

For Official Release
S001-12062023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
December 06, 2023



Statement from Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga

A reported shoot-out/gun threat at Tafuna High School prompted a precautionary meeting with the cabinet and all relevant government agencies this morning, to assess the situation and take immediate action. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our children. Any threat to their security directly impacts our entire government. I was informed of this situation early this morning and since then, we have been working diligently to reevaluate and reinforce safety measures at our schools.

In the face of such incidents, questions naturally arise. Why is this happening? Are our government departments sufficiently engaged in ensuring public safety? Is there enough awareness in our churches and communities?

To address these concerns, we must actively engage with our community, understand the root causes, and work collaboratively to ensure the safety of our children. As leaders, our challenge is to adopt a preventative stance, assessing and planning for outreach programs within our communities.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize that we should not take these matters lightly until something happens. Prevention is key, and our collective actions, along with the cabinet and all government agencies, can significantly impact the safety of our students.

I am urging all relevant departments to come together and create a comprehensive plan for preventive measures and immediate responses. It is crucial that we unite to ensure that our schools remain safe spaces for learning and growth.

Let us remain vigilant, proactive, and committed to fostering a secure and nurturing environment for our children.

###