



Nuku'alofa,
Kingdom of Tonga

PRIME MINISTER

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

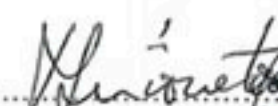
Pursuant to section 32 of the Emergency Management Act 2007 ("the Act"), and having considered the following –

- (1) The spread of the novel coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") worldwide and in countries proximate to Tonga;
- (2) That pursuant to the Declaration of Public Health Emergency dated 12 March 2020 and gazetted on 13 March 2020 and the Declaration of COVID-19 to be an Emergency Notifiable Condition dated 12 March 2020 and gazetted on 13 March 2020, it is clear that there is a public health emergency in Tonga.

I am therefore satisfied that COVID-19 is a public health emergency and is imminent and will endanger or threaten to endanger lives of people in Tonga, therefore this requires a significant and coordinated response. The powers under section 37 of the Act shall be invoked to prevent or minimize illness and loss of human life.

I therefore issue this Declaration of a State of Emergency to be applied over all the land and sea areas of Tonga commencing from 20:00hrs on 20th March 2020 until 20:00hrs on 17th April 2020 unless further renewed.

DECLARED in Nuku'alofa on this 20th day of **March** 2020.


Honourable Reverend Dr. P. Teveta
PRIME MINISTER



S. 30/20