

FRIDAY, 22ND JUNE, 2018

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:00am.

Prayers.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed.

I am grateful that we have all gathered here this fine morning in good health, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and all respectable Members of Parliament. We are the chosen few elected into the House by our people through the calling of our Lord.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of Heads of Government Ministries and Organizations who provides Government with various services in fulfilling their duties. I pray the Lord bless all of Samoa and the support given to our Parliament.

NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Mr Speaker presented the Notice from the Leader of the House

Pursuant to Standing Orders 100(2) Notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly for consideration of the Bill stated in a state of urgency.

1. Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018

GIVEN THIS day 18th June in the year 2018.

(Signed): Susuga Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele
Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out P.P.2018/2019 No.40, Parliamentary Delegation Report on the Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum – London, United Kingdom, 26 February – 1 March 2018.

**MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION AMENDMENT BILL
2018 – second reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I will be filling in on behalf of the Hon Minister of Finance who is away to attend meetings overseas. I want to convey a word of thanks to the Chair and to all Members of the House gathered here this morning. I am grateful for your good health moreover we partake in the praises voiced to our Heavenly Father for his guidance and protection which has lead us to complete our work for the day.

Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion, *That the Money Laundering Amendment Bill 2018 be read for a second time and I want to address the matter.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor and the Minister of Health.

MR SPEAKER: I respectfully call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker this Bill has already invited Members of the House for a clarification which was carried out by the Chief Executives of Ministries and the Governor of the Central Bank who is in charge of such major developments within our country. The clarification included the discussion of another Bill which will also be deliberated within the House today.

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– second reading

Pre Sitting is a new initiative implemented in the previous Parliamentary term by the former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. This is a new measure carried out since the establishment of this Parliament. I recall the first time I came into Parliament 37 years ago, we had no time to read a Bill, the first time you read it was after it was tabled in the morning.

The measure taken by our leader then Afioga Tofilau was to discuss the Bill for 15 minutes' base on general knowledge. After the speech we were given the opportunity to quickly go through reading the Bill. This was how things worked in the past for this Parliament, we would agree but we did not understand. This new change was implemented by former Mr Speaker of the previous Parliamentary term and the Legislative office. A pre-sitting was set up for Chief Executives of Ministries to discuss matters related to their Bills for Members. Presentations carried out address the Bills that are tabled and also clarify the objectives for certain provisions in the Bill.

This means a lot of the work for Parliament has changed to ease information provided for the Members of the tabling Bills in the House. I want to take this opportunity to discuss the Bill and whoever the Member that will ask questions is the one that did not participate in discussions. I am confident that no one will ask since all of you understand nonetheless I take the floor as per normal practice to give a clarification. I cannot get a good view to the faces of some Members given the thick documents piling up on their desks and gratefully, it is surprising to see that you have insight of these documents which was not a norm in the past. We have had Members who turn up drunk after spending 24 hours at the RSA club whist Sittings were in progress in the past and on the contrary I see no more of that today particularly this Friday morning.

Mr Speaker this Bill from the Money Laundering Prevention is titled Money Laundering Amendment Bill 2018. The reason for the implementation of this Bill is based on business deal that was passed in the 1987 Act, although I recall this deal just started to take place when I was the Minister of Finance in 1992 where overseas companies were encouraged to come and register in Samoa. This means if they register in Samoa they will not have to pay for the taxes in their countries. This is why we are called a Tax Haven such businesses are detested by developed countries since most of their businesses have been lead astray.

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The only matter now for us is to have these companies register here and pay licenses so they can carry out their endeavors wherever. Such businesses brought into the countries involves the use of modern intelligence, this is called Offshore Banking.

The impact of such businesses as stated by overseas countries who want to cease such business is accepting into the country corrupt money. This means that those who want to license their business here bring in capital owned by murderers and those embezzling Government funds; this is where they hide such wealth.

I recall Switzerland as one of the first countries to carry out such business. Most of the dictators in the past controlled their Government using resources that had the power to control the people. Such resources were stolen and hidden elsewhere. This is a reason for implementing the Bill, to control other countries from bringing into the country illegal business which was founded on doing bad deeds such as kidnapping. An example, they would kidnap a son of a millionaire and demand a million ransom in return for his life. This is what we call money laundering and to have such businesses reported to ensure that such activities do not take place anymore.

This affects those stated in Clause 3 businesses brought into the country should be thoroughly investigated before they can be registered as a Trustee company in Samoa. It is stated within the Bill in Clause 3, that it is the trustee companies' obligation to conduct due diligence and report suspicious transaction. There was an incident that took place in 2003 with an American Samoa investor who wanted to register his business here. After two days the businessman came to me showing his disappointment. He told me, 'why are people suspicious when I came all the way here to invest.' This is the problem of people being jealous, I am going back. Then I asked him 'where are you going?' He responded, 'Back to California,' I told him I will look into the matter and give a response before he arrives in America. He was quite happy. I called in the Chief Executive for Foreign Investment and asked, 'what was the problem with the American Samoa businessman?' He responded, 'We gave him the form to fill out but he did not comply especially with the \$2 million he proposed although at the time it was supposed to be \$3 million. Also he should tell us where he got the money for his business. These are the questions every company needs to comply with before they invest. However, this man did not fill in the form.'

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I told him that I will look into the matter therefore I asked the Executive what he recommended, such action is discarded by the Bill, then I told him to write this and I will sign it before sending it over to the man. He got to California and my letter was already delivered. It was 6 years later that I heard the FBI looking for someone and I saw that it was the same person. I saw that he set up his company in Singapore, it was registered under a different name hence a thorough investigation was carried out and everything came out good. We then registered this company under our Offshore Centre.

Nevertheless, it was not registered for long since they broke the law which resulted to the FBI investigating. It led them to tracing it back to Samoa through Singapore, the reason why they did not find out earlier was the name change. This is an issue addressed under Clause 10, assets of such companies are freezed by the Central Bank of Samoa if criminal offence is committed. This responsibility is now given to the Executive but in the past I used my power as the Minister of Finance to freeze their \$11 million that was in the Bank. This transaction was stopped and as we recall the Prime Minister and Government was sued by this company. I later found out that the matter was taken before the American Court and the businessman was imprisoned for many years.

Mr Speaker it is stated within the Bill under Clause 12, the provision on funds which are amended in 2, 4 and 5. Also Amendments of other Acts are included. These amendments implemented are to enforce those who may use assets belonging to criminals. This is a priority for other countries including Samoa and international organizations. We should be cautious from being blacklisted and allowing such companies to invest here. This Bill outlines that Samoa has restrictions on such affairs and to uphold the law especially to ban such business from entering our country.

Clause 6 amends restrictions for companies and reporting from the border. This means they are monitored once they enter and leave the airport or wharf since this is where forms of fund transfer take place. The money is hidden in suitcases and transported overseas. All penalties are stated under the Bill together with the authority to prosecute those who commit these crimes.

The overall objective of the Bill is to inform other countries that we are taking precautions to safeguard Samoa from such corrupt activities. It is a country that strives to uphold the law, this Mr Speaker is my clarification.

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Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker I humbly request for an opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA (Gagaifomauga No.3): I move with respect hence we give praises to the love and kindness of the Almighty who has guided our Parliament here safely this morning.

I respectfully greet the Hon Mr Speaker most especially Members of Parliament. Perhaps the clarification given by the Hon Prime Minister on the Bill is now understood. I am certain that we are all aware of the importance of such major changes which will have a great impact on our people especially trade transactions nowadays.

I have noted that the core of the matter is tax as stated in the Bill tabled in the House. The clarification made by each Ministry in relation to the matter is now understood together with how this initiative will be carried out. The only concern Mr Speaker which is my humble request is to ensure that consultations carried out on the Bill be clearly stated.

Another concern Mr Speaker is the state of urgency for the Bill, we the Parliament will surely understand the issue nevertheless an opportunity should be given to the public for their opinion. I am worried since there was a Bill that was put in a state of urgency in the past that was continuously questioned by the public since they were not given an opportunity to voice an opinion on the matter. Mr Speaker with all due respect I humbly request the opportunity be given to the Committee to call on the public to discuss the Bill then a final decision can be made by the House.

This is a humble request Mr Speaker since I have noticed that most of the Bills are changed time and time again base on such issue. This is a humble request to the House to allow time for our people and for the Parliamentary Committee to discuss such matters before a final decision is carried out.

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MR SPEAKER: The request made by the Member is now noted. Perhaps there will come a time for the Hon Minister of Finance represented by the Prime Minister to respond to this query. I just want to remind Members that this is how the work is carried out. Some Bills submitted under a state of urgency correlates with other Acts once enacted.

It is clearly stated within the clarification made by the Hon Prime Minister the seminars arranged for us to attend were conducted so that we can understand the Bill for us to serve the Parliament. We are the representatives of the country chosen from each constituency by the people. Nevertheless, we are also representatives of village councils and part of the decision making process.

We are the Members chosen to understand the matters clarified by those who implement the Bill also tabled by the Cabinet before Parliament so we can pass it. First of all, I want to say this since it is a duty of this Office to hold Committee hearings. Any Bill that is referred to the Committee is pertained under Standing Orders that hearings be announced for the public to participate.

Unfortunately, the only matter where majority of the public turned up for was the issue concerning customary lands whilst other bills had a turn of one two and even none. Nevertheless, public notices have been under advertisement several times. It seems the nature of our work is assessed wrongly by the public but this is not how the work of Parliament is done. We are following set procedures moreover safeguarding the work that we do.

I apologize to Members nevertheless I recommend that we not try and conspire the thoughts of the public, I do not appreciate such manner. If we give the public an opportunity then it is the voters that will be making decisions for our country. This is my advice on the matter, pardon the Member there will be no further debate taken on the matter.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I am not plotting the public with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member...

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**Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading**

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker from reading the Bill there are only two outcomes for the bill. We either protect ourselves and reject dirty money or accept dirty money implicating us in these illegal activities.

The objection of criminals investing their money into the country affecting our people or object it altogether. The opinion made by the Member is acceptance therefore my direct question, is this what the Member wants? It's a direct question to the member.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker that is not the spirit of what I am saying. What I am saying is to go through the normal procedure where the chance is given to the Parliamentary Committee to consult with members of the public.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker a point of order, this Member used to be a Speaker of Parliament. Every time Cabinet agrees on a bill to be rushed through, there are reasons. The reason for this is that a global organization is waiting. He used to sit there, he understands very well and yet he suddenly doesn't want to understand.

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I completely understand Cabinet procedures, there is no misunderstanding.

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Member I will try and assist with the matter, pardon the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3. The work we do is circulated. I was a Member sitting there and you were up here. I respected your role and did not misbehave. When you were the Speaker you did not request the Cabinet to give the opportunity to a Committee for the matter to be assessed and not be put under urgency. No. Where were you? Where was this opinion of yours? I appease the Member we are following Standing Orders if we were to...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I have great respect for you, I humbly respect you.

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– second reading**

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member but I was also respectful to you...

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: I also respect you nevertheless I am certain you are aware why I took the floor. I am not saying that I object the Bill, no. I am just requesting reconsideration for the public to be involved since they will be affected. Nevertheless, I will leave it to the decision of Government.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member it is stated within our Standing Orders that once the Chair speaks the Member should sit down. Thank you. The opinion shown is now understood. I used to sit there while you were here, I respected you. You were once the Speaker of the House. During your time, you never raised an objection about these matters when they were brought in a matters of urgency. Where were you then when you were here? Where was your opinion then?

Susuga Hon LAAULI POLATAIVAO LEUATEA: Mr Speaker I do not do that to you, its forbidden. Toleafoa, remember our good relations. It is out of my respect that you are sitting there. Don't you forget the honor I extended to you. Mr Speaker, don't forget that.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker no one has authority over that Chair, that position is chosen by Parliament. I recommend the Member refrain from such way of thinking, you have become so arrogant.

MR SPEAKER: I will not acknowledge such matter since the wise King Solomon said, 'do not answer.' I forgive the Member for such behavior although it seems the House did not choose me as the Speaker but it is the Member. This is not true. Also this has never happened within Parliament since it became independent. This is the first time that I have heard such arrogant remark from a Member nevertheless I forgive you.

I call on the Member for Vaimauga East.

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– second reading

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I move with respect to voice an opinion on the Bill tabled. I want to thank the Hon Minister and Associate Minister especially the Governor and the administration of the Central Bank of Samoa for the Bill. I am grateful for the scrutiny taken by the Hon Minister and Governor for identifying such serious matter. I am grateful for the Bill implemented since it will identify certain forms of investment and the use of modern technology. Most of us do not understand such transactions but only those who carry out such services. I want to thank the Madam Governor for being vigilant in implementing this Bill that will adhere to such matters hence we initiate Bills but are not sure when such issues may happen. I am grateful for such initiative established by the Central Bank of Samoa administration. This constituency supports the Bill but it has a few recommendations on the matter. If I look at the penalties implemented for these people coming into our country I do not think it is enough considering how intelligent they can be. It seems only five years or 100 units are being stated. Why not impose a fine of 10,000 so that they will not commit further offence. There is a person who will agree to take the five years' sentence but during that time they will use the money...

It seems the penalties stated are based on the Money Laundering Bill. I humbly request the Hon Minister and Government to also consider money sent overseas. Since we are currently focused on money brought into the country we should also assess money that is sent outside of the country. I support the Bill...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the matter is included within the Bill. The 1000 units mentioned are equal to \$10,000. The request made by the Member is already included within provisions.

MR SPEAKER: I take it the Member now understands the matter.

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– second reading**

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILIILI TUIVASA: I understand. I also thank the Father of our country since he is a master planner. Those are just a few variations to assist with the Bill.

I apologize to the former Member but I recommend that you read our Standing Orders. It is not right to speak vaguely of a matter. The speech made by the Member was outstanding but when he spoke in such manner, it was not right. As I told you yesterday once you try and say ambiguous opinions that are the work of evil nevertheless it is not taken lightly by Government. Our Standing Orders is the guide of the Speaker therefore it is unwise to say such ambiguous words.

It is not the intention of this constituency to make vague conclusions. Nonetheless our leader is a Member chosen by the Lord Almighty. Therefore, whatever the decisions he may impose it is done through the Grace of God. This is also what I meant by being a Master...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Member, I want to ask, did the Lord choose you? Did he choose you as a Member or not?

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILIILI TUIVASA: Yes, I was chosen by the Lord.

MR SPEAKER: Well that is the truth; I call on the Member to continue.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILIILI TUIVASA: I support the Bill since the penalties are allocated under the Crime Act 2013. I support this establishment. The only recommendation is to reassess the Ministry in charge because the work is carried out by the Police Department. Also consideration should be put on the Police department whether they have the resources to carry out criminal offence services. Another aspect I have noted from the Bill, it seems the power is now given to the Governor to assess such offences and this duty is now removed from the Court. I strongly believe justice can only be served through Court.

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I support the Bill being under a state of urgency also it is the duty of the Ministry to carry out this measure under supervision of the Governor. However, I still believe that the decisions that are made by the Governor should be submitted to the Court to finalize.

I support tax evasion, as clarified by our Leader this morning this is one area that attracts overseas investors to come into our country because we have clean accounts. Also they have lesser taxes to pay and their investments are well protected. I do not think anyone wants to pay tax which is why several overseas companies have invested into our country. We have tax evasion and their capital is well protected. They can avoid tax now there is tax evasion which I support. I hope the department works together with the Ministry of Revenue to seize those who may commit such act.

Another matter I am concerned about is money sent overseas. Our Leader has already stated that the Ministry of Revenue will be bringing in their new machine. I am thankful that our airport still uses security methods that involve screening of people by thoroughly checking them to detect any illegal objects. If the machine does detect an error the person is taken into an interrogation room for questioning. Those in charge with this duty should be given the authority for questioning. The machine can also detect an error when a person is wrapped up with money. This is one reason why I am concerned about money that is taken overseas.

I am grateful that the Governor has decided to discard mail since the Ministry of Revenue now has a machine to do such work. I am worried because most of the people that come only take money but do not seem to contribute to the church or village. I support the concept of companies investing into our country since it can develop our country.

I am confident with the work carried out by our Audit office since they are well acquainted. Mr Speaker this constituency supports the Bill, but I just want an opportunity since the Prime Minister and Cabinet will now be taking the floor. I apologize to my constituency if there are matters that I have not mentioned, I humbly ask for your prayers. Nothing is impossible with the Lord.

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**Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading**

Mr Speaker when Afioga Hon Loau Keneti Sio was chosen as a Minister by the Prime Minister everyone complained, why? The majority of the country knew he did not have the qualifications to be a Minister. The only person the country thought would be Minister of Education and be in charge of Masters, PhD and Doctors was Afioga Lealailepule Rimoni. He was a Chief Executive at the Ministry and a Director at the Airport Authority also the right hand man for Afioga Palusalua Faapo II. People thought he would be the one, but now? It was given to the least expected and now this Ministry is doing well because this was someone who was nurtured within the community. I am saddened by the fact that some Ministers want to come here and tell stories, are we Members that come to hear your stories? We are being sincere with the opinions voiced for our constituencies. We did not come here to build roads we were chosen by the Lord. Mr Speaker I am quite unhappy with the comment made by the Minister, Vaimauga is here to serve God because this is a calling from the Almighty.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The time of the Member has ended.

I call on the Hon Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure.

I recommend that Members be considerate of others beside you, your movements in arguing opinions might harm others, which can result to the purpose of the speech being unclear. I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I noticed that the Member is being aggressive as if there is something he hates, you already asked him who choose him and he said it was God. This is not the actions of a person of God. I was the one that used the term story since I wanted to change some of the words used within the House. The term story means to go straight to the point on access roads, when I first came into Parliament 17 years ago there were no access roads back then. We have just started with access roads considering my position as a Member.

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Nevertheless, I am saying this to inform Members that we do not win if we have implemented access roads. Therefore, the access roads proposed yesterday within the House will be crossed of my list. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call on the Member for Alataua West. Pardon the Member...

Afioga ALIIMALEMALU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): I acknowledge the Hon Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet also Associate Ministers. I humbly greet the Members of Parliamentary Committee and Heads of Government Ministries, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and office and all of Samoa listening in this morning. Today is such a fine morning another new day added to our lives in this world.

I move with respect not to question but to support the Bill since it is related to financial matters. I have heard some of the Members mentioning the issue of money being hidden secretly. I support the Bill since part of the provisions will enforce the law and penalize those who will commit such criminal acts. We overheard that the Governor has been working together with the Police Department who will be responsible for three years so that this Bill will be passed. There were also trainings for the Samoa Ports Authority especially the Customs department on border cash reporting also for money transfer services like Western Union and the task force on national strategy.

There are several services also most of the work carried out are related therefore we have witnessed capacity building has been completed. The reason why I support the Bill being under a state of urgency, we must be able to achieve requirements also objectives outlined by the Asia Pacific Group. Moreover, we are a representative of this group.

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Some of the Members have already mentioned the scanner machine at the Ministry of Revenue, which can detect illegal money transfers and criminal activities. I believe it is appropriate the Bill is now implemented because there are now such machines to monitor provisions. The important aspect of the Bill is to charge those who are suspected by the Police Department.

I also support the authority given to the Governor to instantly prosecute someone detected of such an offence. If this matter was put before the Court it will go through a longer process before it can be heard before court. It is most relevant that the Police Department overlooks the matter and charges those who commit offences immediately. As clarified in the previous Act there was no such provision of charging those who commit an offence immediately. It is appropriate that the matter has now been allocated to the Police Department and the Governor so that such matters can be carried out instantly. The important aspect for us is to meet the standards needed by the Asia Pacific Group. We heard through the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister how important it is to follow guidelines for grants brought into the country. Our partners cannot give us grants unless they are confident that we already have set guidelines also to make good use of the money given and not against the law. If we were to meet these standards, grants will be given to develop our country. This is an opinion on the matter but I support the Bill. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I believe this will be the last Member to speak upon the Bill before a question is put forward.

I call on the Member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Thank you Mr Speaker, there will only be a few matters this constituency wants to convey in relation to the Bill.

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Mr Speaker with respect, I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister and for clarifying the objectives of the Bill. Therefore, the concern of the constituency is related to the Amendment that illustrates restrictions of such transactions. It seems the Government did not carry out proper measures to well prepare the Bill over the past years. Therefore, I respectfully recommend that Government look into these areas before implementing a Bill. Hence I do not believe our Police department has enough staff to carry out this work.

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 this is a new Bill therefore Amendments have just been implemented. I have clarified the power implemented by the Ministry in relation to the case of the American Samoa Company. It is not a matter that was unknown. It was in the newspaper which means the whole matter was open to the public knowledge. There is an amendment for such Trust Companies and it is their duty to do checks hence it is an obligation they are used too. As we all know these types of businesses are quite competitive, we ourselves have such business. There is a business like this in Vanuatu also it is the first country in the Pacific to have such business. There are several businesses like this in Caribia involving a lot of companies we just joined in 1992. We are new to this and the difference between us was, we followed the jurisdictions of other countries and we were able to avoid any problems. In the year 1973, I went with the Minister of Finance at that time Sam Saili. We went to discuss some issues with the business owners in Vanuatu. The purpose of this visit was for us to set up a business like this in Samoa which will assist with reserve funds for trade and other developments in the country.

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During the process of implementing such business there were some obstacles faced then the Government consulted with other businesses in 1985, 1986 and 1987 a decision was then made to implement a Bill. Therefore, the Bill was drafted in 1987 and was carried out in 1992. This means a lot of preparations were undertaken but this is how a developing country works, it looks at different strategies to earn financial aid for its developments. This will minimize our reliance on taxes because we cannot collect tax from the majority of our people.

This is the reason why we seek overseas partners for assistance on grants and loans that will develop our country.

Mr Speaker this is a clarification on the matter although it was already included in the Bill it is now being emphasized further. The reason for this is based on the fact that nowadays a lot of criminal activities are being committed. Especially today with the introduction of modern technology, there is the chance where some scammers copy pin numbers which they then use after people withdraw their money from the Atm machine. The increasing number of incidents that have occurred is also a reason for amending the Bill together with keeping up to date to international standards. There are several overseas people that have come into the country and do such things. Moreover, most of these people are easily found out later.

There was a person who came and booked a room at Aggie Greys and left his machine in another room, meaning he booked two rooms. The Central Bank later found out that the US\$100 was fake. Nonetheless no one suspected that it was forged because it looked exactly the same as our currency. It was only noted that it was a fake when it was run through our scanner. The police investigated the issue and found that the person was staying at Aggie Grey, he had another room that stored the money making machine not only making our currency but overseas money as well.

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Mr Speaker we ought to be vigilant of such actions all the time. This affects both money brought into the country and money transferred overseas. This is the reason why there is also a question in the departure card no matter which country especially in America. How much money do you have? If it is more than \$10,000 you will certainly be a suspect.

There is a person who brings in \$100,000 but does not know that they are already suspected. Then when they arrive the Police have already been informed. We have in Samoa the International Crimes office which was in Fiji but I think this was ten years ago. These matters are usually under the microscope and most are not aware that there is an organization that overlooks this area especially those travelling into the country and overseas. We have implemented such provisions to overlook these activities that involve money laundering between countries.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. The Member for Salega East are you finished with your speech...

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: This constituency has already given an opinion on the Bill that we should implement policies that will safeguard us from such activities. This is a mere recommendation but I believe we should look into having our own Federal Bureau Investigation; two policemen would be enough to train in handling such important matters. If we already have new technology, then we should be able to improve our services. As for the matter of safeguarding our country from such international threats our police force should have the intelligence to perform this duty. Nevertheless, it will also keep checks on our own police force. There are some policemen who are able to avoid these circumstances but they should also follow the law that they are imposing.

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 – second reading

There was a matter mentioned by one of the Members concerning money sent overseas which has been clarified. It is stated under our laws that revenue we earned should always be taxed. Most of the companies and businesses in our country most of their profits are deposited to their families and not the bank where our country can earn income. There is only one kind of transaction stated within the Bill. Nonetheless I am grateful that the Bill is now proposing the minimal amount of money allowed. I recommend that the matter be reviewed in case the family members will each send \$20,000 at the same time. The provisions of such arrangement should be detailed and clearly noted.

Lastly Mr Speaker is a recommendation to the Hon Prime Minister, you have mentioned the reason for the Bill being under a state of urgency was international organizations awaiting our policies. A humble request of this constituency I believe it is important that we consider the matter carefully than with haste. Even though it is a requirement to meet international standards it is important that such matter be dealt with properly.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I apologize to the Member but our Government is tied to such international sanctions. There are also reasons for such sanctions since it will benefit us and provide us with security. This is also the reason why we are not in the dark. Most of the developed countries are also compelled by these transactions. This is the reason why we join these international organizations to become part of these transactions and become part of these international conventions. We are bonded by such agreements. Once you are bonded to these international agreements you have a duty to perform.

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Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

This is no different from international rugby federations. If you are a part of a rugby team you are bonded to the set guidelines of the rugby committee. First you have to be honest because once you break a rule you are out. This is how it works once you sign an agreement, example a United Nations convention there are guidelines that protects us. If we look at America and China they are one of the biggest countries in the world possessing powerful weapons and once an agreement is violated, they will have to pay for their actions.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the matter is now understood.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: This is the only humble request but I want to thank the Hon Prime Minister, I have been trying hard to read the Bill in the minutes given considering it is now in a state of urgency...

MR SPEAKER: The problem I see is the Member did not attend the seminar. I was trying my best to withhold it. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this Bill is very thin compared to other Bills. Hence the clarification presented by the Chief Executive was very insightful during the pre-sitting. I am surprised that this is not really a thick Bill compared to others that were deliberated before, it is easy to understand. The Member is one of the longest serving Members in Parliament and was given this whole time until this morning to thoroughly read it. It is our normal practice that no Member is allowed to have more than two terms in Parliament however the Member has had a lot. Therefore, you should be well aware of Parliamentary practices and procedures which you still do not want to understand.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

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**Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– consideration in detail**

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI: I will conclude an opinion on the matter. Mr Speaker I will not question the decision of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on matters taken under the state of urgency. I just want to emphasize that such matters should still be discussed thoroughly so our opinions will be included in the decisions of our Parliament. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: The opinion of the Member is now noted. I ask Government if there is any further clarification on the matter or has it already been clarified.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I believe there is no further clarification. However, I just want to clarify that the money we acquire from this endeavor finances our Budget meaning aids Government development. It also assists with our Sports development in rugby and other fields. There is a huge benefit of such organization in our field of sports and in funding our yearly budget.

Mr Speaker this is just a further clarification for the understanding of Members of the House.

Motion approved and the Money Laundering Amendment Bill 2018 was read a second time.

**MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION AMENDMENT BILL
2018 – consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order consideration in detail starts with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Section 2 amended.

Approved.

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**Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 3: New sections 3B and 3C inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Section 7 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Section 8 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Section 13 amended.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Section 16 substituted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: New sections 16A, 16B and 16C inserted.

Approved.

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**Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018
– consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 9: New section 21A inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 10: New section 23A inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: New Clauses 25 and 26 of Schedule 1 inserted.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Consequential amendments.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

**TITLE: Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Act
2018.**

Approved.

*The Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Act 2018 progressed
without further Amendments.*

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**MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION AMENDMENT BILL
2018 – third reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Money Laundering Prevention Amendment Bill 2018 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Commerce Industry and Labor.

Motion approved and the Bill was read for the third time and passed by the Legislative Assembly.

**EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– second reading**

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): I acknowledge the presence of the Speaker this fine morning. Moreover, I am grateful to the praises given to the Almighty who has given Members strength and good health to be present here this morning. Mr Speaker I take the floor with respect to move a motion *that the Education Amendment Bill 2018 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it further.*

Seconded by the Minister of Justice Courts and Administration, Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Minister for his clarification.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLA KENETI SIO: Thank you Mr Speaker I believe this Bill seeks to amend the Education Act 2009. The objective of the Bill as the Ministry has decided is to amend parts of the 2009 Act considering the many changes foreseen from those years to 2018. These are the amendments the Ministry has resolved to develop education which we hope will be approved by the Legislative Assembly. There are six amendments stated for the year. I strongly believe these changes have already been discussed for the understanding of Parliament in our previous seminar. The Bill states that it is compulsory for children to attend school for ten years, compulsory age is 4 for early childhood learning and 5 to 16 years old for primary and secondary school. Section 11 amends the use of birth certificate number for registration. Amend the use of the term Ministry school to Government school. Amend section 7(2) to amend ‘with special needs’ to ‘living with disabilities’. Amend 23(3) so it states, any teacher for a secondary school is justified in using reasonable force on a child they believe will be for their protection and safety. Lastly to substitute section 24 to prohibit the use and possession of alcohol, narcotics by a teacher or a student and tobacco within school compound during school hours.

Mr Speaker these are the six amendments made to the Principal Act. It amends section 2 of the Act by providing a new definition of compulsory school-aged child. The improvement of education around the country can be accomplished when a child starts education in pre-school. At the moment there is no set age for children to start pre-school fortunately it is recommended that they attend pre-school to prepare them into entering primary level education. The allocated school age for children to finish secondary education is 14. However, it is now amended to 16 years this is too allow children time to finish school and University especially to find jobs for their future.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

It states in Section 2, to repeal the definitions of Ministry school and village school and be replaced with the term Government school.

Section 3 amends 7(2) by substituting reference to special needs with disability. This change implemented coincides with terms used for those with disabilities here in Samoa and all around the world.

Clause 4, amends section 11 to include the birth certificate number of a student in the principals roll. It is noted that the common issue seen today is most students do not have birth certificates. This is a problem faced by the Ministry while registering students to monitor the progress of their education.

Clause 5, substitutes a new subsection 23(3) to allow the use of reasonable force by a secondary teacher on a child if the force is used in a reasonable circumstance to prevent harm to the child and another person. This amendment does not allow any forms of corporal punishment but it allows the secondary school teachers to use reasonable force in preventing the child from engaging or continuing to engage in conduct that amounts to criminal offence.

Clause 6 substitutes section 24 prohibits the use of alcohol, narcotics and tobacco for teachers and students during school hours or any school organized activity.

Mr Speaker that is a clarification in relation to the amendments proposed by the Bill from the Education Act 2009 and amended to the Education Amendment Bill 2018. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I believe Members of Parliament have understood the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Education. I now call on Members who wish to speak on the Bill, 1,2,3,4,5 an opportunity will be given after our recess.

I announce that proceedings of the House now set aside for our usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess from 10:32am to 11:18 am.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced with the second reading of the Education Amendment Bill 2018.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now resumed. I want to thank you all for your patience, I believe we have gained strength to continue with our work today.

Before recess some of the Members were upstanding to speak upon the clarification made by the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

With respect I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 1 West.

Afioga Hon GATOLOAIFAANA AMATAGA ALESANA GIDLOW (Faasaleleaga No.1 West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, firstly I want to greet the respectable Members of Parliament and all of Samoa listening in this morning. I want to thank the Hon Minister of Education and Ministry hence there is a saying that goes children are the pride and joy of parents. This is why whatever development set forth to improve the education upbringing of our children we fully support. I am grateful for the Bill tabled since it will develop the education wellbeing of our children especially assist with their development not only for their future but of our country.

There are a few matters that I wish to speak upon within the Bill. First of all are our teachers been well informed of the criteria proposed. If we were to pass the Bill these provisions will be enacted maybe by the start of next year. I am worried if the teachers have been fully trained to adhere to the changes that it will impose especially in handling the education standards for the wellbeing of our children.

Second Mr Speaker, is my concern related to penalties, I am grateful that the use of alcohol, narcotics and tobacco within school grounds is now prohibited which can affect the school as a whole. It is a must to safeguard school grounds from such unruly behavior also to teach children of what is right and what they should do.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

This duty should start with those teaching our children, to set an example to not do such acts. I strongly believe that such matters have resulted to the inclusion of this provision although I am worried Hon Minister that penalties should be detailed within the Bill. The penalties for those who break the law should be outlined like students who misbehave are suspended or expelled from school. The penalties for teachers should be specifically notified so they cannot avoid the law, teachers should answer for their actions in relation to their services.

Another concern Hon Minister I want to convey, I am grateful that the formal education life of a child will now start at 4 years, but I want to ask have we resolved the matter of poor mathematics and reading skills for our children. Are there any changes? Have these areas been taught with satisfactory? Our children should be assisted with these subjects at an early stage which I believe will help with their learning into the future.

I humbly ask we not neglect those with disabilities no matter the issue. I strongly believe an outstanding teacher fights for the improvement of each student within their class, each student is given the opportunity to learn. Therefore with all due respect I strongly recommend that we do our work properly, as the saying of one of the old women of family said, 'do not pluck the chicken and leave it but pluck it completely before moving onto another one.'

I am worried because our children should be given the highest quality of education especially in teaching them mathematics and reading. If we are talking of starting with year 4 how are we able to focus on years 5, 6 and 7? How? I strongly believe that we should focus on what we are doing now. Let us focus first on these levels so that by the time the child reaches year 8 they can read and write well. I have a feeling that there are still children in year 5 and 6 that still do not know how to read or write.

These are a few matters of concern Hon Minister to be emphasized within the Bill, education should be compulsory in the country. Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018

– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member for the opinion conveyed. Well the ladies will carry on, I call on the Member for Gagaifomauga No.3 for her address.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I humbly greet the Chair and respectable Members of Parliament the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and also to all of Samoa.

I want to thank the Minister for the Bill considering it will now encourage compulsory education for our children starting from pre-school. I want to speak not only on teacher capacity building but also on children with disabilities both physically and mentally. More of these early childhood schools that focus on disabilities like Loto Taumafai is situated in the urban area but none in the rural areas.

If the Bill is to be carried out in various parts of the country someone should also be well trained to teach children who have disabilities in both body and mind.

The second concern is related to the enforcement of the Bill, it is stated that education should be compulsory nonetheless there are villages that have pre-schools and some who do not have any. This would be a good opportunity to encourage other constituencies to set up their own pre-schools which can be utilized by the children within that area. With respect, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Pardon the Member for Aana Alofi No.2 I will call on you after the Member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The Bill proposed by the Ministry of Education is very important. This is not the first Bill implemented by the Ministry since I came into Parliament there have been several Bills amended.

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– second reading

When the Bill proposing compulsory education was tabled not long ago the required age was 5-14, I asked why 14? Why not put it up to 18 because I do not think there is a student that finishes school at 14 years old. I am grateful that it is now changed to 16 nonetheless I believe 18 would be more appropriate. If we look into this issue it is not something new. In the past when we took our children aged five or lower to school they said we cannot register until they are 5 to 6 years old. Nevertheless, it is now been put down to four making it compulsory. I do not know about you Hon Minister but I strongly support the starting age of five.

This was an issue also seen in New Zealand debating on what age young children should start school. We should also take into consideration that Universities in New Zealand and Australia, schools allow ages lower but you cannot go into University campus until you are 18. I think New Zealand is considering changing through the request made by the Hon Prime Minister now the age is 17 years. Until you are 18 then you can stay on campus and attend University. If you were to start school at 4 years I am not sure about it. I do not think this will affect early childhood learning because we do not really have to attend it. However, is there enough capacity for teachers in rural areas to teach this level because most pre-schools are in the town area.

Another matter Hon Minister is the issue of compulsory education, it should be monitored since there are still a lot of children not going to school. I am grateful that there are the Alii and Faipule in rural areas to overlook this matter nevertheless the Police should be foresee this matter of children roaming around. It is stated within the law by Government that every child attends school.

Another matter is the substituting of the term special needs to disability. This term have just been recently changed which was also done by the Ministry, the term special needs. I think the term is quite suitable so I am wondering why change it. The substitute stated is disability but it is stating a whole sentence. It states the meaning of the term nevertheless.

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I still think the first term special need was better. If we were to interpret the new term disability means both mental and physical. This means that there are two kinds of matters that it is conveying, but we must recall that a lot of money was spent and was allocated to the Samoan Commission. If this is what the Samoan Commission is doing then it will be a huge problem. I am certain how you feel about it but I thought the previous term was better.

Another issue Hon Mr Speaker most of the other Members have mentioned is the matter concerning disciplinary action within schools. I thank the Minister for his bravery, it is not easy because there are several international laws that protect us from such actions. I support the provisions being implemented Hon Minister but the only concern is how it will be carried out if we translate this term into another word it would be force. No matter what type of force it will still be force. It is stated in Samoan as *'faamalosii'*. Why not substitute it with disciplinary action? I am grateful that the Bill provides protection for our teachers. It was noted this year that there were some students that have abused teachers. When this occurred a meeting was arranged by the Board of Samoa College, I then told the Principal that an Assembly should be called for the whole school to inform students who misbehave of the disciplinary actions that are taken for such behavior.

However it is stated within the Bill that actions are protected by the teachers but how about the role of the Principal. I believe we should still use the old method of the Principal having the power to deal with such matters. If they are in the wrong they can be expelled nevertheless any forms of punishment are yet to be decided. It is stated that a student cannot be punished using objects but with hands only. In the past there was a court case of a teacher who punished a student using a hose. In his defense the teacher responded that there was no such provision within the law that stated you cannot use a hose but only physical harm using hands.

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However it is now stated within the Bill that you cannot use any object to harm a child but using your hands is allowed. We must consider that this is not something allowed under law. This is a matter that should be reconsidered. I support parts of the Bill and I thank the Hon Minister for implementing these new amendments however all provisions must be carried out successfully. It is an important task that should be emphasized because proper education is the future of our country.

Since the Hon Mr Speaker is advising on our time, I will now conclude an opinion on the matter, bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this Bill contributes greatly to the issues faced by our schools, there is something the Member missed. Every Bill is implied using common sense. Therefore this change is common sense implied for a term that easier to understand. I appease the Member but we should carry on with the amendments implemented because most countries today have starting taking their children aged 3 and 2 to school. The brain of a 2 year old nowadays speeds up to a 100 miles an hour. It is the duty of education authorities around the world to overlook the changes encountered from time to time. The starting age is now being lowered not like in the past where it was an older age which was a problem for some of us who went to New Zealand. Most of our intelligence just develops when we are old. Now we are starting to improve our knowledge, there is truth in putting two smart people together to discuss a problem, that both will just fight because they are both high minded. In the past when you are too old you are not accepted into school.

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– second reading

The issue seen today is based on the provisions implemented by New Zealand. If you do not have an English surname you are able to get into Malifa. What happened? Some children then do not take the surnames of their fathers but their half-caste mothers. Therefore, the children will be called half castes but they are Samoans. These were some of the rules imposed by New Zealand. Some children were not allowed if they were not smart enough luckily I took primer one for 4 years. I am ashamed to tell everyone this since it portrays my intellectual weakness but I am thankful that I learned a lot when I grew older. Therefore, I appease the Members but we will carry forward with some of these practices.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.2. I believe there are two three more Members.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I apologize to the Member but there is a matter that I missed, I announced earlier that there will be a test match for our rugby team to qualify for the World Cup. Even though we have not won in the last ten years we should win now with this test match that will take in our country. The Rugby Union is trying to accumulate funds for travel expenses because after this match they will have to go and play in Germany. I humbly ask Members if they have spare \$2 for our cause, we will be having a radiothon today. This is a free announcement made to all Members of the House to support our boys. With utmost respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I recommend that Members take note of this announcement and give whatever contribution you can provide for our boys who are the future of the country.

I now call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.2.

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– second reading

Tofa ILI SETEFANO TAATEO TAFILI (Aana Alofi No.2):

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I am also grateful for the lunch provided to the Chair and the Office of the Legislative Assembly. I am certain that the lunch provided has provided strength to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet hence we the Opposition are quite satisfied.

I apologize to the Hon Prime Minister on the announcement made in relation to the radiothon, there was only \$50 in my pocket which I have given in support. I move with respect to voice an opinion of this constituency in relation to the Bill tabled this morning.

There are two important things in life that portrays a vigorous country, good health and education. This is the reason why this constituency supports the Education Amendment Bill 2018. We support all the provisions stated within the Bill however there is the part that suggest that it is compulsory for children at the age of four to go to school. The question I want to ask, will the child that did not attend pre-school be allowed into primer 1? This is a matter the Hon Minister and Ministry should look into because there are some villages who do not have any pre-schools but some have two. This is an area that must be assessed first before implementing compulsory education not allowing children who did not attend pre-school.

The overall Bill is understood with the discussion given in the pre-sitting but the only issue I am trying to convey is in relation to our pre-schools. There are some pre-schools within rural villages that only go through half the year. The reason the village committee does not have enough funds since they have to pay the teachers. Then there is indecision whether to complete the whole year of teaching. I humbly ask this matter be assessed by the Ministry of Education since the budget for Education will be allocated to the Ministry. This is an opinion with respect, bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Deputy Speaker and to be concluded by the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3):

First of all I greet the Speaker of the House also to respectable Members of the House. Mr Speaker I move with respect to voice an opinion of this constituency with respect to Matautu and Gagaemauga No.3.

I was one of the people involved with implementing the Act when I was part of the Police force in 2009 working with the Ministry of Education. It was not an easy task. I want to thank the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive of the Ministry for preparing this Bill which we support. I noted that majority of Amendments made are good changes in contrast to the previous provisions however I have a few questions on parts of the Bill. It is stated within Section 23 amended (3) any teacher for a secondary school but we are trying to implement compulsory education. Why does the Amendment only mention secondary schools but not primary schools? All these forms of education should be clearly indicated within the Bill and there should be no loopholes.

It is also stated in section 23 two people the Bill signifies, this constituency always supports matters related to education since it benefits the future of not only the family but the church and all of Samoa. It is important that we look into the future. The commonly mentioned people within the amendments are the child and teacher. These are areas that should be stated in detail as it is seen in 3A and 3B. It states the use of any object by a teacher to impose force. A request to the Hon Minister whether it would be possible to overlook the issue of some teachers who instigate such behavior. There are some cases where the teachers' insight such punishment but when investigated they hide and put the blame on others.

Therefore, I was hoping if another amendment be included, example 3C any teacher who instigates or assist. These are all legal terms. If we were to only put a teacher who uses an object this means it is bodily harm.

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– second reading

There is also the possibility to consider others who insight such act. All aspects should be considered so that there is no loophole for others to escape. The Bill is focused mainly on children but how about those behind such act. This is my recommendation Hon Minister hence Rome was not built in a day.

I want to acknowledge the Chief Executive for the changes made which I believe are done for the better. This Member supports the Bill however these are some of the matters I believe should be included because it is only focused on children but how about the teachers. Bless our proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call on the Member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Afioga PAU SEFO TAUMATA PAU (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you Hon Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The Bill tabled has a lot of changes. It is stated in section 24 the prohibition of alcohol on school compound. The use of this term school compound is not been clarified clearly. If asked during games which field the game is going to be and they say Papauta compound. There are also times after school year when teachers have parties and there could be a possibility of disagreements on school compound. This could have an effect on school property which I believe would be a more appropriate term to use in the Bill. The term property would be more specific than compound since it will include classrooms and other school facilities. In this way the Ministry will be able to monitor school amenities and facilities. As for the announcement made by the Hon Prime Minister, this is a great idea. Perhaps it is a bit late but we were already deciding to put in \$100 to \$200 each. A recommendation on the matter I have a feeling it is going to be full which is good for our team, they have a bigger chance of winning because of the support. If they win then by the next radiothon announcement I believe that the contribution will be two three times more than what will be given today.

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Education Amendment Bill 2018

– second reading

I support the Bill together with the Amendments implemented especially if it will develop the education upbringing of our children and the future of our country. Bless our proceedings and bless the Chair.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member for his clarification. I believe this is the last Member who wanted to speak upon the Bill...

Afioga Tapulesatele Mauteni Tamasone Metuli II Esera (Vaisigano No.2): Mr Speaker I humbly ask for an opportunity to speak upon the Bill. I will be brief...

MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Hon Minister to allow five minutes for the Member.

Afioga TAPULESATELE MAUTENI TAMASONE METULI II ESERA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I want to thank the Hon Minister and the Chief Executive for the implementation of the Bill. There is a minor issue that I want to speak upon and a reminder. The matter related to children attending primary school. There is an understanding that some children only reach the age of five after the first two months of the year. Therefore, the parents do not have to wait another year to take their children to school. There is the expectation that once children turn five they are to attend year 1. I humbly ask that this matter be reviewed once again by the Hon Minister and Ministry. The children do not have to wait another year after they turn, if for example they turn five in May then they should start school at that time.

Another matter of concern is our pre-schools within our villages. I strongly believe that we should try to utilize the schools that we have already. Even though there are several other pre-schools set up by some churches I still think it is best to use the ones already in use at the moment.

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I want to thank the Hon Minister for responding to the request of this constituency, now I hear plans have been carried out for the school building in the village of Papa. I am also grateful to the Minister and the Executive and Administration for accepting the request for the Principal of Sataua to continue another term.

Also the matter discussed, the number of students should go in line with other schools which is thirty. There was a request for another teacher and as the Hon Minister mentioned it is hard for villages in rural areas and in Savaii to assign their teacher to teach in Apia. Moreover, there is the opportunity to teach in rural areas. Therefore, if there are only twenty students in a class I believe it will be alright. There is the possibility of fewer students and more teachers. This is a matter the Ministry and Executive should overlook. This constituency gladly supports this Bill.

As the Hon Prime Minister earlier announced I have beside me a form for the radiothon which I will try and fill out.

In conclusion I pray blessings upon the Chair and all respectable Members of the House.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I ask that we organize our papers in an orderly manner. I apologize to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture but we have arrived at the end of our session for this Friday. Since Friday we always have to finish early so we can carry out other duties delegated. Does the Member want to speak for the next five minutes?

I think it will be best to carefully prepare yourself for next week because I am certain that some Members will be interrupting your clarification speech. Nevertheless, we should start with clarifications on Monday I pray the Lord guides us well. I apologize to the Hon Minister of Education since we have arrived at the time, 12:00pm.

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**Education Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading**

Before we adjourn for today I call the Member for Samatau and Falelatai to conclude our Proceedings with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 12:02pm until 9:00am Monday 25th June 2018.

