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American Samoa Department of Education Hosts Annual Church Service to Kick Off the School Year

Pago Pago, American Samoa – August 25, 2024 – The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) officially launched the 2024-2025 school year with a church service. The service, held at Fagaima Methodist Church, was attended by Senate President Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, members of the Fono, Attorney General Fainu’ulelei Alailima-Utu, government officials, church leaders, and ASDOE leaders who joined in prayer and worship, seeking blessings for the new academic year.

In his address, Reverend Peter Schuster emphasized in the book Psalm 121 verses 1-2, “ I look up to the mountain; my help comes from our Creator”. If you face any struggles and obstacles, always refer to your Creator. The church service highlighted the department’s commitment to fostering a supportive and holistic environment for students and staff grounded in shared values and a collective sense of purpose.

Attorney General Fainu’ulelei Alailima- Utu highly spoke on behalf of the Governor, and Acting Governor La’apui Ale expressed gratitude for the dedication and hard work of ASDOE employees, recognizing their vital role in shaping the future of American Samoa’s youth. "As we begin this new school year, we do so with a renewed spirit and a strong sense of mission," said AG Fainuulelei Alailima-Utu. " Teacher’s competent teacher’s compassion for students will inspire students to do well in the future." Therefore, let us resolve to Engage, Inspire, and Empower our students.

Director Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli reiterates the blessings from the Reverend to seek the Lord for help. With any challenges, keep moving forward, and always look at the mountain. That is where the most incredible help is from. On behalf of the Department, he expressed his heart of thanksgiving for the blessings. The Director also thanked the cabinet for consistently supporting the Department. He ended his remarks with a saying, “ O outou mamā na, in English, Those are your lungs.”

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