

**SPEECH BY THE SAMOA HIGH COMMISSIONER AND DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS**  
**HE LEASI PAPALI' I SCANLAN AT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RECEPTION FOR THE**  
**DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021**

*Tihei, Mauri Ora! Ko te Atua to Tatou Piringa. E Nga Mana, E Nga Reo, E Nga Rangatira Ma,  
Talofa lava, Tena Koutou Katoa.*

*E lagona lava le agaga fa'agae'etia ona o leni fa'aloalo maualuga ua tu'uina mai ia te a'u  
oute faia ai se upu e tali atu ai i le Malelega a lana Afioga i le Kovana Sili o Aotearoa Niusila,  
lana Afioga ia Dame Cindy Kiro*

*O Paia, Sa ma Faiga o lo'o afifio ma papa'a'ao, o le a le o'o iai sa'u fa'amatalaga. Aua o outou  
Paia ma Mamalu, e mai le vavau ma o'o atu lava i le fa'avavau*

*Ae tau ia ona ou fa'apea atu, ia Manuia le Nofoaiga a Lau Afioga le Tama'ita'i Kovana Sili mo  
leisi 5 tausaga. Fa'amanuia fo'i le Atua i tagatanu'u uma o Aotearoa, Niusila*

Your Excellencies, Dame Cindy Kiro and Dr Richard Davies.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of our Diplomatic Corps Family, their Excellencies the Ambassadors, High Commissioners and our Spouses, I would like to warmly congratulate Your Excellency for being appointed the 22<sup>nd</sup> Governor General of New Zealand.

Special congratulations, Your Excellency, on being the first Maori Female to be appointed to this very distinguished and prestigious position.

We thank Your Excellency and Dr Davies for kindly inviting us to Government House this evening and especially for hosting this Reception for us. We are particularly honoured to be your first official guests to Government House since you took up office just over a week ago.

To our Diplomatic Corps, this shows the importance and special recognition that you have kindly afforded to the 50 Heads of State and the Countries that we represent, for which we again thank you.

The Members of our Diplomatic Corps Family have been very fortunate and privileged to have enjoyed warm and cordial relationships with your Predecessors – more recently, Dame Patsy & Sir David and before that for a handful of us – Sir Jerry and Lady Janine

And, with respect, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue this close relationship with Your Excellency and Dr Davies in the period ahead.

Your Excellency, as I was told that I only have two minutes (maximum) to speak, which is a tall order for a Diplomat - especially a Samoan Diplomat, I feel that I should make a good first impression and keep to my time limit.

In any case, I would hate for my Diplomatic Corps Colleagues to blame me for this Reception being the first and the last time we are invited to Government House over the next five years!

We wish you, Dame Cindy & Dr Davies, an enjoyable and successful time as Governor General of New Zealand

*Nga Mihi Nui Ki a Korua. No reira, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Katou Katoa!*

*FA'AFETAI TELE, SOIFUA MA IA MANUIA!*