

2020

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FRIDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2021

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 9:39am pursuant to Standing Orders 27(1).

Prayer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

And with the utmost respect I convey salutations and greetings to the sanctity of the House, with the presence of the Hon Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Congratulations on your journey and life.

I also acknowledge the Hon Associate Ministers, the Hon Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee of the House, the honourable members of the Parliament, well, greetings to you all. Salutations and I commend your patients.

I would also express salutations to the observation of the country, watching the Assembly of your Parliament, well, we convey adoration and greetings.

The sanctity of the ordained staff who are hoping for the prosperity of Samoa, I commend your work, I commend your fully efforts in conducting your services and duties. Well, I ask for your support, as your Parliament will proceed with the tasks and work that we have been chosen for this morning.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read the order of Submission of Papers in accordance with Standing Order 49(2).

1. S.R.2020/2, Constitution Amendment Act 2020 – Notice of Commencement.
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.137, Ministry of Finance Annual Report 2019/2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021 – continued debate on the second reading– Day 23

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, before the Work of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday, the Hon Prime Minister had finished his clear clarification in his speech.

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Now the first to respond from the Cabinet has also been appointed. Well, I would like to ask the Hon Minister of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to make your speech, and to respond to the issues raised by members of Parliament.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, thank you for the prayer to give our thanks to God for His guidance and protection. We are also blessed to have gathered on this beautiful peaceful day with no disasters in sight. As we will now move to conduct our work, praises be to God, with His might and glory forever and ever.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the members in their speeches on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Furthermore, since today is a short day, there is a belief that there will be no interruption today. The *aliiseu* and his *soaseu* travelled further inland of Aana, and then the *aliiseu* said to the *soaseu*, “Go ahead and look to the East, if you can see anything.” The *soaseu* went ahead and looked, and upon returning he said, “I saw a small black cloud in the East side.” Then the *aliiseu* replied, “That is a cluster swimming in the ocean, go back and look again.” The *soaseu* went and looked again, he came back and said, “The cluster has reached the mountains.” The *aliiseu* then replied, “Those pigeons were separated but now they are gathered together.”

This House is sacred as it is filled by the esteemed members of Parliament who are the chosen representatives of Samoa reconvening once again here in our Forum today.

The presence of the Hon Speaker, as well as the Hon Prime Minister of the Independent Country of Samoa, the Leader of the House, Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi. I also acknowledge the attendance of the Honourable Ministers of the Cabinet, the Associate Ministers and all the honourable members of the Parliament that have gathered today.

I cannot move forward with my speech, as we are joined by the pillars of the Ministries and Organizations of the Government, those who support the Government with its development plans and programs for the country. I convey salutations to the Hon Chief Executive Officers of the Government Ministries and Corporations.

But before I start my speech, with the utmost respect I would like to acknowledge the Hon Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as well as the chiefs and orators of the country, the men the women who are serving the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

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I cannot forget the support of the Three Arms of Government, with the presence of the Chief Justice, the President of the Lands and Titles Court, the Judges and the Judiciary.

Furthermore, I cannot forget the support of His Excellency the Head of State of our Country, His Highness, Tuimalealiifano Sualauvi II and your Good Lady, as well as the Member of the Council of Deputies, the Hon Le Mamea Ropati Mualia and your Good Lady.

Furthermore I wish to acknowledge the support of the three pillars of Government, the Chief Justice, the President of the Lands and Titles Court, and the Judiciary.

I recognize the sanctities of Samoa with all its honorific salutations.

Respectfully, I would also like to express greetings to the support of the holy servants of God at every altar in our country.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey salutations to my constituency of Aana Alofi No.1, my beloved village of Faleasiu with all its honorific salutations.

I also offer greetings to my spiritual fathers and mothers at any altar in our district of Faleasiu. There will be a time when I will visit, but I ask for your full support as your member attempts to convey our contribution in the Parliamentary Assembly of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my condolences and sympathy to the wife and daughter, as well as the two families of the late honorable Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Poutoa, who has suddenly passed away because he had received holy calling from God.

The honorable Vaafusuaga was a gentleman, who had also worked and served in the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development as an appointed Community Representative for his village of Faleaseela in the previous years, and it continued until he became a Member for his Constituency. This is a clear image and indication of a person who works and fights for the welfare of his community. The words of the Bible, “Blessed is this servant who has been called upon by his Master while he continues to serve.” We must remain courageous as our Creator still lives, for He grants us peace and strength in times when we face challenges and struggles throughout our journey in this life.

I would also like to convey my deepest condolences and comfort to our fellow member Lealailepule Rimoni because of the ruptured relationship with his mother due to the holy calling of God. May the warmth of the Lord continue to be with you, the already guaranteed member of the 17th Parliament as well as your wife, children and the bereaved family.

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Mr Speaker, not many speeches were directed at this Ministry. This is also solid proof of the satisfaction of the honourable members of the Parliament with the work and the humble efforts of this Ministry that is being implemented for the benefit of our people of our villages and communities of our country.

Mr Speaker, there are 5 Acts that governs this Ministry. 1. Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990. Many of the people in our country are not fully aware of this Ministry and its responsibilities. There is only one language spoken by this Ministry, the Ministry of Women. But the correct term is the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and not only specific to Women. This is proof. The 2nd governing Act for this Ministry is the Internal Affairs Act 1995. 3. The Village Fono Act 1990. 4. The Family Safety Act 2013. 5. The Samoa and Dignitaries Ordinance, which originates from the responsibility that this Ministry bears in the weaving of Samoan fabric. And the 6th, the preparation of the Child Care and Protection Bill is currently underway after the Cabinet passed its policy last year, which I mentioned earlier.

Mr Speaker, the members of this House have heard with the people of the country, since the whole country is included in the work of this Ministry. So, it is not only the women and Girls but also the gatherings of chiefs and dignitaries, the village councils and even the children. There is an Act that I have presented, which will be brought before the Parliament after it has been considered by the Cabinet. And the whole country is included in all its different sections.

These are the policies. Despite the many challenges faced by the Ministry in the implementation of its work especially in the past 2 years, but we still made an effort to implement some of the policies to guide the implementation of some of the important responsibilities of the Ministry, such as these policies. 1. The National Child Care and Protection Policy 2020. It has been approved by the Cabinet last year, as I mentioned before when this matter was raised. The Office of the Attorney General is working on the Bill, which has this policy. And it will be submitted to the Cabinet for its approval for submission to the Parliament for approval to become an Act.

A section of this Bill deals with the issue that was mentioned by the member for Palauli East, the issue regarding the children of our country who are selling goods on the streets and within the town area. When the Bill is passed in the near future, it will end and prohibit our children under the age of 16 from carrying out these activities. However, for the approval of this Bill, the decision on this matter will be left to the Cabinet and the Parliament.

Secondly, Policies are Guidelines for Training and Employment Action Plan for Persons with Disability. This Policy has been prepared and is ready for use.

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3. The Gender Equality Policy 2020. It is about to be completed and will be submitted to the Public Policy Committee for review before being submitted to the Cabinet for its approval.

4. The Local Economic Development Framework. This has just been compiled and will be the basis for the compilation of the Policy.

5. The Ending Violence Policy. This has been approved by the Policy Committee for submission to the Cabinet.

6. The Community Inclusive Governance Policy.

7. Samoa has already submitted its Report to the United Nations in 2018, on the status of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and Girls.

And the 8th part, the Ministry's Annual Reports has been submitted to the Parliament, Annual Reports for financial year until now.

Mr Speaker, now I will address the International Affairs, which was also mentioned in this House. It is our Ministry that is at the forefront of activities to support the needs of international agreements, whereby Samoa is a member in the agreement for the elimination of violence against women. As I have stated, the convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, or in short CEDAW. The convention to protect the rights of a child. And the convention to protect the rights of a person with disability. Many educational programs have been implemented; the reason is to reduce anxiety and confusion, when we are faced with this virus. There have been many educational programs implemented for women and girls, as well as for those with disabilities. The development of small businesses is also encouraged for the youths, who do not have jobs. It is the same for families whose living conditions are substandard. And also those with disabilities. The intensive program is also ongoing, as supported by the United Nations Organization, so that some youths will have opportunities to find employment.

Mr Speaker, here is a summary of the projects and objectives of this Ministry. I will start with the guidelines, since I talked about it a while back in our past Assemblies, when it was raised by some members. Regarding the guidelines for the development of constituencies, the District Development Planning Program or DDP for short.

The true essence of the purpose has been presented to the House, and this effort was motivated by the determination of our Government. To be initiated by the cooperation of all the constituencies of Samoa, and the developments that they believe is useful for the prosperous future for their district. Then our Ministry will lend its assistance as a representative of the Government, with methods to implement the developments.

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This program has a lot of benefits, as we have heard many compliments and gratitude voiced by some of the members in this House. Due to the assistance provided by the Ministry with the implementation of these plans. It is also known to those who represent our Government in meetings overseas, especially Organizations that are donor partners of our country. Such as the WHO, UNO, UNICEF, ILO, and all the Organizations who are providing funds for the development of Samoa, and this matter is discussed in many Forums.

There should be a good and stable system for the countries that provide these funds. Because many of these Organizations. Not only do they contribute funds, but they also provide details on the usage of these funds. And they also send their representatives to implement these developments. So the question is, how... will the contributors accept these activities and these developments that will be done? Or is it left to the country to control how it is used, and what they feel and believe should be prioritised? So now it is heeded by our Ministry, this is the essence. This is translated in English by some as ownership and belonging. The Ministry will introduce it and then given to the constituencies, for them to decide, whatever proposals they see fit on what should be given priority. Well, that is what the Ministry will help to implement, to meet the needs of the constituencies. These are the merits, as once these plans have been implemented, the people that this development was made for, will have a feeling of ownership of these things. The possession, belonging, owning, ownership, they own it, and it not something that others implemented for them. No, we are the ones who wanted to carry out these plans. Therefore, it will be managed and looked after properly, and it is accepted with gratitude. Because there is a saying, "If it is given, give them the tool, but do not give them the fish, when they ask for the fish, do not give it to them, instead give them the net." Because when you give them the fish it will be used up all at once, and then they will try to find another fish, begging to get more. But when you give them the net, then show them how to use the net, and then they will be able to catch plenty of fish until the net rips apart. But when the net rips, they know how to mend it. That is the situation, whereby our Ministry is attempting to be a representative of our Government, for our constituencies to acquire this type of spirit. To show them the methods and to give suggestions, but the planning is up to them, as well as the decisions made, this is the objective that we want to use the funds provided for.

Therefore, our Ministry is conveying the needs of the constituencies to our partners who provide the funds. And then they will select the projects that they support and provide the funds for its implementation. But it is carried out by the people of the constituency, together with the support of our Ministry.

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The major work that was carried out was mentioned is some of the statements, regarding the compilation of guidelines for the constituencies, whereby the first draft is already done. With which the Ministry worked in cooperation with the leaders of the villages and the constituencies. As well as the assistance of the reverends and their wives, chiefs and women. The strength of the village, the constituency, the youths and also the young children. The guidelines for 49 constituencies have already been announced. Except for a constituency in Savaii, that is still trying to organize their guidelines. The development guidelines for the constituencies, which displays the areas and developments requested by the constituency. Therefore, it will be prioritised for the benefit of the people of the constituency. In every aspect of life in this era. Educational programs have already been implemented for 17 constituencies, in terms of types of diseases and health problems. That affects the health of the women and girls.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the speaking member, as I allow the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Before the Hon Minister for the development of villages and districts moves on, he did mention one district in Salafai, which the Ministry is endeavouring for. But I do remember, I had questioned it, whether this was the constituency of Palauli le Falefa who rejected the Ministry and its entire purpose of these grants. For the term ownership, which means there is the contribution of the constituency within this development. If there is the contribution of the constituency, therefore, the grants that will be given, there is the spirit that the constituency will also be there to implement it. Because this is exactly where they aim to implement the development they want. However, it is not something to enforce. The second thing I had received after the execution of consultations with the constituency, for this program, is to seek funding from overseas.

And that assistance, it to consider well the partner that is bringing in assistance, to reflect a development that is valued deeply for a constituency itself. It will bear good fruits that will benefit the general public, they are development like actions, like planted items and other various development within the constituency. I wish to gain understanding, do clarify this bit again lest I am confused. These are the natures, for the Government does not force the constituency who does not want assistance, but the clarification is, to develop the constituency, based on information for clear understanding.

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For usefulness in the constituency, and the future generations. Do clarify this bit again, because the intention is good. Although there seems to be confusion given the terms that has changed entirely the context of something good, making it seem like a bad thing. But do clarify this again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Thank you Leader of the Government. It is pleasing for me to clarify further these matters. Because this is one of the focuses of this Ministry, there is high value upon our works implemented today. Because we have seen and witnessed the usefulness of this endeavour for many constituencies, they have now been achieved. As also testified by the honourable Chairperson in his speech, I wish also to give thanks, as it has benefited its constituency, the district development project. Although this is the main idea, as I attempted to explain, and not have the feeling upon our constituencies. The Government has come to enforce the plans within their constituencies, although they are still not satisfied. Whether they do not need it. It is upon their own freewill, for them to do what they think is beneficial for them. So therefore, in this situation, do note, as I have given clarification. If a person comes from abroad to your village and do something beneficial for your good. They will come and implement it for you to use. There is no intention for them to use it. Then they say, very well, then comes the thought, use the money given to do what they want. Well, is it your money, whenever they come, invest in a bigger development, then they go back, but do go and use it. But afterwards, because there was no feeling of them who are doing these things. There is value for these people. But it could result to not using it, because they have no choice, no priority whatsoever on this development being done.

The Ministry has therefore thought, of changing the way to do things. For them to give exactly what they demand. Other demands of the constituency are submitted to the Ministry which is quite high and pricey. So, if the constituency is listening in, other demands are quite huge in terms of funding to be implemented. It is not that they are acceptable or not, but they are all being recorded down. But is being distributed, I will come to our partners, who are China, Australia, Japan whereby this distribution is done.

Thus, we are still waiting, so it is not us, if you want something, you will go and ask your brother, can I have \$100 to do this. Then you would quickly go and finish it all. No, all countries, there is a way to do it. There is a way, there are demands that must be filled, and must be met. Because these are all written down, if taken, you must obtain the receipts.

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What about the use of this money, this money was spend correctly. Then whenever you ask again, take it, well done, these are the people that are using wisely the money given. It is not used corruptly; it is given directly to be used rightfully in accordance with its demands.

Such is the feeling so that comes the end of the project implemented within the district, then they will say that we have done it. That is our input, to nurture well for this project to bear fruit, given the money being spent on it. Because even if the money came from Japan, or Australia or China. They all go directly through the State, because without good relationship between our foreign partners and our Government, we would not have received any funds. Therefore, at the end of all these things, they are Government funds. They all come through the Government, and good Administration and good Governance. Such is the clarification and general statement on this matter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow again the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This is very important area, especially with regards to what the Minister was saying, grants from abroad. They come through the State based on negotiations and agreements on these grants from the Government. This does not mean that these funds are used to implement all. Take a small example, it is the same with school buildings, which are funded from Japan.

School buildings funded by Japan, the policy of the State, they request the Government of Japan to sort out this funding from JICA. So, if the allocated amount of \$300,000 is set aside for school buildings, it is \$300,000. The village will endeavour to finish this \$300,000 and there are many ways to use it. Another thing that can be done is to build a one storey building, in order to fully utilize this funding. Because if two storey house is implemented, therefore, more money will go into constructing the foundation, because it must be first as by the time we have earthquakes, the building should not fall. But the land space is huge to build a one storey house, it is strong, and will not have more money allocation to fix the foundation resulting in the incompleteness of the school building.

The policy of the Government, if the Government of Japan does the funding, then that is the policy that is the contribution of the village. They do not have to go to the Government, because this funding from Japan, is also the share of the Government that has implemented this matter. What should have been done, is for the village to make a contribution, or to make a loan to complete it.

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Such as the school building of Fagalii, and an allocation of \$300,000+ which exceeded to \$500,000, and they had to fill this area, as that is their own demand given the high cost they wanted. Similarly, to all school buildings funded by the Japanese Government, including my village of Aufaga, such is what had happened. But it can all be done using this available funding here, through wise planning. So, the notice has been well given.

The second matter, it has been mentioned, because this is the preparation of the Ministry, implemented by villages for these things and to visit the rural areas. So not only with my Ministry, but there were also Ministries that had went, to conduct programs for protection. Not only with the security of guns and livestock, but there was also misguided thought that they are coming to conduct a survey on the land in the inner area and be given to China. This is a very misleading situation and since the village mayors and government representatives are all under my Ministry. A male village mayor is different for meetings and village affairs that are normally carried out. There are also different meetings for women government representatives, or the female that is no longer village mayor but is now changed and is known as the government representatives. They are Government employees, they are paid allowances by the State, and these are no small allowances disbursement. Therefore, their actions all depend on the directives from the Ministry. So, if such programs are being laid out, and whenever the public servants are being chased away from the districts, thus what then is your decision on this, do you respond in such situations? Thus, this assistance cannot be done, given the wrong beliefs laid out, although the Government representative is plainly just sitting there.

What is the policy for Government representatives who receives allowance and attends the meetings of your Ministry, and be reminded of the policies? They are policies for the benefit of the districts. So, if problematic, what do you do? Do note that the village mayor is the mouthpiece, but whenever they make mistakes, it will affect the entire village. It depends on the assistance given. What is your policy on this matter, on dishonest member like this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister, as I allow the member for Aiga le Tai. Whether you had something to...do you wish to question the main address of the Minister, or the interjection of the House Leader.

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai): The main address...is our Standing Orders in relation to the speech stated by the Hon Minister.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to directly speak of this very exact matter. E agai tonu lava i le mataupu lea ua oo i ai.

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: Your honour I have longed wanted to add on to the statement of the Hon Minister on a few areas to make good the wonderful statement, I wish not to interrupt.

This is one district that has taken the lead in the top twelve that had firstly implemented these district development policies. Such is the reason for upstanding, because this district entirely supports the policies laid out by our Government, under the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. Such is the appreciation to the Hon Minister and the Ministry for these undertakings. Because the truth is honourable Speaker, as mentioned by the Hon Minister, these guidelines are very important laid out.

The first thing that I must clarify is the collaboration of the fathers of the district, the member, village mayors and government representatives of the district. This is a very important doing, for members to work collaboratively with the village representatives of districts. This is where cooperation is established for collaboration. Because majority of the times with members, there is the greater need for the support of districts.

Regardless there is still the village system, to try and divide in accordance with the electoral decisions that have arose. Thus, comes the end of Parliament, the members, village mayors and government representatives are still turning their backs on each other's. But the policy laid out by the Ministry Mr Speaker, has brought cooperation on policies within districts. And I testify, because it was prioritised in the policy which derives the policies laid out by the Ministry. I know this district was the first to have launched its development policies. 2 weeks and our district development were launched, and this was shocking. Not only with the various seminars implemented by the Ministry. I remember one of the seminars that was conducted for special needs persons. And this training was very helpful, and it was funded from these district development policies. This was also the chance for the member to assist the village mayors and other female representatives. Because majority of them as given in the Government recommendations, to appoint the most appropriate people for these positions.

Because another thing that is happening, for another female representative and another village mayor, they would sit around during their terms, without capturing insight on their roles and duties on what is needed for the improvement of villages and districts.

So the reason for upstanding, because the school building of this village is now implemented through this policy.

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There are 8 classrooms confirmed by our Japanese partner, 11 classrooms had built this school building, together with toilet facilities. This was the contribution of this village although I convey gratitude this village for the position made and he had implemented 3 additional classrooms and toilet facilities himself without any assistance from the village. Yes. I am aware that the Political Party and I will miss this member comes the next general elections. But I heed appreciation to the other candidate who is vying for this position, we are part of this Committee. Yes. So I do understand these policies to continue this doing after our general elections in the future.

Very well, such is the spirit honorable Speaker, the spirit of appreciation is greater given the wonderful speech by the Hon Minister, which has benefited this district and this village. Bless our Sitting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reason for giving the chance to the member for Aiga I le Tai, well the Clerk of the House is bearing witness to this matter, because this is one member who disputes this matter. He values DDP and the long-term vision of the State, whereby the member is the Chairperson of this matter.

Notwithstanding, I hear that you speak of things that must be implemented. As such I heed appreciation to your good self, even though you have move on, but this contribution is still remembered in this House. This is the reason for saying that the statement is true. Yes. The importance of collaboration of members, and the appointment of female district representatives and village mayors for each district. Your input is very important. In order to push the district developments.

As such, may the goodness of God be upon you. The House has spoken to your honor, although you are still speaking of pushing the good purpose of the Government and her people. That being said, well done thank you.

I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Thank you for the opportunity. The Minister will give a clear response when we return from our break. But the matter stated by the Minister right now is very important given that the entire crux of Samoa is with this Ministry. This is the normal process from the start which I believe in it, whenever we have consultations in the rural areas, it seems the member is discarded, saying that the member should not involve in these matters lest they politicize these matters. So the Ministry has attempted to bring about this thing. This is the entire center of districts; it is the presence of members.

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Another matter is foreign grants, which goes directly into other organizations which brings funding. In my belief, as I had stated in my statement, central agency of the State, the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. I have made two statements in the women's group that are running for the elections which are funded directly from overseas. I therefore do not understand, because in my belief, the Ministry of Women, must be involved solely in these matters, especially my constituency whereby a lot of women who are involved with village affairs are found. Because that is one major issue that is causing a lot of confusion with regards to most of these matters, there is a separate women's group from Hygienic Group including this new thing with new nofotane group. Is it a good or bad thing? the Ministry must look deeply into this area, and the many changes we have. It is true, I thank the Hon Minister. If only you can stay for one more year. Nevertheless, you will depart leaving behind your entire mind for us to face it.

But these are the few matters your honor that are very important, this is a very important Ministry. Thank you, Hon Minister and the Associate Minister, the member for Faleata No.1 he will also come back. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you member for Faleata West for your statement. Your invaluable contribution is vital, as such is the stance of our living in Faleata.

I allow... pardon the Hon Minister of Women, as I allow the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker. The question is short on a point of clarification from the Hon Minister, given the matter discussed by the village mayor and the lady member. What the policy is as also witnessed especially too with regards to.... there are village mayors and lady members for other villages, who seems to be running campaigns with the FAST Political Party but they are working under the administration of the HRPP. I wish to know what policy is on these matters because it is also being paid by the Government.

This is the only question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I have thought this question should not have been asked given the situation of these appointments.

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To appoint the good person, and one who adheres to the orders given. As such the person must move in accordance with the directives given for the betterment of the Village. But this should not remove the trust of the person itself, its belief on which Party it supports, as everyone upholds its own beliefs. The only thing the Government prioritizes is the person who follows all the policies given. But I do understand the question, given the different beliefs, which can mistake the executing of these things, and that is where the sword comes in. But when it comes to political matters the sword is not swung.

That is the case, there is belief that it is also pertaining to pastors. There are also pastors who have left what they should be doing in preaching the word of God for people's salvation, to go to whatever Party. In this situation the Political Party should not be known to the people that should be done behind the scenes, in the same belief that there is one leadership of Government, political matters should not be involved. Do the work according to the instructions given for the general good of the village. No matter where you go, no matter what religion or what kind of political belief, he will do the right thing according to the assigned tasks. That is the righteousness that will judge you. Judged by who? Judged by God. Because nothing is hidden. Therefore, if you are in whatever position, whether you are a pastor, you are judged all the time based on the duty you were chosen to do by God. As for political affairs, the Government does not have a say in the Party the mayor chooses. The only aspect to judge, are those who follow the instructions given to benefit the community as a whole, and not specific to a group? Mr Speaker, I apologize to the Hon Minister, I have accepted this part.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe...pardon the member taking the floor, I believe we should follow our policies in the proceedings of our Council.

Since the question has been answered by the Hon Leader of the House, and we have arrived at our usual time of recess. I announce, the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for our usual morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:50am and resumed at 11:20am.

Debates continued with the Government Responses on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

I believe that respectable members of Parliament have found new strength with the refreshments provided by the Clerk and the Office. Therefore I want to convey my gratitude, I commend you all for your kindness and care for the Council.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome the dignity of the House, I notice that the wife of the Hon Minister who is currently speaking Afioga Tuitama Talalelei is present together with his children. It seems you have brought the support to the House considering this is the last speech by the father of the family. Therefore we want to say, welcome, and I commend you all for the efforts, the work of the old man is successful, as he will now retire in victory from the work carried out for his family and children. God bless you all in support. The support of mothers is quite outstanding. Thank you.

Before we continue with our Sitting, I respectfully call upon the Leader of the House on some matters that he wishes to clarify for the country and the House listening in.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Thank you Mr Speaker, I commend you, the morning tea provided by the Office is much appreciated, we took a break to renew our strength to continue the work of the Assembly.

I believe there is a brief matter that I must touch on, because there are international policies that differ from Government to Government. Our Government, follows the principles and implement that of the Commonwealth Parliamentary System, this is what we abide too. In the Parliamentary System, Governments change but the workers remain the same, on the belief that the workers will not be misled into political activities. There is only one thing to look at, use their knowledge and skills to serve the Government. In other words, Governments change but the public service remains the same, the staff remains the same. That is also why in the view of the Leader of Government and Cabinet, all of those who are serving Government, have no behavior of being prejudiced. They put their talents to the fullest to serve the Government that is active. This belief is the same as the Christian belief, which is mentioned in the Bible. Whichever Government stands, that is the Government to which loyalty is given, to which support is given. Why? Such are Christian beliefs; the existing Government is the one appointed by God.

There are a lot of good teachings of our Lord started from this belief, which is followed by the Commonwealth Government. Governments change, political parties change, but public servants remain the same.

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Whoever the Government that comes, whoever the Prime Minister and the Cabinet comes, they will serve with loyalty. That is the way to set Laws, strong Laws to protect the independence of the public servants. This is also why their responsibilities are set, there are different positions, to report directly to the Parliament. The positions like Auditor General. The position like the Ombudsman. They report directly to Parliament, because that is the firm belief. This is why it is very important for this Parliament to understand. It is not possible to see the service rendered by public servants to the existing Government. This is different from the American Government. These things are very different. In America, the President and the Party always come with their own staff. After the Governments term they leave, the President will also leave and remove all their people. There is a big difference in the policies. If you notice, the Commonwealths Government is progressing well, there are people who have experience, it will continue, no matter who the Government is, it will continue. How about America? That is why you are seeing the chaos, because when the President and Party come, they will bring in new people who do not have enough experience. Now you are looking at it, it is not long before this international agreement is broken, and another international agreement is broken again especially in the term that just ended. So what has happened? The respect that was given by big Governments to America has plummeted, because of the constant changes made to Government staff because of their Government, there is no foresight. There is lack of experience, this is how the question that arose before the dissolution, it is based on the belief that the American Government has such Government.

As for us, we are following the Commonwealth form of Government. This is an important aspect, which is based on honesty. The Cabinet and Government look at the honesty of employee, the performance and the complete use of skills, but the level of political affiliation is not important. Why? That is the right of the individual. It is their own right. The only thing that the Cabinet will judge the Government employee, is the service on carrying out duties with honesty. Once there is a mistake a decision is then made.

About 18 years ago, one of the staff came to see me who was Assistant Executive, at that time, the man was very outspoken about being part of the Opposition Party of Government. He came to me wanting to understand, I was the Minister of the Public Service Commission, if he has a chance to become a Chief Executive of a Ministry, because his father has said some serious accusations against me and Cabinet. I responded, there is no such thing. The only consideration is, are you being honest with your work? How about your skills?

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Those are the only things that I and Cabinet adhere, those are the guidelines of the HRPP Government, to make good use of the educated people of Samoa who were sent overseas, to return with talent. The political affiliations of the father do not do the work. The only thing to look at is whether the work is done well, but also whether it is honest. Then he left, but the position was open, and he did not apply. So I always see this employee who is behind Government, who continues to be skilled and serve the country. But the most important thing is the policies of this Party is understood, the Government of Samoa is not following American policies, it is upholding policies specifically for Governments led by Parliament.

Mr Speaker, which is the core of my statement that I am giving before we adjourn. That is the nature of doubt, we doubt. But there is also the saying of the country, "*E le asa le masalo.*" Suspicion never ceases.

Mr Speaker, this aspect is important for the country listening in, especially those who are working as representatives of Government in positions of *Pulenuu*. The *Pulenuu* is the one that is in contact with the Government, whom the long-term plans of Government are told. The mayor or representatives of Government men and women, those are the ones that should go and meet the women in positions as mothers, and men should meet with men of the village and tell them the plans from Government for the benefit of the village and the district. But do not just go there and sit.

One of the members mentioned, the importance of these positions in our villages, to appoint those who are honest, but not choose a woman because she is a wife of the high chief or appoint a high chief that cannot go uphill to check the developments implemented. Then he comes here and sit and collect the allowance. They want the allowance but not do the work. Now when the Government employees go to implement their programs for the welfare of the community, it is easy for the liar to escape. Then the announcement is made, the Government went inland to survey lands to give to the Chinese. There are no lands that were measured by the staff, they came over to observe the environment of birds for their records.

These things are important, because the view of the Ministry of Environment is not on one area, they are looking at everything in general for the benefit of the village. There is a use for trees, and also the birds that was made by God so that our environment is hundred percent for us to live in it happily. That is the situation, if the Government representative is not doing their duty, this is why I have asked, what else should be done.

This is the reason for taking the floor to make right, things happen. The things that happen, principles are set, as well as guidelines, guidelines that are used by Government to emphasize talent than political affiliation.

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Then the political belief, however, in the nature of things, when you have a strong political affiliation or political beliefs, what measures justice is your resignation, you do not have to be terminated. Just like the search for justice done by Judges. If the Court is going to be held but you know that you are affected by it, resign.

Mr Speaker, this is the meaning of the statement I gave yesterday, if the instruction is given by Cabinet but the Chief Executive does not like it, it is the result of justice and loyalty, is to resign. You should not stay in the Ministry and do bad things and stop activities that should be done. The nature of things, once an individual has strong belief for another Government, in another Party and then he is not honest in the way he does his job. The solution is that in your own conscience, is to resign. Why do you have to resign? Because when you stay there, you will not do anything good, because then you will try, whatever good thing Government is trying to do, you will not do, in order to discredit Government, but it is not Government, it is you doing it. If there is a decision made to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry because of seriousness of his actions, or the mayor, it is not because of the political situation, but you have not performed your duties, you have been dishonest.

That is the right method used for the Judgement of justice, and this Party is trying to lead this practice in the right way and in the implementation of the work of Government. It prevents chaos, prevents corruption, and makes the work of our Government run smoothly. It is a difficult achievement; it is not easy. Because these two goes in harmony, these two things go together, it is related. Once you have a different belief of politics, you will be dishonesty. But when you are terminated from your position, it is not because of your political beliefs, but because you are not honest.

This is why I stood up quickly to clarify these guidelines, such are the guidelines this Government is guided. The same goes for other positions. Whether you are a pastor, it is your honesty to your duty from God to preach the gospel, only the gospel that is your oath before God. But if you have political beliefs, that is yours alone, it is your right, but do not emphasize it too much. You can do that in your own time, but not blatantly, the congregation is judging. What will happen if the congregation follows Gods word, support the current Government? What will happen? It is not something to know that you are a servant of God properly using the talent and duty given to you by God. When standing prominently from the pulpit, and speaking from it, especially to the community that is listening, the congregation. It is the respects of the village whom which the covenant was made together. You are the pastor the holy covenant of the village. The only thing you stand by, are the scriptures of God.

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Do not be tempted to come here, because it does not go in line with your duties. Once you participate here, you have broken the holy covenant. One does not interfere with the administration of the village, and the village does not interfere with Word of God, which guides all of us.

Mr Speaker, the Law of God was given clearly. It is clear, there are 10, but the utmost important Law is love, only one Great Law which is love. But why was the other 9 added? The reason why another 9 Laws was added was because of our stubbornness. The word love was used, that is the language of God, and then words were declared. It is mixed within the words the word love, then you declare. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not covet. This was prophesized. So why did the Pharisees not want to hear it? Because it was testimony, which affects all of us. But if only love was given, all mistakes would be made. But show love, for the view of people, and forget everything else. That is the way, when the Lord made it clear with the words of declaration, which angered the Pharisees, why? Because of these words that have been spoken, they are all affected. It makes the soul angry. That is why the Pharisees were determined to quickly kill Jesus, because the Lord has given declaration. This also why, when I speak, I use clear language, honest words, but some hate it, some hate it saying I am rude. If you hate it, do not listen, do not listen to it, but turn off their radios.

Mr Speaker, this is the matter for it to be clear, and I want to thank the Hon Minister of Works, who raised this matter, it is important. To clarify in this House to bring the question, to make it clear, now I stand to make it clear. I thought it should not be raised, because such matters include those words. It is rare for an angel to cross this area, because there is always the thought, when it is admitted we are not respectful. That is the respectful language that many corrupt acts dodge and hides criminals and speak. It is disrespectful, the words are disrespectful, but the person wants to understand those whom the message is given. Use simple language, use the dialogue language, and use the language that can be understood by a 10-year-old, 20 year old and 30 year old who is not used to sitting in village council meetings. And then they will hear these native words, respectable words. Most of the criminal offences done now, is hidden behind polite language which some do not understand. As leader in this House, I want people to be clear about the message that is given, through simple language, to be able to understand it well. Many of our speakers, hiding the language. Why? They are ashamed the old men would think, he is such a disrespectful person. But standing here and delivering your speech in simple language makes the country understand. That is the importance of the opinion expressed by the Hon Minister of Works, in order to have the opportunity to expand the matter.

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A Government under Commonwealth leadership should not be like that. The Government values honesty, the aptitude to support its decisions.

Mr Speaker, I believe this matter is made clear.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done for the wonderful speech Hon Prime Minister, the Parliament and Samoa have heard your clear clarification on all subject matters. No wonder the presentations of the 2AP's program with the Prime Minister. As it emphasizes clear statements, with direct terminology. Even a child should understand the process of his country, these are the subjects as clarified by the Hon Prime Minister. With that, a word from this side of our sitting, thank you very much. Curiosity kindles on matters that requires clarifications. Even the Chair, I am not sure about other members, but everything is duly noted. Therefore, I convey my appreciation and gratitude's to everything as you have discussed Hon Head of Government.

The Hon Minister of Works is urging, considering allocating the opportunity to your honour.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I rise with reverence to witnessing the remarkable speech by the Hon Prime Minister. With his testimonies queried by questions here, and all is clear, the clarifications are 100% for this matter. The only argument as I raise this subject, much like the statement of the Hon Prime Minister, the state whereas it is extremely visible with practices done, it is excessively apparent. My concern, as it has been witnessed by some of Cabinet Members, even the mayors in collaboration are attempting to disrupt the Government. That may be case, however the subject is clarified, with that note reciprocal to the statement of the Hon Prime Minister, that it is the peoples right. They should never emphasize these acts of opposing to the Government and imply destruction. But consider that the Government are to why they have employment. And be sincere in performing their duties. That is the case, but thank you to your Hon Prime Minister, now that all is understood, it is 101% thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the dignified thoughts your Hon Minister of Work for great Developments of the Government. There will be no more words in addition of the Chair to the subject as we have conveyed our humble share. Now that the water is clear with discussions as pursued, and we have been armed with knowledge by the speech of the Head of Government the Hon Prime Minister. I presume, the matter will be set aside. It is appropriate that the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister.

I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No2.

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Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota (Faasaleleaga No 2): Thank you for the opportunity, now just before we move on to the Hon Minister to continue on with his admirable speech. While we are still on the subject of guidelines. The declamation is impeccable of the Hon Minister, thank you Tuitama for the obligation. This is one Ministry, work in joining shoulder with us. Appreciate the possibility of raising these guidelines, in regards with opportunities given to us as Cabinet members to engage with members of the community and Mayors. However, another prospect, now that these guidelines are provided, it is with the advice of the Office given to us by your Hon Minister and the Ministry. Because we are short on funds as well, we gravitate our conducted requests towards some Ministries and Private Sectors. To help with the practice of these guidelines given.

There is a point of clarification I inquire Mr Speaker from the Minister. Due to some Organizations that had given their assistance, to accomplish some of the desires within the guidelines. Like the case of moderate Healthcare. They have given assistance in executing this, however, we already have a project that was given this assistance, like restoring village pools. With gratitude's, as we had collaborated with villages and associates, as well as my district. It has also brought up, while the Hon Minister of Health is listening. Provided a perpetual letter from the Health Office to cease these assistance. Due to the contrary consent of the United Nation and certain Organization's.

The true spirit, thank you as it is cleared, there are 5 nurseries implemented for medication to care for the Health, as we had received these assistance. There are 2 projects for restoration of pools ceased at the time, as it ceased by the Health Office. A request to your Hon, if possible, to communicate with the Office of Health, on a way to compromise this, to allow these Organizations to provide their assistance to us. They are beyond ready to offer a hand, but there is still this void that pends their assistance given the difference and the remarks, below the conditions of the United Nations on the Tobacco Act of our Government.

With Respect, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, I give the opportunity to the Head of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Broad subjects are matters of Policies, this is one subject taken into consideration of the Government, to consult in the Cabinet Development Committee. As it inflicts some differences. Nothing major, as in the case of drive, or the extent of attempting to prevent smoke consumption. As many have gotten sick because of this.

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This complaint got to me, as the complaint progressed, and they tend to copy me because I am the Head of Government. I gave my advice, as of what should be done in these situations. I would call all of them, the Ministers and Head Officers of Ministries to have a discussion. As there are times that the Ministry would go off their own, but this is not what should be done.

When something happens, inform the Minister then collaborate, to find a solution for the dispute, there are times the Ministry would tame to be unilateral on their Policies, the same with other Ministries being unilateral on their Policies and Developments conducted.

That is the subject, where the Tobacco Company gave their assistance, but was interrupted by the Ministry of Health, with that the Minister and the Ministry was advice that, that was an inappropriate action. They were looking at the narrow lateral of their responsibility rather than overseeing the side of good development done by the Tobacco Company.

The Tobacco Industry, as we all know, it is just like the Alcohol Beverage Companies. We can never stop people from smoking, they will always consume cigarette. Just like Beverage Companies, we could never restrain, the people will still continue to consume alcohol because those are their human rights. This is their way of life that they are happy with. The only negative side of this, it consumes income but not providing education for the children then reaches out to the Government to seek funds that was all spent on smoking, perhaps on alcohol for the father, because this is always a man's pleasure. My advice to it, there is nothing there to cease the assistance of the Tobacco Company, and the more assistance the better. It is not that giving out the assistance then everyone should be smoking, it seems like they are narrowly perceiving this due to their roles that giving out this advocacy would increase the probability of people smoking. These kinds of things, requires utilizing common sense. Well, many educated people do not have any common sense. To that, there are people earning 10 Qualification and breaking Qualification records, but there is still one thing missing and that is common sense.

That is what should be done. Do not cease it. With Tobacco Company, let them continue on with their development. Let them conduct their Tobacco production as there are people that do smoke. The subject conveyed here, they proceed to encounter Ministers Internationally, similar to what I had said yesterday, was done by the Minister of Education years ago. When there is deficiency in children's grade, they tend to upgrade. Even though the mathematics was appalling, but all were just upgraded. Just to make the marks seem stable but hiding the failure of the children. The impediment of this is the lack of teacher of these fields.

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That is the exact direction where the Head Officers and Ministers should head to at the time to resolve these issues. To push through to get enough teachers. However, it has now exposed at the time of Mauiliu the actions of previous Ministers and other Managers. That means that they did not really think much about it, while it bore right in time of Magele, then Magele turned aside with the faafafine that was Head of Office at the time and made a resolution and that is the resolution that solved this issue.

Mr Speaker, the reason why as the subject is important, there are particularly things like this that could occur. If so, they try and shut down and close operations of the Tobacco Industry and the Health rejoices, then what? Will it stop the importations of Cigarette? The tobacco will still come. But coming from New Zealand and Australia the louder voices to stop smoking, and other countries to stop smoking, then we proceed to stop Tobacco while they carry on with their productions of tobacco. Then what? As they produce tobacco and have us to smoke it and causes too many works for them. What about the people that worked here? There is no employment. As to why, the act on strategies by the United Nations, use your mind.

Remember there was a member that is not present that raised this subject in Israel, and their election. I then stood and reminded that every Government in this world, there is only one target that focuses priority, there is only one primacy, which is the national interest of one's Government. That is the only priority that is given value. When you bound into the United Nation, the first thing you should look at, is the success of your country. When it is settled, then that guideline is fulfilled, then you are able to look unto supporting other few memberships on what they inquire, and the focus here, is the success of your own country.

That means, wherever provides any assistance, whether China, or from India and or Russia, accept. Why? There is only one language we do; you and your allies are ours too. But your enemies are not our enemies, they are your own rival. Do not bring your enemies as means to lay-off opportunities that will develop us. Wherever the aide is provided, accept. As to why we tend to advice the Ministry, to use common sense. Mr Speaker, that is a short explanation for the small subject, but I see that it is 12:00am o'clock already, blessed proceedings.

Tofa Lealailepule Romoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member standing... as we are....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Yes, I beg you Mr Speaker....

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MR SPEAKER: I understand completely of the subject you tend to give....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: There is this one important factor of the subject as discussed by the Hon Prime Minister....

MR SPEAKER: Do try to be sarcastic please.... Okay I give you opportunity.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: No, today, I truly say this as the Lord is watching. I intend to leave my blessed message to my brother for he turns 55 years today, my brother. However, thank you as the old man has wished him Blessings. We are not worried, remember the man has 6 children, almost the same as Tuilaepa.

MR SPEAKER: This is exactly why.... I was already aware to why you stood, we are all the same.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: But thank you for the opportunity for blessing the birthday of the Hon Matafeo, or the Afioga Malagamalii a Vaitele chief, Galumalemana shall be punished for his speech but best wishes for your health on this day. I love you brother, thank you.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER: Faleafa does not have anything to say about the subject here. As to why I have stated that I am aware of this, the subject that you are drawn to convey, that is noble, thank you.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: Mr Speaker there is this one subject.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a feeling as sensed that there are a few lights of the Hon Members clinching for a moment to speak. However, the Chair considers, to use common sense, to end the work of the Parliament for the day as it is time to conclude, we should always abide the Regulations on implementing the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

With that case, I beg pardon the members, be well prepared with all questions and everything for Monday if our health be restored with desires of the Lord. I believe we have come to the end of today's work, as this week as well.

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I convey my appreciation and gratitude to the Hon Heads of the Government, you are the Eyes and Ears the elected members, doves that were picked out of the flock. For Samoa and its decision making and governance here at the Tiafau fields. Thank you for your patience, a harmonic motion for the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for this entire week, with your dignified view, and your opinions to raise it all to the Lord. God will rule over our will.

Now we have ended the week with grace, and today? What words are there for us to say? Everything you have done, use it to praise the Lord. The support of Samoa, yes, support is gracious than implementing. With your prayers, and the power of your support for refinement, now has ended well the proceeding of the Parliament, thank you very much.

The holy servants of the Lord, yes, with your prayers, it has purified and blessed everything within the House. Thank you.

I would also like to congratulate and thank all Head of various Government Ministries and Organizations since Monday as we had paced heels, collaborating, exchanging diversely with the Government for success in developments we are trying to implement. God grant you wisdom and wellness, like our gathering for this entire week.

I also convey my gratitude's to the Ministry of Police for maintaining safety, and a safe Proceeding of the country. The Hon Commissioner and the Hon Minister thank you. I want to thank the Ministry of Health for the continuous duties as front liners, to ensure health and safety for all members that are involved in the Proceedings here at Tiafau. Thank you for your service, Lord bless you all.

Not forgetting the Office of the Electric Power, considering your preparedness and readiness for a successful Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly. I convey my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation; God's mercies be upon you all.

To the Hon Secretary and the Office of the Legislative we express gratitude's, you are the right hand of the Parliament, for responsibilities. Lord bless you all for the work of this entire week.

Before we adjourned the end of work for the week and today's, I call upon the Hon Member for Samatau and Falelatai, because you have religious titles, for a prayer to conclude our proceedings.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assemble were adjourned at 12:11pm until 9:00am Monday 22nd February.