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**American Samoa Department of Education Celebrates Groundbreaking and Dedication Ceremony for Mt. Alava Elementary School on 09/03/24**

**Pago Pago, American Samoa** – The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) celebrated the successful groundbreaking and dedication ceremony for the new Mt. Alava Elementary School on 09/03/24, marking a significant milestone in the department's efforts to enhance educational facilities for the children of American Samoa.

The event at the Mt. Alava Elementary School site in Vatia was a genuine community effort. It was attended by distinguished guests, including Honorable Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Cabinet Members, the Director of Public Works, Faleosina Voight and team, Members of the church, village councils, teachers and parents, the Director of Education Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli, and other community leaders. Together, they commemorated this historic occasion and the future it represents for education in the territory.

Rev. Elder Afalupetoa Uta'i, in his remarks from the book of John 3-16 and 17, reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." God has already paved the way for us and has a plan for all of us. If we believe we can achieve anything.

Director Faleosina Voight described the new building dedicated today as a two-story building. The first floor has an office, cafeteria, nursing room, and lavatories for students; the second has classrooms. The director announced the completion and readiness of the new Mt. Alava Elementary School building for occupancy. This facility is a testament to our commitment to creating safe, modern, and innovative learning environments for our students. We are proud to open its doors and look forward to its positive impact on the future of education in our community.

Honorable Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the ceremony. He explained that this was the vision orchestrated by our previous leaders. Our formal leader's vision to build was accomplished with a grateful heart during his time. He also emphasized the importance of the heart of the house, not the body. Teach with a heart, and all the rest will follow. Teach to love and love who you are teaching.

**A Vision for the Future:** The dedication of Mt. Alava Elementary School symbolizes not only the growth of our education system but also our investment in the future leaders of American Samoa," said the Director of Education, Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli. "This new facility will serve as a cornerstone for educational excellence and provide our students with the tools they need to succeed in a dynamic and evolving world. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Honorable Governor, members of the Church, cabinet members, the village council, and the leadership team.

