

**SPEECH BY H.E. MS. NUR IZZAH WONG MEE CHOO
HIGH COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE PRESENTATION OF LETTER OF CREDENCE TO
HIS HIGHNESS TUIMALEALI'IFANO VA'ALETOA SUALAUVI II
HEAD OF STATE OF SAMOA
ON 29 AUGUST 2019 IN APIA, SAMOA**

Your Highness, *Talofa lava*,

It is an immense honour to present to Your Highness the Letter of Credence from His Majesty the 16th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, the King of Malaysia, accrediting me as the High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Independent State of Samoa; and the Letter of Recall of my predecessor.

I wish to avail this opportunity to convey to Your Highness, the warmest greetings from His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, the King of Malaysia, and extend the best wishes to the Government and the friendly people of the Independent State of Samoa.

Your Highness,

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and Samoa in 1982, the two countries have always enjoyed cordial and friendly relations. Despite limited exchanges of visit between the two sides, there have been increasing interests and engagements in the areas of trade, human capacity building as well as cooperation in international bodies such as the United Nations and Commonwealth.

Malaysia attaches great importance to developing its relations with Samoa. Against the backdrop of growing uncertainties in the global order, Malaysia will continue to support Samoa's capacity building through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Since 1982, our record shows that more than 100 Samoan officials have benefited from the Programme. This year alone, seven Samoan officials were selected to attend different training programmes in Malaysia, including on crisis management, entrepreneurship, sustainable development, taxation, epidemiology, power plant and solar technology development. We hope to increase the participation of Samoan candidates in future MTCP courses that will contribute to the sustainable development of Samoa.

I would like to also convey Malaysia's appreciation to Samoa for its tremendous support for Malaysia's candidature to international organisations in the past. In fact, due to our geographical distance, the international fora have provided us with the platform to have constant interaction with one another. Malaysia hopes to continue obtaining Samoa's support for its candidatures to international organisations in the future.

Your Highness,

I wish to reiterate my commitment to further improve and enhance the very friendly relationship between our two countries, and to expand bilateral collaboration in new areas of mutual interest. I humbly request Your Highness and the Government of Samoa to render kind assistance and support for the successful fulfilment of my tasks.

Last but not least, please accept my sincere appreciation, Your Highness, for the warm hospitality and kindness that the Government of Samoa has extended to me and my delegation since our arrival to this beautiful country. I wish for Your Highness' personal good health and wellbeing, as well as the success and prosperity of Samoa and its friendly people.

Thank you, *Fa'afetai*.