

## **44 Graduates Celebrate Milestone Achievement with 44 Graduates Celebrate Milestone Achievement with Samoa Business Hub**

Apia, Samoa – A momentous occasion unfolded today as 44 participants proudly graduated from the Samoa Business Hub's (SBH) Level II Certificate in Small Business Operations, an accredited qualification recognized by the Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA).

This significant milestone represents more than just a certificate; it marks a pathway to higher education and professional growth for individuals with extensive workforce experience but limited formal qualifications. Established in 2016, the program has produced hundreds of graduates, empowering them with practical skills and knowledge tailored to their work environments.

The six-month program covers key areas such as Occupational Health and Safety, First Aid, Customer Service, the Impact of Alcohol and Drugs, and Financial tools, including Record Keeping, Costing, Pricing, and Taxation comprehension. This practical training is reinforced through on-the-job assessments, ensuring that participants are evaluated based on the tasks they perform daily.

### **A Unique Program Backed by Strong Partnerships**

The success of the Level II Certificate program is a testament to SBH's collaboration with key stakeholders, including:

- Ministry of Police
- Ministry of Customs and Revenue
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Labour
- Samoa Red Cross

These partnerships bring technical expertise, enhancing the program's quality and relevance. Financial contributions from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, the UNDP Market for Change Women Vendors project, and scholarships from the SQA have further facilitated access to this transformative initiative.

### **Celebrating the Graduates**

Today's event recognized the achievements of 25 graduates from the MFC project, nine from the GCF project, and 10 SQA scholarship recipients. Employers, families, and communities gathered to honour the graduates, whose success embodies persistence, passion, and a commitment to growth.

"We are immensely proud of each graduate who has demonstrated their ability to adapt, learn, and excel," said the SBH Chief Executive Officer, Afioga Unasa Atuaisaute Misipati. "This program equips individuals with the tools to make meaningful contributions in their workplaces and communities, paving the way for a brighter future."

### **Looking Ahead**

The next intake for the Level II Certificate in Small Business Operations begins in January

2025, with registration now open. Interested individuals, families, or employers are encouraged to contact SBH directly or visit their Facebook page and website for more information.

### **Acknowledgments**

SBH extends heartfelt gratitude to the families and communities supporting the graduates, the employers who have nurtured their development, and the stakeholders who have made this program possible.

### **To the Graduates**

“You are now equipped with the skills to seize opportunities and overcome challenges in the business world. Go forth with confidence and continue making a positive impact,” encouraged SBH CEO.

Congratulations to the graduates—your journey inspires us all.