



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

PRESS RELEASE **VIRTUAL PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS**

Since the closure of Samoa's international borders in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the presentation of credentials for non-resident Heads of Mission accredited to Samoa was placed on hold until proper technical means were available to conduct virtual credentialing or until borders reopened.

On 11 May 2022, four (4) non-resident Ambassadors presented their credentials virtually to the Head of State, Afioga Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II. The Ambassadors presented in chronological order of when agrément was granted by the Government of Samoa as follows:

- i. H.E. Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Apostolic Nuncio of the Nunciature of the Holy See to the Independent State of Samoa
- ii. H.E. Mr. Grzegorz Kowal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Poland to the Independent State of Samoa
- iii. H.E. Ms. Fatima Öm r Ünsay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to the Independent State of Samoa
- iv. H.E. Dr Zsolt Gábor Hetesy, Ambassador- Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to the Independent State of Samoa

The Head of State accepted the original Letters of Credence accrediting the above listed as Ambassadors to Samoa with residence in Wellington, New Zealand and thanked them for presenting the Letters of Recall for their predecessors. The Ambassadors presented short remarks to the Head of State on their respective countries' bilateral relations with Samoa and assured to further strengthened the bilateral ties during their tenure as Ambassadors to Samoa. The Head of State reciprocated the sentiments and expressed his confidence in them to undoubtedly continue to enhance existing relations with Samoa and wished them well on their tenure as Ambassadors of their respective countries to Samoa.

The virtual credentialing can be viewed on the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L3gTAoze-AwwLu8xEXpoSjWGWiqKXBHH?usp=sharing>