



Ministry of Finance
GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

BUDGET ADDRESS

2025/2026

“Together we rise, guided by the past, to strengthen the present, and secure the future through this People’s Budget”

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MINISTER OF FINANCE

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BUDGET ADDRESS 2025/2026

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members,

In accordance with Standing Order 131, it is with great honor that I stand before this esteemed House today, to present the Statement on the Main Estimates for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

Firstly, we give thanks and glory to our Heavenly Father for His blessings and everlasting grace upon Samoa and its people, guiding our journey to a secure and stable economy - now and into the future.

Our development journey has always been about our people and our families. From the taro farmer in Savai'i, to the market vendor who keeps households afloat, to the teachers guiding our children each morning – every Samoan is part of this story. This Budget is therefore a shared covenant of trust, between Government and its people, and between today's parents and tomorrow's children.

I. MACROECONOMIC OUTTURN

Mr. Speaker,

Allow me to highlight key development achievements under the current Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22 - 2025/26, now in its final year of implementation;

Economic Growth

- Following two consecutive years of economic recession due to the COVID19 pandemic, Samoa's economy began its recovery in FY2021/22, recording a real GDP growth rate of 2.3 percent. The 60th Independence anniversary celebrations, which spanned from June 2022 to May 2023, further boosted economic activity, resulting in a substantial real GDP growth of 15.2 percent in FY2022/23, and signalling a quicker rebound than anticipated. Growth moderated to 4.8 percent in FY2023/24, yet it was a

significant milestone as nominal GDP achieved the \$3 billion talā mark during this year. In FY2024/25, economic growth was recorded at 4.2 percent signifying sustained overall momentum despite challenges encountered including the energy crisis.

- Grassroots economic activity was stimulated through the implementation of the District Development Program despite the challenges. It has supported access to tertiary education through scholarship schemes, upgraded ECE learning centres, and improved WASH facilities at Primary schools and district colleges in numerous villages. In addition, it led to micro and small enterprise expansion, and provided essential resources for agriculture and fisheries, as well as the construction of plantation access roads. Behind every tala invested through the District Development Programme are real stories of local community empowerment and economic opportunities that are contributing to reducing economic disparities and vulnerabilities.
- Government also has been instrumental in supporting Private Sector growth through the grants facility of \$9 million talā channelled through the Samoa Business Hub since FY2022/23, and had benefitted close to 500 micro and small businesses. A highly concessional loan facility of \$11 million talā, provided through the Development Bank of Samoa, benefitted 110 medium and large businesses.
- In support of improved social development, the Government raised the Senior Citizens Pension to \$200 talā in FY2021/22 and introduced the disability benefit of \$100 tala per month. These targeted social benefits not only supported our most vulnerable groups but also contributed to increased consumer spending and overall economic momentum.
- To strengthen border control and improve trade efficiency, the Government invested in key infrastructure, including the acquisition of a container X-ray scanner, a new tugboat, and a modern police patrol vessel.

Inflation

- The annual inflation rate decelerated to 3.6 percent in FY2023/24, from a high of 12.0 percent in FY2022/23 and 8.8 percent in

FY2021/22. Inflation eased further to 1.8 percent in FY2024/25, heavily influenced by global events.

- To address the impact of inflation, Government implemented a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in FY2023/24 and FY2024/25 for the public service.
- In addition, the minimum wage was increased from \$3.00 talā in FY2023/24 to \$4.84 sene, and rolled out in stages - first increasing to \$4.00 talā in July 2024, and \$4.84 sene in July 2025.

Official Gross Foreign Reserves

- Samoa's external sector has remained robust with Official Gross Foreign Reserves growing from \$0.8 billion talā in FY2021/22, to \$1.1 billion talā in FY2022/23, to \$1.4 billion talā in FY2023/24, and reaching \$1.6 billion talā in FY2024/25.
- This increase translates to import cover improving from 10.9 months in FY2021/22 and FY2022/23, to 13.4 months in FY2023/24, and 15.2 months in FY2024/25.
- Notably, Samoa reached the \$1 billion talā reserve milestone for the first time in May 2023, marking a significant achievement as we concluded the celebrations of our 60 years of independence.

Remittances

- In tandem, remittance inflows have shown consistent growth, rising from \$732.2 million talā in FY2021/22 to \$832.1 million talā in FY2022/23, and further to \$877.0 million talā in FY2023/24, culminating at \$900.6 million talā in FY2024/25 - a reflection of substantial support from our diaspora community and seasonal workforce.
- Following the approval of Samoa's revised Policy for Temporary Labour Migration in August 2023, Samoa expanded participation in Labour Mobility Schemes with Australia and New Zealand at 6000 workers per country. However, Samoa has not yet met the ceiling gap as set out in the policy due to implementation challenges. In terms of statistics, worker numbers surged from 5,634 in FY2021/22, to 8,336 in FY2022/23, and 9,812 in FY2023/24, although these numbers include the American Samoa scheme. For FY2024/25, a total of 6,358 workers benefitted from the RSE and

PALM schemes combined. While the Government acknowledges that these labour schemes have boosted remittances and fostered valuable skills development, it needs to take a much more balanced approach given the increasing social issues.

Tourist Arrivals and Earnings

- After facing severe setbacks, our tourism sector rebounded following the reopening of borders in August 2022, attracting an inflow of 124,655 visitors and \$421.01 million talā in visitor earnings. By the end of FY2023/24, the cumulative number of visitor arrivals reached 175,656, with visitor earnings reaching \$618.3 million talā. This upward trend persisted into FY2024/25, with final figures recording an increase to 189,937 visitor arrivals and total visitor earnings of \$678.1 million talā, exceeding the FY2018/19 pre-pandemic record of \$542.5 million talā.
- Strong Government financial support to the Tourism Sector since FY2021/22 - through recovery grants, highly concessional loans, and investment incentives - has facilitated the opening of new hotels, including the Survivor Samoa Resort, Mulifanua Beach Resort, La'imoa Hotel, and the reopening of the Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel and Bungalows, thereby increasing the number of accommodation rooms for tourists.
- Further social and economic benefits have been realised through the diversification of tourist attractions and activities across communities. This included the development and upgrade of 57 eco-tourism, cultural, and historical sites.
- The National Beautification Campaign, revived in partnership with communities, has also helped preserve our pristine environment, which was prominently showcased during CHOGM in October 2024.
- In terms of our national carrier - Samoa Airways, tremendous work was done since 2022 to restructure its debts from \$80 million talā at June 2022 to \$10 million talā by June 2025, given activation of government's guarantee and budget supports over the years. Equity also increased by \$87 million talā from a negative \$54 million talā at 30 June 2022, to a positive \$33 million talā at 30 June 2025. Total net profits after tax for the 3 years ending 30 June 2025 amount to \$87 million talā compared to \$93 million talā

net losses during the previous 5 years. This reflects Samoa Airway's resilience in times of financial distress and Government's commitment to turn around the technically insolvent national carrier.

Employment

- Employment levels have steadily increased from 96,721 in FY2021/22, to 98,764 in FY2022/23, to 103,898 in FY2023/24, and to 104,976 in FY2024/25, reflecting increased employment opportunities in Samoa.
- Under the DDP, 153 jobs were created through the establishment of District Council Offices. The program also supported community-based income-generating and employment opportunities through capacity building programs for sewing, farming, fishing, and carpentry amongst others. Furthermore, small business support initiatives and a Business Incubator initiative have empowered 66 community-based youth groups and young entrepreneurs, stimulating local economic activity.

Exports

- The value of total exports increased from \$82.9 million talā in FY2021/22, to \$119.0 million talā in FY2022/23, dipped slightly to \$104.4 million talā in FY2023/24, and increased modestly to \$105.0 million talā in FY2024/25, highlighting the impact of global trade dynamics.
- Samoa's main exports to date are fresh fish, coconut oil, and taro. To support this, Government has continued to prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly the road network to complement upgrades to plantation access roads under the DDP, therein improving connectivity and facilitating the efficient movement of our agricultural exports. The DDP also supported community fishing businesses.

Public Debt

- Since FY2021/22, public debt has followed a consistent downward path, evident in the total debt stock declining to \$760.4 million talā in FY2024/25 - a decrease of \$189.1 million talā. As a

percentage of GDP, this is a reduction from 41.0 percent in FY2021/22, to 31.8 percent in FY2022/23, 25.2 percent in FY2023/24, and 21.2 percent in FY2024/25.

- To date, the Government has fully repaid and closed six loans; inclusive of five external loans (3 with the Asian Development Bank, 1 with the World Bank IDA, and 1 with OPEC), and one domestic loan from the Unit Trust of Samoa for the Samoa Trust Estates Corporation.

II. MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members,

According to the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook updated in July 2025, global growth is projected at 3.0 percent in 2025 and 3.1 percent in 2026. These projections reflect persistent global headwinds, including tighter financial conditions, geopolitical tensions, policy uncertainties, and inflationary pressures. At the regional level, growth is projected to decelerate across Pacific Island Countries, largely due to a slowdown in post-pandemic growth, structural vulnerabilities, and the influence of global economic conditions.

For Samoa, economic growth for FY2025/26 is projected at 4.5 percent, taking into account the realization of national priorities planned in the current Pathway for the Development of Samoa, through Government-led initiatives, especially the scaled-up funding for the continued District Development Program, the substantial inflow of visitors during the General Election in August 2025, and the implementation of major development projects funded mainly by our Development Partners.

III. BUDGET SETTING

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

This Budget marks the **final year of the PDS 2021/22 - 2025/26**, our national development strategy that has guided Government priorities over the past four years. In this concluding year, the 2025/26 Budget is

designed to complete the remaining initiatives of the PDS while laying the foundation for Samoa's next national development pathway.

The Budget has been framed with careful consideration of the current economic outlook. While our economy is stabilising, families and businesses continue to face pressures from rising living costs due to global uncertainty. In this context, Government recognises the need to protect the most vulnerable, stimulate inclusive growth, and maintain fiscal discipline ensuring that opportunity is shared, and progress is felt by every family and community across Samoa.

Mr. Speaker,

The 2025/26 Budget is presented at the start of the 18th Parliamentary Term, following national elections in August 2025, which took place earlier than originally scheduled. Although tabled later than usual, it remains a full-year budget covering the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, as required under the Public Finance Management Act 2001.

To enhance planning discipline and reduce fragmentation, all expenditure priorities - recurrent and development - are incorporated into this budget. There is **no intention to introduce a supplementary budget**, unless Samoa is faced with a major unforeseen event such as a natural disaster or public health emergency.

The 2025/26 Budget reflects Government's broader strategy of empowering communities, building resilience, and inspiring growth.

In this context, the Budget is presented under the theme:

***“Together we rise, guided by the past, to strengthen
the present, and secure the future through this
People's Budget”***

IV. BUDGET STRATEGY

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

The Budget laid before the House today seeks to record a deficit of 3.5 percent of GDP, as Government continues to drive its development agenda towards sustained growth, ensuring socio-economic welfare and stability.

For FY2025/26, the Budget strategy is framed around five policy thrusts that will sustain economic momentum and strengthen social and economic resilience in line with the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22 - 2025/26.

These are:

1. Empowering People and Communities

Our development journey begins with our people. The District Development Program remains a bridge between national priorities and local wisdom – empowering communities, strengthening families, and advancing self-reliance. To anchor our strategy for inclusive growth, the District Development Program allocation will be scaled up to \$91.8 million talā in this financial year. Funding has increased from \$1 million to \$1.8 million talā per district, fulfilling Government’s commitment of \$5 million talā per constituency under the existing PDS. These resources will continue to empower districts to set and implement their own priorities, promoting local ownership and reflecting Government’s trust in local solutions for local challenges. The Government is reviewing the District Development Program Policy Framework and the Program Operating Manual to enhance quality implementation.

We are also responding to the needs of the most vulnerable population, in particular the elderly and persons with disabilities. From November 2025, monthly pension payments and disability benefits will increase to \$300 talā, benefitting 15,099 people. These measures not only provide financial relief to counter the rising cost of living but also reaffirms the Government’s commitment to dignity, care, and opportunities for our most vulnerable. Preparations are underway to further increase the pension for citizens aged 70 and above, in the following fiscal year.

Support for NGOs will rise from \$2.6 million to \$8.97 million talā, with increased grants for organisations delivering critical social services. Annual assistance for Mapuifagalele and Mapuipulotu Aged Care Homes has also been raised to \$100,000 talā each, recognising their vital role in caring for our elderly.

Government is equally committed to ensuring safe and dignified housing for families. The Shelter Financing provision has been doubled from \$500,000 talā to \$1 million talā, enabling the construction of basic shelters for vulnerable families. To date, 306 families across 141 villages have benefitted from this initiative implemented by ADRA Samoa. In addition, \$6 million talā has been allocated to the Samoa Housing Corporation for concessional home loans, particularly for first-time home-owners and growing families.

Finally, assistance to private sector organisations will increase significantly from \$7.1 million to \$23.85 million talā, acknowledging the central role of businesses as the engine of growth in driving development, job creation, and inclusive prosperity.

Together, these partnerships remain central to this vision and reflect Government's commitment to deliver sustainable development outcomes through cooperation, compassion, and shared responsibility across all sectors of the economy.

2. Building Human Capital for the Future

The heart of any nation is its people, and our future rests on how well we prepare our youth - the next generation. That is why we are investing in both formal and vocational education through scholarships and apprenticeship programs.

A total of \$10 million talā has been allocated for Government scholarships, creating new opportunities in early childhood education, hospitality, and vocational trades. Additional awards for undergraduate studies in New Zealand and Fiji will complement existing scholarships from our Development Partners.

The One Government Grant will also be increased from \$18 million talā to \$18.5 million talā, supporting improved access and quality across all education providers, expanding to those delivering inclusive education

services. This ensures that institutions are better equipped to meet evolving curriculum standards and technological change.

To address the capacity constraints in our construction industry, the Government has reviewed the apprenticeship scheme to reduce the costs borne by employees from 20 percent to 5 percent, while the Government contribution will increase from 50 percent to 65 percent, and maintaining the employers' contribution at 30 percent. This adjustment will make workplace-based learning far more affordable and accessible, especially for young people seeking formal qualifications in trades such as carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. By easing financial barriers, the Government is supporting a more inclusive approach to technical education and addressing skills shortages across essential industries. These investments are consistent with our National Workforce Plan, which guides Samoa's long-term priorities for skills development and employment opportunities.

We are also investing in sports, not just as recreation, but as a platform for youth development and healthy lifestyle promotion. Funding for sports development will triple from \$2.5 million to \$6 million talā, in recognition of the growing ambitions of our athletes and sports associations. Since the establishment of the Sports Development Fund in FY2022/23, over 50 sporting bodies have benefited through support to participate in regional and international events and to host national tournaments. Sports development will also continue to inspire excellence, teamwork, and pride in our national identity.

Investment in education, training, and sports is an investment in national capability. Every scholarship, apprenticeship, and skills program builds the foundation for a competent and productive Samoa.

3. Enhancing Access to Essential Services

Access to essential services and resilient infrastructure is the foundation of inclusive development. It is the duty of Government to ensure that all Samoans, wherever they live, can rely on the services and infrastructure needed to support their wellbeing and participation in national development.

Samoans are fortunate to access subsidized primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Thus, the allocation for overseas medical referrals will double to \$12 million talā, ensuring that citizens with conditions not

treatable locally can access urgent care abroad. This reflects Government's ongoing commitment to a compassionate and accessible health system.

Access to safe water and reliable electricity is equally critical. This Budget therefore provides \$5 million talā each for Community Service Obligations delivered by the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation in terms of new settlements, particularly for rural areas that remain unconnected.

Beyond these essential services, Government is also prioritising long-term infrastructure development as outlined in the Public Sector Investment Program. Major projects across the Energy, Water and Sanitation, Transport, and ICT sectors will be advanced in close partnership with our development partners for increased economic opportunities and resilience. The Government is providing \$880,000 talā through the Ministry of Education and Culture's budget, to ensure IT access for Government schools.

A key priority within this agenda is improving physical access to rural and village settlements that remain difficult to reach. To address this, \$2 million talā has been earmarked under the Land Transport Authority's operational grant, for the construction of community access roads. These roads are vital for connecting families to schools, health facilities, markets, and one another. By improving connectivity in hard-to-reach areas, Government is ensuring that the benefits of development extend to all communities.

These investments for improved, climate-resilient utility services, transport and digital connectivity will link families to opportunity, strengthen community resilience, and ensure that no area is left behind. From stronger sea walls to cleaner energy and sustainable land use, these investments protect both our people and our planet for generations to come.

4. Driving Economic Growth and Trade Competitiveness

Sustaining economic growth and building resilience remain central to our national efforts. This Budget continues to place strong emphasis on access to finance as a key enabler for inclusive and sustainable development.

The completion of the Savalalo Market in December 2025 will increase opportunities for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises development and trade.

Government is also investing in agricultural value chains to scale up production, raise quality standards, and open opportunities for international trade. This includes completion of the Atele Packhouse by December 2025 and new agricultural machinery and equipment for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, provided under the China Samoa Agriculture Mechanization Project. In addition, two stock trucks and another mobile slaughter unit have been procured to support agricultural development. These measures will not only help farmers but also strengthen Samoa's trade competitiveness and advance rural economic transformation through the District Development Program.

A total of \$16 million talā has therefore been earmarked to expand concessional lending for businesses. Of this, \$10 million talā will be provided through the Development Bank of Samoa to support private sector growth, particularly in manufacturing, commercial agriculture, and tourism. A further \$6 million talā will be shared between the Samoa Business Hub and the Development Bank of Samoa to strengthen targeted support for MSMEs, ensuring grassroots entrepreneurs can access concessional financing to grow their ventures. Together with continued loan guarantees for small enterprises, these measures provide businesses with greater access to finance while lowering the risks of investment.

Expanding access to finance and markets will unlock the creativity and productivity of our people. By enabling enterprise and innovation, Government is paving the way for shared prosperity across all sectors of the economy. We also recognise Samoa's creative and cultural industries – from design and handicrafts to music and storytelling – as vital drivers of identity, innovation, and income.

In supporting these entrepreneurship initiatives, increased grants will be provided to the Samoa Business Hub and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce.

5. Reforming Institutions and Public Service Delivery

Strengthening governance is vital to sustaining long-term growth. This Budget provides for the establishment of two new institutions. The Ministry of Customs and Revenue will now operate separately as the Ministry for Revenue, focusing on domestic revenue collections and the

Ministry of Customs with a stronger focus on border security for trade facilitation. The Samoa Export Authority will now be officially operational as a Public Beneficial Body, focusing on driving trade promotion and export development.

In addition, two state owned enterprises will be integrated under relevant Ministries. The Samoa Land Corporation will now be merged into the Ministry for Lands and Survey, while the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority will transition into the Ministry of Sports and Recreation. These reforms are designed to streamline service delivery, enhance transparency, and align institutions with policy goals.

Complementing these structural reforms, the Ministry of Finance will continue the review and realignment of Key Performance Indicators across all Government Ministries and Public Bodies. This refinement will enable measurement of how effectively Government policies translate into concrete actions - improved lives and stronger communities. This work is carried out alongside the development of targeted legislative reforms, aimed at modernizing regulatory frameworks, strengthening accountability, and improving governance. Compliance of Government ministries and offices to key national policies, including the National Planning Framework and the National Asset Management Policy Framework, has improved, therefore reflecting continued progress in public sector performance and reporting discipline. We are also strengthening digital systems to improve data efficiency and transparency across government, ensuring that every talā spent can be traced to impact.

Strong institutions are central to sustainable growth. Our culture, faith, and shared identity remain the compass of this journey – guiding how we serve, build, and grow together as a united Samoa.

V. BUDGET AGGREGATES

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

I would now like to highlight the key components of the 2025/2026 Budget:

Receipts		\$	1,030,684,101
Ordinary Receipts	\$	866,929,659	
External Grants	\$	163,754,442	
Expenditure		\$	1,241,535,754
Statutory Payments	\$	158,658,435	
Expenditure Programs	\$	921,251,553	
Unforeseen Expenditures	\$	27,637,547	
Development Expenditures	\$	133,988,219	
Cash (Deficit)/Surplus		-\$	210,851,653
Financed by:			
General Budget Support	\$	132,394,868	
Movement in Cash Balances		-\$	78,456,784

The FY2025/2026 Main Estimates project a cash deficit of approximately \$210.9 million talā, representing 3.5 percent of GDP in accordance with the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) framework.

VI. REVENUE MEASURES

Mr. Speaker,

This Budget continues to reflect our government's commitment to fiscal stability and fairness by maintaining existing VAGST and Income Tax rates.

Our focus is on strengthening revenue collection through improved compliance and enforcement efforts led by the Ministry for Revenue and the Ministry of Customs. These efforts will help ensure that all taxpayers meet their obligations, while protecting Government revenue streams to support service delivery and development investments.

This budget will record a substantial increase in total dividends from State Owned Enterprises, including the \$1 million talā dividend declared by Samoa Airways for financial years 2023 - 2025, and \$12 million talā from the Pacific Forum Line for financial years 2021 - 2024, both received within the first quarter of this financial year. The dividend from PFL reflects the success of Government's strategic partnership with Neptune Pacific Line, established in 2014 following Samoa's full

acquisition of the company in 2012, to help improve shipping services and trade in the Pacific.

To advance our environmental goals, the Government will introduce a Waste Levy to be effective 1st January 2026 on selected imported items including P.E.T bottles, aluminium cans, and vehicles. This measure supports responsible waste management and reduces environmental degradation, showcasing our shared responsibility to protect Samoa's natural resources for future generations.

VII. EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

The aggregated total expenditures for the fiscal year 2025/26 are estimated at \$1.24 billion talā. This figure includes development programs funded by our development partners, reflecting a 7 percent increase over the previous year's estimates.

Mr. Speaker,

I will now outline the details of the estimates for each Ministry for Financial Year 2025/26:

- 1. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - \$22,984,980**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$13,624,350
 - Third Party Outputs - \$6,044,865
 - This includes the Government Grant to the **Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa** - \$5,654,865;
 - \$200,000 for the **Animal Protection Society**;
 - \$150,000 for the **Women in Business Development Inc.**;
 - \$20,000 for the **Samoa Farmers Association**; and
 - \$20,000 for the **Tautai Samoa Association**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,315,765
- 2. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour - \$21,004,417**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$5,913,290
 - Third Party Outputs- \$12,720,000

- This includes the Government Grant to the **Samoa Tourism Authority** - \$11,430,000
 - \$550,000 to the **Samoa Chamber of Commerce**
 - \$450,000 for the **Samoa Business Hub**
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters;**
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Hotel and Hospitality Association;**
 - \$50,000 for the **Savaii Samoa Tourism Association;**
 - \$20,000 for the **Businesses of Salafai Association;**
 - \$20,000 for the **Samoa Mamanu Design and Manufacturers Incorporated**
 - \$20,000 for various **Samoa Workers' Associations**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,371,127
3. **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology - \$11,973,261;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$5,759,224;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$3,201,250 which is the Government Grant to the **Office of the Regulator**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,012,786.
4. **Ministry of Education and Culture - \$134,407,987;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$85,489,053;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$41,783,570;
 - **National University of Samoa** - \$18,083,570;
 - **Samoa Qualifications Authority** - \$5,000,000;
 - \$18,500,000 for the **One Government School Grant;**
 - \$100,000 for the **Blind Persons Association;**
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Association of Sign Language Interpreters**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$7,135,364
 - \$1,500,000 for the **Teachers Higher Education Scheme**
 - \$880,000 for **School Connectivity**

5. **Ministry of Sports and Recreation - \$11,160,668;**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - 4,075,531;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$380,000 which is the Government Grant to the **Samoa Sports Facilities Authority**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$6,705,137
 - \$6,000,000 for the **Sports Development Fund**

6. **Ministry of Finance - \$132,814,395;**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$20,542,865;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$112,271,530
 - \$52,500,000 for the **Senior Citizens Pension and Disability Benefit Schemes**
 - \$200,000 for the **Institute of Directors**

7. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - \$31,881,708;**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$28,339,024;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$1,237,980 which is the Government Grant to the **Samoa Export Authority**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,304,704.

8. **Ministry of Health - \$170,675,414;**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$124,757,154.40;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$12,650,000;
 - This includes Government Grant to the **National Kidney Foundation** - \$12,000,000;
 - \$200,000 for the **Non-Communicable Disease Clinic**;
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Red Cross Society**;
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Cancer Society**;
 - \$100,000 for the **Goshen Trust**;
 - \$100,000 for the **Matuaileoo Environment Trust Incorporated**;
 - \$50,000 for the **Samoa Family Health Association**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$33,268,260
 - \$12,000,000 for the **Overseas Medical Treatment Scheme**

9. **Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration - \$20,877,003;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$18,337,011;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,539,992
 - \$450,000 for **Legal Aid**
10. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - \$37,283,247;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$13,632,367;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$100,000
 - \$50,000 is for the **Samoa Tokelau Association of Recyclers;**
 - \$50,000 is for the **Samoa Recycling Waste Management Association;**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$23,550,880
 - \$10,000,000 for **Compensation to the Safata District for the sunken Manawanui Vessel**
 - \$4,786,274 for the **Waste Management Service Contracts**
 - \$3,400,000 for the **Energy Crisis compensation for affected businesses and households**
11. **Ministry of Lands and Survey - \$13,509,491;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$7,887,488;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$5,622,003
 - \$850,000 for **Roads for Leased Lands**
12. **Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services - \$63,635,872;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$43,513,960;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$14,978,547 which is the Government Grant to the **Fire and Emergency Services Authority**
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$5,143,364.
13. **Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$11,379,722**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$8,081,140;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,298,583
 - \$500,000 for the **Independence Celebration**
 - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Returnees Charitable Trust**

- 14. Ministry of Customs - \$9,817,243;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$8,599,330;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,217,913.
- 15. Ministry for Revenue - \$9,136,416;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$6,812,871;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,323,545.
- 16. Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development - \$107,167,829;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$12,458,593;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$94,709,236
 - \$91,800,000 for the **District Development Program**
 - \$1,000,000 for the **Shelter Financing**
 - \$200,000 for the **NGO Capacity Support Program**
 - \$100,000 for the **Ending Violence Program Support for NGOs**
 - \$200,000 for the **Samoa Victim Support Group**
 - \$100,000 for the **Mapuifagalele Aged Care Home**
 - \$100,000 for the **Mapuipulotu Aged Care Home**
- 17. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure - \$58,220,512;**
- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$6,910,431;
 - Third Party Outputs - \$50,571,697; this includes;
 - Government Grant to the **Land Transport Authority** - \$34,521,697
 - \$5,000,000 for **Community Service Obligations** by the **Samoa Water Authority**
 - \$5,000,000 for **Community Service Obligations** by the **Electric Power Corporation**
 - \$5,050,000 for the **EU's Budget Support** to the **Samoa Water Authority**
 - \$1,000,000 for the **Samoa Airport Authority's Safety and Security Equipment**;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$738,384.

- 18. Ministry for Public Enterprises - \$2,952,421;**
 - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$2,388,528;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$563,893.
- 19. Office of the Attorney General - \$5,840,330;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$5,005,693;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$834,637.
- 20. Office of the Controller and Auditor General - \$4,349,975;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$3,755,924;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$594,051.
- 21. Office of the Electoral Commission - \$3,907,060;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$3,646,650;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$260,410;
- 22. Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly - \$9,171,376;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$7,909,838;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,261,538.
- 23. Office of the Ombudsman - \$1,870,583;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$1,621,737;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$248,846.
- 24. Public Service Commission - \$16,926,493;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$5,450,405;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$11,476,088
 - \$10,000,000 for the **Government Scholarship Scheme**
 - \$100,000 for **Professional Bodies**
- 25. Samoa Bureau of Statistics - \$6,795,567;**
 - Outputs provided by the Office - \$4,846,987;
 - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,948,580.

26. Law Reform Commission - \$1,507,587;

- Outputs provided by the Office - \$1,170,628;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$336,959.

VIII. UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES

Mr. Speaker,

A provision of \$27.6 million tala, which is 3% of the total expenditure program, is reserved for unforeseen needs. Use of this vote will remain strictly limited to exceptional circumstances.

IX. DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Speaker,

Total cash grant disbursements are projected at \$163.8 million talā for investment projects and sector budget support. The decrease mainly reflects the completion of development partner support for CHOGM and some major development projects, including the Pacific Resilience Program (PREP), the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM), and the Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano Catchment Project (GCF-VCP). In terms of sector budget supports, these will continue for the Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture and Fisheries sectors, and an interim support for the Education sector, reflecting alignment of development partners' support to national priorities. For the Environment sector, \$10 million talā has been received from the Government of New Zealand to compensate Safata district for the sunken vessel (HMSNZ Manawanui).

I take this opportunity to acknowledge this assistance and forthcoming assistance as we remember this day, 6th October as the one-year anniversary of this tragedy which has impacted our marine eco-system and the livelihoods of affected villages.

Total Aid in-kind is projected at \$82.1 million talā. These resources will be directly received by the beneficiaries thereby supporting the

implementation of our development priorities at both national and community levels.

Mr. Speaker,

In addition to the active portfolio, there are newly approved projects and planned pipeline for FY2025/26 across vital sectors, including Transport and Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation, Health, Education, ICT, Energy, Environment, Tourism, Finance, Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing, and Agriculture and Fisheries.

X. CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

As we conclude the final implementation year of the current national development strategy and step into a new parliamentary term, this Budget is a reflection of our collective aspirations as a nation. It is not just figures and forecasts, it is a testament of our faith in our people and our shared resilience, in building a Samoa where every family, village and district will thrive. It is guided by the wisdom of our past, strengthened by the spirit of our present, and devoted to securing a future worthy of our children's dreams. It carries the fingerprints of every citizen – the hands that plant, the minds that teach and the hearts that serve.

Through strategic investments in our people, communities, institutions, and infrastructure, this Budget supports inclusive progress while safeguarding our future from emerging challenges. It reaffirms Government's commitment to sound economic stewardship, sustainable development, and a governance framework anchored in transparency, integrity, and accountability.

Mr. Speaker,

I extend our deepest thanks to the people of Samoa - here and abroad - for reaffirming their confidence in this new Government. Your trust

renews our determination to serve with integrity, diligence, and compassion.

We are equally grateful for the invaluable support of our development partners, whose technical and financial contributions remain vital to our national progress. We also acknowledge the partnerships with communities, churches, NGOs, and the private sector. These partnerships enable us to deliver better services, enhance capacity, and strengthen resilience across all sectors.

As we move forward together, may we do so with unity of purpose and faith in the journey ahead. May every talā we spend of this budget be a blessing in creating opportunities and weaving growth across our islands.

Mr. Speaker,

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the World Teachers' Day celebrated on the 5th October 2025 and this whole week in Samoa. We commend the hard work and dedication of all our teachers from early childhood education to tertiary education. May you continue to inspire hope and instil love for learning for our future generation. Malo le tautua atunuu.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Government, I wish all the children of Samoa a Happy White Sunday. As stated in Psalm 127: 3 *“Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.”*

May God continue to guide and bless our beloved Samoa and the XVIII Parliament.

Mr. Speaker,

I now commend the 2025/26 Main Estimates to the House.

Soifua ma ia Manuia.
