



OMBUDSMAN SPEECH

Apia, 10 December 2020 – *Human Rights Day 2020 - Theme: Recover better –stand up for human rights*

Talofa and greetings

- Rev. Tau Toleafoa
- His Excellency Mr Genichi Terasawa –Ambassador of Japan to Samoa
- Heads of organizations –Electoral Office, Digicel, Ministry Public Enterprise, Frankies Supermarket, SPPD housed in the SNPF House
- Ladies and gentlemen

O le aso 10 Tesema I tausaga taitasi ua faailogaina e le lalolagi atoa, o le Human Rights Day; poo le aso faapitoa o aia, poo tulaga ua tatau ma talafeagai mo tagata soifua. E faamanatu i lea aso le taliaina e le lalolagi o le Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ua faamaopoopoina I totonu o lea tautinoga faa-va-o-Malo sa’olotoga ma tulaga talafeagai mo le soifua saogalemu o tagata uma taitoatasi. E atoa ai foi i le aso le 16 o aso, sa faamamafa ai i ni taumafaiga ma gaoioiga le tetee atu i sauaga e afaina ai tina ma tamaita’i.

On the 10th of December every year, Samoa as a nation stands with the world to celebrate Human Rights Day. It remembers the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document in modern human history; a document that declares freedoms and rights we are entitled to enjoy as human beings. 10 December also ends an annual 16 Day Activism Campaign to end violence against women and girls.

O le ALAGA autu, po’o le THEME ole HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2020, o le–RECOVER BETTER –STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS....pe fa’asamoaina –A’O TOE TIMATA LE UPEGA –FA’ATAUA SAOLOTOGA FAAVAE a lou TAGATA SOIFUA ma le TAGATA SOIFUA o le isi.

2020 has been a challenging year not only for us here in Samoa but for the whole world. Communities have been faced with an unprecedented crisis which they never experienced before.

O le fa'amai o le Koviti ua a'afia ai le 213 atunuu o le lalogi/ ma ua atagia ai le loloto naua, ma le faateteleina atili/ o le nofo mativa ma le le tagolima o ni tagata se to'atele /ona o faiga le tutusa ma le fa'ailoga tagata ma isi lava tulaga ua a'afia ai/ ma ua le tino mai ai i se tulaga manuia/ saolotoga faavae ua talafeagai ona soifua ai tagata soifua na faia e le Atua.

The pandemic with the pain and disruption it has wrought in people's lives urges us to ***look soberly at how and where we are in our journey forward. COVID-19 drives home to us the fact of our great vulnerability as a small island State. We must revive and strengthen elements and aspects within our reach that make us a more tolerant and resilient community.***

Accordingly as we endeavor to endure and to recover eventually from Covid 19, it is important to reaffirm our commitment to human rights in the life of our society. Human Rights values are not strange to us. They are reflected in our fa'asamoa and the principles we espouse as Christians. They are values people everywhere need to embrace to make a better world.

Human Rights remind us of simple values; the importance of being kind, having mutual respect for one another, equality and non-discrimination.---E taua i le soifuaga o le Samoa le fa'aaloalo, le alofa, le fesoasoani o le tasi i le tasi/ ma le lē fa'ailoga tagata. O agatausili taua nei e mafia ona susulu mai i o tatou uiga ma a tatou galuega fa'atino, ao tatou alo atu e faafetaiai le Koviti 19 atoa ma le toe fausiaina o lo tatou lumanai i ona tua atu.

Human Rights Day calls upon us all to fashion for ourselves and our communities a better recovery from COVID 19 by engaging with one another as genuine champions of human rights in our society. E aoga tele lo tatou taumafai faatasi ina ia malamalama o tatou tagata i aia tatau po'o saolotoga fa'avae o tagata soifua. Ae o le sini taua lava o lo tatou faatinoina lea o Human Rights e ala i lo tatou amanaia lelei o aia tatau a o tatou uso-a-tagata i lo tatou faafeagai ai; poo so tatou fesoasoani foi i taumafaiga e ausiaina ai Human Rights o nisi o i latou o loo soifua i ni tulaga faigata.

Tau ina ia tatou maua se Human Rights Day fiefia. Ia FA'ATAUAINA atili ou AIA TATAU ae maise lava foi lou FAATAUAINA o AIA TATAU a le isi TAGATA SOIFUA.

I wish the Imperial Embassy of Japan and all our cooperating partners in this event from our PLAZA community here every success in their important endeavors. And I wish everyone here an enjoyable

Human Rights Day. I am confident that if we work together and place human rights considerations at the forefront of our recovery efforts we will be able to close gaps and build a post Covid 19 world that is better, more resilient, just, and sustainable.

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Soifua ma ia manuia.