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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
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Statement from the Office of the Governor

Addressing the recent prison escapes at the correctional facility is a priority of this administration. Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale convened a meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023, and personally conducted a walk through of the Tafuna Correctional Facility with key leaders.

In response to this matter, Acting Governor Talauega has put together a plan to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future. One of the primary solutions that will be implemented is the recruitment and hiring of up to 40 new guards. Adequate staffing is crucial to maintaining a safe and secure environment within the correctional facility. Additionally, we are taking a closer look at the issue of overcrowdedness within the facility and completion of the new building for Maximum Holding.

We want to assure the citizens of American Samoa that these corrective actions are being implemented with urgency and dedication. The safety of our communities remains our top priority, and we are resolute in our commitment to ensuring that our correctional facility operates as a secure and rehabilitative institution.

“On behalf of Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, I appreciate the collaboration and dedication of our Corrections Agency staff and law enforcement agencies, and all those involved in this effort. We will continue to work tirelessly to restore public confidence in our correctional system,” stated Acting Governor Talauega.

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