

For Official Release  
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Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
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## Second Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting 2022

*“You have shared your wisdom with us, renewed our partnership in many of our efforts in our fight against climate change, preserving our culture and language, and by building up our workforce by allowing training through the school of medicine, maritime, and technical institute”*



*Pictured above: Her Excellency Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa and Honorable Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Governor of American Samoa at the Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting Official Opening Ceremony.*

On Wednesday, October 12, 2022 the Samoa delegations held introductory meetings with several members of the American Samoa Government. These meetings were followed by visits to several sites to share daily operations and past, ongoing, and future projects. These

introductory meetings led up to the official two-day Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting scheduled Thursday and Friday, October 13 - 14th.

Visited Sites include the following:

- West Coast Road construction works – Land Transport Authority
- Solar Farm at Faleolo – Electric Power Corporation
- Airport Tower, Departure Terminal and Aerobridge at Faleolo International Airport – Airport Authority
- Moto'otua Hospital
- Moto'otua Campus
- National University of Samoa
- Crops Site & Scientific Research Office
- Water Resources and Forestry Office in Vailima
- Division of Environment and Conservation (Art Whistler Memorial Gardens) Vailima
- Leone Bridge/Vaisigano River Wall Segment 1
- Drive Through Drains done by EWACC Project
- NEOC (National Emergency Operations Centre) Tuanaimato
- Samoa Meteorology Office (Mulinuu)

On Thursday, October 13th marked the official opening of the Second Atoa o Samoa with the Guard of Honor on the front lawn of the Samoa Government Building. Her Excellency Fiame bestowed the highest of honor upon Honorable Lemanu as he was given the opportunity to inspect the Samoa police force during the opening ceremony. Immediately following was a prayer service with the opening prayer led by His Grade Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga and hymn by the Samoa Police Band. Concluding the opening ceremony was the exchanging of



*Honorable Lemanu Mauga given the honor to inspect the Samoa Police Force*

gifts between the two Samoas, this included fine mats, siapo, beef, and fish.

Soon after, delegations, observers and special guests held the official Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting at the Taumeasina Island Resort. In their special remarks during the first official Atoa o Samoa in July, both leaders highlighted a new beginning for the two Samoas to move forward

independently and collaboratively in their government. In their remarks for the second meeting, they echoed the importance of forging the relationships to improve the lives in both Samoas.

Similarly to the first executive meeting in July, key issues that were discussed are as follows: Health, Economy, Education, Information and Communication Technology, Immigration, Agriculture and Fisheries, Finance, Environment, Climate, Weather & Geoscience. Additional issues were also discussed in the second meeting, which included transportation, customs, and intelligence sharing.



On Friday, October 14th, the final day of the Atoa o Samoa meetings, much was discussed and agreed upon for the benefits of both Samoas. To officially conclude the two-day meeting, the two leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (*attached is the signed MOU*).

“American Samoa has been very fortunate with the hospitality shown by the Independent State of Samoa” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “You

have shared your wisdom with us, renewed our partnership in many of our efforts in our fight against climate change, preserving our culture and language, and by building up our workforce by allowing training through the school of medicine, maritime, and technical institute.”

Governor Lemanu remarked, “The Atoa o Samoa meeting is an opportunity to address these social and economic challenges with our neighboring country. I would like to thank Her Excellency Fiamé Mataafa and the Ministers of Samoa for your foresight and strengthening our partnership for the future of the two Samoa. We’ve forged relationships, and now the real work will begin. The ASDOE will work closely with the National University of Samoa to coordinate career pathways and workforce development training. These training will afford our people the ability to receive their certifications closer to home in specialized professions such as nursing, engineering and pilotage. The ASDOC will look into hosting regional trade shows to expand businesses and for both Samoas to sell their locally made products. There’s much to be done, but with the signing of the MOU, and the provision of our leaders, our goals will be met ”

Other events that took place throughout the week was the Dinner Reception of the two Samoas that was held at the National University of Samoa on Thursday evening. In between meeting days, Honorable Lemanu and the American Samoa delegation were visited by several prestigious members of the Samoan government and community including, Head of State Tuimaleali’ifano Va’aleto’a Sualauvi II, Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Methodist Church of Samoa President Rev. Faulalo Leti Paaga, Honorable Tooa and Malietoa, Manunu EFKS Rev. Elder Roma Enosa, Consulate General Fata Brian, CEO and Silva Company and



family. "I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have shown us the highest of honor and warmest of love," stated Governor Lemanu. "Thank you for your support, words of wisdom, and prayers. Although from different political status, we continue to share the common goal to see the Samoa people move forward in all aspects."

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

ON

### DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa and the Government of the Territory of American Samoa,

Recognising the important and enduring relationship between American Samoa and Samoa founded on a shared history, culture, language, social and family ties;

Recalling Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Independent State of Samoa and the Government of the Territory of American Samoa on the Principles of Economic Cooperation, signed in Malaetele, Manu'a in 1986;

Considering their common objective to promote economic development and co-operation to obtain fuller opportunities for social progress, pursue measures for sustainable development, and strengthen good governance and security,

And desiring to further strengthen the common bond of traditional kinship and friendship between them;

Have agreed as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1

To foster and assure optimum mutual development and to accrue economic, social and environmental benefits to the Parties, the Parties will continue to collaborate as follows:

##### *Trade*

1. Mutual leases, exchange or purchase of Government lands to facilitate trade and strengthen representation/relations.
2. Mutually seek opportunities for the production, processing and marketing and access to locally made products.
3. Mutually establish a co-operative trade, conservation and management of fisheries and marine resources.



4. Mutually establish bilateral concessions on trade and tariff restrictions on goods and commodities.
5. To consider opportunities for private sector engagement and development between the Parties noting their contribution to both economies.

#### *Financial, Banking and Auditing Services*

1. Mutually agreed to develop and improve financial and banking services.
2. Mutually agree to revitalise twinning systems to improve the delivery of audit and accounting services in both Parties.

#### *Labour Mobility*

1. Cooperation in developing mutually beneficial economic opportunities and labour movements recognising acceptable frameworks of the labour sending country.

#### *Telecommunications*

1. Mutually develop and improve the telecommunications industry, including exchange information and technology and all other areas of mutual interest.

#### *Health*

1. Mutually establish co-operative efforts to:
  - Improve health systems services and health infrastructure;
  - Improve and strengthen disease surveillance and management of diseases of public health importance to minimise impact of pandemics and epidemics;
  - Collaborate and sharing of training opportunities for formal and informal trainings in health;
  - Collaborate on research opportunities between the Parties;
  - Assist and strengthen professional bodies for certification and accreditation of health care professionals;
  - Encourage and promote sharing of experiences in health response between the Parties.

#### *Education, Sports and Culture*

1. Mutually agree to co-operate in the development of education, including science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education.
2. Mutually agree to strengthen people-to-people linkages and cultural programmes.
3. Mutually establish and promote the development of athletes, various sports, joint-sporting events and opportunities.

#### *Tourism and Hospitality*

1. Mutually develop and improve the tourism industries.

#### *Infrastructure*

1. Mutually establish effective and resilient transportation and public works systems.

#### *Environment and Climate Change*

1. Mutually cooperate in the promotion of low emission development including renewable energy towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy.
2. Mutually seek opportunities to collaborate on efforts for joint Disaster Risk Reduction (mitigation) and enhanced climate resilience (preparedness, response and recovery).

3. Mutually seek opportunities to collaborate on efforts for joint biodiversity (terrestrial and marine) and invasive species monitoring programs
4. Mutually seek opportunities to collaborate on waste management and pollution control initiatives
5. Mutually seek opportunities to collaborate on environmental management and monitoring programs including sampling, testing and analysis.

#### *Agriculture and Fisheries*

1. Mutually agree to cooperate in the development and promotion of opportunities for sustainable food security.
2. Mutually agree to collaborate and seek opportunities for mutual benefits within regional and global levels on the management and conservation of fisheries.

#### *Border Security*

1. Mutually establish common immigration and extradition procedures, including measures to apply for deportees.
2. Mutually agree to relevant exchange programs for requisite legal assistance to strengthen collaboration.
3. Mutually agree to cooperate on border security measures to combat transnational criminal activity.

#### *Law Enforcement/Search and Rescue*

1. Mutually cooperate on cross border law enforcement needs.
2. Mutually cooperate on information exchange, trainings, resources and staff exchange programs.
3. Mutually agree and establish law enforcement procedures on extradition of offenders and criminal returnees.
4. Mutually agree and cooperate on actions and measures to combat any transnational criminal activities.
5. Mutually agree and cooperate on search and rescue operations and humanitarian responses.

#### *Gender Equality*

1. Mutually cooperate in the promotion and advocacy of gender equality, child care and protection, social inclusion and social development across all development sectors.

## **ARTICLE 2**

There shall be a permanent Committee comprising the Governor, the Attorney General of the American Samoa Government and the Chief of Staff of the Governor's Office, and the Prime Minister, and two Ministers of State of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa, which shall make decisions and provide direction in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding.

There shall be an Officials Joint Taskforce (Taskforce) comprising all relevant Heads of Departments or Governments Agencies from both Parties, co-chaired by the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Government of the Independent State of Samoa, and the Chief of Staff of the Governor's Office, American Samoa



Government. The Taskforce shall be responsible for development and coordination of programmes and projects under this Memorandum of Understanding.

The official focal point for all communications related to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Government of the Independent State of Samoa, and the Chief of Staff of the Governor's Office, American Samoa Government.

### ARTICLE 3

The Parties endeavour to host the Taskforce and Committee meetings alternately and to bear the costs of their respective hosting arrangements.

### ARTICLE 4

Any disputes arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

### ARTICLE 5

Amendments to this Memorandum may be made at any time in writing between the Parties.


### ARTICLE 6

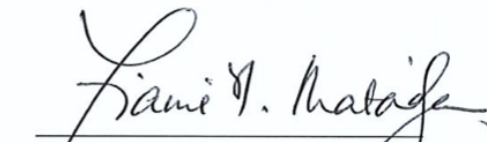
The Parties mutually agreed to meet twice a year, April in American Samoa and October in Samoa.

### ARTICLE 7

This Memorandum will take effect from its date of signature and will continue in effect until arranged otherwise in writing by the Parties.

SIGNED at Ai'ua, in duplicate, this 14 day of Oct 2022.

  
(Honourable Lemanu Peleti Mauga)  
GOVERNOR

  
(Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mataafa)  
PRIME MINISTER