

INFORMATION ON DISASTER/RISK REDUCTION IN TONGA

1. Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects.

1.1 National Policy, Strategy and Legislation addressing disaster risk reduction.

Tonga does not have a legislation yet but are working on it. We are hoping to get that by next year.

The national policy is provided in the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)

approved by Cabinet in April 1999. In section 1:4 the Government:

- Recognise the problem associated with disaster as part of total Government responsibility and to make the best possible arrangements to deal with them given available resources.
- Recognise the disaster management phase of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery as essential components for effective national development planning.
- Encourage traditional self-help concept within the community through education and awareness programme.

1.2 National body for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction.

- The NDMP also provided for a National Disaster management Committee comprising of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Disaster Relief Activities Hon. James C. Cocker as Chairman. Members includes, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, Director of Works, Director for Foreign Affairs, Secretary for Finance, Director of Health, Director of Agriculture and Forestry, General manager of Tonga Water Board, Commander of Police, Secretary for Environment, Secretary of Lands Survey and Natural Resources, Director of Planning, President of Tonga Non Government Organisation (TANGO), Secretary of Tonga Red Cross with the Deputy Director of the National Disaster management Office as Secretary. Others may be coopted when necessary.

Each agency play their role in accordance with provision of the NDMP which is basically means part of their core functions that is relevant to emergency operations. Police and Defence for example may assist with evacuation, security,