



SAMOA

Arrangement of Provisions

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2021, No. 3

**AN ACT to amend the Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990
(Act).**

[03rd March 2021]

2 *Ministry of Women Affairs Amendment* 2021, No. 3

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Assembly of Samoa in Parliament assembled as follows:

1. Short title and commencement:

This Act may be cited as the Ministry of Women Affairs Amendment Act 2021 and commences on the date of assent by the Head of State.

2. Section 2 amended:

In section 2 of the Act, insert new definitions as follows in its alphabetical order:

““village Fono” has the same meaning in the Village Fono Act 1990;

“Village Women’s Committee” means the Committee recognized under section 16AA.”.

3. Section 12 amended:

In section 12 of the Act:

(a) for paragraph (c) substitute as follows:

“(c) appointed members appointed under section 13.”;

(b) omit paragraph (d).

4. Section 13 amended:

Section 13 is amended as follows:

(a) for the section heading, substitute:

“13. Appointment of appointed members of the Advisory Committee”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert as follows:

“(3) The appointed members must be made up of 60% of women representatives.”.

5. Section 15 amended:

Section 15 is amended as follows:

- (a) in subsection (1), for “not less than 3 times each year” substitute “every month”;
- (b) in subsection (3), for “20 members present” substitute “60% of members present”.

6. Section 16A amended:

- (1) Section 16A(1) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting the word “traditional”.
- (2) In section 16A of the Act after subsection (2), insert the following new subsection (2A):

“(2A) A woman must not be nominated as a Sui Tamaitai o le Nuu if she is not involved in any Village Women’s Committee affairs under section 16AA.”.

7. New section 16AA inserted:

After section 16A of the Act, insert new section 16AA:

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“16AA. Village Women’s Committee:

(1) To avoid any doubt and for the purposes of the nomination of a Sui Tamaitai o le Nuu under section 16A, a “Village Women’s Committee” means a Committee or *Saofaiga*:

- (a) comprising of a minimum number of 15 women of a village; and
- (b) who is responsible for the welfare of the village or community and its developments under subsection (2),

but does not include a Committee or small group of women committee in a village whose purpose is specific for a particular organization such as a church committee, sports and other similar purpose.

(2) The Village Women’s Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of the different developments for the village including:

- (a) primary health care and public health related matters;
- (b) agricultural development programs;

- (c) cultural and economic development activities;
 - (d) supporting of all advocacy and awareness programs for maintaining peace and harmony within the villages.
- (3) For the purpose of this Act, the Village Women's Committee must be registered with the Ministry."

8. Saving and transitional:

Any current appointed member appointed under sections 12 and 13 of the Act before the commencement of this Act continues to be a member until their term of appointment is expired or revoked.

The Ministry of Women Affairs Amendment Act 2021
is administered by the Ministry of Women,
Community and Social Development.

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