

Please address all correspondence
To the Chief Executive Officer

In reply, please quote the file reference



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

File ref:



2 July 2024

Address and Remarks for the Samoa - ADB Grant Signing Agreement
Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project

(Total US\$111.24million (ADB-US\$99.7m, Irish Trust Fund-US\$0.4m, GoS-US\$11.12m), 2024-2031)

- Mr Aaron Batten, Regional Director of the ADB, Pacific Subregional Office
- Mrs Tuala Maria Melei Tagiilima - head of Unit, Samoa Pacific ADB Office and staff

Talofa Lava and Greetings again,

It is always a pleasure to welcome you back to our shores Mr. Batten, and meet your team here in Apia.

Today we have now reached another milestone of our partnership and shared commitments, after a long and arduous process and preparation to develop this project since 2017. Samoa is blessed and I give praise and thank to our Heavenly Father for the endless blessings for Samoa and our partners.

Therefore, it is my privilege as well to be here today representing the Government and the people of Samoa on this grant agreement signing for the **“Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project”**.

I am also very pleased that this Grant Agreement is the first agreement to be signed in this office which we opened in February this year, dedicated for ADB’s operations and services in Samoa; and I look forward to more agreement signing ceremonies in this office in the near future.

Mr. Batten, this \$100million dollars grant investment project is a first for Samoa, and the signing today and this project is also fitting for both the Government of Samoa and the ADB to deliver on our mandates to strengthen resilience of our people and ADB’s as the “climate bank for the region”.

The Government of Samoa is pleased to partner with ADB with funding support from the Ireland Trust Fund for Building Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States to support Samoa’s renewable energy, climate adaptation and flood control goals through this project.

Re-emphasising the Government's commitment to five key strategic outcomes to support the theme of its development plan, the Pathway for the Development of Samoa, ***“Empowering communities, building resilience, and inspiring growth”***; ***and directly relevant to the*** project is the Key Strategic Outcome of “Secured Environment and Climate Change”.

In addition, the Parliament just last week - approved the National Budget for the new Financial Year 2024/2025 under the theme ***“Sustaining Growth Pathways for the Social, Economic and Climate Resilience of our Common Wealth”***

Samoa and the Pacific also delivered, a strong message during the Annual Meeting in Tbilisi Georgia this year, with climate financing being one of the key thematic areas discussed and supported. Our hope, that this addition to our climate resilience efforts will be the first of this magnitude, related objectives, value and impact to continue and across all sectors of the economy.

The primary objective to enhance resilience to increasingly intense cyclones by mitigating Apia City flooding associated with extreme rainfall events to the upstream catchment of the eastern and eastern – central branches of the Vaisigano River. In addition, the project will improve the stability of the water supply, as well as increased renewable energy sources generated by installing hydropower plant. This transformational project with directly benefit the population in the project areas.

Mr. Batten, on behalf of the people of Samoa, I would like to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the ADB's continuous support to Samoa. I would also like to recognise and acknowledge Samoa and ADB's relationship and partnership that has contributed substantially to the development of Samoa, improving livelihood of the people especially our vulnerable people.

I also wish to acknowledge the dedication and efforts by both the ADB team and the Samoa team, especially the project team and the ADB Samoa Office, and the key Government agencies in their collaboration to ensure this project reached this milestone – the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI), the Electric Power Corporation (EPC), the Samoa Water Authority (SWA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and our Executing Agency – Ministry of Finance (MOF). Malo galulue ma le tautua.

Mr. Batten, the Government looks forward to the ongoing engagement and partnership with the Bank in supporting priorities and development for Samoa.

Faafetai tele lava and Thank you - Soifua