

Sulesa Simanu speaks during the World Press Freedom Day speech competition organised by Journalists Association of Samoa (JAWS) with support from UNESCO.

WINNING WORDS

Media, Development and Poverty Eradication in Samoa.

By Sulesa Simanu,
of Maluafou College

Winner of the Journalists Association of Samoa (JAWS) World Press Freedom Day speech competition held on Wednesday, 3 May, at the Samoa Tourism Authority Fale Samoa.

Today, I would like to thank God, it is indeed a joyous day, a day where the freedom of the press is celebrated around the world.

Today, we celebrate our freedom, my freedom and our freedom and God given right of expression through the media.

Today is an important day for democracy in the world. It is of course of utmost value to Journalists who suppressed, who cannot express themselves freely and especially those under Governments who do not allow them to do so.

In some countries Journalists have been imprisoned, killed and publicly shunned. But let me ask a question: What is the true meaning of Media, Development and Poverty Eradication?

Or should I say, "How can the media assist in the development of a country and therefore take away poverty?"

The different forms of media are really important to the development of any country. The media delivers written information and publicises methods, skills and other useful details about successful means of livelihoods.

As we all know this is the journey to development and this of course means a healthy economy. Our people will live well, happy and healthy and poverty will be eradicated.

If the press or the media is free, informative and fair, Samoans will know how to plant fruits and vegetables, they will know who to plant the nonu and market it overseas, Samoans will know how to take care of cows and sheep.

Samoans will also know how to nurture and harvest useful sea creatures such as clams and market it overseas. They will also be aware and knowledgeable in the establishment of small businesses.

And if Samoa is aware of all these things and reap from the knowledge of these livelihoods and development;

- We will have plenty of food
- Every child will have a good education

- We will all live in good houses
- Health will improve and that means our people will live happy and healthy

Events are occurring around the world and in our country. They say there is no freedom of the press and journalists are being taken to court and suppressed. But be reminded that Samoa is a free and democratic nation.

We are founded on God through Christianity. We are unique and differ greatly from other countries in the world, with our culture, the FaaSamoa and respect, the faaloalo.

If someone should exercise their freedom of expression and discuss sex through the media I feel there are respectful ways to express these issues.

We have to take into consideration that Head of State is listening, reading and watching, that our mothers and fathers, that servants of God and that the whole country are listening, reading and watching the media.

We are culture with values, we have the sacred relationship between man and woman and this is exactly why we are unique.

We are a Christian country with a culture of respect and some might say, "Samoa is the Israel of the Pacific." There is an article in the Constitution, which addresses defamation supported by facts and lawful evidence.

Today I feel we should thank God. Freedom of the Press is our freedom. The Media assists in the development of our livelihoods, which leads to the eradication of poverty.

However this Freedom should be observed with caution, attack the issue but mind the manner in which you do it.

Please do not let your freedom as a Journalist take away your values as a Samoan, let there be a fine line between freedom of the press and respect for others, because after all, we are a respectful nation.

SITUATIONS VACANT

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

A position has become available in Samoa's leading fish export company.

The position requires a person with the necessary skills; qualifications and experience to undertake and supervise all finance related matters of a small but progressive export orientated company.

Key duties will include

- Reconciliation of exports and export receipts
- Day to day cash flow management
- Management of overseas accounts
- Preparation of accounts for audit

Commencing Salary package will be in accordance with experience and the successful applicant can expect above average remuneration if displaying the necessary qualifications and experience to fulfill the requirements of the position.

Written applications together with CV and references should be forwarded before Friday 12th May 2006 to:

The Manager
Apia Export Fish Packers Ltd
PO Box 2273
Apia

Attention: Accountant application.

A-28-29-30/4 & 3-6-7/5

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Apia Samoa Service Center

TENDER

Tenders are invited for the purchase of the following vehicle in damaged condition as is.

- One (1) only 2003 4WD Toyota Doublecab Hilux Pickup (used only for about 4 months before damage)

Vehicle can be viewed at the Church's Motor Pool compound Pesega during normal working hours between 8:00am and 12:00 noon, Monday – Friday. Tenders under \$30,000 Tala will not be considered. Tenders must be addressed to the Materials Management Manager, Pesega marked "LDS Vehicle Tenders". P.O. Box 889, Apia or delivered direct to the Church Materials Management Department Office at Pesega to arrive before the closure date and time noted below, with a contact telephone number or address should you be the successful tenderer. Winning tender must be paid in full plus the required MOT change of ownership fee before vehicle is removed from premises.

Tenders close Friday, 19th May 2006, 12:00 noon.

A-5-6-7-10-12-13-14-17-19/5



Journalists Association of Samoa (JAWS) members with Minister of Communication and Information Technology Mulitalo Sealiimalietoa Siafausa Vui at the World Press Freedom Day celebration. From left: Ame Sene (Radio Polynesia), Cherelle Savaliiofilemu Jackson (JAWS secretary), Mulitalo, Angela Polu (JAWS treasurer), and Asenati Taugasolo Semu and Leofao Fa'afia (Samoa Observer).

Press Freedom Day: Better late than never

World Press Freedom Day was celebrated Wednesday evening by Journalists Association of Samoa (JAWS) members - after being postponed in the morning because of the tsunami warning.

The celebration was coordinated by JAWS in partnership with UNESCO, at the Samoa Tourism Authority fale.

Amongst those attending was the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Mulitalo Sealiimalietoa Siafausa Vui.

UNESCO Adviser for Communication and Information in the Pacific, Abel Caine, delivered the keynote speech, stressing the importance of journalists' work.

A speech competition for students went ahead, although some representatives

did not turn up. This was because of the postponement and the closure of educational institutions because of the tsunami alert.

The winner was Sulesa Simanu from Maluafofu College, who took home a trophy and \$100.

Malua Theological College student Martin Mariota was also awarded \$100. Another \$100 was awarded to Pryole Taimalelagi, who was described as a viewer and listener of the media.

All speakers stressed their points in relation to the theme, "Media, Development, and Poverty Eradication". A cocktail party was held afterwards with JAWS members, UNESCO representatives and guests attending.



Samoa Observer news editor Keni Ramese Lesa presents World Press Freedom Day speech competition winner Sulesa Simanu, from Maluafofu College, with her \$100 prize. Photos: Uelese Tofilau

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