



The winners of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago's 2017 summer cricket games held last week at Fagaalu Park — the east side zone (Sone Falelima i Sasa'e — who won after chasing down the 19 points scored by the west side team.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

CDC Report: Samoans just aren't as healthy as other Pac Islanders 2

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Summer Basketball League winding down B1

Taoto i le fa'amasinoga le talosaga a Rev. Tofaeono B9

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# samoa news

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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

\$1.00

## Assessment of LBJ services will be discussed today in DC

DELEGATION OF LOCAL WITNESSES SET TO TESTIFY

by Sabrina Sinapati  
Special to Samoa News

An oversight hearing on "Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at LBJ in American Samoa" will take place today in the nation's capital.

Invited witnesses already in Washington DC to answer inquiries are: Thomas Bussanich Director of the Budget Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; Taufete'e John Fau-muina CEO of Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center; Dr. Reese Tuato'o LBJ's Chief of Internal Medicine; Sandra King-Young, Medicaid Director for the American Samoa Medicaid Agency; and Motusa Tuileama Nua, Director of the AS Department of Health.

The oversight hearing, according to the hearing memo issued by Doug LaMalfa, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, is to "evaluate and discuss the current state of the healthcare facility and the quality of the treatment accessible to American Samoans."

The hearing which will be streamed live at 10a.m. today on: <<https://naturalresources.house.gov>>

### POLICY OVERVIEW

LBJ Medical Center is the only public health facility located in American Samoa and it receives a significant portion (roughly 9%) of its revenue through the DOI's Office of Insular Affairs budget appropriation, which is approximately \$7,900,000 annually.

According to the memo, the LBJ Hospital "has struggled in recent years with maintaining infrastructure needs of the facility and providing an adequate level of healthcare services for its patients."

The memo notes that LBJ is the only hospital serving American Samoa and it provides medical care for approximately 55,000 residents of the territory, and also serves the neighboring islands of Anunu, the Manu'a Islands, Rose Atoll, and Swains Island.

The facility is funded primarily through grants provided by the USDOJ, Office of Insular Affairs.

Staffing at the hospital has traditionally been "very challenging" and currently, there are only 65 active medical staff on hand to provide care for patients in various areas including internal medicine, pediatrics nephrology, radiology, and ophthalmology, to name a few.

"Conditions at the hospital are dire due to lack of adequate funding and a chronic backlog of infrastructure maintenance," said the memo, adding that "the territory has always been challenged with providing basic needs and services in healthcare, more so than the other territories."

Congress enacted legislation in 1996, directing a portion of mandatory Covenant Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds to be used for Critical infrastructure in American Samoa and the development of a multi-year capital improvement plan, according to the memo, which also states that in FY 2018, OIA awarded approximately \$9.5 million in CIP grants to ASG for projects des-

(Continued on page 11)

## Samoa-born Palagi boy returns home after nearly 5 decades

by Blue Chen-Fruean  
Samoa News Correspondent

For his 49th birthday, Brian Cruz Conboy knew exactly where he wanted to celebrate. On a tiny island in the South Pacific where he was born — American Samoa.

Brian, a Palagi man whose parents relocated to the territory back in the 1960s, returned home to Long Beach, CA last Friday after visiting his birthplace, accompanied by his brother Mike.

It had been almost five decades since Brian last felt the warm air of the island. His story begins back in 1968, when his parents moved half way across the world after his father Roy was hired on contract to work as a school principal at Nua Elementary School (now known as Alataua Lua Elementary School).

Roy packed up his wife Josephine and their kids, and landed in the territory in 1966. Two years later on July 10,

1968, Brian was born at the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu. He was only 17 days old when his family left American Samoa and he never returned — until two weeks ago. His brother Mike graduated from Fia Iloa High School (which was closed and classes combined into Samoana High School) in 1968 — the same year they moved back to the states, while brother Roy was in the 11th grade (at the same school) and sister Teresa was attending Fia Iloa Elementary School.

"My brother [Mike] said he misses the people and his friends the most from the island," Brian said via email to Samoa News yesterday. "He said he also misses the Samoan life."

In California, Brian works for the Long Beach Unified School District at John Muir Academy, where he is a special education teacher.

According to Brian, when his family arrived in American Samoa, his brother Mark was

only four years old and they lived in government housing for about three months. Afterwards, they lived at the school in Nua (back then, they had living quarters), and later relocated to Leone where Brian says he was baptized.

His 'bond' to the island, he said, was felt in the 1990s when he went to get a passport and was told by the US government that he needed a new birth certificate and that he was an "American National." "So, from that time on, I felt more of a bond to the island," Brian said. "I have always wanted to come back because internally (most people over here don't seem to understand this) American Samoa feels like home to me even though I was only 17 days when we left the island."

He continued, "My parents took a good amount of pictures of their life in American Samoa and we would look over these pictures as a family. This place

(Continued on page 5)



On July 10, 1968, Brian Cruz Conboy was born at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. Brian is being held by his mother Josephine who moved to the territory with her husband Roy and their children after Roy received a contract job to work as principal for Nua Elementary School in 1966. Brian returned to his birthplace two weeks ago, 49 years after he left. See story for full details.

[photo: courtesy]





**USDA Farm Service Agency**

**American Samoa Field Office**

Pago Plaza, Suite 213

PO Box 3661

Pago Pago, AS 96799

**PUBLIC JOB POSTING**

Position Title:	Loss Adjuster	Posting Date:	Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Position Type:	Independent Contractor	Deadline:	Tuesday, August 8, 2017
Expected Hrs:	7 - 15 hrs per month	Pay Range:	\$10.00/hr for orientation, \$18.00/hr following successful training certification
Minimum Requirements	1. Must be a US Citizen or US National 2. Must have significant math skills. 3. Have some agriculture background. 4. Own your own vehicle. Will be reimbursed for mileage. 5. Must be able to pay fare to the Manu'a islands. Travel advancements will not be made however you will be reimbursed for travel fees.		
Job Description:	A Loss Adjuster is an independent contractor who will visit farms for the purpose of inspecting, measuring, and appraising agricultural crops. A Loss Adjuster will also ensure compliance with acreage and production reporting requirements. Training will be provided.		
Application packets are available at the USDA Farm Service Agency, American Samoa Field Office located at the Pago Plaza Building, Suite 213, 633-1031 ext 127 or 126. Completed applications must be submitted in person by close of business Tuesday, August 8, 2017.			
<p align="center"><b>USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</b></p>			

# CDC report: Compared to other Pac Islanders, Samoans just aren't as healthy

**RANKED HIGHEST IN DIABETES PREVALENCE, HYPERTENSION AND LOWER BACK PAIN**

*Fili Sagapolutele*

*Samoa News Correspondent*

Samoans living in the U.S. are less likely to have excellent or very good health compared to Guamanians or Chamorro persons and Native Hawaiians, according to some key findings in a health report released last Friday by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The 99-page report on the 'Health Conditions and Behaviors of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander persons in the United States' was based on data from interviews with 11,085 people in 3,212 families in 2014. It's the first national look at the health of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) as part of an effort to get better health data from these populations. The report is to provide a resource to service providers, policy makers, researchers and teachers, NHPI community members and leaders, and all others interested in the health of the total NHPI population. Among the results, summarized in the report, is that "Samoan adults were more likely than Native Hawaiian and Guamanian or Chamorro adults to have lower back pain and any physical difficulty, and they were less likely to have a healthy body weight."

Of further interest is that smoking among the NHPI community members was not significantly different in percentage among each other. This was also the case with NHPI community members that participated in leisure-time aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities.

**KEY FINDINGS**

According to the report, NHPI people in the United States were less likely to have excellent or very good health (61.4%) compared with the overall U.S. population (67.3%), but there were differences in health among NHPI detailed race groups.

For example, Guamanian or Chamorro persons were more likely to have excellent or very good health (66.7%) and Native Hawaiian persons (61.3%) — compared with Samoan persons (57.5%).

The report also states that the prevalence of some selected health conditions differed significantly between Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults and among detailed Pacific Islander populations.

**AMONG THE EXAMPLES:**

•Adults who had a healthy body weight: 12.7% among Samoan adults, which was lower than prevalence among

Native Hawaiian (27.3%), Guamanian or Chamorro (25.7%), and Other Pacific Islander (21.9%) adults;

•Adults with lower back pain: 37.0% among Samoan adults, which was significantly higher than prevalence among Native Hawaiian (28.4%), Guamanian or Chamorro (23.6%), and Other Pacific Islander (24.2%) adults;

\*Adults with any physical difficulty: 26.7% among Samoan adults, which was significantly higher than prevalence among Native Hawaiian (15.2%), Guamanian or Chamorro (12.6%), and Other Pacific Islander (18.4%) adults;

The report cites other key findings (*Samoa News is focusing on Samoans for this story*):

\*The percentage of Samoan persons with excellent or very good health (57.5%) was lower than but not significantly different from the percentages among Other Pacific Islander (60.4%) and Native Hawaiian (61.3%) persons, and lower than the percentage among Guamanian or Chamorro persons (66.7%);

\*The percentage of Samoan adults who had a healthy body weight was 12.7%, which was lower than the percentages among Native Hawaiian (27.3%), Guamanian or Chamorro (25.7%), and Other Pacific Islander (21.9%) adults;

\*Among Samoan adults, the percentage who had hypertension was 38.1%, which was higher than the percentages among Native Hawaiian (27.4%) and Other Pacific Islander (23.9%) adults, and higher than but not significantly different from the percentage among Guamanian or Chamorro adults (30.9%);

\*The prevalence of diabetes was highest among Samoan adults (22.1%), followed by Other Pacific Islander adults (15.8%), Guamanian or Chamorro adults (14.8%), and Native Hawaiian adults (14.2%). On the national level, the percentage of all U.S. adults with diabetes is 8.5%;

\*The percentage of Samoan adults with lower back pain was 37.0%, which was higher than the percentages among Native Hawaiian (28.4%), Guamanian or Chamorro (23.6%), and Other Pacific Islander (24.2%) adults;

\*The percentage of Samoan adults who are currently smoking was 16.0%, which was lower than but not significantly different from the percentage among Native Hawaiian adults (18.2%), similar to the per-

(Continued on page 11)



The drummer for the east side zone of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago who kept the beat going during the exciting cricket games held at Fagaalu Park last week.

[photo: courtesy]



Some of the spectators who came out to enjoy the 2017 summer cricket games of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago that were held last week at the Fagaalu Park.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



# COURT REPORT...

*Translated by Samoa News staff*  
**FOURTEEN PEOPLE TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY OVER THE WEEKEND**

It was a busy weekend for police responding to calls for assistance.

Fourteen people were taken into custody and held at the Territorial Correctional Facility over the weekend. They appeared yesterday morning for their initial appearances before District Court Judge ProTem Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde.

The courtroom was crowded with family members.

Some of the arrestees were released on their own recognizance, while others had to post bail. Of the 14 taken into custody, 10 were charged with various misdemeanor charges including public peace disturbance, and causing trouble in a family. There were two suspects arrested for allegedly assaulting their wives and two others arrested for violating conditions of their probation.

The highest number of arrestees from one incident was five, following a report called into the Leone Police Substation around 9p.m. last Friday from Seetaga village, where a home was stoned by a large number of unknown people. According to court information, the Leone substation received at least four separate calls for help, including a call from the homeowner.

The defendants in this case were charged with various mis-

demeanor crimes, including public peace disturbance, trespassing, and property damage. They will appear early next month for their next court hearing, and all were given conditions of release — such as no contact with any government witnesses in this case.

According to court information, the homeowner told police that he and his wife had just finished with evening prayer when they heard the sound of shattering glass coming from the kitchen. They then noticed that their house was being stoned, with several more rocks hitting the house and landing within the vicinity. While exiting the house, the homeowner was injured after a beer bottle that landed on the outside staircase of the house shattered and a piece of glass nicked his forearm. Based on available court information, it appears that there were several people involved in a fight against two brothers, who were taken to the hospital for medical assistance, after suffering minor injuries. The brothers — Siasoi and Lolesio Mikaele — were among the five charged in this case.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fight or the stoning of the house, but it appears there was some sort of dispute in the neighborhood.

**BRIAN BENJAMIN LOMA**  
 The High Court is holding a status hearing this Friday on the government's case against Brian Benjamin Loma, who is charged with drug posses-

sion following an incident in October 2015 when he was found with marijuana by customs agents at the airport, upon arrival on a Hawaiian Airlines flight from Honolulu. Loma, who at the time resided on the US mainland, was visiting relatives in the territory and has been unable to return to the US due to his felony case still pending in local court.

At this Friday's hearing, the court is expected to hear a motion from the government to dismiss the felony charge against the defendant, who has been out on bail while his case goes through the judicial process. Noted is that his previous private attorney Mark Ude has left the territory and is not expected to return. When Loma was in court late last month for a status hearing, Chief Justice Michael Kruse continued the hearing, giving the defendant and the government time to hold discussions on the case. The Court recommended that the defendant obtain legal representation unless Loma still wants to represent himself going forward.

Loma said he can no longer afford another private attorney because he has no job to get money to pay for his legal representation. The court suggested the defendant use the services of the Public Defender's Office, which initially represented Loma.

*(Original Samoan stories in today's Lali section of Samoa News)*

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## NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the AUAU FOE Family and to all whom these present may come!  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SANAKI AUAU of VAITOGI has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land ALOIPIU allegedly belonging to AUAU FOE FAMILY of the village of VAITOGI. Said land ALOIPIU is situated in or near the village of VAITOGI in the County of TUALAUTA, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: JULY 18, 2017 thru AUGUST 17, 2017

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

## FA'AAALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa AUAU FOE, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni faaaliga!  
 O le faaaliga leni ona o SANAKI AUAU o le nu'u o VAITOGI ua ia faaulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e faailoa ai se manaoga fia tu'ueseina o se fale ua/po o le a, faatuuina i luga o le fanua o ALOIPIU e faasino i le aiga sa AUAU FOE, o le nu'u o VAITOGI. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o VAITOGI, itumalo o TUALAUTA, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le faaaliga foi e faapea, so o se tasi e tai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona faatu'iese ile fa'amaunia o leni feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana faatu'ese tusitusia. O faatu'iesega uma lava e ao ona faaulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauna mai i le aso na faaalia ai leni faaaliga.

Afai ole a leai se faatu'iesega e faaulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a faamaunia loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'aafia ai tagata uma. 07/25 & 08/08/17

## NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the MAGALEI Family and to all whom these present may come!  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SAKAI TUFELE & JASMINE TUFELE of FALENIU has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land ASOAILAO allegedly belonging to MAGALEI FAMILY of the village of FALENIU. Said land ASOAILAO is situated in or near the village of FALENIU in the County of TUALAUTA, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: JULY 18, 2017 thru AUGUST 17, 2017

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

## FA'AAALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU'U'ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa MAGALEI, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni faaaliga!  
 O le faaaliga leni ona o SAKAI TUFELE & JASMINE TUFELE o le nu'u o FALENIU ua ia faaulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e faailoa ai se manaoga fia tu'ueseina o se fale ua/po o le a, faatuuina i luga o le fanua o ASOAILAO e faasino i le aiga sa MAGALEI, o le nu'u o FALENIU. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o FALENIU, itumalo o TUALAUTA, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le faaaliga foi e faapea, so o se tasi e tai sona aia i leni mata'upu e mafai ona faatu'iese ile fa'amaunia o leni feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana faatu'ese tusitusia. O faatu'iesega uma lava e ao ona faaulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauna mai i le aso na faaalia ai leni faaaliga.

Afai ole a leai se faatu'iesega e faaulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta'ua i luga, o le a faamaunia loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'aafia ai tagata uma. 07/25 & 08/08/17



Fiji Airways' Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Andre Viljoen (left) and Polynesian Airlines Chief Executive Seiuli Tupuivao Alvin Tuala signing the MOU in Apia, on Monday (Samoa Time) to jointly pursue a range of commercial opportunities and partnerships. [Courtesy photo]

# Samoa and Fiji Airways ink MOU

## Samoa Gov't receptive to Water Power Top-Up initiative

ASPA SAYS THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERING SUCH AN INITIATIVE

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — Monday, July 24, 2017 — Samoa's new international airline, Samoa Airways and Fiji Airways today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly pursue a range of commercial opportunities and partnerships.

Under the proposed partnership, Fiji Airways will provide initial support to Samoa Airways to help launch its international services to and from Apia to Auckland and Sydney through the use of its established infrastructure in sales, commercial, operations and maintenance.

"We are happy to play a support role to help reboot Samoa's international airline following the Samoa Government's decision to end its partnership with Virgin Australia", said Fiji Airways' Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Andre Viljoen.

"The proposed commercial partnership between Samoa Airways and Fiji Airways is another extension of the already close and warm relationship Fiji Airways continues to enjoy with the Government of Samoa in terms of promoting improved air access into Samoa from other markets outside of New Zealand and Australia," he added.

The Chairman of the Board of Polynesian Airlines, Mr. Feesago Siaso Fepuleai confirmed that with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, separate commercial and operations agreements are now being negotiated between the two airlines, which will form part of the overall Pacific

Partnership Alliance Agreement between Samoa Airways and Fiji Airways.

"The MOU we signed today gives both airlines a broad and strategic framework of how the Pacific Partnership will be negotiated and finalized", Seiuli stated. "Under the MOU, there will be specific routes like Samoa to New Zealand and Australia that will be solely managed by Samoa Airways and other routes where both Airlines will jointly manage through codesharing and interlining."

According to Viljoen, "Fiji Airways is very pleased the MOU has now been signed so both airlines can progress and conclude negotiations on the Pacific Partnership Alliance as soon as possible.

"Fiji Airways is very optimistic with the proposed partnership and because we are the more established of the two airlines, we will play a lead role to fully assist and support Samoa Airways' efforts to re-launch international flights."

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi congratulated both Fiji Airways and Samoa Airways on the signing of their MOU signifying the first step they have jointly taken to cement their union in the form of a Pacific Partnership Alliance.

"The decision by our Government to pursue a commercial partnership with Fiji Airways was driven mainly by the critical need to look beyond New Zealand and Australia and open Samoa up to the world

(Continued on page 7)

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — M.P.M.C. Press Secretary — The Samoa Government has taken on board suggestions for a Water Power top-up initiative identical to the Cash Power top-up for electricity.

The suggestion was made by Taimi ma le Palemia weekly television program host Toleafoa Pili Afamasaga Asiata and it has tickled Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi.

"With a lot of people complaining about expensive water bills, is now the perfect time for government to look into implementing a Water Power top-up initiative identical to the Cash Power?" Toleafoa inquired.

"Cash Power is resolving huge outstanding electricity debts and with an identical Water Power scheme, wouldn't it give the customer the choice to use water conservatively depending on the family's income power and at the same time address the outstanding unpaid water bills mounting?"

The Prime Minister said, "... In fact, the same idea was on the table a decade or so ago but it vaporized, as government at the time was concentrating on improving the water supply system for the country. That's why we created the Samoa Water Authority to exclusively deal with the water needs of the country."

He said "Back then, there was a lot of opposition in the initial stages when questions arose within government and parliament, if water bills was an issue to address while our country has water woes.

"... tough decisions had to be made back then," Tuilaepa recalled. "It was a time when water borne diseases surfaced and it became a major threat to our residents and they needed clean water.

"Today, while some people continue to complain that they cannot afford to pay their water bills, the government is not resting on its laurels.

"I have been told that less than 1% of our residents are not receiving clean treated water and this is mostly in the remote villages and areas.

"But it's not stopping government from making every effort to ensure that water supply is readily available."

He noted that while the government water system, under the umbrella of the Samoa Water Authority, (S.W.A.) is meeting the majority of residents water needs, there is also the Village Water System assistance program complemented by projects financed and implemented by non-government organizations.

SWA services 85% of the population and provides water treatment plants for existing water sources in rural areas. About 18% of the rural population, or more than 32,000 people in 54 villages, participate in independent water schemes, which are owned and managed at the local level.

"And our development partners are also pouring in millions of tala worth of grants every year to improve our water and waste water system especially in sanitation," the Prime Minister was quick to note.

Of the Water Power top-up suggestion, Tuilaepa acknowledged that it is time for government to revisit their initial plan for such a system to be in place.

The Taimi male Palemia program is televised Wednesday night by TV1 and viewed worldwide on <www.tv1samoa.tv>

### AMERICAN SAMOA WATER ISSUES

Unlike Samoa, water and power are both under the umbrella of the American Samoa Power Authority in the territory. Like Samoa however, ASPA only has Cash Power, called Debit Meter which is a prepaid meter.

Samoa News asked the CEO of ASPA, Utu Abe Malae, about water billing — pointing to Samoa's plan to initiate pre-paid water meters — and American Samoa not having the service, given that both power & water are handled by ASPA. Utu responded, "We are reluctant to use debit water meters because of the cost and because, for social reasons, water is shut off as a last resort." The ASPA CEO added that "we have more pressing problems such as reducing non-revenue water (NRW), replacing wells that are sub-standard, eliminating the boil water notice (BWN), replacing 150 miles of failing service connections and 32 miles of AC (Asbestos-Cement) pipes.

"To finance these improvements require \$100 million over a five year period," Utu said.



Members of the Seui Mautonu Purcell and Faalogoifo McMoore family are coming together to celebrate their family reunion, which kicked off Sunday and closes tomorrow in Nu'uuli.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

## ▶ Samoan born palagi boy...

Continued from page 1

they called home was real to them but only in pictures for me. But I felt a part of it because I was born there.”

Brian said that since he is from here, he made up “American Samoa” racing shirts to run 5k, 10k, half-marathons, marathons and compete in triathlons from sprint distances all the way up to full Ironman distances (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike; 26.2 mile run).

“And I wear this shirt proudly. It is my hope that over here I will see more people racing with the American

Samoa flag on their shirt. I just hope I am representing my home well,” he said.

With regards to his recent visit, Brian said, “It felt amazing to finally see and experience my birthplace. I saw the place where I was born, where I was baptized, where my family lived and drove all over this beautiful island. When people told me ‘welcome home’ it made it feel more real. So, now it is up to me to figure out how to be more involved with the island while living in Long Beach, California.”



Brian Cruz Conboy running in the Long Beach Marathon with his “American Samoa” shirt. Brian was born in the territory in 1968 and returned two weeks ago for his first visit since he left 49 years ago.

[photo: courtesy]



### DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE Project Notification & Review System

## Legal Notice

### PNRS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING June 21, 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Commerce/American Samoa Coastal Management Program has received a Land Use Permit Application from the following individuals.

1. **J.V. Fuamatu Fuamatu** .....17-4759-L  
Proposal for land filling - Afao
2. **SPA School c/o Korina Lee** .....17-4812-L  
Proposal for walkway - Tafuna
3. **Tasila Tasila** .....17-4821-L  
Proposal for demolition and new construction with utilities - Utulei
4. **Willis Wang**.....17-4805-LVB  
Proposal to convert existing to commercial Laundromat - Pava'ia'i
5. **Carls Jr. c/o Phillip Love** .....17-4826-LVB  
Proposal to repair commercial structure - Nu'uuli
6. **Anthony Tauvela** .....17-4807-LVB  
Proposal to convert existing to commercial use - Aolou (Recording Studio)

Persons interested in or affected by a proposed project, are invited to review the project file and provide comments based on environmental issues, by contacting Peniamina Siatunu'u at 633-5155, at the Department of Commerce in Utulei during regular ASG working hours. Public comments must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 01, 2017. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 02, 2017 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemita e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono. A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia Peniamina Siatunu'u i le 633-5155. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fono a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia Aokuso 02, 2017, ile itula e 9 ile taeao.

## Zoning Board Public Notice

Zoning Board public hearing for August 10, 2017. The notice is hereby given the Zoning Board has received zoning variance applications from the following:

APPLICANT(S)	BUSINESS	LOCATION
Sione Kava & Jinxiu Shi	Retail Store	Nu'uuli
Sione Kava & Jinxiu Shi	Window Fabrication & Installation	Malaemi
Fogafoga Tai - Gray	Retail Store	Pava'ia'i
A.S.S., Inc. c/o Tony S. Ma'o, Koreti Letuli & Thi Lam	Fast Food, Retail & Restaurant	Faga'alu
Turtle & Shark Lodge	Lodge	Iiili

Public comments and request to speak during public hearing must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Interested individuals are also invited to attend the Zoning Board hearing on July 13, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Department of Commerce conference room located on the second floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.

For further information, please contact Aokusotino Mao or Tuulalo Farani at the Department of Commerce, during normal working hours at 633-5155.

# Senators suggest installing fences and hiring security guards for schools

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Some senators have suggested that the Education Department hire security guards to watch over public school facilities at night and over the weekend to prevent break-ins and damages to school property.

The suggestion, along with recommendations to build fences around all public school campuses, was made last Friday during a Senate Public Safety Committee hearing on a Senate bill giving the government authority to charge a person who is present, without prior permission, on private or public school grounds from 10p.m. to 5a.m. Under the bill, such an offense would be misdemeanor trespassing. Testifying at the hearing were Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale and Education deputy director, Philo Jennings. The Senate committee chairman, Sen. Fa'amausili Mau Mau Jr., said if the bill is enacted into law, it is the police who will enforce it.

Sen. Magalei Logovi'i, one of the three senators who sponsored the bill, explained that the goal of the proposed law is to help the ASDOE address the problem of break-ins and

damages to school facilities, resulting in the government forking out money for repairs and replacement.

The Tualauta senator noted that over the years, ASG officials including those from ASDOE have voiced concerns on the issues of break-ins and property damage at the schools. He said this proposed law makes it clear that anyone found on school property without prior permission is considered to be trespassing and will be criminally charged. The hearing gave senators a chance to share recommendations on ideas for ASDOE to look into, such as building a fence around all school campuses and hiring nighttime security officers to assist with enforcing the bill, if enacted into law. Sen. Tauaa S. Vaouli noted the importance of ASDOE working with the Office of Samoan Affairs in an effort to make it easy to enforce the proposed law. He suggested that village mayors be involved in the enforcement process, instead of putting the entire burden on police.

Sen. Muagututia M.T. Tauoa suggested that ASDOE hire and assign security guards to each school in the territory, so there is

an individual who is on campus every night. He believes police officers wouldn't be able to visit all the schools in the territory every night. Regarding the use of village mayors, Muagututia appeared to disagree and claimed that some pulenu'u are not honest in their work; and when the pulenuu witnesses a relative on the school grounds, the village major will not speak up. He believes a security officer is the best solution to enforcing the proposed law. Other senators supported suggestions of hiring security guards for nighttime patrol for schools as well as ASDOE looking at installing fences around all schools to close off campus grounds. There are some public schools that already have steel wire fencing.

Regarding the installation of school fences, Jennings acknowledged its importance and explained that ASDOE has looked into this same issue in past years. However for a variety of reasons, he said it hasn't always been feasible for all school campuses.

He pointed out there are families who live behind school campuses and it's difficult for them to get to the front area

unless they go through part of the school campus. So if a fence is built, those families will have no way of getting to an access road, he said. Additionally, Jennings said many of the school facilities are built on land belonging to and owned by families in the village where the school is located, and building a fence on the property would be difficult. (Families who own land on which two schools on the western side of Tutuila are built told Samoa News — when asked for comments over the weekend — that they have been informed in past years about ASG wanting to build a fence but they have objected. "We just don't want a fence," said a family member, "because it will block the land belonging to my family.") On the issue of employing night security guards, Jennings also noted the importance of the issue in helping to enforce the proposed law, but there is no funding for such a purpose.

Sen. Satele Galu Satele Sr., who supports the idea of hiring security guards for all schools in the territory, strongly recommends that ASDOE include in its fiscal year 2018 budget, funding for this purpose.

Samoa News notes that in the past, ASDOE had worked on installing surveillance cameras at certain schools, especially those that are constantly broken in to. While not all of the schools have surveillance cameras, some do have them, and these have helped police identify suspects in recent cases.

Earlier this year in March, a surveillance camera captured an alleged suspect who broke into an office at Tafuna High School, and video surveillance footage quickly surfaced on social media.

Samoa News later learned that the alleged suspect was a minor. Because cases regarding minors are not open to the public, it's unclear whether any charges were filed.

Following vandalism at Leone High School and Leone Midkiff Elementary School in early March this year, Education director Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga publicly called on the entire community — including village mayors and village aumaga — to assist in protecting public schools in their villages.

To repair and replace property damaged at the two schools, ASDOE said, cost over \$10,000.



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"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

# Pacific flavors to tickle palates at Auckland Food

Nine Pacific Island food and beverage companies from five countries will showcase and sell their wares of packaged foods and drinks at the Auckland Food Show this week.

Among the products that will be on show will be a range of biscuits, snack foods, artisan water (in biodegradable bottles), innovative coconut-based products (like 'coconut jerky'), chocolate, cocoa and health products based on organically grown turmeric.

The nine export companies from Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Niue will be housed in individual booths at a special, Pacific-themed stand called the Pacific Hub, hosted by Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) New Zealand.

PTI New Zealand is the economic development agency of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, engaged in trade facilitation and investment promotion in 16 Pacific Island Forum countries and its participation in the Auckland Food Show is a part of its Pacific Path to Market program.

Pacific Path to Market is an export capability building program conducted in the countries that are being featured at the show.

"The program is designed to familiarize the participating companies to understand the New Zealand market and what their products and their companies should look like to break into the New Zealand market," Michael Greenslade, PTI NZ Trade & Investment Commissioner & CEO says.

"Selected participants have shown that they are export

ready and in some instances already have a presence in the New Zealand market. Typically, these companies are motivated, have developed strong brands and their packaging reflects the innovation of the product itself," he added.

The Auckland Food Show is a consumer show that connects a large number of exhibitors with thousands of dedicated food lovers in Auckland and further afield in Wellington and Christchurch every year.

Mr Greenslade said PTI anticipates that 'Pacific Hub' featuring these nine companies will get the same high profile they received last year, introducing many of them to other New Zealand based standholding businesses that were also exhibiting at the show to source the Pacific's excellent ingredients for their own products or to partner with them.

"The Auckland Food Show provides a good platform for our Pacific companies to build inroads into the retail market by meeting with potential distributors and building a relationship with thousands of New Zealand consumers," said Joe Fuavao, PTI NZ Trade Development Manager.

The companies featured at this year's show are PNG's Paradise Foods; Fiji's Flour Mills of Fiji (FMF), Pleass Beverages, J Punja and Tavulomo Coconut Processing Ltd; Samoa's Wilex and E-Life Wild Turmeric, Niue Vanilla International from Niue and Tonga's Tupu'anga Coffee.

Last year, the show attracted more than 30,000 visitors and more are expected to visit this year.

(Source: Radio NZ)



E-Life Wild Turmeric made in Samoa

[photo from website]

## In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

Probate No. 20-2014

IN RE: THE ESTATES OF KORETI EVES and ETI EVES,

Deceased,

**CLARINETTE EVES,**  
Petitioner

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Clarinette Eves has been duly qualified to act as the Administrator/trix for the Estates of Korea Eves and Eti Eves.

All creditors with a claim against the Estates of Korea Eves and Eti Eves are required to submit their claims to the Administratrix of this Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to: Estate of Korea Eves and Eti Eves c/o Mataiulepao Leupolu, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 5007, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Dated: July 11, 2017 CLERK OF COURTS

07/25 & 08/01/2017



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

Human Resource Department, Tafuna  
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago  
American Samoa 96799  
Phone No: (684) 248-1234 Option #4  
humanresource@aspower.com

## PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Division/Department	Support Services/Procurement	Posting Date	July 21, 2017
Position Title	PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR	Deadline	4:00PM; July 28, 2017
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Compensation	\$45,512 - \$49,284 per year
Reports To	Procurement Manager	Position Status	M/1/A - M/3/A; Exempt

\*Note: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications & experience

### Major Duties & Responsibilities

Incumbent will support the Procurement manager in the delivery of a strategy to coordinate best purchasing practices and maximize benefits to the company. Incumbent will also be assisting Procurement Manager in the oversight of the contracts & leases, right-of-way functions as well as maintaining archives. Incumbent has supervisory responsibility for the Procurement team which is to manage the allocation of duties to team members to ensure that all deadlines are met in accordance with agreed service levels. Directly reports to Procurement Manager.

### Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and/or related field. ASPA reserves the right to consider years of equivalent experience in lieu of the educational requirement.
Experience	Three (3) years of relevant work experience in procurement. Minimum of three years of Supervisory experience required.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<p>Must have knowledge of procurement rules, concepts, principles and practices. Must be computer literate and competent in using standard office software; be highly organized with the ability to manage multiple demands and deliver results on time and within budget; have excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as accounting and budget control skills.</p> <p>Must be familiar with sourcing and vendor management.</p> <p>Must have an interest in market dynamics along with business sense.</p> <p>Must have a knack for negotiating and networking.</p> <p>Must have an ability to gather and analyze data and work with figures.</p> <p>Must have solid judgment with ability to make good decisions.</p> <p>Must have strong leadership abilities.</p> <p>Must be honest and follow clear procurement rules, policies and guidelines.</p> <p>To provide procurement support for all areas and specific allocated budget/commodity areas. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>undertaking mini competitions using existing frameworks</li> <li>conducting low value tenders and requests for quotation taking into account whole life costing, sustainability and ethical purchasing</li> <li>category management</li> <li>contract managing existing framework including account management</li> <li>promote good procurement practice supporting requesters in allocated budget areas</li> <li>identify and deliver efficiency savings and improved contractual arrangements</li> </ul> <p>To supervise the purchase order processing activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>check validity of requests to purchase, obtaining any additional necessary paperwork and manage any non-compliance requests</li> <li>liaise with requesters/departmental contacts to ensure timely resolution of queries</li> <li>liaise with Accounts Payable to resolve supplier payment issues</li> <li>handle complaints</li> </ul> <p>To provide support in all Archives, Right-of-Way (ROW) as well as Contracts &amp; Leases functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide status reports to Procurement Manager on an agreed basis</li> <li>Perform other related duties as assigned by the Procurement Manager</li> </ul>

**Qualified applicants** Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA Tafuna by the deadline listed above. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary. No phone inquiries accepted

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## ► Samoa and Fiji...

Continued from page 4

through Fiji Airways' long-haul network which includes direct flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Singapore into Nadi and potential connectivity opportunities presented through its larger network with its other airline partners," he explained.

"The proposed partnership

between Fiji's National Airline and our own National Airline is a testament to the strong bonds that we share as island nations in the Pacific Region and embraces our Pacific Way of doing things", the PM concluded.

[Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]



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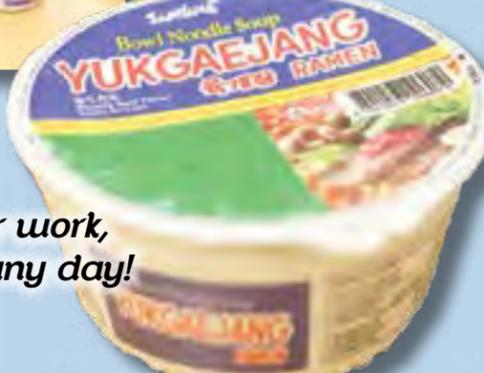
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## In New Zealand, Johnson parries queries on British politics

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson brushed aside questions Tuesday in New Zealand about infighting in his Conservative Party and speculation about him making a leadership bid.

Johnson used his renowned wit to parry questions during a joint media conference with New Zealand Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee, following a meeting with Brownlee and Prime Minister Bill English.

Asked about British politics, Johnson said he'd been traveling in Japan and now New Zealand.

"Any such activity's completely passed me by," he said. "Nor am I aware, no-one has sent me any news of any such infighting."

He said that last month's

snap election, which left Prime Minister Theresa May severely weakened, hadn't gone to plan.

"The election did not evolve entirely in the way that the government had hoped for or would have wanted," he said. "OK. I'm going to put that out there. But, but, but, the Labour Party did not win."

He said the government still had a workable majority.

Asked about whether he was contemplating a bid to become prime minister, Johnson said the British people want a government that gets on with the job.

"They've got that with Theresa," he said. "And we are going to deliver a great Brexit deal."

A deal that works for our European friends, for the U.K., but also, of course, works for New Zealand."

Pressed again on whether he could rule out a leadership bid, Johnson said the British people "see no vacancy nor do they see any need for any more political kerfuffle."

Johnson said he had agreed with his New Zealand counterparts on many issues, including the threat that North Korea posed, sharing intelligence information, and fighting terrorism.

"I think to an almost embarrassing degree there was a total failure to disagree on any point of substance," he said.

He said New Zealand was at, or near, the top of Britain's list for countries it wanted to complete a free trade deal with once it had left the European Union.

Asked whether the access of New Zealanders to Britain through ancestry or working holiday visas would be affected by Brexit, Johnson said Britain would remain open to talent but the country also needed to manage and control immigration.

"That does not mean that we are in any way going to make life more difficult for New Zealanders," he said.

"On the contrary, we massively value, we love kiwis coming to our country."

Brownlee said Brexit doesn't mean an end to the strong relationship that New Zealand enjoys with Britain.

He said the priority in any free trade agreement with Britain would be to protect the current access New Zealand has to British markets through the EU.

While in New Zealand, Johnson also visited the quake-affected township of Kaikoura and unveiled a striking British memorial at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington.

He was due to travel to Australia later on Tuesday.





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The Spyderco Assist Salt C79PSYL is a safe, light and superbly crafted rescue/fishing knife.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 7/17]

# Cool Stuff: Spyderco Rescue/Fishing Knife

By Barry Markowitz

Fishermen and first responders don't need flash techie tools, they need reliable functionality as their life is on the line every day they work.

Spyderco came up with their H1 steel process that is more rust resistant than regular stainless steel, yet keeps a sharp edge like carbon steel.

The stainless vs carbon mix has always been the dilemma. Real workers who rely every hour on their knives go for super sharp carbon, while those of us who use them more casually in work prefer the tidy look of

stainless.

No need to compromise with H1 ...you have the best of all worlds.

In Spyderco's own words:

"The Spyderco Assist Salt Knife has a blade made out of a PH (precipitation hardened) steel that doesn't rust. H1 steel is naturally hard, and it will hold a sharpened cutting edge equivalent to many carbon steels. H1 has 1 percent nitrogen instead of carbon, so it cannot rust."

Packed with an integral rescue whistle, recessed

glass breaker, one handed opening, combo serrated/plain blade, blunt safety tip, aggressive ample grip, reversible pocket clip, and high visibility yellow, the Spyderco Assist Salt Knife is as comfortable in an electrician's pocket, or on a hiking trail, as it is on the high seas.

The Assist Salt 4.87 inches closed, 8.55 inches open, has been listed for \$164, but easily available for \$99. Check out all their fabulous models at [Spyderco.com](http://Spyderco.com) Spyderco needs to build our island cars with H1 steel. Rust sucks. Thanks Spyderco!

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# IN THE COMMUNITY



**FILE** - In this Oct. 16, 2016, file photo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a signing ceremony by foreign ministers during the BRICS summit in Goa, India. India and China have faced off frequently since fighting a bloody 1962 war that ended with China seizing control of some territory. India's army chief warned in July 2017 that India's army was capable of fighting "2 1/2 wars," if needed to secure its borders. The dispute was discussed briefly without resolution by Xi and Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup, File)

## India and China face off in border standoff

NEW DELHI (AP) — It was the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan that sounded the alarm: Chinese soldiers had arrived with bulldozers and excavators, and were building a high-mountain road near India's border — in an area the two nuclear-armed Asian giants have disputed for decades.

India responded to the call by sending troops last month to evict the Chinese army construction party from the Doklam Plateau. Within a few days, Indian media were running leaked video footage of soldiers from both sides shoving one another atop a grassy flatland.

The tense standoff has only escalated, raising concerns in both capitals of an all-out military conflict. Both sides have made threats while simultaneously calling for negotiations.

The U.S. State Department has urged the two sides to work together toward a peaceful resolution.

India told China last week that it was ready to hold talks if both sides pulled their forces back from the disputed border area. But China countered on Monday by insisting the road was being built on its sovereign territory, and warned India not to "push your luck."

India, taken aback by the escalation, has said the two governments reached an agreement in 2012 that the status of the Doklam area — which falls between China and India on a Bhutanese plateau — would be finalized only through joint consultations involving all parties.

A look at the key background of the dispute:

### AN OLD QUARREL

India and China have faced off frequently since fighting a bloody 1962 war that ended with China seizing control of some territory. Troops from both sides still regularly patrol other unmarked territories, though neither side has fired any shots in decades. Negotiations since 1985 to settle the boundary dispute have seen little success.

The land they're currently arguing over spans 269 square kilometers (104 square miles) on a sparsely populated plateau in western Bhutan, which has no diplomatic ties with China and coordinates its relations with Beijing through New Delhi.

But India and China have rival claims to other Himalayan areas as well, including 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in what India considers its state of Arunachal Pradesh and

China refers to as "Southern Tibet," as well as 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of another plateau called Aksai Chin.

Bhutan said the road China has been building would run from the town of Dokola to the Bhutanese army camp at Zompelri.

Bhutan's foreign ministry called it a "direct violation" of agreements reached in 1988 and 1998 to maintain peace and refrain from unilateral action in the area pending a final border settlement. "Bhutan hopes that the status quo in the Doklam area will be maintained," it said in a June 29 statement.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said last week that India's border guards, in responding to Bhutan's call for help, had "illegally trespassed the boundary into Chinese territory" when they confronted the Chinese army construction team.

### A STRATEGIC AREA

For India, securing the Doklam Plateau is seen as essential to maintaining its control over a land corridor that connects India's mainland with its remote northeastern states.

India has said the Chinese road project threatens its access to the corridor, while China has questioned why India should even have a say in a matter that concerns only Beijing and Bhutan.

India's army chief warned earlier this month that India's army was capable of fighting "2 1/2 wars" if needed to secure its borders.

Indian analysts said China appeared to be trying to pre-empt settlement negotiations by establishing a Chinese presence in Doklam.

"China has been trying for a long time to gain a tactical advantage in this sector," having already established dominance along the Indian borders at Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, said security expert Uday Bhakar, a retired Indian navy officer. "The Chinese did not expect this resolute Indian response, and that's why the standoff has continued."

The dispute was discussed briefly without resolution by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit earlier this month in Hamburg, Germany. It is expected to be taken up again when Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval visits Beijing for another security forum on Thursday and Friday.

## ▶ Assessment of LBJ...

*Continued from page 1*

igned by the Capital Improvement Master Plan and these funds were utilized to “renovate and expand three key wings of the hospital: the labor, delivery and operating room.”

Last February, a bi-partisan Congressional delegation (CODEL) of members on the Committee of Natural Resources traveled to the Pacific territories and toured the LBJ Hospital where they met with administrative staff to discuss the conditions at the facility.

Hospital administrators expressed their concern to the CODEL members “that poor conditions at the hospital have created a major issue for the island’s veteran population seeking medical care.”

Another area of concern had to do with American Samoa’s treatment under both current and future federal healthcare program, specifically Medicaid.

Under the current Medicaid set up, territories receive capped funding set by the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) at the level of 55%

“American Samoa uses a unique method to establish income-based eligibility within the program unlike typical

enrollment eligibility requirements in the other territories. Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds pay for care provided at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center determined by the portion of the population with income that would have fallen below the program’s income eligibility threshold of 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.

“There is concern that since the funds are matched by federal dollars at a rate capped annually and additional Medicaid funds provided to the territories are set to expire in 2019, that American Samoa will not be able to utilize all available funding offered through the Affordable Care Act before the expiration deadline,” the memo notes.

The subcommittee will discuss potential solutions to these challenges with the invited panel of those who work in American Samoa’s healthcare field.

“By shedding light on these specific issues affecting the territory, this hearing will focus on potential solutions to existing problems.”

## ▶ CDC Report...

*Continued from page 2*

centage among Guamanian or Chamorro adults (16.1%), and higher than but not significantly different from the percentage among Other Pacific Islander adults (12.9%); and,

\*The percentage of Samoan adults who participated in leisure-time aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities was 25.3%, which was similar to

the percentages among Guamanian or Chamorro (25.6%) and Native Hawaiian (26.3%) adults, and higher than but not significantly different from the percentage among Other Pacific Islander adults (18.5%).

Other key findings and more details on the report can be viewed on <www.cdc

## Israel removes metal detectors from holy site entrance

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel began removing metal detectors from entrances to a major Jerusalem shrine early Tuesday morning to defuse a crisis over the site that angered the Muslim world and triggered some of the worst Israeli-Palestinian clashes in years.

The Israeli security Cabinet had met for a second straight day Monday to find an alternative to the metal detectors, which were installed following a deadly Palestinian attack at the holy site. Associated Press photos showed a worker dismantling one of the devices at Lions Gate before 2:00 a.m.

“The Security Cabinet accepted the recommendation of all of the security bodies to incorporate security measures based on advanced technologies (“smart checks”) and other measures instead of metal detectors,” Israel announced Tuesday morning.

It said the measure will “ensure the security of visitors and worshippers” at the holy

site and in Jerusalem’s Old City. It added that police will increase its forces in the area until the new security measures are in place.

Israeli media earlier reported high resolution cameras capable of detecting hidden objects would be deployed.

Israel erected the metal detectors after Arab gunmen killed two policemen from inside the shrine, holy to Muslims and Jews, earlier this month. The move incensed the Muslim world and triggered violence.

The fate of the site is an emotional issue at the heart of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Even the smallest perceived change to delicate arrangements pertaining to the site sparks tensions.

Just a few hours earlier, Israel and Jordan resolved a diplomatic standoff after a day of high-level negotiations that ended with the evacuation of Israeli Embassy staff from their base in Jordan to Israel.



## PUBLIC HEARING

This is to inform the public of American Samoa that the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will exercise its powers under American Samoa Code, Sections 16.2002 (12) to implement the following new fees:

<b>Course Administration Fee</b>	<b>\$25.00 per course</b>
<b>300/400 Level Courses</b>	<b>\$175 Tuition Per Credit</b>
<b>300/400 Level Courses</b>	<b>\$8 Technology Fee per credit</b>
<b>Lab Fees</b>	<b>(available at Public Hearing)</b>

The proposed new Fees are scheduled to be implemented Fall 2017.

The proposed new Fees Public Hearing is to take place on Monday, August 7, 2017 – 4:00p.m. Local Time at the ASCC Lecture Hall.

If any organization or individual wishes to have an oral hearing in accordance to American Samoa Code 16.1005, please send your request to the American Samoa Community College President’s Office by July 31, 2017:

PO Box 2609, Pago Pago AS 96799, or hand deliver it to the President’s Office at American Samoa Community College campus, in the village of Mapusaga.



Israeli police officers are seen outside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem’s Old City, Monday, July 24, 2017. Israeli media reports high resolution cameras placed around Jerusalem’s Old City walls could replace the metal detectors that sparked Muslim outrage after they were set outside entrances to a major shrine.

(AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)



# Trump speaks to advisers about firing Sessions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has spoken with advisers about firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions, as he continues to rage against Sessions' decision to recuse himself from all matters related to the Russia investigation.

The president's anger again bubbled into public view Monday as he referred to Sessions in a tweet as "beleaguered." Privately, Trump has speculated aloud to allies in recent days about the potential consequences of firing Sessions, according to three people who have recently spoken to the president. They demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump often talks about making staff changes without following through, so those who have spoken with the president cautioned that a change may not be imminent or happen at all. What is clear is that Trump remains furious that the attorney general recused himself from the investigations.

"So why aren't the Committees and investigators, and of course our beleaguered A.G., looking into Crooked Hillarys crimes & Russia relations?" Trump tweeted Monday. His tweet came just hours before his son-in-law, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, traveled to Capitol Hill to be interviewed about his meetings with Russians.

Trump's intensifying criticism has fueled speculation that Sessions may resign even if Trump opts not to fire him. During an event at the White House, Trump ignored a shouted question about whether Sessions should step down. The attorney general said last week he intended to stay in his post.

If Trump were to fire Sessions, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein would be elevated to the top post on an acting basis. That would leave the president with another attorney general of whom he has been sharply critical in both public and private for his handling of the Russia probe, according to four White House and outside advisers who, like others interviewed, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

It could also raise the specter of Trump asking Rosenstein — or whomever he appoints to fill the position — to fire Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and potential collusion with Trump's campaign.

The name of one longtime Trump ally, Rudy Giuliani, was floated Monday as a possible replacement for Sessions, but a person who recently spoke to the former New York City mayor said that Giuliani had not been approached about the position. Giuliani told CNN on Monday that he did not want the post and would have recused

himself had he been in Sessions' position.

The president's tweet about the former Alabama senator comes less than a week after Trump, in a New York Times interview, said that Sessions should never have taken the job as attorney general if he was going to recuse himself. Sessions made that decision after it was revealed that he had met with a top Russian diplomat last year.

Trump has seethed about Sessions' decision for months, viewing it as disloyal — arguably the most grievous offense in the president's mind — and resenting that the attorney general did not give the White House a proper heads-up before making the announcement that he would recuse himself. His fury has been fanned by several close confidants — including his son Donald Trump Jr, who is also ensnared in the Russia probe — who are angry that Sessions made his decision.

Trump and Sessions' conversations in recent weeks have been infrequent. Sessions had recently asked senior White House staff how he might patch up relations with the president but that effort did not go anywhere, according to a person briefed on the conversations. Sessions was in the West Wing on Monday but did not meet with the president, according to deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Newt Gingrich, a frequent Trump adviser, said that the president, with his criticisms of Sessions, was simply venting and being "honest about his feelings. But that doesn't mean he's going to do anything," Gingrich said. Still, he said the president's comments would have repercussions when it comes to staff morale.

"Anybody who is good at team building would suggest to the president that attacking members of your team rattles the whole team," Gingrich said.

Sessions and Trump used to be close, sharing both a friendship and an ideology. Sessions risked his reputation when he became the first U.S. senator to endorse the celebrity businessman and his early backing gave Trump legitimacy, especially among the hard-line anti-immigration forces that bolstered his candidacy. Several of Sessions' top aides now server in top administration posts, including Stephen Miller, the architect of several of Trump's signature proposals, including the travel ban and tough immigration policy.

After Trump's public rebuke last week, Sessions seemed determined to keep doing the job he said "goes beyond anything that I would have ever imagined for myself."

"I'm totally confident that we can continue to run this office in an effective way," Sessions said last week.

FILE - In this July 12, 2017, file photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks in Las Vegas. President Donald Trump says he never would have appointed Sessions as attorney general had he known Sessions would recuse himself from overseeing the Russia investigation. Trump makes the extraordinary statement about Sessions in an interview with the New York Times Wednesday, July 19.

(AP Photo/John Locher, File)



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.037.WW  
Issuance Date: July 25, 2017

Closing Date & Time:  
August 24, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for:

### "UV Disinfection and East Side Village: Additional Works Addendum"

#### Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal to provide professional services for the "UV Disinfection and East Side Village: Additional Works Project". The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, [www.aspower.com](http://www.aspower.com)

For more information about this RFP, you may contact:

Ioana S. Uli  
ASPA Procurement Manager  
ASPA Procurement Office  
PH: 684-248-1234  
bids@aspower.com

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and reissue a new or amended RFP;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than "least cost" (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

# Duterte vows end to uprising, 'jail or hell' in drug war

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed Monday to continue his bloody war on illegal drugs despite international and domestic criticism and warned that offenders will end up in "jail or hell." In his second state of the nation speech, Duterte also insisted he would not hold peace talks with communist rebels because of continuing attacks. Security issues dominated his most important annual speech, including a disastrous two-month uprising by pro-Islamic State group militants in a southern city, the worst crisis he has faced. Thousands of protesters marched outside Congress demanding he deliver on a range of promises which mirror the diverse burdens of his presidency, from protecting human rights to improving internet speed.

A look at the most serious issues confronting Duterte as he enters his second year in power.

## ISLAMIC STATE-LINKED SIEGE

Two months after more than 600 pro-Islamic State group militants blasted their way into the southern city of Marawi, the military is still fighting the last gunmen — fewer than 100, about 10 of them foreign. Duterte told reporters after his speech Monday that the government counteroffensive will not stop "until the last terrorist is taken out."

The crisis, however, may not end soon, according to Duterte, because troops have to move carefully to ensure the safety of about 300 hostages he said are being held by the gunmen. "I don't want these innocent people to be slaughtered," he said.

Congress overwhelmingly voted on Saturday to grant Duterte's request to extend martial law in the south to the end of the year to allow Duterte to deal with the Marawi crisis and stamp out other extremist groups across the south, something five presidents before him have failed to do.

About half a million people have been displaced by the Marawi fighting. Some have threatened to march back to the still-besieged city to escape the squalor in overcrowded evacuation camps in nearby towns. Rebuilding Marawi will require massive funds and national focus and will be fraught with pitfalls. Amid the despair and gargantuan rebuilding, it's important "to ensure that extremist teachings do not find fertile ground," said Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

## DRUG WAR

Despite criticism and threats of criminal prosecution, Duterte

said his drug crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, will go on. "Do not try to scare me with prison or the International Court of Justice," he said Monday. "I'm willing to go to prison for the rest of my life." He reiterated his plea that Congress reimpose the death penalty for drug offenders and others.

"The fight will not stop until those who deal in (drugs) understand that they have to stop because the alternatives are either jail or hell," Duterte said, to applause from his national police chief, Ronald del Rosa, and other supporters in the audience. During the campaign, he promised to rid the country of illegal drugs in three to six months and repeatedly threatened traffickers with death. But he missed his deadline and later declared he would fight the menace until his last day in office. When then-U.S. President Barack Obama, along with European Union and U.N. rights officials, raised alarm over the mounting death toll from the crackdown, Duterte lashed out at them, telling Obama to "go to hell." Duterte's fiercest critic at home, Sen. Leila del Lima, was detained in February on drug charges she said were baseless.

More than 5,200 suspects have died so far, including more than 3,000 in reported gunbattles with police and more than 2,000 others in drug-related attacks by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen and other assaults, police said. Human rights groups have reported a higher toll and called for an independent investigation into Duterte's possible role in the violence.

Duterte "has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office," U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said. In April, a lawyer filed a complaint of crimes against humanity against Duterte and other officials in connection with the drug killings before the International Criminal Court. An impeachment complaint against the president was dismissed in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte's allies.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

More than a month into Duterte's presidency, the Philippines won a landmark arbitration case before a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated China's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea under a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty.

Aiming to turn around his country's frosty relations with China, Duterte refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the ruling. He promised he would take it up with Beijing at some point.



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Protesters shout slogans during a rally outside the Lower House to coincide with the state of the nation address of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte Monday, July 24, 2017 in Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines. Thousands of protesters march towards the Lower House with an effigy of Duterte to demand that he deliver on a wide range of promises he made in his first state of the nation address last year, from pressing peace talks with Marxist guerrillas, which is currently on hold, to upholding human rights and the rule of law.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Access to Capital Business Workshop

The Department of Commerce and Development Bank of American Samoa are co-hosting the "Access to Capital Business Workshop." The purpose of the workshop is to promote awareness of the various business financing programs available in the Territory. It will be held at the Governor Rex E. Lee Auditorium from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Thursday, July 27, 2017.

Interested entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the following sectors are encouraged to attend:  
Healthcare, Manufacturing, Fisheries, Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Technology, and Tourism.

Those who do not fall within these sectors are still encouraged to attend the workshop as this will be a great opportunity to meet other like-minded entrepreneurs and business people, learn more about resources, and meet with organizations currently operating in the finance industry in the territory.



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- ★ Work effectively in a team environment
- ★ Possess formal theological and ministerial training
- ★ Preferably, but not limited to, a theological graduate

### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS in the following fields:

1. Mathematics
2. Physics

### Minimum Qualifications include:

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- ★ Ability to communicate effectively with students/staff
- ★ Work effectively in a team environment

### RECEPTIONIST

### Minimum Qualifications include:

- ★ Proven work experience as a Receptionist
- ★ Excellent communication and customer service skills
- ★ Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel etc.)
- ★ Hands-on experience with office equipment (e.g. fax machines and printers)
- ★ Professional attitude and appearance
- ★ High school degree; additional certification in Office Management is a plus

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER Minimum Qualifications include:

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Friday, August 4, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.  
CCCAS Main Office, Kanana Fou.

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Office of the General Secretary at (684) 699-9810

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# McCain making dramatic Senate return for crucial health vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain will make a dramatic return to the Senate for a make-or-break vote on Republican health care legislation Tuesday just days after getting diagnosed with brain cancer, giving an emotional and arithmetical boost to his party's reeling effort to repeal Obamacare.

The decision by the 80-year-old senator to travel to Washington from his Arizona home was announced by his office in a brief press release late Monday night. It comes with the GOP bill to erase and replace President Barack Obama's law on the brink as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pushes toward a pivotal vote Tuesday, prodded by an impatient and frustrated President Donald Trump.

"Senator McCain looks forward to returning to the United States Senate tomorrow to continue working on important legislation, including health care reform, the National Defense Authorization Act, and new sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea," his office said.

It was the latest head-spinning turn for legislation that's survived several near-death experiences in recent week. Now, it seems it could clear a critical hurdle Tuesday, a vote on beginning debate on a measure Republicans hope will let them deliver on seven years of promises tear down Obama's statute.

McCain's startling decision to return suggests McConnell believes Tuesday's vote will be successful — with McCain's vote.

McConnell, R-Ky., said he's "made a commitment to the people I represent" to undo Obama's health care overhaul, in what seemed a pointed reminder to Republican senators that they've made the same vow.

At the White House, Trump lambasted Democrats who helped enact the 2010 health care law and uniformly oppose the GOP attempt to scrap and rewrite it.

"They run out and say, 'Death, death, death,'" Trump said, with a backdrop of families that he said have encountered problems getting affordable, reliable medical coverage because of Obama's statute. "Well, Obamacare is death. That's the one that's death."

Some Democrats have said the GOP repeal effort would lead to death for patients who lose coverage. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said various versions of the legislation would mean more than 20 million Americans would become uninsured by 2026.

But Trump focused many of his remarks on GOP sena-

tors. McConnell is nursing a slim 52-48 majority, making McCain's return crucial. McConnell could lose only two Republicans with McCain present and just one if he's not.

"For Senate Republicans, this is their chance to keep their promise. Over and over again, they said, 'Repeal and replace, repeal and replace.' But they can now keep their promise," Trump said.

At least a dozen Republican senators have publicly opposed or criticized the legislation, more than enough to kill it. That's forced McConnell to step back twice from anticipated votes and to revise his bill in hopes of mollifying unhappy moderates and conservatives.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, remained opposed to beginning debate on any option McConnell has revealed so far, and other Republicans remained uncommitted. But senators and aides said talks were underway on issues including potentially giving states more leeway on using federal funds to help people losing Medicaid coverage.

"I think we're going to proceed to debate," Cornyn said. About McCain, Cornyn said, "It would help if he's here."

McConnell's measure would uproot much of Obama's law, eliminating its tax penalties on people not buying policies, cutting the Medicaid health care program for the poor and providing less generous health care subsidies for consumers.

Complicating McConnell's task, Ohio GOP Gov. John Kasich said it would be a mistake for the Senate to move ahead Tuesday "and force a one-sided deal that the American people are clearly against." Kasich's stance could make it harder for wavering Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who's criticized the measure's Medicaid cuts, to back the legislation.

Yet Portman and other undeclared Republican senators were also being pounded by the White House.

"Republicans have a last chance to do the right thing on Repeal & Replace after years of talking & campaigning on it," Trump tweeted earlier Monday.

Trump's contentious tone toward his own party underscored the high stakes as he tries avoiding the specter of Republicans sinking one of his top priorities.

Late in the day, Trump used an appearance at the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia to joke about firing his health secretary, Tom Price. Saying that Price "better get" the votes to begin debate on the legislation, the president said, "Otherwise, I'll say: Tom, you're fired."

# Canadian polygamous leader found guilty of having 25 wives

CRANBROOK, British Columbia (AP) — Two former leaders of an isolated polygamous community in Canada were convicted Monday of practicing polygamy after a decades-long legal fight, setting up another potential court battle over the constitutionality of Canada's polygamy laws.

Winston Blackmore, 60, and James Oler, 53, were found guilty by British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Sheri Ann Donegan, who said the evidence was clear that Blackmore was married to 25 women at the same time and that Oler was married to five women in the tiny community of Bountiful.

Blackmore, 60, never denied having the wives as part of his religious beliefs that call for "celestial" marriages. His lawyer Blair Suffredine has already said Blackmore would challenge the constitutionality of Canada's polygamy laws if his client was found guilty.

"I'm guilty of living my religion and that's all I'm saying today because I've never denied that," Blackmore told reporters after the verdict. "Twenty-seven years and tens of millions of dollars later, all we've proved is something we've never denied. I've never denied my faith. This is what we expected."

Blackmore and Oler were prosecuted as part of an investigation first launched in the early 1990s by the provincial government.

Under Canadian law, the maximum penalty they will each face is five year in prison. The two will be sentenced at future hearings. Blackmore and Oler are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a breakaway Mormon sect that believes in plural marriage. The group's main base is in a small community on the Utah-Arizona border in the United States. Oler was chosen to lead the Canadian community just north of the U.S. state of Idaho following Blackmore's excommunication from the sect in 2002 by Warren Jeffs, considered the prophet and leader of the group.

Authorities have said Jeffs still leads the sect from a Texas

prison, where he is serving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage girls he considered brides.

The mainstream Mormon church renounced polygamy in the late 19th century and disputes any connection to the fundamentalist group's form of Mormonism.

At the 12-day trial earlier this year, witnesses included mainstream Mormon experts, law enforcement officials who worked on the investigation and Jane Blackmore, a former wife of Winston Blackmore who left the Canadian community in 2003. Justice Sheri Ann Donegan praised Jane Blackmore as a highly credible and reliable witness.

"She was a careful witness," Donegan said. "There was nothing contrived or rehearsed in her answers. She was impartial."

Much of the evidence in the trial came from marriage and personal records seized by law enforcement at a church compound in Texas in 2008. Donegan disagreed with assertions by Blackmore and his lawyer that the records should be given little or no weight, saying she found them reliable.

Donegan said Winston Blackmore's adherence to the practices and beliefs of the religious group were never in dispute, nothing that he did not deny his marriages to police in 2009. Blackmore even made two corrections to a detailed list of his alleged wives, she said.

"He spoke openly about his practice of polygamy," Donegan said. "Mr. Blackmore confirmed that all of his marriages were celestial marriages in accordance with FLDS rules and practices."

The investigation and attempted prosecution of Blackmore and Oler dragged on for years due to uncertainty about Canada's polygamy laws.

After a constitutional reference question was sent to the British Columbia Supreme Court, the court ruled in 2011 that laws banning polygamy were valid and did not violate religious freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: August 8, 2017  
Issuance Date: July 24, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

### "Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling (Re-bid)"

**Submission** An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP NO. ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Tuesday, August 8, 2017:

Procurement Office  
American Samoa Power Authority  
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

#### Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA's New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

#### Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae**, Executive Director



FILE - In this April 21, 2008, file photo, Winston Blackmore, the religious leader of the controversial polygamous community of Bountiful located near Creston, British Columbia, Canada, shares a laugh with six of his daughters and some of his grandchildren. Blackmore has been convicted of practicing polygamy after a decades-long legal fight. Blackmore was found guilty Monday, July 24, 2017, by British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Sheri Ann Donegan.

(Jonathan Hayward/The Canadian Press, via AP, File)



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FILE - In this April 27, 2017 file photo, singers Luis Fonsi, left and Daddy Yankee perform during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Fla. Fonsi and Daddy Yankee hre rejecting the use of their hit song "Despacito" by the government of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro it its July 2017, campaign to change the country's constitution. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File)

## 'Despacito' singers veto Venezuelan leader's campaign remix

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — There's a new take on the hit Latin pop song "Despacito." And this one is not garnering accolades from its producers.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro premiered a remix of the song by Puerto Rican duo Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee Sunday, transforming the record-setting single about a slow, romantic seduction into a campaign jingle for his contested constitution rewrite.

"For the unity and peace of our country," the remix begins. "The constituent assembly moves forward."

Fonsi and Daddy Yankee took to social media Monday to veto the new spin on their song, which recently became an even bigger hit with a remix featuring Justin Bieber.

"My music is for everyone to listen to and enjoy, not to be used as propaganda that intends to manipulate the will of a people who are screaming for their liberty and a better future," Fonsi said in a message posted to his Twitter account.

"What can you expect from a person who has robbed the lives of so many young people filled with dreams?" Daddy Yankee said on Twitter, along an image picturing a news story about Maduro's take on the song crossed out in red. "That you illegally appropriate a song (Despacito) doesn't compare with the crime you commit and have committed in Venezuela."

Maduro is pressing forward with his pledge to hold a July 30 election to select delegates to a special assembly that will be tasked with rewriting the troubled nation's constitution despite international outcry and a protest movement that has left at least 97 dead.

More than 7.5 million Venezuelans recently voted in a symbolic referendum against the constituent assembly and the opposition has vowed to hold a 48-hour strike in protest this week.

Opposition leaders fear Maduro will use the constitution rewrite to further consolidate his power and silence any critical voices.

Supporters of the president swayed to the catchy remix while dressed in matching T-shirts and baseball caps featuring campaign slogans Sunday. Maduro often sings and dances while giving forceful speeches aired on state television.

"Is that video approved?" he asked after the song concluded.

"Yes!" the crowd responded in unison. Panamanian singer Erika Ender, who composed the song with Fonsi, also gave thumbs down to the new recording. "To see a song that I co-wrote used without permission to promote campaigns tied to the regime that has a country unhappy and suffering, far from making me happy, enrages me," she wrote on Instagram.

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