

17 SEPTEMBER 2021

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:29am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. There is belief that our prayer has been heard by our Divine Master given our purpose this morning. I also trust that God has prepared the members of Parliament for this day. I therefore have faith that He does not forsake us. For His Love and Goodness will sustain us forever and ever more.

Today, we have put our hope in the Most High. In addition, I trust we are the chosen few for this country. In addition, we must not dwell on the past. Importantly, let us move forward and uphold the dignity of this Parliament particularly our callings and our appointments.

As such, I wish to greet the members of Parliament.

WARRANT OF ELECTION

Pursuant to Section 59(2) of the Electoral Act 2019, **I, TUIMALEALIIFANO VAALETOA SUALAUVI II**, Head of State, do hereby declare and issue this Warrant of Election to Candidates mention herein to serve as Members of Parliament of the Independent State of Samoa:

1. **TUILAEPFA Fatialofa Auelua Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi.**
2. **LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi.**

And other members of Parliament.

GIVEN under my hand at Vaialele this 12th day of March 2021.

(Signed): Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
O LE AO O LE MALO.

Swearing-in of the Members of the Human Rights Protection Party

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Pursuant to Standing Orders, Parliamentary procedures will be Tabled in accordance to the Warrant of Election.

CLERK: I declare that I have received the Notice from the Human Rights Protection Political Party, the Leader, Deputy Leader and their present members.

Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP)

1. Hon TUILAEPA Fatialofa Auelua Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
2. Hon LAUOFO Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo
3. Hon SALA Fata Lisati Pinati
4. Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell
5. Hon TAPUNUU Niko Lee Hang
6. Hon LOAU Solamalemalo Keneti Sio
7. Hon FAIMALOTOA Kika Stowers Ah Kau
8. Hon TUUU Anasii Leota
9. SULAMANAIA Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa
10. LENATAI Victor Faafoi Tamapua
11. LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi
12. ALE Vena Ale
13. LUPEMATASILA Galumalemana Tologata Togia Tile Lei'a
14. LEAANA Ronnie Posini
15. FUAAVA Suluimalo Amataga
16. MAUU Siaosi Puepuemai
17. ALAIASA Moefaaouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu
18. PESETA Vaifou Tevagaena

SWEARING IN OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION PARTY

MR SPEAKER: We shall have the members of Parliament to come before the Table for our Swearing-in, I ask that you rise whilst I read out the Code of Parliamentary Ethics.

I call upon the respectable member.

Swearing-in of the Members of the Human Rights Protection Party

Code of Parliamentary Ethics:

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STATEMENT OF INTENT:

It is the personal responsibility of every Member of Parliament to maintain the highest standards of ethical behavior to protect and maintain integrity of Parliament and to make every endeavor to uphold the principles of the Constitution. The following principles are intended to provide guidance to, and standards against which each Member of Parliament, individually and collectively should discharge their duties and responsibilities.

THE PRINCIPLES:

- (1) **Loyalty to the nation and its people:**
Every member shall uphold the contents of the Oath of Allegiance at all time and maintain the integrity and dignity of the Independent State of Samoa; its institutions and its people.
- (2) **Respect for the Law:**
Every member shall uphold the laws of Samoa and safeguard the principles contained in the Constitution.
- (3) **Respect for all Persons:**
Every member shall treat other members, the public and officials with respect and dignity, loyalty, fairly; and acting with integrity at all times.
- (4) **Proper Exercise of Power:**
Every member shall:
 - (a) Arrange their private affairs;
 - (b) Use any and all information obtained from their public office; and
 - (c) Exercise any influence or authority obtained from Public Office, only to advance the public interest and where any potential and actual conflict of interest and where any potential and financial, pecuniary or any interest the member shall be required to declare that interest and take any steps to remove the conflict or withdraw from the particular process of transaction.

Oath of Allegiance

Special Requirements for Ministers and Other Officeholders:

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Every member who holds parliamentary office of any kind is required to adhere strictly to the principles outlined above and shall not under any circumstances undertake any decision or exert influence in any form whatsoever in respect of a matter in which the member will derive personal gain or benefit.

SANCTIONS:

Breaches of this Code may be dealt with by the Privileges and Ethics Committee or as determined by Parliament.

Thank you. Members may take their seats.

MR SPEAKER: For carrying out of Oaths, I invite respectable members to come forth in groups of five (5) starting from my left until all members of the Human Rights Protection Party are sworn in.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

“I....., swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Independent State of Samoa, and I will justly and faithfully carry out my duties as a Member of the Parliament of Samoa. So help me God.”

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I acknowledge the prominence and dignity of this House, the land of *Faautugatagi* decision making for the country, it is furthermore the battlefield where peace and the freedom of Samoa were sought from the Almighty God. Samoa is unique, since it is proud to represent culture and traditions. These are also the honorific salutations that have been premeditated to identify our ethnicity which was divided.

I stand in awe as we gather here for the progress of our work. Let us not be concerned but be prepared for deliberations for this morning and day is sacred.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

I acknowledge the support of His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, as well as the Member of Council of Deputies and his Good lady, as well as the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

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Greetings to the Chief Justice and Judiciary. As well as the respects of the country, *afifio o Aiga ma Tama, Tama ma Aiga, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.*

Least I cannot forget the support of *Malaetele, e faigata le Laau na Amotasi, Tootoo o le Faleula ma upu i le Manuatele ma le tapuaiga ia Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu Saelua ma le nofo a Maopu.*

I acknowledge the Heads of the Congregational Christian Churches of Samoa and the ordained ministers of the Gospel. Thus Samoa have gathered at the House of Tiafau today. I give thanks to God for His protection and love and last night which has enabled us to gather today and praise Him upon whom Samoa is founded upon.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the participants. I also think that the morning and the day were prepared by God. The Chair would like to express gratitude and congratulations to the Hon Leader of the Human Rights Protection Party. I commend you for your patience and your perseverance. The Lord has made this day for our calling. It is a day that will be etched in the history of your Parliament as it is the desire of the Chair to make this a day to forget the past, let us consider the hard work put in by our ancestors and forefathers who have supported the Government and the foundation on which this Parliament was founded. Let this morning be a testimony that we forgive one another. Like the words of the country, “When a mistake has been made inland, it should be rectified at the seaside, for it is the house where adoration originated. Let us move forward for our calling. I pray God will guide the progress of this Parliament for this term.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its honorary salutations and its many corners, congratulations and thank you for your encouragement, thank you for your prayers. You are the dove that dreamt of her children out of love. As the saying goes, *ua papa tumuai ina ua malie le ao na faasavali i Tanumaleu. Ua malie foi le papa na faatolotolo ai le tama e pei o le muafetalai i le toala fanau o Salemuliaga.* That being said, if there has been a mistake made by your Parliament since the beginning of our election process, we apologise.

God bless my will, and banish our carelessness, and repeal our arrogance, if the unexpected showcased our weakness, for the navigator is wise but he does not completely know everything.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

A few words of the Chair, to the sanctity of Parliament, let us prepare our voyage lest our journey faces a storm, and may heaven bestow wisdom to the members of this Parliament.

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O Lord, there is one thing that I seek of thee, it is to dwell in thy house for all the days of my life. Do not hide me in your shelter during bad days. Soifua and God bless.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the remarks by the Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I have noted that the Hon Leader of the Opposition Party is upstanding.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as respectable members, I would like to ask if I can make a comment...

MR SPEAKER: Well, Hon Leader of the Human Rights Protection Party, this is an opportunity for us to move forward, to let go of the past and let us move forward for the prosperity of the country. Well, with the utmost respect.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPa Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker as well as the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet and that side of the House, also present are the members of this Political Party of our House, as well as the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries, as well as the families who were able to gather to witness this new dawn. I respectfully stand to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment, as the Speaker of the Parliament, the culmination of the three pillars, for you are also the head of this House.

Congratulations on this new morning in our prayers to God. I believe that the whole essence of our work in which it should be completed has been laid before you, as well as the sanctity of our House.

I congratulate the Hon Prime Minister for her perseverance and also Cabinet for their commitment during this period we are in, since the day you were appointed to become the Government of Samoa.

I also convey my commendations to the public at large for the support, in saying so I acknowledge His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo, the Member of Council of Deputies, the support of the Chief Justice and Judiciary.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

Such are the salutations pertaining to all Samoa, *afifio o Aiga ma latou Tama, o Tama foi ma o latou Aiga, Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. Least I cannot forget the support of the clergy for their role in prayer for prosperity upon Samoa.

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I also acknowledge the support of our brothers in the East with the Government of Tutuila and Manua. With the Governor and his Cabinet, the Chief Justice, the Speaker and the President of the two Houses of their Legislature. Such are the protocols pertaining to the honorific salutations of the eastern island group whom are praying for our success in developments.

I also extend greetings to the public servants of our country, the men and women serving the Government, whichever Government will succeed they will work night and day pursuant to law implemented of righteousness.

In the same token I recognise every Samoan throughout the diaspora exploring means of supporting families and loved ones here at home. We appreciate your support during times of tranquillity and days of catastrophes in Samoa. Such as this particular day and age in Samoa with the countless troubles with diseases affecting our economy. Such are the dignitaries which I must address and to extend gratitude for their silent support to our calling.

Our people have elected us to be their representatives here, to enact laws and policies for the welfare of the country. The usual saying which we often apply in this House is that, we must be frank and direct with our opinions. When we deliberate the economy of Samoa no voice shall be oppressed and whatever the degree argument arrives to it always results in unanimity.

In the month since our country concluded its election process, a lot of conflict has arisen, but the nature of things is it always ends in harmony. I believe it is a source of pride for us to have the world watch us in these months of conflict, while Samoa remains peaceful.

Why? It is the security and protection of our culture and traditions exercised by Alii and Faipule those with authority chosen by God to rule Samoa. How about the support of the clergy, praying day and night so that Gods providence may continue to pour upon us through wisdom and other various ways to benefit our country. The perception of the outside world is one of amazement, since it has been several months, however Samoa remains peaceful, and nothing happened, debate is still ongoing but it is normal. There is always bound to be disagreements but it will result to peace.

This new day is Gods alone and we have all been anticipating this moment so we may fulfil our duties which must be exercised. It is the reason this Party are in good terms and looking ahead with good faith. There are a lot of people whom do not understand these aspects.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker the day on which the decision of the court was made, despite our differences, was complied with by myself and the Government. There is no other step beyond that step, and this Party accepted the ruling of the court. The statement I made on that day was, “Fiame! the Government is in your hands, may you succeed in your duties, we will accord our support in the usual manner

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of things where we will exchange views and ideas on matters and to be resolved amicably.”

Mr Speaker we also met with you and declared our support. Despite our conflicting views, we have resolved those today. I believe that today is made by God for us to rejoice in. This is the very message that should be sent out from this House. Not only for our country but the countries we are in partnership with lending us their support considering our below average state of wealth. The message is out there, that Samoa is a peaceful country. We have faith in God in which we are founded upon.

This Assembly and Parliament, is comprised of Samoan ethics led by the authority of matai. We will give you our support as well as our recommendations. Recommendations is something we cannot omit. As it is the nature of Parliaments. This is not novel particularly when we have previously worked alongside each other. We did not act in any unnecessary manner. We had one common goal and that was to serve our people supporting our appointment.

That is our stance Mr Speaker, indicating our support and that is the message also for our people that they must remain calm, as this House is where we deliberate the welfare of Samoa for the future. This country shall remain in peace.

May God’s blessing be upon us. I wish you well Mr Speaker and I extend the same token to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. May you be readied with wisdom and great ideas. And gain insight to put in place plans for the future of our country. May God be forever present in this place when we deliberate decisions for the future of the country.

The statement of our oath has been said. It is not an oath done without purpose, but an oath to the Holy Name of God spelled out in the bible. We now each have a bible to remind us of this day in which we shall embark to implement our duties with integrity. May God bless this House and may Gods blessings also be upon the country and I live in the love of God. Soifua.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the Speech by the Leader of the Human Rights Protection Party.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER: Madam Prime Minister you may address the statement from the leader of the Human Rights Protection Party.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Prime Minister): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I do concur with the praises offered this morning as well as the hymn sung to accommodate the sermon to our God. I also commend the Chair for the opening remarks here at this court at Tiafau

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regarding the purpose of this day, the swearing in ceremony of distinguished members of the Assembly of Samoa, with the Leader and members of the HRPP. Since they are occupying that side of Chamber to oppose the Government.

I am of the view that the ceremonial addresses and salutations of today has been covered by Mr Speaker. It was also referred to by the Leader of that party, Susuga Tuilaepa, whom touched on these dignitaries and also the support of our people throughout the pillars of the Government, as well as the traditional salutations of the country. The clergy have also been recognised as they are the spiritual seekers for Gods compassion to bless and guide us with His grace.

I rise to second a word of thanks, that have been already voiced by the Chair since he is the authority of the House. Also I want to add on to the speech conveyed by Susuga Tuilaepa. It is true, that this morning is significant in the political history of our country. Well, in spite of our journey, Susuga Tuilaepa mentioned that it has been months since the elections of the country, also our journey has been difficult, the saying is true, "*Pe lutia i Puava, ae mapu i Fagalele*" in the love and mercy of God.

I cannot say how much gratitude I have, especially the support of all parts of our country. And the words mentioned this morning is true, God is merciful and gracious, this is noted with the peace seen in our country. This is true of Samoa and its culture. What is that? Samoa and its faith in God, which this Government is founded. I want to say Mr Speaker, within this important gathering, these things, is in the authority of laws drafted by our forefathers and parents, which has brought us here this morning.

I take this opportunity to congratulate that side of Chamber, in terms of our election contention, and the emergence of the constituency representatives, as well as this side of Chamber. We extend our special congratulations to the new members of the House. I commend you for striving and endurance. May our calling continue to uphold hope of a prosperous development of Samoa. The same goes for the Senior members of the House.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

It is remarkable that we have reached the XVIIth Parliament of the Government of Samoa, and our duties are being passed on from one another. Some of the members of the country have moved on, and new members have come forth to continue the service for Samoa and its prosperity.

We do not have much to say, Mr Speaker, we just wanted to add on to the remarks conveyed this morning by the Chair, and the speech by Susuga Tuilaepa, with a heart of gratitude. I would like to conclude with the question, what is the request of God in what we do? What do we say? Let us do the work with righteousness. Crave affection, and meet with God in humility.

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Righteousness is doing right. Compassion is consideration and valuing of this morning. We have come face to face, members of the country, as the Chair is humble. We should know, whatever is our calling? There is a higher authority above us, it is God upon whom the Government of Samoa is founded.

This is word from this side, may the plans of Parliament be successful, I am grateful that the body of Parliament have become whole again, the other side of the three pillars of Government. I pray for the best for some constituencies, who will return to by- elections, come a day when all the seats of Parliament are occupied.

Blessings upon the Leader of that side of Chamber, and to the Chair. Blessings upon this gathering, soifua and God bless.

Members of the House showed their appreciation by applauding following the Prime Minister's address.

MR SPEAKER: The Chair will not comment further, hence the Hon Prime Minister have responded to the speech made by the Leader of Opposition for the Human Rights Protection Party.

I believe this is fitting, since the objective of this day have been accomplished, it is a day for us to bond and work together, especially in our calling.

Therefore I commend you all, the dignity of the House have heard, also the respects of Samoa listening in, Samoa is now aware, that our Government is now moving forward, with our duties and work, to serve our country.

Therefore let us be upstanding, to sing a song before we say a prayer. Please stand up.

Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

PESE 356:

Lo ta nuu ua ou fanau ai
 Ua lelei oe i le vasa e
 Ua e maua mai luga
 O le tofi aoga
 Samoaana, ala mai
 Fai ai nei le faafetai
 I le Pule ia maua ai
 O lou nuu i le vasa.

PRAYER:

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Le Atua Paia e lo matou Tama e faavavau, ua e faafogaina feofofoaiga a ou Taitai, aemaise foi o leni aso, o se aso ua fusia faatasi ai Taitai o Lou atunuu i le fealofani ma le galulue faatasi.

Le Alii e, e te faia lava mea lelei ma mea silisili mo Lau fanau, ua e faafogaina foi ia finagalo faaalua o matou Taitai, ia o le agaga lena o Lau Afio, ua toto i loto ma faamoemoe o Au auauna ua avea ma Taitai o Lou atunuu, ia aemaise foi tapuaiga tatalo o si o matou atunuu le Alii e.

O le matou tatalo le Alii e ia i ai pea Au faamanuiaga, i le Paia o Lau Palemene nei, aemasie foi o le tapuaiga a si o matou atunuu. Ae tumau maia i luga o Lau Palemene ma Lou atunuu ma Lau fanau uma o le lalolagi le manuia ma le filemu o oe lo matou Tama, le alofa Silisili Ese o lo matou Alii ma lo matou Faaola, mafutaga faifaipea ma Lou lava Agaga Paia, nei seia oo i le faavavau, faavavau lava, Amene.

Ia alaala mai i lalo.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 10:30 am until 9:30 am on Monday, 20 September 2021.