



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT
2022 - 2023

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Ministry of Communications, Information Technology and Legislative Assembly

03 November 2023

Hon. Papalii Li'o Oloipola Ta'eu Masipa'u

The Honourable Speaker

The Legislative Assembly of Samoa

Pursuant to Article 88(2) of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa, it is an honour to present the Annual Report for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year ending 30th June 2023. This report is being submitted for tabling before the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

The report comprehensively documents the strategies and activities undertaken by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology during the fiscal year under review

Hon. Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo

MINISTER COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

GoS	Government of Samoa
SamCERT	Samoa Computer Emergency Response Team
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ITU	International Telecommunity Union
APT	Asia Pacific Telecommunity
PITA	Pacific Island Telecommunications Association
UPU	Universal Postal Union
SITA	Samoa IT Association
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
PACMAS	Pacific Media Assistance Scheme
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
NPCC	National Policy Coordination Committee
ICT	Information Communications Technology
CSP	Communications Sector Plan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USP	University of the South Pacific
SLAC	Samoa Life Assurance Company
IXP	Internet Point
ISOC	Internet Society
APNIC	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
SNBH	Samoa National Broadband Highway
PaCSON	Pacific Cyber Security Operational Network
PSC	Public Service Commission
JTEC	Japan Telecommunication Engineering and Consulting Services

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER STATEMENT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) for the Financial Year 2022-2023. This financial year has seen significant collaborative efforts between the Ministry and key stakeholders in the review and development of essential policies and strategic plans, such as the Communications Sector Plan 2022-2027. Other notable areas included key developments and projects supporting the ICT sector have been initiated to enhance the quality of life for all.

This report presents an overview of the Ministry's activities and highlight key results as well as accomplishments that were achieved during the last twelve months. It also addresses the challenges faced during this period.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION – LEGISLATIONS, POLICIES, AND REVIEWS

The following directional strategies were completed during this period:

- Cabinet has approved the new Communications Sector Plan 2022-2027;
- Cabinet has approved the new Corporate Plan 2022-2026;
- Establishment of the ICT Cabinet Sub-Committee now chaired by the Prime Minister
- Development of the Information Security Policy with the technical assistance from of DFAT
- Development of the Digital Transformation Strategy 2022-2030.

STRATEGIC – INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The following were major infrastructural work carried out in this Financial Year:

- Transfer of SNBH ownership back to the Government through the Ministry in March 2022; and ;
- Completion of the Feasibility Study of Innovation Park located at Vaivase Tai with the technical support of NZ-MFAT; and
- Completion of the Feasibility Study of Smart Island Project in Manono Tai with the technical support of the ITU.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Below were some of the milestones achieved on an institutional basis such as:

- the establishment of the Samoa Cyber Emergency Response Team (SamCERT) within the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in September, 2022; and

- Submission of the Ministry's full organisational review to the Office of the Public Service Commission.

HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND INITIATIVES

To enable our staff to enhance their knowledge, skills and attributes, the following entails new and ongoing capacity building initiatives:

- Successful implementation of the inaugural Cyber Week with the financial and technical support of CERT-NZ and DFAT in October, 2022;
- Successful delivery of Cyber Security Trainings for the public and private sector in partnership with CERT-NZ, PaCSON, Australia CERT, Retrospect-Lab, Trustwave and DFAT
- Successful launch of the inaugural Digital Week in April, 2023;
- Samoa approved as a member for Asia Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD);
- Attendance at ongoing partnership professional development programs that are supported by development partners and professional groups as well as associations abroad namely ITU, APT, AIBD, PACSON, DFAT, UPU, PITA and CTO; and
- Access to funding support provided by APNIC and ISOC for the Samoa IXP equipment and professional development support.

PARTNERSHIP SUCCESSES

Reporting on partnership outcomes is a key skill that has helped the Ministry build trust, accountability, and learning with key partners as listed below;

- The Last Mile Project located in Tuasivi, Savaii was funded by APT at a cost of USD195,000.00;.
- The Digital Archive Project was officially approved to be implemented under the PACMAS funding and reels have now been shipped to Canberra, Australia; and
- Content sharing agreement signed between ABC Australia and the Ministry in February, 2023.

While the Ministry has achieved significant milestones, we continue to acknowledge the ongoing challenges such as the need for continued investment in infrastructure, addressing cybersecurity threats and ensuring equitable access to digital services. Moreover, another major challenge facing the ministry for many years is the limited manpower with the right skills at the right place to deliver the expectations of the Ministry.

Nevertheless, I am confident that having comprehensive plans, policies and regulations that are effective, alongside the required resources, while also complemented by the collaborative efforts of the public and private sectors, Samoa will excel and sustain all ICT-related developments.

To conclude, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Honourable Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo and the Government of Samoa (GoS) for continuing to accord with respect, the priority given to ICT initiatives and developments that will shape Samoa's future digital transformation. I would also like to acknowledge the support of development partners, telecommunications community and our key stakeholders in supporting our work. To the Ministry, your commitment to carrying out our key deliverables for the Financial Year 2022-2023, is highly appreciated.

I look forward to your continued support in sustaining and accelerating developments to broaden opportunities for all.

Lefaoalii Unutoa Auelua – Fonoti

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PART I: OVERVIEW

Governing Legislations

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) was established under the Telecommunications Services Act 1999.

The Ministry's mandate to perform the given responsibilities derive from the following Legislations and Cabinet Directives:

- Telecommunications Act 2005;
- Broadcasting Act 2010;
- Postal Services Act 2010;
- Public Finance Management Act 2001;
- Ministerial and Departmental Arrangements Act 2003;
- Public Service Act 2004;
- Crimes Act 2013;
- Cabinet Directives

Vision

Affordable, appropriate, accessible, and secured ICT services to promote social and economic well-being and quality of life for all.

Mission

To improve the quality of digital service delivery that meets and exceeds the expectations of all Samoans.

Values

Inclusiveness

We value diversity, equality and equity, cooperativeness, and community participation.

Integrity

We are honest and we deliver according to our promises.

Respect

We respect others and treat them with fairness and courtesy

Teamwork

We operate in a teamwork environment and a commitment to building effective relationships.

Responsive

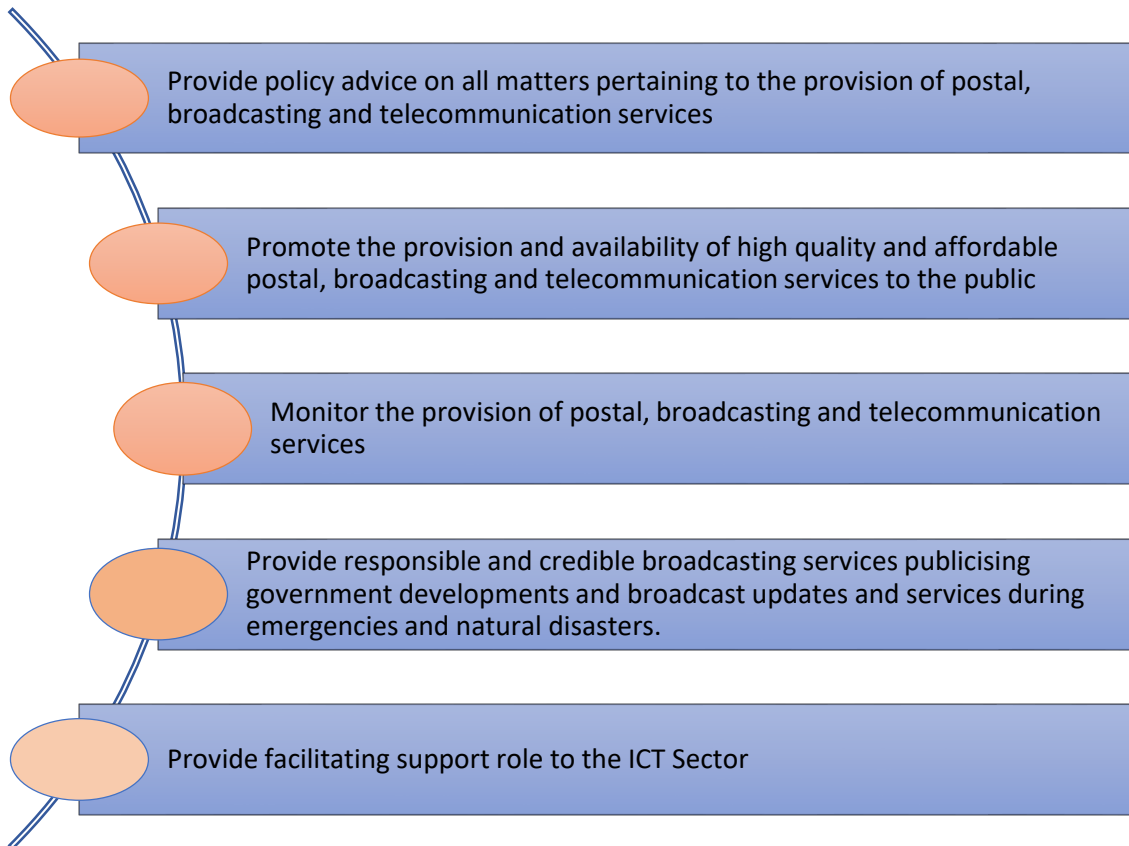
We respond to citizens and stakeholders request in a timely manner

Innovation

We strive to introduce new ways of using technologies to meet the demands of the public, community and business goals

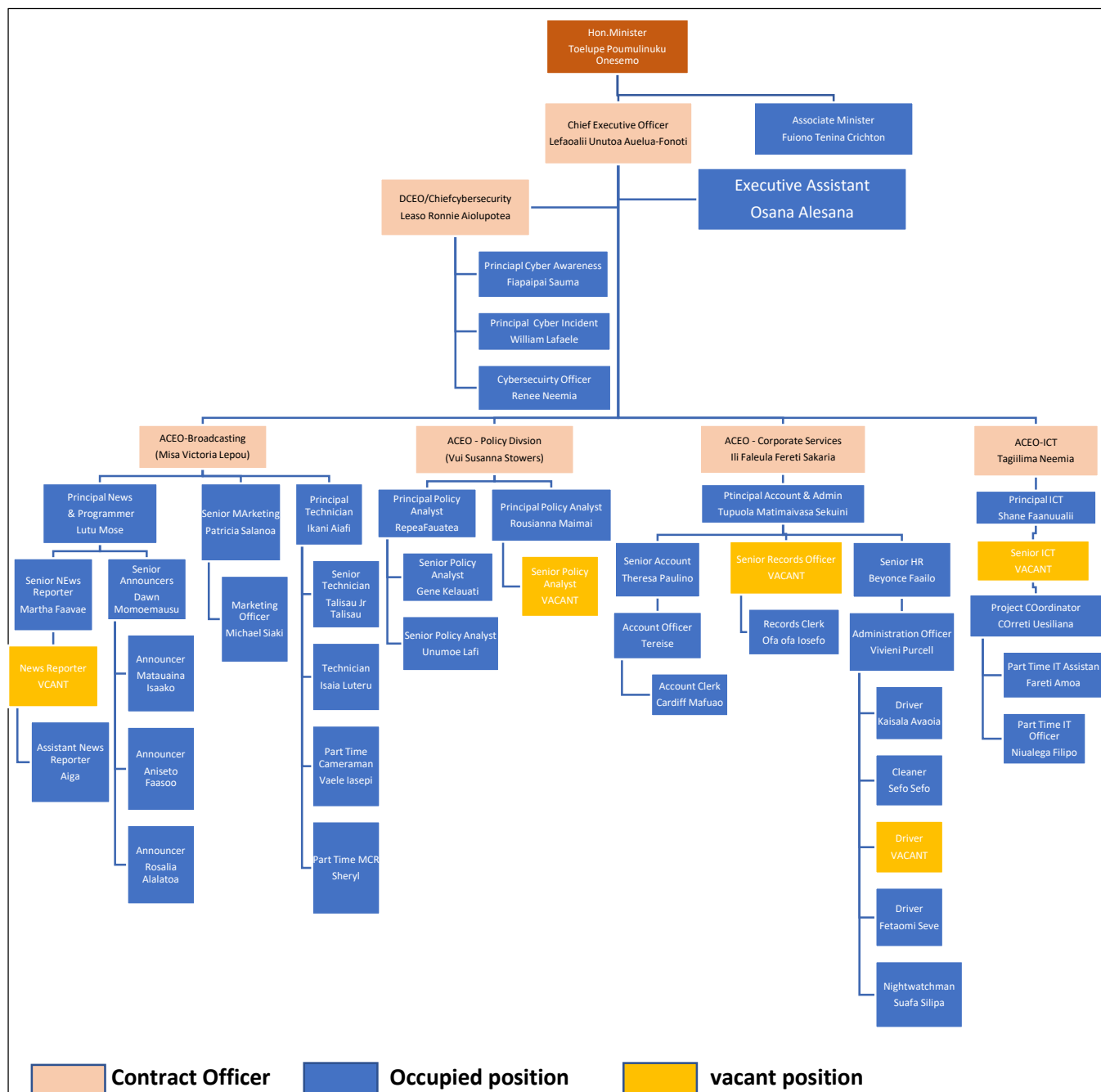
CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The core functions of the Ministry as stipulated in the Telecommunications Act 2005 are as follow:



PART II: WORKFORCE REPORT

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The current organizational structure of the Ministry is structured around four established divisions with each serving a specific function. These divisions include the Policy Development and Planning Division, Broadcasting Services Division, Corporate Services Division and the ICT Division. SamCERT was later established during this period as a project-funded division.

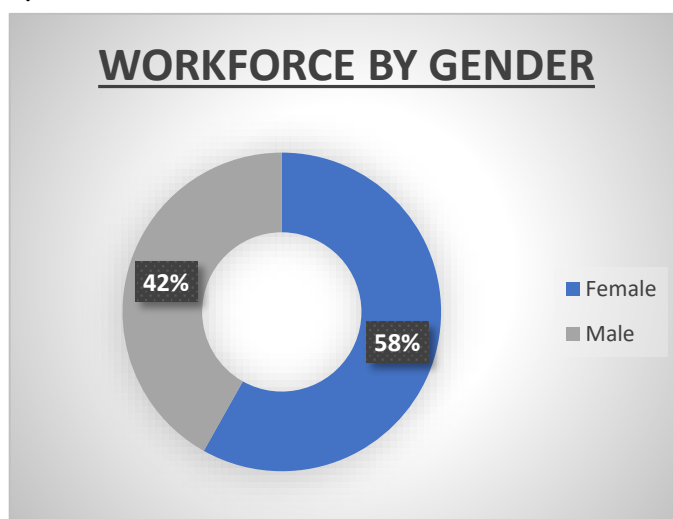
The Workforce

By the end of June 2023, a total of 48 positions were approved under the organisational structure. About 43 of those were already occupied while the remaining five (5) were still vacant.

The total workforce comprises of five (5) contract officers, 33 permanent positions and two (2) retirees. SamCERT on the other hand, had one contract officer serving as the Deputy CEO and three project positions.

Additionally, the office has employed four part-time officers to support the 2AP division and the ICT team

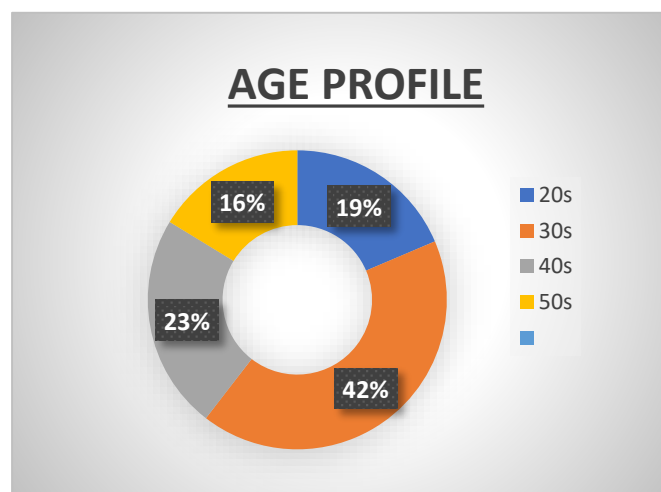
Gender	Total	Percentage
Female	25	58%
Male	18	42%
TOTAL	43	100%



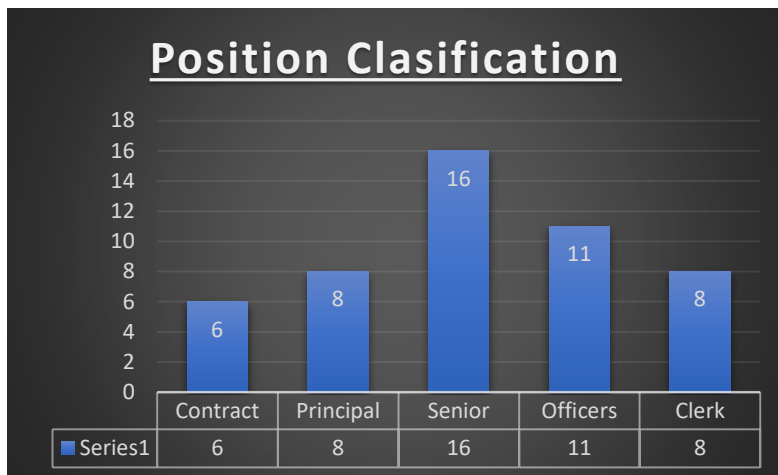
Graph 1 depicts the percentage of total occupied positions by gender.

The data reveals that there are more females (58%) occupying positions than their male counterparts at 42%.

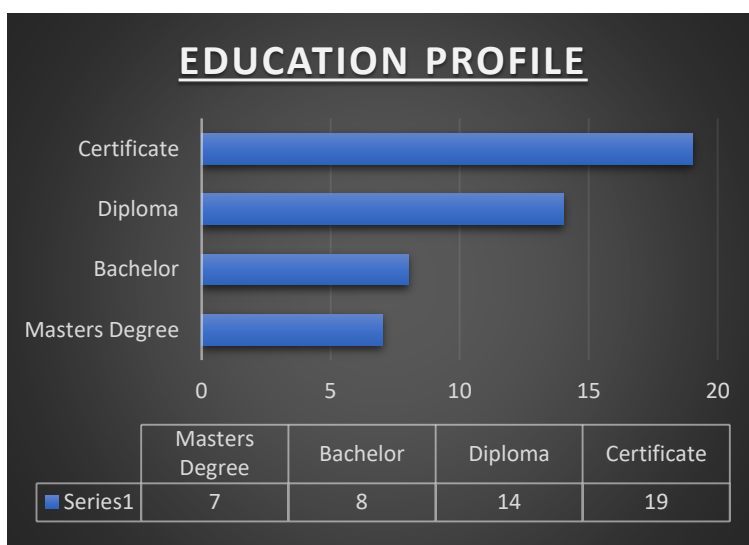
Graph 2 shows that the majority of the workforce falls within the age group between 30 to39.



There is a fairly balanced distribution between the age groups of 40 to 49 and 50 to59. This distribution reflects a balance of experienced and junior staff who can exchange wealth of knowledge.

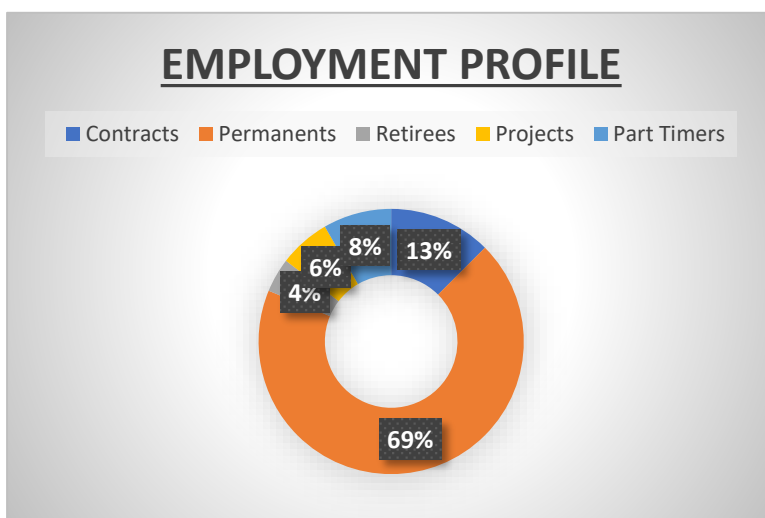


Graph 3 summarizes the classification of employment positions within the ministry. It reveals that the majority of the workforce is categorized at the senior level, with corresponding salary grade ranges from A12 to A13. This is followed by the Officer Level, which falls within the salary grade of A10.



Graph 4 illustrates the qualification profile of the workforce. The data reveals that a significant majority of the workforce holds Certificates and Diplomas. This data highlights a substantial gap in Human Resource Development (HRD) faced by the ministry. As depicted in the position profile, more than 50% of the workforce occupy officer and senior

positions. However, it is worth noting that the minimum qualification required for these positions is a bachelor's degree. This misalignment between qualification and job roles should be addressed to ensure a more effective and qualified workforce.



Graph 5 illustrates the employment status of the workforce within the ministry. The data indicates that the majority, comprising 68%, hold permanent positions. Contractual positions make up the second-largest category, accounting for 12%, while part-time positions represent 8% of the total workforce. Among the part-time positions, 6% are occupied by project officers and 4% are retirees. It is important to note that 33 staff members, which represent a fraction of the total workforce, hold permanent positions.

PART III: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

Output 1: POLICY ADVICE TO MINISTER

Training light Performance Indicator progress					
ACHIEVED		PARTIALLY ACHIEVED		NOT ACHIEVED	
Performance Measure	2022-2023 Budget	Progress Indicator	Comments		
National Cyber Security Week (World Telecom and Information Society Day & National Internet Expo)	Oct-22		Cyber Security Week took place in October, 2022 and the event achieved remarkable success with the invaluable support of CertNZ and DAFT.		
Date by which the establishment of DTA (Digital Transformation Authority) is completed	(END OF FY 2022/23)		<p>The government has made a significant change to the establishment of the DTA (Digital Transformation Authority). The anticipated functions that were initially assigned to the DTA have now been restructured and transferred to the Ministry. Consequently, the Ministry has submitted a restructure proposal to the PSC to establish a dedicated division within the Ministry to fulfil these functions.</p> <p>Additionally, the Ministry has successfully completed the development of the Digital Transformation Strategy for the period 2023-2030. This comprehensive strategy has been formally submitted to the Cabinet for approval. This marks a critical step towards driving digital transformation initiatives within the government and aligning them with strategic objectives.</p>		
Status on the establishment of the Innovation Park	First Consultation-Completed		The scoping study for the Innovation Park is complete. The Ministry is now moving towards the next phase of the project, which is securing funding from development partners to commence the construction phase		

Percentage of Policy Advice on requests received and submitted to Management and Cabinet	100%		On-going
Date by which the Review and Update of the Corporate Plan is completed	FY2022/23		The new Corporate Plan 2022-2026 approved by Cabinet in December 2022.
All identified SamCERT staff are onboard	FY2022/23		Recruitment and Selection for SamCERT staff was completed in September, 2022.
Date by which the current National Cyber Security Strategy is reviewed	Jun-23		There is a delayed in this activity however the ministry has secured the technical support from Tautai Programme in conducting the review and development of the new strategy. This activity is now being carried forward to FY2023-2024.
Date by which a Cybersecurity awareness mechanism is developed and updated annually	Jun-23		A number of trainings were conducted by the SamCERT Division in partnership with the Retrospect Labs, CERT-NZ, PaCSO, DFAT for the public and private sector throughout this financial year
Date by which a Draft National Cyber Security policy is approved by Cabinet.	Dec-23		The Ministry has completed the development of this policy and submitted to the National Policy Coordination Committee prior to a Cabinet submission for approval.
Date by which the new Communications Sector Plan 2022/23-2027/28 is completed and approved by the Cabinet	Jun-23		The new Communications Sector Plan approved by Cabinet in March 2023.

Output 2: Ministerial Support

Traffic Lights Performance Indicators progress					
ACHIEVED		PARTIALLY ACHIEVED		NOT ACHIEVED	
Performance Measure		2022-2023 Budget	Progress Indicator	Comments	
Number of official trips for telecommunications/technology, broadcasting and postal		10 International Trips		A total of six(6) overseas trips recorded in the reported period	
Percentage completed of administrative services to the Minister		100%		ongoing administrative support is crucial for the office of the Minister throughout the twelve months of the financial year	
Percentage completed of transport services for Minister's vehicles.		100%		Continuous support for transportation services for the Honourable Minister, as well as the day-to-day operational needs of the Minister's office, is essential throughout the financial year.	
Number of Ministerial Visits for Ministerial Site Monitoring/Inspection		12 visits		More than ten (10) ministerial visits were attended by the Minister (locally) for government development openings as well as Cabinet Development Committee visits.	
Number of Ministerial Visits to Savaii		10 local Ministerial Visits		There were five visits recorded for ministry monitoring visits conducted throughout the twelve month for project under MCIT	

Output 3: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The Policy Division is responsible for providing policy advice related to telecommunications and technology, reviewing and recommending legislative amendments, and developing government policies for the Communications Sector. Additionally, the division ensures transparency throughout the following key processes: reviewing, consulting, and developing policies to address issues within the Communication Sector, which encompasses telecommunications, postal services, broadcasting, and Information Communication Technology (ICT). Collating and analysing policy matters to provide well-informed advice. The

division plays a vital role in shaping the regulatory and policy framework for the communication sector, ensuring its effective functioning and growth.

Traffic Lights Indicator Progress					
ACHIEVED		PARTIALLY ACHIEVED		NOT ACHIEVED	
Performance Measure	2022-2023 Budget	Progress Indicator	Comments		
Completion of the Feasibility Study for Innovation Park	100%		The Feasibility Study was completed in June 2023.		
Communications Sector Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27 is completed and approved	100%		The ICT Sector Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27 was approved by Cabinet in March, 2023.		
Smart Islands Project pre-assessment study	90%		The pre-assessment study for the Smart Island Project – Manono tai was completed in April 2023.		
Freedom of Access to Information Policy is approved by Cabinet	June 2023		Cabinet has recommended for the Ministry to relook into this policy and was deferred to FY 2023-2024 to complete.		
Review of the social media Policy, Internet and Email Policy, and the National Broadcasting Policy	45%		The review of the Social Media Policy 2017, Internet and Email Policy 2016 and the National Broadcasting Policy 2017 commenced review in FY 2022-2023 but have been deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion due to changing priorities within FY 2022-2023.		
One Government Digital Platform Policy is approved by Cabinet	End FY 22/23		The Ministry was also advised by Cabinet to relook into this policy and has been submitted again to NPCC for review and approval. This has been deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion.		
Information Security Policy is approved by Cabinet	End FY 22/23		The Information Security Policy and Standards have been submitted to NPCC for review and approval. It has been deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion.		
Universal Access Policy	End FY 22/23		The Universal Access policy has been submitted to NPCC for review and approval. It has been deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion.		
Digital Transformation Strategy is approved by Cabinet	End FY 22/23		The Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030 has been submitted to Cabinet for approval. It has been deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion.		

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Policy division delivered the following outputs by the end of FY 2022-2023 as per deliverables under the Budget Estimates for the FY 2022-2023.

Development of the Feasibility Study for the Innovation and Technology Park Initiative	<p>The Feasibility Study for the Samoa Innovation and Technology Park was led by a national consultant and an international consultancy firm, the Palladium Group which is based in Australia through the funding assistance provided by the NZ-MFAT as a component of its Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) project implemented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL). The feasibility Study for the Samoa Innovation and Technology Park component was coordinated by the Ministry.</p> <p>The purpose of the feasibility study was to identify the key factors that underpin a successful precinct and provide recommendations on the most appropriate next step by the GoS in establishing an Innovation and Technology Park.</p> <p>The proposed Innovation and Technology Park aims to promote innovation in the ICT sector industry by bringing together industry, government, academia/research, community and regional players in a central hub to generate an ecosystem conducive to support future economic growth.</p> <p>The Feasibility Study was the initial phase of this initiative which involved wider consultation workshops and one on one meetings with relevant stakeholders. The Feasibility Study report was completed by June 20203.</p>
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sector Plan 2022/23 - 2026/27	<p>The Communications Sector Plan (CSP) 2017/18 - 2021/22 was due in June 2022 therefore, a new sector plan was required to guide the activities and priorities of the ICT Sector for the next five years commencing July 2022. The review of the CSP 2017/18 - 2021/22 was conducted and the review report assisted in the development of the new ICT Sector Plan 2022/23 - 2026/27. Additionally, a number of consultations were conducted for the public, and private sectors in particular the ICT industry as well as public consultations for Upolu and Savaii. Feedback from these consultations were used to map the current situation of the ICT sector in Samoa, as well as to inform the priorities of the ICT sector for the next five years (FY 2022/23 - 2026/27).</p> <p>The ICT Sector Plan 2022/23 - 2026/27 was approved by Cabinet in March 2023 and was officially launched in June 2023 with its implementation now underway.</p>
Pre-Assessment Study for the Smart Island Project	<p>The Smart Islands Initiative is a digital transformation project which aims at empowering people of rural and remote communities through broadband connectivity and digital services and leaving no one behind.</p> <p>This technical assistance has been provided by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as part of the ITU-Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA, Australia) project. The initiative aims to digitally transform rural and coastal communities, improve their livelihoods and their well-being by connecting them to a range of digitally enabled services. It is designed with a whole-of-government approach and is demand-driven, user-centric, flexible, and focused on sustainability, scalability, and multi-sector collaboration.</p> <p>Supported by the ITU, the GoS takes strong leadership in implementing the Smart Islands Samoa Programme as it will target addressing the existing gaps</p>

	<p>and resource constraints within the Manono Island and create new digital opportunities for the community.</p> <p>To assist MCIT in planning the interventions that are relevant and needed by the citizens of Manono-Tai, a preliminary needs assessment study was conducted to identify the key challenges and needs of the beneficiary communities on the Manono Island. The study was completed in April 2023 and the report has been published on the Ministry's website.</p> <p>The initial findings of the survey revealed that the key areas of focus for this initiative include the need for improvements in broadband connectivity, enhancing affordability of digital services, improving digital skills training and awareness, and making priority digital services available for Manono-Tai. There is also a need to support these digital interventions with partnerships and wider socioeconomic investments in such areas as transport and logistics</p>
<p>Delayed Activities Due to multiple challenges identified below, the Division was unable to meet the timeframe for the following targets within FY 2022-2023. These include:</p>	
<p>Cabinet Approval of the Freedom of Access to Information Policy</p>	<p>The Freedom of Access to Information Policy is one of the activities under the Public Administration Plan (PASP) 2020/21 - 2024/25 to be implemented by the Ministry under its Policy division. The draft policy was established in September 2021 after informant interviews with key stakeholders who have direct impact on the policy. Following the initial draft, other activities included the review of existing policies relating to access to information, development of an inception report, analysis of structural systematic, institutional and other bottlenecks and challenges in granting access to information and freedom of expression and identifying necessary legislative, administrative, and other interventions to address them. A baseline using current status to measure progress over time was also developed.</p> <p>Due to the country's COVID-19 restrictions, the initial draft policy was consulted using questionnaires circulated via email and online surveys. This was done for the Government ministries, the private sector as well as the public inputs. COVID-19 restrictions and Samoa's political situation at the time caused critical delays in the formulation of this policy hence the reason for not meeting its deadline.</p> <p>Despite the critical delay, the draft revised policy based on the feedback received during consultations was submitted to the National Policy Coordination Committee (NPCC) for its review however, the NPCC recommended the Ministry to conduct another round of consultations for this policy given that the previous consultations to ensure all the views are reflected and addressed in this policy.</p> <p>The consultation process is deferred to FY 2023-2024 for completion and submission for approval.</p>
<p>Review of the social media Policy, Internet and Email Policy, and the National Broadcasting Policy</p>	<p>Internal reviews of the Social Media Policy 2017, Internet and Email Policy 2016 and the National Broadcasting Policy 2016 were completed in June 2022. From these reviews, questionnaires were developed for dissemination to all key</p>

	<p>stakeholders for completion, in addition to providing feedback, comments and suggestions on the review of these policies.</p> <p>Due to the division's competing priorities, the distribution of the questionnaires were delayed hence, the remaining tasks for these activities have been deferred to FY 2023-2024. These include the distribution of survey questionnaires, drafting of the new revised policies and consultations of the new policies with all key stakeholders and then submission for approval.</p>
Cabinet Approval of the One Government Digital Platform Policy	<p>The initial One Government Digital Platform Policy was developed in February 2022 prior to a consultation held with the public sector and the private sector in March, 2022. After the consultation phase, the policy was then revised according to feedback received from stakeholders consulted and was submitted to the NPCC for their review and recommendations prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>The policy was tabled at the NPCC meeting in May 2022 however, NPCC recommended that the Ministry review the ICT procurement section of the policy, consult again with key stakeholder before resubmitting again to NPCC for further review. NPCC recommendation was accepted and followed through and submitted back to NPCC for its review by the end of FY 2022-2023.</p> <p>NPCC review and submission for Cabinet approval have been deferred to FY 2023-2024.</p>
Cabinet Approval of the Information and Security Policy and Standards	<p>In collaboration with the Ministry's SamCERT, the Information and Security Policy and Standards were developed, consulted and revised within the FY 2022-2023. This policy has been submitted to NPCC for their review and is still awaiting NPCC on a meeting date for this policy to be discussed with all NPCC members prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>The NPCC review of the policy and submission to Cabinet for approval have been deferred to FY 2023-2024.</p>
Cabinet Approval of the Universal Access Policy	<p>Under the Telecommunications Act 2005, a Universal Access fund is to be established through the development of a Universal Access Policy. A Universal Access Policy was developed and approved in 2010 however, the provision to activate the Universal Access Fund under the Universal Access Policy 2010, was never initiated hence, a new revised Universal Access Policy was re-developed in 2023 to include a provision for the mechanism to activate the Universal Access Fund, as per the requirements of the Telecommunications Act 2005.</p> <p>The new revised Universal Access Policy was developed, consulted with the two Service Providers, Digicel and Vodafone, in close partnership with the Office of the Regulator who is responsible for implementing this policy, and submitted to NPCC for the FY 2022-2023. Activities that have been deferred to FY 2023-2024 includes the presentation and discussion of this policy at the NPCC meeting, as well as the submission to Cabinet for approval.</p>
2. Cabinet Approval of the Samoa Digital Transformation Strategy 2023 - 2030	<p>The development of the Samoa Digital Transformation Strategy 2023 - 2030 was done in partnership with the ITU (ITU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This activity commenced with a three-day workshop on the Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA) Tool that was held from the 27th to 29th July 2022, for the public sector organisations as well as with</p>

	<p>the private sector. The aim of the workshop was to collect information and identify key opportunities and challenges facing Samoa in the context of digital transformation and the broader digital economy. The assessment combines an extensive survey tool with secondary research and analysis led by the UNDP team with the assistance of MCIT, focusing on the five pillars for digital transformation, which are Infrastructure, Government efforts, Regulation, People and Businesses.</p> <p>The information collected from the DRA Tool workshop were used to assist in the development of Samoa's Digital Transformation Strategy in partnership with ITU. The draft strategy was consulted again with all relevant stakeholders on the 12th to 14th December 2023. The aim of the workshop was to present the draft Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030 for review and additional comments from the stakeholders before submission to Cabinet for Approval.</p> <p>The Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030 was finalised, submitted and discussed in the ICT Cabinet Sub-Committee on 16th June 2023. The remaining activities for the Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030 is the Cabinet Approval and implementation of activities and initiatives in the strategy as well as consultation awareness across the country.</p>
INITIATIVES & REFORMS	
SECTOR COORDINATION UNIT	<p>The Policy Division is currently undertaking the roles of the Sector Coordinator for the ICT Sector in addition to its policy and planning roles. This is due to the absence of a Sector Coordinator and a Sector Coordination Division, which has now been currently proposed under the Ministry's organisational restructure proposal. The establishment of the Sector Coordination Division for the ICT Sector will be of great importance to properly manage and coordinate the activities of the Sector specified in the ICT Sector Plan and gives the Policy Division more time to focus on achieving its targets for policy development and planning for each Financial Year.</p>
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES	<p>The following policies and strategies have been informed by the Samoa Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030. The Policy Division will be developing these national policies and strategies for the next Financial Years throughout the duration of the Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2030. These include:</p> <p>E-Commerce and Digital Financial Inclusion Policy The purpose of this policy is to ensure that financial services are accessible to all Samoans. The policy will focus on providing financial education and support to help Samoans understand and use digital financial services safely and effectively. This also includes establishing partnerships with banks, mobile operators, Finance Tech companies, and other stakeholders to develop and deliver digital financial services that are affordable, secure, and user-friendly.</p> <p>Digital Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy This National Strategy aims to improve efficiency and productivity of the agriculture and fisheries sectors, access to digital tools and training to help farmers make informed decisions. Investment in research and development of new technology and innovations, further driving economic growth.</p> <p>Digital Health Strategy</p>

	<p>The Digital Health Strategy will focus on improving access to health information and accessibility of health services, empowering people to take control of their own health wellbeing</p> <p>Digital Tourism Strategy This National Strategy aims to promote Samoa’s culture and beauty. Support for local businesses and development of rural areas in the tourism sector.</p> <p>National policy on environmentally sound management of e-waste, with development of strategies and standards This policy will cover the proper management of e-waste from old and end of life electrical equipment. This must also consider other potential environmental impacts from the digital economy such as the need to mitigate the climate change impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, in particular arising from the application of data-driven Government digital services.</p> <p>Digital Strategic Framework for the Samoan Education Sector This framework will outline a plan for using digital technologies and ICT to enhance education delivery, connect schools and develop digital skills. It will also address the need for access to new pedagogical technologies, as well as digital libraries and repositories. By implementing this framework, the Government hopes to improve the quality of education in Samoa and ensure that students have the necessary skills and resources to succeed in the digital age.</p> <p>Comprehensive gap analysis of existing legal, policy and regulatory framework A comprehensive gap analysis of existing legal, policy and regulatory framework will enable the GoS to develop fit-for-purpose legislation and regulations that support investment, with an initial focus on developing the legislative framework relating to Data Privacy and Data Protection, e-Commerce, Intellectual Property and Cybercrime.</p> <p>Whole-of-government IT plan and policy This plan and policy aim to bring together government data into shared government data centres, develop a government shared network, develop a professionalized team of IT professionals, the IT capacity in ministries and other shared digital and ICT resources.</p>
CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD	
<p>The policy division faced a number of issues and challenges in ensuring that the division meets its targets and deliverables for the FY 2022-2023. These challenges include the capacity of the division staff with regards to understanding the nature and dynamics pertaining to innovations of communications industries and technologies as well as continued research and analysis of the sector. As such, the division developed a capacity building training plan for FY 2023-2024, in an effort to improve the capacity of the current staff as well as retention.</p>	

Output 4: BROADCASTING DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The Broadcasting Services Division, plays a pivotal role in delivering public broadcasting services to the people of Samoa and beyond. Its mission is to provide pertinent information, entertainment, and government announcements through broadcasting services, contributing to a well-informed and educated community. In line with its expanded role, the Broadcasting Services Division has integrated digital television into its core functions. This ensures that the management of programming, presentations, news content, marketing, sales services, and technical support operates seamlessly around the clock, 24/7. Such commitment to continuous service delivery and innovation allows the division to cater to the diverse needs of its audience and uphold its mission effectively.

Traffic Light Progress Indicators					
ACHIEVED		PARTIALLY ACHIEVED		NOT ACHIEVED	
Performance Measures		2022-2023 Budget	Progress Indicator	Comments	
Number of talkback programs on 2AP AM/FM/TV		60		151 Talkshows on Radio and TV	
Number of advertisements, promotions, awareness programmes, outside broadcast (OB), natural disasters awareness AM/FM/TV		120		7 - Parliament LIVE, Daily weather updates (6am & 6pm) 16 radiothons/tv-thons, faigalotu, by-elections coverage, Live Moana Pasifika match 2 Maintenance Works (6-months) PA system operation	
3. Cost Recovery		100%		The Ministry achieved is NTR collection for the financial year	
4. Frequency of repairs and maintenance work conducted for the 2AP Transmission Mast		on going		Completed	

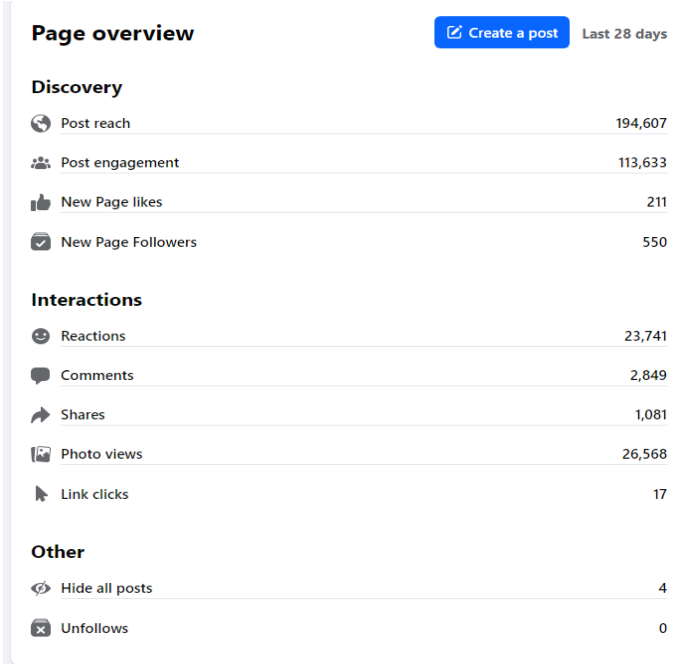
5. Digital Transformation i.e date by which digital library is established by audio & video	on going to end of FY22/23		The Ministry is partnership with ABC managed to secure funding support to ship the tapes to Australia for digitization.
6. Capacity building trainings for programmers, reporters, announcers, technicians conducted	2022-2023		The Ministry received various trainings from its partners for staff development such as APT, ITU, People's Republic of China, JAWS Gender Training.
7. Implementation of activities under 2AP/FM/TV such as Roadshow competitions	2022-2023		Regular news updates on FB (3-5 a day), local progs upload on FB 2 radio bulletins a day SamCERT Roadshow weekly coverage
8. Expansion of AM/FM/TV Coverage Services for Upolu & Savaii	2022-2023		Maintenance continues around Upolu and Savaii, Zeno App delivers content worldwide and accessed by 23 countries
9. Establishment of Digital TV - expansion of Staff and Building capacity refer FK(19)21	2022-2023		Phase 1 of PSC consultation completed, 1 senior camera operator recruited as PT, MCR Officer PT, Building Extension submitted under CHOGM preparations
10. Percentage of government entities/developments aired on government channel and via digital tv/radio (2AP)	100%		19 companies signed up for 2023 Fautasi Race, a record of sponsoring a single live coverage of a national sporting event An increase of 100% with 220 broadcasting spots and talkbacks conducted.
11. Percentage of informed listeners and viewers both locally and globally of tv and radio broadcasting through social media avenues	100%		An increase of 2,089 android devices accessed 2AP/TV9 online sessions by 67% whereas 846 sessions were accessed via i-phones by 27% than a 5% access from desktops

Maintenance of AM Transmission Mast and FM repeaters to support Cost Recovery	100%		Maintenance work was completed for this FY
Regular maintenance of the Broadcasting Building, Transmitter Mast, Mobile Station, transmitter/broadcasting equipment and updating broadcasting technology for the Division for AM/FM/Digital TV	100%		BSD continues to consult with Pacific Media Network and other outside experts to assist with upgrade and funding.
Percentage of government entities that broadcast public awareness campaigns over 2AP	100%		19 new companies signed up within this financial year to promote and publicise their services

ACHIEVEMENTS

News Team	<p>Radio Bulletin: Daily Radio News bulletin that used to air on Radio 2AP had been uploaded on Facebook Page to boost audience and visibility outreach for the Division. A long overdue audience and viewership achievement that had paved the way for the staff to work outside of their comfort zone. The news bulletin now runs twice a day at 7am and 5pm with news repeats at 8am and 6pm. This is an allowance for reporters to spend more time in the field to conduct interviews, take pictures and compile facts for every news story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreement was signed in February 2023 for content sharing on TV9 of block contents from ABC Australia. • ABC Breakfast News and Breakfast Show now have screening times from Monday to Saturday at 9am and 11am. • TV9 content now reflects programmes like Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners, The Pacific, The Pacific Sports along with new entertainment programmes for children and general audience • Radio 2AP shifts have been reduced to 7pm to allow programmers/producers ample time to produce local programmes
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV9 Guide now developed and implemented as part of TV9's content creation • Morning show on TV9 and Radio 2AP is now part of its daily operation to inform the public of topical events and activities pertaining to government and community • Standard Operating Procedures now approved and implemented as a guide for all Outside Broadcast
Staffing:	A new addition to the staff was a transfer of one of the junior announcers to assist the news team that had faced with the departure of one of its reporters. As a daily broadcaster that airs three (3) bulletins a day is a huge step and a risk in identifying daily news stories, production and editing to meet the deadlines.
Programming/Production:	The existence of the Government Channel 9 has been a challenge for the existing Radio 2AP team who had no experience or knowledge on writing and producing narratives for television. This undertaking has been a huge achievement for the Broadcasting staff who had been trained on the job in producing and writing for television at the same time. The production of Ta Fesilafa'i had limited reach on TV9 until it was uploaded on social media. It was May 2023 that saw huge interest when the government channel was given broadcasting rights to film the 2023 Fautasi Race that spiked its online audience
Technical:	The scope of work for this team expanded to lead in outside broadcasts (both live and pre-recorded). The team were able to film 7 Live Parliament sessions, 52 Sunday Services with 313 daily morning devotions on Radio 2AP. A total of 16 outside live coverages including paid radio/tv-thons were carried out in this period. Maintenance works were carried out twice in this same time. Aside from radio site maintenance, the team had also been conducting internal maintenance of radio equipment.
Marketing:	A total of \$60,000 was collected from the 2023 Fautasi Race alone when the government channel was given the Broadcasting Rights. New clients were signed up from government Ministries and SOE's during this period such as USP, SLAC, MWTI, Office of the Legislative Assembly, Samoa Ports Authority, ACC, Ombudsman, SIFA, MNRE, OEC as well as local businesses like Digicel, Ah Liki,

	<p>Samoa Commercial Bank and other in-kind sponsorship from companies like Greenology.</p> <p>The online presence of TV9 and Radio 2AP content is a milestone in its outreach awareness. The average post reach for Radio 2AP and TV9 is almost 200,000 with an engagement percentage of over 100,000 (<i>refer to figure 1</i>). As the government broadcaster, there is potential for more outreach programmes and content to be shared because of the public interest in government policies, events and activities from time to time.</p> <p>(Figure 1): Latest Radio2AP and TV9 Facebook Page review.</p> 
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INITIATIVES & REFORMS

ABC Content:

- An agreement was signed in February 2023 for content sharing on TV9 of block contents from ABC Australia.
- ABC Breakfast News and Breakfast Show now have screening times from Monday to Saturday at 9am and 11am.
- TV9 content now reflects programmes like Foreign Correspondent, Four Corners, The Pacific, The Pacific Sports along with new entertainment programmes for children and general audience
- Radio 2AP shifts have been reduced to 7pm to allow programmers/producers ample time to produce local programmes
- TV9 Guide now developed and implemented as part of TV9's content creation
- Morning show on TV9 and Radio 2AP is now part of its daily operation to inform the public of topical events and activities pertaining to government and community

- Standard Operating Procedures now approved and implemented as a guide for all Outside Broadcast

CHALLENGES & WAY FORWARD

1. The advent and spread of media convergence into digitalisation is one of the challenges facing radio and television in this day and age.
2. Radio 2AP is the oldest radio station in the country and yet still operates on old equipment that requires an upgrade.
3. There is a huge need to recruit staff for Television in its operation and production activities.
4. The government's broadcaster requires qualified and experienced staff who are also digitally driven to be able to produce on-air content and share on social media accounts for 2AP and TV9.
5. There is clearly lack of knowledge and experience of current radio staff to be proactive, creative and innovative in content creation for television that could potentially market government activities and events.
6. The upcoming CHOGM in October 2024 is evidently one of the huge undertakings for the government broadcaster with the lack of equipment and facilities to offer broadcasting standards if its structure and resources are not being looked into.

Output 5: ICT SECRETARIAT

OVERVIEW

The ICT Secretariat holds the responsibility of providing strategic and technical policy advice to the Digital Transformation Committee (DTC) on ICT-related matters, in addition to offering guidance on the state of ICT in Samoa. The ICT Secretariat serves as the central authority for technical matters concerning the Communications Sector Plan and its implementation.

Furthermore, the ICT Secretariat is tasked with coordinating ICT-related projects within the Communications Sector and across the government ministries. It also collaborates closely with the private sector, non-government organisations and other relevant stakeholders to compile comprehensive reports on ICT developments within the private sector. This comprehensive approach ensures that the government remains well-informed and responsive to the dynamic landscape of ICT in Samoa and fosters collaboration with various stakeholders to advance ICT initiatives and projects.

Traffic Light Progress Indicator Key					
ACHIEVED		PARTIALLY ACHIEVED		NOT ACHIEVED	
Performance Measure	2022-2023 Budget	Progress Indicator	Comments		
Secretariat function and duties for Digital Transformation (DTC). FK(17)5	6 reports		On-going		
Collaborative meetings with technical ICT working Group (ICT-TWG)	6 meetings		On-going virtual meeting and correspondence via email to security and training awareness and also technical discussions. The Ministry is working on updating contacts of the ICT-TWG..		
Development of the ICT Products and Service Register	2 Reports /yr		MCIT have compiled ICT Services / equipment database registry completed		
Support for Government Infrastructure and Projects	3 Reports/yr		SNBH has been transferred to the Ministry and is in the transition phase.. SCP Phase 3		

(Incl SCP, SNBH, GNet2.0 others)			has been completed. The final report is completed awaiting Cabinet's approval. The Ministry is providing continuous support for the government infrastructure and projects under the auspices of the Ministry.
Improving internet access through open WIFI-in public areas with engagement with Sector Partners	on going		It is noted that this has been moved to SPL with the support of the Ministry through the ICT Sector Plan for the next five (5) years. The Ministry's role will be to support this Wi-Fi capability for the access by the community at those public places.
Conduct and facilitate discussing related to Innovation Park requirements and support for attracting ICT investments			MCIT is working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to achieve this milestone. This has already been moved under Policy division to liaise with partners for a successful outcome of this initiative to create opportunities, design new innovations and create partnerships. The more investors in the field of ICT, there is likely an opportunity to provide incentives and many other benefits.
Collaborative Meeting with Digital Think Tank Group (Public/Private Sector)(DTTG)	4 meetings/yr		The Ministry needs to relook at the performance measure and its target outcome.
Support for Internet Exchange Activities	4 reports/yr		This is on-going. The infrastructure is ready and awaiting ISP's to connect.
Information Resource Development for	monthly reports		This is in collaboration with SamCert

Strengthening Cybersecurity and Digital Capacity Awareness			
Research on Emergency Technology that will provide support to Government	4 reports/yr		This is an on-going activity to keep the Ministry and staff abreast of the latest development of technology.
Internal Ministry ICT Resource Management	2 Reports/yr		We have completed this task for the FY22-23, although it is an on-going process. The Ministry will continue to perform internal management of resources.
Join APT and MCIT Research of Tuasivi Area and Hub for Emergency ICT Infrastructure.	1 report/Yr		This is project is on-going The Project has two phases, of Category 1 and Category 2. The final report for Category 1 has been submitted to Japanese Evaluation Technology Center (JTEC) in March 2023. Category 2 is still ongoing until the next FY.
Joint SMART Island Initiative with ITU support and MCIT Smart Island agenda support	1 Report/Yr		This project is an on-going activity in collaboration with the Policy Division
Supporting the Cybersecurity and Cybersafety activities in collaboration with SamCERT	1 report/Yr		This is in collaboration with SamCert Cyber Awareness.
Sourcing and procuring of Government wide MS Office Licenses (Latest Version)	1 Reprot/Yr		The Ministry will prepare a Cabinet Submissionto seeking approval to fund this activity in support of the Digital Transformation implementation.

Government Digitalconferencing support for all Government Organizations License Support	Wide Zoom	1 Report/yr		This was implemented during Covid-19 to support business continuity of the Government ministries funded by the UNDP. The funding support was ceased after the pandemic, hence, the Ministry's advice sent to ministries to procure their own licenses.
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ACHIEVEMENTS

SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

The Ministry in partnership with Bluewave Company have completed the third phase of the School Connectivity Project during the FY22-23.

There three phases of the School Connectivity Project were:.

Phase 1: Mobilisation and Transfer of 40 VSATS;

Phase 2: Installation of Relocated VSATS; and

Phase 3: Installation of 80 VSATS.

By the end of Phase 3, 120 schools (government and some are mission) in both Upolu and Savaii wer covered under the School Connectivity Project. Yet, there are still about 53 schools that have yet to connect. The Ministry is looking at an extension of this project to ensure school connectivity for all the government schools.

During the project, the Ministry has been performing its regular monitoring to ensure that there is internet connectivity within the vicinity of the schools where the VSATs are installed. The Ministry ensured thatany technical issue is documented and referred to the contractor whereas any resource issues

	<p>such as (computers, tablets, printers, etc) are to be referred to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC).</p> <p>The completion report for the School Connectivity Project in its Phase 3 is ready for Cabinet submission.</p>
LAST MILE PROJECT	<p><u>This is a pilot project to bridge the digital divide by improving rural connectivity and community access with advanced ICT infrastructure in Savaii. The project is delivered in two categories where Category 1 completed in March 2023 and report was submitted Japan Telecommunication Engineering and Consult Services. The Category 2, kick starts in April 2023 and it is planned to be completed in FY23-24.</u></p> <p>The objectives for this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to provide access by connecting to the SNBH to localized digital resources; ii) to establish broadband access to connect hospitals and clinics to improve healthcare services at Tuasivi Hospital; iii) to introduce broadband to colleges and schools in Tuasivi and proximate area to enhance ICT education with improved remote learning and distant education media; iv) To enhance communications at Tuasivi Police station using broadband for improved security and disaster management with advanced information collection systems during normal and emergencies; v) to connect Savaii Post office stations? to the optical Fibre system to improve postal services, logistics and Post Office financial network; vi) to access national digital platforms such as the National digital library, the lifelong learning platform as well as various open access repositories in Samoa and elsewhere, thereby empowering people to take part in participating in the 21st century digital economy;

	<p>vii) to provide network access to the local community for better information collection at normal and emergency situations such as cyclone, Tsunami, earthquake and others;</p> <p>viii) to ensure continuity of access to educational programmes for rural students through technology enabled learning at times of disaster and pandemic lockdown situation;</p> <p>This project will address major challenges in reducing the digital divide in Samoa through the availability of high-quality broadband network to expand digital literacy rate addressing continuing education and social services</p>
SAMOA NATIONAL BROADBAND HIGHWAY (SNBH) PROJECT	<p>By Cabinet directive and approval, the (SNBH) project was transitioned from the Computer Services Limited (CSL) to the Ministry.</p> <p>Here is a brief overview of the current SNBH infrastructure:</p> <p>The SNBH network fiber covers the metropolitan fiber ring area, interconnected at the Data Centre that is located at Motootua, beside the Samoa National Kidney Foundation. SNBH currently connects a total of 15 small buildings and 12 big Buildings. SNBH was previously used to connect School via LTE under the SCHOOL NET Project. It is also used to connect and operate the Finance One system Other Ministries are also connected and are accessed remotely between their main offices and their outpostssuch as the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.</p>
INITIATIVES & REFORMS	
Improving Connectivity in the communities	<p>School Connectivity Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Last Mile Project in partnership with JTECH b) Samoa National Broadband Highway (SNBH) <p>Reform</p> <p>Utilization of SNBH and Last Mile Project for extension of School Connectivity Project to cover the remaining fifty three schools who are yet to connect to internet services. Moreover, the SNBH is intend for improving and strengthening connectivity in the community as well as other government key</p>

	<p>development such as National ID and the implementation of Digital Transformation</p> <p>2. Managing of Internal IT Resources</p> <p>a) PC Audit and Maintenance Work</p> <p>b) Developing of IT Registry</p> <p>Reform</p> <p><u>Within the reporting period, the ICT Division managed to complete the upgrade for the ministry's internal network infrastructure for ICT Hardware and Software to ensure network security and data integrity reliability activity</u></p>
CHALLENGES & WAY FORWARD	
1. SHORT STAFF	<p>One of the main challenges faced by the ICT Division was the shortage of staff with right skills to deliver its responsibilities. The ICT is managing and monitoring more than one national project at a time and the monitoring work takes a lot of time. Right now there are two part-timers currently working under the ICT Division to assist with the work load.</p> <p>As a way forward, the Division is reliant on a full organisational review to accommodate an increasing demand in its responsibilities with less number of staff.</p>
2. ICT SUPPORT ROLE	<p>The ICT Division plays two different types of supporting roles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal ICT 2. Secretariat role for ICT council <p>As a way forward, the ministry is planned on legislation review for the Ministry that will provide solution and a clear outline of functions pertaining the ICT division.</p>

**STATEMENT OF MINISTRY RECEIPTS BY REPORTING CATEGORY
AND EXPENDITURE BY OUTPUT
APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT**
for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023	Original Estimate	Final Estimate	(Over)/Under	2022
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY						
RECEIPTS						
Ordinary Receipts						
Other Revenues						
Fees & Other Charges		338,757	366,781	366,781	28,024	327,919
TOTAL RECEIPTS		338,757	366,781	366,781	28,024	327,919
PAYMENTS						
Outputs						
1.0 Policy Advice to the Responsible Minister		363,575	310,012	364,614	1,039	261,394
2.0 Ministerial Support		543,343	493,686	543,686	343	480,447
3.0 Policy Development		472,122	479,580	474,980	2,858	450,207
4.0 Broadcasting Services		1,253,460	1,266,606	1,266,606	13,146	961,478
5.0 ICT Secretariat		420,032	426,980	426,980	6,948	472,596
Total Outputs		3,052,531	2,976,864	3,076,865	24,334	2,626,122
Third Party Output						
Office of the Regulator		2,538,811	2,538,811	2,538,811	0	2,365,630
Total Third Party Output		2,538,811	2,538,811	2,538,811	0	2,365,630
Transactions on Behalf of State						
Membership Fees						
International Telecommunication Union		53,828	56,000	56,000	2,172	56,399
Asian Pacific Telecommunity		13,443	13,600	13,600	157	13,681
Pacific Island Telecom Association		673	1,000	1,000	326	0
Universal Postal Union Contribution		33,503	64,477	64,477	30,974	27,169
Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development		0	0	0	0	0
Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation Fee		21,313	23,000	23,000	1,687	22,341
		122,760	158,077	158,077	35,317	119,591
Counterpart Costs to Development Projects						
Samoa National Broadband Highway Co Location		957,919	1,120,128	1,020,128	62,209	875,527
Samoa National Broadband Highway Spectrum Fees		187,270	246,510	246,510	59,240	246,430
Samoa National Broadband Highway Electricity		235,073	315,000	315,000	79,927	250,256
		1,380,263	1,681,638	1,581,638	201,375	1,372,214
Government Policies / Initiatives						
Digital TV Studio Refurbishment		0	0	0	0	203,330
School Connectivity		218,755	600,000	600,000	381,245	338,410
Digital Transformation Authority Establishment		0	0	0	0	0
CSL Monthly Management Fee		525,011	525,012	525,012	1	306,257
		743,766	1,125,012	1,125,012	381,246	847,997
Rents & Leases						
Tui-Samoa Submarine Cable - Land Lease		5,217	6,000	6,000	783	5,217
Samoa National Broadband Highway Land Lease		2,609	3,000	3,000	391	2,609
Samoa Innovation Park - Land Lease, Vaivase		26,087	30,000	30,000	3,913	0
Rent and Leases - Government Building		34,348	34,348	34,348	(0)	34,348
Rents and Leases - TATTE Building		257,100	257,100	257,100	0	257,100
		325,361	330,448	330,448	5,087	299,274
VAGST Output Tax		307,139	578,200	578,200	271,061	410,528
Total Transactions on Behalf of State		2,879,288	3,873,375	3,773,375	894,087	3,049,604
TOTAL PAYMENTS - COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY		8,470,630	9,389,050	9,389,051	918,421	8,041,356
RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(8,131,873)	(9,022,269)	(9,022,270)	(890,397)	(7,713,437)

GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS						
	<i>Notes</i>	2023	Original Estimate	Receipts	Payments	Opening Balance
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grants - GDP						
Knowledge Society Initiative (UNESCO)		6,041	0	0	26,755	32,797
Support for the Establishment of the Samoa Cyber Emergency Response Team (SamCERT) (NZ)		21,838	0	0	162,296	184,134
Strengthening Cyber Security Emergency Response Capability in Samoa (AusAid)	<i>1</i>	902,879	0	0	250,078	1,153,908
Digi Transformation Authority (NZ)	<i>e</i>	0	175,439	0	0	0
Support for Samoa to Review & Reform Cyber Security and Cybercrime Legislation (AusAid)	<i>b</i>	18,768	0	0	0	18,768
TOTAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		949,526	175,439	0	439,129	1,389,607
<i>Notes</i>						
<i>¹</i> Non-cash transactions are not reported in this Statement but under Schedule 11.						
<i>b</i> No movements in the last two financial years.						
<i>e</i> Estimates declared in Approved Main Estimates FY22/23 but no transactions during financial year.						
<u>Additional Information to Accounts:</u>						
<u>Schedule 4 - Unforeseen Expenses</u>						
Revised Budget		184,000.00				
Actual Payments incurred during the financial year		183,000.00				
<u>Schedule 6 - Receivables</u>						
Accounts Receivable Balance at 30th June 2023		286,020.99				
<u>Schedule 9 - Fixed Assets</u>						
Opening Balance as at 1st July 2022		2,395,839.00				
Additional Assets purchased during the financial year		171,975.83				
Assets Disposed/Written-Off during the financial year		148,724.27				
Closing Balance of Ministry's Fixed Assets as at 30th June 2023		2,419,090.56				

