



# *e-Newsletter*

*Information from SSOAP*

*July 2025*

## **SSOAP Gets Government Support**

As per the May 25 2025 Newsletter, the Executive Team consulted with the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour (MCIL) for financial support through its programme to strengthen private sector developments.

A positive advice was received on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The Secretary, Emele Meleisea-Ainu'u participated in the official ceremony (26<sup>th</sup> Jun25) to acknowledge the government's support, and the fund (SAT14,810.13) has been used to purchase the priority operational assets (computers etc); including communication necessities to ensure connectivity. A "Members' Night" has been suggested to target capacity building through shared experiences in a stress free environment.

## **SSOAP contributes to "Shiology"**

Our participation was reported in the May Newsletter, and SSOAP's contributions have been submitted on chapters being shared for feedback. The other Co-drafters from Oceania include two (2) from Fiji, one (1) from Papua New Guinea, and one (1) from the Kingdom of Tonga.

## **Contributions to National Policies**

Our Executive participated at two (2) National Policy Consultations: (1) Samoa's National Biodiversity Policy, and (2) Investment by Citizenship.

Samoa's National Biodiversity Policy (NBP) relies on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as an instrument for implementation. SSOAP's contribution was to ensure that the NBP, with its very strong environmental focus was updated with emphasis on a well-integrated Agriculture and Related Sectors' perspective.

The uptake by investors under the "Investment by Citizenship" scheme has been very low, when compared to other countries such as Vanuatu and the Caribbean. Our contribution focussed on the investors to be well informed of the potential opportunities in the Agriculture and Related Sectors, based on the qualifying requirements which include land development and processing.

## **Our Condolences**

This is also an opportunity to pay tribute to our members/colleagues who have passed away, viz. Saena Mulitalo Penaia Saena and Papalii Panoa Tavita Moala.

**ASUAO KIRIFI POUONO (PRESIDENT)**

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