

**Speech By Stefan Szegedi at Auala Primary School 11 March
2022.**

Talofa and Good Morning,

Reverend

Honourable Associate Minister and Member of Parliament
for Vaisigano 1 Niuava Eti Malolo

Auala Primary School Principal Va Pauulu

Auala Pulenuu Paialii Fautua Talaoloa

Damon Moors from Lodge Calliope 252 and your team

Auala Primary School Teachers, Committee, Students

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the representative of the German Consul to Samoa, I am honoured to be here with you today together with the German Consul to Samoa Tagaloa Christa Szegedi to celebrate the successful conclusion of this partnership project with Auala Primary School.

This project was made possible with the generous support from His Excellency Stefan Krawielicki the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in New Zealand. I also want to acknowledge Mrs Wera Hack and Mrs Debora Yaakobi from the Embassy in Wellington for their guidance and assistance with this project.

If it was not for the current COVID-19 restrictions I am sure a representative from the embassy in Wellington would be here today at the ceremony.

We are here today to celebrate the completion of the project titled, "Improvement at Auala Primary School with the support of Germany". For this project Auala Primary School received over \$21,000 worth of floor tiles, tile fix and 3 new sinks. This improvement will ensure more beautiful and hygienic learning environment for the students and teachers. Also part of the assistance received from the German Government the school will get five new laptops for the computer lab. These laptops will provide for the students and teachers the necessary tools for improved learning.

Today's ceremony has been made extra special with the wonderful support from Lodge Calliope 252 which have generously donated shoes for the children of Auala Primary School. By donating the shoes Lodge Calliope 252 you will have brought lots of joy and happiness to all the school children here today. I want to use this opportunity to say thank you Mr Damon Moors and your team for your contribution and for being here today.

Covid-19 has brought about many challenges and disruptions to the education sector of Samoa. It was just over one month ago that we were on Level 3 lockdown. The children of Samoa deserve and need a good education for their future development.

As a result with the support of the government of Germany we all must work even closer together and provide assistance where we can to overcome whatever challenges Covid-19 puts in our way.

I want to use this opportunity to thank several people. Firstly the Honourable Associate Minister and Member of Parliament for Vaisigano No 1 Niuava Eti Malolo. Thank you for suggesting this partnership with the school and for your all your support with this project. I want to also thank Auala Primary School Principal Va Pauulu and Auala Pulenuu Paialii Fautua Talaoloa for your hard work during this project. Your dedication and hard work for the school certainly needs to be acknowledged.

To my friends Olaf and Tina thank you also for your valuable assistant. To my Wonderful Hun Anastasia thank you as always for your love. Also happy Anniversary Hun.

Our German Consul to Samoa, Tagaloa Christa Szegedi has always emphasized the importance of providing assistance towards the education sector of Samoa. At the same time it is also vital that resources and support are given to the big Island of Savaii. The children of Savaii belong and will play a vital role towards the future of Samoa. To prove Tagaloa's commitment the Auala Primary School project is now the third project in Savaii since 2019. It certainly will also not be the last.

Savaii and Vaisala has for our family a very special place in our hearts. For many years we have developed a close relationship with the Vaai family and especially Vaai Papu Vaai who sadly passed away just recently. My father Taumalaulu Stefan and my mother the German Consul Tagaloa have been honoured with Matai titles from Vaisala. This is one of the reasons why we were extremely excited to be able to do a partnership project at Auala which is located next to Vaisala.

As you know, in 1914 the German colonization of Samoa came to an end. This however it did not stop Germany from continuing to provide assistance and seek greater cooperation with Samoa. The partnership between Auala Primary School and Germany is one of those examples. We also hope what we have archived together today can be used as a blueprint of even greater cooperation between Germany and Samoa in the near future.

The partnership will not end today, but will continue for many more years to come. I can assure you that Auala Primary school has found a true friend from Germany. It is our wish that the partnership we have created together will continue in years to come as we work together for the betterment of the children here at the Auala Primary School.

Lastly I want to thank everyone for coming today to this ceremony. I also want to thank the principal, teachers, Auala pulenuu and village, Lodge Calliope 252 and the children of Auala Primary School. Thank you for making today a really memorable experience.

Thank You