

Samoa remembers World AIDS Day 2011



L-R: Director General of Health-Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe; Reverend Eti Tamati-Church Minister (CCCS); Minister of Health-Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama.

Tuitama Talalelei, during the keynote address challenging all individuals, communities and political leaders alike, to get to zero, by being able to share with families and friends the painful reality of HIV/AIDS as the number of HIV positive cases are gradually rising. Also, it is the day to remember those who have lost their lives, to stand firm with those who are living with fear, prejudice, and discrimination because of their medical condition, and to support all efforts at promoting understanding and compassion for those with HIV

The Health Sector partners were gathered at the Ministry of Health Headquarters at Motootua to commemorate World AIDS Day on Thursday 1st December, 2011.

'Getting to Zero' is the World AIDS Day theme for 2011. It has been 30 years of the global fight against HIV/AIDS and according to the World Health Organisation, the global community has committed to focusing on achieving three targets namely; "Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths." This theme was emphasized by the Honorable Minister of Health, Leao Dr.



Health Sector Partners during the ceremony



Performing the World AIDS Day theme song are Sarah Faletese and Matile Tausili of the Ministry of Health.

and AIDS. Furthermore, he acknowledged to all the hard work by government, church, non government organisations, communities, individuals and all health care providers for their tremendous and collective efforts in fighting the deadly virus. He was also grateful of the financial assistance provided by the World Health Organisation, Global Fund and other international funding agencies for being instrumental in making prevention and promotion programs a reality.

The day ended with some of the performances such as the World AIDS Day 2011 theme song written and sung by some of MoH personnel, as well as the AIDS Prevention performance by one the health sector partner, Samoa Family Health Association.



The AIDS Prevention performance by SFHA