**OFFICE OF THE PACIFIC GAMES 2019**

**Faleata Sports Complex**

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Press Release

**“One in Spirit” winning slogan announced for Pacific Games**

The Office of the Pacific Games is pleased to announce the winning slogan for the upcoming Samoa 2019 Pacific Games has been selected. “One in Spirit” has beaten 300 other entries as the winning slogan, a feat that surprised even its creator.

Mrs Maria Leota is the successful author of the winning slogan, who shared that when she received the good news she was in disbelief. “I never thought in a million years I would win. I’m escatic. I’m honoured.” Said Mrs Leota.

Mrs Leota shared that her idea came to her when she noticed a facebook post by her friend.

“Initially, I looked at other peoples slogan and I thought everyone is missing the point. We are all pacific people. And that’s where the idea came from”.

Mrs Leota is no stranger in the sports community having been a former manager of the Samoa Athletics Association and a junior discus representative in Australia.

She is also the founder and CEO of Kuki Samoa, a local-based organic skin care range which also includes a sports recovery treatment in its collection. The Ginger and Tumeric Balm has been a hot favourite with visiting athletes, including the Fijian rugby team.

This morning Chief Executive Officer, Falefata Hele Matatia, congratulated Mrs Leota on her winning slogan.

“The panel selected *One in Spirit* because they felt it spoke to a range of people – our Pacific brothers and sisters getting ready for the games, athletes, supporters, spoonsors and also our diverse organising committee responsible for coordinating the event” shared Falefata.

“It’s a call to action, a values-driven statement, and it has a faith element which ties in well with the games logo.”

“As a team and as a nation, we know that to deliver a successful games for our Pacific atheltes, we will all need to be *One in Spirit*”.

The announcement of the slogan concludes a nation-wide search launched in late June. As the winner of the slogan competition, Mrs Leota receives $250.00 in prize money.

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