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American Samoa Fono Opens 38th Session with Ceremony

The 38th seating of the American Samoa Fono was officially opened yesterday with a special ceremony at the Rex Lee Auditorium. The event was attended by Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, Lt. Governor La'apui Talauega E.V. Ale, Senate President Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, Senators, House Representatives, Cabinet Members, and distinguished guests. The service included an opening devotional delivered by Reverend Richard Fa'avae of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS) Pago Pago, with hymns beautifully sung by their choir. Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude to those in attendance and all who have supported the Fono, both present and future.

Honorable Governor Lemanu offered his special remarks, congratulating the Fono not only on the opening of its 38th session but also on the great work that has been done collaboratively over the past four years. "We could not have done it without the support of the Fono. All the completed and pending work has been possible with the Fono's support," said Governor Lemanu.

Governor Lemanu highlighted various projects, including those in infrastructure, education, sanitation, and transportation, as examples of the collaborative efforts with the Fono. He noted that the Fono's approval of the budgeting for these crucial projects has been essential.

He also acknowledged a milestone of the American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNAP), which recently celebrated 30 years of providing beneficial programs to the people. "Members of the Fono, I express my utmost gratitude for all the feedback and advice given to the government in order to proceed with the work that needs to be done for American Samoa," said Governor Lemanu.

Senate President Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, on behalf of the Fono, shared his remarks, expressing that it is a privilege to serve the people. He noted that with all the pieces working together, it is a

definite step in the right direction for our territory. President Tualo concluded by saying, "May our Heavenly Father bless the 38th American Samoa Fono as we continue to serve our home of American Samoa."

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