

14 August 2012. **This morning, Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u was Guest of Honour at the official handover ceremony programme to mark the completion of Phase 1 of the Government of Tonga's project for the planning and reconstruction of the urban Central Business District of Nuku'alofa, held at the CBD Square on Taufa'ahau Road.**



This project is funded by the People's Republic of China and coordinated by the Government of Tonga and the principal contractor, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

The project for phase 1 included the newly built and reconstruction complexes for the O.G. Sanft Building, Royco Building, Taumoepeau Building, City Assets (Molisi Tonga), Tungi Colonnade (Tungi Arcade), Vuna Wharf, Civil Works, and extension to the Royal Palace. The other infrastructural projects of Government included the Foa causeway in Ha'apai and the redevelopment of many roads and pedestrians sidewalks in and around Nuku'alofa and the outskirts of the capital.

Her Majesty honored the occasion with the symbolic cutting of the ribbon ceremony which officially confirms the acceptance of the completion of the CCECC works by the Kingdom of Tonga.

Hon. Fatafehi Frederica Tuita were among members of the Royal Family who joined the Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Tu'ivakano and His Excellency Mr. Wang Donghua, and distinguished guests at the hand-over ceremony.



The project is a joint effort of the Government's Planning and Urban Management Agency of the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources, the Ministry of Infrastructure (Works, Transport Implementation Units), and the Ministry of Finance & National Planning with the Government of the People's Republic of China.

This project was initiated four years ago in 2008 after most of the Nuku'alofa area was burnt from the riots of 2006, when then Prime Minister, Lord Sevele (Hon. Feleti Sevele) announced the commencement of plans for reconstruction and redevelopment in 2010.

The completion of the redevelopment project for phase 1 is a historic milestone for Tonga, ushering in new economic opportunities, employment opportunities and benefits for the people and the country as a whole.

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