



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Matāgaluega o Puna'oa Faalenatura ma le Siosiomaga

Level 3, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
Building (TATTE), Sogi, P.O Private Bag,
Apia, SAMOA.
Website: <http://www.mnre.gov.ws/>

Telephone: (+685) 67200
Fax: (+685) 23176
Email: info@mnre.gov.ws

Please address all correspondence to the Chief
Executive Officer, Private Bag, Apia, Samoa.

Faamolemole faatuatusi uma mai fesootaiga
ma i le Ōfisa Sili.

PRESS RELEASE

GROUND BREAKING OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (NEOC)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the World Bank Director of Strategy and Operations, Cabinet Ministers, government officials and the private sector today witnessed a special milestone for the Ministry and the Government of Samoa, by breaking ground for a state-of-the-art building that is going to advance the responses of the country and the community to disaster, by providing the facilities and the tools for coordinated actions prior to and during a disaster. It will help Samoa effectively implement its National Disaster Management Plan (2017-2020).

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is a component of the Pacific Resilience Program (PREP) funded by the World Bank through a Grant, and implemented by the Disaster Management Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. PREP is contributing to Samoa's development goal of building resilience to natural disasters and climate change, improving early warning systems, and providing mechanisms for financing recovery activities in the wake of a disaster.

The NEOC will be a two storey building, and will house the latest technology and equipment to assist the Disaster Management Office and Meteorology Division to produce accurate information for the public in times of disaster. It is designed to have sufficient space and equipment for effective coordination and response in case of a disaster. It will help increase the resilience of Samoa and the Pacific region as a whole to natural hazards such as cyclones,

coastal/riverine flooding, volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes by improving the quality of forecasting and warning services.

The NEOC, is a step further by the Government to its commitment and dedication to its people. The ministry has established fitting legislations, and supported by the implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan (2017-2020) that was launched in 2018. The government therefore not only have progressed with their obligations within the country, but also with the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) and international conventions that Samoa is a signatory of, like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.

The new building is also a recognition of the importance of climate and disaster risk management from multiple stakeholders; from responders, logistics, village communities, development partners, Non-Governmental-Organisation (NGO), and our neighboring government such as Australia and New Zealand.

This building will be constructed by the Zheng Company Ltd at the total bid price of **SAT\$6.4 million**. The building's design was done by Kramer Ausenco (Samoa) Ltd, who will also supervise the construction works. The duration of the project will be 14 months and the building is expected to be completed by April 2020.

The Government of Samoa expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Director of the World Bank Group and Team for their vision in providing this much needed assistance for Samoa. It is the government's hope that others continue to provide support in this important area of climate and disaster risk management, which the Prime Minister has highlighted as an increasing concern for Samoa.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



6 FEBRUARY 2019
TUANA'IMATO
APIA, SAMOA

Front View



Back View



Side View

