

FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2018

The Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

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

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT (Minister for Revenue): Thank you honourable Speaker, I move, *That the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

The motion was approved and the Bill was read a first time.

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Since I have the Certificate of Urgency, the Legislative Assembly will proceed with the second reading.
I call the Hon Minister for Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move, *That the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018 be now read a second time and I wish to elaborate it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister for Revenue, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

MR SPEAKER: Respectfully, this is the chance for the Hon Minister's clarification.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker, this legislation has provided a greater understanding to the House given the Hon Prime Minister's clarification of its objective. The main purpose for this Bill is attempt for our country to consume our local products. This Bill provides three reasons for new tariff rates for the purpose given in the Hon Prime Minister's statement yesterday. The bill is proposed to encourage healthy eating habits by increasing custom tariffs on unhealthy products such as turkey tails (20%); lamb flaps (20%), and chicken (10%) with the aim to protect our people from fatty foods and as I said, most of the clarification has already been given yesterday by the Hon Prime Minister, but if you have questions, I shall resort to answer them.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I give the first chance to the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Greetings Samoa for another new day, notable House, His Highness O le Ao O le Malo, Member of the Council of Deputies, Church Ministers for your support upon us and our decision-making this morning.

I only wish to make additions to yesterday's statement on continued increase to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Samoa, and the increase of patients treated at the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) reflecting the unhealthy eating habits of our people, and thereby raises the need to implement relevant strategies to alleviate this problem. Twice in a row, former Ministers before Mulitalo made attempts to set up a Kidney Foundation and statements received from the health reported that a total of USD\$40million (equivalent to SAT100million) is spent to fund the treatment of dialysis patients in American Samoa meaning that a cost of \$100million Samoan per annum will be used to service this undertaking. Due to the pricey cost, the State did not press through with this doing, however the matter was later re-addressed and the respective company that dealt with kidney treatment, mind you, dialysis process is when blood flows through the entire system and is refiltered and if anything goes wrong, the patient's days is numbered. This is reason for reaching a negotiable decision with the New Zealand Government whenever we take our patients to New Zealand, their Government should allow permanent residence for these local patients.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

We have had a former Cabinet Minister who went to New Zealand for treatment and never came back, such was the negotiation we did with the New Zealand Government, that whenever we send our sick people to New Zealand for treatment, they must give proper farewells with their families and relatives and apply for permanent residency before they depart for New Zealand. Despite the expensive price to set up a National Kidney Foundation, the State decided to establish one here. The offering price by a company in Australia to treat a local dialysis patient was \$40million per year. This is close to \$100 million per treatment which is also costly. This is why our patients were still taken to New Zealand for treatment. Reflecting back, I think three to four of our patients were taken at that time to New Zealand which amounted to over \$4million New Zealand dollar paid by Samoa for this small number of patients. A far-fetched decision was being done by Mulitalo at that time. During one of the Health conventions, Mulitalo was able to hold a talk with the Minister of Singapore to assist Samoa in the establishment of a National Kidney Foundation here. I had no idea how this was done, but the decision also had the involvement of Dr Benjamin who was looking after our patients at the time and was bestowed the title Papalii by Malietoa. This was Mulitalo's legacy which was unforgettable whereby, he had to cry in front of the Singapore Minister in order for Samoa to receive a National Kidney Foundation in its lands. This was the reason why we now have a National Kidney Foundation in Samoa built at a lower price and reason why our patients sent to New Zealand were brought back to Samoa for treatment. We have had the assistance of Dr. Benjamin for a couple of month until the handover was given to our local nurses and doctors. Despite failed efforts by other former Minister, Mulitalo fought the difficult part which was bringing forth this expensive foundation to be set up in Samoa. So what is happening now? We have over one hundred dialysis patients and these dialysis machines are also available in Savaii. This was no cheap doing and the word from the Cabinet says; dialysis is still increasing due to the food that we eat.

This was a very difficult decision for the Cabinet thus is the reflection *on the scriptures of the bible which acts as a guide to us, If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, you have sinned*'. Mr Speaker, that is the intention as sometimes we make political statements and sometimes it is emphatic when it comes to making difficult decisions involving matters such as this which we cannot make due to our fear.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

I pay much respect to the Hon Minister for prohibiting the importation of turkey tails which was contributing factor to poor health yet again; it is being allowed again. Similar to pubs and bars, cigarettes, the only help the Government can give is to raise tariffs to avoid people from purchasing and making the wrong choices.

Mr Speaker, those are the objectives to the bill, although we are aware of what to do and the right thing to do yet we still make the wrong choice, never mind it is good if we die from over-eating but if we die from malnutrition, that is the thing, once people are faced with difficulties they seek assistance from the Government and the Government will resort to finding remedies in response to these issues.

Mr Speaker, that is reason for my disappointment on the people and their mockery statements saying that I am the Father of the nation, when I am not, even the Le Ao o le Malo was disappointed with that, but the Le Ao O Le Malo is indeed the real father of the nation, I am only the leader of the country.

And when I ask what exactly do you want, they offer the many requests, such as the need for pigs farming, box of herrings, money etc but I am well aware of these people and their trickery statements. I affirm that the amendment is for a better and healthier Samoa, and urge our people to take a more active approach to life and be lazy as there is wealth in our surrounding to farm the lands and fish from the seas.

Mr Speaker, that is the addition to this Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I call the member to continue before the member for Salega East.

Tofa OLO FITI AFOA VAAI (Salega East): Thank you Mr Speaker but I wish to note my disapproval of the Bill specifically in regards to the increased tariff on chicken. The bill is inconsiderate of our average earning families who can only afford chicken. In order to promote healthy living, the products should be banned rather than raising tariffs. The added costs on lamb flaps have made it more expensive to the average family who rarely consume this product.

I feel for the country's needs and how this Bill is brought about and this tariff. True is the saying 'we sleep at night not knowing what tomorrow will bring. We had no idea that the Hon Minister would gone this far. Now that you intend to raise tariff to limit diseases upon the public as the Hon Prime Minister says. But why bring it up if the public will fall sick from these foods? I am very shocked with this.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

In query, where is our health prevention programs? We had so much money spent on these programs before that have suddenly come to a stop. I remember a time when we had radio distribution to the old women in the rural areas for their exercises, well that has gone too.

Honorable Speaker, if only the chicken tariff was up and the lamps were down. Perhaps 90% of the country do not consume lamp due to its high price. Now we have here 3 foods, turkey, chicken and lamp and the country is unaware of what to choose. Have a look into this again Hon Minister, and note the chickens as it is noticable that the chickens were brought from overseas and they used to be thin and getting here, they look thick. Have a look at the chemicals used as that is one of the factors that is making our people sick. I know for a fact that this is not it and why this tariff is suddenly up for all these food items. The public is hearing this now, you have no true love for the country especially you Hon Minister, with respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I get you. I call the Minister.

Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt: I wish to correct the claims made by the Member for Salega East that the bill is inconsiderate for the average earner, the Bill encourages making healthy eating choices. If this is the intention of the member alone in saying that he has no love for the country then so be it, whereas the Cabinet and the State works together to achieve all things, for who? For the country. Well this is the normal nature of Levaopolo or Olo? As he has two names, rather the essence of the Bill is not that it doesn't love the country otherwise it aims to specify ways to...In the past when we were little, women had chicken farms of their own, they had them in little boxes that is placed behind the house for the sake of the member if he grew up in the farms. These old women would use the eggs to make cake and feed the family. Refrigerators were not necessary in the old days to place eggs. That is the rightful intention of the State, to go back to the way things were, to get a hold of the food taste back in the day, where each...the women's committee were the only ones who were able to make this farming..Even if the Ministry of Agriculture were to implement this farming type, it is the women's committee that were very good in initiating this practice, chicken farming pardon me, it was free of cost. There was enough coconuts to feed the chickens, pigs, all these are available in Samoa to feed these animals.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

As for lamb flaps raise, well we are all aware, it is very oily. Chemicals are injected into these chickens and there are two things that the State can do, they don't have to bring in anymore chickens, lamp, or turkey meats. How does this member feel about that? Is it necessary? These foods will give the public the freedom of choice to choose from. Even with food delievery from American Samoa they are all taxed. Exempted fee is no longer allowed to be removed, any food item delievery the intention is to leave them rather the esence is to lighten the burden on food delievery fees. Rather it is now supplied in stores and shops to reduce the burden on the people. That is the response. This Cabinet has more love and concern with the public's needs.

MR SPEAKER: Very well.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I wish to clarify this bit as the Hon Minister has responded.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me but we shall progress with our business as this will be another debate.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: No just this bit please.....

MR SPEAKER: : I beg tolerance, you have had your chance and now that the Government has responded, this means that if you speak again the Government will also have to reply too taking up our time and what about the others? That is it I call the member for Palauli le Falefa followed by the member for Gagaifogamuga No.3.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker, thank you for the chance and our coming here today in the presence of the Government Leader, Cabinet and the Parliament.

Thus I wholly support this Bill, why? Health is the major concern for our people. The Hon Prime Minister has said it, we have over 130 people who have dialysis and the total Government expense for this is \$7million. The other portion is spent on other illnesses which takes up \$10 plus million hence we are talking about health assistance for our people so that we can live together in this life.

I thought this includes other Non-Communicable Diseases; I have already talked with other doctors regarding noodles and have noted the same in this Parliament whereby it causes slowness in the thinking. Secondly it produces Alzheimer.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

This means that if you cannot recall the things that you are doing then that means, you too have Alzheimer which is caused by too much salt in the noodles. The reason why this provision is covered in this Bill is because nearly 50% of the people are on the border line to getting dialysis which is very important that we be extra cautious and prevent it without having to avoid the free choice of an individual. I recall the former Minister Sala who really liked bats, and is very good at cooking. Although bats were banned from the environment but Sala always caught a bat, whenever I ask for a bat, he would say you mean turkey tail which is also illegal as turkey tails were prohibited from selling, otherwise, turkey tails were really good to eat but with very little salt otherwise, you will get sick when you have too much.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I do not object to the statement you make member for Palauli le Falefa. We crave for the good food that has good taste. Well done thank you.

I call the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 followed by.... well let's have the lady member first, pardon me Laauli.

Afioga FAAULUSAU ROSA DUFFY-STOWERS (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you. Greetings to your good self Mr Speaker, Government Leader and the Deputy Prime Minister, dignified members of the House and Samoa gathered here and those listening in.

I also agree with this Bill and the comments raised by other members for the good health of our people. The Minister should consider other avenues to accommodate the demand of our people in terms of money as others cannot afford expensive food items available in stores. The only food item the average group can afford with their pay is a box of chicken and a box of herring. Another thing we should consider is the variety of herring that are available now, some are no good as most of the recycling process have expired. But that is the only food bought by most of the public due to its cheap cost. I totally support and urge to bring great assistance to our people in lowering the NCD rates we have now. If the [village communities are able to set up chicken and pig farms then that](#) would be very helpful for our people. That is all, respectfully thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Afioga Hon Laauli Leuatea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT (Gagaifomauga No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker, all praises be unto God this morning, greetings Hon Speaker, Government Leader, Cabinet and Samoa this Sitting day.

This Bill is not new, the Minister for Revenue would always submit the rising cost of goods and the explanation it brings to health concerns. But we should urge the collective effort of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry to encourage the locals to set up all kinds of agricultural farming and natural products with the assistance of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in boosting our economic cycle mentioned by the Hon Minister for Revenue through our duty fees to finance our many developments.

The main intention of the Hon Minister is to remind all about the implementation of this Bill. It is baseless to talk often of these things when the main responsibility we should uphold is heeding great assistance to health and urging our agriculture sector to set up chicken farming and so forth...to raise funds for our budget and implementations. You are the main person that is followed up by the Government given your duty as the Hon Minister for Revenue to income collection as once everything is available and going well, then that is the intention. The health people should also consider more health awareness programs to remind our people the same with the Agriculture sector. But let us lay all concerns to you, I am positive that the implementation process will go well in accordance to the provisions of this Bill once it is passed. That is the advice, have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call the member of Alataua West.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Alataua West): Greetings Mr Speaker and the notable members of Parliament, representatives of Ministries and the various services gathered here this morning.

I only have a short contribution in regards to this Bill. The Budget 2017/2018 has already been approved given the statement by the Hon Minister of Finance in rearranging the percentage of duty fees and contributions received from the \$2.53million used to implement the current Budget this year. I agree with the member of Gagaifomauga No.3 on food items that we are used to however a raise is made for these food items. I also heed the concern by the Ministry of Health that imported food is much better than local processed food.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

It would also be very helpful if the NPF and the Development Bank could establish a partnership to reduce interest rates for the rural communities as reiterated by the Minister for Revenue, it is best to take it to the communities specifically the women council for this practice to work to assist our local projects like chicken farming to build our food development and its raising costs. That is the brief assistance on this Bill. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The member's view is well given, in depth thought should be made for us to make swift consideration upon our work.

I call the member...Pardon me, I allow the Government first.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker that is the spirit of debates in Parliament between the HRPP and that Side. The Bill is very simple but I wish to address some of the comments already made hence I heed the Minister of Women, Minister of Forestry and the Minister of Public Enterprise to listen very careful. You three will need to pay full attention to the recommendations voiced by the previous members of the House.

When we talk about pigs farming and chicken farming, no one bears the greatest responsibility and contribution then the Ministry of Women. I am well aware of chicken farming as I too grew up doing chicken farming since I was four years old. Mr Speaker, the raising matters are very important including the matter on smuggling. The same with the box of herrings, we all started from herring but people are now looking down on this food. Most of the food supplies available today are rubbish received from New Zealand and America including chicken and lamb flaps.

I was the main person engaged with the strike back in 1994 on the VAGST Act. Words at the time spread that the country will severely suffer from this tax. The Cabinet were hugely accused and given the **blame by the Opposition. What happened after that? In the end, none of the things that were said happened as all was a political move.** But if something was to occur at the time, we too were prepared to show who was stronger. It took five years for these strikes to go through and in consequence, the Opposition Side started to break up, the public therefore began to agree with Government's intention.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

That is the intention of most of us, whenever there is a price increase you all get shocked but there is something else following that we never think about, economists call it force of supply and demand which is described in the Samoan mindset, the authority between those who want to buy goods and owners of these goods. That stems prices for automobiles, rice, fish, overseas herrings and other overseas products including our taro and yams. Hence there is only one law for Demand and Supply. Whenever I use the direct language, I do not use the direct translation of the Samoan language into English, the language I use is the law for the Rich and Poor. So whenever we lack supply, the price rises, when we have plenty supply, the price drops. That is the case, milk use to be \$7 now it is reduced to \$2 tala and \$3 tala. Due to high competition with the Chinese, if it was not for them, price would now have gone down. This is only temporary because the power of the Rich and Poor law controls all international goods today. That is the only law that controls any good in the world.

Mr Speaker, during this strike the cost of a box of herring was \$100 tala. What did the Government do? We halved the box to make the price cheaper for village *faalavelave*. But we shall leave that to the respective Minister as even a box of chicken is too much for some families that some become sick from eating too much. There are many ways to skin a cat, as such we have received some very fruitful comments this morning to assist with this subject matter. As for duty fees, these matters are now new as some have said it, but when it comes to health concerns and what we eat, we are all aware of what to do even in the village.

The Ministry of Health advised that I should initiate zumba as part of their health awareness programs in Salelologa Savaii to attract more elders to exercise in the morning. We then went and initiated this activity together with the Ministers, a song was played and I had to dance (zumba) at eight o'clock in the morning although it was embarrassing for a Prime Minister to dance in the early hours of the morning, but I had to push and promote the awareness programs by women and doctors to encourage zumba in villages to reduce fats. It was not long that I danced like crazy in initiation of these health programs and later received news that small zumba groups have been established up to 100 in Savaii. Who initiated it? It was spearheaded by the Ministers, and I was very happy to note that the Ministers have now remembered that they are the first ones to dialysis if not the first ones to glucose either them or their faletua. That was the start of these health activities through zumba that the zumba teams were relying heavily on sound systems in order to execute this activity otherwise, it cannot be done. But these things we can work collectively on it. That is the addition on this matter.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Mr Speaker, this is the addition in regards to our fearness and when the time for implementation process comes, there will not be any concern as we have the Law for the Poor and Rich Days.

MR SPEAKER: Let's have the first chance to the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS (Minister for Women, Community and Social Development): Thank you Mr Speaker, I greet your goodself this morning. Greetings to the Government and the dignified House this morning. I wish to make a statement on this legislation in particular food.

We almost succeeded our motion to ban turkey tails and chicken and what we already discussed here instead, we took the notion that we should give people the choice to choose. However, the Cabinet has also considered illnesses caused from consuming these kinds of food and financial wise, it is quite too much considering millions of money required according to the Government Leader. But the Ministry has already presented its objectives for all Government Ministries to work together starting from children's education, youth, men, women in supporting this Program. Even in the collective efforts of the village representatives or the alii and faipule, sui o malo, pulenuu for Upolu and Savaii to take heed of children's education and health. We also attempt to....

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Mr Speaker, I wish to assist in something.

The Government has one response only, the Hon Prime Minister has already responded as well as the Minister, which is the same response. Can I get a chance to give a recommendation?

Respectfully.

MR SPEAKER: That is the spirit as... Do keep it short Hon Minister, if Members have queries in regards to pulenuu and referral of duty to women or sui o malo, the Minister has given a clear clarification, others have it too in past Parliamentary terms, they have done chicken farm, pigs farm and now its back to square one, it depends on the household.

Do conclude your speech Hon Minister.

23 MARCH 2018

**Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading**

Tofa Hon FAIMALOTOA KIKA IEMAIMA STOWERS: Thank you. I will make it short, we are the leaders of our villages and districts hence we must lead the way by encouraging these farm developments and become initiators of these lay out programs in the village. Let us initiate and develop the districts for the wellbeing of our nation as a whole. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER. Very well thank you. We have perhaps two more speakers. Note it down, we have four more members to comment when we return from our normal break.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess at 10.28am and resumed at 11.26am

MR SPEAKER: I believe you have been rejuvenated from our morning tea break.

I now announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. During our break the member for Urban Seat was speaking; conclude your speech member for Vaimauga East.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA (Vaimauga East): Thank you Mr Speaker as I will contribute to the tabling Bill in the House. The Government has also been gained strength from our morning break.

I wish to appreciate the good works of the Minister and her Associate Minister for the Government. First of all, the previous estimate of \$2million discussed by the Hon Minister and the current Budget is now approved hence I do not have any further comments about it, only this, do regard chicken as the cheapest meat consumed and purchased by most of the consumers in the country, at first there was no duty fee now a fee is being imposed. The only recommendation is to put a hold on tax for now until the plans for chicken house is complete by the Ministry of Women. I have done some investigations on chicken, and it is said that this is the only meat that can build good, tall and strong men like Leala. In comparison to our neighboring island of Tutuila....

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

MR SPEAKER: I call the Prime Minister.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There was a day when our team was carrying out its training and they all had to eat the same food which was recommended by the coach. And the assistance coach went and orderered his food which had these chickens, and he got the scold from the coach as the recommended food by the dietician was the only food that was allowed to be consumed by all during trainings and we should lead by example. To the current speaker, say something you know instead of saying things that will further ruin our players.

MR SPEAKER: That is reason for advising Members to make in depth speeches in relation to the Bill and be brief. That is why we should take the lead and be initiators of everything we discuss here because what is the purpose of all this when our young children our sick because of these food? Let us lead by example in health, education and the development of the country. Speak directly.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, I am full of respect because the Hon Prime Minister has interjected when I have not yet given confirmation. Look at the island of Tutuila, the body figures of the children pardon me, they eat the entire chicken. This is the same chicken from America that is injected with the same vaccine making the chicken grow big and strong...As for us we cannot consume an entire chicken....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker that is reason for the advertisements worldwide, that the highest diabetes country is American Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude your speech now Member.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: I will move on. That is all from me. I did interject on the price rise for wines, liquor and smokes you mentioned. For what? It will make our own people suffer. Never mind, I pray for chicken for the country as this is the main food we can afford. Because with duty fee imposition, we cannot afford \$40 tala in the coming week as it will rise significantly.

Nevertheless, because our submission came out too late, we have in our Budget Statement a portion for this section. At this hour, the spirit of this constituency for Vaimauga East should not be made less.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

I rise with respect as the public is well aware of the accident that occurred at Atua side that is questioning my whereabouts when I should have looked after the boundaries of Atua. That is why Tuisamau of Taua and Fuatimau o Tama Matutua were chosen to protect the boundaries of Atua and Mulivau o Tuafasa to which the public is disappointed about. Instead, the truth of the matter is, they are noisy about their own lands without attempting to trespass our land.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member the Prime Minister is taking the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: May I please remind the member to advise Tuisamau that when your rugby team is permitted again next year, make sure that you tell him to look after the boys as that is exactly what happened to one of the boys that caused the incident that happened. This is the problem with poor disciplinary action in rugby games, hence bear in mind Tuisamau to avoid that.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, thank you for the advice the constituency has received....

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, I beg your pardon Tuisamau, lest we re-discuss the things of the past, you are not the only one who wants to speak, there are other members who also wish to voice their opinions. The Leader of the Government and Fonotoe have clearly made their statements which I think is enough. I beg your pardon because if you speak now then I am afraid we will have to go back. And because our business here goes by time schedule, that is the case, thank you.

I call the member for Urban Seat West.

Afioga FAUMUINA ASI PAULI WAYNE FONG: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Prime Minister and the Hon Minister.

I rise to make submission on this Bill on behalf of this constituency. Firstly, regardless of this bill, because we have enough submissions therefore I wish not to state anything further. The intention for me is it would be better to include some benefits from this tax from the Ministry of Revenue or the Government to assist the public servants who are paying for this tax.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

Mr Speaker, with this raise in tax the public is well aware that the revenue incurred from it would include the utilization of public servants money. We must practice tax return again to assist the employees in paying this existing tax raise. The NPF and the ACC should assist in this doing in terms of dividends collection to assist the employees. These benefits should assist all government employees because I can affirm that if this is possible then whatever tax rate you give is acceptable by all.

Those are some of the submissions from me thus I wish to thank the Government and wholly support them for all their efforts. Have a blessed meeting thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you, I give the opportunity to the member for Falealili East, lest this is your last chance.

Afioga FUIMAONO TEO SAMUEL TEO (Falealili East): Mr Speaker I will be brief. The House has made its acknowledgement.

I wish to state my support on this Bill regardless of the sense that the Budget is given in estimate figures, we are unsure of its raise and decline. The only request from this constituency is that if the Budget is approved, I am unsure whether the measures include the good supplies that are in the country. If this is so, this means that the price for these supplies will drop and the stores and wholesales will automatically purchase these goods on high price. That is the concern.

Secondly, I agree with the point raised by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. The main intention is if only this is a collective effort to implement the program that is not yet enforced. If only the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Health can work together to review these undertaking first before the raise is a go because in reality, the public is not ready to accept this tax raise yet particularly on chicken.

This is the only cheap meat you can find in a freezer in my constituency of Safata and Lefaga, why, because it is cheap. You can hardly find lamb, turkey tail although this is purchased secretly by most, otherwise this is now recognized.

That is the main concern Hon Minister for you to reconsider as the public cannot take it well when this tax is levied upon these goods. That is the support on this Bill as this Minister is one alert Minister who does not sleep well but seeks revenue to fund our Budget to assist our developments.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– second reading

In meaning, since the Hon Minister of Health has not yet given his statement but if we look at the advertisement from health, chicken meat is one of the safest foods for consumption that goes alongside fish. Because this is what the Hon Minister of Health should be given he is only laughing about it when the Revenue is only intending to collect revenue when the Hon Minister of Health should make a confirmed statement about all this.

With respect, thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, perhaps the matter mentioned by the member is Samoan chicken. Hon Minister is the correct statement I am making for the sake of that side.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minisiter of Health): That is correct, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you..
, 939

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO (Falealili West): Mr Speaker is it...

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Falealili West. Do conclude your speech before the Minister gives response.

Tofa AUMUA ISAIA LAMEKO: Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance. I wish to note a word of thanks to the Hon Minister and the Ministry for this Bill.

I wish to note my support on this Bill except for the section on chicken, see if possible to reduce the 10% as listed.

But I wish to make a statement on the matter regarding the weight of a box of lamb or a box of chicken because it was in Government's policy the changing of a box of herring to half a box of herring so why not apply the same to a box of chicken, box of lamb or box of turkey tail in terms of weight.

The reason for stating this is in regards to our exported taro to New Zealand and Australia in accordance to these countries law on imported goods, because at the current a sack of taro weighs 20 kilogram. Such is the recommendation to the Government to look into the kilo of chicken box...which perhaps is affordable by the public.

23 MARCH 2018

**Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– consideration in detail**

Perhaps it is also clear in the legislation of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour regarding human rights of a consumer. There are eight rights for a consumer's choice to purchasing an item or not. This is often seen in the advertisement on television and requesting the Hon Minister if possible to re-air this ad on television on consumer's rights to purchase for the public's sake.

That is the contribution Mr Speaker, thank you for the chance.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the respective Minister for this Bill to speak. Most of the matters have already been clarified, and if there is anything left go ahead.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe that most parts of this legislation have been made clear. As such, I ask that you lay all your concerns, advice, praise and complaints as the time is moving fast. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks.

The motion was approved and the Customs Tariffs Amendment Bill 2018 was read a second time.

**CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the consideration in detail commences with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Amendment to First Schedule.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title & commencement.

TITLE: Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2018.

Approved.

23 MARCH 2018

Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018
– third reading

The Customs Tariff Amendment Bill progressed without any Amendments.

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 2018
– third reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker i move, *That the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2018 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2018
– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker i move, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amemdment Bill (No.2) 2018 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

EXCISE TAX RATES AMEMDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2018
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: In accordance to the Certificate of Urgency I have in hand, therefore the Legislative will now proceed with the second reading.

I call the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker i move, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018 be now read a second time and I wish to elaborate it.*

23 MARCH 2018

Excise Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018
 – second reading

Seconded by the Minister for Revenue and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister for his explanation.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker, this Bill regards liquor in the country. Proposed measure is to counter the concerns raised by the Ministry of Police that the incidents they respond to in the villages' day in and day out are a result of people consuming locally made liquor; this is reason for amending the excise tax to 100%. Currently it is \$19.56 per liter however with the proposed tax it will increase the price to \$38.60 for every bottle that has 40% alcohol volume. Furthermore, this Bill proposes a limitation of locally made liquor to a 40% alcohol volume. Also there will be no more liquor bottles underneath 500milliliters neither half a liter given the fact that most of these liquor bottles are taken secretly by kids in pubs.

Again the entire purpose for this Bill is to reduce the amount of accidents in the country. Most of the inmates incarcerated in jail locally made liquor are the root of the problem. Clearly beer is not affected by the new excise taxes.

That is the explanation your honor on this Bill to protect the public from this pressing problem in the villages to the town area.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. This is the third Act by this respective Minister this week. Hence the matter has been clarified and is well taken. Perhaps this is the only member.

I call the member for Faleata West for his statement.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you very much. I will be short. The main concern is that it seems that this Bill focuses mainly on liquor in the country. This contradicts with the other objectives of the Government in attempting to create job opportunities and such. Although it is true that it regards costs...As for me I do not...And another thing, we are initially promoting our local whiskey produced from taro and such...But according to my observation regarding the conversation we had with the Hon Minister of Health last Friday he affirmed that this (local whiskey) is really good. Its volume is 65% and it seems that the Act is regulating 40%.

23 MARCH 2018

Excise Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018
 – second reading

But mind you there are different liquors that are good and useful to curing health because even if it is 40% or 20% it depends on how much we consume. Whether you drink a spirit neat or mixed it is just like food we were just discussing. Everything is good but it depends on how you cook it to protect you from sickness.

That is the assistance with the intention not to affect the objectives of other Ministries that are trying to collect revenue for this development to ensure a promotion on this manufacturing product for Samoa's export.

That is the advice with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you for the recommendation. I call the member for Vaimauga East.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Thank you very much. I will be short. The main concern is that it seems that this Bill focuses mainly on liquor in the country. This contradicts with the other objectives of the Government in attempting to create job opportunities and such. Although it is true that it regards costs...As for me I do not...And another thing, we are initially promoting our local whiskey produced from taro and such...But according to my observation regarding the conversation we had with the Hon Minister of Health last Friday he affirmed that this (local whiskey) is really good. Its volume is 65% and it seems that the Act is regulating 40%. But mind you there are different liquor that are good and useful to curing health because even if it is 40% or 20% it depends on how much we consume. Whether you drink a spirit neat or mixed it is just like food we were just discussing. Everything is good but it depends on how you cook it to protect you from sickness.

That is the assistance with the intention not to affect the objectives of other Ministries that are trying to collect revenue for this development to ensure a promotion on this manufacturing product for Samoa's export.

That is the advice with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for the advise. I call the member of Vaimauga East.

Afioga SULAMANAIA FETAIAI TAUILILI TUIVASA: Mr Speaker, I have a small contribution to assisting the Minister to earning more revenue. We have now passed the Act on food and now we are on drinks. Thank you.

23 MARCH 2018

**Excise Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018
– consideration in detail**

The only concern is whether this legislation might have any impact with the PACER Plus agreement that we signed to permit the importation of these type of products into the country given the fact that it seems that this Bill is discouraging the public from promoting liquor products to other countries. The Minister of Agriculture also has his own whiskey. The main concern is the approval that we have on this signed agreement to allow the importation of these products yet again we are imposing tariff on the locally made liquor.

With respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call the Minister.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker. It is with belief that this Act focuses specifically on tariff imposed on excise tax not involving duty. The duty remains at it is. The Bill focuses mainly on tariff levied on imported goods including liquor. It is true that beer is not included. If you can look at the report received by the Ministry of Police by the Liquor Board Committee, we have above 60% of alcohol related incidents due to spirit bottles not beer.

We have also ordered machines to producing this liquor at a dear cost of \$200,000. It is expensive regardless the aim is to curb the ongoing issue on locally made liquor that are above 40%.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, your whiskey is against the law today. Have a blessed meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Well thank you.

Motion was approved and the Excise Tax Amendment (No.2) Bill 2018 was now read a second time.

**EXCISE TAX AMENDMENT (NO.2) 2018
- consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, the consideration in detail commences with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: First Schedule amended.

Approved.

23 MARCH 2018

**Excise Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018
– third reading**

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title & commencement.

TITLE: Excise Tax Amendment Act (No.2) 2018.

Approved.

Excise Tax Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018 was now approved and has progressed without any Amendments.

**EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 2018
– third reading**

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill (No.2) 2018 be now read a third time.*

Second by the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Minister of Forestry and Fisheries, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: I take this chance to extend great thanks to Parliament from the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers most especially the Chairperson of the various Parliamentary Committees and all the dignified members for your perseverance and dedication. All tasks have an ending. We have come to the end of our session because of God's mercy.

I acknowledge the Government Heads of the respective Ministries and Corporations for your dedicated services and assistance to our work. The same salute to the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and the Ministry of Police of all your duties and commitment in securing everyone as well as the Sergeant and Salelesi. Well done. In giving back, we say thank you Lord for all that you have done for us.

23 MARCH 2018

Adjournment

I beg your pardon if I have offended anyone the intention is for us to have a forgiving heart. The main spirit is for us to achieve our works.

Before we adjourn, I will end our session with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 11:59am until Monday 26 March 2018 at 9:00am.

