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FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2019

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:12am.

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed.

**PRESENTATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
REPORTS**

The Clerk read out the list of Parliamentary Committee Reports tabled before the House pursuant to S.O. 52(5).

1. P.P.2019/2020 No.79, Report of the Economic Sector Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.130, Annual Report of the Polynesian Airlines Ltd / Samoa Airways 30 June 2018.
2. P.P.2019/2020 No.83, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.89 & P.P.2018/2019 No.107, Annual Reports of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.
3. P.P.2019/2020 No.84, Report of the Infrastructure Committee on P.P.2018/2019 No.129, Annual Reports of the Samoa Shipping Services 2014/2015, 2015/2016 & 2016/2017.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2018/2019 &
APPROPRIATION BILL 2019/2020 – second reading debate – Day 3**

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday after the Prime Minister's clarification on the overall policies and various aspects of the country's economy provided in the Supplementary Budget and the Main Estimate. This is the opportunity for the Cabinet to resume their speeches.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well, the Hon Prime Minister and Leader of Cabinet have clarified some of the issues raised by members. It is not only for the information of this Assembly but the country at large. In saying that, I applaud your statement and I know your role is not an easy one. Detailing everything out in the open so everyone is clear as there are questions of our integrity. Are we doing things according to policies? The Government is keeping to that in accordance to the process and status of our projects, so I thank you.

I also commend the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations in your roles and also supporting and advising Government on certain developments.

Since we are approaching the hour to suspend proceedings. I apologize to the Hon Minister but you will start tomorrow when we resume our deliberations as the motion dictates, if God willing we may reconvene in good health.

Before we adjourn, I will conclude our Proceedings with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside at 1:02pm until 9:00am Friday 21st June 2019.

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Before I call upon the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology, I felt the spirit of gratitude yesterday on the statement of the Hon Prime Minister, which gave clarity to the raising concerns of the House regarding the various matters of the country's economy.

This will make our work easier with regards to all the raising issues clarified as well as the support from Samoa. Then I thought that the load engaged by the Cabinet has been reduced. Although, the statements of the Ministers will progress on the raising matters by the notable members.

With respect, I call the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communication and Information Technology): Thank you Mr Speaker. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. May all glory be unto Him, until forever.

I greet the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Greetings to you all in the spirit of good health.

I acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and various public officials as well as the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Samoa is sacred throughout its dominion and boundaries, from its initial position at the Taisamasama of Tuimanu'a to the cruel sea of Lady Nafanua. You have secretly treasured the mandate and sanction of our ancestors. I respectfully recognised the people of Samoa tuning in this morning.

Mr Speaker, I support your statement given this morning. The State has submitted their response through the wonderful statement of the Prime Minister yesterday in accordance to the State's policies that operates its works. The views and requests of the House have been heard, you have heard of the Prime Minister's positive response.

As stated by the honorable Speaker, I trust the work has been lessened and Cabinet does not have much to say.

Before I get to...just to give my appreciation to the developments, there are two things I wish to comment on, I have another duty separate from my Ministerial role, I train people, I and Hon Laauli. I continue to see our prolonged Sessions and how long the notable House take their seats.

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By recommendation, when seated, given the length of our sitting, you must move and shake your body, your blood circulation could be blocked thus affecting your health, shake your hands and feet under your desk because your health needs it. I see that the Hon Minister's hand is up and the doctor's head is nodding, this is important.

Another thing I wish to say to the House, the phone before us. This phone has a camera that is used to record and broadcast our Sitting to the world. Our sitting is live and the small camera held by the camera operator in front here, the reason for saying this is that the comments of the people watching us are very funny. The night Tuiatua Faanofonofu was speaking the back row were all caught on camera and so as the member of Falealili East, West. I am looking at the comments of the members of their constituency saying, 'My, I pity our representative who may not come back in the next election.' As the camera is too small and it cannot capture one person alone, it can capture everyone sitting beside you. For the information of the House, because the Chairperson of the Finance Committee was giving his statement yesterday and it showed everyone else in that row. Now I am looking at the comments of other people saying that other members are praying too long...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister; I give the chance to the respectable member of Vaimauga East.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, since the Minister is speaking towards this side when the respective member of that constituency is not present, because it seems that he is talking to us. That is reason for my upstanding. I do not think the Hon Minister is aware that we are the leaders of the country, your sitting and standing is all part of our custom, and you are kneeling. Although it is saddening, our Sitting is being broadcasted to the world. The concern for me is that this could be worrisome for me, my hands and feet are shaking. If the world is watching the leaders of the country, and the way we walk and stand, that is our way of respect, however, the member is saying that we must shake our feet and hands every now and then. It seems this is disrespectful. We can stretch outside or on a sportsground, but in the House, no we must pay respect and not shake.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the respectable member I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker our discussion is getting interesting - we are almost the same as other countries like America. This means that one person may lay their phone and all our talks are being caught on this phone making us forget that his phone is very advance much better than a TV. Such is the phone of the Speaker; he is unaware that he is being recorded on this phone over here. Just a comparison. The person who is well aware of this doing is Faumuina beside me. So you may not be aware that Faumui is taking...we are all excited to use these new technology, but the Minister speaking is the Minister who is overseeing these things, therefore he is providing us with some very good information, if you sit, you must sit like a member. Just a reminder as we are unaware who is recording us. The reminder from the Hon Minister is useful, to remind us that we are going live secretly through cellphones.

In saying that honorable Speaker, do not be alarmed, let us hear what good things the Minister is saying to warn us of this Sitting to sit well like a bowman who is ready all the time. If you go to a competition, you must stay alert always and not become drowsy. I am saying this for the sake of the camera pointing at you there not us here. It is vital for us to be well aware this morning that of the one hundred people in here, sure enough, there is someone that is using their phone.

Mr Speaker, let us see, the Hon Minister has given some useful points for us, it could be also useful for those who are sleepy during other people's speeches, to take it, these things are also restricted under the Act, although I am unaware what aspects does it have with the use of cell phones.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker, because the Hon Minister did mention my name... Just a slight correction your honor.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Minister, I allow the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Thank you Mr Speaker the Hon Minister has mentioned the programme that we will take part in, to train people. A point of order because it is not only us two, there was Afioga Faaulusau, the member for Alataua West, Afioga Faumuina and Afioga Lopao, we were all part of this training. What happened is, no one is slim which was the main objective of this programme, except for Hon Afamasaga Rico who is ranked sixth. This means the message says that your body should be 100%, food is 80% and 20% is exercise. This means our well being is in our own hands. I have withdrawn since I found out only gossip is all there is to the trainees. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the comment made by Laauli is important. Nevertheless my advice to Laauli, do not give up and keep on going. There are also those involved, try and quit eating. Hon Laauli is right, whenever we have our Sunday toonai, we cannot control ourselves. We should look after our health especially with the food we eat, because this is why we are ill. As for this group when I tell them to drop some pounds they do not listen saying it is all part of training. I apologize for saying this but we should train our bodies and our mouths. This is another way to promote this initiative, use our mouths to attract people to come and exercise.

My advice to Hon Laauli, do not give up this good undertaking, continue to do it.

MR SPEAKER: Anything else other than this matter your honor?

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Mr Speaker since there was a mention of the name Faumui, although the good thing is, it was not me. Since the Hon Prime Minister is looking directly to this side saying Faumui because I am Faumuina. For the sake of our records, I state a correction please. Thank you.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I was actually referring to the other Afioga Faumuina, the problem is there are two of you.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Falealili West.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko (Falealili West): Mr Speaker point of Order. I request with utmost respect to the Hon Minister that both members from Falealili are healthy not sick. This is a statement I wanted to correct for the Records of the House. Thank you.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): I just want to mention that I do not carry a phone. I also do not carry my phone with me anywhere I go, I am also bringing my phone to our Sitting as it is not allowed. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well...

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker I am now satisfied, members do try and stand up as our sitting is being dragged, do some exercise.

MR SPEAKER: Your request has been achieved on the aim to stand up and encourage good health. I am thankful for your advice.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: The member for Vaimauga is quick to judge but there have been good comments on the internet during the speech of the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga which spotted the member for Vaimauga East. Some people commented that the person sitting behind is the Rock but they are mistaken with him.

Mr Speaker the reason for stating these things is due to technology. I thank the Government of Australia especially the Legislative Assembly office because now people around the world are now able to watch our Sittings and be aware of your views for the development for Samoa so that the world is aware, that Samoan living abroad are made aware of the immense work being done in Samoa. Our radio 2AP is boardcasting our Proceedings in the country and to the outside world during the time I responded, there are calls received from Alaska and Hawaii. This means our 2AP frequency is heard in further countries.

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Now we also have FM for our 2AP station. In the meantime, our Sitting is being broadcasted on 99.1 and 107.4 FM. As for AM, the pole has been installing, and on Monday, tune in your radio to 540AM our Sitting will be broadcasted throughout the country. If the first boardcast was not clear then this one will be easily accessed from one house to the other. There will be no more glitches it will be clear. This is the status for our 2AP station in attempt to our development.

As for our TV, you are aware of it...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, you now speak of strength, but I ask of one thing, do you have a sound. Why, is it hoarse or not? Because the entire Samoa can is now receiving it but when it comes with a husky sound therefore the people will be unsure or lack insight of the notice.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker there should still be an unclear frequency for awareness, like what Petelo said, we know it is working when we see the paper moving. As arranged, under the Government of Australia's assistance, the status of our 2AP station will be much better, although there are times when our broadcasts will be troubling with the wind, that will gain us a small glitch.

For our television, you have heard about the change in our current analogue system, firstly, this system will no longer work. Therefore this will pile up more rubbish without any methods to refix these machines. This is why the world has changed the system from analogue to digital. The first phase of this project will be launched in October. By the end of October the second phase will start and 95% of Samoa will have access to digital TV. The television that we have now can still be used, Government will assist with bringing in tv box units maybe by the end of July we will have some available at a cheap price. This box can be connected to your TV and you will then have access to digital streaming.

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There is no need to buy a new digital TV, Government will be assisting our people by selling this box at a cheap price since it is expensive. This will assist the less fortunate also once you get a clear television channel and you will appreciate the money you spent on it.

Our internet...

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker I will be brief. I am grateful for the clarification made by the Hon Minister on the progress of the Digital TV. This is a great development for improvement.

Hon Minister a recommendation, have a look whether it is appropriate for the Regulator to be part of this circle. Since the Regulator is the one instigating provisions and should be the referee for television stations that will be switched to digital. I believe there is a conflict of interest if the Regulator is involved nevertheless this is a recommendation on the matter. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I think the Hon Minister is right, it is good to stand up and exercise. I usually go walking in the morning this is why Hon Minister do not worry, we are healthy. I am grateful for the clarification made it is not my intention to interrupt your speech. However there are two issues I want to voice. I heard you speaking of the switch from analogue to digital meaning we have to buy a transformer to access it which is more money spent. The most concern, this is the second point, you stated that 95% of Samoa will have digital coverage.

The question now, is Aleipata included in this 95% or are we part of the other 5%. This is my concern because you stated in the previous sitting when we met a day later that the coverage was fixed. But when I went there the 2AP radio signal was weak also the television did not work even for the constituency of the Hon Prime Minister, Lepa. This is why I request, it is not a complaint but a spirit of gratitude if we are now included in this 95%. If not then I will be taking the floor again next month and the month after that and another Sitting. With respect Mr Speaker thank you.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: I thank the member for the reminder. Now the issue raised by Tofa Olo Fiti Vaai. This is not the case we all know if there is a referee then two people should be involved, for Digital TV it is only one. We only have one platform and one company operating it meaning there will be no disagreement. The only duty by the Regulator is monitor those operating the Digital TV. As for other television within rural areas these are refereed by the Regulators office, there should be no contradiction under the Act as this has also been looked into. I commend the member for the reminder on this matter.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker please...what I meant was, it is a core function of the Regulator to regulate the Bill and such provisions. As for now the Digital TV is operated by the Regulator, but I personally believe the Digital TV should not be with the Regulator. It is appropriate for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to oversee this operation, and let go of the referee from this area. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: I take note of the opinion from the member, although what I am saying, this is not in operation, it is operated by the company in charge of Digital, the Regulator is still monitoring its duty to referee, and see whether it is accurate and appropriate in accordance to the Law. But I thank the member.

The comments made by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, this is also my constituency nonetheless we should consider I am talking about October because by December, the Digital TV coverage will be 100%. As for the 95% mentioned for Aleipata, full coverage will be made. There are a few settlements for the highland and valley areas that will not be covered in October. As for December no matter where you are you will access Digital TV.

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Our internet for those travelling overseas frequently, when you go to the Auckland airport and buy a sim card, the cheapest plan is \$45 for 4GB. When you go to Australia, you buy a \$40 plan for 5Gb. When you come to Samoa at the Faleolo Airport to get a sim. You can buy a \$20 plan for 10GB. Mr Speaker and members of the House, the status of our internet is now very cheap, although the Office of the Regulator and the Ministry of Communication is still aiming to make it more cheaper, even though there is no point in making internet cheaper putting the companies into a loss. The important aspect is to make it cheap and accessible for us and the service providers for this service to continue.

The Tuisamoa project Mr Speaker launched in February last year, it was noted in July of this year that 5% of our economy was generated from Tuisamoa. This means this project is developed effectively. This is also the reason why internet costs have dropped. You no longer see the big ship that was at sea carrying out repairs on submarine cables under sea.

At the moment it has gone to Hawaii, it is preparing to set up another cable system, from Tahiti, to Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga then to Samoa.

It is expected that this cable line will reach us in March of next year. When this cable reaches us, internet costs will be much cheaper. All this is done for the improvement of communication within our country and for us to gain benefits from foreign businesses. If overseas countries are aware of this they will be attracted to set up companies here. Now, there are companies that are beginning to come into our country. There are two call center companies now in Samoa. One now has 40 employees the other is nearing 40 as well. At the moment they are doing trials. The aim is for these networks to be useful for the increasing number of employment for our people. We now have the National ID program which we are starting to implement and hopefully God willing, we will use this ID in future elections. This ID is not a piece of paper. We are looking at a digital ID. This is like a VISA card, if there is no chip inside, we use QR code for ID. Mr Speaker those are much developments implemented by the Ministry of Communications, Information Technology.

There is a matter mentioned by the member for Palauli le Falefa yesterday, which I am involved. I am thankful there was a mention of rugby. I also have a conflict of interest on the matter. However, the reason is to develop young people in the constituency who are unemployed but talented in rugby.

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If anyone recalls the game between Manu Samoa and All Blacks, only one was chosen from Aana. Manu Samoa further played in order to qualify for the world cup against Germany and other countries; only one player was from Samoa, a son of Aana. Everyone heard the clarification by the Hon Prime Minister on the reason why these boys are strong, climbing the coconut trees. They do not get coconuts they just climb it, this is a form of training.

The Super 9 scheduled tournament by the Rugby Union. The member mentioned this yesterday as well as the Hon Prime Minister. Super 9 has nine teams, two teams from each club, thirty players in a team. If Aana Chiefs is the champion, there should be sixty players; altogether, there are 90 from these 9 teams. There are five hundred and forty players playing in this tournament. All teams have support and are sponsored by companies.

Most of the team players now go home every Saturday with maybe \$50, as for our team, for example since it is a senior all thirty players get \$100 allowance. The junior team gets \$70 allowance. This means all five hundred and forty players are indirectly employed by the Samoa Rugby Union. There are a lot of employment opportunities offered by the Rugby Union.

The recommendations voiced yesterday is very much appreciated, to allocate more funds on this endeavor. At the moment, there are 142 Samoans with contracts overseas. Others have returned and bought 5 pieces of land, set up 4 rental houses which contributes to our economy. Although, money sent here is still ongoing. Our country is earning millions from this sport. The Rugby Union had a talk on seeking how to go about gaining benefit for our people, most have heard about the American football people that visited our country last week.

We are now trying to establish American football within Samoa. The Chairman is now not only looking at rugby but also, other related rugby sports. The Committee is now looking at organizing a body to overlook this area for all teams to go to, especially the American football where more earnings will come from, and so how is this sorted in assets and properties so that they can be marketable to America. The country can earn US\$1.3 billion on this sport. As for the rugby we will not earn much from it, this is why we are trying to work together with some of these people from overseas and be the first...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Vaimauga East.

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Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: I rise to...the good statement by Usualii was very positive. Although point of clarification, the Ministry has already spoken, and now rugby is being discussed for sports.

A question from Vaimauga East, has sports under to the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture been referred to the Minister taking the floor? This is a just view for assistance. Since this is the duty of the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture to clarify matters related to sports being voiced by the Minister. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Education is part of the rugby association and the American football federation. But I am delegating them these very duties as it pertains to them. This is another area that could make good use of the Minister's expertise given advance technology to effectiently seek opportunities for our Samoan children to bring success upon their families. What I aim to highlight for our children most especially their parents is technology using advance communications which is a lot useful to push exclusive sports like the one that has the involvement of the Minister in regards to the different trainings and skills to strengthen our children.

We do not have many coconuts in our district but mountains. This is another way to train our children who are going to America although they pick and sell the coconuts, they do trainings by climbing the coconut tree. New Zealand, Australia Wallabies and South Africa have longed for this market but could not do it.

As you have seen on television and radio the traveling group from America comprising of Samoans, Fijians and Tongans led by a Samoan, this was the only Samoan who made it to the top in the American sports.

We now have a lot of Samoan players for this sport. Although this is the first person to have made it to the top. He has approached us and avowed that they will use Samoa as a platform to push this sport forward. Especially now that he has travelled to other countries including the islands states on this part of the world, they have spotted that our Super 9 rugby is going strong and orderly and training standards has been raised in selecting local players for NZ, South Africa and Australia.

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Therefore, this is the concept for our local rugby that will be used as... meanwhile, these are just some views. As I said yesterday, these are just dreams. Also, be mindful that anything big happening in the world right now, it all started from a dream. Some dreams would turn into a liquid; others become thickened especially when you throw spices in it to make the taste real good. We may have to use some of these methods, although we will still arrange it. We have had 9 weeks for this rugby series and we may have to look at another 9 weeks for the American football games where we will have the trainers from America to come and train our people on this sport. This could open up opportunities for our people to play overseas and develop their families.

Only one basis will get us into this your honor, we access and make good use of these opportunities to go overseas that is opening up to us. Otherwise, if they will be used, other countries will prosper from it. The Cabinet is very swift in its decision on competitions and opportunities such as this using the fitness of men to vye continuously henceforth; we are no longer going backwards. We will not go back to playing in one game and whilst moving on to the second match, we see breathlessness. So gaining constant fitness, at least more importantly, money is going towards their families. Possibly Samoa is the most popular country in this sport. This is not a lie; a boy from this district went abroad to seek wealth. In saying that, I have thought that you would stand up to push this without interrupting. Honorable Speaker that is the assistance.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, a correction to the Hon Minister and assistance to the Prime Minister's statement. It is true; the reason for the Minister's pride in our Aana Constituency is that he is a man of Vaimauga who is training the team. They have a final match this Saturday and this person is not showing all the skills in this sport, the Eels club is first in the Vaimauga squad. This is why I am upstanding...

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: That is what I am talking about, support the man from your village. Because there are questions, why go there and not here? I do not accept that.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Minister.

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Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: This is what you call pride in other teams when you never played rugby before. The member is correct, he is a relative of mine back in the village. I looked hard and could not find his name on Aana’s rugby list and neither on Vaimauga. Because technology plays a huge part in rugby. You have heard the Hon Prime Minister’s statement, and that is it...

Your honor, those are just a few wishes and dreams. The verse of the Bible in the Book of Proverbs (29:18) says, “Where there is no vision, people perish...”

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Is there anything else?

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: No point of further clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Go ahead.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Because the Ministry of Education was mentioned and so, the country and the House must be clarified, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture made a huge contribution. Because there are different sports levels as the Minister and I are in the grassroot level, if the first level is poor then the top level will be a total waste for these male politicians who are interested in Super 9, hopefully nobody will be charged from these promotions. Henceforth, good luck with Super 9. On that note, that is the ongoing contribution of the Ministry of Education, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Minister.

Afioga AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Thanks, you are correct, everything relies on the grassroot level. Such is the emphasis and objective for developing our sports. There are whisperings to remind the member of Faleata, this guy from Faleata is from America. Seiuli is his matai title and the Hon Prime Minister is correct, this is the first Samoan boy who had gained popularity in the American football.

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I have already stated, the thought has come to a conclusion, and a dream must be in place.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The speech is finished...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Yes just this small bit before the Minister finishes his speech, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, is there anything else Minister...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: I was attending the funeral of one my relatives this morning and during the ride, I heard the Hon Minister's remarks saying that I was sick. The Hon Minister knows very well, there are slim people who could die in the early life.

For the information of the Minister, lest he thinks I cannot run fast, now, the training of my hands using a punching bag is mindboggling. If I strangle a very gigantic person right now, be careful with your words Minister, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, your statement has been very useful now that you have attended our meeting swiftly.

Afioga AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Pardon the member's view as he tries to catch his breath right now, perhaps he is missing the point as the statement was not mine. A story is like a camera and the entire world is watching, the story was relayed from his relative abroad and his constituency who is saying, our poor member, at least we can see that he is now seated.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Hon Minister and Mr Speaker, when I heard this, I had to park beside that house and had to run over here as I wanted to...that is why you could hear me gasping because I was trying to reach him whilst speaking. Never mind, thank you.

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If there is another program other than the one I am using, then bring it over, because right now, I am only using my hands, chest and steel for training pardon me..

Afioga AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: I second the view of the member, we have witnessed the former champion of the world, the person is unbelievable...it is like the body of the current world champion.

That is the feeling, all these undertakings and obligations for the Communications and Technology, it is all similar dream of the State. I have already stated the words from Proverbs, and the words from Romans verse 10 which says, "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." If we continue to talk about these things your honor, it will live, that is the spirit of a person that is faithful.

This country is founded on God, we were in the same class as Namulauulu. It is a great feeling for me to have another classmate in Parliament which makes the 2 of us. Leala is 2 years older than the both of us while Loau is 4 years older in our class. I have topped Namalauulu in most of the subjects, but other things involving sports, Namulauulu was always first.

I did not say women, leave that aside, but thank you Namulauulu and bless your strive, may you find good thoughts in Parliament for the development of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, I wish to touch upon my constituency and their support, you have witnessed the conclusion of the Independence when Satapuala were performing, that is the symbol of mutual support to the State and its endeavors, not only for Satapuala but also our constituency of Aana Alofi No.3.

Regarding our airlines, do not worry, every morning I see a new bouquet in front of the airport fence, it is signifying the importance of the developments in the country by my district.

To my beloved constituency in your honorifics and the clergy of the entire district, thank you for your support and prayers upon me and this House in all its endeavors. With that said, may God bless the honorable Speaker.

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I am sitting and looking at the pictures of the Speakers of the House and I see that my photo is right in the front whilst yours is in the back, I do not see that much difference with yours your honor, I see that you have sustainance in health, may God guide you and restore your strength to manage our House and the deliberations of Samoa to fulfill the various project developments.

Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, may God bless you with the Associate Ministers and the dignity of Parliament, may you find wisdom and strength to tremble behind the desk whilst proceedings is in session. To all the excellent minds of the State working for the Government, may you find blessings, may God be kind to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly especially its staff, all the Media Offices, may God bless the remaining part of this day. That is our say with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done to your speech, since your honorific states that you are the Father envisioned the State, well done. It is now the turn of the Minister of Justice with respect.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU (Minister of Justice and Court Administration): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to a few raising matters by the Parliament in relation to this Ministry of Justice and the Electoral Office..

I firstly wish to greet the Leader of the House the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers, Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons and members of Parliament. I also take this time to greet the Government Heads of Ministries and Public Enterprises gathered here today. I also acknowledge the Le Ao Mamalu o le Malo and his good lady, Member of the Council of Deputy and your good lady and the support of Samoa.

We do not forget the prayers of the Servants of God in various demoninations of Samoa. I especially wish to acknowledge the constituency of Vaimauga No.2 in its honorific salutation, well done.

Mr Speaker, only one member commented on this Ministry and an advise from the member of Salega West. He wants to witness the new Court House in Salelologa in replacement of the existing office in Tuasivi. In response to this matter, this project will be achieved, there is land space and maintenance has already been done, however the only delay is funding to implement this project.

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Perhaps after the Pacific Games next month in the country then the State will look at this vital project for the sake of people living in Salafai. The matter...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg indulgence Hon Minister, I recognize the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, there was an allocated fund of \$370,000.00 for the house construction in Salelologa but this money was reversed to clear the arrears of the Ministry, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Minister you may go ahead.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: True is the member for Palauli le Falefa, there was money allotment however the Ministry has already used it to pay off its arrears and this is no huge amount, it depends on the project that needs to be built, that is the reason. Thank you your honor for...

This matter was raised by the member....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I allow the interjection.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Lest there is intention that there is no true spirit of implementing this job. In truth we have piled up works that starts with money to grow them. That is the challenge to the Ministry, *go start the work now. Any further funds required will be easily* approved by Cabinet. And when we have the Budget stating \$5 or what, that is the signal to the Ministry to get a move on things and do not delay it. Start preparing the designs and things like, those are the dos of the HRPP.

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The University submitted before Parliament in 1963 is also on top when there was only \$5 to begin with. Various statements became very popular during discussions at that time mocking the State about its objectives, yet, what happened afterwards? It was still implemented at the time, it was unaware that the Ministry of Finance's intention for putting these figures in was to sustain hope in challenging the Head of the Ministry to start the job already.

Mr Speaker, that is the statement and reminder from the Cabinet to the Ministry Heads, look thoroughly at your debts as there are times when budgets are made trickily whereby debts are not shown and when the new budget is approved, they would use it to pay the old debts. That process is normally done by those kids and the Chief Executive would disregard it however, they must take heed of these things. That Mr Speaker, must be taken into deep consideration. The statement of the Hon Minister has been made on this matter, I feel this matter is now understood.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I allow the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Malo faafetai. Se i tulai mai le Minisita mo Pisinisi, Alamanuia ma Leipa.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor): Mr Speaker, just an addition to the Prime Minister's statement with the State's attempt to build our township area in Salelologa and landspace request for the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Education and others within this new town for the sake of the country to know that this is no laughing matter mentioned in the statement of the Prime Minister. In terms of budget, that is left to the Ministry itself, but there are landspaces as all this lands and processes are under my supervision.

The strategic plan set out by the State will be executed. As aware by the Minister, landspace and everthing else are all set, only the set up is awaited before it is a go. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The statements of the Leader and the Minister have been useful to challenge the implementation of projects. I permit the Minister.

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Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Thank you honorable Speaker. The matter raised by the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 and the member for Urban West constituency have already been discussed informally and investigations have already been carried out by the Electoral Office perhaps in a future time, we will receive recommendations on appropriate changes regarding this change you both submitted. The matter has just been received from the member of Gagaemauga No.3.

MR SPEAKER: I permit the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Tofa Namulauulu Leota Sami Leota (Faasaleleaga No.2): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity, thank you too for the detailed clarification by the Hon Minister, there was quite a number of issues raised in relation to election. I am not sure what matter the Minister is stating when I am looking deeply into it for a recommendation to improve the submitted requests. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Alright. I allow the Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker, these are all the matters that I and the member were discussing, if you want, there is a long list of matters we discussed with Namulauulu.

MR SPEAKER: Fine. The view of the member is for the sake of the district as this matter has already been discussed.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Thank you. The matter raised by Gagaemauga No.3 is about the new electoral Legislation and his advise was, have a look again at the new Legislation given the difficulty of people traveling to Savaii on election day. Although less burden is made by the State to make the election day a holiday, there is still belief that where the heart lies, there is a way for it, and no demand including us here who go to the electoral office will ever be satisfied.

Mr Speaker, our Laws have not yet been applied to the General Election. Observing the new member for Faasaleleaga No.2 and his delightfulness in the previous election that got him through, I believe this Law is relevant. As I said, this Law has not yet been applied to the General Elections.

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Therefore, the answer to this matter, until we have the General Elections 2021, then we can have a look at issues on...

MR SPEAKER: I permit the honorable Associate Minister.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu (Gagaemauga No.3): Mr Speaker, the lovely speech of the member was not meant to be interrupted however, the Minister is not getting the basis of the recommendation put forward. In regards to application, this was applied in the election of Faasaleleaga No.2. and these are the reasons for the submission put forth whereas for the Legislation, no I did not mention anything on amending the Legislation. No.

The crux of our recommendation before you regards traveling to Savaii, because the obligation of the State is for people to vote. That is the essence of this constituency, if we were to apply it in the upcoming election, we have already applied it, that is my personal view.

As for the change in the Legislation, it was not stated in our statements as it has already been passed. The basis of the Legislation's processes has already been set out, but just an advise lest we have the 2021 General Elections and more issues will rise. The execution process, is for you to direct your statement to it. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, concerns affecting the election and things like that, the Minister has given his response. No doubt, these matters affects everyone in this House including the entire Cabinet. The Cabinet is listening which means that this matter will be discussed in Cabinet however, the Minister has now spoken. My advise, endure patience, the Minister has spoken in accordance to their administrative processes, the Cabinet is now bearing this matter in mind for their review. When it is time for your matter to be discussed in Cabinet, leave that to us as we have the Ministers to do that. It is not a matter that can be decided between the two of you, it involves the entire Cabinet and the entire State.

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MR SPEAKER: Alright. Hon Minister, the two fagots are related, taatia maia and taatia atu. I allow the Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, I upstand with great respect, thank you too for the chance. Having the complaint of the respectable member, traveling seems impacting. I have questioned the Head of the Shipping Company for a report in regards to the verification of electoral voters who could not come due to immigration concerns. The statement of the Chief Executive Officer said that 3 ferries were proposed for this activity, however, only 2 were used. This indicated that preparations by the company was well sorted for the election that day. The State now has set plans for the election in 2021, to prepare the huge ferry, the Lady Samoa for this election to avoid any likely problem. But I am explaining to you and the dignified Parliament, the shipping company did prepare ferries to allow all constituents to vote. Accusations made tentatively against the shipping company falls on the votes of the voters alone.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister has just addressed the Assembly since the matter concerns the whole of Cabinet. It is why I suggested that the matter be left with us as it is very complex.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the members upstanding and this is what I am trying to tell you. It may seem like a joke but that is what it means. You do not discuss such in pair as it affects all the members. Everyone should now understand the state of the service provided by our Shipping Company, and the fact that they were quite prepared. I think the problem is people leaving things to the last minute. Nevertheless, we shall leave that up to the Minister and Cabinet to consider the recommendations of members now before you. I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: The Prime Minister has spoken and the concern of the member from Gagaemauga is noted.

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Mr Speaker that completes my response and the constituency of Vaimauga West No.2 supports the Supplementary Appropriation No.2 2018/2019 and the Main Estimates 2019/2020 tabled. May God bless.

MR SPEAKER: I applaud the Minister's address. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Tofa Namulauulu Leota Sami Leota: Thank you Mr Speaker for the wonderful opportunity and I appreciate the Ministers comprehensive clarification. I had been hoping that he would address the issue of the 1000 voters for Faasaleleaga that did not vote in the election as mentioned by two members. We have discussed this and our concern is that the government may label our constituency as not abiding and the voters simply refusing to vote. We have sorted this with the Electoral Office and it is not 1000 as claimed. The actual figures are that, 400 are deceased, 200 have gone overseas and the very small number of people that did not vote is about 300. I was waiting and wondering whether the Minister would cover it as it does not sound well to hear that the constituents of Faasaleleaga No.2 have not advocated this government operation. It should then, for the sake of records, as it is not a case of refusing to vote, No. With the 300 who do did not vote, the majority have decided to go with the new law that provides for voters to cast their vote at the place of residency. Our constituency strongly supports the current law. But for the sake of the records, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: If I may assist the member who is new, the point you made will be covered under the category leave it with us. They will be addressed in just one line. If we are to elaborate on that, it may affect the course of our orders of the day. However, I advise Ministers that responding in this manner is quicker.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this issue of election is rather important and people who chose not to vote during the elections is nothing new. Voting is now compulsory and the list has been published for those who did not vote to attend the office of the Ministry. Therefore, they are doing their job by going after these people as the list has been publicised and has been on TV, which I have seen.

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This is where we will find out the actual truth about this, as it will reveal who have actually died and who have actually travelled overseas. This issue will be completely resolved and we will know who deliberately refused to vote and have disregarded their right.

These avenues are novel ideas and it serves to warn people to exercise their right to vote. This covers all constituencies including mine where some do not go out to vote in which the chief and orators rule on that. The importance of this matter is such that it will serve as a reminder to chiefs and orators to address this issue in their meetings within villages.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, the Hon Minister will conclude his address.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: I was about to convey my well wishes to you when the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 interrupted, yet I did touch on this issue earlier. He is disclosing our conversation earlier and the Commissioner and his Electoral Office are looking into it.

May the grace of God be upon you Mr Speaker and may He continue to bless your health and mind in the exercise of your calling. May He also be kind to the Leader of the House and this Assembly. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I guess this issue is quite a complex one as stated by the Leader of the Government. Whilst the country pay attention, we are trying to shed light on the matter. Nevertheless, we will leave it to the Minister of Justice responsible for the Electoral Commissioner's Office. When they do reach that stage they will be sorting out things and screen the ballot rolls to find out who does not realise the importance of casting their vote. That way no one can criticise the rolls but instead charge those who have breached the law as the member for Faasaleleaga was trying to say. All of this has its difficulties but the By-election has been vital for the Ministry to prepare for these kind of complexities so that when the General Elections takes place, there would be less problems occurring. *Since we have come to our usual recess hour, proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for recess.*

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess hour at 10:32am and resumed at 11:16am.

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MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed.

I would think that the members of Parliament have acquired renew strength from the refreshments that have been provided and I guess the same goes to the Chief Executive Officers. Before we took our recess, the Minister for Justice had the floor. This is the opportunity to respectfully call the Minister for Education to address the issues raised by members.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): I rise with the utmost respect and I do feel a sense of humility amidst the dignitaries of this court here in Tiafau, the principal place to deliberate matters concerning the country.

I bid greetings to you Mr Speaker and the dignity of the House, Leader of the House, and the dignitaries present. I will not cast the net into the deep so to speak, in other words, I will not elaborate our traditional set ups, as I am in a place amongst the three senior men whom had taken the floor on this point. For I may err and that may count against me.

Given my calling, I will now give my statement in accordance to the matters raised, which were requests and some recommendations. Before doing so I want to congratulate the Minister responsible for the thorough compilation of this legislation which was concurred by the many speeches towards the Main Estimate 2019/2020 and may I say with all honesty that I too give my support. My commendations for your preparations and vision.

I direct my statement to the Ministry I serve, seeing that there is a surplus of \$3million from the previous financial year. For that, I applaud you and also realise that the State is prioritizing education, for what? So that our children are educated well to achieve the goal of this country for our children to become smart and intelligent for they are the future of Samoa. This is the grateful feeling.

I further applaud the Chairperson and members of the Finance Committee. I realise in the recommendations given, I recognize it with respect. Most of these recommendations are directed towards the Ministry of Education in light of ensuring the allotted appropriations is wisely spent. In the last two days, I have noticed a lot of recommendations were pointed towards the Ministry of Education, I appreciate your attentiveness to ensure the improvement and betterment particularly for the Ministry of Education. We accept your recommendations with a heart of gratitude.

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You have thanked this Ministry, as we particularly proceed towards as hosts of the games. Most of the speeches relates to the improvement and solidifying our sports. I appreciate your support. That is our aspirations and I will not hide the fact that we are poor as we endeavor to seek funds so that our games are a success in the month of July. I realise that endeavors tend to fall short of perfection. Yet we are giving it our all to ensure this effort will be a success for Samoa.

The bulk of the work has been done and improved, *e leai se faiva e asa ma se maumau*, there are a few hiccups which can be improved further but in all I appreciate your suggestions. Some of our recommendations are directed towards our education, I notice that some are a few factors in relation to the service of the Ministry in order to raise the standard of services. As in the introducing of a law which creates the Teachers Council. This has been constantly questioned, and picking up from the Social Media, words do get around and the peace and stability of people living harmoniously is eroded due to the establishment of this organisation.

The Leader of the State has clarified some of the aspects to enlighten the country. The Head of the Ministry has also shared her thoughts on some of the programs and I can further elaborate if there is not...to bring light and further insight. This organisation was instigated here. It is our vision that is the real reason behind this arrangement. So as to raise the level of teaching profession and that is all there is to it. It is thought that they should level together with the lawyers, accountants, doctors as well as the aim for teachers. It is now realised that the Legislation has been in the pipeline for some time, but has just been actioned. It is not to abuse the teachers as claimed, Do they have license, and what are these licenses for? These are the statements that have been in the air...It is good to further gain understanding to ensure the purpose for the teachers association.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister for Education, I allow the interjection.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I am seeking insight from the Hon Minister. Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance. I also thank the Hon Minister. From my point of view, the Minister's clarification on the difference between these two things is imprecise.

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Mr Speaker, you are aware of the Teachers Association has been there for a long time now where subscriptions are all paid to the Teachers Association.

What is happening now is that it is like something novel which is creating a fuss around the country with this \$100 license for teachers. You are well aware honorable Speaker, that the purpose for this Act that was deliberated in the House, it is to license the teachers if knowledge is gained together with qualifications, and the \$100 does not have to be paid. If you look at it your honor, if the teacher will have to pay \$100 within the 26 fortnightly salary per year, this means that their pay will be deducted on a fortnightly basis. Majority of these teachers your honor and the payrise that we had from the Government, they only earned about \$3.10, \$3.17. Mr Speaker this does not indicate any balance if it is to be continued. It is best that the Minister explains what this novel idea is about? What exactly is this Association for Teachers that has long been established? With due respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, since the matter you speak about is new. The Minister will respond in accordance to what the member had raised, that is the reminder.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I beg your pardon your honor, for your information, you have given your orders on general speeches, they were being generalised covering the Ministry of Education on the economy of the country. I beg tolerance your honor.

MR SPEAKER: When we get to the consideration of each individual items, then you can speak on that, rather do continue your explanation Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you to the statement of the member who rose and interjected my speech. These two things are very different. The Teachers Association and the Teachers Council are two different bodies. The Association is the same as a Cricket Association, the village rugby team make their own contributions and do their own thing. They are not bound under any mandate neither any regulation. The Teachers Council is being regulated and the purpose of it is quite significant.

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That is the aim, whereas the Teachers Association, that is their own thing behind the scenes which they continue to do. Although there is no real weight in the implementation of the service.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: That is the spirit to gain a better insight from teachers so that they can prioritize and uphold their service. The most important thing is monitoring the teacher's roles. You must understand that the wheat is always mixed with the tares. Yes there are very good teachers and those that are not very good. This is no hidden explanation.

So the purpose of this Council is to monitor the performance of teachers in the classroom to provide results as to the progress of their profession and service for the sake of members to avoid being in the dark. License is their own thing and currently there is dialogue at this time. I have received news that ongoing consultations will take about two years before they initiate it. The entire purpose is for the House to be fully aware.

Some of the submitted recommendations regards the qualifications from the NUS. I am quite concerned with our NUS which has been around for 30 years.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: It has been over 30 years that is the true feeling. The qualifications from them is remarkable. We now have engineers, heaps of doctors, where did they come from? From there and have to continued on to other universities.

MR SPEAKER: I call the interruption of Palauli le Falefa. Pardon...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity but since the Minister is concluding his remarks on the teaching profession. I did make a suggestion on students that do not reach year 9 or not making it to University level. I do not understand as the Minister is going on about the results of teachers' performance, with respect.

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MR SPEAKER: You may go ahead...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Speaker I am coming to that point as alluded to by the member. The point on our qualifications, well I am a bit reluctant to discuss it as the country is listening in. Yes, but there are many successful people amongst us that attended our University. Yes, the importance of our qualifications have allowed them to access other well-known Universities.

Now proof of my statement is that at the Waitakare Hospital in West Auckland, there are 5 nurses hailing from here that are working there. Once accepted to go to NZ through the Quota system they went straight and gained employment at that Hospital with only their Diploma of Nursing. If there are similar cases like this, I would urge that confirmation be publicised so as to counter the poor publicity of our University being currently spread throughout the country and also overseas governments that accept and recognise qualifications from our University. The point raised by the member for Palauli le Falefa on the increasing amount of students being school dropouts. The transition according to the Ministry records shows that 400 students for Year 8 fail to continue on to year 9. However, the given figures is what I stood up to address yesterday.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: The reason for the discontinuation of kids schooling is due to the various choices. Some decide to migrate overseas some decide to stay for reasons which we do not know. However, it does not reach the percentage, which the member raised.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister, pardon me, I will allow the interruption from the member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker this Assembly does not accept documents that are not validated. If your honour would refer to page 15 of the Ministry's annual report where it clearly indicates that the number of students at Primary level is 42,700 as at the end of June last year.

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For Secondary level Mr Speaker, 16,000 will go to school. If you deduct 16,000 from 42,7000, it will come to a difference of 27,000. If you are to look at the figures, it also includes church schools and private schools. This is the assistance as this is the outcome of the teacher's performance.

This is what happens with the great number of our people. Where will they go to? That is why we say to advocate sports, advocate rugby, advocate soccer, advocate cricket, advocate boxing and all sports because the majority of our children are into these things. Mr Speaker that is the point I am trying to make, and please refer to Table 15 of page 79 of the report and for the Samoan text it is page 80.

Mr Speaker that is what I am trying to relay.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: You may take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: That is the sole purpose of having your committee, to review these reports so as to base your speeches on and voice it here. There should be no heated debate on it as you all realise that the government is focussing on that. The first address talked about that, and further to developments, which is the focus. When it is my turn, I will discuss employment opportunities for our children overseas. We are trying to achieve all those things; the important factor is reporting something then leave it with us.

That is the purpose of useful reports, to inform you so that you may support the Budget to fund these projects, instead of stating your arguments here. Why dispute over figures that you presented? To base your speeches on? The government's response started from that end whilst the Minister is talking about, promoting sports for these children here. Therefore, this matter should not have been raised again, for it is settled.

Mr Speaker that is the state of things it is very simple not difficult.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: Very well, I will grant the chance, do keep in mind, reporting itself, the Prime Minister is only speaking of the state of things...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, it is not our report, it is the report of the Ministry that is signed by the Minister with his picture on it.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker there shall be no disputes over these information, if you have received them it should go to assist and give substance to your speeches, but those matters are being implemented.

Mr Speaker that is what we are engaging in right now, we are also taking action on avenues for our people to take employment overseas. What is happening right now? The moving of our people overseas is causing other people to say that there is a diminishing supply of taro. That is what is happening, it is vital that you realise it before submitting your suggestions and when you hear a Minister making a suggestion, then you must note that it is a Cabinet matter and they are thinking about it. It is the same matter submitted by another Minister through a response covering all these things, but avoid the constant interruption and criticisms claiming that it is another Minister's responsibility. That is the tune of a Cabinet that collaborates.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, it is not a criticism but a suggestion since the advice of the Chief Executive Officer to the Minister is not accurate.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, it is not about finding who is right, we are debating over figures. The important aspect is advise, leave us your opinion.

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MR SPEAKER: I agree, the report from the Ministry is given for the consideration of the Committee, once opinions are considered a recommendation is then drafted. If you befriend rejection and finding faults, that will lead you towards dispute in our Sitting. The Chair strongly believes in following the right track in our suggestions and issues raised by the respectable members. I will let the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture review the statistics, also the member for Palauli le Falefa, do not forget that thousands of families have migrated overseas decreasing the number of students each year.

This is similar to the success of the member for Faasaleleaga No.2, it was not the voters, but I think 3000 deceased and 4000 migrated overseas. Note this indication, 50% voters moved overseas, so we plan like that. I call upon the member for Anoamaa.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Government has spoken. As for the issue mentioned by the member yesterday, have a look again at the reports and I ask that you read them thoroughly.

If you add the students from Year 1 to Year 8, you will have a total number of 40,000 students, but if you focus on Year 8 alone, it has only 4000 students. This is similar number of students for Year 9 from Year 8. The sum of students from Years 9 to Year 13 is 16,000 and there are only five levels, but 40,000 is from a total students from Year 1 to Year 8. Try and read the reports carefully to avoid the inaccurate and baseless information made in the House. It is impossible for all 40,000 students to go to Year 9, except for 4000 in Year 8 as given in the report. With all due respect, this is the assistance on this matter, the report from the Ministry is correct.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member. As stated in the Standing Orders, *you can only make a point of order and clarification twice on one matter.* Therefore, you have no other opportunities. Therefore, member for Palauli le Falefa we will consider your point of view as the correct one, I ask the member for Anoamaa be careful with your movements because it is affecting the member for Aiga I le Tai. I appease the member let the matter be.

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Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, I will heed your request. However, the member seems to be drunk from Samoan kava and he is not in his right mind. Thank you.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker,

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member; I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there was an incident, it is very important.

It was near Fasitoo where a couple and their son were travelling to Apia on a narrow road. The man noticed two buses racing side by side towards them. The man should have used his common sense to redirect his small vehicle away from the path of the two buses, unfortunately, he stayed on the road and one of the buses flattened the vehicle and killed the family. Now they are in heaven, Peter asked the man, why have you come early when it is not yet your time. The man told Peter that he was only doing what he thought was right, hence why he was killed in the car accident. Peter then told the man that his work was not yet finished, and yet he died too early due to the lack of common sense.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, the House and the people of Samoa have heard the clarification by the Minister, the member for Palauli le Falefa mentioned less than 400 drop-outs and I am aware of such issue. I am curious about what is being done to those who do not reach the next level. I was saddened by what the Hon Minister stated, less than four hundred. What will we do with the other 399 students, are we neglecting these children.

MR SPEAKER: Your appeal has been noted. It may seem unreal, but what the Hon Prime Minister said is true, there might be some changes but it transpired.

I respectively ask the member to abstain comments made against the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: It is displeasing that I am being strongly accused of being drunk, no, those were days when the old men would come drunk to our Sittings. I am here respectively sober and with courtesy in attendance of our forum. I am aware of the distance between myself and the member for Aiga le Tai, he is not affected. That is my reparation with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, but just to be clear, the member for Aiga le Tai is evading your swinging arms as you clarify your concern. Anyhow, thank you for your remark, Hon Minister let us move onto another issue raised by members.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you, Mr Speaker for the advice. However, I am being repentant. Yesterday, my constituency held a meeting. On my way to the meeting, I was enthusiastic, as I thought about the goods I was going to receive. Instead, they were admiring our Meeting yesterday, especially the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister.

As I sat down the elders requested that I not voice an opinion today, as they are well aware of the situation explained by the Hon Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. Yet I pity their plea and presented my idea anyway, if I had listened to the old men, I would not have this many queries.

As such, I apologize to our district, you were right, listening to the old men will bear me success. The 400 stated by Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai, as I said, there are plentiful factors for those traveling abroad through quota, some have gone to Piula Theological College and others have gone to Malua Theological College. So not just one factor, henceforth, that is the intention. Mr Speaker...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, this is the first time for me to hear students attending Piula Theological College straight from Primary School.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Keep in mind that there are plenty of Bible Study schools in the country. Not just one, there is the Assembly of God, what is your church called Hon Afamasaga Rico Tupai and Pentecost for honourable Alaiasa Sepulona Moananu.

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There are so many bible study groups, excluding the Congregational Christian Church and the Methodist. It is good to educate children in bible studies at an early stage because when they grow up they will have a great knowledge of Christianity.

These are some matters mentioned but I am grateful for the blessings given in hosting the Pacific Games this year. We will try our best to accommodate hosting such event. As one old man from Faleula says, he will support from home. Why are you upstanding Tofa Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong?

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. The topic I mentioned was about student transcripts. I heard the University of the South Pacific or USP rejects transcript from National University of Samoa NUS students stating that they have to start all over again if they want to enrol at University of the South Pacific.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Mr Speaker this matter is easy to answer. There are two reasons why they are not accepted, it is either they are not qualified or over qualified. You cannot just expect to give a piece of paper and expect to be accepted. They examine the transcript if the student is good enough, but not because they are from NUS. This is not the reason. Keep in mind, majority of the lawyers and doctors here are graduates from the NUS.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, I believe the students understand the situation.

It is necessary that the USP recognize the certificates from the NUS, as it is located in our lands. However, in terms of being qualified or not, it does not matter. That is the assistance from my end.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you. Mr Speaker, I have taken into consideration the concern of the member. Is the Vice Chancellor of National University of Samoa here? Oh...Pardon the member, he is currently under investigation. If small or large your honor will be informed.

MR SPEAKER: Does the Hon Minister want to know the member's phone number... you may conclude your clarification.

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Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I agree, there was one other advice I received from the member for Faleata West. He is an intelligent man with a small head but a big brain. Since I first came here until I undertook the Ministerial role, Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi gave me advice and I recorded it and did not use any of it. Perhaps when the next Minister comes then I will give it, thank you Lealailepule, I appreciate the advice given. The member for Faasaleleaga No.2, I pray the Lord bless you in future endeavours.

To my constituency I have noted the chiefs Afioga Sapau and Tulatoa, are here to show support to my speech. We will meet once proceedings are over. Afioga cannot be forgotten, thank you for the encouragement, and ask the elders to attend sittings and show support to speeches made here.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister, but there is an interruption from the member of Aana Alofi No 2.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I respect him, as he is a son of Aana.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Aana Alofi No.2.

Tofa Ili Setefano Taateo Tafili: Thank you Mr Speaker, but it has come to my attention that the Hon Minister is making his final statement and is yet to respond to a query raised by this constituency on Pre-schools. Hence, why I take the floor with due respect, if you could just provide an answer for my appeal, even if you say we will not do it at least make a response. With respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture if the response is finished or not.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: I pity my brother; my district elders have instructed me not to make any response. Nevertheless, you are correct, that matter revolves around the funds we can obtain to pay for the ECE or Early Childhood Education teachers. I have already chattered to the teachers about paying them; however, the term is coming to an end yet this is still not a go. Nevertheless, funds are dependent on the Hon Minister of Finance, if funds are enough, then, why not do that something good.

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This concludes my final remarks and attempt in response to the queries raised by members. If I have shown improper behaviour, please have it in your hearts to forgive me. It is my intention to improve our education system. Nevertheless, all the work that has been done we give glory to God.

Blessings upon the Chair, may you gain strength to administer the Proceedings of Parliament. Leader of the House and all who are gathered here today, the hands and feet of Government through the Chief Executive Officers and Ministries, I pray for your strength to enable the services of our country.

The games discussed by Hon Afamasaga Rico Tupai, this is true since it is his job, even though he does not play rugby it is useful, with due respect, Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for his address, also to the previous Ministers who have already responded. I commend you all for the hard work, thank you.

Since we have arrived at the usual recess hour for Friday, I believe it is time that we set aside proceedings and conclude today's work.

Before we adjourn let us all say the Lord's Prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:00pm until
9:00am on Monday 24th of June 2019.*