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Governor Lemanu's Insightful Visit to StarKist Samoa Plant: A Morning of Immersion and Commitment

"I want to express my profound gratitude for the work you do here at StarKist. Your dedication not only fuels this plant but feeds into the entire economy of American Samoa."

Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga embarked on a visit to the StarKist Samoa plant in Satala on September 6, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the relationship between the government and this vital American Samoa institution. Plant Manager Injoo Ha and the management team warmly welcomed the Governor for an immersive experience.

During his visit, Governor Lemanu was granted a comprehensive tour of the plant's operations, gaining firsthand insights into the intricacies of the tuna processing industry. The employees of StarKist, known for their unwavering dedication, extended a warm welcome, opening the visit with a heartfelt hymn and a moment of prayer.

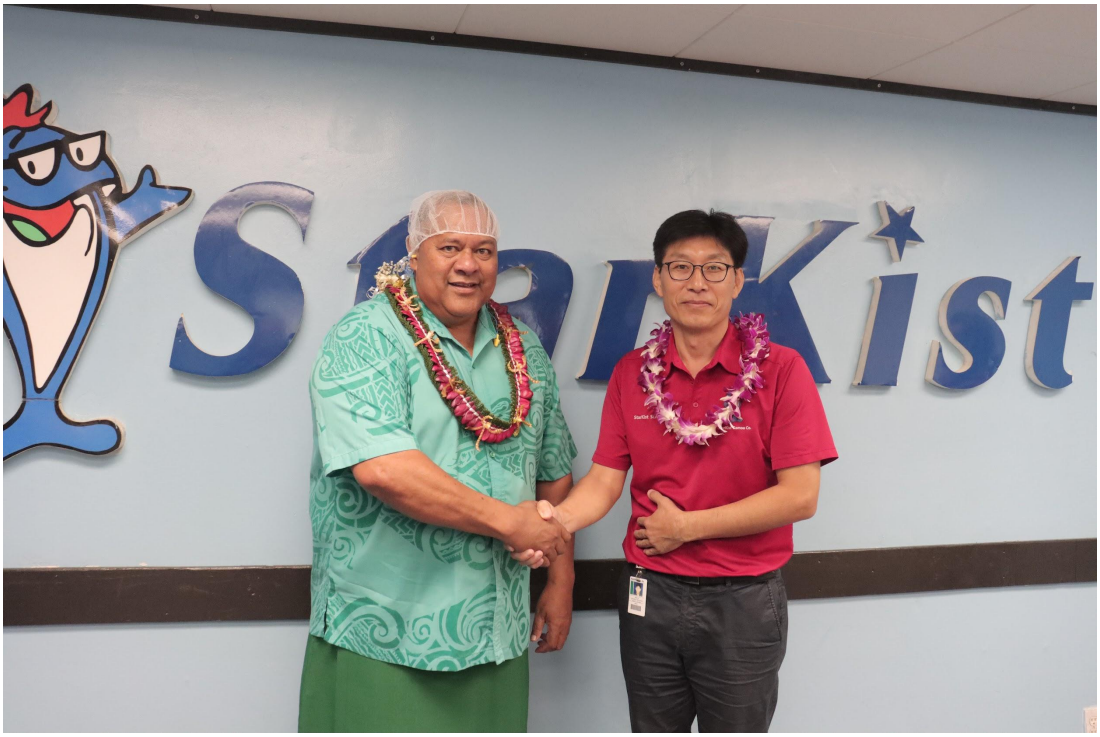
Governor Lemanu took a moment to address the employees, stating, "I want to express my profound gratitude for the work you do here at StarKist. Your dedication not only fuels this plant but feeds into the entire economy of American Samoa. You are the backbone of our community, and I thank you for your unwavering commitment."

Breaking convention, Governor Lemanu rolled up his sleeves and joined the team on the table line, engaging in the process of cleaning fish. This hands-on experience was not only symbolic but historic, as he became the first Governor to actively participate in this aspect of the plant's operations.

Following his work on the line, the Governor was guided through the packing and cooling processes, gaining a comprehensive understanding of how the products are prepared and processed. Starkist's team also presented the significance of the serial numbers under the canned tuna.

Governor Lemanu recounted a personal story during his visit: "When I was in the military overseas, our MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) came with pouches of StarKist Tuna. The special part about it was the American Samoa flag that was on the pouches. As a samoan soldier far from home and family, I was proud to see it because they were prepared by the hands of our mothers and fathers from the territory. Today, having experienced firsthand how the tuna is processed, prepared, and packaged, I am even more appreciative of that little pouch of tuna."

In addition to the hands-on experience, Governor Lemanu engaged in discussions with the Starkist Samoa regarding potential future services that the government can offer to support the dedicated employees, such as facilitating easier banking services, streamlined tax filing processes, and accessible medical services at the plant, just to name a few..



Starkist’s manager Mr. Injoo Ha expressed his deep appreciation for Governor Lemanu's visit and presented parting gifts as tokens of gratitude.

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