

27 May, 2011. **Hundreds of school children from sixteen (16) primary schools assembled at the Pangai Lahi ground in the early hours of the**



morning in order to march into the Teufaiva Outdoor Stadium to welcome Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, the Guest of Honour for the day

A cross-section of these schools was from the Central Nuku'alofa areas. Each Primary school was led by a college brass band.

These included Tonga Side School (led by Takuilau Brass Band); GPS Longolongo (led by Tonga College Brass Band); GPS Fanga 'o Pilolevu (led by Mo'unga 'Olive College Band); Maamaloa Side School (led by Beulah College Brass Band); Hillard Memorial School and GPS Fasi moe Afi (led by Liahona High School Brass Band); Lavengamalie Primary School and GPS Havelu (led by Lavengamalie College Brass Band); GPS Hala'ovave and GPS Kolomotu'a ('Apifo'ou College Brass Bands); GPS Ma'ufanga and GPS Popua (led by Tonga College Brass Band); Tonga Side School and GPS Ngele'ia (led by St Andrew High School Brass Band) and GPS Nuku'alofa (led by Tonga High School Brass Band).

The second part of the event continues with secondary school students performing traditional and cultural items at the Teufaiva Outdoor Stadium. The program began with the Hon. Frederica Tuita performing in a 'Ma'ulu'ulu' item, followed by a 'Kailao' performance by Tonga College, and the Hon. 'Etani Tuku'aho.

Schools performed various dances items from the group tau'olunga, soke, fa'ahi ula to the ma'ulu'ulu in the beautiful sunshine.

Education Day is not a new incentive as School Parades and Marching always marks the opening and closing of Parliament. Since culture has been re-enforced in the Educational Development programme, schools have now kept it alive through cultural performances of Tongan traditional dances and songs. The event also included presentation of gifts and offer of goodwill from Education sector to mark the celebration of Her Majesty's 85th Birthday on 29 May.



Today, Education Day is one of the most important highlights of any nationwide celebration or events that forms a crucial part of the celebrations of Royal Birthdays such as His Majesty King George Tupou V's Official Birthday on 1 August every year.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita and Samoa's Head of State HH Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi and HH Masiofo Filifilia Tamasese with other members of the Royal Family.

Also enjoying the education program was the Lord Prime Minister, Lord Tu'ivakano and Cabinet Ministers, Nobles of the Realm and resident ambassadors and high commissioners.

See Photo Album on [Education Day](#)

ENDS

Issued by the: Ministry of Information and Communications, Nukua'lofa, 2011.