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The Lemanu-Talauega Administration Holds First Cabinet Meeting of 2023

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On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, the Lemanu-Talauega Administration held its first official cabinet meeting of the new year, at the Governor Rex E. Lee Auditorium. Soon after the opening prayer, gifts of appreciation were presented to Mrs. Danielle King, wife of the late Director Christopher King, and newly-elected Honorable Rep. Malaeoletalu Melesio Gurr, former employee of the Office of the Governor, as a token of appreciation for the continued leadership and support.

“January 3, 2021, this very day, we were inaugurated as the new administration. Exactly two years later, we have reached the halfway mark,” stated Governor Lemanu in his opening remarks. He continued, “Just as a marathon, this is the point of the race where we are truly tested. I encourage you all to fight on, and continue the good work. Lean on each other to share resources to bring forth a better American Samoa. You have all served faithfully and passionately.”

FLAG DAY 2023

Deputy Secretary Tauese Sunia shared plans of the upcoming Flag Day celebration set to take place in April. As plans are being finalized, there is much in store for the Territory this year. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2022, it put a stop to much of the festivities last year. Flag Day plans include Trade Fair hosted by the Department of Commerce, Fishing Tournament hosted by the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Farm Fair hosted by the Department of

Agriculture, Cricket League hosted by the Office of Samoan Affairs, Canoe (Fautasi) Race, performances and much more.

The Flag Day planning committee is proposing that a church service to commence the festivities to take place on April 16th, and a two-day celebration on the 17th and 18th.

LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION

Daniel Myung, a graduate of the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Scott Bonney, President of American Meridian University, gave a brief overview of the book “Our Iceberg is Melting, the 8 Steps to Leading Successful Change” written by Dr. John Kotter. An allegorical story with a deeper meaning on introducing and implementing change in an organization. The Lemanu-Talauega administration continues to provide government-wide training as such to improve and create a better workplace. Later in the month, the Territorial Audit Office will host its second government-wide Audit and Ethics Training through the Graduate School USA.

“We commend the great work that has been done by the cabinet,” stated Lt. Governor Talauega in his closing remarks.” We began this administration with repatriating many of our loved ones back to our shores, we implemented a government-wide salary increase, we have began and completed many infrastructure projects, bridged our relations with the Independent State of Samoa in two Atoa o Samoa executive meetings, and despite the outbreak of COVID, we managed to host the Constitutional Convention and as a result, five out of eleven amendments have been approved. As mentioned by Honorable Lemanu, the second half is usually when people grow weary, however, this is where heart wins the race. In the next two years, let us continue this good work with heart.”



Immediately after the meeting, members of the cabinet, Governor’s Office staff and all who were in attendance joined together to wish Honorable Lemanu’s well birthday wishes through song and cake.

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