

# Pacific Women in Leadership

## Weekly Digest

### HOLD ON TO YOUR PM: SCOTLAND HINTS AT INTERNATIONAL ROLE



Outgoing Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland has hinted at a growing demand for Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa to take on an international role as curtains fell on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (C.H.O.G.M.).

Leaders from across the globe expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting what they termed a "remarkable and truly historic" event.

Thousands travelled great distances to be part of this significant gathering.

Following a productive session on Saturday at the Leaders' Retreat held at the Sheraton Hotel in Mulifanua, leaders took to the media to commend Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa and her government for their exemplary organisation and hospitality.

-SAMOAN OBSERVER

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## WELSI LOOKS TO BREAK BARRIERS TO WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



Women in leadership face barriers that are both visible and invisible. From societal expectations and cultural norms to structural inequalities and biases, these barriers have kept many women from realizing their full potential in executive and corporate leadership roles.

This was highlighted by the President of the recently launched Women in Executive Leadership Solomon Islands (WELSI), Ms Pamela Naesol Alamu.

"WELSI is designed to change that. By providing women with the support, networks, and opportunities they need to rise into executive positions, we are dismantling those barriers one by one," she said.

when delivering the keynote address at WELSI's launch on Friday 18 October 2024 at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara.

WELSI is an initiative that was birthed through a strategic collaboration between the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), the Solomon Islands Women in Business Association (SIWIBA) and the Institute of Solomon Islands Accountants (ISIA).

"This initiative is about mentorship, capacity building, and creating pathways that ensure women can ascend to the highest levels of leadership with confidence and competence," Ms Alamu said.

-SOLOMON STAR

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## SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES IN EMPOWERING WOMEN



Minister for Women, Children, and Social Protection Lynda Tabuya outlines key government initiatives aimed at advancing economic opportunities for women, sharing Fiji's successes and challenges in empowering women economically.

Speaking during the 2024 Asia Pacific Care Forum in Thailand, Tabuya notes the findings of the 2023 Fiji Country Gender Assessment, highlighting Fiji's progress in promoting women's economic empowerment while emphasizing the pressing need for continued efforts to dismantle the structural and social barriers that prevent women from achieving full and transformative economic empowerment.

She highlights key improvements by the Ministry in terms of women's economic empowerment, which includes improved access to education, the expansion of digital access, and financial inclusion.

Despite these advancements, Tabuya acknowledges that significant challenges remain.

*"Although women represent 60-65% of university students, only 46% participate in the labor force, earning on average one-third less than men; further to this, many women face barriers to healthcare access and experience widespread gender-based violence."*

The Minister stresses the importance of recognizing unpaid care work, whether it involves caring for children, the elderly, or managing households and communities, as real, valuable work. -FBC NEWS

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