

# OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

## Land Awareness Day

The Land Awareness Day was celebrated on Wednesday 4th of October at the EFKS Hall, Sogi with its main theme - "Our Land Our Heritage". The Land Management Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology is one of the important divisions within the ministry that deals mainly with land issues to include land administration, land registrations, land development and land valuation in Samoa. The event was well attended by various stakeholders, government officials, cabinet ministers and the general public. A series of displays regarding the Services provided by the Land Management Division were on show. This provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about the important services provided and the work being done by this division. Services provided that support the divisions overall objectives towards the "sustainable management of lands and land-based natural resources". It was also an opportunity to inform the public of the Land Management Division's role as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology. A consultation seminar as well as the launching was also held which provided valuable input into Samoa's National Action Programme (NAP) to combat land degradation in Samoa obligated under the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification. The participation of stakeholders and the public was well recognized with their input and comments.

**Statement by Hon. Faumuina Liuga  
Minister of Natural Resources,  
Environment and Meteorology**

**Rev. Auva'a Peseta,  
Members of Cabinet,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today is Land Awareness Day! This is an initiative by Government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to reach out to the people of Samoa to bring home to them the services offered by the Ministry in matters pertaining to land. We have chosen as the theme for this special day, "LAND OUR HERITAGE".

The purpose for this land awareness initiative is twofold. First, to explain to the people of Samoa the services that are performed by the two Divisions of the Ministry that deal with land; and



ACEO for the Land Management Division - MNREM Soolalo David Fong and staff

secondly to officially launch the National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation in Samoa.

The Land Management Division comprises four sections - The Land Registry deals with registration of all dealings relating to land using the Deeds Registration System. With financial assistance provided by the World Bank for the Implementation of the Coastal Asset Management Project SIAM II Project for Samoa, the Torrens System of Land Registration will soon replace the old Deeds Registration System used in Samoa. The Land Development Section focuses on the formulation and monitoring of land policies once approved by Cabinet. The Land Administration Section administers the leasing and licensing of customary land as well as the administration of government land in accordance with the provisions of the Lands Surveys & Environment Act 1989. The Valuation Section provides valuation for all real and personal property in Samoa.

The Technical Services Division comprises the Survey Section responsible for the survey of government land; the Plan Examination & Draughting Section examines all survey plans submitted for compliance with the requirements of Survey legislation; and the National Mapping Section produces aerial and other maps of Samoa. Worthy of mention is the implementation of geodetic reforms that has made possible the upgrading of the Geodetic Survey System for Samoa under the SIAM II Coastal Management Project.

Last but not the least is the official launching of the National Action Plan for Samoa to combat the problem of land degradation in our country. This Plan has been approved by Cabinet and will be submitted to the Head Office of UNCCD in Bonn to serve as the implementation tool for national action programmes to combat land degradation in Samoa. I am happy to announce that initial funding amounting to \$500,000USD has been approved by UNDP-GEF to begin the implementation of action programmes to counter land degradation in Samoa as formulated in the National Action Plan.

Ladies and gentlemen, please find time to sight our displays and talk to our staff as to how best they can serve you. Enjoy the Program and God bless!



The National Action Plan for Samoa to combat the problem of Land Degradation in our country. This Plan has been approved by Cabinet and will be submitted to the Head Office of UNCCD in Bonn to serve as the implementation tool for national action programmes to combat land degradation in Samoa.



For more information contact our Land Management Division - MNREM at Savalalo ph# 22481 / 22485 fax# 23692

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## Children's Corner



Children aged 9-14 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "Children's Environment Awareness 2006 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores in November during the 2006 National Environment Week".

### Find the words in the box

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. land       | 6. urban        |
| 2. lease      | 7. rural        |
| 3. customary  | 8. heritage     |
| 4. freehold   | 9. sustainable  |
| 5. settlement | 10. environment |

l	a	n	d	o	s	a	s	a	e	j
e	s	a	m	o	a	t	e	u	l	k
a	c	w	e	t	y	u	i	r	s	s
s	u	s	t	a	i	n	a	b	l	e
e	s	d	g	h	c	h	s	a	x	t
g	t	r	u	r	a	l	f	n	b	t
x	o	u	s	j	k	r	k	e	i	l
x	m	h	e	r	i	t	a	g	e	e
i	a	l	k	j	g	y	u	i	k	m
f	r	e	e	h	o	l	d	o	l	e
o	y	a	w	a	r	e	n	e	s	n
e	n	v	i	r	o	n	m	e	n	t

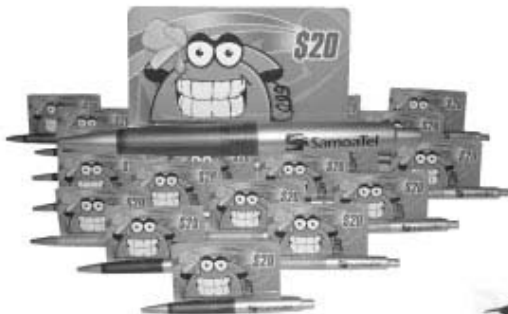
### Answer the following statements

1. What Awareness Day that was celebrated on Wednesday?
2. What was the theme of this Awareness Day?
3. What does MNREM stands for?
4. Who is the minister for this ministry?
5. The Land Management Division is under the ministry of health. True or False.
6. What does NAP stands for?
7. This is the first ever Land Awareness Day. True or False
8. What does UNCCD stands for?
9. The Land Management Division comprises of four sections. True or False.
10. What is land degradation?



### STAY TUNED KIDS

For our last month's winners names !!!



"some of the wonderful and educational prizes for our winners - kids there are more great prizes to give away"



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following companies for sponsoring our children's corner and pages.

- Samoa Biscuits.



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