



Remarks

by

Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi

Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

at the

Global Island Partnership Leaders' Inspiring Action Dinner

3 September 2014, 7.00 p.m. Orator Hotel, Apia, SAMOA.

Your Excellencies, The Presidents of the Republic of Palau and the Republic of Seychelles,
The Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada,
Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the SIDS Conference,
Delegates and representatives of Small Island Developing States and our partners,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Global Island Partnership for inviting me to give a few remarks at tonight's Leaders Inspiring Action event.

We are here for a specific purpose, not just to enjoy the hospitality of our co-hosts. We are gathered tonight to celebrate GLISPA's nine-year journey as a voluntary partnership, to be inspired by its success to date and be moved to act now to help ourselves.

GLISPA is a unique partnership.

It was conceived out of a shared vision of two SIDS leaders, the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles. Its birthplace is Mauritius, a Small island developing state itself, and host of the 2nd International

Conference on SIDS in 2005. GLIPSA is about home-grown solutions by SIDS for SIDS to address their challenges and take advantage of available opportunities. It is about SIDS' three regions coming together not to compete against each other, but to pool their resources to try and make a difference in the lives of their people. It is about SIDS being proactive and taking the lead, and not waiting to be led.

As a voluntary partnership, there is no differentiation based on status of the partners or their level of support. And partners can come and go depending on their changing circumstances from time to time. Underpinning this whole approach is the clear message that "all partnerships matter and none is insignificant or subservient to the other".

Looking forward, GLISPA in essence is a trademark of SIDS, a manifestation of the power of shared vision, nurtured and allowed to grow through encouragement and support at the highest political level. It represents a strong and positive reaffirmation that SIDS can fashion their destiny and be the driving force for their own sustainable development if they stay the course and remain committed to their vision. It's an encouraging reminder that "a good idea will always be a good idea irrespective of the source", as no one has a monopoly of good ideas.

Necessarily, the pathway to the realisation of SIDS visions can only be achieved by SIDS working with their diverse network of partners, especially those who are motivated through the goodness of their hearts to do what is necessary to help build resilient and sustainable island communities.

Co-Chairs, and distinguished guests,

Our celebration tonight is timely. The cornerstone of our SIDS conference is the centrality of genuine partnerships as a durable means to implement the SAMOA Pathway. GLIPSA has come of age. It has paved the way to give other SIDS a level of confidence and comfort to step forward and take action by providing a framework for SIDS and

their partners to join and be part of a growing and expanding movement.

Before closing, I want to heed the call by our Co-chairs for leaders of SIDS to be inspired and to act for our islands future by joining GLIPSA's example.

I want to share briefly a joint partnership between our two Samoas, American Samoa and us. Our joint Environmental Collaboration initiative will improve our archipelago-wide environmental management and strengthen collaborative relationships between our governments, industries, private sectors, villages, individuals as well as regional and international organizations. The partnership will ensure long-term sustainability of fish stocks, strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the effects of climate change, improve water quality and protect the two Samoas from the threat of invasive species. All these are captured in the "Two Samoas' Strategic Plan" approved in 2012 to guide all actions and to be reviewed on a triennial basis.

I mentioned our partnership for two specific reasons.

Firstly it's an ambitious Plan but one that is achievable – hence the need to explore avenues for additional resources and potential new partners. Thus I want to request GLISPA and its partners to consider how they can support the mix of projects in our Strategic Plan at your wrap-up session on Friday if at all possible.

Secondly, I want to use the GLIPSA model and our Two Samoa's initiative to issue a challenge to the rest of Pacific Polynesian nations to follow with similar sub-regional cooperation in similar areas as identified in our Two-Samoa's Strategy and to start reporting to the Polynesian Leaders Group on these issues.

Co-Chairs,

I thank you again for your sterling leadership and I wish you good health and your GLISPA partnership continued success.

Soifua ma ia manuia.