

For Official Release  
PR 001-06022023  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
June 02, 2023



## **Governor Lemanu Departs Samoa After Independence Celebrations**

*“I express my sincerest gratitude to Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa and her Cabinet for their hospitality, and commend the Government of Samoa for executing such a phenomenal and historical Flag Raising Celebration.”*

[PICTORIAL]: Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga attended the 61st Celebration of Samoa’s Independence and Flag Raising Ceremony on June 1st, 2023 at the Malae o Tiafau in Mulinu’u. The ceremony began at 6:00 am upon the arrival of His Highness Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II, Head of State. Dignitaries from various Pacific Island Nations attended as well as the United States Congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen. The flag raising ceremony was followed by a colorful parade of various schools, government agencies, organizations, members of the communities and private sectors of the Independent State of Samoa. An official luncheon and cultural entertainment followed thereafter.



Returning from the Independence festivities, Governor Lemanu and his delegation visited the American Samoa Government (ASG) Taumeasina Property. The ASG property was a result of the Land Swap agreement between the Government of Samoa and American Samoa Government signed at the Atoa o Samoa Meeting in April 2023. ASG has begun clearing the area. Details of land use will be provided at a later date.



In the late afternoon, Governor Lemanu was visited by a few United States military veterans who were in Samoa for the Independence celebrations. One retiree was Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Robert Moki Totolua Yandall who attended the festivities with his wife.





On Friday, June 2nd, 2023, Governor Lemanu was received by CEO Peseta Noumea Simi (MFAT) at the Faleolo International Airport VIP Lounge prior to departing Samoa. “It has been such an honor to have witnessed and been a part of the monumental celebrations Samoa has prepared,” commented Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I express my sincerest gratitude to Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa and her Cabinet for their hospitality, and I commend the Government of Samoa for executing such a phenomenal and historical Flag Raising Celebration.” After their brief meeting, CEO Peseta escorted Governor Lemanu onto the tarmac to bid farewell. Governor Lemanu and his delegation have arrived safely in the territory as of Thursday, June 1st, 2023 (SST).



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