

For Official Release  
PR 001-10122023  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
October 12, 2023



## **Final Day of Atoa o Samoa: Site Visits in Savaii and Upolu, and Official Closing**



On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the Government of Samoa continued to showcase its commitment to fostering collaboration and sustainable development during the Atoa o Samoa event. The day was marked by three significant site visits across Savaii Island, each focusing on distinct sectors.

The Infrastructure group embarked on a journey to explore key sites, including two small airports and a wharf in Asau, Savaii, aiming to revitalize underused infrastructure. Additionally, the delegation visited the Vailoa Palauli water treatment plant, a crucial element of the region's

water supply, treating water from the Palauli waterfall for the nearby villages. Notable projects that gained attention were the Mali'oli'o Bridge and road project and the Samalaeulu Borehole Drilling Project, emblematic of Samoa's commitment to infrastructural development.





The Agriculture sector, led by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). The first sector site visit began at the Gidlow Meat Farm owned by Mr. Alesana Li'o Gidlow. Mr. Gidlow toured the delegation around the livestock farm and explained the meat process from the farm to the market.



The site visit generally showcased a vision of self-sustainability and food security. The goal centers around the commercialization of local products, with a focus on involving local farmers

to drive and expand the local economy. The emphasis on value-added goods and locally made products demonstrates Samoa's dedication to import substitution. Moreover, these efforts align perfectly with the Governor's vision to position American Samoa as the Hub of the Pacific in the aspect of economic development.



Both governments embarked on other site visits which helped our delegation explore other potential industries with the intention of increasing import substitution. The 2nd and last site visits to Lata Plantation and Savai'i Koko businesses serve as exemplary models of community growth strategies. These enterprises demonstrate how a thoughtful approach can be employed to not only foster the well-being of their respective communities but help the growth of their business. For instance, the procurement of land acres for the establishment of pastures through community engagement initiatives; moreover Koko Savaii owners giving away seeds to help support the expansion and growth of Koko plantations. It is both a corporate social responsibility and a strategy of sustained and profitable economic growth.



The Social sector delved into the preservation of Samoan traditions at the National University of Samoa. Visiting the university exposed delegates to the revival of old Samoan practices, such as Siapo making and Samoan Chief oratory. The presentation also highlighted the teachers' certification courses offered at NUS, reinforcing Samoa's commitment to educational excellence, and opportunities for American Samoa teachers to explore outside of the US for further education and certification.





In the evening, the official closing of the Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting took place at Stevensons Hotel restaurant in Manase, Savaii. Governor Lemanu's remarks illuminated the profound and enduring historical bonds that unite Samoa, Tutuila, and Manu'a, emphasizing a connection that reaches deep into our shared heritage. He shared a poignant moment, reflecting on the village of Avao, where the Holy Bible was translated from English to the Samoan language, echoing the sentiment, "Measina a le atunu'u aua ne'i galo," which means that we must cherish our Samoan sacred traditions with deep respect and reverence.

On Friday, October 13, 2023, Prime Minister Fiame personally conducted a few tours for Governor Lemanu and the delegation at the Savaii Hospital prior to departing on the ferry, and the Giant Clam Sanctuary on Upolu island. These were the final programs of Prime Minister Fiame’s farewell to Governor Lemanu.



The Atoa o Samoa event continues to be a remarkable platform for collaboration and exchange of ideas, fostering strong relationships that will shape the future of Samoa and its neighboring regions.

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