

SPEECH BY H.E.MR. TA VAN THONG
AMBASSADOR OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC VIETNAM
TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA
AT THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY
(Apia, 07 March 2019)

*Your Highness, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II, the Head of State of the Independent State of Samoa,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is a great privilege for me to present the Credentials of the President of the Socialist of Vietnam to You, which accredits me Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Vietnam to the Independent State of Samoa

Your Highness, you can rest assured of my utmost efforts to further promote the relations between our two nations.

Your Highness,

Our two countries established diplomatic relations in 1994 and I am very pleased to witness that Samoa and Viet Nam has enjoyed excellent friendship since then. The Government and people of Viet Nam have always attached great importance to further strengthening the relationship with Samoa for mutual benefits of both countries, and for peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

Vietnam was known as a war-devastating nation. Now the country has become a favourite venue for tourists. 15 million foreign tourists visited Vietnam last year. The economy has been doing very well and grew by 7% last year with the GDP of more than 250 billion USD. The government will continue the policy of expanding relations with all all countries across the world. Vietnam is now member of WTO, APEC, ASEAN, ASEM. Vietnam was the non-permanent member of the UNSC and is now running for this seat again for 2020-2021. We would like to thank Samoa for joining the Asia Pacific group to endorse Vietnam as the regional candidate for this important post.

I'm very honoured and delighted to be the Ambassador to Samoa at a time when the friendship and cooperation between Samoa and Viet Nam continue to develop after 25 years of establishing our diplomatic relations.

I believe that there are great potentials for our cooperation, especially in the areas of economic and trade, agriculture, fishery, tourism and people to people links.

I'm confident that we share a common task to enhance the relationships between Samoa and Viet Nam in areas of mutual interests.

As the Ambassador of Viet Nam to Samoa, I'm determined to do my best to further expand and strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Your Highness,

Let me conclude by sincerely wishing you and your country peace, progress and prosperity and look forward to enjoying full support from you and your government during my term of duties as Ambassador of Viet Nam to Samoa.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again express our high appreciation to Your Highness, the Government and people of Samoa for all support and assistance given to my predecessor and the Embassy.

Thank you for your kind attention./.