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American Samoa Department of Commerce Dedicates Super Alia 'Tautai Mua': A Milestone in Local Fishing Advancement

Today, the American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC) hosted a dedication ceremony for the Super Alia *Tautai Mua* fishing vessel. This event marks a significant milestone in the advancement of the local fresh fish industry, made possible through the funding from the Economic Development Agency (EDA) and the Office of Insular Affairs.

The Super Alia, promises to revolutionize the way fishing is conducted in the region. With enhanced size, safety features, and an extended range, this vessel demonstrates the capacity to return with substantial catches, ensuring a prosperous future for American Samoa's fishing community.

One of the vessel's most remarkable features is its ability to stay at sea for extended periods, ranging from 3 to 5 days, thanks to its advanced technology and provisions. Utilizing multipurpose fishing methods, including a 12-mile mini spool longline gear and electric bottomfish reels, the Super Alia guarantees a diverse and plentiful catch.

The Super Alia fleet, consisting of four fishing vessels, is prepared to capture high-quality albacore, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna targeted for both local and export markets, including sashimi and sushi. Additionally, the catch will support American Samoa's Department Of Education school lunch program and LBJ Medical Center nutritional initiatives.

In addition, beyond its commercial activities, the Super Alia initiative entails collaboration between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) to develop specialized training covering all aspects of fishing on the Super Alia vessels.

During his address, Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga acknowledged the long-awaited progress. "We commend the dedication that has led us to this milestone, initiated under former Governor Lolo Moliga's leadership," Governor Lemanu stated. "I express gratitude to Director Petti and the Department of Commerce for their hard work. I urge the DOC to ensure equitable access to these vessels for all fishermen and to offer training for interested individuals. These boats aren't just vessels; they serve to unite our islands and communities."

The dedication of the Super Alia represents a testament to the commitment of the Economic Development Agency and the Office of Insular Affairs to foster economic prosperity and sustainability in American Samoa.

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