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## **Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale Welcomes World Health Organization Western Pacific Head of Office to American Samoa**



**[PICTORIAL]:** On Monday, February 13, 2023, World Health Organization (WHO) Official Dr Kim Eva Dickson, along with several members of their WHO team, completed their first official visit to American Samoa since being in office in the Independent State of Samoa. They met with Honorable Talauega Eleasalo Va’alele Ale with the intent to meet with the American Samoa leaders since her first appointment to WHO Country Office and Representative of Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau in January 2022. Dr. Dickson is a Public Health Physician with almost 30 years of international experience. She has worked at the national and international level with countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, America, and now in the Pacific Region. As part of her official tour, Dr. Dickson presented her credentials and officially introduced herself as Head of WHO Office. She commended Acting Governor, who was also

Chair of the Covid-19 Task Force and an advocate for Health related issues, for American Samoa's "fantastic response to the covid pandemic."

"Healthcare is such a critical part of life," stated Acting Governor Ale. He continued, "We commend you all for your support during the difficult time of the covid pandemic, and we hope we can continue to partner in ways that can aid in your mission here in this region and in American Samoa."

Other WHO officials in attendance are as follows:

- Dr. Kim Dickson - Head of Office of Western Pacific Region of World Health Organization
- Dr. Dyxon Hansell - WHO Representative
- Ms. Kolisi Viki - WHO Representative
- Ms. Lepaitai Hansell - WHO Representative
- Ms. Izola A. Garcia - WHO Representative
- Ms. Leiema Hunt - Centers for Disease Control Field Representative

The introductory meeting concluded with an exchange of gifts as Dr. Kim Dickson presented a samoan artifact kava bowl along with her credentials, and a signed copy of the latest version of the *American Samoa 100 Years Under the United States Flag* book from Acting Governor Ale.

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