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## “Cabinet Meeting regarding the Administration’s progress.”

*Governor Lemanu stated, “We have made much progress, but we need to do better.”  
Discussed priorities for American Samoa moving forward*

On Monday, July 26, 2021, the Lemanu-Talauega Administration held a cabinet meeting at the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Conference Room in Tafuna. They discussed the priorities for American Samoa moving forward as they passed the six-month mark of their first year in office.

### **MANU'A CESSION DAY**

Governor Lemanu had carried out Cession Day Celebration activities in Manu'a, including a two-day fishing tournament, a farm fair, and entertainment from Manu'a youth groups.

"We would like to thank all of whom were able to travel to Manu'a to help commemorate 117 years of partnership with the United States. One of the Administration's priorities is to help Manu'a improve government services, upgrade infrastructure and capacity. This celebration was a great opportunity for directors to follow up on projects on all Manu'a islands." Stated Governor Lemanu. He continued to thank the residents of Manu'a for the warm hospitality and for sharing their piece of paradise with the traveling group.

### **FOOD SAFETY/SECURITY**

DOA Deputy Director Mamea Ta'ala presented the Cabinet with a comprehensive strategic plan for the next four years. DOA aims to "attain, sustain and safeguard a high level of diversified food production for food security and sustainability to provide for the territorial needs for food." Three objectives that Director Solialealofiotagaloa Mutini and his staff have set is to 1) Promote food safety, biosecurity, subsistence farming, 2) Educate farmers and consumers on the production and protection of goods, and 3) To improve financial

assistance for farmers, to provide consultation, and to implement effective ways to equip farmers better.

DHS Director Samana Ve'ave'a recommended establishing a Task Force to conduct a feasibility study and an assessment on agricultural farming in Tutuila and Manu'a, as well as developing a comprehensive strategy to Food Security. He continued to explain that DHS can leverage support to various departments.

### **2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR OPENING & SCHEDULE**

DOE Director Talauega shared that the Adopt-A-School Initiative has begun and will continue until August 6, 2021. The DOE Opening Church Service will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 3:00 pm at the EFKAS Kanana Fou Church, "Ua Taunu'u," Kanana Fou. All teachers and 10-month employees will report to work on August 16. Students will begin on August 23, 2021, as scheduled.

### **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS**

Lt. Governor Talauega explained that the last repatriation flight is Thursday, July 29, 2021. He also disclosed the dates of the next Medicaid flights scheduled for August 5th and 12th. DOH Acting Director Vesi Fautanu stated, "The most dangerous person walking in the streets is a cop that does not know his job. In these unprecedented times, the most dangerous person walking in the streets is the person who has not been vaccinated." He continued to give a vaccination update with 51% of the eligible population fully vaccinated.

Lt. Governor Talauega presented with members of the Cabinet a Three-Phase Plan to continue safeguarding the people of American Samoa from this deadly disease. "Phase 1 was to close our borders, Phase 2 is to eliminate quarantine in Hawai'i and implement the Safe Travels American Samoa Plan, and Phase 3 allowing travelers to reunite with their families without quarantine. However, we cannot get to phase 3 safely if we do not reach 80% of fully vaccinated of the eligible population."

Governor Lemanu warned that the COVID-19 Delta variant remains a venerable threat to the unvaccinated population. He urged the community to continue to get vaccinated as soon as possible. "Children under the age of 11 do not have the luxury of protecting themselves with vaccinations. They depend on us to protect them, so it is our responsibility to keep them safe by completing our vaccination."

Governor Lemanu commends those who have done their due diligence in getting vaccinated. "Those who have become fully vaccinated have helped to reduce the threats and dangers of this pandemic here at home, and have helped to save lives. We have made much progress, but we need to do better. Everyone has to work together to reduce the threat of this pandemic reaching our shores. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated. You have contributed to your health and your family's, friends', and now children. Even at this phase of the pandemic, where many look forward to normalcy, we must remain vigilant

about vaccinations. May we all continue to do our part in keeping our community safe and healthy."

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