



RELIEF ACCOUNT NAME:
Tsunami Samoa 09 Funds
ANZ ACCOUNT NUMBER:
01-1837-0026899-000
Swift Code/Number: ANZBNZ22

PRESS RELEASE
2 October 2009

DAY THREE: 'TSUNAMI SAMOA 09 FUNDS' HELP BURY THE DEAD

Source: eventpolynesia.com

Today the local Search & Find Operation (SFO) team used the digger funded through **TSUNAMI SAMOA 09 FUNDS** to dig graves at Saleapaga before moving onto Lalomanu village in the next few days. Both villages considered to be the worst hit by the tsunami.

One of the graves at Saleapaga was for Alavina Lopa'u Talosaga Aiotaota 38 years who was yesterday recovered by the SFO team. Alavina is buried without her 5 year old daughter Precious Christina Aiotaota who is still missing. Her mother Salamina Fonoti Lopa'u Talosaga 73 years also deceased will be buried tomorrow.

Truck funded by **TSUNAMI SAMOA 09 FUNDS** and team of SFO volunteers continue with the relocation of families from the beachfront to the high grounds inland.

According to Sogimaletavai Neueli, a matai of Saleapaga and uncle of Alavina, "The relocation of our families inland is a permanent one. It's too depressing to ever consider coming back to the beachfront."

The **TSUNAMI SAMOA 09 FUNDS** appeal continues to focus specifically on the needs of the local people. It is to ensure that the gaps where help is needed but not met immediately by government agencies and international relief agencies, is filled.

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In addition **Tsunami Samoa 09 Funds** appeal is now working towards a coordinated approach in conjunction with community leaders, government agencies and the business community to plan meaningful and practical assistance for Samoa, in the immediate term, the medium term and the long term.

In the immediate term, the focus will be safety (medical health and care), shelter and beddings, food, and clothes. In the medium term it will focus on the cleaning up.

Moreover, the medium to long term focus will be on the re-settlement, and re-building of families, villages, communities, infrastructures and to support the government and the people of Samoa, in Samoa.

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Visit website: www.eventpolynesia.com (official media partner)



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PHOTO (1): Search & Find Operation (SFO) team digging graves at Saleapaga.



PHOTO (2): Search & Find Operation team assist family bury Alavina Lopa'u Talosaga Aiotoota.



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PHOTO (3): Sogimaletavai Neueli buries the first of three of his family.



PHOTO (4): Search & Find Operation members take a few minutes off to join grieving family.



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PHOTO (5): Displaced families at Saleapaga now live in high grounds in temporary shelter.



PHOTO (6): TSUNAMI SAMOA 09 FUNDS funded SFO team continue with relocating families.



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