are:

- to promote judicial competence of Law Commissioners and Court Clerks (who are lay, that is, non-law trained) to perform their judicial duties effectively; and develop a shared vision, understanding and collaboration between court actors and court users being police, Taupulega Appeal Committee representatives and N.G.O. representatives (women, youth and men),
- to promote excellence in the delivery of justice in Tokelau and
- to build the capacity of the courts of Tokelau, and Samoa to deliver judicial orientation training locally.



TOKELAU PARTICIPANTS: The Court Clerk from Nukunonu, Tokelau Mrs. Lepeka Amato-Perez with Acting Law Commissioner from Nukunonu, Tokelau, Mr. Hagato Lino.

A faculty of local and regional training team facilitating the course include; the Senior Legal Adviser to Government of Tokelau and P.J.D.P.

National Coordinator Ms. Lise Suveinakama; Supreme Court Justice Vui Clarence Nelson; the President of the Land and Titles Court, Tagaloa Kerslake; the District Court Judge and P.J.D.P. National Co-ordinator Vaepule Va'ai and the P.J.D.P. Team Leader Dr. Livingston Armytage.



Some of the participants before the orientation started.

Participants include three Law Commissioners, three Court Clerks, six Police Officers, nine Taupelega Appeal Committee members and nine N.G.O. representatives (women, youth and men).

The goal of P.J.D.P. is to strengthen governance and rule of law in Pacific island countries through enhanced access to justice and professional judicial officers who act independently according to legal principles.

Its purpose is also to support P.I.C. to enhance the professional competence of judicial officers and court officers, and the processes and systems that they use.

The course closes this Friday.

LOCAL

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