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Third Atoa o Samoa Kick Off with Site Visits



Site visits to several government and private sectors key developments hosted by various leaders of the American Samoa Government for the Samoa delegation. Kicking off the beginning of the third Atoa o Samoa executive meeting.

On **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**, the Honorable Fiamē Naomi Mataafa, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, along with the Samoa delegation, arrived safely in Pago Pago, American Samoa for the third Atoa o Samoa executive meeting. The utility of site visits was first initiated by the Samoa government in 2022 and now repeated in 2023 to continue discussions with counterpart departments, agencies and key development sectors. The area of focus are as follows along with the relevant departments:

1. *Environment, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Connectivity*
 - EPA, ODAPM, DPA, ASTCA, ASPA, TEO, DPW
2. *Health*

- DOH, LBJ, DYWA, DPR, DOE, DHSS
- 3. *Economy*
 - DOC, DMWR, DOA, DHR, ASVB
- 4. *Finance, Immigration, Border Security, and Law Enforcement*
 - DLA, TR, DHS, DPS, SAR, DC, TAO

Several ASG departments and agencies were grouped together into relevant focus areas and visited the following sites with their Samoa counterparts:

- Airport Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF)
- DHS Emergency Operation Center
- DHS Siren
- ASPA Water Filtration Plant
- Tour of McConnell Dowell Creative Construction and Continental Transport Corporation
- Tour of the ASPA Green Building
- Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center
- Public Health Headquarters
- StarKist
- Dragon Fruit Farm
- Lions Park (New Development)
- Tutuila Greens (Business)
- Customs Building (K-9 Unit)
- DHS Fusion Center
- DSAR Marine Patrol
- Immigration Office
- Treasury Conference Room

As allowed by the Atoa o Samoa executive meetings, existing conversations between the two governments will continue at the Taskforce level, to direct and inform further ways and best practices to establish and agree on concerns in considerations, which will contribute to enhanced prospective collaborative and better partnerships. The Atoa o Samoa is a platform that allows both Samoas to mutually establish cooperative efforts to strengthen disease surveillance and management of diseases, collaborate and share training opportunities, and encourage and promote data sharing and research opportunities.

A dinner hosted by the respective departments concluded a productive day of proactive conversations and idea sharing.

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