

*FRIDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2015*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

**MR SPEAKER:** Respectfully to the stately Members of the House, we have assembled this new day in the spirit of thankfulness and honour to God. May He continually be glorified for His wonderful enduring love for bringing us together today. Our gathering once again this morning feels like everything is brand new. Well done everyone on your patience, perseverance and commitment to our sittings. We have reached the final day of our sitting in continuation of our scheduled business in the Order Paper. I extend appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the dignified members of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and this side, thank you for your patience. We shall ensue as usual and entrust our calling as representatives through our far searching wisdom and wise counselling that is highly regarded by the country given your significant constituencies that you reside and stand by.

Thank you Samoa for your support in all your honorific salutations, bear with us today in your prayer and support whilst your Parliament engages with its set business. To the Servants of God, may your word be blessed.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued – Day 4**

**SPEAKER:** Before we adjourned yesterday, the statement by the Hon Minister of Fisheries and Forestry was about to conclude. Hon Minister, be upstanding you now have the opportunity to...Pardon me I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, we exalt God like the spirit of offering this morning as the House has roused together with your honour. Today is a short day where we will end our business at 12.00noon for those travelling to Savaii to attend the service of the week. That is the attempt from our end with *hope that before our lunch break, we will complete our work, we pity the* many appreciations you give whenever we finish our speeches. That is the assistance to lessen the burden on your shoulders given the short time we have today, do not be concerned, the speeches will follow one after another. Our team is a hard working group that don't rely on words of appreciations and pride given the normal saying, once our work have completed, the only person to give thanks to is God, not servants, because what we do is our job, we are servants of this House and your honour (Speaker). That is reason for taking the floor to ease the burden on the Chair.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– resumption debate on second reading**

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** I want to thank my fellow Member Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi. I recommend that you not praise me but praise our Heavenly Father. I am confident to say that by the end of this year our fish exports will increase. This fishing company fishes in our zone. They fish in Tokelau, Tuvalu and Tonga. All the fish supplies will come here and then be exported overseas. Nevertheless I pray that it will be a success, I am also thankful that it is now being implemented.

This will be beneficial for our fishermen with prices of fish products and equipment such as bait. Nowadays our fishermen are faced with the high costs of fishing equipments and fish bait.

It is very important that we work together in encouraging our farmers, not only will it produce more food for the people but also for exports. This will develop our earnings and contribute to the country's GDP.

Another issue raised by some of the Members....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. I have noted that there are still a few issues that are needed to be discussed but we have now arrived at our recess time. Therefore I believe we should take a rest. I want to thank the Hon Minister; you will be able to continue with your responses in tomorrow's sitting.

I also thank all Members of the House this time of the day. I believe we have been deliberating long enough since the start of the second half of our proceedings at 3.00pm. I wish to acknowledge the support of Samoa and to Members for your comments and submissions for improvement and is yet to be answered by the Hon Minister.

I also thank the Heads of the various Government Ministries and Corporations present here today. I believe it is now time for us to take our leave with prayer that our Lord guides us back safely tomorrow.

Lastly I want to thank all of Samoa; I believe your Parliament has been able to accomplish its programmes today due to prayers. I pray the Lord bless each and everyone within our country in all its honorary salutations.

Before we adjourn this evening I call on the Member for Faleata East to conclude our proceedings with a prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 7:02pm until 9:00am Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

**SPEAKER:** Well done Hon Prime Minister. Your consideration of me is similar to what I intend of you. I believe your dignity ought to be acknowledged and not put aside. What results do you get for working 48 hours? Most of the members are laid back in the House, yet your achievements must be recognized. Intentionally, what could be the result of that...Lealailepule is again upstanding to give thanks over and over again.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker, the intention is to finish before 10am given your statement that we are resting well. Your honour, you see my head, I am in the sun from morning until night and I don't get worn out of toiling. You are lucky as you only hold the Government, whereas us, we hold the Government, the country, everything including the Ecclesia, Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Well, your head is wept from the sky. Your continuous muttering depicts the swift irritation to your head. Bear with me Cabinet, your opportunity is now available, I call the Hon Minister of Fisheries and Forestry.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Shortly, I will finish as the Hon Prime Minister has clearly spoken, on the same spirit, let us praise God for his endless love and kindness for finding this new day. Thank you too for the country's support. The presentation is through as given yesterday. Moving forward with the Ministry, let us move forward as we are organic, that is where the world is heading, we do not need chemicals, as everyone is now health conscious. Europe is now fully organic. The same goes for us. The production cost is also good. The current cost of coconut is 12-13cents. But if used organically, by estimation it costs 24 to 25 cents. That is the difference. In the past, the only coconut product that was produced from coconuts was copra oil used as export product. Today, most nations have turned to Virgin Coconut Oil, its more healthier to produce cosmetics etc. We met with an American Company yesterday with proposed plans to set up a local factory. We have a lot of VOC products produced locally, acknowledgement to the Women in Business who are spearheading this VOC product and the rural communities who are part of this VOC product distribution for them to assist its production. The only problem is that the production volume is very small when tons of these oil tanks are required by overseas companies. This includes America whom we met yesterday with plans to set up a commercial oil factory of their own in Samoa. Hence they are working closely with the Women in Business in this undertaking...who are leading the Virgin Coconut Oil and organic in setting up this proposal for the American Company. They affirm that the cost of coconut can reach up to 30 cents. That's the effect we received in the past, once the price increased, the coconut oil value dropped.

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Today, this coconut oil price is either sustained or risen. That is the forecast in the future. This means that we should plant more coconut trees. Most coconut trees have been cut down. During the German ruling, the coconut product was managed by the STEC because they were mostly cut down by the people, most people would use coconut to fence up cattle farming. Nowadays, the Ministry attempts to push the planting of coconut trees. One advantage of coconut trees is that they grow up to 60 -80 years hence coconut is always available unlike taro and other products that are only available up to six, seven or eight months. The fast crop or taro is the coconut product for the future. I have already provided most of the responses to the questions in the presentation I gave yesterday, except the query on matching grant. The total number of farmers who received a portion of this approved grant, for cattle 110, fruits and vegetables 50, poultry chicken 12, pigs 28, lamb 10, bee-keeping farming 1, hence 96 is now in the pipeline, we are swiftly undertaking this process unlike the first endeavour whereby we had to consult and look for farmers, hence the process should no longer delay. The total expenditure for this farming process is \$1,437,980. The cyclone recovery grant is also complete and processed.

**SPEAKER:** I beg indulgence Hon Minister as I give the opportunity to the member of Faleata East.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleata East):** Mr Speaker, with respect to the statement of the Hon Prime Minister, I need clarification to a question. The Hon Minister has discussed and I never thought I'd ask a question on this section, hence he has spoken of the used \$1million. The total grant is \$32 million; however this is the final year for this program. In query, how is the remaining portion of the grant used?

**MR SPEAKER:** The member's view is well received. I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** The matching grant is only \$8 million, \$32million is the total grant for the entire project, that is 30%. The grant allocation I am talking about is the matching grant which composes of 50% of the grant, I think I have discussed this before, so \$8million not \$32 million, we are trying to shorten our time. The Cyclone Recover took some time due to the electronic voucher system used to purchase items from stores, perhaps some of us have benefited from this (vouchers). A text is received through your cell phone that you present to the Ministry to get something like a pen that is handed it to the stores which is very effective. At the end of September last year, we had a trial run of 100 farmers. We found it effective that in October we had 300, December 999, January this year, we had 1,070.

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Another 1,000+ is in the process and the system is becoming very effective whereby most people are grateful to collect fence wires for cattle farming, wheelbarrows and all sorts of things. The question on taro carton in 2011 – there were no containers. By 2011 the program was already initiated for improvement and find overseas markets to sell taro produce. In 2012 – 15 containers, 2013 – 25 containers. Last year, we had 82 containers, therefore since it's still early in the year, the trend of taro exports have increased. In query since the member is not here who...mind you the Ministry is a service provider, they provide the service, according to the statement of the member of Aana Alofi No.1 Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi regarding his breadfruit farming and coconut that was treated by the Ministry, that is the essence of this Ministry, if there are issues such as vegetable blight etc, contact the Ministry immediately as we've already have a set system whereby responses will be provided to your queries as soon as possible. The chemical treatment used on the old man's breadfruit farming and coconut farming is now going well. If assistance is required such as fencing wire for cattle, chicken, pigs fence, pardon the House, contact the Ministry any time and the male colleagues will be there to show you. The same with taro, most of the taro supplies we have now is mainly carried out by the Ministry until the exporters are fully prepared before the process is passed out to the communities. The difference between the Statistics and our Ministry in term of census on cattle is that we register all cattle farmers in Upolu and Savaii, the entire Ministry staff conducted this survey which took three months to obtain the number of cattle, however I am not sure what system the Statistics Office was using, perhaps they were not aware of cattle farm fencing, including the produce prices in the market, they (Statistics) only look around the market upon arrival but do not go around as there are other mini stores behind the market, I don't intend to defame the Ministry but this is the difference between the Ministries involved and the systems used, I believe we are more accurate as we deal with the full registrations of farmers and the statistics of poultry farming, ducks, cattle, pigs etc.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister; I give the chance to the interruption of the member. I call the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Mr Speaker, the statement by the Hon Minister is very critical because this was raised by the Committee, according to the Statistics Act, this census is conducted every ten years and querying this, why was this conducted together with the five year plan Census because ten years is quite a gap? With respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Hon Minister, the chance is given to the member for his clarification. I call the member for Aiga i le Tai.

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**Susuga Ifopo Matia Filisi (Aiga i le Tai):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I do not mean to interrupt but according to the Minister, I beg forgiveness, I now get what I spoke about regarding Cyclone Relief, I asked if Manono Island was covered under the Cyclone Relief Program and two of its destructed boats? With utmost respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister to ensue his speech.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Thank you for the member's question. The member mentioned that he was on a business trip with the Minister, I stayed to supervise shipping services and things of that sort, hence I am not the one that the member is referring to because I did not travel with the Minister instead it was the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. As for the clarification to the member on Cyclone Relief on farming, what you say refers to destroyed boats from the Tsunami that was recorded by the Office when I got there because the Tsunami struck in 2009 and possibly that is how they were destructed. What happened after the Ministry's search found missing fishing boats on their registration list instead they were ferry boats used for carrying passengers. Therefore, there's a difference between ferry ships and fishing vessels. We are the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Store and Fisheries so if your fishing boat is not registered, you are not part of this program, but if ferry boats are registered, well that's it. That is why....

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon Hon Minister, the chance is granted to make further clarification on ferry ships and fishing boats.

**Susuga Ifopo Matia Filisi:** Thank you very much. The Hon Minister's explanation is well received but I speak of true events it was not the Tsunami I am referring to, I am talking about Cyclone Evans, none of Manono was affected, whereby two boats were hit violently by destructive waves which was the only destruction in Manono, the Minister I travelled with is well aware of this hence I am also aware of the Tsunami and its (Recovery) programs. Respectfully, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** That is exactly it, thus this means the boat you are referring to is the boat for carrying passengers (ferry). Because what happened is that these boats from my constituency are always in the way mind you our office deals with alia boats registrations used for fishing, however the thing with the boats mentioned, if we tell them to have their fishing vessels registered, they say no because it's the ferry boats for carrying passengers from Manono to Apia hence once this happens.

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These boats automatically turns into ferry boats, when they are not...due to their attempt to pay and make up the licensed boats at \$100 to \$200 depending on their sizes, I beg tolerance member, I think we have sort out that matter already. But that is the elaboration; tell your Constituency if it's a ferry boat, it must be registered because sometimes we find it serviced as a fishing boat. That is the end of this matter. Have a blessed day and sitting, thank you honourable Speaker for your patience on other scheduled business, regardless of the many issues, those are the facts of our discussion hence we shall discuss other things outside. May God bless Samoa and its support; bless this meeting today, respectfully thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you to the senior member's speech, most of the members' questions have been responded to, but I shall lay it before the Ministers, you know what to do as we are tightly on schedule according to the Leader of the Government. Thank you for the speech and the works of the Ministry. Well Hon Minister of Women Community and Social Development, be upstanding your time has arrived.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEO LEIATAUA (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Thank you Mr Speaker, greetings to yourself distinguished Chairperson, the prayer of offering this morning is notable to God and the country as a path to encourage us in the presence of the Leader of the Government the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers in accordance to today's sitting schedule. Hon Leader of the Opposition and the dignified members of Parliament of Samoa, we have assembled once again with the aim to discuss and review decisions for the benefit of Samoa which is the fundamental objective.

I believe it should not be a problem if I do not acknowledge the honorific salutations of the country, hence let me say that the three pillars is the covenant of governance by His Highness, the Le Ao o le Malo up to the people serving Samoa, the Judiciary and their service to the people through the Justice and the Courts Administration, the honourable Speaker of the Parliament of Samoa. The notable independent three pillars of the country also involves the various church leaders in all its honorific statuses as well as Samoa's significant honoraries that is still recognizable even if we fail to acknowledge, the words of the country have been well set out.

The dignifying gathering this morning respectfully as a representative of the Ministry and under the jurisdiction and care of the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, the internal affairs of *alii ma faipule* including the village representatives *Sui o Nu'u* and the Village Women Representatives *Sui Tamaitai o Malo* in the village communities specifically the people of Samoa and the various committees elected by the Government involving the engagement of the Faleula Committee with the developments of village communities or the Pulenuu Committee for Upolu and Savaii and the Women Committee.

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On the same note, I also greet the Government bodies, the Ombudsman Office occupied with protecting human rights and its passing legislation in Parliament last year. These additional roles and duties is Government's initiative to benefit Samoa to live a peaceful life specifically for health protection within and around various communities and the developments of Samoa engaged by the Ministry of Forestry, this is the role of *alii ma faipule*. If communities are well protected, Government plans will also be a success particularly its economy.

The use of Village Representatives *Sui o Nuu* or the Village Women Representatives *Sui Tamaitai o Nuu* stems from other Ministries requiring this service, the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development only get paid but most of their contribution goes towards these developments in Samoa.

Hence if the country is hearing this in your honorific statuses, on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet we extend our sincere appreciation for your enduring work and efforts last year in serving Samoa for the benefit of the country as a whole to sustain its economic status. Congratulations on your dedicated endeavours and improvement works executed from east to west of Samoa, the Government has entrusted your significant support specifically towards the SIDS Conference that has put Samoa on the map given the wonderful hospitality of its people. This is duly to the words of the Village Council *Alii ma Faipule* in the village communities together with the assistance of women in beautifying and maintaining our environments to maintain better health. Consequently, may the Good Lord be glorified for your great support and commitment. We have received the statement of the Minister of Works Transport and Infrastructure and the works within our communities, namely the unkempt roads. Hence if the Village Representatives *Sui o le Nuu* is listening, do a good job about this. Even in our village if the *Pulenuu* Village Mayor is hearing this, be heedful as these roads were not built with small Government funds, thus better maintenance can last and provide easier access for our guests taking into account natural disasters like Tsunami, thus is the purpose of the public roads to provide easier access to higher grounds through Government programs.

To the women, you have heard the Minister of Forestry and Fisheries, the Women in Business, your work is very critical in support of the Government programs including agricultural farming and other related businesses, as well as the Samoan fine mats (*ietoga*) that has your assistance.

Records has it that we have close to ten women weave communities or organisations that have achieved this milestone that attracts Government's purpose of representing the 10 very finely woven design (ie *tosi tasi*) that is very unique. During the Ministry's visit, we extend great thanks to the women nurturing at home, only God gives blessings.

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As the Minister stated if this is not during your time, it will be the next generation that will bear fruit through your works and initiative, not only with the *laufala* pandanus leaves to make fine mats, the *ie o le Malo* or the *ie Samoa*, the *lauu'a* (piece of bark cloth) must be planted to make *siapo* that is slowly dying out. Those are the treasurers of the country that boosts the economy not only on a large scale but the welfare of the people individually from the *siapo* and *ie o le Malo* developments. I have prolonged talks on this as no one made a mention of the Ministry's works. By this, then it means that the Ministry is exceedingly doing well, except for one member of Salafai, Afioa Afualo Wood Uti Salele, your view is never forgotten regarding your blessings upon the *sui o le nuu* and the *sui o tamaitai*. That is the intention from me and the Ministry. As noted, the works is unforgettable; the country cannot be bribed by our words. Essentially, when words are spoken and in return we appreciate them if the people doing the job are hearing this, because we only plan and fund but financially the public normally makes the purchases. But we shall query the services of the many Ministries and Public Enterprises. Hence lend us your support as mentioned earlier, the Government has looked into it, with rising supplies in 2005 that took us almost 10 years. That is Government's intention and myself through the Ministry to receive additional benefits through the many developments and services achieved which is not cheap to get from morning to nights.

That is the basis from me for the sake of Samoa listening in, let us work together and take heed of Government's developments and the lands that must be well maintained and protected to assist the Government through the *sui o nuu* and the *sui tamaitai o le Malo* within the village communities. That is it from me whereas the member for Siumu although he hasn't given a view yet but I told him not to worry about the fresh water source of Sagaga that will have Government's assistance straight after Fagaloa and Nuusuatia. Thus, do not be anxious but bear with us, if it wasn't done during your time, that's solely your fault.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister as the member for Siumu is trying to be upstanding.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu):** Mr Speaker, I rise to note a word of appreciation to the Hon Minister. I envy this Minister as these are the kind of Ministers I feel proud of although the request I made was not a written nor a verbal one, but I did speak about it the previous year. Hence is the gratitude to the Minister who still remembers. This is the same statement he gave last year, it will soon reach Siumu, I beg tolerance, this undertaking needs to be completed before the elections. Good luck with that, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done. Be upstanding...pardon the Hon Minister as the chance is granted to the member for Faleata West.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I also requested the water of Vaitele opposite Vailima that is located at the village's site, for your consideration but do not listen to the manipulative (statement) given by the member of Siumu.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister to ensue his speech.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** The orders of the House pardon the honourable Speaker and the dignified Government, what the member states signifies an alert member but do not raise (matters) during response time. That water source does not matter as it comes under the Ministry and the Prime Minister who are also aware of it. Specifically we should continue to maintain it by reducing rubbish pardon Samoa hence this should not avoid what must be done at the appropriate time. As of now the appreciation has been given. Furthermore, thank you Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for creating an additional office for the Office of the Ombudsman at the appropriation of \$30,000 allocated under the Government's Supplementary Appropriation (No.1). Even though this is not covered in the Committee's Report, otherwise the legislation is well taken and the Committee cannot review it again. Hence thank you for recognizing our view Revenue Commissioner. May the service of these senior gentlemen continue as leaders of the Ministry, Office of the Ombudsman and the CEO of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. I believe it is appropriate to make a mention that this is the day when the former CEO of the Ministry, Afioga Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago Elisara will be travelling abroad to take over her new duties. She has been managing the Ministry as a CEO and her resignation has now been accepted by the Government before the duration of her three years term. The former CEO has looked beyond to broaden extensive knowledge most specifically for her children and as such she has accepted the top post as Secretariat of the Pacific Communities in New Caledonia. That is also Government's intention for our men and women to take over these regional positions in honor of our Government and the country. Well honourable Leituala, may your duties and roles be blessed and take heart be courageous in taking over your new responsibilities. Remember your country, the new roles you undertake involves a huge contribution to the Pacific, prioritize Samoa in all the Pacific programs and the decision making for its welfare. God bless you and your family when you depart. Well Samoa, you have heard us that is all the explanation I have, hence I convey sincere appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for supporting this Ministry in its decisions for the prosperity of the country. Although we have witnessed and heard the lack of support towards our government, nonetheless, let us have patience as the testimony of Peter the Apostle is not mistaken, *'If God be for us, who can be against us?'*

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May your strength be filled Hon Prime Minister regardless of the unheard voices, that is a sign that appears to bow before you, otherwise, your Cabinet silently supports you with hope in spite of the many challenges and difficulties particularly the allegations laid against the Government. God is watching us. In the testimony of Paul the Apostle, he emphasised three main things, hope, faith and love. Above all else is love. That is the foundation of my belief that fulfills Government duties and principles by loving the country. Be blessed honourable Speaker, Prime Minister and the Cabinet, bless this side of the House and the support of Samoa from paramount to commoners as well as the Heads of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and the Ministry under my supervision.

Respectfully, have a nice day.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. The House has heard your clear statement. You have also talked about the (former) CEO of the Ministry that is the spirit, may God guide her.

I call the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology; it is time for your Ministry.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communications and Information Technology):** Thank you honourable Speaker for the opportunity. I greet the dignified members of the House as I still uplifting spirit from the Almighty God and His guidance upon Samoa's meeting this new morning. I acknowledge the notable honorific salutations of Samoa's representatives particularly the honourable Speaker. I rise with respect to respond to the raising matters by the Members during debate in our sitting.

This involves only a few hence I will elaborate some of these concerns. The SNBH or the National Band was questioned whether it has reached the Ministry of Justice. The answer is yes, all Ministries are now covered. The query on whether hearings is accessible on internet abroad, I believe most of these queries can obtain replies some times under the jurisdiction of the Hon Minister of Justice involving various legal issues other than the legal framework that guides the work of the Ministry as opposed to laws and procedures set for the public. The Ministry of Justice in Savaii is progressing with the Samoa network. This new initiative from the beginning or the Samoa National Broadband Highway aims to accept changes and improvement to increase connectivity in the future regardless of the time. Therefore, the aim is to improve Government networking at a broader level in Samoa. The question related to the Health website, well the Hon Minister of Health has responded, works have commenced with SNBH approved upon a signed agreement to go ahead with this initiative in order to connect with the main office in Apia and other Health Services branches.

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That is currently in progress thus it is not an easy undertaking however the Health employees must be well trained with providing and receiving accurate, reliable and effective recommendations to avoid any miscommunication. The current connection still exists under the cable connection using optic fiber cable today. Difficulties still exists with the Digicel post fixed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Communications. The query regarding the use of video conferencing is currently in operation and has existed for quite some time however there is a slight problem with the health communication links given the requirement of accurate information and time to fix it due to health risks. Then we have the query by the member of Asau who commented on the lack of precise clarification on the...

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the member of Faleata West, I call upon the member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West):** Pardon the Hon Minister because I raised the Broadband project a while ago and the Minister said that he will respond once it's connected. In query Hon Minister, who exactly is managing this initiative because there is a contradiction with the Private Sector which I don't believe, hence it is good to get a proper clarification from you (Minister of Communications) because there was initiative that it will be managed by your Ministry for equal accessibility to be in line with the proposed fees of the Office of the Regulator. Respectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No. 3):** Thank you honourable Speaker for the opportunity, thank you also Hon Minister for the clarification regarding some of the recommendations. Firstly honourable Speaker, the clear recommendation by the Hon Minister of Health has it that the server has been down for the past three months. In advise to the Hon Minister, firstly, are there any trainings along the process for managing and handling this (communication network service) including capacity building for the Ministry employees like what we had for the Ministry of Health as most emergency cases are rushed to the hospital given this down server for three months thus communication links is very crucial at this stage in my belief, however there is inadequate training for staff development of nurses and the management team. Secondly, the servers maintenance query and...from the hub or central location in regards to the Ministry sections considering trouble shooting or when finding something inappropriate must exist to assist and effectively respond to these problems in the future, I believe a lot of investments were put in by the Ministry and the Government, hence service improvement is very critical moving forward.

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In addition to this Hon Minister, what is the proposal for executing other services by the Ministry that perhaps after the next three months they should have an online system to make networking easier for the Ministries to effectively obtain information from the Ministry (of Communications) in response to their queries.

Lastly honourable Speaker speaking of Government service is it possible to extend and share the same network with the Members as most of the work requires effective communications with the Ministries as well as the constituencies, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you. These questions should've been given in the beginning in order to get surety responses instead of hastily giving them now; nevertheless I shall attempt to answer them even though we have waited a long time for them. I will conclude my presentation on the raising matters in the House regarding Asau area and advertisements on TV. The Ministry's monitoring report in the months of November and October was their last visit in Savaii and the reception feedback in Savaii particularly for Asau is well received although at times difficulties are encountered. Experts say that the reception will provide clear exposure if an antenna is installed outside thus involving slight undertaking work to find a clear coverage for TV1 and the other four channels that is poorly received in Savaii. Fixed work is currently undertaken by the TV Office in the village of Tufutafoe to ensure full coverage in this part of Savaii and according to their statement they will obtain good results by the end of this month after consultations with the village, whereas of the current, small improvement work can still be carried out with the televisions and antenna of each individual customers.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the member, I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua (Vaisigano No. 1):** I thank the Hon Minister, I support his statement that the reception is normally clear in the day however there is very poor reception in the night but the Hon Minister is correct that there is another way to fix the problem during the day so that when dusk reaches, the coverage is still clear. thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you. Like I said, there are consultations process currently undertaken by the TV Office and the village of Tufutafoe to improve TV broadcasting as most of the time, the reception is very poor according to the members.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015**  
**– debate ensued**

A question by the member for Gagaifomauga No.1 regarding the Cable connection to Savaii affirmed that it only reaches up to Manase, which is correct, that is where fixed work by Blue Sky is left off with and their response (Blue Sky) states that improvement work is still in progress nonetheless Blue Sky is not fully managed by the Government nor any other service provider company but in advice, we can work together upon the constituencies demand, well the Blue Sky is hearing this as these can be additional customers to your business once the Cable reaches these village communities but we cannot push forward if it does not go in line with their business plan, otherwise the members can advice the service provider companies for assistance towards their own constituencies together with the Government assistance. The question on who will manage the SNBH? Currently, it is managed by the Government under a Special Committee. This Committee is comprised of three members with a service provide company that provides Technical Oversight. Therefore, they are assisting through other matters...nonetheless it is managed by the Government at the current and a decision is yet to be made of who will manage it. There are plans to keep the Government watch on it either way or officially advertise to get other qualified companes to overtake it. Another recent question is....

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I beg tolerance Hon Minister very quickly since this part is significant.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, I grant the opportunity to the member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The protection of bidders when one company takes control (SNBH) seems to disadvantage another company. But it is best to create another Government entity to manage it to provide equal opportunities for the vying companies but I will leave it to you. Respectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister I recognize the Hon Prime Minister. I call the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, based on observation with the developments progress of TV and electronics all uses of technological communications. Life is still moving forward. The issue engaged by us does not only involve us alone rather it's an international problem specifically involving developed countries with advance technology. I wanted to make interactive connections with our Office in New York through the use of internet, however the internet has been off for a week at our Embassy Office (in New York) which is one of the central locations in the world that is well equipped with everything. Note the status of this situation? Life is moving in advance.

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– debate ensued

I forgot that I also had this in this House when travelling...I and Fiame attended the funeral service of the late Prime Minister Muldoon in Auckland. A choir of 60 sang at the funeral of Muldoon. As soon as the pastor rose and said, "We shall commence this service" all lights went off automatically right to the end of the service. Consequently, the choir all depended on the pianist, the piano was off and the choir could not sing thereby no song was sung up to the end of the service. I only wished that it was a Samoan choir we wouldn't have needed any of this. I also attended another huge Commonwealth conference, once the Prime Minister got up to give a statement, all systems went off. At this stage, technology is in advance. Not long ago did we use cable gram that is read out for hours from the 2AP, Simi to pick up money at the office, Sione to pick up money from New Zealand. That is no longer the case. Then we had the telex (system). What now? We no longer have telex but fax. We now have facebook and other social media programs, this is a big change as we can view the other person whilst **talking. With the rising** number of changes, we must be patient as days are abundant. When I went to have lunch (toonai) with our village in the rural area, they complained that they still haven't received coverage of TV1 for three weeks. I told them to bear with me as I will advise TV1 of this request because truthfully advance technology also involves not just us but the entire world.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well I call the Hon Minister of Communications to conclude your statement.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you for the detailed clarification Hon Prime Minister. That's the statement, everything has problems but the least we can do is try. The recommendation by the member for Faleata West, thank you. That is the Government's intention to maintaining the management of this development. The question regarding a Unit to manage this undertaking is in line with the query of the submarine cable controller seeing if possible to integrate them into one body. For everyone's information, the established submarine cable comprises of three members. That is the process from the two weeks consultations before the cable is fixed from start to finish. These queries depend on the funding assistance from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the statement of the Hon Minister as we now arrive at our normal recess this morning. Let us break before the member ensues with his statement upon our return.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now laid aside at 10.17am and resumed at 10.46am. Debate now resumed for the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done this part of the morning. I believe you have been re-energized from our morning tea break whilst we ensue with our sitting this morning.

I call the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology to resume your statement and presentation for the Ministry. I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** I extend appreciation upon the notable members after returning from our morning recess. Before our break I was attempting to provide responses to the raising queries. Another question is whether trainings have been conducted, yes training have been carried out for those engaged with this program particularly section of the Ministry of Health in relation to the use of this system because like I said, this implementation process involves health risks for better development.

Another question is whether we have central location to coordinate this execution. The answer is yes, works of this sort requires part of that process. The Ministry of Health is also prepared to coordinate and regulate maintenance work. This requires developmental plan to improve the progress of this undertaking.

Lastly the query I responded to in the beginning, yes, all Government Ministries are in this SNBH network. Other users are not yet part of this system which isn't a priority need for them, but a system in place now once they become (internet) users it will automatically be on the rise. I have already elaborated part of the submarine cable with a special team selected to oversee it. I hope this system will work soon. The sooner will take a year and half but huge work needs to be undertaken in the deep seas. Work on land is easier than the sea considering the guidelines and policies to achieving good results in the end. Well those are the concerns put forward. Very soon we will hear a final decision to proceed with cable wire stretch under the sea once everything is in place together with the funds and a company to manage this development. Hence, one of this reviews is finding a Company or Corporation to manage this (undertaking) which is similar to the question of who will manage the SNBH. This poses the question of incorporating SNBH and the submarine cable to be in line with this plan. These are the only concerns but I extend gratitude to our sitting today and the views shown upon this Ministry and its good undertaking.

Thank you also to any Ministry for their support and assistance towards this Ministry. Thank you to the CEO of the Ministry as well all CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations for your contribution, you bear the hard work the most. May God bless Samoa and its support particularly the constituency of Vaimauga West. God bless your support, the same with the honourable Speaker, have a blessed meeting.

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– debate ensued

**MR SPEAKER:** Well thank you Hon Minister, who is the representative of the Ministry in particular the Ministry of Communications. I pray for blessings upon you and your set duties and responsibilities. Hon Minister of Public Enterprises.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Public Enterprises):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Since this is a short day the speech will also be brief together with responses. Before I respond, I wish to acknowledge the presence of dignified House, the honourable speaker, Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers, Hon Leader of the Opposition and that side, the respectable CEOs of Government Ministries and Corporations gathered before us today, the media group and the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I also greet Samoa from elders to children. I also greet the constituency of Satupaitea from Malaeaoga to Falepau. I also greet the fathers and mothers of the various Ecclesias in the constituency. Well done on your support in the previous years. Like the common word I speak of, without your support, I wouldn't have any contribution to the decision making of Samoa.

Mr Speaker, I only received very few questions on the Ministry that have already been given responses by my fellow Ministries on matters involving lands and roads, I don't need to...another section replied by the Hon Prime Minister, I wish not to mention it again. Nonetheless I shall progress with the six queries raised by the members. The member for Faasaleleaga No.2 is a very critical member noting his concern on statistics and figures and records and the health survey matter involving the Bureau of Statistics of Samoa, I responded that the survey is conducted on a five year basis which is the normal process every year, but thank you for the reminder.

The member for Falelatai and Samatau, he mentioned something very significant concerning students attending school without the need for a birth certificate which is no longer a requirement for the Ministry of Education. Then I come to the Bureau of Statistics of Samoa for the sake of listeners tuning in. The aim of the Ministry of Education is to encourage children to go to school without having to worry about getting a birth certificate that is the first preference whereas the Statistics Office should heed the birth certificates records for the public. This is a reduced burden by the Ministry of Education because the Ministry of Education are not the only ones requiring birth certificates. I attended a Ministerial level conference in Thailand a few months ago a first of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region with the aim to strengthen the importance of vital statistics, birth certificates, birth dates, marriage certificates, death certificates and records of that sort and the reason of death as such information do not bear much significance to some. For the information of everyone, your birth certificate is your legal document that signifies your status and nationality and the final use of this document ends when you die lest you think that the Legislative Assembly is not taking these legal documents in deep consideration.

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– debate ensued**

By affirmation, this document is very important not only for school but it also represents your true identity and nationality. Those are the only matters I wish to explain to the member in case the country thinks that birth certificates are not important, perhaps that is...the system by the Ministry of Education is well received with a requirement that when a student attends school, parents must still keep their children's birth certificates.

A response has already been given to the member for Faleata West query on the lands and public road at Falelauniu. It seems that these two Ministries are not collaborating well whilst the Ministers are looking for a solution to the problem. Similar response has also been assigned to the two lands considering Government reform. Well done to the member for Faleata West for addressing initiatives that have already been undertaken by the Government.

On to the query regarding PSC decisions. I guess this is where all complaints go to. Ever since taking over the PSC portfolio I have studied and observed all its decisions. I have also consulted the Commissioner during our meetings, to emphasise its transparent decisions on the principles and existing policies and legislations for the Ministry (PSC). I avow that no wrong decision has ever been executed by the PSC which follows set guidelines and principles. However the decisions for other Ministries have everyone's agreement comprising of respective public servants from various Ministries involving income and human resource development benefits.

In belief, if our country aims to move forward that is impossible without human resource development. The decision making is not done lightly by the Commissioner. We are still going through a consultation process with them and I can assure you that the decisions made are based on principles and authority. According to the Act there is something that must be changed, if amendments need to go through, do not be anxious to change it. We've also received some of the points discussed by the Minister of Education Sports and Culture and the Prime Minister regarding change as no legislation remains unalterable. With the advancement in the country, that is how it is. We also have decisions involving casualties in the villages and organizations, we have to expect casualties alongside our developments, that is real case scenario shared by the ACEOs which is why these positions are on a three years contractual basis before we have the Drawing Board to find the most potential candidate that does not necessarily need to be an experienced or senior person but a suitable well qualified candidate to assist one Ministry after another. I speak of my New Zealand experience, the CEO level only holds two terms that isn't applied here but the human resource development of a village regarding a vacancy needs a breath of fresh air new ideas, new talents to apply in the Ministry. Everytime I worked once the CEO ends his/her term I said, well this CEO is leaving soon when he still has potential, and a new CEO takes over and do much better by way of development, initiatives and becomes more of an asset to the Ministry.

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– debate ensued**

Therefore, public relations is very complicated, in case we say, he is unemployed however we must look at the picture at large, don't look at the forest for the trees. Nobody is perfect as we sometimes make mistakes in our decision making. The only request for this Ministry is to take heed of the final decisions made which is not an easy role to play as procedures and processes are also involved in the legal sense...from laws passed from within this House and not them. If we find that these decisions have breached the law that is why we have complaints otherwise, PSC is currently complying with formal procedures. I shall move on to the next matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Pardon the Hon Minister; I give the chance to the interjection of the member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I give the chance to the Minister to drink some water, well done thank you, I am contended with your response and the....the task is not easy that is very true, but as reiterated there is a rising number of complaints to the Ministry therefore, we must work together to minimize it and ask why these complaints are on the rise against the Ministry? We must think positive but thank you for assisting other concerns because this isn't a contradiction between us and the Ministry rather it is a contradiction between the Ministries themselves. Mind you the aim of the PSC is to empower and devolve all Government Ministries to implement work based on their level of expertise and knowledge hence thank you for developing this initiative but if the law is too extreme and a disadvantage to other people, well there you have it, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well I call the Hon Minister to resume his statement.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL:** Well thank you respectable member for the assistance, on that, no Ministry aims to dishearten Samoa, no we aim to work together to make work easier hence PSC is the focal point for all the (Government) Ministries but bear with me, I will endeavor to the best of my ability to assist the Ministry to expand the human resource development for the Government.

One of the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele questioned the SLC hotel. For the information of the member, the Ministry has had consultations on that without intending to set up a hotel to vie with the Private Sector which is one of Government's manifestos, to develop the Private Sector engaged with special knowledge on hotel developments, the manifesto for SLC is management of public lands for investments. The recommendation made by the former Minister in the past for a hotel establishment was indeed a good plan however there was no intention to have this Government Ministry run a hotel, no we are at ease delivering the...there is plan to handover this doing to the Private Sector...But thank you for the comment.

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– debate ensued**

On to Statistics by the member of Forestry, Fisheries and Agriculture Store, well this (matter) should not have happened – the Ministry of Statistics has also been advised about this doing to prevent it from happening again in the future. If the Agriculture conducts an update visit this week and the Statistics takes a visit the following week, they will end up with two (different) results because they could obtain different records of cattle sum this week and cattle breeds may add numbers the next week or may be slaughtered reducing its number but the CEOs of these Ministries have sorted this out and hope it will not recur hence the Ministry of Statistics should not take the statistics of cattle. Papaliitele Niko raised the matter on suspension of CEOs and ACEOs with pay, for the information (of everyone), Papaliitele is my Associate Minister and I wholly rely on him as my associate. He's raised this twice, and all these is legally binded because once a person breaches a code of conduct, a specific division in the legislation stipulates leave with pay whilst section under the crimes ordinance and the Police Act specifies leave without pay, not every suspended person leaves without pay. But bear with me fellow Associate Minister at least you are now associated with me to discuss what to do about it....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance Hon Minister I give the chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** It's better to have your discussion and submit it before the Cabinet, despite approving it here, when we appointed the Finance Committee, we wouldn't have received these good thoughts. We now receive a number of good views as opposed to none during our time, but do discuss this between yourselves before you submit it to the Cabinet.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister to resume his statement.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL:** Well I almost got to that point nevertheless let us discuss before submission to the Cabinet. The only statement I wish to ...it's short.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Palusalua we are on time schedule. Leave aside the troublemaking manner....we will not gain anything from that as in the end...I call the Hon Minister to speak.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

**Susuga Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Since I was mentioned, your honor, I rise to speak briefly on the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister in particular the Hon Minister whom we work together. I am right about the Ministers hence is the raising matter I made as it has happened. At first is the confirmation of a public servant's income of over a year and findings has it that allegations are proven when expenditure of 200,000 will not be replaced when it can be rescheduled, if it's a temporary suspension, these benefits should be withheld because if these accusations are either confirmed or unconfirmed, the obtainment of benefits is guaranteed. This is the statement your honor.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your view is well taken. You will also discuss a submission to the Cabinet. I call the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL:** When we talk Papaliitele make sure all of that is revealed for our Cabinet submission. Mr Speaker this is all the responses I have but if you have any other question feel free to see me at my office. Have a very blessed meeting today. Soifua and be blessed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Short and sweet. We now come to the last Jew of the Cabinet. I call the Hon Minister for Revenue, the House is now available for your statement with the Ministry.

**Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO:** I feel grateful to God for making it today and we've heard the various submissions of dignified members specifically the Cabinet Ministers. By observation, I haven't received any queries or comments in relation to the Ministry for Revenue except for words of gratitude shown by the members towards this Ministry. The revenue earning shows the positive works of the Ministry. The Main Estimates and Supplementary Budget all depends on the income received from the works of the Ministry for Revenue. Mr Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister and the Legislative Assembly, the Ministry has a number of processes to follow because all our plans needs assurance the same talks I have with the CEO of the Ministry of Revenue, Government has perserverance in this Ministry through its revenue collection that if implemented well, Government will avoid distress on duty goods and tariffs at importation into the country. Mr Speaker like I said no queries were made towards the Ministry hence I have mentioned some of the significant moves at the current, in terms of revenue collection to develop our Supplementary Appropriation to execute Government projects although we are not 100% all the time as sometimes the targets are not met. The Ministry has called special recommendations from experts as customs duties is not something that can be done easily as it requires accountability and transparency.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

Mr Speaker may I take this opportunity to extend appreciation to the CEO and the staff of the Ministry for their effortless work. You rightfully know what I am saying in regards to the Budget Statement to obtain revenue collection through the Ministry of Revenue on a timely basis. That is all your honor like I said we did not receive that many queries in regards to the Ministry. May I grant this chance to extend appreciation to the constituency of Falealili for your support whilst engaging with the works of the Government. This is one district that immensely pushes for its agricultural developments following the Government's huge assistance. Be blessed honourable Speaker, Prime Minister and the respectable Cabinet. Soifua and God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the speech Hon Minister for Revenue and the Ministry for the well implemented works. I call the Hon Minister of Lands and Titles.

**Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA:** Mr Speaker and the notable members of the Legislative Assembly, we are also in the presence of the Heads of the Government Ministries and Corporations who are mostly engaged with Government's bulky roles and duties as well as the general public listening in, I rise with respect to speak on the tabling agendas.

Mr Speaker I firstly convey gratitude to the Committee for the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 particularly in review of these appropriations for this Ministry. We have taken note of the Committee's recommendation to improve the services of the Ministry. The recommendation states the use of renewable energy from the sun to assist the Ministry, one of the companies had utilised our top floor which will follow up later given the rising electricity charges hence this is not the only Ministry engaged with electricity costs through its expenditure on a yearly basis. Mr Speaker for the record and in terms of translation on this section of the Ministry's Report, I beg tolerance to the Clerk to check and see if this is a misprint of the MNRE Ministry printed under the presented recommendation content. Then I have a question raised by your honor, most of these matters pertain to the Ministries I oversee mostly regarding recommendations and requests and improvement services for the island of Savaii. I can respectfully say that all these requests and good recommendations have been well noted. One direct question relates to the raising services on some sections of the Ministry including the matai title (saofai) enquiries and application requests to the Lands and Titles Court at a fee that used to be \$60 (fee) but now its \$100. Mr Speaker and the dignified Parliament, this is the service weigh as for the information of the Parliament, the matai titles *saofai* is advertised twice the same with our requisitions. On general queries with regards to countless services within the Government Ministries I note that has been replied by the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

Well perhaps this was also mentioned in the statement of the Hon Prime Minister, I wish to highlight one of the raising services in the Ministry under the Lands and Titles Court regarding computer record keeping and filings in Upolu at a total of 25,000 have just been used. The significance of this new service and project is to raise protection and preservation of old records. Moreover, the protection of old records and information is for the Ministry's reference. Thirdly, the Ministry has computerised information for easy retrieval of records and papers for the public. This new undertaken has completed for Upolu and will continue on in Savaii. This work is ongoing involving filing first before recording. The organising of papers is completed for Savaii and is progressing on to photo shooting and filing of 20,000. We've also discussed the audio recording system at the Court House in one of our sittings thus I proudly announce that all systems have been installed inside the Court House of 12 including Savaii.

Mr Speaker that is the short explanation with respect, have a blessed meeting. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well thank you for the clarification Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration particularly other Ministries under your portfolio. Thank you. I call the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Minister of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour):** I extend sincere appreciation to the honourable Speaker and your patience this part of the day. I believe the glory to God is greater as we gather once again this New Year in good health and spirit.

I acknowledge the presence of the honourable Speaker and the dignified House Hon Prime Minister and this side as well as the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and their Party.

I also acknowledge the honorific salutation of Samoa. Greetings to the notable *faleupolu* as that is your main responsibility as for this part of the day and the presence of the honourable members who are chosen representatives of the paramount meeting of the country. I believe your far sighted wisdom in search of reaching sound and constructive decision making for the future of Samoa. Let us be hopeful of our journey this new year and may it be blessed and not abandoned for both sides in the House and may we be spiritually enriched.

Mr Speaker, the Polynesian Airlines vision isn't lightly taken moving forward hence these are the normal procedures for any company by seeking ways to improve and grow which is the key objective to attaining higher surplus. It has taken four to five years since this objective has been achieved for our company (Polynesian) and no doors has been closed so far hence there are windows of opportunities and services expansion in the future.

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– debate ensued**

From this, it is not as if the company and the Government isn't doing anything, there are still discussions and findings on service improvement for the country's prosperity as this is one of the things that our economy is relying on given our tourist arrival numbers. That is the aim of the Government through this event to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the people. All these depend on marketing promotions and the number of travellers and the legislations that act as guide and requirement for this type of business. Therefore opportunities to continue this service is still available as witnessed in one of the new flights to American Samoa for the locals. Not only locally but also involving other countries of the world. Since the Hon Prime Minister has clarified other services including the Virgin Samoa and its partnership. The Government is also seeking other avenues as most of the incoming flights will assist with our economic status in particular employment opportunities for our people and graduates. The statement relating to a complaint on airfares between two travel agencies agreeing to a standard airfare price to acquire profits will disadvantage the travellers. Similar concern with the travel agencies is also applicable to airline companies in the market working along the process. Therefore these negotiations aim to avoid competition. By reflection and awareness, one of Government's main objectives is to raise competition within the business cycle by lowering the price of goods for the country's benefit. If it involves various services then so be it. This is also beneficial for the country as a whole when competition has a positive side to it.

Such was the concern by one of the members. However the question is: what is the solution to this issue? Most countries of the world have laws that regulate this doing. We have already drafted a legislation and relevant provisions on this, perhaps the Attorney General and the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour are hearing this, that legislation should reach the House and its March sitting by next month. But there are other processes that can minimize these competitions for business operators to make more profits whilst the consumers suffer. That is the process as we move forward.

Last December, I received a visit from the private sector local entrepreneurs who negotiated talks with a Chinese airline agency. The aim was to push flights from China to Samoa through New Zealand and Australia. Hopefully this undertaking is achieved. With more incoming flights at low price level comes competition. This target involves difficulties and legal process but this will not avoid the process for negotiations and opportunities.

The cost for a box of chicken is \$95 voiced by one of the members is correct. In reality there are two different kinds of chicken. The cheapest chicken was \$64 and \$65 per box from America. There is trouble along the working line for chickens in America which is reason for the delay. Business people are now finding ways to get chicken supplies from New Zealand.

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– debate ensued**

However, the chicken in New Zealand is costly. Perhaps the trouble with the chicken supply companies will soon be over in America before we can get the cheap chickens again. The works of our export products is made possible through the collaborating efforts of the Ministry and the private sector, the Minister of Agriculture has also mentioned the taro produce. For the past 12 months, we gave a number of containers whereas in terms of collaborating efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture and the export sector, there is a growing number of taro supply export generating \$4million earnings received for that year compared to \$1.7million revenue earning received in 2012/2013. Therefore, this is a significant raise for taro supplies and revenue earning showcased in New Zealand. By observation, these crops have reached 100% quality standards during the New Zealand export exhibition.

Mr Speaker, before I conclude, I wish to greet my constituency and their support laying aside your honorific salutation. I extend sincere gratitude for your support and prayers and thoughts upon me in support of your representative, may the good Lord grant you blessings this New Year. Before I wrap up Mr Speaker, I wish to extend warmest sympathies to the wife and the family of the Ecclesiast of the village of Leusoalii and the district given God's calling upon the Elder Pastor, may you be comforted in God's spirit and may our spiritual father finds a place in heaven. Well Mr Speaker, may the support of Samoa be safeguarded and blessed as well as the House and the dignified members, may God bless the CEOs of the Ministries and Corporations who are assisting the country's meeting. Be blessed and soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you for the statement Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour. Hon Prime Minister I call you to conclude your statement for the Cabinet and the Government.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker and respectable House, the fire is now on to me. The acknowledgement and congratulations upon the Hon Ministers and their preparations shouldn't be minimal given their clear responses provided to the raising matters in the House. Other matters concerning myself, well I have already clarified them during our deliberations except one concern mentioned by the Deputy Prime Minister in regards to the airport status and flight schedules and the essence of receiving bidders in relation to lower prices and quality service delivery. The recent example is the competition between Digicel and the Blue Sky, at first we have had very poor telecommunications and services. The laid out plans stated by the Deputy Prime Minister is ahead of us and is set appropriately with the Five Stars airport and departure area standards. Once the Five Stars is set for the airport, this means that our airport standards have improved far above other airports of the Pacific region.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015  
– debate ensued**

That is the only way for us to make easier negotiations to getting other flights to Samoa to improve and increase visitors' arrivals in Samoa and boost economic growth and job creation for our children. Mr Speaker, I recommend that we now proceed with the consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Budget.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you. We now have concluded the debate on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015. I will now put the question.

*The motion moved on the 16 December 2014 was approved and the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 was read a second time.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.1)  
2014/2015 – consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Legislative will now consider in detail the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015. In progress of the consideration in detail of the Bill the members can comment on matters written on Paper 2014/2015 No.157, Supplementary Appropriation First on Revenue and Expenditure of the Samoan Government for the year end 30 June 2014. Pursuant to Standing Orders 134, the consideration in detail commences with Schedules.

**FIRST SCHEDULE  
VOTES AND APPROPRIATIONS  
ADDITIONS IN APPROPRIATION**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>
<b>FORESTRY &amp; FISHERIES:</b>	<b>\$230,926.</b>

*Approved.*

<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>\$6,575,636.</b>
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**Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, the only part I wish to highlight, the appropriation and associated tasks of the Ministers and the Associate Ministers is clear at \$115,717 instead of \$1million as stated by the Leader of the Opposition.

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**Supplementary Appropriation (No.1)  
2014/2015 – consideration in detail**

*Appropriation of \$6,575,636 for Finance was approved.*

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE: \$831,860**

*Approved.*

**JUSTICE & COURTS ADMINISTRATION: \$395,000**

*Approved.*

**NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT: \$921,765.**

**MR SPEAKER:** You may speak member.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** (Faasaleleaga No.2): Mr Speaker, I have one small thing that I need to be clarified about the \$50,000 that is allocated for land technician services, hence the Committee Report and the Minister's statement on paying the workers is complete. This is the only bit I wish to gain understanding of, I know the Minister will assist.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):** Thank Mr Speaker, thank you also to the member for the question. The \$50,000 is payment made for the contractors for the services they provide. This includes the retirees. Respectfully.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well done thank you.

*Appropriation of \$921,765 for the Natural Resources and Environment approved.*

23 JANUARY 2015

Supplementary Appropriation (No.1)  
2014/2015 – consideration in detail

**POLICE:** \$636,000.

*Approved.*

**MINISTRY FOR REVENUE:** \$387,000.

*Approved.*

**OMBUDSMAN:** \$30,000.

*Approved.*

**STATISTICS:** \$84,596.

*Approved.*

**PRISONS & CORRECTIONS:** \$358,922.

*Approved.*

**NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION:** \$70,000.

*Approved.*

**SROS:** \$34,000.

*Approved.*

**LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY:** \$234,600.

*Approved.*



23 JANUARY 2015

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1)  
2014/2015 – third reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI  
SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to move, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 be read a third time”*.

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Communications and Informaiton Technology.*

*Motion approved and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2014/2015 be now read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MR SPEAKER:** I proudly announce that the assembling Legislative Assembly has progressed and passed the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1) 2014/2015 in Parliament. I believe we have reached our tasks for today as scheduled I thought that opportunity should still be given to the Hon Ministers to highlight some of today’s events, nevertheless we praise God for we have reached the end of this short day, congratulations to everyone in the House. The essence and spirit is to swiftly pass the Budget to be handed over to the Heads of Government Ministries for them to undertake their work. Congratulations to the House for your perserverence throughout the week until today as we arrive to the end of the this part of our session this week with hope to resume next Monday, the Budget has been achieved, hence we shall ensue gradually with the tabling legislations and Reports next week. I convey greatest thanks to everyone in the House including the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, well done on your patience. Samoa the works of your Parliament is now complete, thank you to those in prayers as we continue our work next week. The Government is also engaged with other lapsed tasks and responsibilities due to our sittings. Whatever remaining tasks and roles this week, may it go well with God’s blessings. I beg tolerance for no lunch, members can find food on their own regardless the office has tried its best to cater whatever was available for us today.

Before we end our sitting, I call upon the pastor this your assigned duty in the House. I call the member for Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam to end us with a prayer and bless the food we are about to receive.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:05 in the afternoon until 9.00am on Monday 26 January 2015.*