

For Official Release  
PR 001-03062025  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
March 06, 2025



## **The Governor attends the Office of Procurement Prayer Service.**



On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the American Samoa Government Office of Procurement held a prayer service at the Procurement Office Conference Room in Tafuna. The prayer service, called Procurement for the People, also recognized employees with 20 or more years of service. Attendees included First Lady Lois Phillips-Pula and staff from the ASG Procurement Office.

Former Acting Chief Procurement Officer Kenneth Kuaea announced Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula's proclamation designating March 2025 as Procurement Month, highlighting the vital role the Procurement Office plays in both government operations and the community.

Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, in his special remarks emphasized the importance of *value* in procurement. He shared a personal experience, stating, "During my time working for the Fono, I had a small salary. However, when Senator Daniel K. Inouye interviewed me, he tripled my salary because he recognized my worth and saw my value. That is the word I wish to highlight for our procurement—this is a place of value. Because the Procurement Office is where our government manages its valuables, we must also have honest leaders and employees who serve our people with integrity and transparency."

Governor Pulaali'i continued by emphasizing the importance of integrity in governance, stating: "There have been many complaints about our government in the past. That is why the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. and I are committed to promoting honest governance. Through this initiative, we must restore the people's faith and trust in the government of American Samoa." Concluding his remarks, he added, "We serve our people with integrity, and I encourage you all to uphold this practice every day. Remember, you work in a place that manages the government's valuables, and it is equally important to recognize your own value as honest and hardworking individuals. May God bless the Office of Procurement as you continue to serve our territory."

Frederick Unasa Ledoux delivered his initial remarks as acting Chief Procurement Officer, resonating the office motto "Transparency, Trust, and Transformation" as his guiding principle for moving the department forward. "I will be loyal to those with whom I serve." Ledoux recounted his days of service in the military, using his Non-Commissioned Officer Creed as his mission in leading the department.

The Office of Procurement honored employees for their dedicated service, recognizing those who have served for 20 years or more:

Leading the recognition was Susana Tau, who has dedicated 37 years of service, followed by Sapia'i Ma'o-Ena (26 years), Fuiono Tuitele (25 years), Fuatino Tupua (24 years), and Johnny Potoa'e (22 years).

Employees honored for 20 years of service included Iakopo Gaisoa Jr., Kueva Peni, Aupalavou Soonafai, Seau Taufou'ou, and Poe Va'a Jr. Additionally, Juanita Aumavae, Shirley Laulu, Lafaele Vaesau Jr., and Posese Filimigo will reach their 20-year milestone in the coming months.

Procurement Month raises awareness about the importance of the Procurement Office in the economy and supply chain management, benefiting both businesses and the people of American Samoa.

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