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“Governor Lemanu Meets with Fono Leaders on Mass Vaccination and Constitutional Convention Issues.”

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In a meeting with Fono Leadership on November 22, 2021, at the Executive Office Building, Governor Lemanu, and Lieutenant Governor Talauega discussed issues surrounding plans for mass vaccination and the 2022 Constitutional Convention with Honorable Tualo M.E. Fruean and Honorable Savali Talavou Ale.

"It is always a pleasure to be in the company of such experienced statesmen. Both Talauega and myself take advantage of every opportunity to learn as much as we can from these esteemed leaders. God has continued to bless them with good health, and we are blessed to have their company this morning," stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, "Today's meeting was to present to the Fono leadership the opportunity to understand the details of the proposed plan for a three-day mass vaccination campaign by the COVID-19 Task Force and the Department of Health (DOH). We also discussed our intent and timeline of the proposed Constitutional Convention and the work of the Constitutional Review Commission, which I am hopeful will begin in January or February 2022."

Vaccination

President Tualo stated, "We need to look at our own ASG employees. Find out how many are not yet vaccinated and understand why. Our numbers will determine if the borders finally reopen fully. So our citizens need to do their part in helping our Territory defend against this virus." He continued, "Governor, we are happy to help out however we can."

Speaker Savali recommended utilizing the "local government" and the Office of Samoan Affairs to get out and rally in those not yet vaccinated. The "pulenu'u are an excellent resource," remarked Speaker Ale.

Final Plans for the mass vaccination has been released by the COVID-19 Task Force and will take place on Wednesday, December 1, for the central district (Ituau - Aitulagi); Wednesday, December 8 for the western district (Tualauta - Alataua); Wednesday, December 15 for the eastern district (Vaifanua - Maoputasi).

Constitutional Convention 2022

The 2022 Constitutional Convention planning is underway. Director Dr. Tapaau Aga stated that the purpose of yesterday's meeting was to initially begin the discussion of the true purpose of holding a convention. "My main question for you this morning to you leaders, is there a need to make changes to the Constitution? This is a priority for this Administration. I believe the Territory should be educated on when the last changes were made and understand the process of those changes," stated Dr. Tapaau.

President Tualo remarked, "This has always been a critical topic for our Territory since US Congress approved our Constitution in 1960. We must look at all options available for different types of partnerships that other Territories under the DOI have in place." Speaker Savali, "You will have the FONO's full support in carrying out this endeavor. I also would like to wish Dr. Tapaau and his office our best regards in undertaking such a great task."

Dr. Francine Amoa presented for the Department of Health, and Dr. Tapaau D. Aga presented on behalf of the Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, & Federal Relations.

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