



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
Matāgaluega o Puna'oa Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga

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Faamolemole faatuatausi uma mai fesootaiga
uma i le Ōfisa Sili*

PUBLIC NOTICE PLASTIC PROHIBITION (BAN) 2019

Pursuant to the Waste Management Act 2010, Cabinet has endorsed the Waste (Plastic Bag) Management Regulation 2018 to manage the plastic problem in Samoa with commitment to protect our oceans and marine environment.

As such, the public is hereby advised that the Waste (Plastic Bag) Regulation 2018 prohibits the import, manufacture, export, sale and distribution of plastic shopping bags, packing bags and straws effective from the 30 January 2019.

Plastic shopping bags under the regulation means a bag made in whole or partly of thin plastic film and contains starch (such as biodegradable bags) or full petroleum, or additive used as shopping bags and packing bags. Packing bags means packing bags used for re-packing and storage of products.

Exemptions have been made for the purposes of food safety and in consideration of food items where plastic packaging is necessary. The following are therefore exempted from the prohibition; plastic bag used exclusively to pack or repack frozen goods sold at retailers such as meat, frozen ice cream, ice cubes, locally produced chips, locally produced kekesaina, ava, local biscuits, repacked coffee, tea, sugar, flour and cocoa.

Ongoing monitoring and inspections will be carried out by the Ministry from the **30th January 2019** to ensure that all retailers are in compliance with the regulation. A failure to comply will result in a conviction to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units or SAT \$10,000.00.

For any questions or clarifications please contact Seumaloisalafai Lalau Afelē Faiilagi or Aliimuamua Setoa Apo of the Division of Environment and Conservation on telephone 67200.

Ulu Bismarck Crawley
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER