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**FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY 2021**

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:15am.*

Prayer.

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

I congratulate you all for your attendance here in good health and spirit.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021  
– debate resumed on second reading – Day 4**

**MR SPEAKER:** During the adjournment of Proceedings yesterday, the member for Safata had completed his remarks. This is the opportunity for another member to have the floor.

I call on the member for Aiga i le Tai Susuga Mulipola.

**Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI (Aiga i le Tai):** Mr Speaker I will not elaborate on the traditional ceremonies of our country which stretches from the east where the sun rises to the west where the sun sets. I acknowledge the clergy praying perpetually for the wellbeing of Samoa.

I also recognise the Royal families and their royal sons as well as the oratory group of Tumua and Pule and the whole of Samoa with the house of ten families.

I must acknowledge Le Ao o le Malo, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Sualauvi II and his consort. I recognise the Member of the Council of Deputy Afioga Le Mamea Ropati and his Good Lady.

I convey greetings to the Hon Prime Minister Susuga Tuilaepa Sailele Dr. Malielegaoi and your Cabinet, Associate Ministers, the presence of the honorable Speaker and distinguished members of Parliament.

I also recognise the Chief Justice, Judiciary and the Three Pillars of Government.

*E le galo Afia i si ona vao* in the dignity of this House with the presence of orator chiefs, Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, Assistant Chief Executives, Public Enterprises, who are tasked with serving Samoa for prosperity.

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I extend greetings also to my constituency from the community of Mulifanua, Apolima Manono and Satuimalufilufi and the honorific salutations pertaining to them all and the rest of Samoa.

Mr Speaker we are gathered here today because of the grace of God. Praises be unto Him for His amazing love. We normally go our separate ways and attend to our daily lives, but we unite once again due to His providence and protection. The question is why so? It is the wisdom of a person. No it is the guidance of God through our lives who is watching us, and glory be unto Him. Even though a dark cloud overwhelms us due to the passing of Afioga Vaafusuaga Toleafoa. We cannot become objective and discontent against the will of God towards our fate. For God is the provider and will call each of us when our time comes. May he rest in peace in Gods loving arms. May comfort be upon the grieving widow and children and their families.

Mr Speaker if I speak today at length, well 5 years is not a short time. Let me do so for our relationship has been years of Governance. I am grateful to the Lord for my being the member for Aiga I le Tai during this term. For it is a very outstanding term having 47 members for the ruling HRPP Party taking Samoa back to its formative years of being a One-Party State. It has been disheartening to hear criticisms such as, “who will the country turn to?” What is it for? There is no Opposition Party to oppose the Government. How sad, the HRPP Party will show no mercy. But thankfully this is not so. The first meeting of the Political Party, the Leader’s advise was recognized, his small but strong voice. “To our Political Party, this is our time. Who will the country turn to? Who will oppose the Government?” These were the view of the country, that the HRPP will go ahead and rule. Well no, for today, we will say to the people of Samoa that the HRPP need not be opposed. For we practise good governance, and this was seen with the cutting down of Advisory Committees by 60%. Some of us are not Associate Ministers. That has eventuated with the remaining members without post forming the opposing in that capacity. They are responsible for the checks and balances of the government’s operations, good governance. I congratulate the leader for your rhetoric at the start of the term is not forgotten up to this day.

On behalf of my constituency of Aiga i le Tai we applaud you for your leadership and courage and I guess this is the origin of the statement that I often hear. That you have an authoritarian leadership style. I am of the belief that a leader fortunate to have this trait. I mean all the leaders in here has this kind of intellect from every village and constituency. No one dares challenge them. When challenges become overwhelming, we realise the true leader with conviction that is bold and speaks with integrity and that has been witnessed during this Parliament. I do not mean to brag so thank you. It is here where the success of your Government is created.

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I applaud you Hon Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet for leading the country which has become prosperous in terms of good health service, education electricity and water. Although it has yet to cover 100% of the population with the water supply given the distance. Alternatively, there is solar energy in the pipeline for the remote families. These actions indicate and fulfil our promises of living happily, living under protection and living in a safe environment for our people.

I cannot thank you enough for the projects implemented for my constituency. I know I have been rather annoying with my constant requests during this 5 year term. However, I was merely justifying my being here to promote the 20 projects that have been done for the constituency. These came about because of your vision and foresight. When I was elected in 2016, it has been 10 years since Manono-Tai had no water supply, except for my sub-village of Salua which receives water once a week or sometimes once a month. They rely on the rain and when there is no rain well the boat fetches water day and night from the water tank located at the main island. Praises to God and gratitude to the Government.

I want to thank the Minister, and the lady Chief Executive Officer for Manono-tai has all been covered with water supply, but the only slight concern is the excessive use of water which will eventually lead to some families being disconnected. But praise God for this wonderful service. It is up to people to apply common sense and I have done my rounds of advising people about this factor. People should appreciate this and must apply their good nature when using it as I will not be their representative after this term as they should seek a new member to take over.

There is a pond dug right around the sub-village of Faleu-Uta Manono, as well as 14 streetlights covering the small port in the island. There are also over 20 solar lights positioned at the Churches here and at the Manono island.

Mr Speaker there has been an overwhelming number of projects done during this Term. It does indicate our constituency that has been desperate for these measures due to the reason for joining the wrong political party when there is already a ruling Government. So for these 5 years I can say that our constituency is very pleased.

There are 2 sports field done by the Ministry of Sports and I congratulate the Minister for the completion of our sports field at my village of Manono. I understand that works is currently underway for the sports field for Mulifanua. Evacuation centres have been established at Lepuiai Manono-Tai through the assistance of ADRA. There are other projects covered under the government programme being sorted by Government for families residing in sub-standard houses. A school consisting of 11 classrooms has been done through JICA through a partnership with the Government of Japan and ours.

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There are 2 committee houses at Lalovi and Salua Manono-uta done through the High Commission of Australia. This assistance came about because of good governance and our partnership with the Government of Australia.

I want to express my appreciation to the Minister for Agriculture for the tugboats that have been done. We are waiting the marine lights to direct the boats when entering our shore and to avoid part of the lagoon that boats could possibly hit when traveling to our island.

With the public convenience or garden toilets at Manono-uta wharf. We are currently awaiting the construction of bus stations and the extension of the wharf to be done through the Samoa Ports Authority. Congratulations to the Minister for tar sealing the road towards Aana College at Apolima for it has benefit the whole community especially students and teachers heading that way for education.

Mr Speaker, thus is the reason I am filled with gratitude today for the projects implemented by our Government. There are further developments planned such as the construction of our road towards the school at Satuimalufilufi.

If I may remind the Minister to have this done in due course as we discussed. My village of Manono are still waiting. I guess although it may take a while, we will get favor in terms of our request for 200 acres of land for our village to cultivate. Since we are living the reality of the front yard to the sea and backyard to the rocks. Particularly with the effects of climate change we are experiencing. Perhaps in the next Term the Minister and the Government will agree to our demand.

With the circling road in our island of Manono-Tai and the seawalls. I have to say that I speak about these seawall areas every year. If you were to see it most of the areas is in a terrible state and the risks of endangering the lives of the local community is worsening. I had requested the former Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to please consider the seawall around our island. The village of Manono-tai meet on a monthly basis on Monday and the strong men of the community would gather rocks and build a fence like barrier which is then propped up with cement. The old men contribute the cement to strengthen this wall as a barricade. If a Tsunami does hit and they have the force equivalent to fire cannons pardon the language as these stones can be washed up ending people's lives. I will leave it with the Leader. Could please consider it and when we do dissolve, I believe the request of Aiga I le Tai will not be forgotten.

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To my constituents, no matter what degree the person's strength becomes when measured by what it does. The word of the Bible says, "We are worthless servants. Whatever services this Government has implemented for our constituency we apologise for the limited service provided. Let it be known that there was someone here making noise during this 5year term that is about to finish.

Mr Speaker, we have come to the end of our administration for this 5years. My sense of gratitude is simply great for your role in administering the Proceedings of this House. It is not an easy task and not anyone can assume such responsibilities. This role is only for those with wisdom, the sagacity of a senior statesman as the Assembly is just simply complex. There are times we desire for something and end up with nothing *e naunau ai i le i'a ae galo ai le upega*. It is difficult as sometimes we can become intimidated by the aura of the constituency rendering support. It is why at times we observe that you always hold your ground.

We congratulate you and you will be missed. I salute you for your wisdom and intellect and of course your perseverance. You are a senior father figure which this Parliament relies to. After all, when you raise your hand to give an order it shall be done. However, it has never been as you always apply mutual respect to uphold the dignity of this House. It is our prayer that Gods providence continues to be upon you and may your longevity increase in body, mind and most particularly in soul.

The spirit of thanks is not small upon the Chiefs and Assistance Chiefs of the Government Ministries and Corporations who are the strength of the Government. Despite the attempt by the Leader, Cabinet and the Administration, our purpose cannot be fulfilled. Given your service through burning eyes (*tautua matavela*), service to provide sustenance (*tautua tuavae*), service while not making noise (*tautua le pao*), this is reflected in all the good works you have implemented for the constituency. It all derives from your advice and your services night and day, well done.

Thank you for your Leadership role, although we are young, and some of your employees are matured, pitifully, you have responded most of the time. Thank you for your respect. May the goodness of God be upon our efforts continually this year, and the next Parliamentary Term in particular.

Then I can say, the normal saying to my constituency, whatever chief that wants to be smart, lacks preparation, if a mistake is made at the sea, then there is no fish caught. If the action done in the hillside is problematic, there is no food caught. I beg tolerance, if the service was minor, human beings are not perfect, God is a God of perfection who completes what we lack. Even though we have not fulfilled our purpose *Aiga i le Tai*, I am aware of your will.

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I know what you desire, however we will not fulfil our desire, *ua le ogatasi le futia ma le umele*. The spirit like the cry of the king, “O my son Absalom, if only I had died in your place.” The service has been astounding, it is a norm to fetch a glass of water and a norm to bite fire, let me respond to the love of my constituency, I pity that we may not be meeting again, you will no longer hear my voice but that will not stop me from continuing my service as per normal. You are aware of where the support goes.

Bless the upcoming election, as you have heard, our support is now upon Mulipola Taupau Atonio, one of the remaining warriors who is currently serving the Government until today. He needs no explanation; you have all known Mulipola. Let us give him our support in the upcoming election.

I will halt my talk here this morning. There is the dying brilliance of the sun pouring down, the warrior has rested at tuamasaga, as the fisherman finds strength to make its way back to the lands. Now that we have reached it and therefore, very soon we will get to the end of this Parliamentary term. The word said to the artistry Sua, in reference to the work implemented and done however, it is not known whether it was good and wonderful. Aiga I le Tai, whatever I have achieved well let it count, your authority and your foresight is reason I am present in this Parliamentary Term. I appreciate you that I am now able to give a voice in this Parliament. Who am I for you to recognize you have lifted the house of Asomua on the mountain. We pray that may the goodness of God be upon the respects of our constituency.

Lest my speech prolongs, Hon Minister Sili Epa, unforgettably is our fellowship and your goodness. Reflecting upon these 5-year period, well done to your service. Thank you for your perseverance and may glory be unto God. We entreat that you will return in the next Term. Bless the Sitting of Samoa. Soifua.

*Parliament showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member for Aiga i le Tai.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thanks, the speech of the member for Aiga i le Tai is pleasant to hear. You have given your remarks, and appreciation to the support of the constituency. Let us rely on the spirit of God, and the many works that were implemented through your plea with the State, which permitted the achievement of this constituency’s developments. Great job to your efforts, thank you.

Well done the member of Faleata East is upstanding. Good luck to your speech orator Salausa. You may go ahead.

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**– debate resumed on second reading**

**Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING (Faleata East):** Thank you for the opportunity honourable Speaker, I upstand with great respect. I firstly pardon the Three Branches of the Government, the presence of the honourable Speaker and the dignity of Parliament, the presence of the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers.

Furthermore, I acknowledge the Chief Justice and the Judiciary. Additionally, His Highness Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady. The Member of the Council of Deputies and your good lady.

I further seek pardon of the various members of the Clergy in the country. Furthermore, I acknowledge the honorifics of Samoa. Also, the support of our eastern island nation of Tutuila and Manua and the Three Pillars of Government, *le paia o le Faleagafulu ae tainane le motusa i le Manuatele*.

I seek pardon to my constituency of Faleata No.1 that now exists. In my mind, I would call this district a strong one. A time will come for me to speak on it. The main purpose for this Sitting is the spirit of appreciation. Not only for the works implemented, but also our fellowship in this 5-year period that is about to come to end.

Firstly, we extend gratitude to the Almighty Father, the Holy Trinity for His protection upon Samoa. We feel in our minds and trust that God is a very bias to Samoa. There have been many testaments we have witnessed on this matter. Things happen for a reason, there is also belief that God is watching over Samoa everyday. We pray day and night, everyday, every Sundays. God's love is upon us for a reason, the service of Samoa. And this is also deep-rooted in the Foundation of Samoa upon God which is in our Constitution which belongs to the country. Samoa is founded on God. God is entrusting as concealed in the Constitution.

We also convey great thanks to God for choosing us to fellowship and to grow and to live in this part of the globe. We thank God for the inheritance upon us. God has also given us a process to verify this inheritance, through chiefs. Delightful are the lyrics of the song, God destined and chose Samoa to be led and governed under the authority of matai or chiefs and his name was shared to it. The tune of this song goes like this, "*Ua tofia e le Atua Samoa ina ia pulea e matai, aua o Lona suafa ua vaelua i ai.*" I will stop there thank you. That being said, chiefs, how can they be continued, we must continue our service to our Chiefs. How do we do that? Through prayer and fasting, our Government has initiated for many years. We have been praying and fasting. This too, is not done for a week only, it must be carried on everyday. You do not have to go to church to pray, you talk to Jesus every time. You can travel in your car and work and talk to Jesus on what to do.

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If you are about to commit a sin, talk to God. When fasting, you do not have to let people see that you are fasting. You can fast for small issues. Take each day with a matter to fast for, you can fast to bring joy to your brother, fast tomorrow for honesty, fast the day after tomorrow, do not steal your working hours.

Yes, you can do that but with time, it can be resolved. Fast each day and from there we will know that we are continuing our prayers and fasting to God. What is happening in the world today, and what we are hearing about sustainable development? This is development, by praying and fasting.

I further appreciate the Three Branches of Government, the honourable Speaker, some have already given their gratitude upon you for your stance. I am also proud of you, who is a classmate of mine. I have observed the many years of service within this House. I am also excited to be here with you, great thanks. Well done to your management and keeping things in order in the House. The Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, thank you very much to the Government for these 5-year term. Your management of our nation based on obseration, has been of great improvement. Nothing is on hold; we are still moving forward. There comes a time for me to speak on the budget, to make aware of this matter. I also thank the Chief Justice and the Judiciary for their task is not easy, for the country resorts to you. It is there where the country rests to find peace for families, with wrong decisions, then families will also be problematic. Your responsibility is very important, if you rely on God, you will find strength there.

I also extend gratitude to all Government Minitries especially the leaders, who are the selected members of the country. You have returned to our shores as the Leaders of Government Ministries. Well done thanks.

I wish to voice a special acknowledgement to the Ministry which I was mostly engaged in these past 5 years. Thank you to the Hon Ministry of Health, the Minister and the Head Director and staff. With the many issues faced by the Ministry these many years, particularly the measles outbreak at the end of 2019, and the Covid in 2020 until today. This is one of the challenging years in the country, the recent previous year 2020. I wish to acknowledge the 3 Ministries, the Water Authority, Electric Power Corporation and Lands Transport Authority and the emergency that arose particularly floodings, electricity and water, as such I thank you very much.

I wish to express great thanks to the Commissioner of Police and the Ministry for your ongoing efforts for the protection of the country. The National Emergency Committee, thank you for your management of our overseas flights. This Committee and the Ministry of Health are the frontliners for this matter and people who are mostly at risk before this contagious disease and international flights.



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There is a special acknowledgement for the Hon Minister Afioga Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama, thank you very much for choosing me as your Associate Minister, we have worked together for this 5 year term. And I have learned a lot from you. You have never forsaken me in all the engagements we have been through. Whatever reshuffling we had in Cabinet, you have always approached me and took me, for that I thank you very much. I have learnt a lot from all these things. The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development we had undertaken, I have also learnt from here. And the experience I received from this Ministry; it is one of the Ministries that is very important in terms of its developments for the country.

These are called sustainable development goals for the world health organisation. Which guides the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development together with its partners. On this note, I wish to extend great appreciation to the Ministry, for the opportunity granted upon us to be able to be employed with my father Tuitama. This is the special acknowledgement to the Hon Minister; you have now retired successfully from Parliament. I pray for God's blessings upon you in order for you to achieve all future plans proposed for family, village and church.

We do not have any comment on our Supplementary Budget. The main spirit for us is our appreciation. What can we do if there is no supplementary? Nevertheless, there is still some additions to the Budget. What I think regarding the story in the Bible. The dream of Pharaoh was revealed by Joseph saying, pardon the House. The seven thin and bony cows ate up seven fat cows. That was when I thought, I bet that is where this savings came about, we save for bad days. Which means this is the saving for this 5 years period, and there was never a reduction.

Coming on to this year 2020, when we had the Covid, the Hon Minister read out the emergency budget for the country. I myself am very shocked. Mr Speaker, I was really stunned and was thankful to God for this matter. I said to myself, this is a huge saving, which has allowed us to implement everything including the clearing of our debts covering external surplus, and so there was no problem.

Watching the world on television, sadly people are queuing up for food. Many workers have been laid off; some are living in vehicles because they cannot afford home mortgages. That being said, we are now aware of the good initiative implemented by our former Administration.

Another huge lesson for our country from the Covid19 is that the world is getting smaller. And with any occurring disease, whenever the world goes into a lockdown, nobody is allowed to walk around. This is why it is necessary for us to budget everything. That being said, we must reduce unnecessary spending, things that wastes money and strength.

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We must ensure to use our finance wisely. For anything involving budget, the Government has given an example on budgeting, the same for our families, we must budget everything in our families. Our earnings need to be in accordance with our spending, as with most of the existing situations, we tend to spend more than what we earn.

Therefore, we will then have to go and find money to implement our wants. Our demands depend on what we earn, anything within our families. Even with your kids, we budget our kids especially couples who are in their youth age. Plan the number of kids to have in accordance with your revenue earnings. If your income earning is enough to support your kids' education all the way to University level, then 2 kids is enough. But if your salary can afford like what I use, pardon the Hon Prime Minister given your constant talks. If your wage can support eighteen children, then that is fine. Although that is how family planning is done. Great job to the people for your perseverance.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the member of Faleata, I call upon the Hon Prime Minister, the speech is very pleasing.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I want to have a lot of children to make up the cricket and rugby team, I barely have any children. The only thing I ask about...

**MR SPEAKER:** It is hard to hear what you said. Do you have many children?

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi:** I want to ask my Associate Minister, because our statements seem to differ from one another.

The concern is that the member is not in any Sports Organisation. I am in the Sports Association, and my mind is following the question put forth about our Sevens performance. Listening to the member I am surprised; his opinion is important about basing the number of children to the wealth one has. The importance of this matter as given, if you want more than you can afford you will suffer in finding a way to accommodate it. The majority of those up at Tafaigata, they have good positions, and have good jobs, but because of the parents' will, make a solid contribution to the church, since I am the one speaking on behalf of the church.

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The daughter who is paid \$70 fortnight, who is a cashier at the company, will end up stealing money. They do not just steal a small amount, but a big amount, to carry out the will of parents, together with the will of the spouse. This is an important matter raised by the member, because it is every day.

I woke up at 7:00 this morning and someone was outside waiting for a loan assistance. I told them to go to the Office as those transactions are not done here. I am then planning on giving a letter to the loan Company to help with the matter and judge in accordance with the policy. Well, the end result is known, but the important aspect here, is to base spending on what you have. That is the important aspect, but what confuses me is, where does your number 18 come from? Is there anyone in this House who has 18...that is why I am asking? Because there is no one else, I do not know if the question is directed to someone. If there is no 18, then there is a reason. This is why I asked, where does this 18 derive from?

The reason for mentioning this is because people are having affairs these days, 2 children from here, 4 from there, who are in the House. But I want to ask about this 18, is it through vows. If it is, then that is good, and give thanks to God that there will be many children to play in our sevens team.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please Hon Prime Minister, are you pointing towards Lautafi. Is it Lautafi or Salausa?

I call upon Afioga Salausa, the speech is good and thought provoking. The Hon Prime Minister's remarks are interesting, but it would be good to see if these are true. Well, if you do not stand up you will never be caught.

I call upon Hon Sala.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism):** Mr Speaker, the morning is great to laugh. Perhaps the statement by the member, is directed at me with the mention of the number 18.

**MR SPEAKER:** Are you the one that the Prime Minister pointed to.

**Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati:** I want to thank God. I will tell the true story of what happened. In our family, there are only three of us children, I am the eldest and my brother recently passed away last year, as for my sister she is a nun, she is preaching in Wallis Island. This mission of a nun is you can never go back home, you go and die there. Therefore I am the only one left in the family. The truth is, I am thankful to God Almighty, because there are a lot of people in the country and around the world who do not have children, but it is amazing, being able to care for 18 children and educate them.

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In fact, I have always said that miracles are happening in our family every day, and my faith grows with it, and I ask, who am I for you to love? There is a song that was mentioned by the Associate Minister about a matai, which states...but the song that I live with is, the corner of your heart there is love, the corner of your heart. The reason why I mention this song, “there is love in the corner of my heart.” This is where everything is based on, your service to the church, to your village, as well as having children and families, and taking care of them.

Now to my appointment, I would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister, I do everything with the belief, to do my best to serve the Government of Samoa and our country. As for today and our fellowship, I thank God, that the country listening in is now aware that I have 18 children. Yes. But I am also thankful that there are some who are senseless, and some who are smart, but the significance of the day, God sees, if you have a pure heart, God will also give you good things. Good luck to our delegation this morning.

*Members of Parliament showed their appreciation by applauding following the speech by the Minister of Tourism.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, thank you. God’s blessings are like that. Thank you.

I call upon the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and Public Bodies of Government, Hon Lautafi.

**Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour):** Thank you Mr Speaker. It is good to have a few commercials to shorten the day, but since my name was mentioned saying that the Prime Minister was pointing at me, that I have 18 children, but since my brother has made clarification, it is not me. I did not have any affairs. I am being put in a difficult position since my wife is present. I have been separated with my wife for a long time, now she might suspect that I have children elsewhere while she was away. I swear I did no such thing, do not listen to the stories in here, it stays here, also do not argue with me later in the evening.

This is a brief explanation to save our time. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. Matter is now understood, also with Parliament, yes, there are times when we make direct statements and make confessions but thank you very much.

And I recommend the Hon Minister Sala and the Associate Minister Salausa, at the end of our Council, to write those two songs and give them to me for records.

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I call upon Afioga Salausa to continue.

**Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING:** Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you to the Hon Minister for clarifying the situation, making our intention clear, but most importantly, it is only one partner, yes, that is the honorable thing.

I also thank the country, especially the authority of Alii and Faipule, village women and the strength of the village. I thank you all for the continuous work every day, and thank you for your patience, especially the authority of Alii and Faipule who is the face of our Government, because of Covid-19. This is another area of our community that comes to mind right now, the strength of the community. We call it the strength of the community, and we are also trying to find employment for our youth and young people.

There is also part of our youth whom the village is reliant upon during village council meetings, every week and every month. These are people who care for the family in villages and constituencies. It is hard for these people to go and find permanent work because they are the backbone of the community. Here too we need to consider other programs that have been tried to enhance the youth of community.

I recall it was Satupaitea that raised this matter of developing the skills of young people. They said that they needed special trainings to learn how to fish, the basics also with farming, the simple things they can do, along with serving their families and communities. This is one thing that should be included in the development guideline of constituencies, these programs, to strengthen and empower the youths of the village, because they are the ones the matais are dependent upon, the same for the women on day-to-day affairs.

I also want to thank Government representatives and village representatives. I would also like to thank our foreign partners, New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, the European Union and the United Nations.

I also want to say thank you to my families, to my wife and children for their support over the past 5 years in carrying out this purpose.

The constituency of Faleata No.1 has its needs which is a lot. I did mention in the start that this is a strong constituency. The reason so is because it has a lot of people. The population of the constituency in 2016 was, 13,109 and it is still growing, it has been 5 years. This means, perhaps another 1,000, or two to three thousand has been added. The ballot roll now after it was closed is now 5,032. However, there are many in the constituency who are not registered under the Faleata No.1 constituency. This means if all those people had registered, it would increase up to 6,000. This is another strength of the constituency; it has a large population.

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Another strength of the constituency, majority of them work in Apia, in this Parliament, in Government Ministries, in small businesses and companies, many of the employees reside in this constituency.

This constituency is also strong, because of its patience, they have a lot of patience.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well. I interrupt the speech of the member, since we have arrived at our recess time. I apologize to the member, but I believe you may continue when we return from our recess.

I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended for normal recess at 10:35am and resumed at 11:33am.*

*Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. I commend you all for the patience, commendations also for working with the member.

Before our recess the member of Faleata East or Faleata No.1 was making his remarks. With utmost respect I call upon the member Afioga Salausa to continue.

**Afioga SALAUSA JOHN AH CHING:** Thank you Mr Speaker, perhaps members of Parliament have regained strength with the breakfast this morning. Before I continue, there are some things that I have missed. The proof is the testimony by the Hon Minister with his 18 children, because of the indication that there is enough economic support, for the children. And the education for these 18 children was quite outstanding. And the pinnacle of that hope, there are 3 children who became doctors. 2 became lawyers, including a pharmacist, a scientist at the pharmacy. There is also a scientist in the dialysis unit. Others have businesses. This is proof, the economy is determined by the strength of the budget.

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The Budget in our country, we should budget for anything. Budget water, electricity, food and others, that is how we should do it, based on our economy. Many families are moving around because they need money to pay the water bills that has been cut. As for such matters, it is done under the discretion of the families, they have been advised that water should be budgeted. If they are going to take a shower, with respect to the House, after turning on the tap, wet the body then use the soap to wash and clean, then turn off the tap. Or else turn the tap down, you only have to run it at a low speed to wet the wash cloth. Then after soaping the whole body, you can turn the water back on to rinse off. Do not keep the water running while washing, turn it off to save water.

If that cannot be done, because the children are mischievous, then plan the use of water, fill a bucket of water for each child. Yes, plan it like that, budget the use of water. Nowadays alot of people own European houses, and the toilet uses alot of water.

Back in those days with the Peace Corps, the water was budgeted because there was only one 6 pound corn beef can, it is poured inside and wash off the rust and then it will be good again, that is how you budget water. This is the same idea that we should use for these western houses. If the work that was implemented is simple, then make sure the big water tank does not run out because of this light work. Just press it and let it be, yes, so that a little bit of water remains to wash and clean this light work. Yes, but do not press it until the tank is empty. This whole tank should not be emptied, for light work. If water requires demanding work, then the water usage needed should also be fixed.

Those are some examples, and we should think about it during these times, because this was due to the Covid, as the emergence of Covid brought about this example for us. It seems that we are in a situation that is often used by some Congregations, the days of reflection. The days of reflection in some Congregations, whereby they set aside one whole week, for the reverends or pastors to go and reflect, and to look back and visualise the schedule of life and the work that has been done, and to build for the future.

Just like in 2020, the situation that Samoa was in; I think that these were the days of reflection for the whole of Samoa. It is for us to reconsider, where our lives will be heading, as well as the way our lives will be sorted. This example has also been given, so that we can be aware of it. Let us live protected, let us live in reserve, in all things of our lives.

It is also due to the reserve of the Government that saved the budget we have now; it is very interesting and very exciting. But it cannot be done if we do not have any reserves. It is not only limited to the reserves in Samoa, but also our reserves abroad. Our foreign exchange is very good. There is enough to sustain us but... as we are waiting for more aids to arrive.

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Since the start of this Parliamentary Term, from what I can recall, we had our reserves or the funds that we saved abroad, it was under 3 months. As we progressed through the past years, it increased to 4 months. After another year, it rose to 5 months.

In our recent report, our foreign reserves or foreign currencies have increased over 6 months. This goes to show that our economy is well managed and our reserved funds are also orderly, in our Government.

The... and then I would like to continue on about the situation in my district, which I mentioned that I classified it myself as a strong district, because of the large number of people who live there. It is also strong because of the amount of patience they possess. It is also strong because the district has many people who are employed.

This is what gives the district strength to endure during these times of climate change. The changes in the weather, which has caused many problems within the constituencies with rivers and the destruction of roads, as the rivers have surged immensely and it has damaged many properties of the people in the district. Starting from the mainland in Moamoa Fou, some of the families we visited, majority of their lands were swept away. The land tags were also swept away as well. The road that broke off inland at Moamoa Fou, the 3 families that lived there, they lost all their land tags which were on the river bank. The river has taken all those 3 lands. Yes, it has continued along the bank, pictures were taken by some families, and the constituency has already made its report, as the houses have been forcefully shifted onto the bank. The floor is gone since it was swept away by the water, but the roof extensions have been hoisted. There is no...that is how it is, there are many situations like that. And as such, the constituency has already submitted its report on the damages that were inflicted in the previous floods, and it was also included in the report the things that were damaged during cyclone Kita. And these are the usual issues like the rivers, roads, and foot paths.

In regards to climate change, I know that this is an issue that cannot be reduced. And I believe that it is a problem that will reoccur for years and years to come. That being said, I would like to ask for the opinion of the Leader and our Government, whether there should be another sector of the Ministry, which focuses on climate change and things that are...so that we can conduct.... Our recent request that was submitted to the Government, whether an engineer should come over to make a report of all the things that were damaged by the floods, so that we can have this report, and if any time later, we make an external request, our written report would be ready.



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And this is also the case with the rivers, it is very dangerous. And I do not know how to fix this problem, because the river channels are very crooked. And I do not know how to straighten this...because the way that this problem should be solved, is to straighten the canals, in addition to elevating the riverbanks. And for these things to be done, it is appropriate for the engineer to make a report on it. And I also think, perhaps that time has come for us to think about new solutions. The problems that have arisen are the new problems caused by climate change, so we should also consider new solutions. There is also the case of innovative thinking, we should also think of finding new ways to solve these problems.

The Hon Prime Minister mentioned the country of Holland. I checked it out on the internet, to find solutions to solve these problems. As stated, 1/3 of the lands in Holland are under water. The sea level is high but the land is low. But the way the Dutch have engineered their country, it has protected the country from this problem as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister.

But the one thing I have obtained from the ideas and methods used by Holland, the idea of water management. Their philosophy is that, there is no use fighting against the water, but instead we should work together with the water, because if we were to be belligerent towards the water, it is true, but there will be a time when our strength is limited, and the water will eventually be triumphant. It has also been noted in some of the traditional sayings of our country in regards to this, 'when there is a flood, the water will find its way'. So, the meaning of this concept is that we should not try to fight against the water, instead we should work together with the water.

It means new ideas, maybe we should set up another branch specifically for climate change, so that we can focus mainly on this issue, we should think about, how are these things going to be implemented? how can we straighten the canals? Yes, but for that we need to work together with the water. We must ask questions if we want to work with the water, we should know, what are the characteristics of water? What are the movements of water? What is the behaviour of water? What are the thoughts of water?

Yes, we will work together with the water, and use these ideas to build a new system to protect against the water. But if we were to fight against the water, according to the Dutch philosophy, we can try to build very high walls, but it cannot solve this problem. But that is up to the Leader and our Government, whether there is time or a situation where we prioritise climate change.

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The families that are affected by these crooked rivers, because it means that they will have to think about the situation. If these families are unable to be relocated somewhere safe, a plan should be made for the banks nearby. And in this constituency, there are many others...if there are people in this House who reside and live in this constituency, please help us with this program. You can help by stating in your speech, the canals and the rivers and the roads that are near your residents, yes, it will strengthen our statement on this matter.

And in this district, there are 2 traditional villages, Vaimoso and Lepea, and there are 13 neighbourhoods and villages that are sacred. These holy villages, they are called sacred villages, because most of the citizens of the country, the kings and nobles of the country, they have chosen Faleata No.1, as their place of residency, for the development of their families and children. This is another strength and magnitude of this district.

We build our ship together. It is true that we have differences in opinions on many things, but it is also good that we have different opinions in our Parliament, but we must always move forward with our work. Let us travel in our ship, and our oars should be in harmony. We argue but we should row our boat forward, we should move forward, but we cannot argue about an issue and then some would row forward while others are rowing backwards. Why? What has happened? The passengers on the boat will starve in this situation where some are rowing forward, and others are rowing backwards. And who is the passenger? The country that is supporting us, that is our passenger. Thus, no matter how different our opinions may be, but we should disagree so that our ship can move forward. Let us move forward instead of stopping or going backwards. But thank you very much to our Assembly Members, for working together.

A word for my constituency...

**MR SPEAKER:** I would like to interrupt the speech of the Hon Member, as I ask the Hon Prime Minister for a motion to resume our work. I respectfully call on the Hon Prime Minister.

### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

**Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I apologise to the member who is currently speaking, I congratulate you for your speech, the audience of our House is fully indulged.

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But it does not neglect the essence for me and the Cabinet, that we should speed up our budget, which is being discussed today. This means that we can continue until it is fully approved.

But there are things that happen in our lives, which slow us down, so that we can readjust our thoughts, as the elders would say, “The burden of wisdom is to preach”. That is why I am standing, to move this motion. Since it has been announced, the funeral of one of the gentlemen who was a member of this Parliament, his funeral has been broadcasted. It will be conducted next week, but there is a Government ceremony that must be conducted, for any member of the Legislative Assembly, that has been called upon by God. These are the Parliamentary procedures, to show respect, and to carry out the Government ceremony, which will be attended by some of the members of this Parliament. I move the motion, *To postpone the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, until Tuesday, January 26th 2021 at 9:00 in the morning.*

Mr Speaker, this is the motion for the approval of the House. The ceremony for our fellow member who we work with in this House will be held on Monday. For a successful future of not only the district, but also the country as a whole. Mr Speaker, this is the motion.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, the motion has been moved and it has been seconded by the Ministers of Cabinet. Our work for today will finish at 12:00 in the afternoon, at its usual adjournment time on Fridays. But it will adjourn until Tuesday next week. We will rest on Monday, but our Parliamentary Sitting will reconvene on Tuesday, at 9:00 in the morning, due to some legitimate reasons. As it is no secret, for one of the members that has been put to rest from his work and called upon by God, Tofa Fiu Loimata.

It will be implemented as such, and it has been seconded.

*Seconded by the Cabinet Ministers.*

*Motion was approved.*

**MR SPEAKER:** The work of our Assembly will end today at 12:00pm, Parliament will resume at 9:00am on Tuesday of next week. And then the honourable member will continue his speech. Congratulations and thank you for the statement, with the devotion of the constituency.

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**Motion for Adjournment**

Before we adjourn, I call on the member for Falelatai and Samatau, to conclude our Assembly with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:00pm until 9:00am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.*