



04 July, 2012. Tonga is once again observing July 4 as an official Public Holiday pertaining to the official birthday of its Reigning Sovereign, His Majesty King Tupou VI.

Several years ago, the fourth of July was the celebrated birthday of the late Monarch His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. The significance of this date also coincided with the completion of the one hundredth nights after the burial of His Late Majesty King George Tupou V three months ago.

In tradition, the ceremonial rites of laying of the 'kilikili' (black volcanic pebble rocks) or *lanu kilikili* as officiated by His Majesty, King Tupou VI at the Mala'ekula Royal Tombs on Wednesday morning.

The '*lanu kilikili*' is a duty to be performed only by the Royal Undertakers or the '*Ha'a Tufunga*' Clan led by Chief *matapul* *Lauak* *e*, who have permitted to access the tombs

In the presence of Their Majesties Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, The Queen Mother and Queen

Nanasipau'u, other members of the Royal Family participated in the preparation process for the *'lanu kilikili'*.

This included the ceremonial pouring of specially made Tongan oil in the *sene* (large bowls).

Their Highnesses Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala, Prince Tungi, Prince Ata and Princess Latufiipeka took turn in the pouring of the oil, led by the Hon. Lupepau'u Tuita and the Hon. Fatafehi 'o Lapaha Tuita. The Hon. Salote Maumautaimi and the Hon. 'Etani Tuku'aho also participated.

Once the *sene* is filled with oil and sea water, the *kilikili* are washed and cleansed before it is being transferred into small 'oa', a coconut woven baskets to be carried up the tomb by each *Ha'a Tufunga*
or
Numatapu.



People gathered for the 100th night ceremony at the Royal Tombs, marking the 100th anniversary of the death of King Boro.