

Quarantine in action in Post-Disaster

It has been a tough and hard time for the whole of Samoa as the nation was struck by a tsunami in the early hours of Tuesday the 29th of September 2009, which took the lives of many, injured a few and left a lot homeless and some businesses in ruins.

Samoa Quarantine service has been busy too as a lot of relatives and relief organizations from abroad requesting for import permits for the importation of namely meat & meat products and fruits and vegetables to assist those highly affected by the tsunami.

Incoming flights from New Zealand and Australia mainly showed a major increase in incoming passengers as both Samoans and volunteers from overseas rush in to provide services such as medical assistance and to comfort and support families.

The depots were also packed with loads and loads of donations of personal effects from overseas. Quarantine inspectors worked excessive hours in assisting with the clearance of such goods to ensure that they were cleared and distributed to the affected areas as soon as possible. The Samoa Quarantine service is very grateful for the support and respond from the public as these imports complied with the import requirements and that the disaster did not make people complacent but rather more concerned and aware.



Quarantine officer Akerei Leau inspecting box loads of donations.