



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

# **BUDGET ADDRESS**

## **2026/2027**

***AIGA - “Accelerating Inclusive Growth  
and Access”***

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**Minister of Finance**

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## **BUDGET ADDRESS 2026/2027**

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament,**

Pursuant to Standing Order 131, I am honoured to present to the House the Statement on the Main Estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

This Budget is reflective of our enduring pledge to inclusive growth that uplifts all, reaching every community, every household and every citizen of Samoa. The resilience of our people and the spirit of our families and communities continue to shape Samoa's development journey. From the farmers who sustain our food systems, to the small businesses that drive local economies, to the young people representing Samoa on regional and international stages, each plays a vital role in advancing our nation's progress.

**Mr. Speaker,**

It gives me great pleasure to announce that this financial year marks the commencement of the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2026/2027 - 2030/2031 (PDS2). The PDS2 represents the Government's commitment to charting a clearer course for the years ahead, but also its determination to confront the development challenges that continue to affect our economy and our communities.

Through the PDS2, the Government affirms its commitment to the vision of,

***“A highly resilient, inclusive, safe and prosperous Samoa, grounded in the Fa’a Samoa and Faith in God.”***

### **I. MACROECONOMIC OUTTURN**

**Mr. Speaker,**

As we prepare to embark on the next phase of our development journey, we must reflect on the achievements of the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22 - 2025/26 ending June 2026, which have

shaped the path ahead and provided lessons to strengthen areas requiring greater focus and investment.

Allow me to provide an update on our economic progress and highlight key developments under the current Pathway for the Development of Samoa.

- Economic activity has strengthened across the nation, resulting in economic growth of 4.2 percent at the end of FY2024/25, equivalent to \$3.6 billion tālā. As of December 2025, growth was recorded at 1.8 percent, signalling steady momentum despite the impacts of ongoing global tensions.
- The annual inflation was recorded at 1.9 percent in FY2024/25 and has declined further to 1.2 percent as of March 2026, remaining within the 3.0 percent target.
- Our external position remains strong, with official gross foreign reserves of \$1.6 billion tālā by the end of March 2026, representing 15.9 months of import cover.
- Total visitor arrivals reached 209,721 in FY2024/25, generating \$652.2 million tālā in visitor earnings. As of March 2026, visitor arrivals totalled 158,626, with visitor earnings of \$516.2 million tālā.
- Remittance inflows continue to increase, recorded at \$900.6 million tālā in FY2024/25, and registering a total of \$699.2 million tālā in the first nine months of the current fiscal year.
- Public debt maintains its downward trajectory, with the total debt stock declining to \$699.5 million tālā at the end of March 2026. This is equivalent to 19.5 percent of GDP.

**Mr. Speaker,**

As we conclude the implementation of the current Pathway for the Development of Samoa, allow me to highlight recent major achievements towards the realisation of national outcomes.

Under Key Strategic Outcome 1: Improved Social Development

- Targeted social protection measures have been achieved including the increased Senior Citizens Pension and Disability Benefit respectively reaching 13,000 pensioners and 2,875 Persons with Disabilities. The Shelter financing initiative for vulnerable households also provided basic shelters for a total of 342 families to date.
- In February 2026, the Government implemented a \$150 tālā per citizen Back-to-School assistance, distributed through the District Development Program to the 51 Districts, providing vital support to students and their families across the whole of Samoa.
- The Government doubled the allocation for the Overseas Treatment Medical Scheme to \$12 million in FY2025/26, ensuring greater access to urgent specialised care abroad, with Agreements now in place with New Zealand, India and Fiji health service providers.
- The annual provision for the One Government Grant of \$18.5 million tālā supported improved access to education, complemented by scholarships under the District Development Programme and labour market schemes aimed at building the national workforce, with a key achievement being the approval of the National Workforce Plan 2025/26 - 2039/40.
- At the household level, the Government introduced through the Samoa Housing Corporation, the \$6 million tālā Government Concessional Housing Loans Scheme in FY25/26, aimed at improving access to home ownership for first-time homeowners and large families. Early implementation has demonstrated strong demand, with 74 beneficiaries valued at approximately \$4.46 million tālā, and a growing pipeline of eligible applicants, highlighting the Scheme's impact in supporting housing access, improving living conditions, and contributing to broader social and economic development.
- Concessional lending facilities provided to the Samoa Business Hub of \$3 million tālā, benefitted 269 micro businesses. In support of export-oriented businesses, manufacturing, agricultural

commercialisation and tourism, \$13 million tālā was channelled through the Development Bank of Samoa for highly concessional lending, to date benefitting 30 businesses.

#### For Key Strategic Outcome 2: Diversified and Sustainable Economy

- Economic performance has been supported by Samoa's successful hosting of multiple regional and international sporting events, including the Basketball Under 17 Oceania Cup, the Oceania Wrestling Championships, and the recent Universal Weightlifting Cup. These events have contributed to increased visitor inflows and business activity, particularly across accommodation providers, transport operators, and small enterprises.
- Formal employment levels continue to increase, reaching 28,616 as of December 2025, compared to 26,075 in December 2024, recording a 10 percent increase.
- The Government has also progressed targeted measures to strengthen domestic production and export capacity. This includes the operationalisation of the Samoa Export Authority and the completion of the Atele Packhouse, which will improve post-harvest handling, quality standards, and market access for agricultural exports.

#### As part of Key Strategic Outcome 3: Security and Trusted Governance

- Towards community safety, the 'Say No to Illegal Drugs' Campaign delivers our commitment to a drug-free Samoa through united community actions in preventing drug-use and addressing drug-related issues. In addition, the 'Pola Puipui' national prevention framework for eliminating gender-based violence has been implemented at the community level since October 2024.
- The Tuasivi Maritime Office was officially opened in February 2026, enhancing maritime safety and law enforcement presence in Savai'i.

- Cyber security and the risks of digital technology use remain emerging priorities, with interventions including the launch of the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2025/26 - 2030/31 and the National ICT Policy 2025/26 -2030/31 in April 2026.
- The establishment of new diplomatic relations with Belize in February 2025 and the formalisation of the Open Skies Treaty with the United States in March 2026, signal the Government's continued commitment to strategic and meaningful engagement with our partners.
- The Government remains committed to accountability and good governance, through the implementation of its National Anti-Corruption Policy and Strategy to investigate and resolve complaints against public services.

#### Under Key Strategic Outcome 4: Secured Environment and Climate Change

- Collective efforts continued towards environmental resilience including the rehabilitation and protection of over 600 hectares (or 1,480 acres) of watershed areas and sectors implementing disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Samoa's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) was launched in December 2025, outlining our commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the mobilisation of key initiatives focusing on renewable energy integration and community-level resilience.
- Further efforts towards advancing our renewable energy transition include development projects for community off-grid renewable energy solutions and the installation of solar streetlights in the Apia township. A key feature of the new Savalalo Market which was opened in March 2026, is that it is fully powered by solar energy - a first for a Government building.
- In response to the energy crisis earlier last year, investments have been made in the maintenance and refurbishment of our main power stations and infrastructure. The Government was also able

to compensate businesses and households affected by the energy crisis of early 2025.

#### For Key Strategic Outcome 5: Structured Public Works and Infrastructure

- Key infrastructure agencies have developed long-term Master Plans, promoting quality and structured investments in our major infrastructure and public services.
- Other major developments include the upgrade of the road network and seawalls as well as plantation access roads, and domestic ports works channelled through the District Development Programme.
- The launch of the One Government Portal, highlights the promotion of the use of digital platforms to facilitate access to information for the public.

**Mr. Speaker,**

These achievements under the current Pathway for the Development of Samoa reflect the collective effort of our people and development partners. They provide a strong foundation as Samoa embarks on the next phase of its development journey.

## **II. MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

**Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members,**

Global growth is projected at 3.1 percent in 2026 and 3.2 percent in 2027, reflecting rising geopolitical tensions and heightened uncertainty affecting trade, investment and financial conditions. At the regional level, growth is expected to continue to slow down across Pacific Island Countries as global developments weigh on regional economic momentum.

For Samoa, economic growth for FY2026/27 is projected at 3.0 percent, in anticipation of the roll out of the national priorities in the new Pathway for the Development of Samoa through integrated and inclusive

efforts in the acceleration of targeted social support, economic diversification and major infrastructure development projects.

### **III. BUDGET SETTING**

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,**

This Budget marks the first year of implementation for the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2026/2027-2030/2031 which will be launched next week; the development of which reflects Government's recognition of the need for a sharper focus in addressing key development challenges, careful sequencing and stronger coordination of national efforts so that we may achieve measurable and sustainable outcomes. The PDS2 is anchored around five Key Strategic Outcomes as highlighted below and each will be supported by clearly defined Key Priority Areas:

- Key Strategic Outcome 1: Inclusive Social Development
- Key Strategic Outcome 2: Sustainable Economy
- Key Strategic Outcome 3: Trusted Governance, Rule of Law and Security
- Key Strategic Outcome 4: Safeguarded Climate-resilient Environment
- Key Strategic Outcome 5: Structured Public Works and Sustainable Infrastructure

These strategic outcomes are hinged on the Samoan cultural concept of *Aiga* - its interconnectedness, values and resilience representing the foundation and pillars of national development. Thus, the development of Samoa is no longer the responsibility of the Government alone, but a shared and collective responsibility by all Samoans for the common good. After all, Samoa is an extended family.

The Government is not promising that today's Budget will solve all of Samoa's development challenges. But we are committed to addressing existing and emerging challenges in order to create a more resilient economy that can withstand internal and external shocks. Ultimately, it is how we respond together as a country, as a community and as a AIGA that determines our future.

The Budget is therefore presented under the theme:

***“AIGA - Accelerating Inclusive Growth and Access”***

#### **IV. BUDGET STRATEGY**

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,**

The Budget laid before the House today reflects a responsible fiscal approach, with a projected deficit of 3.1 percent of GDP, gradually declining from the 3.5 percent estimated for the current financial year. This approach allows the Government to sustain economic momentum, support growth, and maintain macroeconomic stability.

The core of this Budget is an economic strategy built around six key policy thrusts:

##### **1. Response to the Fuel Supply Crisis**

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to place significant pressure on the global economy through rising fuel prices and market uncertainty. These impacts are now gradually reaching the shores of the Pacific region and our small island nation.

In maintaining sufficient fuel supply for uninterrupted utility services during periods of high energy costs, the Government has activated the National Emergency Operations Centre following approval of the National Fuel Supply Emergency Response Plan.

- As a key measure under the 2026/27 Budget, an allocation of \$100 million tālā has been appropriated to support the operations of the Electric Power Corporation and to a lesser extent, the Samoa Water Authority. Included within this provision is a standby liquidity support facility to strengthen preparedness should global conditions worsen.
- Acknowledging the importance of preparedness and resilience, a total appropriation of \$2.1million tālā has been allocated across frontline government agencies for emergency responses. In addition, the Government’s Unforeseen Expenditure vote remains available should further emergency support be required.

- Furthermore, the Government will retain current electricity and water tariffs for domestic households to ensure affordable access to essential utility services and help ease cost-of-living pressures on families. Allocations for Community Service Obligations of \$5 million tālā each will continue to be provided to the Electric Power Corporation and the Samoa Water Authority to support rural electrification works and fuel costs for boreholes, ensuring continued essential utility services for rural and vulnerable communities.
- To further strengthen Samoa's long-term energy resilience, Government has also secured additional support from development partners amounting to \$44.2 million tālā for projects to be implemented by the Electric Power Corporation and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. These investments, together with plans for three new solar farms (one in Upolu and two in Savaii), will ensure a more reliable and sustainable energy mix for Samoa while securing a more stable and uninterrupted electricity supply across the country.

## **2. Empowering Communities and Strengthening Social Protection Systems**

**Mr. Speaker, and Honourable Members,**

Government continues to place strong emphasis on community economic empowerment and community-led developments through strengthening the District Development Program to ensure delivery of meaningful outcomes for all.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, Government has increased the total appropriation for this programme to \$102 million tālā, in line with the Government's commitment of \$10 million tālā per electoral constituency over the next five years.

These resources will continue to support districts to plan and implement projects that respond directly to their local needs, whether it be in agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, environment, sports, education or health. In doing so, Government reaffirms its confidence in local leadership and solutions that are designed and driven at the community level.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also revived the First Harvest Programme given the importance of strengthening food security and increasing local agricultural production for our markets.

In addition, \$4 million tālā is appropriated for procurement of a Fishing Research Vessel for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. This investment will reinforce the Ministry's ability to collect accurate data on the status of marine resources and promote more sustainable harvesting practices for the benefit of future generations and communities that rely on fisheries.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Government also highlights the important role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in supporting national development efforts by increasing the financial year 2026/2027 allocation to \$10.9 million tālā from \$7.7 million tālā. This investment reflects Government's continued commitment to working in partnership with civil society to strengthen service delivery, support vulnerable groups, and build more resilient communities throughout Samoa.

To improve access to safe and adequate housing for vulnerable families and low-income households throughout Samoa, the Government will increase its support for the shelter financing program, with a provision of \$2million tālā, a 50 percent increase from this financial year's allocation.

At present, all pensioners receive a monthly benefit of \$300 tālā. I am pleased to announce the increase in the pension benefit for those aged 70 years and above, from \$300 tālā to \$500 tālā per month. A total of 7,285 pensioners are expected to benefit from this adjustment effective from 1 July 2026.

**Mr Speaker,**

Investing early in children is one of the most effective long-term investments a nation can make – strengthening families, improving education outcomes, and supporting future economic resilience, given that the first years of life are critical to lifelong learning, health, wellbeing, and national productivity.

In line with the National Early Childhood Development Framework 2024-2034, the Government is allocating a total of \$20million tālā in the 2026/2027 Budget to establish a monthly cash benefit of \$100 tālā for children aged 0 to 35 months, complemented by a one-off baby bonus of \$200 tālā.

The program will take effect from 1 July 2026, with the first disbursements scheduled for January 2027. This implementation period will allow the Samoa National Provident Fund, in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, to complete the necessary legislative amendments, system upgrades, and beneficiary registration and verification processes for an effective delivery of the program. This flagship initiative for the PDS2 - Child Wellbeing Benefit, completes the life cycle approach to social protection for Samoa.

### **3. Investing in Human Capital Development (Quality Education, Healthcare and Workforce Development)**

**Mr. Speaker,**

In strengthening the delivery of quality healthcare services for all Samoans, continued investment in medicines, medical services, and healthcare workers will be scaled up in this budget.

Funding for medical consumables has significantly increased from \$14 million tālā to \$21.5 million tālā to ensure hospitals and health facilities across the country are adequately supplied with essential medicines, while addressing outstanding supplier obligations.

Government has also ensured sufficient allocations for repairs and maintenance works across health facilities, including the replacement of critical assets such as hospital beds and air conditioning units, to sustain delivery of quality healthcare services.

This Budget will also continue to support patients requiring treatment that is unavailable locally through the Overseas Medical Treatment Scheme, with an allocation of \$12 million tālā. Returning healthcare graduates and professionals will be catered through an allocation of \$1.63 million tālā, consolidating the capacity and quality of healthcare services, complemented by volunteer medical professions under existing development partners' schemes.

**Mr. Speaker,**

A nation's true strength is reflected in the opportunities it creates for its children and lifelong learners. Therefore, the Government continues to prioritise inclusive, accessible, and diversified education at all levels.

An allocation of \$18 million tālā has been provided for the One Government Grant to support 320 schools including Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as Colleges throughout the country.

To ensure that no learner is left behind, Government's financial assistance for inclusive education of \$100,000 tālā each, will be provided to Aoga Fia Malamalama and Loto Taumafai school.

To strengthen skills development and workforce readiness, a further \$1.5 million tālā has been allocated to Post School Education and Training (PSET) providers. This funding will support vocational and technical education pathways aligned with the Samoa Qualifications Framework and responsive to the evolving needs of the economy and labour market.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Government is continuing its investment in workforce development and higher education opportunities for our people. Therefore, the Government Scholarship Scheme will receive an increased allocation of \$13 million tālā for local and overseas undergraduate scholarships, including scholarship opportunities for the Public Service.

In addition, grants for professional bodies now total \$200,000 tālā, while the Apprenticeship Scheme has been allocated \$250,000 tālā, and support for Workers' Associations totals \$80,000 tālā, supplemented by capacity development assistance from our development partners.

These initiatives reflect Government's on-going efforts to equipping our people with the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to support national development and build a stronger and more resilient Samoa.

#### **4. Strengthening Governance, Justice and Public Sector Integrity**

Strong institutions and an effective public service are essential to achieving sustainable national development. In this regard, the 2026/27 Budget continues to finance efforts in enhancing governance systems, public sector performance, accountability, and access to justice for all Samoans.

To support improved public sector leadership and effective service delivery, Government will implement workforce enhancement strategies under the approved National Workforce Plan 2025/26 - 2039/40, aim at strengthening capacity, professionalism, leadership development, and institutional performance across the workforce.

This Budget also provides for the establishment of three new institutions, including the Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources, the District Development Authority, and the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs.

Through these reforms, Government seeks to improve coordination and ensure that services are delivered more effectively to the people.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Integrity and accountability remain central to good governance. Cabinet has approved the Drug Testing Procedural Guide 2025 for the public service, demonstrating responsibility and commitment to professional standards. This initiative will gradually be extended across the wider public service to strengthen discipline, professionalism, and public confidence.

In addition, under the guidance of the Public Service Commission, Government will advance implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Policy and Strategy to reinforce ethical conduct throughout the public sector.

Government will also improve access to justice for all Samoans through expanding the scope of the legal aid policy and increasing the budget provision for legal aid to \$600,000 tālā.

Furthermore, an allocation of \$4 million tālā has been provided for the initial phase of the construction of the courthouse and judges residence in Savaii. This important investment will improve access to court services for Savaii residents, allow court sittings to occur more regularly,

reduce the need for travel to Upolu for legal proceedings, thus supporting a more equitable, accessible and efficient justice system.

Through these measures, Government renews its efforts in upholding integrity and accountability, and improving the delivery public services including access to justice throughout Samoa.

## **5. Supporting Private Sector Growth and Economic Diversification**

**Mr. Speaker,**

A strong and diversified private sector is essential for economic growth, job creation, and long-term resilience. Supporting local businesses, encouraging entrepreneurship, and expanding opportunities in key sectors such as commerce (including tourism) and agriculture remain important priorities under the 2026/27 Budget.

To support micro businesses, Government has increased the Entrepreneurship Facility administered by the Samoa Business Hub from \$3 million tālā to \$5 million tālā.

Similarly, to cater for small to medium sized enterprises, the Concessional Lending Facility administered by the Development Bank of Samoa will be scaled up from \$10 million tālā to \$15 million tālā.

In addition, the Exporter Development Facility administered by the Development Bank of Samoa will be increased from \$3 million tālā to \$5 million tālā.

Through these targeted initiatives for access to affordable finance, Government aims to create an environment where businesses can grow, innovate, and contribute more strongly to Samoa's economic development.

**Mr. Speaker,**

To further support the private sector in agricultural development, an allocation of \$1 million tālā has been provided for the construction of a warehouse under the Ministry of Agriculture's budget for safe storage and protection of heavy machinery and equipment from climate-related damage, helping extend the lifespan and reliability of such agricultural assets.

## **6. Promoting Culture, Sports and National Identity**

**Mr. Speaker,**

The 2026/27 fiscal year presents an important opportunity for Samoa to further strengthen its leadership role within the region while showcasing our culture, identity, and renowned hospitality through the hosting of several regional and international meetings.

To support these international engagements, a total allocation of \$1,018,100 tālā has been provided for the hosting of the:

1. Atoa o Samoa Meeting,
2. The University of the South Pacific Council Meeting,
3. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Scientific Committee Meeting,
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Ministerial Youth Meeting, and the
5. Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre Regional Workshop.

These events will generate wider economic benefits for local businesses, tourism operators, and communities throughout the country.

In addition to these meetings, Government will reinforce its support of two key events that promote Samoa's rich cultural heritage and local talents as part of its tourism focus, with a \$2.5 million talā allocation for the 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebrations in June 2027 and \$200,000 talā for the Teuila Festival in September 2026.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The growing role of sports not only as a platform for youth development, health wellness and national pride, but as an important economic opportunity for Samoa, has been highlighted with the establishment of the Ministry of Sports and Recreation as well as being acknowledged as a new sector of the economy in the next Pathway for the Development of Samoa.

The increasing social pressures affecting young people, including unemployment, substance abuse, violence, and social disconnection, has made investment in youth a national priority.

To advance support of this sector and maximise its social and economic benefits, the Government has retained the Sports Development Fund at \$6 million tālā for the upcoming financial year. This investment will fund athlete development, sports programmes, community competitions, international participation, and the hosting of sporting events in Samoa, thus advancing Samoa's presence on the global stage.

## V. BUDGET AGGREGATES

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members,

I would now like to highlight the key components of the 2026/2027 Budget:

|                                       |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                       |                  | \$ 1,284,710,935 |
| Ordinary Receipts                     | \$ 1,008,034,219 |                  |
| External Grants                       | \$ 276,676,715   |                  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                    |                  | \$ 1,500,580,288 |
| Statutory Payments                    | \$ 161,885,790   |                  |
| Expenditure Payments                  | \$ 1,090,053,981 |                  |
| Unforeseen Expenditures               | \$ 32,701,619    |                  |
| Development Expenditures              | \$ 215,938,897   |                  |
| <b><u>Cash (Deficits)/Surplus</u></b> |                  | -\$ 215,869,354  |
| Financed by:                          |                  |                  |
| Soft Term Financing                   | \$ 41,493,776    |                  |
| General Budget Support                | \$ 59,980,791    |                  |
| <b>Movement in Cash Balances</b>      |                  | -\$ 114,394,787  |

The FY2026/2027 Main Estimates project a cash deficit of approximately \$215.9 million tālā, representing 3.1 percent of GDP in accordance with the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) framework.

## **VI. REVENUE MEASURES**

**Mr. Speaker,**

This Budget reflects the Government's pledge to fiscal stability and fairness by maintaining the current VAGST and Income Tax rates, ensuring that additional pressure is not placed on households and businesses during this period of global uncertainty.

The Government's focus remains on scaling up domestic revenue collection through improved compliance and enforcement measures led by the Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of Customs. These efforts are aimed at ensuring all taxpayers meet their obligations fairly, while protecting Government revenues needed to support essential services and national development priorities.

For FY2026/27, taxation revenue is projected to increase by 17 percent, supported in part by a proposed 3 percent increase in tobacco excise duties, that will be effective from 1 January 2027. Non-tax revenue is also expected to increase by 4 percent during the financial year.

## **VII. EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES**

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,**

The aggregated total expenditures for the fiscal year 2026/27 are estimated at \$1.5 billion tālā. This figure includes development programs co-funded by development partners, reflecting a 21 percent increase over the previous year's estimates.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I will now outline the details of the estimates for each Agency for Financial Year 2026/27:

1. **Ministry of Agriculture - \$20,737,160**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$12,777,911
  - Third Party Outputs - \$5,373,081
    - This includes the Government Grant to the **Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa** - \$4,983,081;
    - \$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 **Samoa Women's Association of Growers (SWAG)**.
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,586,168
2. **Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour - \$22,341,650**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$6,073,634
  - Third Party Outputs- \$13,740,122
    - This includes the Government Grant to the **Samoa Tourism Authority** - \$12,500,122
    - \$450,000 to the **Samoa Chamber of Commerce**
    - \$550,000 for the **Samoa Business Hub**
    - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters**;
    - \$100,000 for the **Samoa Hotel and Hospitality Association**;
    - \$20,000 for the **Businesses of Salafai Association**;
    - \$20,000 for the **Samoa Mamanu Design and Manufacturers Incorporated**.
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,527,894
3. **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology - \$11,044,463**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$4,998,537;
  - Third Party Outputs - \$3,003,518 which is the Government Grant to the **Office of the Regulator**
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,042,408.

4. **Ministry of Education and Culture - \$135,407,309**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$87,330,883;
  - Third Party Outputs - \$41,374,502;
    - **National University of Samoa - \$17,200,000;**
    - **Samoa Qualifications Authority - \$4,474,502;**
    - **\$18,000,000 for the One Government School Grant;**
    - **\$100,000 for Loto Taumafai;**
    - **\$100,000 for Aoga Fia Malamalama;**
    - **1,500,000 for PSET Providers.**
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$6,701,924
    - **\$1,500,000 for the Teachers Higher Education Scheme**
  
5. **Ministry of Sports and Recreation - \$11,210,482**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - 4,438,693;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$6,771,789
    - **\$6,000,000 for the Sports Development Fund**
  
6. **Ministry of Finance - \$276,257,687**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$21,572,312;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$254,685,375
    - **\$100,000,000 for the Fuel Supply Crisis Response;**
    - **\$54,084,867 for the Senior Citizens Pension and Disability Benefit Schemes;**
    - **\$20,000,000 for Child Wellbeing Benefit Scheme;**
    - **\$10,000,000 for MSME Concessional Lending Facilities - Samoa Business Hub & Development Bank of Samoa;**
    - **\$6,000,000 for Housing Concessional Lending - Samoa Housing Corporation;**
    - **\$15,000,000 for Concessional Lending Facility for Manufacturing, Commercial Agriculture and Tourism - Development Bank of Samoa;**
    - **\$200,000 for the Institute of Directors.**

**7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - \$33,924,278**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$29,557,595;
- Third Party Outputs - \$1,484,846 which is the Government Grant to the **Samoa Export Authority**
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$2,881,837.

**8. Ministry of Health - \$183,429,092**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$137,362,457;
- Third Party Outputs - \$12,154,897;
  - This includes Government Grant to the **Samoa National Kidney Foundation** - \$11,704,897;
  - \$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(METI)**;
  - \$50,000 for the **Samoa Family Health Association**
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$33,911,738
  - \$12,000,000 for the **Overseas Medical Treatment Scheme**

**9. Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration - \$23,535,929**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$16,911,434;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$6,624,495
  - \$4,000,000 for **first phase of Savaii Court House construction**
  - \$600,000 for **Legal Aid**

**10. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - \$22,506,552**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$13,928,258;
- Third Party Outputs - \$200,000
  - \$50,000 is for the **Samoa Tokelau Association of Recyclers**;
  - \$50,000 is for the **Samoa Recycling Waste Management Association**;
  - \$100,000 for the **Independent Water Scheme Association**.
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$8,378,294

- 11. Ministry of Lands and Survey - \$10,658,457**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$6,816,484;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,841,973
- 12. Ministry of Police, Prisons and Corrections - \$65,408,762**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$44,398,899;
  - Third Party Outputs - \$12,986,624 which is the Government Grant to the **Fire and Emergency Services Authority**
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$8,023,239.
- 13. Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$14,887,920**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$8,251,627;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$6,636,293
    - \$2,500,000 for the **Independence Celebration**
    - \$925,908 for **Government Printing Services**
- 14. Ministry of Customs - \$10,684,210**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$9,138,935;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,545,275
- 15. Ministry for Revenue - \$10,233,882**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$6,543,382;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,690,500.
- 16. Ministry of Family and Social Affairs - \$122,902,775**
  - Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$5,960,007;
  - Third Party Outputs - \$113,602,624;
    - \$112,582,624 for the **Samoa District Development Authority**;
    - \$300,000 for **SUNGO**;
    - \$200,000 for the **Samoa Victim Support Group**;
    - \$100,000 for **Mapuifagalele**;
    - \$100,000 for **Mapuipulotu**;
    - \$100,000 for **SENESE**;
    - \$20,000 for **Samoa Council of Churches**;

- \$20,000 for Nuanua o le Alofa;
- \$20,000 for Salvation Army;
- \$20,000 for Blind Association;
- \$20,000 for Samoa Deaf Association;
- \$20,000 for Samoa Faafafine Association;
- \$20,000 for Samoa Rejuvenate Youth Group;
- \$20,000 for Samoa Association of Sign Language and Interpreters;
- \$20,000 for Soul Talk;
- \$20,000 for Tofasinasina;
- \$20,000 for Youth for Christ;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,343,144
  - \$2,000,000 for the Shelter Financing

**17. Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure - \$37,004,198**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$7,993,121;
- Third Party Outputs - \$28,000,007; this includes;
  - Government Grant to the Land Transport Authority - \$17,000,007;
  - \$5,000,000 for Community Service Obligations by the Samoa Water Authority
  - \$5,000,000 for Community Service Obligations by the Electric Power Corporation
  - \$1,000,000 for the Samoa Airport Authority's Safety and Security Equipment;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,011,070.
  - \$200,000 for the River Channelisation Works

**18. Ministry for Public Enterprises - \$11,204,847**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$2,413,816;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$8,791,031.

**19. Office of the Attorney General - \$6,905,338**

- Outputs provided by the Office - \$6,073,637;
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$831,701.

- 20. Office of the Controller and Auditor General - \$4,445,775**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$3,789,373;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$656,402.
- 21. Office of the Electoral Commission - \$3,669,119**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$3,431,369;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$237,750.
- 22. Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly - \$10,221,370**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$8,682,536;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$1,538,834.
- 23. Office of the Ombudsman - \$1,878,578**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$1,605,232;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$273,346.
- 24. Public Service Commission - \$20,005,765**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$5,431,763;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$14,574,002
    - \$13,000,000 for the **Government Scholarship Scheme**
    - \$200,000 for **Professional Bodies**
- 25. Samoa Bureau of Statistics - \$9,275,008**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$5,529,328;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$3,745,680.
    - \$2,500,000 for the **Population Census**;
    - \$200,000 for the **National Identification Mass Registration Plan**.
- 26. Law Reform Commission - \$1,575,522**
- Outputs provided by the Office - \$1,265,035;
  - Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$310,487.

**27. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - \$8,694,853**

- Outputs provided by the Ministry - \$3,225,521;
  - Third Party Outputs - \$20,000 for the Tautai Samoa Association
- Transactions on Behalf of the State - \$5,449,332

**VIII. UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES**

**Mr. Speaker,**

Total Estimated of \$32.7 million tālā, which is 3 percent of expenditure program, is reserved for unforeseen needs.

**IX. DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES**

**Mr. Speaker,**

We anticipate an increase of total development expenditures to \$215.9 million tālā in support of sector initiatives that are aligned with our national priorities.

This increase reflects new support for the energy sector given the crisis and the renewed focus on renewable energy transition. It also reflects commencement and acceleration of key development projects supported by development partners in various sectors including the;

- Pacific Region Preparedness, Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) project,
- Samoa Finance Sector Resilient and Development Project;
- Digitally Connected and Resilient Samoa Project;
- Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project;
- Samoa Aviation and Roads Investment Project;
- Enhancing Safety, Security & Sustainability of the Apia Ports Project; and the
- Fiscal and Investment Resilience Strengthening Program

In addition, the pipeline include the following;

- Energy - Samoa Grid Security and Resilience Enhancement (GridSECURE) Project
- Health - Health Sector Resilience & Wellness Program for new hospital in Savaii and national laboratory

- Education and Tourism program interim support to design new programs;
- Transport and Infrastructure for Resilient Road Network Project
- Commerce and Manufacturing - Scaling Access to Finance for Entrepreneurial Resilience (SAFER) Project; and the
- Increased in Climate finance assistance.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Grants amounting to \$26 million tālā will provide direct sector budget support for health, education and agriculture and fisheries, reflecting alignment of development partners' support to Government's commitment to improved social sector outcomes and a sustainable economy for Samoa.

Total Aid in-kind is projected at \$61.0 million tālā. 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,**

Samoa's strong fiscal performance over the last few years has resulted in a change in the debt distress rating from high risk to moderate risk in 2024. This achievement shows prudent fiscal management and disciplined expenditure control, effective debt management strategy and successful implementation of public finance management reforms. Whereas prior to 2025, Samoa's external financing from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank were provided on a 100% grant basis, our sound fiscal position as highlighted above, now allows us to access resources on a 50 percent grant and 50 percent concessional loan basis.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The shift reflects the confidence of our partners in Samoa's ability to manage debt responsibly and provides Samoa new opportunities and greater flexibility to fund national development projects. For the 2026/27 Budget, a total of \$41.5m tālā in soft term loans forms part of the budget deficit financing.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The Government will continue to engage in open and constructive dialogues with development partners to secure new assistance that will support and complement our national priorities, reinforce trust in our national systems and enhance mutual accountability and transparency in the delivery of the development cooperation agenda.

## **X. CONCLUSION**

**Mr. Speaker,**

The focus remains on ensuring that public resources are used effectively and that the benefits of development are felt across the country. The true measure of this Budget will not be in the figures presented today, but in the results delivered for our people – in our villages, schools, hospitals, businesses, and communities.

Thus, every allocation in this Budget is for:

A grandmother raising grandchildren alone,

A mother silently carrying the weight of survival,

A father wondering how to stretch one pay to the next week,

A young person searching for hope, purpose, and opportunity, or

A child simply needing to feel safe, seen, and loved.

As highlighted earlier, these times of global uncertainties that impact on national developments and families require us to work together to ***Accelerate Inclusive Growth and Access***.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I now commend the 2026/27 Main Estimates to the House for deliberation.

May God continue to bless Samoa and Happy 64<sup>th</sup> Independence.

**Soifua ma ia Manuia.**