



Le Iunivesite Aoao o Samoa
The National University of Samoa

PRESS RELEASE

Aotearoa N.Z Deputy Prime Minister visits NUS

Apia, Samoa – 6th June, 2023.

The National University of Samoa hosted the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand – Honourable Carmel Sepuloni for the first time at its Le Papaigalagala campus on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Hon. Sepuloni was accompanied by His Excellency - Dr Trevor Matheson, the NZ High Commissioner to Samoa together with a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Hon. Sepuloni's brief visit to NUS began with a brief tour of the NUS Exhibition room, viewing enlarged photographs of the Vaimea Prison and selected student paintings from the NUS art gallery collection as well as Ernesto Coter's collection. This was followed by a formal welcome at the Niule'a Seminar Room and a brief presentation on the Vaimea Prison Preservation Project. The project, led by the Centre of Samoan Studies (CSS) is funded by the New Zealand High Commission Office in Apia; aims to document, and preserve the historical value of the Vaimea Prison, a potential cultural heritage site built during the German colonial era and was continuously used by the NZ Administration in Samoa.

Our NUS Vice Chancellor - Associate Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa, expressed her gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister for the continuing support to the University projects and highlighted that her visit was a significant milestone that reflects the NZ Government's commitment to Samoa's development through education, health, and cultural heritage.

Dionne Fonoti from the Centre of Samoan Studies' Project Team delivered a brief presentation on what the Vaimea Prison Documentation and Preservation project was about and what the goals and outcome will be.

Honourable Sepuloni in her remarks congratulated the Vice-Chancellor – Associate Professor Tuifuisa'a for being the first female VC for the National University of Samoa. She also commended the progress of the newly developed Bachelor of Health Science Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to address the shortage of health professionals in the country. Most importantly she acknowledged the need for preserving Samoa's Cultural



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Heritage including the unique Vaimea Prison building for its role in both the Mau a Pule and Mau o Samoa movement during Samoa's struggle for Independence.

Hon. Sepuloni gifted the University with two books: one on Modern Maori Cuisine and one entitled Mauri Ora by Peter Alsop and by Monique Fiso. To reciprocate, Associate Professor Tuifuisa'a gifted a painting by one of our talented student teachers to mark her visit and wished her well.



Pictorial: NZ Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) – Hon. Carmel Sepuloni & NUS Vice Chancellor – Associate Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa



Group Photo

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