



GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PACKAGES DUE TO ONGOING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS



1) BUSINESS RELIEF ASSISTANCE	<u>\$6.0M</u>
⇒ BUSINESS OSH	\$2.7M
⇒ FORMAL BUSINESS RELIEF	\$2.8M
⇒ INFORMAL SECTOR	\$0.5M



2) SOCIAL SECTOR	<u>\$4.2M</u>
⇒ VULNERABLE GROUPS	\$1.3M
⇒ EDUCATION	\$2.5M
⇒ CONSTITUENCY	\$0.4M



3) GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY	
⇒ ELECTRICITY PRICE SUBSIDY	\$1.7M
⇒ TAX RELIEF	
4) GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT LOAN (GDL)	\$11.25M
⇒ Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries, Handicraft, Women Groups, Retail and Manufacturers, Special Facilities	

Please contact the Ministry of Finance for any grievances.

Focal Officers	Email Addresses	Phone contact
Hon. Tatafu Moeaki	tmoeaki@finance.gov.to	
Pisila 'Otunuku	potunuku@finance.gov.to	
Lesieli Tufui Faletau	lfaletau@finance.gov.to	7757631
Sione Faleafa	sfaleafa@finance.gov.to	7707230
Melenaite Ahofono	mahofono@finance.gov.to	7515755
Lesieli Vaohea	lvaohea@finance.gov.to	7715701
'Ilaisaane Ofa	iofa@finance.gov.to	7701931



Download Grievances Form online:

Ministry of Finance Website : <https://www.finance.gov.to>



CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

1) BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT RELIEF ASSISTANCE

1.1) EMPLOYEES



Targeted Groups : Employees (registered Businesses members of the National Retirement Fund Board)

Grant Assistance : \$100 per week (eligible up to 4 weeks)

Total Grant Allocation : \$2.8 million

Implementing Agencies : Ministry of Finance and National Retirement Benefits Funds (NRBF)



Applicant: Businesses on behalf of Employees

Download Application Form Online: <https://www.finance.gov.to>

- 1) Submit form in softcopy to this email address : mhalaifonua@gmail.com ; or
- 2) Submit hard copy to National Retirement Benefits Fund Office, Hala Vaha'akolo Road.

1.2) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) FUNDING SUPPORT



Targeted Groups : Registered Businesses (Formal)

Large Businesses : \$1,000

Small Businesses : \$500

Total Grant Allocation : \$2.7 million

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Trade and Economic Development

Contact : Ilaisaane Tu'itupou **Email Address :** ltuitupopu@mted.gov.to **Phone :** 841-0588

Contact : Sione Lautaha **E mail Address :** lautaha.jay@gmail.com **Phone :** 844-4057



Download Application Form Online: <https://forms.gle/PgDCHJHvigYKTyX88>

1.3) RELIEF MEASURES TO TAXPAYERS



Targeted Groups : Registered Businesses (Formal)

Grant Assistance : Tax Relief

Time frame : 30th May 2022

Funding Source : Government

Implementing Agency : Ministry of Revenue and Customs

Targeted Groups : Tax Payers (individuals and businesses)

- 1) Extension of Due Dates for lodgment of returns and payment of consumption tax to 30th May, 2022 with no administrative penalties imposed despite the deferred lodgment or payment ;
- 2) Extension of Due Dates for lodgment of returns and payment of income tax due (i.e. Corporate Tax, PAYE, Small Business Tax, Resident Withholding Tax, Non-resident Withholding Tax and Other Income Taxes) to 30th May, 2022 with no administrative penalties imposed despite the deferred lodgment or payment;



CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

- 3) Provision of Flexible terms of payments and restricting of approved payment terms of taxpayers
- 4) Immediate actions to expedite the processing of refunds payable to taxpayers.

Implementing Agency : Ministry of Revenue and Customs

Contact : Kelemete Vahe, CEO MORC **Email Address** : kelemetev@gmail.com **Phone** : 7777643

1.3) INFORMAL BUSINESSES



Targeted groups : Employers and Employees (not registered)

Grant Assistance : **0.5 million** (Supported through Projects)

Funding Source : Government/Development Partners

Implementing Agencies :

Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

2) VULNERABLE GROUPS



Targeted Groups : Elderlies and Disabilities (special needs)

Grant Assistance : \$200 (ONE OFF)

Time frame : Two (2) payments (100@) in early-April and early- June 2022

Total Grant Amount : TOP\$2.2million

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance

Contact : Lesieli Tufui Faletau **Email Address** : lfaletau@finance.gov.to **Phone** : 757631

2.1) EDUCATION SCHOOL FEES



Targeted Groups : Non Government and Government Secondary Schools and Non-Government Primary Schools

Grant Assistance : TOP\$1.5million

Time frame : Term 1, 2022

Funding Source : Government

Implementing Agency : Ministry of Education and Training

Contact : Dr. Tangikina Steen **Email Address** : metceotonga@outlook.com **Phone** : 7400919

2.2) EDUCATION HAMA e-LEARNING PLATFORM (HeLP)



Targeted Groups : Non Government and Government Secondary Schools Form 6 and 7

Grant Assistance : TOP\$1m towards Laptops

Implementing Agency : Ministry of Education and Training

Contact : Dr. Tangikina Steen **Email Address** : metceotonga@outlook.com **Phone** : 7400919



CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

2.3) CONSTITUENCY ASSISTANCE



Targeted Groups : Communities

Total Grant Amount : TOP\$0.4million

Implementing Agencies : Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Constitu- ency	No. of constitu- ency	Populations by Island Division	%	Grant per constituency	Grant in Jan 2022	Grant per constituency	Grant in March 2022
Tongatapu	10	74,454	75.0	10,000	100,000	30,000	300,000
Vava'u	3	14,283	15.0	10,000	30,000	20,000	60,000
Ha'apai	2	5,419	5.0			10,000	20,000
'Eua	1	4,903	2.5			10,000	10,000
Niuas	1	1,150	2.5			10,000	10,000
Total	17	100,209	100.0		130,000		400,000

3) ELECTRICITY PRICE SUBSIDY



Targeted Groups : ELECTRICITY TARIFF

SUBSIDY Assistance :

- 1) **Horizontal subsidy** : (6.90 seniti per kWh)
- 2) **Vertical subsidy** : (11 seniti per kWh)

Up to 150kwh to expand coverage of tariff lifeline to increase affordability (4,000 households)

Timeframe : 1st April, 2022 to 30th June 2022

Total Grant Allocation : TOP\$1.7million

Implementing Agency : Tonga Power Limited and Ministry of Finance

Contact : Finau Moa, Acting CEO TPL **Email Address** : fmoa@tongapower.to



CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

4) GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT LOANS (GDL)



Total GDL : \$11.25M

Tourism with the aim to “Low-Cost Credit for re-starting”:	Term: 1% interest Rate Amount: Up to \$50,000 (5 year repayment, 3 months grace period) Allocation: \$2 million.
Agriculture and Fisheries:	Term: 1% interest Rate Amount: Up to \$50,000 (5 year repayment, 3 months grace period) Allocation: \$2 million (\$1M Agriculture, \$1M Fisheries)
Retail and Wholesalers Act as Low-Cost Overdraft:	Term: 1% interest Rate Amount: Up to \$200,000 (5 year repayment, 3 months grace period) Allocation: \$2 million.
Special Facility: To Support large-scale Tongan owned businesses	Term: 1% interest Rate Amount: Up to \$500,000 (5 year repayment, 3 month grace period) Allocation: \$5.25 million.

Contact Information	Focal Officer	Email Address	Phone Contact
Ministry of Finance	Lesieli Tufui Faletau	lfaletau@finance.gov.to	7757631
National Retirement Benefit Fund	Meleseini Lomu	meleseinilomu@yahoo.com	28833
Ministry of Trade and Economic Development	Distaquaine Tu’ihalamaka	distaquainet@mtd.gov.to	7717050
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Dr. Fotu Fisi’i’ahi	fkvfisiiahi@gmail.com	7712149
	Lu’isa Manuefetoa	lmanuofetoa2015@gmail.com	7731416
Ministry of Revenue and Customs	Kelemete Vahe	kelemetev@gmail.com	7777643
Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Food	Dr. Viliami Manu	viliamitoalei-manu@yahoo.com	7717936
Ministry of Fisheries	Dr. Tu’ikolongahau Hala-fihi	ceo@tongafish.gov.to>	7401201
Ministry of Tourism	Sione Moala	Moalamafi@gmail.com	7842424
Ministry of Education and Training	Dr. Tangikina Steen	metceotonga@outlook.com	7732905
Tonga Development Bank	Leta Kami	lkami@tdb.to	23333
Tonga Power Limited	Finau Moa	fmoa@tongapower.to	7863310



CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

COVID-19 FUND REQUEST FORM Employee Support

Name of Employer: _____

Business Name : _____

Business License: _____

Tin Number : _____

Please attach the following information:

- Employee Name (Attach copy of the National ID)
- Employee Name
 - Basic Salary per Month
 - Date of Ceased Service
 - Permanent or Casual
 - Contact details of employee
 - Documents as evidence for lay off or leave without pay employees

Signature of Employer/Person submitting the request:

_____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

Employee Name	Basic Salary (monthly)	Date of Ceased Service	Permanent or Casual	Contact #	Email

Submit form in softcopy to this email address : mhalaifonua@gmail.com

or download online application form from <https://www.finance.gov.to>

Or Use this format and **submit to National Retirement Benefits Fund Office**

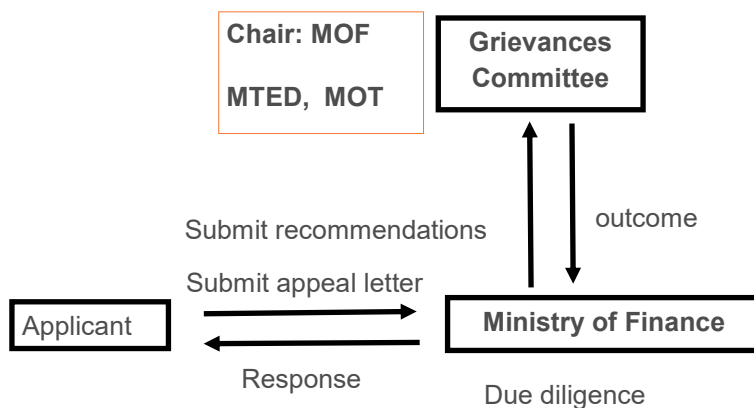


CONT. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

PRESS RELEASE

31ST MARCH 2022

GRIEVANCES FRAMEWORK



COVID-19 GRIEVANCES REQUEST FORM

Name : _____

Date : _____

TYPE OF GRANT ASSISTANCE (listed from the brochure) :

PURPOSE: _____

JUSTIFICATIONS :

Please attach **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** and also the following

Applicant Name (Attach copy of the National ID)

- Employee Name
- Basic Salary per Month
- Date of Ceased Service
- Permanent or Casual
- Contact details of employee
- Documents as evidence for lay off or leave without pay employees

Signature of Employer/Person submitting the request:

_____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Submit form in softcopy to this email address : lfaletau@finance.gov.to

or download online application form from <https://www.finance.gov.to>

Or Use this format and **submit to Ministry of Finance, Reception Area Box**