

Soaring Returns of the Island Council Trust Fund

[Bairiki, 26/4/2024] – From the end of May 2023, when the investment was first initiated, to the end of March 2024, the Island Council Trust Fund's (ICTF) value surged from around \$3 million to \$3.6 million. Within a mere 10-month period, the fund yielded a return of \$695,075, reflecting an increase of 23.5%.

The Honourable Vice President, who is also the Minister for Finance and Economic Development Dr Teuea Toatu, commended the remarkable performance of this investment. Such notable growth serves as a testament to the diligent oversight and dedicated efforts of the Committee, its officials, and the Fund Manager.

The Island Council Trust Fund (ICTF) is a landmark investment initiated by the Tobwaan Kiribati Government. The main objective of this Trust Fund is to furnish Island Councils with long term sustainable funds that can be used to finance development initiatives aimed at benefiting their respective communities.

The ICTF is capitalised from a \$3 million grant provided by the Government. The grant is allocated amongst the 23 Island Councils using a Geometric mean approach that takes into account both the Island Council's population (Population Census, 2015) and the number of Members of Parliament (MPs) per Island Council.

The investment commenced on 31st May 2023, subsequent to the completion of paper works and transitioning of the fund to the appointed Fund manager overseeing the ICTF. The Fund Manager, BlackRock, is one of the current fund managers managing the I-Kiribati Reserve Fund known as the RERF.

The Government through its ICTF Committee is committed to completing legal frameworks and policies that will facilitate future deposits and withdrawals from this Trust Fund in accordance with the ICTF Act 2021.

For any inquiry regarding the ICTF, please contact the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development via phone number 740 21806 or on the email planning@mfep.gov.ki