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Satui sworn in as the new Chief Justice

By: Asenati Taugasolo Semu

SAVALI; The new Chief Justice, Satiu Leatigagaono Miti Simativa Perese is thankful for his new appointment, officiated at a swearing in ceremony this morning, at the Head of State's Official Residence at Vailele, by His Highness Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II.

“I want to acknowledge the Hon. Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Aiono Dr Sailele Malielegaoi. It is a personal honour to be selected for this role by a person of faith, someone whom Samoa has chosen as its Political leader for almost thirty years,” said Satiu.

“I thank you Sir, for your confidence. This is the most important role that I will ever come to have in my work as a lawyer. I regard it as a calling, and I pray that God will guide me in my work and give me the gifts that are necessary to carry out my duties in accordance with my oath,” said the new Chief Justice.

“We, the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary have the great privilege of serving our country's interests. With privilege comes duty, and it is our duty to serve our country with distinction.”



Satiu also acknowledged the former Chief Justice, Patu Tiavaasue Falefatu Sapolu for his courage and service to the administration of the rule of law in our country.

The new CJ also wanted to publicly acknowledge the support and good wishes from the Judiciary in New Zealand for his appointment; and had also thanked his family and friends. Satiu was admitted to the bar in Samoa in 1999, and has over 30 years of experience as a lawyer in the Crown Law Office in Wellington, New Zealand and as the Staff Solicitor and Associate in Auckland.

He graduated with LLB from Victoria University of Wellington in 1989, and was conferred with LLM with Honours from Columbia University in New York in 1996. He was also awarded a

Harkness Fellowship in 1995 from the Commonwealth Fund in New York, in recognition of his leadership.

Satiu was a member of the Human Rights Review Tribunal from 2003-2009. He was a member of the Auckland Crown Solicitor Prosecution Panel. He was also the Chair of the Cabinet of New Zealand appointed Board of the National Pacific Radio Trust, and a he was the President of the Pacific Lawyers Society from 2000-2002.

His current areas of practice encompass judicial review, human rights, immigration, employment, properties securities, commercial litigation, company insolvency, property, land, trust law, charitable trusts, professional negligence, and criminal law litigation.

Satiu is 58 years old. He was born in Maagiagi and began his education at Maagiagi Primary School before furthering his studies in New Zealand where he continued his college and tertiary education.

He is the son of Satiu Fea Leasusu Perese of Salimu, Fagaloa and his mother is Ulufafo Samau of Tanugamanono.