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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Office of the Ombudsman Celebrated Ombudsman Day 2026**

#### **Lava Hotel, Apia, Samoa – 8 October 2026**

The Office of the Ombudsman Samoa commemorated Ombudsman Day 2026 on Thursday, 8 October, under the theme "The Ombudsman as an Office of Options."

The event brought together representatives from government, civil society, diplomatic missions, the Ombudsman's Advisory Council, stakeholders and staff to recognise the important role of the Ombudsman institution in promoting good governance, accountability, fairness and the protection of human rights in Samoa.

The programme included a formal welcome and a faigalotu led by Reverend Siaosi Salesulu, a member of the Ombudsman's Advisory Council.

The Office was honoured to have Hon. Auapa'au Mulipola Aloitafua, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, deliver the keynote address. Opening remarks were also provided by the Honorary Consul of Sweden in Samoa, Su'a Hellene Wallwork, highlighting Sweden's historical connection to the Ombudsman concept, which originated in Sweden in 1713.

A key feature of the celebration was the release of a new video presentation, "The Samoa Ombudsman Office: Past, Present & Future." The video provided an overview of the development of the Ombudsman institution in Samoa, its current role and its vision for the future.

The programme also included the official launch of the Office's new slogan and promotional merchandise, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Ombudsman Afioga Vui Clarence Nelson.

Ombudsman Day provided an opportunity to highlight the Office's commitment to ensuring good governance and to ensuring that people in Samoa have access to an independent institution that provides options, advice, assistance and avenues for addressing concerns relating to public administration and human rights.

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