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**Press Releases**

**23 April, 2007**

**1. Taamilosaga Lakapi Faavaomalo a Tupulaga Talavou i Iapani.**

O lo o i ai nei i Iapani le 'Au Lakapi i lalo 17 Tausaga a le Kolisi o Avele e avea ma Sui o Samoa i le Taamilosaga Lakapi Faavaomalo a Tupulaga Talavou e faataunuuna i Iapani.

E to'atolusefulu le 'au malaga e aofia ai ma ofisa e to'afa e i ai le Taitai Malaga, Susuga Aiga Esera; Faiaoga Faauluulu, Aukusitino Ropati; Faiaoga Lagolago, Tavila Tavila ma le Ofisa Faufautua, Meta Usufono. O le 'Au lenei o lo o avea ma Siamupini o le Taamilosaga Lakapi I Lalo 17 Tausaga a le atunuu.

O le faatasi atu o lenei 'Au o se avanoa lelei e atiina ae ai le taleni lakapi a alo ma fanau a le atunuu aemaise ai o se avanoa o le a saga faamausali ai pea faiga faapa'aga a Samoa ma le Malo o Iapani.

**World Youth Rugby Tournament**

Avele College's Under 17 Team is representing Samoa at the Sanix World Youth Invitational Rugby Tournament which kicked off today in Japan.

The 30 member team consists of 26 players and 4 officials including Team Manager, Aiga Esera; Head Coach, Aukusitino Ropati; Assistant Coach, Tavila Tavila; Technical Adviser, Meta Usufono. Avele College Under 17 Team is the reigning champion of the local Under 17 Rugby Tournament.

Samoa's participation is a better opportunity for our young players to develop their rugby talent and to reaffirm partnership with Japan.

**2. Tatala Auala Laupapa i Sinamoga**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le tatalaina o le auala laupapa i Sinamoga i le Aso Lua 24 Aperila, 2007. E amata le sauniga i le 1.30 i le aoauli ma o le Afioaga i le Palemia, Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, o le a fofogaina le saunoga autu o lenei faamoemoe.

O le auala laupapa leni e tolu mita le maualuga ua siitia ai, 12.5 mita le umi ma e 10 mita le lautele. E aofia i leni galuega le toe faataina o le auala e tusa ma le 230 mita faatasi ai ma pa ma'a puipui i itu uma o le auala laupapa.

### **Opening of Sinamoga Bridge**

The Sinamoga bridge was opened on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, following Cabinet approval. The ceremony started at 1.30pm with the Honourable Prime Minister, Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, delivering the keynote address.

The new bridge is 3 metres higher than that of the old bridge, 12.5 metres long and 10 metres wide. Construction works also included 230 metres relay work on the Sinamoga Road and constructing stonewall on all sides of the bridge.

### **3. Fono Faalea'oa'oga i Mataupu Tau Laina o Fesoota'iga i lalo o le sami.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Afioga i le Minisita o Fesoota'iga, Afioga Safuneitu'uga Paaga Neri, e tali valaau i le valaaulia mai le Ofisa o le Secretariat of the Pacific Community, i le Fono Faalea'oa'oga i Mataupu Tau Laina o Fesootaiga i Lalo o le Sami, e usuia i Noumea, Niu Kaletonia mai le aso 26 – 27 Aperila, 2007.

O sini autu o leni Fono : o le fofogaina lea e le kamupani a le Alcatel Lucent o atunuu o le a auai i aoga ma le taua o fesootaiga e ala atu i laina e ta'i i lalo o le sami; ia iloilo toto'a tekonoosi o fesoota'iga faaonaponei e ala i uaea e ta'i i lalo o le sami e aveva ma se isi auala lelei mo feso'ota'iga faavaomalo aemaise ai o le aveva o leni Fono ma faavae mo faaiuga talafeagai faatatau i le faaaogaina o laina i lalo o le sami mo fesootaiga.

O le a malaga faatasi le Afioga i le Minisita ma le Pule Sili o le Matagalauaga o Fesootaiga, Afioga Tua'imalo Asamu Ah Sam, atoa ai ma le Pule Sili o le kamupani a le SamoaTel, Susuga Mike Johnstone, e fai ma Sui o Samoa i leni faamoemoe.

### **Submarine Cable Workshop**

Cabinet has approved of the Honourable Minister of Telecommunications, Afioga Safuneituuga Paaga Neri, to attend to an invitation by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to participate in the Submarine Cable Workshop, that will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia, from the 26 – 27 April, 2007.

The objectives of this Workshop are : to provide an opportunity for the participating countries to be informed about the potential and practical reality of connecting through a submarine cable network; exploring the submarine cable as an option for communication technology and empowering participating countries with information that can facilitate decision- making on communication technology at the national level.

The CEO, Ministry of Communications, Afioga Tua'imalo Asamu Ah Sam, and CEO, SamoaTel, Mike Johnstone, will also represent Samoa at this Workshop.

#### **4. Lipoti o le Fono International Business Linkage ma Feutanaiga ma le South American Tobacco.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le Lipoti o le Faatalatalanoaga a le International Business Linkage, sa usuia i Initia mai le aso 16 – 17 Mati, 2007, faapea ai ma Feutagaiga ma le Kamupani a le South American Tobacco, sa faataunuuna i Argentina mai le aso 19 – 23 Mati, 2007.

##### **International Business Linkage Forum**

- Sa avea Samoa ma malo faaaloaloga i leni Faatalatalanoaga ma Pisinisi Tetele ona o le taimi muamua leni ua auai atu ai se Sui mai le Pasefika. O mataupu sa faatalanoaina e aofia ai : le eletise e maua mai i le savili, faatoaga manu e maua ai le suasusu atoa ai mai mataupu tau I faatoaga o fualaau aina. Sa faaalua e nisi o Kamupani mai Sri Lanka, Ivory Coast ma Belarus lo latou naunautaiga e fia malaga mai i Samoa mo ni sailiiliga aua le faatinoga o ia ituaiga atiina ae i totonu o le atunuu.

##### **Feutagaiga ma le South American Tobacco**

- E tusa ai ma le Lipoti, o lo o i ai le fuafuaga e faatuina se lala o leni Kamupani i Samoa nei pe a maea feutanaiga talafeagai o lo o faagasolo i le taimi nei.

Sa malaga faatasi le Afioga i le Minisita o Faigafaiva ma Faatoaga, Afioga Taua Kitiona, ma le Afioga i le Sui Fofoga Fetalai, Afioga Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea, atoa ai ma le Afioga i le Minisita Lagolago o le Matagaluega o Tupe, Afioga Lafaitale Patrick, i nei Fono.

##### **Report on International Business Linkage Forum and Negotiations with South American Tobacco.**

Cabinet has endorsed the Report on the International Business Linkage Forum that took place in New Delhi, India, from 16 – 19 March, 2007 and the Report on Negotiations with South American Tobacco in Argentina, from 19 – 23 March, 2007.

##### **International Business Linkage Forum**

- The Forum invited representatives from the Pacific Region for the first time and Samoa's delegation were special guests at this Meeting. Matters that were addressed at the Forum included : the prospects of generating wind power electricity; dairy farming and also opportunities and challenges of growing organic vegetables. As mentioned in the Report, few companies from Ivory Coast, Sri Lanka and Belarus have expressed interest towards investing and establishing their businesses in Samoa.

### **Negotiations with South American Tobacco**

- As stated in the Report, plans are in the pipeline to set up a branch factory of the South American Tobacco Company in Samoa following appropriate negotiations between Government and this Company.

The Deputy Speaker of the House, Afioga Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea, and Hon. Associate Minister of Finance, Afioga Lafaitale Patrick accompanied the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Afioga Taua Kitiona, at these Meetings.

### **5. Sui o Samoa i le Fono a Minisita o Malosiaga.**

O lo o i ai nei le Afioga i le Minisita o Tupe, Afioga Niko Lee Hang, i le Fono a Minisita o Malosiaga i le Atu Pasefika, o lo o usuia i Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

O lea Fono o le a lauliliuina ai mataupu faatatau i le malu puipuia o punaoa o lo o maua ai malosiaga, lipoti o le faagasologa o le faaaogaina o suauu o lo o faatau atoatoa faapea ai ma le faatinoga o Faiga Faavae mo malosiaga o le Pasefika.

O isi Sui o Samoa i lenei Fono e aofia ai le Pule Lagolago o le Vaega o Fuafuaga ma Faiga Faavae mo le Tamaoaiga, o le Matagaluega o Tupe, Susuga Benjamin Pereira, faapea ai ma se tasi o Ofisa Sinia o le Matagaluega o Tupe, Susuga Silia Kilepoa Ualesi.

### **Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting in Rarotonga.**

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Afioga Niko Lee Hang, is currently in Cook Islands attending the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting.

Issues that will be addressed at this Meeting include : long term security issues, options and challenges for the Region; report on progress with exploring the possibilities for bulk petroleum purchase and options for exploitation of existing and alternative renewable energy resources.

The Hon. Minister is accompanied by the Assistant CEO of the Economic Planning and Policy Division of the Ministry of Finance, Benjamin Pereira, and one of the Senior Officers of the Ministry of Finance, Silia Kilepoa Ualesi.

### **6. Faafou le Ofisa o Faamasinoga i Tuasivi.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le faatupeina o le faaleleia o le Ofisa o le Faamasinoga o lo o i Tuasivi mai le Tala Faatatau Autu o le Tupe 2007/2008.

E \$300,000 ua fuafua mo le faatinoga o lenei galuega.

## **Justice and Courts Office in Tuasivi to be renovated**

Cabinet has approved funding for the renovation of the Justice and Courts Office in Tuasivi from the budget for the financial year 2007/2008.

Renovation works costs about \$300,000.00 tala

### **7. Faaaliga o Faatoaga 2007**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le vaegatupe e \$50,000.00 mo le Faaaliga o Faatoaga a le Matagaluega o Faatoaga ma Faigafaiva mai le Tala Faatatau Autu o le Tupe mo le tausaga 2007/2008.

Na amata leni Faaaliga i le tausaga e 2005 ma e faatino pe a maea le ta'i lua tausaga. E aofia i polokalame faatino mo leni faamoemoe asiasea e faatautaia e le Matagaluega i faatoaga ma lafu manu eseese ma le iloiloa o tauvaga. E saunia foi faailoga faapitoa.

O le sini autu o leni faamoemoe ia maua uma e le 'au faifaatoaga a le atunuu le avanoa e faaali ai fua o a latou faaeleeleaga ma o lo o fuafua e faataunuuina i le taimi o le Faaaliga o le Teuila.

### **Agriculture Show 2007**

Cabinet has approved \$50,000 tala as funding for this year's Agriculture Show from the budget for the financial year 2007/2008.

The Agriculture Show is an initiative put in place by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture that is held every two years since 2005. Part of the programme for the Show includes a display of crops and livestock that will be inspected by the Ministry officials.

The main objective of the Show is to create opportunities for all local farmers to exhibit their work and is expected to be instigated during the Teuila Festival.

### **8. 20,000 tala mo le Iuni Lakapi a Aoga**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le tuuina atu o le vaega tupe \$20,000 tala i le Iuni Lakapi a Aoga e fesoasoani ai i tapenaga a le 'Au a Samoa mo Taamilosaga Lakapi Faavaomalo a Tupulaga e faia i Iapani mai le aso 24 Aperila – 5 Me, 2007.

O leni faamoemoe o le a auai ai le 'Au i Lalo o le 17 tausaga a le Kolisi Avele e fai ma Sui o Samoa.

## **20,000 to assist Samoa Schools Rugby Union**

Cabinet has approved financial assistance of \$20,000 tala for the Samoa Schools Rugby Union to assist Samoa's preparations for the Sanix World Rugby Invitational Tournament that will be held in Japan from the 24 April – 05 May, 2007.

Avele College's Under 17 Team is representing Samoa at this Tournament.

## **9. Lipoti Fono o Atiina Ae Pisinisi Laiti.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le Lipoti o le Fono a Malo o le Taupulega ma Initia faatatau i Atiina Ae o Pisinisi Laiti, sa faataunuina i Initia, mai le aso 25 – 30 Mati, 2007.

O lo o taua i le Lipoti o se tasi o mataupu sa mataituina i lenei Fono o le atiina ae o pulu niu mo le gaosiga o oloa e i ai taaiga afa, taga solo vae, mea fale ma penu faalelei eleele. O lo o faamauina foi le tele o le sao o lenei atiina ae mo Samoa pe afai e faataunuina.

O le Pule Sili o le Inisetiute o Suesuega ma Atiina Ae Faasaienisi, Afioga Taito Dr Faale Tumaalii, sa fai ma Sui o Samoa i lenei faamoemoe.

## **Report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth – India Small Business Competitiveness Development Program.**

Cabinet has approved the Report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth- India Small Business Competitiveness Development Program Meeting, that took place in India from the 25 – 30 March, 2007.

One of the important matters that were addressed at this Meeting is the discussion of potential innovations for the development of the coir industry. Products such as coir mattresses, rugs, door mats, furniture and organic fertilizers can be manufactured from the coir. It is perceptible that this type of development has huge potential benefits in the development of the local coconut industry.

CEO, Research and Development Institute, Afioga Taito Dr Faale Tumaalii, was Samoa's representative at this Meeting.

**Government Press Secretariat**

