

Speech By Tagaloa Christa Szegedi at Gagaemalae Primary School

Talofa and Good Morning,

Honourable Minister of Finance Mulipola Anarosa Molioo

Gagaemalae Primary School Principal Tam Kwan Falute

Gagaemalae Primary School Teachers, Committee, Students

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the German Consul to Samoa, I am honoured to be here with you today together with my husband to celebrate the successful conclusion of this partnership project.

This project was made possible with the generous support from Her Excellency Nicole Menzenbach the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in New Zealand. I also want to acknowledge Mrs Debora Yaakobi from the Embassy in Wellington for her guidance and assistance with this project. Some of you would have had the opportunity to meet Mrs Yaakobi here at the school last year in October.

We are here today to celebrate the completion of the project titled "Gagaemalae School Improvement Project". For this project the School received over \$21,000 worth of Building materials. With these materials the school was able to tile two classrooms and library, renovate the bathrooms and renew the classroom lights.

By working together through the support of the school and the committee we have ensured a better learning environment for the benefit of students and teachers. This also sets a great example of how our two countries can collaborate to make a meaningful difference especially at the community and grassroots level.

I want to use this opportunity to thank The Honourable Minister of Finance Mulipola Anarosa Molioo for firstly suggesting this project with the school and for your assistance. Your dedication to finding ways to improve the learning environment at the school certainly needs to be commended.

I also want to thank Gagaemalae Primary School Principal Tam Falute, teachers and the School committee for all your contributions, without the support this project would not have been possible.

I have a small but dedicated team in Apia helping me implement the different projects here in Samoa. Thank you too my Husband Taumalaulu Stefan for his guidance, While he is not here today I also want to thank my son Afoa Stefan and his partner Anastasia for their hard work with this project.

As German Consul to Samoa, I have always emphasized the importance of providing assistance towards the education sector of Samoa. At the same time it is also vital that resources and support are given to the big Island of Savaii.

Last year in May, Samoa and Germany celebrated 50 years of official diplomatic relations. As a result just in 2022 Germany was able to support 10 projects for Samoa in the education sector. Four of these projects were here in Savaii and six projects in Upolu.

The aim of these projects was to support the work of teachers and improve learning conditions for students. As the German Consul I can honestly say that I am proud to be able to contribute towards a vision of improving the education infrastructure in Samoa. Education is and will continue to play an important role for our younger generation. The children are our future.

Lastly I want to thank everyone for coming today to this ceremony and for making today a really great experience. It is our wish that the partnership we have created together will continue in years to come as we work together for the betterment of the children here at the School. It is also my hope what we have archived together with this project can be used as a blueprint of even greater cooperation between Germany and Samoa in the near future.

Thank You.