



CONFERENCE DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAMOA: THE ROLE OF ELECTIONS

The Samoa Office of the Electoral Commissioner in collaboration with the Samoa National Development Forum is hosting a National Conference on the theme of "Democracy and Development in Samoa: The Role of Elections". The Conference will be held on the 22 – 25 May 2017 at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel's Conference Room in Apia from 9.00am. The Conference will include presentations of research findings and comparative perspectives as well as discussions about topical issues relating to the above theme. These include:

- ✓ Evolution and state of play of democracy and development in Samoa and a macro construct of what development could mean in Samoa's context?
- ✓ Samoa electoral system: Historical patterns, challenges, learnings and comparative perspectives to Samoa electoral systems.
- ✓ Samoa electoral system: Discussions of Issues, challenges and Changes based on the following:
 - o Electoral Boundaries in Samoa
 - o Commission of Inquiry on Elections
 - o Samoa Elections Monitoring and Observation Survey
 - o Women and Politics Participation: The 2016 Election in Samoa
- ✓ What is needed to change, retain and why, and how do we make the required changes - in village versus national governance and development, building entrepreneurship and improving youth, disability and women's voice in Samoa's democracy and development.
- ✓ National Voters Day.

The conference aimed at raising public awareness and robust dialogue about Samoa's development issues and challenges. These will inform ongoing and further development work and policy changes.

The conference is hosted by the Samoa National Leadership Development Forum, a coalition consisting of the Office of the Electoral Commissioner, National University of Samoa, Samoa National Youth Council, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Leadership Samoa, Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Australian Aid Pacific Leadership Program.

For further information or if you are interested to attend the conference, please contact Vitilevu Simati, via email: v.simati@oec.gov.ws and phone 24607 OR Potoae Roberts-Aiafi, via email: potoae.aiafi@plp.org.fj and phone 7756622.

Hon. Fiamé Naomi Mataafa
Chairman, Samoa National Leadership Development Forum /
Advisory Council Member, Pacific Leadership Program