

A Lifetime of Service in Education – Celebrating Mrs. Seilosehina Fifita

As Mrs. Seilosehina Fifita, Director of the Quality Assurance Division at the Ministry of Education and Training, prepares to retire this year, her career reflects decades of dedication, leadership, and service to education in Tonga.

Her journey into teaching was inspired by her parents. Her mother was a teacher before marriage, and her father served as a primary school teacher who later retired as Chief Inspector of Schools. Growing up in a family that valued education, Mrs. Fifita discovered early that teaching was not just a profession for her — “it was a calling”.

She began her career at Tonga College, where she spent nine years teaching young men and learning from experienced colleagues who shaped her approach to leadership and professionalism. Her passion for education later led her to the Tonga Institute of Education, where she trained future teachers in Mathematics, Science, and Chemistry and eventually served as Deputy Principal.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Fifita held several leadership roles across the education system, including Acting Principal of Ha’apai High School, Chief Education Officer at the Tonga Institute of Higher Education, and leadership roles within the School Division overseeing primary and secondary education. She also contributed to the rollout of Tonga’s new national curriculum in 2012 and supported key reforms such as the nationalization of the Tonga Form Six Certificate and Tonga National Form Seven examinations.

In recent years, she served as Director of Primary Education and later as Director of the Quality Assurance Division, continuing her commitment to strengthening education standards and supporting schools across the Kingdom.

For Mrs. Fifita, the most rewarding part of her career has been seeing the success of those she has taught and worked alongside.



“When I meet former students who have become ministers, principals, teachers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, and wonderful members of their communities, it fills me with pride. Knowing that I had a small role in shaping their lives makes my years of service truly meaningful.”

Reflecting on changes in Tonga’s education system, she notes that reforms must always be introduced carefully and with strong support for teachers and students, emphasizing the importance of thoughtful leadership in education.

As we celebrate International Women’s Day, Mrs. Fifita also acknowledges the many women leaders who have shaped education in Tonga.

“The women leaders I have worked with had strong vision and deep understanding of our communities. They led with humility, respect, reciprocity, and loyalty. These are values worth sharing with the women of today.”

As she prepares to conclude her remarkable career, Mrs. Seilosehina Fifita hopes that young women will continue to see education as one of the most meaningful professions they can pursue.

Her legacy is one of leadership, integrity, and service — reminding us that the true impact of a teacher is seen in the generations of lives they help shape.