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Office of the Governor
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Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula attends the swearing in of the traditional leaders for the Office of Samoan Affairs, February 10, 2025.



On February 10, 2025, a special ceremony was held today at the headquarters of the Office of Samoan Affairs in Utulei, where newly appointed traditional leaders took their oaths of office. The swearing-in ceremony was witnessed by Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., families of the newly appointed Samoan Affairs officials and cabinet members who took the time to attend this special occasion.

The Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula delivered special remarks during the ceremony, congratulating the traditional leaders on their new roles “I would like to congratulate our traditional leaders for their roles that they will be undertaking. Thank you for accepting this duty to serve our people. I believe that, through the guidance of our Heavenly Father, you will all serve with honor, respect and love for our territory,” *Governor Pula said.*

In addition to his remarks, the Governor addressed the *ongoing efforts surrounding the ARPA* funding, which has been designated for Infrastructure and Improvement Emergency projects. The Governor emphasized that, with the support of the Office of Samoan Affairs, these projects will

be completed within the established deadlines. He underscored the Office's vital role in these initiatives, serving as the essential cultural bridge between the government and local communities. Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula also highlighted a significant request he submitted to the Office of Samoan Affairs: "Enhancing the engagement with villages to support the government, particularly in matters of public safety. I urge the Office of Samoan Affairs and its officials to enforce curfews and encourage the community to adhere to established rules and regulations for the well-being of families, communities, churches, and the nation as a whole." I believe that once we achieve this within our communities, we can resolve the ongoing drug issue that is affecting our islands, especially our children." Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula emphasized the critical need for support from the Office of Samoan Affairs for both himself and Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. He stated: "We will engage with all religious denominations to foster collaboration between the government and our communities, not only to address the drug crisis but also to expedite the ARPA projects, which will greatly benefit our island home."

The Governor concluded by saying: "Our administration is facing various challenges, especially with finances, but the main focus of our administration is to serve the people of American Samoa to the best of our ability. We are committed to driving the economic development of our territory, which is why we are prioritizing the implementation of ARPA funds. To date, 70 projects have been initiated, with only 40% completed, while the remaining projects are still in progress. Although we face funding constraints in many areas, we remain dedicated to serving our people, providing hope, and working toward the financial stability they deserve. Congratulations to our sworn-in traditional leaders, and we look forward to working together to serve the people of American Samoa." District Governors are nominated by village councils and appointed by the Governor, while the Secretary of Samoan Affairs is directly appointed by the Governor.

The sworn-in traditional leaders are as follows:

The Secretary of Samoan Affairs

High Chief Faiivae Alex Godinet

District Governors

Poumele Pete Galeai - Manu'a District

Mata'utia Lafaele - Eastern District

Tuiagamoia Tavai - Western District

District Councils (65 members)

County Chiefs (Fa'alupega)

Village Mayors (Pulenu'u)

Village Policemen (Leoleonu'u)

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