

For Official Release
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Office of the Governor
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Promoting Road Safety - Dedication of Route 012 Road Resurfacing and Culvert Installation, Maloata.

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, the Department of Public Works hosted a dedication ceremony for the resurfacing of Route 012 and the installation of culverts in Maloata. The initiatives are designed to upgrade installation of reinforced concrete headwalls, wingwalls, and an inlet and outlet apron for additional scour protection, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for both students and the community across our islands. Ta'amu Vaigafa Iakopo, the right-of-way agent for Samoan Affairs, was the master of ceremonies and welcomed the special guests present which included the Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Lt. Governor La'apui Talauuga E.V. Ale, Senate President Tualo Manaia Fruean, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, Fono members, Cabinet members, and residents of the Alataua District.

Reverend Mataio Failauga of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS) Fagamalo delivered the opening prayer and shared encouraging words from the Book of Romans: "If a man works, his pay is not a gift; it is something he has earned." Reverend Failauga elaborated, "Good work pays off. If you are a hard worker and do a good job, you deserve your pay. But if you find the task at hand too difficult, you must trust in God for His guidance." Reverend Failauga expressed deep appreciation for the efforts made by Governor Lemanu and the administration, acknowledging the challenges the villages faced with accessibility. He emphasized that their prayers have been answered with the successful completion of the project, concluding, "Whatever our role or job is, our leadership should align with God's calling."

Honorable Governor Lemanu, in his remarks expressed his excitement on the completed project "The completion of this bridge has been a long-awaited achievement for the villages. After years of requesting a bridge, their needs have finally been met, greatly improving access to the

villages.” Governor Lemanu reflected on how difficult it was for residents to travel before the bridge was constructed “Heavy rains would cause the river to rise above the ford, making it impassable for days. This prevented people from going to work and children from attending school. For this reason, the government made every effort to ensure the construction of the bridge, prioritizing the well-being of the community, especially the children.” Governor Lemanu thanked the different ASG Departments, the Fono, the villages of Maloata and Fagamalo for their patience and cooperation during construction which has made it possible for access between the villages to be more safe and convenient.

As the District Representative, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale had the honor of addressing the audience and expressed his appreciation to the Governor. He noted that although their village is in a rural and sparsely populated region, he valued the Governor's dedication to equitable treatment for all villages and districts in terms of infrastructure development. The Speaker concluded by thanking the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and the ASG for their efforts in implementing various projects that benefit the community.

In the project description, Public Works Director Faleosina Voigt stated that the project involved installing a 36-inch diameter HDPE pipe on top of the existing ford structure as the crucial role as an extra layer of safety for the traveling public, especially during periods of high stream flow. The proposed improvements included the installation of reinforced concrete headwalls, wingwalls, and an inlet and outlet apron for enhanced scour protection. The project was finished in 210 calendar days, contracted to Paramount Builders Incorporated, with a total cost of \$385,029.00.

The Project Management Team under the Civil Highway Division for DPW were:

- Design Engineer: Estela Rubin, CE.
- Project Engineer: Uaealesi D. Sipelii, CE.
- Project Manager: Alofa Tanuvasa
- Project Inspectors: Malouamaua Ino, George Tue, Junior Teoni

Faletua Mau Failauga of CCCAS Fagamalo was given the privilege of the ribbon cutting to officially open the new road resurfacing and culvert installation connecting Maloata and Fagamalo.

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