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**Press Releases**

**07 February, 2007**

**1. Tatala Aloa'ia le Ofisa o le Faalapotopotoga o Mea Tau Fale o Samoa i Salelologa.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le tatalaina aloa'ia o le ulua'i ofisa o le Faalapotopotoga o Mea Tau Fale o Samoa i Savaii, i le Aso Tofi 8 o Mati, 2007.

O lenei ofisa fou o lo o i totonu o le fale o le Bluebird Mall i Salelologa.

O le Afioga i le Minisita o Tupe, Afioga Niko Lee Hang, o le a fofogaina le saunoaga autu o lenei faamoemoe. O le afa o le iva i le taeao e amata ai le Sauniga.

O le a faalauiloa foi i lenei faamoemoe, faiga faapa'aga a le Faalapotopotoga o Mea Tau Fale a Samoa ma le Au a Samoa mo Taaloga a le Pasefika, e ala i le tauaaoina atu e le Faalapotopotoga o le fesoasoani tupe e \$10,000 tala i le Peresetene o le SASNOC e fesoasoani ai i tapenaga a le Au Taaalo a le atunuu mo lea faamoemoe i le masina o Aokuso o le tausaga nei.

**Samoa Housing Corporation opens new office at Salelologa.**

Cabinet has approved the official opening of the first Samoa Housing Corporation office branch in Savaii, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

The office is located inside Bluebird Mall at Salelologa.

Honourable Minister of Finance, Afioga Niko Lee Hang, will deliver the keynote address. The ceremony starts at 9:30am.

The partnership between Samoa Housing Corporation and PFL Team Samoa will also be launched during the ceremony. Samoa Housing Corporation will present PFL Team Samoa financial assistance of \$10,000 to assist with its preparations for the South Pacific Games in August this year.

## **2. Polokalame mo le Faamanatuina o le Aso Faapitoa Faavaomalo mo Tina ma Tamaitai.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le polokalame mo le faamanatuina o le Aso Faapitoa Faavaomalo mo Tina ma Tamaitai i le Aso Tofi 8 o Mati, 2007.

O lenei faamoemoe o le a faatinoina ai se Fono faalauaitale mo le mamalu o le atunuu, e talanoaina ai le Ata Faataitai o le Faiga Faavae mo Tina ma Tamaitai o Samoa 2007.

O le Afioga i le Minisita o le Matagaluega o Tina ma le Atina'e Soifua Lelei o Tagata Lautele, Afioga Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, o le a fofogaina le saunoaga autu o lea Aso. E amata le Sauniga i le itula e iva i le taeao.

### **International Women's Day.**

Cabinet has endorsed the programme for the commemoration of International Women's Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

Among the highlights of the celebrations will be the final public consultation on the Framework for the National Policy for Women 2007.

Honourable Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Afioga Fiamē Naomi Mataafa, will deliver the keynote address. The ceremony will start at 9am at the Maota o Tupulaga at Sogi.

## **3. Faaaliga Tau Turisi i Perelini, Siamani.**

Na faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Susuga Dominic Thomsen, e fai mai Sui o le Pulega o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafu, i le Faaaliga Tele a le Lalolagi, o lo o faataunuuina i le vaiaso atoa lenei i Perelini, Siamani.

O lenei Faaaliga Tele e faia i tausaga taitasi. O lo o i ai le nuu faapitoa mo atunuu o le Pasefika e i ai ma Samoa e faaali ai a latou oloa.

O lo o auai atu le Susuga a Dominic Thomsen ma nisi o Sui o le 'Aufaipisinisi a le atunuu, ma o se avanoa lelei e faalauiloa atu ai Samoa ma ona mata'aga i lea vaega o Europa.

### **International Tourism Borse in Berlin.**

Cabinet had approved the travel of Dominic Thomsen, Senior Marketing Officer of the Samoa Tourism Authority to participate in the International Tourism Borse that is currently taking place in Berlin Germany.

International Tourism Borse is the biggest international trade fair that is held annually in Europe. Pacific countries like Samoa are allocated specific booths in the 'Pacific Village' where each country showcases its products.

The exhibition is also attended by two local tourism operators, Polynesian Explorer and Aggie Grey's Hotel.

#### **4. Auai atu le Afioga i le Palemia i le Fono a le IRB.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Afioga i le Palemia, o le Taitaifono foi o le Iuni Lakapi a Samoa, Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, i le Fono a le IRB e usuia i Aukilani, Niu Sila i le Aso Tofi 8 o Mati, 2007.

O lo o malaga faatasi le Afioga i le Palemia ma le Pule Sili o le Matagaluega a le Palemia ma le Kapeneta, Afioga Auseugaefa Vaasatia Poloma Komiti.

#### **Prime Minister attends IRB Meeting in Auckland.**

Cabinet has approved the travel of the Honourable Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of the Samoa Rugby Football Union, Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, to attend the IRB Meeting that will be held in Auckland on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Afioga Auseugaefa Va'asatia Poloma Komiti, is accompanying the Hon. Prime Minister.

#### **5. Faiga Faapitoa Tau Ponesi mo alii ma tamaitai taaalo.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le faatinoina o Faiga Faapitoa Tau Ponesi mo alii ma tamaitai taaalo e tausinio ma manumalo i fa'aagatama faavaomalo.

Ua tuuina atu nei i le Faalapotopotoga o Petipetiga a Samoa e tapenaina ni ta'iala e faavae ai le faatinoina o Faiga Faapitoa Tau Ponesi.

O le a avea lenei faiga fou o se auala e matua una'ia ai alii ma tamaitai taaalo e siitia le tulaga o lo latou taumafai, ma manumalo i ni pine auro i faaagatama faavaomalo. E le gata i lea, a e o se isi lea avanoa e faalauiloa ai Samoa i le lalolagi.

#### **Bonus Scheme for Sports**

Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Bonus Scheme for Samoa's sports players who win medals at international level.

The Totalisator Agency Board has been delegated the responsibility of drafting policies for the Bonus Scheme.

The new Scheme will be used as a tool to encourage the players competing at international level to win gold medals. It will also be another better way to promote and boost the image of Samoa overseas.

#### **6. Lipoti o le Fono Faaletausaga Lona 25 a Loia o le Pasefika.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le Lipoti o le Fono Faaletausaga Lona 25 a Loia o le Pasefika sa usuia i Kiripati mai aso le 9 – 12 o Fepuari, 2007.

O nisi o mataupu taua sa talanoaina e aofia ai le : faatuina o se Ofisa Autu o lenei Fono pe a maea ona faamautu ona tiute, auaigaluega ma lona faatupeina; faatuina o se Ofisa Autu le mautu i le isi ono masina o lumanai e galulue ma se Soa Komiti o le Fono e faamautu mataupu uma faatatau i le faatuina o le Ofisa Autu; faatuina o le Ofisa Autu le mautu i Canberra, Ausetalia, atoa ai ma le suia o le igoa o le Fono mai le ‘Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Meeting’ i le ‘Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network.

O le Susuga Sarona Rimoni o le Ofisa o le Loia Sili, sa fai ma Sui o Samoa i lenei Fono.

#### **Report on the Pacific Law Officers’ Network 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

Cabinet has approved the Report on the Pacific Law Officers’ Network’s 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, that was held in Kiribati from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

Matters of importance discussed include: setting up of the Pacific Law Officers’ Network’s Secretariat; setting up of the Network’s Interim Secretariat; acceptance by Australia’s Office of the Attorney General to set up the Interim Secretariat at its headquarters in Canberra and officially changing the name of the ‘Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Meeting’ to ‘Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network’.

#### **7. Malaga Ausiva Pulega o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafu mo le Faaaliga a le Pasefika i Aukilani.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le ‘Ausiva a le Pulega o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafu i le Faaaliga a le Pasefika e faia i Aukilani, Niu Sila mai le aso 8 – 18 Mati, 2007.

O le Faaaliga a le Pasefika e faataunuuna i tausaga taitasi ma e faafiafia ai atunuu eseese o le Pasefika. O lenei malaga o le a saga faamausali ai pea sootaga

vavalalata a le Pulega ma i latou o lo o fesoasoani mai i le atiina ae o tagata tafafao maimoa mai fafo.

E toasefulu ma le tasi le 'Ausiva ma o lo o malaga faatasi ma le Tausala o Samoa, Susuga Poinsettia Taefu.

### **STA Dance Troupe participates in Pasefika Festival.**

Cabinet had approved the participation of the Samoa Tourism Authority Dance Troupe in the Pasefika Festival that will be held in Auckland, New Zealand on the 8 – 18 March, 2007.

The Pasefika Festival is held annually. The STA Dance Group will make performances and the event will help foster the warm relationship between Samoa and its overseas tourism partners.

The Dance Troupe comprises of eleven members including the reigning Miss Samoa, Poinsettia Taefu.

### **8. Auai atu le Minisita o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafo mo le Pasefika Festival.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Afioga i le Minisita o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafo, Afioga Misa Telefoni, i le Faaaliga a le Pasefika e faia i Aukilani, Niu Sila i le aso 9 – 18 o Mati, 2007.

O lenei malaga e aofia ai ma feiloaiga ma Ofisa Malaga e faia i Aukilani, Niu Sila ma Sini, Ausetalia i le aso 14 ma le 16 o Mati, 2007. O feiloaiga ma sui o ofisa malaga ma kamupani, o se auala e saga faamalosia ai pea faiga faapaaga a le Pulega o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafo ma i latou o lo o una'ia le atinae o turisi i Samoa i totonu o Niu Sila ma Ausetalia.

O le Faauluuluga o le Vaega o Maketi a le Pulega o Tagata Tafafao Maimoa mai Fafo, Afioga Sala Pio Tagiilima, o le a malaga faatasi ma le Afioga i le Minisita.

### **Hon. Minister of Tourism attends Pasefika Festival.**

Cabinet has approved the travel of the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Afioga Misa Telefoni, to attend the Pasefika Festival that will be held in Auckland New Zealand from the 9 – 18 March, 2007.

The Hon. Minister of Tourism will also be meeting with travel agents and companies in Sydney, Australia and in Auckland, New Zealand on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. The meetings will help fortify the partnerships between Samoa Tourism Authority and tourism operators in Australia and New Zealand.

Samoa Tourism Authority's Marketing Manager, Afioga Sala Pio Tagiilima, will be traveling with the Hon Minister Tourism.

**9. Faatalatalanoaga Lona Sefulu Iva a Sui Auai i le Feagaiga i le Va o Malo o le Pasefika ma le Malo o Amerika.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Sui Pule o le Matagaluega o le Vaifafo ma Fefaataua'iga, Afioga Tapusalala T. Toomata, ma le Pule Lagolago o le Ofisa o Faigafaiva, Tofa Mulipola Atonio, i le Faatalatalanoaga Lona Sefulu Iva a Sui Auai i le Feagaiga i le Va o Malo o le Pasefika ma le Malo o Amerika, e faia i Vanuatu mai le aso 12 – 16 Mati, 2007.

O lenei Faatalatalanoaga o le a soalaupule ai mataupu e pei o le aofai o vaa ma faafitauli o lo o feagai ma vaa fagota a Amerika i le Pasefika; faafaigaluegaina o tagata Pasefika i luga o vaa o Amerika; ma mataupu faatatau i iugafono a le Tuna Komisi e ono aafia ai le Feagaiga.

**US / Pacific Fisheries Treaty Consultation in Vanuatu.**

Cabinet has approved the attendance of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Afioga Tapusalala T. Toomata, and the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Fisheries Division, Susuga Mulipola Atonio, to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual US/ Pacific Treaty Consultation, that will be held in Vanuatu from the 12 – 16 March, 2007.

The meeting will discuss the: status of the US Fleet in the Pacific; cooperation issues such as the employment of Pacific Islanders on US vessels; and the impact of decisions by the Tuna Commission on the Treaty.

**10. Auai atu le Tausala o Samoa i le Fono a Tina ma Tamaitai o le Pasefika ma Asia.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le auai atu o le Tausala o Samoa, Susuga Poinsettia Taefu, i le Fono a Tina ma Tamaitai o le Pasefika ma Asia Saute Sasae, o le a faagasolo i Aukilani mai le aso 21 – 27 o Mati, 2007.

O lenei Fono o se avanoa taua e mataituina ai mataupu faatatau i le atiina 'ae o tamaitai talavou ma o se auala lelei e faalauiloa ai le taua o le atina'e o tagata tafafao maimoa mai fafo i le Pasefika.

**Miss Samoa attends Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association Meeting in Auckland.**

Cabinet has approved of the travel of reigning Miss Samoa, Poinsettia Taefu, to attend the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association Conference that will take place in Auckland, New Zealand from the 21 – 27 March, 2007.

The conference will be an important opportunity to enhance the development of young women in the Pacific and to promote tourism in the region.

## **11. Siitaga o Totogi o Pemita Ulufale mo Tagatanuu o Amerika Samoa.**

Sa faamaonia e le Kapeneta le siitaga fou mo totogi o pemita e ulufale mai ai tagatanuu o Amerika Samoa i Samoa.

O le siitaga fou e aofia ai :

1. Pemita Ulufale e oo atu i le 14 aso = \$20 tala Amerika a le tagata e toatasi
2. Pemita Ulufale mo le Sili atu i le 14 asi = \$40 tala Amerika a le tagata e toatasi.
3. Tamaiti Aoga mo malaga faaleaoga = \$10 tala Amerika a le tagata e toatasi.

O lenei siitaga fou na amata faamamaluina i le Aso Tofi 01 Mati, 2007.

### **Entry Permits for American Samoans raised.**

Cabinet has approved the increase in travel permit charges for American Samoans traveling to Samoa.

The new entry permit charges are as follows :

1. Entry Permit for up to 14 days = USD 20.00 per individual traveler
2. Entry Permit for more than 14 days = USD 40.00 per individual traveler
3. Entry Permit for Students on Educational Trips = USD 10.00 per individual traveler

The new charges came into effect as of Thursday 01<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

## **12. Tuua e le Sa o le Nafanua le atunuu mo le Atu Kuki.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le faimalaga atu o le Sa o le Nafanua e galulue faatasi ma le Vaa o le Malo o le Atu Kuki, le Te Kukupa, i le Operation Tui Moana mai le aso 19 – 31 Mati, 2007.

O le Operation Tui Moana o le galuega tu'ufa'atasi o lo o faatinoina i lalo o le maliega i le va o Malo e lua na sainia i le tausaga 2005 ma o lo o faatupeina e le Vaega o le Puipuiga a le Malo o Ausetalia. O lenei galuega e mata'ituina ai le leoleoina o gataifale o Malo e lua mai i gaoioiga faasolitulafono o lo o faatinoina i totonu o ogasami o le Pasefika.

O le taimi lona lua lenei ua faatino ai lenei galuega taua.

**MV Nafanua to participate in Operation Tui Moana.**

Cabinet has approved the participation of the Police Patrol Boat, MV Nafanua, in Operation Tui Moana that will take place in the Cook Islands during the period 19 – 31 March, 2007.

Operation Tui Moana is a joint operation by the Government of Samoa and the Cook Islands, funded by the Government of Australia. This regional activity will focus at how best the two nations can increase surveillance presence in their Exclusive Economic Zones.

This joint operation has been put in place by for the second time.

**13. 20,000 oka Tusifolau Fou mai le Kamupani a le De La Rue i Egelani.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le faaaogaina o tupe le faatagaina mo le tologiina o le oka tusifolau e luasefulu afe mai le Kamupani a le De La Rue Identity Systems i Egelani.

O nei tusifolau ua i ai tulaga aloa'ia faavaomalo e pei ona i ai tusifolau o i si atunuu e pei o Niu Sila ma Ausetalia. O lenei oka o tusifolau ua faatinoina ona o le maualuga o le tulaga manaomia o lo o i ai nei tusifolau e pei foi ona i ai le faamalosi o le faia o tusifolau mo fanau e malaga e fafo.

**20,000 passports from De La Rue Identity Systems in England.**

Cabinet has approved the use of unauthorized funds to pay for the order of 20,000 passports from De La Rue Identity Systems Company in England.

The new passports are similar to the passports used by Australia and New Zealand and have met all International Civil Aviation Organisation standards. The order will cater for the increasing demand for new passports.

**14. \$10,000 tala mo le Asosi Lakapi Pa'i a Samoa.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le tuuina atu o le fesoasoani tupe \$10,000 tala mo le Asosi Lakapi Pa'i a Samoa, e auai atu ai le 'Au Lakapi Pa'i a Tamaitai i le Taamilosaga Faavaomalo a le Oceania e faia i le masina o Aperila, 2007.

O le taimi muamua lenei o le a auai atu ai le 'Au a Tamaitai i se taamilosaga i fafo. E to'asefulu ma le fa le aofa'i o le 'au taaalo faatasi ai ma faiaoga e to'alua.

E aoga tele lenei Taamilosaga i tapenaga a le Asosi Lakapi Pa'i mo Taaloga a le Pasefika i le masina o Aokuso i le tausaga nei.

**\$10,000 for Samoa Touch Rugby Association.**

Cabinet has approved financial assistance of \$10,000 for the Samoa Touch Association, to assist the National Women's Touch Team that will compete International Touch Tournament that will be held in Auckland, New Zealand in April, 2007.

The National Women's Touch team consists of 14 players and two officials and this will be the first time the Team will participate in an international touch tournament.

Samoa's participation will be useful for the Samoa Touch Association's preparations leading up to the South Pacific Games in August this year.

**15. Fesua'iga o le Tau o Suauu ma le Penisini.**

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le fesuaiga o le tau o suau'u ma penisini mo le masina o Mati, 2007.

O le tau o le penisini ma le karasini ua pa'u i le 5.3 ma le 6.1 sene i le lita a o le tiso ua siitia i le 2.6 sene i le lita. O nei fesua'iga o lo o atagia mai ai le latalata o le tau o le suauu i le tau maualalo sa i ai i le 18 masina ua tuanai. O tau siiatoa o le suauu ua faaitiitia nei i le lima pasene faatusatusa atu i le masina o Mati, 2006.

O atunuu uma o le Pasefika e aofia ai Samoa o le a tagataga'i i isi ituaiga tiso e ono faaaogaina i se tau maualalo atu toe laitiiti le vailaau o lo o faaaogaina mo le gaosiga o le suauu o lo o auina mai i le taimi nei.

SUAUU	FEPUARI	MATI	SUIGA
Penisini	216.6 sene/lita	211.3 sene/lita	(5.3) sene/lita (2.5)
Tiso	218.7 sene/ lita	221.3 sene/lita	(2.6) sene/lita(1.1)
Karasini	212.6 sene/lita	206.5 sene/lita	(6.1) sene/lita (3.0)

	SAMOA		AUSETALIA		NIU SILA		FITI	
	SAT	AUD	SAT	NZD	SAT	FJD	SAT	
<b>PENISINI</b>	\$2.11	\$1.21	\$2.60	\$1.4 6	\$2.80	\$1.62	\$2.69	
<b>TISO</b>	\$2.21	\$1.23	\$2.64	\$0.96	\$1.84	\$1.42	\$2.36	

## **Fuel Prices for March.**

Cabinet had approved the national fuel prices for the month of March, 2007.

Retail prices for petrol and kerosene have decreased by 5.3 and 6.1 sene per litre while diesel prices have gone up by 2.6 sene per litre. Prices are currently at or close to the lowest point over the past 18 months. Wholesale petrol prices have decreased by five percent since March compared to March 2006.

Pacific Island Countries including Samoa will soon have to address the issue of adopting a lower sulphur grade of diesel.

<b>FUEL</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
Petrol	216.6 sene/lita	211.3 sene/litre	(5.3) sene/litre (2.5)
Diesel	218.7 sene/ lita	221.3 sene/litre	(2.6) sene/litre(1.1)
Kerosene	212.6 sene/lita	206.5 sene/litre	(6.1) sene/litre (3.0)

	<b>SAMOA</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>		<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>		<b>FIJI</b>	
	<b>SAT</b>	<b>AUD</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>NZD</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>FJD</b>	<b>SAT</b>
<b>Petrol</b>	\$2.11	\$1.21	\$2.60	\$1.4 6	\$2.80	\$1.62	\$2.69
<b>Diesel</b>	\$2.21	\$1.23	\$2.64	\$0.96	\$1.84	\$1.42	\$2.36

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