

19 July 2012. **The Legislative Assembly of Tonga has elected Lord Fakafanua, Noble Representative Number 1 for the Ha'apai Group, as the new Speaker of the House.**



Two Nobles were nominated as candidacy for the Speaker, wherein Lord Fakafanua took the lead with 17 votes while the Lord Tu'ilakepa, Noble Representative No. 2 for Vava'u and former Speaker of the House, received 8 votes.

The proceedings were conducted in accordance with Clause 15 of the Legislative Assembly Act, wherein the King shall appoint one of the nobles of the Legislative Assembly to be the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Lord Tu'iha'ateiho was appointed as Acting Speaker during the proceedings however has now become Deputy Speaker of the House, a position which became vacant upon the appointment of Lord Tu'i'afitu as Minister of Health, earlier this month.

The Lord Fakafanua (Fatafehi Kinikinilau Lolomana'ia Fakafanua), is one of thirty-three hereditary estate holders of the Tongan Nobility. Son of the Late Fakafanua (Tutoatasi Fakafanua) and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Ofeina, the Lord Fakafanua was bestowed with the title Fakafanua on the 24th of April 2006. Lord Fakafanua's estates include Ma'ufanga (Tongatapu) and Faleloa (Ha'apai).

## **Lord Fakafanua elected as new Speaker of Tongan Parliament**

Thursday, 19 July 2012 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 21 November 2012 20:06

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Lord Fakafanua's political career began when he was elected as representative for Ha'apai, during the April 2008 general elections, and again re-elected in November 2010.

On 19 July 2012, Lord Fakafanua became the youngest incumbent to be elected as Speaker of the Tongan Legislative Assembly following Lord Lasike's removal from office.

ENDS.

**Issued by the:** Ministry of Information and Communications, Nuku'alofa, 2012.