For immediate release Issued on behalf of Lakapi Samoa Date: 25 February 2022 Press Release: 004/2022

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## LAKAPI SAMOA ANNOUNCES OF AWARDING GRANTS FROM YAZAKI KIZUNA FOUNDATION

TUANAIMATO (25 February, 2022)

## Starts

Lakapi Samoa has announced its partnership with Yazaki Kizuna Foundation as the official sponsor of the Lakapi Samoa High Performance Academy for the year 2021 to 2023.

Lakapi Samoa is proud to partner with Yazaki Kizuna Foundation. The Yazaki Kizuna Foundation is a non-profit general incorporated foundation existing under the laws of Japan that was established by Yazaki Corporation in 2018.

Lakapi Samoa believes that our academy programme is in line with the purpose that Yazaki Kizuna Foundation provides grants to principally non-profit organizations which contribute to creation of job opportunities and economic activities in Samoa.

Together, Lakapi Samoa and Yazaki Kizuna Foundation are looking forward to this mutually beneficial partnership, which brings with it a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the Lakapi Samoa High Performance Academy which provides our local rugby players with a high performance environment throughout the year in order to progressively move into the professional level of rugby.

With increased growth and interest globally in rugby, the demand for rugby highly skilled rugby players is increasing and our Lakapi Samoa High Performance is looking at taking this opportunity and providing our local rugby players with the resources and training in order to qualify for professional rugby contracts overseas at prestigious rugby clubs / franchises that can provide our rugby players with a well-paying rugby career in a high performance rugby environment.

"To compete with bigger and better resourced Unions, The partnership with Yazaki Kizuna Foundation will assist Lakapi Samoa immensely in our high performance programme in preparing future international players". We are delighted and grateful to Yazaki Kizuna Foundation in partnering and appreciative our vision for the future." said Vincent Fepuleai, CEO Lakapi Samoa.

Ms Michiyo Hamada, President of Yazaki Kizuna Foundation: "We are delighted to be partnering with Lakapi Samoa. We hope that our grants will help young Samoan rugby players realize their dreams for the future. When their dreams come true, the purpose of Yazaki Kizuna Foundation's grants on the academy programme to contribute to the development of human resources and the expansion of job opportunities in Samoa will also be achieved".

## Ends

For more information please visit <u>www.manusamoa.com</u>

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