

**Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT, 10
– 11 September 2014, Brunei, Darussalam**



Hon. Samiu Kuita Vaipulu

MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information & Communications & currently member of Parliament as Peoples Representative for Vava'u 15 Constituency.

EDUCATION: Diploma in Legal Studies, University of the South Pacific (1989)

PARLIAMENT HISTORY:

- First elected to the House as Peoples Representative for Vava'u in 1987-1989
- Re-elected to the House in 1993-2001, 2005
- Member of the Standing Committee on Legislation 2005
- Member of the Special Parliamentary National Committee of the Kingdom of Tonga on Political Reform in 2006
- Member of the Special Parliamentary Select Committee on Political Reform 2007
- Acting Chairman of the Committee of Whole House 2006-07
- Secretary General of APPU for many years

OTHER WORK HISTORY:

- Experienced Legal Practitioner and Commissioner of Oaths, prominent businessman and Investor
- Licensed Law Practitioner, Tonga and represents on behalf of clients at all levels of the judiciary in Tonga, from the Police Magistrate's Court to the Court of Appeal.
- Co-founder of the Whale watching venture in Vava'u
- Co-founder of Airlines Tonga Ltd
- Member of the Vava'u Tourism Association

Currently member of Cabinet and also has a long history of involvement with the tourism industry as well as the local shipping and airlines industry. He was involved with TETA Tours, one of the country's biggest tour operators in the 1970's, and the Shipping Corporation of Polynesia (SCPL), for which he was the Area Manager in Vava'u from 1981 until 1996. He was also associated with Airlines Tonga. His present involvement with the tourism industry is focused on his home island where he is involved with Whale Watch Vava'u Ltd, Mounu Island Resort and Dive Vava'u.

PARLIAMENTARY VISITS:

- APPU Meetings 2001 - Member of the Parliament delegation who travelled to the Peoples Republic of China on a goodwill visit 2005
- Member of the Parliament delegation to the United Kingdom Parliament on a goodwill visit 2006
- Travelled in the National Committee throughout the Kingdom in gathering submissions from the public for political reform 2007
- Goodwill Parliamentary Visit to Peoples Republic of China.

He has been Head of Delegation and Member of Delegation of Tonga to various International and Regional Conferences and Meetings when appointed as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister responsible for Justice, Transport and Works.