

## TALOMUA- Samoa's version of “stimulus package”

Prime minister in his keynote address quoted Obamas “stimulus package” that it is “just another word for what Samoa has always been doing stimulating its economy with the inception if several development policies that includes the Talomua” .The farmers from *Vaimauga* to *Sagaga le falefa* districts left their picks and shovels at the plantation on Thursday to display their harvest at a special exhibition at *Vaiala*. Minister of Agriculture in his opening speech at *Talomua* programme emphasized the importance of agriculture as an opportunity for self employment of the unemployed and most importantly is to ensure self reliance on traditional food sources as food prices becomes more expensive.

The exhibition included different varieties of root crops, such as taro, giant taro, yams and all sorts of fruits and vegetables one needs for a healthy meal.

SQS was among the crowd with its ongoing awareness campaigns such as providing information to farmers in developing new overseas markets for their produce , preventing pest incursion that could hinder agricultural production and to ensure the safe use of agricultural chemicals.



Some of the produce on display .

## A view from the Top Deck



### Quarantine Announcement

**Passengers and Crew are advised not to bring any fruit, vegetables or any other item of agricultural nature ashore. You are kindly advised not to take ashore any items that may harm Samoa's Agriculture & Environment . You are not allowed to take ashore any fresh or cooked food, used bicycles or dump rubbish ashore .**

**C**ruise ship visits to Samoa are a significant feature on the tourism industry's calendar. Local businesses ranging from tour operators, entertainers and handicraft sellers were among the crowd that awaited the arrival of three cruise ships this month. Before the tourists could explore the Island, Samoa Quarantine Service and other relevant departments have to give the green light first. SQS announcement was heard at all corners of the ship, to ensure that everyone comprehended the Quarantine message emphasizing the importance of meeting all Quarantine requirements before disembarking The captain and crew were also helpful in assisting inspectors as they went about with their duties such as checking the meat, fruit and vegetable lockers to name a few. These activities are all done to safeguard Samoa from being invaded by new pests/diseases that could hinder our socio-economic developments.

Quarantine inspector at work checking the meat and fruits and vegetables lockers