

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, 24th July 2024

HIS MAJESTY KING TUPOU VI COMMISSIONS NEW TUGBOAT FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

His Majesty King Tupou VI officially commissioned the new tugboat Fanga'ilifuka on the 23rd of July 2024, funded by the Government of Japan under the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS). The ceremony, held at the Taufa'ahau Tupou IV Domestic wharf, marks a significant milestone in the maritime industry of the Kingdom.

The grant provided by JICS amounted to JPY 1,000,000,000 (USD 6,354,778.4, TOP 15,130,424.76), with the actual building cost of the tugboat at JPY 863,750,000 (USD 5,488,936, TOP 13,068,895.24). The tugboat was completed in shipbuilder on May 31st, 2024 and it arrived in Tonga on the 18th of July, 2024.



Named graciously by His Majesty Tupou VI, the new Tugboat Fanga'ilifuka plays a vital role in piloting vessels, facilitating trade, and boosting the economy of the Kingdom of Tonga. This is the third tugboat for the Ports Authority Tonga, and in comparison with the Hifofua, the Fanga'ilifuka is larger and more efficient, with a length of 37.20m (O.A), 33.0m (P.P), Breadth 9.80m and Max speed 14.5 knots.

PAT now has three (3) tugboats

- TB Hifofua (funded by the Japanese Government)
- TB 'Olovaha (funded by PAT)
- TB Fanga'ilifuka (funded by the Japanese Government)

Ports Authority Tonga expresses its gratitude to the Government of Tonga and the Government of Japan for their partnership and assistance in securing the grant for the new tugboat. The organization appreciates the continued support and collaboration in furthering maritime development in Tonga.

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