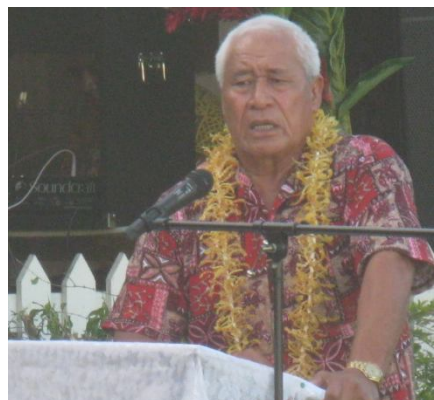


## **Farewell Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow, welcome Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama**

The Health Sector hosted a special ceremony on the 24<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm to farewell the former Minister of Health, Honorable Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow and welcome the new Minister of Health, Honorable Leao Dr. Talalelei Tuitama in front of the Ministry of Health Building.

The ceremony was well attended by Board Members, Management and Staff from the National Health Services, National Kidney Foundation, World Health Organization, Ministry of Health (MOH) and other guests as well as the media.

The invocation was held by Reverend Solomona Tuatagaloa of the Christian Church of Samoa who is a member of the National Health Service Board. It was then followed by the Director General of Health's message. Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe firstly congratulated



**The New Minister of Health, Honorable Leao Dr. Talalelei Tuitama.**

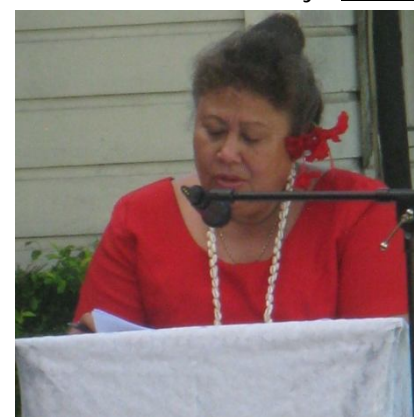
the newly appointed Minister for his success and wished him well for the next five years. She added that he has all of the support of the MOH Management and Staff. She also acknowledged the hard work and contribution of the former Minister and acknowledging her "great legacy of achievements". The list of realized projects and programs such as leading the implementation of government reforms in the health sector and becoming a chairperson in both regional and international health committees are just a few examples of her achievements. Others include the establishment of the Health Promotion Foundation which is currently in the pipeline, Ongoing Donor partner collaboration and also through the Ministry's prayer meetings every Tuesday morning as a spiritual means to start the week.

The Honorable Minister of Health, Leao Dr. Talalelei Tuitama, stated that government's main health priorities for the five year period 2011-2016 focuses on clinical treatment of patients to ensure that all resources are available for that purpose; increasing the immunization coverage to improve on current statistics; and finally, health promotion, which enables people to increase control over their health and wellbeing before the incidence of ill health. He also stressed the importance of the Health Sector working together so as to achieve the vision of *A Healthy Samoa*. He served as Associate Minister of Health from 2005-2010.

Former Minister, Honorable Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow, in her speech acknowledged the Health Sector with the many achievements as well as their consistent support throughout her five year term. She encouraged the Sector to continue with weekly spiritual prayer meetings for divine blessings. Honorable Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow is the newly appointed Associate Minister for the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development.



**Former Minister of Health, Honorable Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow during her final speech.**



**The Director General & CEO – MOH, Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe**

## More photos of the day:



L-R: Hon Gatoloifaana A.A. G, Rev. Solomona Tuatagaloa & Dr. Baoping Yang.



Member of the Health Sector



Staff of the Ministry of Health



MOH Management



Representatives from the WHO & NHS



Tolefoa Dr. Take Naseri as public speaker for the traditional acknowledgements.



NHS Chair, Tupuola Olo Koki Tuala during his speech.



Siva Samoa (Traditional Samoan Dance)



Old & New dancing the tauluga (Siva Samoa) – finale of the day

