

# Workers' associations get \$20,000 grant assistance

## SAMOA

President of the Samoa Nurses' Association, Solialofi Papalii Pisimaka  
(Photo: Samoa Observer)



By Adel Fruean • 04 February 2022, 8:00PM

The Government has recognised the contribution of workers' associations to the country's economic development and allocated \$20,000 as part of a grant assistance.

The Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour, Leatinu'u Wayne So'oialo, unveiled the grant assistance for selected workers associations in a small ceremony on Friday.

The grant assistance was launched together with the Government's \$10 million Private Sector Assistance.

Leatinu'u said the grant assistance is worth \$20,000 which will be divided among four associations with each of them receiving \$5,000.

He said the selected recipients of the grant assistance include: Samoa Workers Congress; Public Service Association; Samoa Nurses Association; and the Samoa Seafarers and Maritime Association.

Furthermore, the Minister said the four associations were selected to kick-start the assistance for associations but the process will be reviewed going forward.

"As part of the vision to strengthen worker representation across all sectors of economic activity, the Government through the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour (M.C.I.L.) has initiated the Worker Association Grant," he said.

He explained that this assistance will become an annual fixture and be directed towards workers' organisations sitting on the Samoa National Tripartite Forum.

"The forum has been a longstanding platform for discussion of national labour and employment policies, legislation and strategies," said the Minister.

"Using the principles of social dialogue and tripartite consultation, representatives of Government, employers and workers are able to have their voices heard in the development of important labour and employment matters to ensure that all constituents are sharing in the fruits of economic development.

"Therefore, the members on this forum are positioned to ensure issues important to workers are addressed across all occupations including private and public sector, and specifically nursing and maritime workers."

In addition, Leatinu'u said the grant is intended to support the administrative costs and importantly the planning of each recipient in rolling out their respective programs.

"Overall, the initiative will enable organisations to improve their representation of member's interests through various platforms," he said.

"We have a long road to recovery; and working together as a nation during these difficult times will be the guiding star to our journey.

"I wish you all the best, stay safe and may our Heavenly Father continue to protect and watch over Samoa."

In a previous interview with the President of the Samoa Nurses' Association, Solialofi Papalii Pisimaka, she said she was thankful for the generous gesture from the Government.

The association has about 600 members with the President revealing that they are always in need of funding to assist in the development of nurses.

She welcomed the funds from the allocated budget via the M.C.I.L and welcomed its disbursement to each of the organisations.