

FRIDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2014

Mr Speaker took Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I would like to greet all the distinguished members of the House here today. I appreciate your patience and we will continue with our meeting today. Our sitting should end today because there are many programs and schedules the Government needs to address. So whatever we may be able to complete today, the Lords days are never ending. I believe our work set out for today has already been prepared.

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL (No.2) 2013
- third reading**

MR SPEAKER: Before we move on to the third reading of the Constitution Amendment, there is a correction. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister to stand.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker before we move on to the third reading of the Constitution Amendment there is a Correction which reads:

“CORRECTION:

To omit figure “(No.2)” and replace figure “2013” with figure 2014, therefore it should read;

Constitution Amendment Bill 2014.”

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Correction approved.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister to move a motion for the third reading.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Constitution Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

24 JANUARY 2014

**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2013
- third reading**

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of Women and Community and Social Development.

MR SPEAKER: Provisions needed for the Constitution have been met during the period of the second reading and third reading of the Constitution Amendment Bill 2014. The last provision needed to be addressed is the votes of no less than 2/3 of the Members of Parliament. I will now put the question for the vote on the third reading of the Constitution Amendment Bill with the Procedure on Divisions.

Bell was rung.

Question: Whether the Constitution Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time. All those in favor please rise. Take your seats after the Clerk has called out your names.

DIVISION BALLOT S.O.93(1)

1. Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi
2. Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo
3. Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa
4. Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko
5. Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga
6. Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau
7. Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiaataua
8. Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati
9. Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama
10. Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu
11. Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii
12. Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala
13. Afioga Hon Sala Fata Lisati Pinati
14. Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi
15. Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota
16. Afioga Tocolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster
17. Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam
18. Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo
19. Tofa Tuileutu Alavaa Voi
20. Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi
21. Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau
22. Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu
23. Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster
24. Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapoo II
25. Tofa Fagaaivalu Kenrick Samu

24 JANUARY 2014

**Constitution Amendment Bill (No.2) 2013
- third reading**

26. Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua
27. Afioga Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell
28. Tofa Alo Fuifuli Taveuveu
29. Tofa Tuiloa Anetelea
30. Afioga Lafaitete Patrick Leiataualesa
31. Tofa Tuisa Tasi Patea
32. Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua
33. Tofa Sooalo Mene
34. Afioga Taefu Lemi
35. Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors
36. Susuga Ifopo Matia Filisi
37. Afioga Tialavea Fea Tionisio Seigafolava
38. Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola
39. Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him
40. Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga
41. Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua
42. Afioga Muagututagata Faamausili Auimatagi Peter Ah Him
43. Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow
44. Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang
45. Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa

AYES – 45

MR SPEAKER: Those who oppose the motion.

NAYS – 0

MR SPEAKER: This is the result of our Division Ballot. Those who supported the Constitution Amendment 2014 are 45, those who opposed; none.

I now declare that the question has been put and approved for the third reading of the Constitution Amendment Bill 2014 through the Division Ballot of no less than 2/3 of Members of Parliament.

Motion approved and the Constitution Amendment Bill 2014 was third read and passed the Legislative Assembly.

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA AMENDMENT BILL 2014
- first reading**

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

24 JANUARY 2014

**Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- first reading**

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 be read for the first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion was approved and the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 was read for the first time.

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I have with me a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Head of State with regards to this Amendment Bill, therefore the Assembly will now move on for its second reading of the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill be read a second time and I will clarify on it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Communication and Information Technology and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister for his clarification speech.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker and the respective members of the House it is well known that our coins; \$2, \$1, .50cents, .20cents and .10cents were changed in the year 2012. The law at the moment states that there is no time limit imposed on the returning of the old coins to the Banks. Therefore, the amendment will place a due date for this process so that it will speed up the process of old coins coming in. The process of changing these coins to the new ones are very difficult and so these coins must be brought in immediately. Furthermore it is so these silver coins may be transported back to Australia.

MR SPEAKER: The floor is open for debate. The Amendment Bill is not very big, it is merely about the returning of the old coins. I would like to greet the Leader of Opposition, you may stand.

24 JANUARY 2014

Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- second reading

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. With all due respect I stand to make a very brief statement towards this very important Amendment Bill.

The amendment given states that there will be a cessation on the old coins being brought in and the exact date should be clearly stated. At the moment I believe that the Amendment is clear on the due date for the old coins to be handed in.

Mr Speaker our main concern is the peoples right to their money. It is not easy to come with these coins only to be notified later that it is too late. Where are the peoples rights and how are their interests protected when they find out too late? It is not easy to earn money, for our electricity bills and for the necessities of life only to find out it is too late and will no longer be accepted.

Mr Speaker we recommend the Hon Minister consider the people of Samoa and what they will be faced with as a consequence.

MR SPEAKER: I understand your concern and queries. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I would like to clarify something. I am shocked that you would hold on to your old coins for so long. It has been nearly ten years since those old coins ceased to be used. However there are still a few coins here and there that have not been brought in. I myself have maybe \$1 still lying around and these coins are not used to pay your bills. I am surprised because it has been long ceased by the Central Bank.

Perhaps the only people who would still be in possession of these old coins would be the Business people overseas wanting to hold on to them.

The business people believe that if you hold these valuables for a long time by the time you return it the value would be great. Our people do not have these large sums of money anymore and we must think of the politics, these are very old politics.

Mr Speaker these monies are old and are no longer valuable.

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

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Mr Speaker I fully support the Amendment Bill. However there is just one recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance with regards to the small size of these new coins. The old coins were nice and heavy, and even though there was not that much money in my pocket, the tinkering noise in my pockets assured me that there is indeed money in there. But with the new coins it seems like there is nothing there.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- second reading**

That is why I query the Hon Minister if there are any other plans to try and thicken the size of our new coins. If it were possible to make these coins a bit bigger.

MR SPEAKER: I believe I understand what the member is concerned about. We have already made these new coins so the request to make these suggested alterations cannot be addressed. However the main purpose of this Amendment is to set an official date for all the coins to be returned to the bank.

I call upon the Hon Minister for a response – I beg your pardon Hon Minister there is a question from the Leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: My time has not finished Mr Speaker, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition please be brief.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I would like to clarify the reasons why people tend to hold on to their money rather than bringing it in. As the Hon Prime Minister has stated people believe the longer you keep money the higher the value. This is why people are hesitant; they also want to keep it as a souvenir. But what about now? You come with your \$100 and it is no longer valuable. That is something the Hon Minister should consider looking into.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to elucidate that this is not practiced here in Samoa. It is only practiced overseas with countries like Britain and America. They place great value in collecting old money from all over the world.

There was once a man I with a quarter in America and it was worth close to \$1million. This is not done here. What idiot would do that here?

The important thing is to take out these old coins because it has become a nuisance. Notices were given out a long time ago for them to be brought in and yet people are still sitting around with it. The only people who will keep this money are the very wealthy ones like the Leader of Opposition, the member for Falealupo and the member for Faleata West. These two are not talking and I suppose they are letting their leader talk for them. The only member who is sounding more accurate is Leala even though he is being foolish.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I will not dwell on the topic any further. I simply wish to remind you of the peoples rights to their own money. The country is listening in.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: I was talking about the rights of a person with reference to the Leader of Opposition and the member for Faleata West and member for Falealupo. If you bring in \$1 tala the amount you will receive is still \$1 tala before the closing date. But for you two, you can take your money to America and hopefully get \$1million in the next 200 years or so.

Mr Speaker I feel sorry for the people because that is the real issue here. There are no people wanting to do this. Like I said before, there is no use for this money. I found \$1 in my desk this other day and I threw it away because it no longer has any value.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I am very thankful for the Hon Prime Ministers clarification.

Money is supposed to be saved in the bank; not in the house. The Communist uses this system of storing their money in their house, or in their pillow cases or sometimes digging a hole in the house to store their money. The reason why they do this is to avoid paying taxes.

The matter which the Leader of Opposition raised with regards to the peoples rights is inappropriate considering the reasons for this amendment. We are considering the peoples rights to be notified, giving them the opportunity to exchange their money before it is too late. However if a person wishes to keep it as a souvenir then that is good, that is their right.

The recommendation by the member for Faleata West with the size of the new coins is that it is cheaper to have them weigh less. The heavier they are the more expensive it will get. Nevertheless these changes are better for we have pictures of our beautiful country on and also the picture of our Head of State. Thank you to the respective members of the Parliament.

Motion approved and the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: I have here with me a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Head of State to confirm the urgency for this amendment. Therefore the Legislative Assembly will now move on to consideration in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, consideration in detail must begin with Clause 2.

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA AMENDMENT BILL 2014
- consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 2: Section 22 amended.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014
- third reading**

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 and TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Act 2014.

Approved.

The Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 progressed without amendments.

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA AMENDMENT BILL 2014
- third reading**

MR SPEAKER: I have here with me a Certificate of Urgency signed by the Head of State confirming the urgency of the amendment. Therefore the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to the third reading.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development

Motion approved and the Central Bank of Samoa Amendment Bill was third read and passed the Legislative Assembly.

**FAMILY COURT BILL 2013
- first reading**

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Family Court Bill 2013 be read a first time.*

24 JANUARY 2014

National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2013
– first reading

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF SAMOA AMENDMENT
BILL 2013 – first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa Amendment Bill 2013 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and Minister of Agriculture

Motion approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

FAIR TRADING AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor, also the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Fair Trading Amendment Bill 2013 be read a first time.*

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

Motion was approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

24 JANUARY 2014

PLUMBERS BILL 2013
- first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Plumbers Bill 2013 be read for the first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Police and Prisons and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF SAMOA
AMENDMENT BILL 2014 –first reading

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

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa Amendment Bill 2014 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Police and Prisons, Minister of Works and the Minister of Agriculture.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

STATISTICS BILL 2014
- first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILA EPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Statistics Bill 2014 be read a first time.*

24 JANUARY 2014

Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014
- first reading

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third day sitting following.

SLAUGHTER AND MEAT SUPPLY BILL 2014
- first reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Slaughter and Meat Supply Bill 2014 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology and Minister of Finance.

Motion was approved and the Bill was read for the first time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the second reading of the Bill will be on the third sitting day following.

NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEM BILL 2013
- consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 106 the Legislative Assembly must first approve the Select Committee report before considering the Bill. I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. With all due respect I would like to make a small statement about an incident that happened yesterday which I was involved in, before I move the motion.

MR SPEAKER: Continue Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, is there something wrong? As you may notice we are well on our way with the proceedings of our Parliament.

24 JANUARY 2014

**National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Continue Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, is there something wrong? As you may notice we are well on our way with the proceedings of our Parliament. In the spirit of completing our work and getting things done I urge you members to support and direct your statements instead of beating around the bush. We need to carry out our tasks assigned for the day.

Notice how thick the Cue Paper is? You must consider the situation the Chair is put in when we drift off our schedule because the Chair is blamed for the slackness of our orders.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker my statement will be very brief.

MR SPEAKER: Okay Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, be brief.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker I am very saddened by the news broadcasted by the Newsline newspaper disreputing my previous post as a Minister. It is not easy to accept the accusations that I neglected my duty as queried on the SLC report when in it is clear in the Parliament report that the Hon Minister himself is not doing his job. That is all Mr Speaker because I have been criticized by the Newspaper.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Assembly take note of the Committees Report together with its recommendations on the National Payment System Bill 2013 and its amendments.*

Thank you.

Seconded by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister, before I put the question.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker since you gave the opportunity to the Chairperson I stand to remind that in the House a member is liable to the right to voice a concern or make a statement without fear of consequence. If a Newspaper decides to broadcast, then the Member is at the mercy of the Newspaper. However in the Parliament a Member has the right to speak freely without restrictions.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I am thankful to the...

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition I do not accept your remarks. Please take your seat. This is why I am strict on these subjects. It is out of respect for our work and duty that has made me lenient to give the opportunity, but please be considerate of my efforts to Chair our proceedings.

Be mindful that you are not the only victims of the media. The Chair is also affected by many accusations. We must be patient and tolerate what comes with the responsibility. This is a new day with new thoughts and a new beginning. Let us leave the past in the past and focus on what is important for our work. I hope that we leave the mishaps of yesterday in the past. It is important to stress that we work together and in understanding.

I now declare that the Legislative Assembly has now approved the Committee Report on the National Payment System Bill 2013.

The Assembly will now proceed to consider the National Payment System Bill 2013 in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102 consideration in detail begins on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Application.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: General Powers.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Operational with other authorities.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Cooperation with other authorities.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 7: National Payment System Committee.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Prohibition.

Approved.

CLAUSE 9: Power to issue license.

Approved.

CLAUSE 10: Application for license.

Approved.

CLAUSE 11: Registration instead of license.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Licenses non-transferable.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Renewal of License.

Approved.

CLAUSE 14: Conditions of license.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 15: Right to be heard.

Approved.

CLAUSE 16: Standards, criteria and directives.

Approved.

CLAUSE 17: Power to enter and inspect.

Approved.

CLAUSE 18: Rules of systems.

Approved.

CLAUSE 19: Access to systems.

Approved.

CLAUSE 20: Outsourcing of activities.

Approved.

CLAUSE 21: Agents.

Approved.

CLAUSE 22: Liability for acts of agents, employees, etc.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 23: Legislation and anti-money laundering or terrorist.

Approved.

CLAUSE 24: Retention of records.

Approved.

CLAUSE 25: Access to Information.

Approved.

CLAUSE 26: Fees and charges.

Approved.

CLAUSE 27: Settlement of accounts.

Approved.

CLAUSE 28: Finality of payment.

Approved.

CLAUSE 29: Collateral for payment and settlement obligation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 30: Central Bank to be notified of winding-up.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 31: Prohibition.

Approved.

CLAUSE 32: Winding-up or administration of participant not to affect Finality.

Approved.

CLAUSE 33: Rules of the Central Bank and licensed systems to bind liquidators.

Approved.

CLAUSE 34: Preservation of rights.

Approved.

CLAUSE 35: Conflict of laws.

Approved.

CLAUSE 36: Cheque truncation and electronic image presentment.

Approved.

CLAUSE 37: Powers of Central Bank.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 38: Customers to be notified on fees.

Approved.

CLAUSE 39: Terms of transfers.

Approved.

CLAUSE 40: Issuance of electronic money.

Approved.

CLAUSE 41: Administrative penalties.

Approved.

CLAUSE 42: Offences.

Approved.

CLAUSE 43: Settlement of disputes.

Approved.

CLAUSE 44: Exemption from liability.

Approved.

CLAUSE 45: Regulations and directives.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

National Payment System Bill 2013
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 46: Saving and transition.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 and TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement

TITLE: National Payment System Act 2013

MR SPEAKER: As stated in the Supplementary Order paper there is a correction in Clause 1 and Title.

I call upon the Chairperson.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, I move a correction on Clause 1 and Title which reads:-

“CORRECTION:

To omit the number “2013” and substitute thereby the number “2014” thus the title reads:-

NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEM ACT 2014”.

Correction approved.

Clause 1 and Title approved.

The National Payment System Bill 2014 progressed with Correction.

APPRENTICESHIP BILL 2013

- consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 106 the Legislative Assembly should first approve the Committee Report before opportunity is given to consider the Bill.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Work, Transport & Environment Committee.

24 JANUARY 2014

A MOTION TO SET ASIDE COMMITTEE REPORT

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Chairperson of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the consideration of the Apprenticeship Bill 2013 and the Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on the Bill be set aside because we have just received Amendments from the Attorney Generals Office, so the Committee needs to readdress it before its approval.*

Thank you.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I wish to understand more on the amendments being motioned.

MR SPEAKER: Debate is prohibited.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I only have a question on why.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition a question is also not allowed.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: The Bill is already in the House so I am curious to know why it is going to be amended.

MR SPEAKER: This is not the time to discuss that, the Committee report has been brought forth.

Seconded by a member for the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him, member for Faasaleleaga No.2, member for Sagaga le Usoga and member for Palauli

Motion was approved.

SAMOAN LANGUAGE COMMISSION BILL 2012 - consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 106 the report from the Select Committee must be approved before the Assembly proceeds to consider the bill.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Education, Science, and Communication & Information Technology Committee.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA (Chairperson of the Education, Science, and Communication & Information Technology Committee): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Committee Report with its recommendations, so that the Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012 may progress with corrections and amendments.*

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

Seconded by the member for Palauli, member for Aiga i le Tai and member for Vaisigano No.1

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I now declare that the Legislative Assembly has approved the Education, Science and Communication & Information Technology Committee Report on the Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012.

The Assembly will now progress to consider the Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012 in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, consideration on every Bill must begin on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Act binds Government.

Approved .

CLAUSE 4: Objectives.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Samoan language to be an official language.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West to stand.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. I wanted to query clause 5 with reference to Communication. Chairperson, please clarify the correction please. At the moment the reports being tabled in Parliament are both in Samoan and English. So my question is whether the communication amongst Government Ministries will follow suit in order to simplify things. For instance I had thought that reports would be in a, e, and i but instead they are still in a, b, c. That is what I wanted to know Chairperson. Thank you.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairperson.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you for the question. The subject which is being questioned on the usage of a, e, and i in our Bills is very difficult to alter because as we consulted the Attorney Generals office, their records state that the English must still be used. That is all I will say for now. But the matter being questioned; it is clear that it is the Samoan language and the official language. It is not saying the Official Language. Both languages are available to be used.

Thank you.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker ...

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member for Faleata West to stand again.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I had hoped that the Chairperson would explain the actual reason why the English a, b, and c are still being used. The Bill clearly states that the Samoan Language be the Official Language. However when we ask, you claim that the Official Language and the Samoa language should be used. So I am wondering which the official language is; Samoan or English. I had always thought that the Samoan Language was the Official language.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister, perhaps he knows more about it because it is his Ministrys Bill. Hon Minister please stand.

Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): When this Bill is approved the Official language would be Samoan. The communication amongst Ministries as questioned, use both the Samoan and English languages.

I write my letters to other Government bodies in Samoan and they sometimes respond in English. However this Bill is so that no one else can come later on and change it; to make the Samoan Language Official. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe we are in full understanding. I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I would like to elaborate more on the Chairpersons statement. This is the first time that a Bill has been passed to legally provide for the Samoan language and utilize it since our country became independent.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoa Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

The history of this bill began when our citizens traveled to New Zealand, Australia and America with our language and over the years it has become a language that is being taught in those Communities. So a thought came to mind on the origin of the true Samoan language. Where should the accuracy of the Samoan language come from? Furthermore, various conferences were held by those who are known as the *Lauia* or foundation of the Samoan language on the teaching of the Samoan language in countries like New Zealand, Australia, American Samoa, Hawaii and also America. The Samoan language is being taught in those places which poses the question on whether this is right or not. Conferences were also held in these countries and resulted in a bid for a Samoan language Commission.

The conferences were more of a way for these members to waste time and have a vacation from the South and North of New Zealand to have a vacation in either American Samoa or sometimes Hawaii. Members suggested for the Samoan language Commission to be established in American Samoa or Hawaii because they have the funds necessary for meetings. I assume these meetings have been going on for 20 years.

Moreover, there was one maybe two meetings held in Samoa and so they invited me to attend and make a short statement. From there I understood. These members were trying to establish a language commission but without the involvement of the Government or the Ministry of Education. They held simple beliefs that they are more than qualified. So at one time, when the conference was held in Safotu, Savaii where delegates from New Zealand, Australia and America came and they once again invited me to come along.

The meeting progressed and it was made known that a Commission cannot be established without the consent or knowledge of the Samoan Government the place the language originated from. It would be illegally invalid. So therefore, it must first be approved by the Independent State of Samoa.

The Samoan language should come from the Samoan community where the language and culture is rich. That is why discussions were held to try and establish this Commission. However there were conflicting mindsets with regards to the most accurate Samoan which is founded in the Bible. The usage of the word *o le* and then reference it back to the Bible whether that is the right way of writing it. There are numerous ways that the language has been altered through the years and so experts have been trying to unearth the truth. The Commission hopes to support the Bill.

The teachers overseas have long been awaiting this Commission which should only be in the country which is rich in its culture and language.

Mr Speaker this bill has just been brought forth because it is a huge bill in the history of the Independent State of Samoa and its application and guidance for the future.

And that concludes my two cents on the merits of this bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for that clarification. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you for now I fully understand because at first I had always thought that this was the way things had always been, because the Samoan Law states that the Samoan Language should originate or come from Samoa. Nonetheless I am wondering on the conflicting notions as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister. It appears that there is a difference between the Ministry of Education and the Samoan community in the rural area and with the little funds that were available for accumulating the research. So I am wondering whether that would be the case because even with the new Samoan language coming about, it is insanely different from the correct language. Nevertheless I fully support our reference back to the Bible...

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The members concerns are well understood. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Those reasons are exactly right. If you listen to the new language being spoken you could easily notice the vast difference. For instance the word *nafa* and *gafa*, I was shocked to learn that there are two words when there was only one word which we were born using.

The true Samoan language uses the ‘g’ and not the ‘n’, the ‘k’ and not the ‘t’ in speaking and otherwise. It was only altered when Missionaries established the Papauta School and began to divide the language from there. This is why when people speak in such a way, we often hear ‘She is speaking the Papauta way’ because only those educated at Papauta were taught this way. When a Catholic pastor and a Reverend converse in jest, one would say “we were taught the Samoan alphabet” and the pastor other would say, “we were also taught the Samoan alphabet *fa, fe, fi, lo, lua.*”

Mr Speaker those are just some words to enhance our bill but I believe it is clear.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the clarification.

CLAUSE 6: Establishment.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Functions and powers.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail

CLAUSE 8: Board of the Commission.

Approved.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: You may stand.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I would like to query Clause 8 because it says that there are six members of the Commission while below it states that Ministers should contact eleven Organizations. It appears that this needs to be clarified. And may I suggest that there should be members from the Ministry of Education, the National University and representatives of the various religions should all have a link to the Commission to clarify the bill. So please explain this a bit further.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: There are amendments yet to be made and perhaps you will understand more once it has been approved.

There is an amendment on Clause 8 as stated in the Order Paper.

I call upon the Chairperson.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker I move to make amendments on Clause 8 (1) (b):

“AMENDMENTS:

Clause 8:

(i) (1) (b):

To omit the word “six (6)” which appears at the beginning of (b) and substitute thereby the word “nine” thus reads:-

(b) nine members appointed by the Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet”.

(ii) (2) & (3)

To omit (2) & (3) and substitute thereby the new (2) & (3) as follows:-

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1) (b), Cabinet must take into account:

- (a) The suitability of a person for the appointment to the Board;
- (b) The person's personal attributes; and
- (c) The person's knowledge and experience in the use of the Samoan language; and
- (d) Any other matters likely to come before the Board; and
- (e) The views of the Minister after the Minister consults with the following:
 - (i) a representative of the Samoa National University, Council of Churches; and
 - (ii) a representative of the Special Committee on Traditional Salutation and Legends; and
 - (iii) a representative of the Samoa National Council of Women; and
 - (iv) a representative of the Centre for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa; and
 - (v) Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.
 - (vi) Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice & Courts and Administrations; and
 - (vii) Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

(3) An appointed member:

- (a) holds office for a term not exceeding 3years; and
- (b) is eligible for reappointment; and
- (c) when the term of office expires, containing in office until appointed members is reappointed or replaced."

Amendment approved.

Clause 8 approved as amended.

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have arrived at our usual morning interval for the day. Our time changes today so we will take a long break at 12pm.

I now declare our Parliamentary Proceedings set aside for its usual morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its normal recess hour at 10.22am and resumed at 11.03am.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: I now declare our Parliamentary proceedings have now resumed.

I express my sincere thanks for today for we have come to the second part of our days work. We have accomplished much today and we have not much left to complete. We parted for our interval while we were considering the bill and we have come to Clause 9.

CLAUSE 9: Powers of the Board.

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West you may stand.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to question the Powers of the Board and what its true purpose is. What is the purpose of section (b), is it fundraising or looking for money or something else?

And the other is the functions and powers of the Ministry of Education with reference to the curriculum used by the Ministry on the Samoan language, whether the Ministry has any contribution to these arrangements so that it would link with their laws on the origins of the Samoan language, from the primary levels up to the higher education.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Chairperson or the Hon Minister. I call upon the Chairperson.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and also to the member for the question. The Clause 9 as questioned is about raising finance. There is hope that when the Commission is established they will be able to discuss further the implementation of their work and how to raise money for carrying out their work.

The second part; what was your question again?

MR SPEAKER: I believe the member has understood. The only thing that was needed was what exactly was fundraising.

Clause 9 approved.

CLAUSE 10: Meetings and Secretary of the Board.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail

CLAUSE 11: Minutes of meetings.

Approved.

CLAUSE 12: Remuneration and allowances.

Approved.

CLAUSE 13: Disclosure of conflict of interest.

Approved.

CLAUSE 14: Board to have regard to government policy.

Approved.

CLAUSE 15: Delegation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 16: Resignation and removal of members.

Approved.

CLAUSE 17: Appointment and removal of the Commissioner.

Approved.

CLAUSE 18: Duties of the Commissioner.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 19: Appointment and removal of the Executive Director.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West what is the Clause you wish to comment on?

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I wish to comment on Clause 19. Chairperson, since we are talking about the Samoan of Executive Director, I was under the impression that this is a Commission being erected. But this states an assistant of the Commission. As I understand the Director is the boss and the director.

My question is that it should be visible and clear in the bill that if the Manager is the Manager than that is how it should state, or a Clerk. However if the bill is stating that a person is a Director and Manager too, then I am in need of further clarification of how this is so, because it is very confusing.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that is exactly how it is suppose to be. I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker there is another Organization of the Government that is the same as this one, like the Public Service Commission. It is not anything new; it is a continuous practice, so not only is a person a CEO but also an Assistant.

Mr Speaker that concludes my brief statement on the concerns raised.

Clause 19 approved.

CLAUSE 20: Functions of Executive Director.

Approved.

CLAUSE 21: Appointment of officers and employees.

Approved.

CLAUSE 22: Funds of the Commission.

Approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Samoan Language Commission Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 23: Accounts and annual reports.

Approved.

CLAUSE 24: Protection against personal liability.

Approved.

CLAUSE 25: Regulations.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Samoan Language Commission Act 2012.

MR SPEAKER: There are Corrections on Clause 1 and Title as outlined in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee.

Tofa LENATAI VICTOR FAAFOI TAMAPUA: Mr Speaker I move a Correction on Clause 1 and Title that states:

“CORRECTION:

“To omit the number “2012” to the number “2014” thus the Clause 1 and Title reads:

SAMOAN LANGUAGE COMMISSION ACT 2014.”

Correction approved.

Clause 1 and Title approved as corrected.

The Samoa Language Commission Bill 2014 progressed with corrections.

24 JANUARY 2014

ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012
- consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 106 the Select Committee Report must first be approved by the Assembly before the consideration in detail of the bill.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly approve the Committee Report as recommended, so that the Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2012 may progress with its Amendments and Corrections.*

Seconded by the member for Palauli and member for Sagaga le Falefa.

MR SPEAKER: I now declare that the Legislative Assembly has now approved the Works, Transport and Environment Committee Report on the Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2012.

The Assembly will now proceed to consider the Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2012.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102 consideration of bills must begin on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: General Manager.

MR SPEAKER: There are Amendments to be made on Clause 2 as outlined in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Mr Speaker I move to make Amendments on Clause 2 as stated:

“AMENDMENTS:

To insert the new Clause 4 reads:

“(4) the purpose of this clause and Clause 33, on engineering competency.

Which means a person with specialized skills and knowledge in electric and power engineering, a acknowledged Certificate on Electric Engineering or Generators

With all due respect, thank you.

Amendment approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

**Electric Power Corporation Amendment Bill 2012
- consideration in detail**

Clause 2 approved as amended.

CLAUSE 3: Staffing.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 and TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Electric Power Corporation Amendment Act 2012.

MR SPEAKER: There is Corrections by the Committee on Clause 1 and title as stated in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee to stand.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Mr Speaker I move a motion to make Corrections on the Clause 1 and Title on the Bill as stated:

“CORRECTION:

To omit the number “2012” and substitute it with “2014” thus the title reads:

“Electric Power Corporation Amendment Act 2014.”

Thank you.

Correction approved.

Clause 1 and Title approved as corrected.

The Bill progressed with amendments and corrections.

24 JANUARY 2014

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AMENDMENT BILL 2013
- second reading

MR SPEAKER: For the information of the Parliament this Bill was first read on 8/10/2013.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Medical Practitioners Amendment Bill 2013 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker this bill is very short. This Bill is to make provisions for the speedy registration process of Doctors from overseas assisting with health issues in our country. This Bill will ensure that the assistance offered by these medical practitioners are able to be carried out without restrictions to the process of registering.

That is all Mr Speaker, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I wish to make a brief statement on the Bill. I always assumed that matters like this were very simple and efficient since we are at the time of numerous accidents and so forth. Things were done smoothly at the time.

On the other hand I notice that now things must be firstly approved by the Council before a response is made, or in this sense an approval. But in the past the Hon Minister had the authority to approve these things so that the approval allowed practitioners three months or more to work and assist in the country but what of those who wish to extend.

Therefore Chairperson, can you please explain a bit further on this, because I thought that that was how it was being done, so that things would be efficient and accomplished well. However with this new formality of applying to the Council for approval first and awaiting whether there is approval or not is bothersome on the part of these helping workers assisting in the country. It would be better for the Hon Minister or the CEO to have authority of approving these practitioners to work.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe we are in full understanding of what the member is trying to voice. I give opportunity to the Hon Minister for his response.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P. 2013/2014 No. 30, The Finance and Expenditure Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.92, Corporate Plan of the Office of the
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly 2013-2015 - Consideration**

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Mr Speaker the member is referring to doctors who come here to work for a whole month or six months a year. On the other hand, this provision refers to doctors who come inland for a shorter period or maybe one week to perform their assistance to those in need of medical attention. And these services are very expensive but they are performing it free of charge, for example operations on kidney stones and gallstones for which patients are taken overseas to be operated on. The aim is to minimize the costs. So a list is made and then patients await the surgeon to come for only about a week to operate and then return. To illustrate more, tomorrow a team from Australia headed and maintained by one of our own Samoan doctors returns after a week of surgical operations on dialysis patients. They have completed their work operating on 13 patients. And if we consider the cost of the operation on each of these patients the price would be very expensive, but these surgeons are doing it out of their helping hand. Therefore Mr Speaker these are the practitioners that this provision is referring to and not the ones coming inland for a lengthier amount of time.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the matter is settled.

Motion was approved and the Medical Practitioners Amendment Bill 2013 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Standing Order the Bill will be referred to the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee for consideration and to be reported back to the Legislative Assembly at a future sitting.

CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

**P.P. 2013/2014 No. 30, THE FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE
COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO.92, CORPORATE
PLAN OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY 2013-2015 - CONSIDERATION**

MR SPEAKER: For the information of the Parliament, this report was tabled on 9/10/2013 and has already been discussed by the Assembly.

Report was approved.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, THE OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, REPORTS OF THE CONTROLLER AND CHIEF AUDITOR TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010 AND PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2011 - CONSIDERATION

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee of the Officers of Parliament.

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM (Chairperson of the Officers of Parliament Committee): Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Assembly consider the Committee Report presenting its FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS and RESOLUTIONS.*

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member to read out the Recommendations and Resolutions.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I have a question please.

MR SPEAKER: What is the purpose of your question Leader of Opposition?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Thank you for the opportunity. Due to the importance of this report and the country listening in...

MR SPEAKER: The report has not progressed. Please be patient while we give the opportunity to the Chairperson to read out the Recommendations and Resolution. Debate is not acceptable at the moment.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Yes I understand that is why I stand now to request that the report be read out in its entirety; Findings and Recommendations for this is the report of the Officers of Parliament. It is very important that the people understand and have knowledge of this report.

MR SPEAKER: I understand your concern Leader of the Opposition. As already stated, we have already approved the Bill that divides the provisions of the Recommendations, Resolutions and Findings of the Committee. These cannot be changed because the motion was approved by the Parliament and the Hon Prime Minister and that is how we will proceed. This cannot be altered because each member has a copy of the full Report, and if the citizens need a copy there is one available. So there is no need for you to bring out the motion to read all of the report out because the Parliament has approved this matter and the whole country is aware of the proceedings of this House.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee of the Officers of Parliament.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, I still wish to understand. Do you mean that a motion to amend cannot be made pursuant to our Standing Orders?

MR SPEAKER: No, Leader of Opposition. We are beating around the bush with our work. There is no returning to amend the things we have approved in the past. It has been explained and you are all aware of the normal procedures in regards to consideration of the Parliamentary Papers. So there are no more alterations to be made because that is the final decision.

I call once again on the Chairperson for the reading of the Recommendations and the Resolutions.

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUIMATAGI PETER AH HIM: Thank you Mr Speaker.

The summary of the Committee Report of the Chief Auditor. Mr Speaker in the summary of Recommendations of the Committee is in the Report, and it is based on the Findings of the Office of the Controller and Chief Auditor for the years as follows:-

“AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES.

It is the policy of the Office of the Controller and Chief Auditor to issue out a Management Letter to Ministries and Private Sectors of the Government notifying them issues found in the investigations of the Audit Office.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the
Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period
Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

Recommendations are also included in these letters, advising Management on matters needed to be improved for the future. Gratitude was noted for the Ministries that responded to the letters from the Office of the Controller and Chief Auditor signifying good Governance in their service by way of a written response.

9.1 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES.

Was there any clarification? - *No.*

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Ministry needs to consider carefully the following to be improved for the future:
 - To ensure proper internal controls and accounting procedures requirement already set out by the Ministry of Finance is practiced pursuant to requirement of the Public Finance Management Act 2001;
 - To notify the Ministry of Finance once an irregularity occurs in the future. The Committee in its inquiries noted that no irregularity report was submitted to the Ministry of Finance with regards to a car accident which the Minister at the time was involved. The Committee found out about that this incident through Audit Findings.
2. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to the Parliament.

9.2. MINISTRY FOR COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

Was there any clarification? - *No.*

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Ministry to provide an updated list of all private companies utilizing the Ministry's shelter;
2. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the
Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period
Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

3. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to the Parliament.

9.3 FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE.

Was there any clarification? - *No.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That an effective system for appositely fees be set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Ministry of Finance so that these could be monitored and taken into account for revenue collection for the Ministry fairs;

1. To conduct on a monthly basis monitoring of the domain at the Computer Services Limited '.ws' (domain name).
2. To ensure deficiencies identified by audit findings would never be allowed to recur in future.
3. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to Parliament.

9.4 POLICE & PRISONS.

Was there any clarification? - *Yes*

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to the Parliament.

9.5 OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER & CABINET.

Was there any clarification? - *No.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To ensure deficiencies identified by audit findings would never be allowed to recur in future.
2. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raise, before Audit Report is presented to the Parliament.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the
Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period
Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

9.6 MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings especially the construction of the Nurses Facility which was incomplete. The Ministry confirmed that remedial and corrective actions have been on the issues raised.
2. To ensure no overspending on catering and similar expenses on high number of visiting teams of consultants.
3. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

9.7 MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

Was there any clarification - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

9.8 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND COURTS ADMINISTRATIONS.

Was there any clarification? - No.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Ministry should consider the operation of verifying of receipts for adoption and divorce cases.
2. The Ministry should take consideration on monitory of films loaned out to the public in assurance of Video Shops compliance to the Principal Act.
3. The Ministry should consider issue raised by the Audit Office such as monitory of huge projects like the construction at Tuasivi, not only to guarantee the good the usage of Government funds but for future beneficial.

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the
Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period
Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

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

MR SPEAKER: Hon Prime Minister you may stand.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I feel very sorry for the Chairperson reading this important Report. However the wording here ‘Was there any clarification? – yes or no, the Ministry should consider...the Ministry should consider...the Ministry should consider’. Are there no exciting words that can be used in your reports? The House has begun to fall asleep, and to think that the Leader of Opposition wanted all of this to be read out. The only thing I am listening to is recommendations to take into consideration, take in to consideration, take into consideration of monitoring of films. Am I to understand that they are watching films and no work? Asking them to consider is not ensuring actions, it is not ensuring and guaranteeing work is being completed. What are you going to gain from these mere recommendations? Completing work and ensuring development is what is important. The clock is about to strike 13:00 o'clock and yet we are still going on about meaningless considerations. I was anxious to hear this Report because I had thought it would have teeth but all it has is considerations and recommendations. Mr Speaker I move a motion to approve this report.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker may I clarify a matter. This is exactly what I was talking about earlier.

MR SPEAKER: Yes.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I fully support the notions made by the Hon Prime Minister. In truth the report would be very nice if it was read in full.

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition the decision has been finalized. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the recommendations have depth but the constant mention of considering carefully is the problem, because if that is what we are coming into Parliament to do than it is pointless. The country is in need of access roads, of hospitals and schools and all we are doing is making promises and not completing them.

I move a motion, *That the Committee Report be approved Mr Speaker.*

24 JANUARY 2014

**P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report
on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the
Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period
Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011
– Consideration**

Motion was not seconded.

MR SPEAKER: Honorable Chairperson...

Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta: How about if I read it?

MR SPEAKER: Well, the problem with that is it would be confusing on the language and words used in the reading of the Bill; nevertheless we shall leave it to the Chairperson. Honorable Chairperson, I believe you have the wisdom and understanding and the sense to carry out your duty.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: As we wait for Tuisamau may I just mention one thing. Take into consideration, is it a film? This means they just come to watch movies, watch movies watch movies. Let us stop right now, the report is understandable.

MR SPEAKER: We are on the Ministry of Revenue 9.9. Let us begin from there.

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM: Thank you Mr Speaker.

9.9 MINISTRY OF REVENUE:

Was there any clarification? - No.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Ministry needs to enforce legal ways to revive back revenue which has been proven by the Chief Auditor to be from dishonored cheques of the total amount of ST\$908,059.23
2. To seize all staff personal cheques to be withdrawn from Ministry's revenue collection.
3. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.
4. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to the Parliament.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

9.10 MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Since the operation and monitoring of all Government Houses have been referred to the Samoa Housing Corporation, the Committee recommends the Ministry to consider write off of outstanding debts of all Government Houses at Motootua.
2. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

9.11 MINISTRY OF WOMEN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development work together with the Ministry of Finance, to identify and pay off outstanding debts of other Ministry's and Corporation to the Government Printing for its income.
2. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future."

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member for Individual Voters, Hon Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

This is not the time for debate. Only when the Report has been read in full then the opportunity will be granted for debate.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I would like to advise the Chairperson to use synonyms to brighten up the report. For instance the word 'look' can be replaced with the word watch, perceive, survey, observe and so on.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

Afioga MUAGUTUTAGATA FAAMAUSILI AUMATAGI PETER AH HIM: Thank you. I humbly accept your advice Hon Prime Minister.

9.12 **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SPORTS & CULTURE:**

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

9.13 **OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION:**

Was there a response by the Ministry? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Ministry considers issues raised by the Audit Office in order to avoid future management problems.

9.14 **OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE:**

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.1 **Accident Compensation Corporation: (ACC):**

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.2 **Agriculture Store Corporation:**

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.3 Betting & Totalisator Agency: (TAB):

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That a review of all legislations governing the operation of gambling and lottery in the country should be considered, and ensure they are consolidated into one Law for the Totalisator and Betting Agency to monitor and regulate.
2. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.4 Development Bank of Samoa:

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.5 Electric Power Corporation:

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Due to the different content of report of the Audit Office as well as the response by the Electric Power Corporation, the Committee recommends the General Manager of the Electric Power Corporation to work collaboratively with the Chief Auditor, to ensure nothing similar will happen in future.
2. To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

10.6 National University of Samoa:

Was there any clarification? - No.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the University to ensure proper internal controls and consider deficiencies identified by audit findings that it would never be allowed to recur in future.
2. Management to prioritize clarifications to Audit Findings, to ensure remedial and corrective actions have been taken on issues raised, before Audit Report is presented to Parliament.

10.7 Samoa Housing Corporation:

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.8 National Provident Fund:

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.9 Samoa Parliamentary Pension Scheme:

Was there any clarification? - Yes

RECOMMENDATION:

The Management and Board to consider amending...

10.10 Samoa Shipping Corporation.

Was there any clarification? - Yes

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

RECOMMENDATION:

To take note of audit findings and ensure such deficiencies identified should never be allowed to recur in future.

10.11 Samoa Airport Authority

10.11.1: Audited Financial Year - 30 June 2005.

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

10.11.2 Audited Financial Year - 30 June 2006.

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

10.11.3 Audited Financial Year - 30 June 2007.

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

10.11.4 Audited Financial Year- 30 June 2007.

Was there any clarification? - Yes.

10.12 Samoa Land Corporation:

Was there any clarification? - No.

RECOMMENDATION:

In the conclusion of its Findings the Committee resolved to recommend:

- 8.1 On the examination of the overall evidence, it is reasonable to state that due to the seriousness of discrepancies and corrupt practices reported in the Chief Auditors Report, and the Committee has confirmed these matters from its findings, Government is therefore recommended that these Committee findings as mentioned in the report be noted, and appropriate legal actions be implemented and applied to all those who are involved in this investigation to ensure corrupt practice and that relevant provisions of the law.
- 8.2 That a special performance audit be carried out in the provision of services rendered by Management of the Corporation as soon as practicable.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

- 8.3 That Government take seriously, the usage by the Samoan Land Corporation (SLC), or any other Government Ministry or Corporation, of the so called “intermediary company” (Middleman), for any services or the procurement of goods or fixed assets, and to strengthen the adherence to Government procurement policies under the terms and conditions for the purchase of fixed assets, including bids in the tender process.
- 8.4 That the Samoan Land Corporation be ordered to submit their Annual Reports for years commencing in the year ended June 2006 up to June 2012. All these Annual Reports fall within the last Parliamentary term, in the year 2006 to 2011 and continue up to 2012.
- 8.5 That Government takes note seriously with regards to the payment system used in paying contracts or consultants in order to comply, and to enforce the deductions of withholding taxes and remit those to the Ministry for Revenue within the specified times provided by law.
- 8.6 That Government takes note of employment policies in the recruitment of employees, particularly in Government Corporations, so that direct appointments be ceased forthwith, and that vacant positions be advertised, in order to give equal opportunities to those who wish to apply.
- 8.7 That Government takes note of the following compliance of all Government Ministries and Corporations, in respect of tax legislation applied to salary or wages of any employee, so that all taxes that Government must receive are assured.
- 8.8 In accordance with the motive that established a Corporation, the funding of the Office of the Minister was given to the main Ministry under which the Minister is responsible for.
- 8.9 That Government takes note of an efficient organizational structure and the administration of the Samoa Land Corporation, and in particular, its responsibilities and objectives that constituted its establishment. The Committee believes that a Sports Authority has already been established to be responsible for grounds and all sporting facilities belonging to Government.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

The responsibilities of taking care of all grounds and sporting facilities that are located at Tuanaimato Sports Complex, including the Golf Course and the general maintenance of the whole grounds, must now be given to the Sports Authority. Such an arrangement will allow the Samoa Land Corporation to seriously review its mandatory responsibilities and functions and direct its effort to its priority areas.

- 8.10 That Government to carefully review the Tendering System process, considering the design and build concept which allowed corrupt practices, especially with interpreting and assessing design plans. The Committee believes that the provision of an actual plan at the beginning of the Tender process, gives the notion that this is the same job that will be carried out, with all the contractors witnessing, and in that respect, all the contractors will have equal opportunities to offer their bids. With this in mind, that will make things easier and the final decision of the Tender will be very transparent.
- 8.11 That the Government Tender's Board to ensure effective and efficient scrutiny and procurement of any project infrastructure in future to prevent additional variations and costs incurred. The Committee believes that this is also a disadvantage of the design and build concept.

OVERALL VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee believes that most of the deficiencies identified by the Audit Office are management failures, although they should ensure that all employees understand their roles and responsibilities to meet corporate objectives.

The Committee firmly believe that effective and efficient outcomes can only be achieved if proper internal controls and financial procedures are in practice. These working principles should be consistent, well managed and monitored on a timely basis. Government Ministries and Public Bodies should also comply with their reporting obligations and submit Annual Reports to Parliament at the end of each Financial Year, which the Committee feels it is valid and would significantly improve transparent operational controls and account for public resources.

24 JANUARY 2014

P.P.2013/2014 No.56, The Officers of Parliament Committee Report on the P.P.2012/2013 No.13 & P.P.2013/2014 No.12, Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for Period Ended 30th June 2010 and Period Ended 30th June 2011 – Consideration

10. RESOLUTION:

At the conclusion of its consideration, the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly to approve:-

1. P.P.2012/2013 No.13, Report of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for the period ended 1st July 2009-30th June 2010;
2. P.P.2013/2014 No 12, Report of the Controller and Chief Auditor to the Legislative Assembly for the period ended 1st of July 2010-30th June 2011.”

Mr Speaker that concludes my report.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Chairperson for your speech. I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MAILELEGAOI: Mr Speaker it is exactly 12 o’ clock now and perhaps it is time we should take a break. But before we break and approve the report, I would like to thank the Chairperson.

The Findings mentioned in the beginning of the Report of the Auditor clearly stresses the importance of carefully considering the letter known as the Management Letter which outlines issues that the Ministry can address with the CEO. A copy of the Letter is delivered to the Minister and myself every time whereby I would write to the Corporation to consider the contents of the Letter.

This is one of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor. After the audit, they prepare a Management Letter addressing issues to be resolved. Once that is complete a recommendation is to be written up as we have heard the Chairperson reading out the completion of all these works.

Mr Speaker this is how Government works and it is important for me to highlight this because this is the process which the Government takes in all its matters. A letter is received, recommendations are made and then it is put into action. An Audit Report was brought forth in the year 2001 which was also very serious and I remember standing before the Parliament and saying ...most of the CEOs are of the opinion that most of the recommendations have been implemented, but the Letter is important as a reminder’.

24 JANUARY 2014

Statement by Hon Prime Minister

Therefore I stand to express my gratitude to the Chairperson on the lengthy Report that was read out while in the end it stated all was complete.

Mr Speaker that concludes my speech and I move a motion to approve the Report.

MR SPEAKER: We have come to the hour of our recess; however there is a matter of concern as mentioned in the Report and has raised questions from the public. Nevertheless I feel that we should set aside proceedings of Parliament until we meet again.

Furthermore as we arrive at our time of recess, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for his speech to conclude this Parliamentary session.

STATEMENT BY HON PRIME MINISTER

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MAILELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I believe that our next Parliamentary Proceeding will be on March 18th and this is the fourth day of our session this month. It has not been an easy Meeting for the Government and also the Opposition, whereby very crucial opinions were voiced. Therefore I would like to extend and express my gratitude to the Leader of Opposition and Deputy Leader and that side of the House. Lest I forget this side of the House, to the Ministers and their Associates who fully support the work. Samoa is listening in and observing our ways. Our views and opinions ushered in the Parliament are very crucial and life changing. Our thoughts are not held back because the right is the most important element and the main intention is to uphold integrity in the works that we do. The Opposition ensures that by questioning and criticizing every detail, to make sure Government assets are being utilized efficiently. That is the spirit in which we carry out our work because in truth we too need your criticism and advice on alternatives to govern and develop our country. Even though it may seem that at times we oppose and not acknowledge your comments, the truth is that it is truly appreciated. This is the norm of our duties and calling. Our arguments may reach the moon and sky sometimes. That is the way life is, the only difference is that we have different approaches.

There is a joke that I usually tell and perhaps this is a good time to do so again. There once was a leader of an Ecclesia that proclaimed that all Jews be banished from their country. So the day came around for the instructions to be carried out and to debate on the matter. The problem is that the Leader is the only judge of the matter and whose word is the final decision. He is not only the Judge but he is also a well educated individual. He is the smartest of the country. So on the day of the debate, the members gathered and the Leader stood up and stopped them.

24 JANUARY 2014

Statement by Hon Prime Minister

24 JANUARY 2014

Statement by Hon Prime Minister

The debate was carried out by using of hand gestures instead of words. So the debate began first with the Leader of the Ecclesia waving his left hand upwards and toward the right side. The Jew pointed to the ground three times. The Leader waved his hands three times and the Jew waved back. Next the Leader of the Ecclesia reached into his bag and got out an apple, while the Jew took out his sandwich. That was what happened in their debate; just signs and hand gestures. In the end the Jew won and the Leader of the Ecclesia said they could stay.

They separated and one man asked the Leader what exactly they were up to. The Leader said, remember the Jews have different beliefs and they are awaiting their Messiah to return and lead them in defeating the Arabs. That is why I waved and said I know the Lord rules all of the Earth and the Heavens, and he says three times that I am forgetting that Satan rules Hell. Therefore I said there is only one God, and he said one God but three persons. So I thought to myself, it might be best that I move away from Biblical matters and move on to another strategy of science, maybe that will get him. That is why I lay my apple on the palm of my hand questioning him whether he thinks the world is round, and he lay out his sandwich saying that in the Bible, it says that the world is indeed flat. That is when I realized that this Jew is very smart and he won.

On the other hand the Jews gathered around the Jewish man who was in debate with the Leader of the Ecclesia and asked him what they were doing. The Jew said the Leader is a terrible man. They asked, 'what did he say?' He waved his hand saying, Jews get out of here. So I pointed to the ground and said, no way we are not leaving the place where we were born. So he said I am being very cheeky, and I said to him you are being cheeky too. Did you not notice how rude he was? He says it is now 12 so wait there while I have my lunch, so I said okay I am going to eat my sandwich too.

Therefore, there are different interpretations of how a person interprets things like the Leader of the Ecclesia and the Jew. The same applies to our situation. There is a huge difference from sitting on your side and observing the work we are doing and us the Government actually involved in the work and its implementation. For that reason honorable members of the House, this meeting has been very fruitful with the various Bills we have approved. The three important Bills we have approved which have strained us from 9am to 7pm will ensure matters be settled soon. The first bill being the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the other, the Samoa Language Commission which is very important as it will address the state in which our Samoan language has deflected over the years, due to people who presume they know better. The third bill is the Constitution Amendment which we approved today.

24 JANUARY 2014

Statement by Hon Prime Minister

The Constitution Amendment is being questioned by the people on what the alterations of the Bill have been about; the Amendment is merely to address the duration of the Term of the Governments Controller and Chief Auditor which has been extended to 12 years. The post was left until the appointee reached the age of 62, however due to some events happening over the years, the HRPP changed it to 3 years. Nevertheless the Governments principles maintained such posts to be 12 years.

There are two aspects that judge and determine the independence of a Chief Auditor; first is the length of his or her post in office and the second is the direct presentation of his/her report to the Parliament making sure that the Government does not read it first. This is in the auditing principles around the world.

The Auditor shall not have fear of reporting what is right, and should not be afraid to make investigations and report directly to the Parliament. When the 12 years is over, the Chief Auditor resigns and does not work for any other Ministry of the Government. This Amendment is very important because it hopes to ensure good governance is being maintained, and reflect transparency and accountability at its finest. Therefore this Amendment is important and it is well that all 46 members have agreed on this matter. It shows that your side and this side of the House all want what is best and what is right.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Chairperson of the Committee for all the hard work and the effort put into your work. Whatever issues you may raise whether offensive to me or other Ministers, which is the way of the Parliament, and if we respond aggressively at times, I assure that we are only looking for what is right and just.

As I have mentioned many times before, the Cabinets duty is to manage and assess the progress of each Ministry to maintain accountability and transparency with reference to the Auditors investigations. Our country is not a country that does not have a 100% working population. We are responsible and no matter how true or honest one may be, there are faults in all of us.

However it should not entitle a person to be continuously degraded due to one mistake they have made. Samoa is not like that. We are a country founded on God. We should also not let the young reporters of the Observer sway our decisions and duty. As I also mentioned numerous times before. There are often criticisms of my comments that our callings are from God. What of the Bible that we read and the sermons of the servants of God? If your occupation is a Secretary and all you do is type all day and nothing else then that is your calling.

24 JANUARY 2014

Statement by Hon Prime Minister

Your calling as a leader of the country in the Parliament is indeed your calling from God. If we look at David and how many times Saul attempted to kill him? Saul tried countless times to kill David, but the Lord delivered David twice. They came while the armies were asleep, passing the personal guards unnoticed. What did Joab say? David, kill them. But David said, 'would you kill a king who was blessed by God? Do not lay your hand on he who is blessed by God. Yes. We are believers who read the Bible for guidance. It is our way of living.

If God creates the opportunity for a person, then God also determines the fate of that persons misdemeanors. Whether it comes in the form of the Law, then the Law it shall be, because God gave us rules and regulations. God is not different from the Law. However the words that the elder ladies used to mock the Lord, I say to you to remember the Lords words, "He who denies me before men, I will also deny before my father who is in heaven."

Mr Speaker every time we come to the Parliament we make decisions. When you come to the Parliament, be ready because everything good and bad will be upon your shoulders. There are times when there will be more bad than good. It comes with the duty and responsibility of our calling. When one decides to question or criticize they do it freely. The best thing we can do is to have patience and forgiveness through and through. The highest Law God has given us is to love thy neighbor. However you cannot accomplish that if you do not forgive, if you have hatred for your brother or sister. If you cannot forgive thy neighbor then it is useless and meaningless for you to pray the Lords Prayer because the Lords Prayer is fueled by the whole heart. The Lords Prayer encompasses everything including forgiveness, so when you pray the Lords Prayer saying 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us,' without actually forgiving your brother, that means you have intentionally cursed yourself in front of the Lord Almighty.

That is why I was very happy yesterday when the Deputy Prime Minister decided to forgive the Leader of Opposition and vice versa. It is also why I humbly asked Faumui to forgive Papalii. That is the way a Leader of the country behaves, as a Christian.

Mr Speaker I pray and hope that no member shall have a heart of retribution because the Lords teachings are clear on these matters. To be kind to those who hurt us and not to praise thy self, because every time you are kind to those who hurt you, the Lord will curse those who hurt you.

In conclusion Mr Speaker, I would like to say that whatever hurtful words or statements may have been ushered from that side of the house to this side should be forgiven. We forgive you and I hope you extend the same courtesy. Our job is 100% towards the betterment of the country. Samoa, we your Parliament pray for your forgiveness. We fall short at times

24 JANUARY 2014

Adjournment

Mr Speaker as Leaders of the Country, therefore I congratulate you on your benevolence and your will to remain grounded in the managing of 48 of us. I pray the Lord blesses each and every one of this House, may we all have a pleasant break and we shall meet on the March 18th. Bless this Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for your honorary speech. Is there something you wish to say member for Siumu?

Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu): Mr Speaker I would like to clarify something before the Parliament dismisses. I am not the Leader of the Ecclesia which was mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister, or a Saul or David because the Hon Prime Minister was pointing at me while he was telling his story. With due respect.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: Do not worry; there are other members flanking you that the Hon Prime Minister is probably referring to since his speech was general.

I believe we have come to the end of our session and with the speech of the Hon Prime Minister, I trust our thoughts may be renewed and calmed. What has happened in words of anger and distort; let us all forget. Praise the Lord and give glory to him for his presence in our work and what humble service I was able to provide as it is my duty; I return the praise to the Lord for his ever loving guidance in our work. I hope and pray that the words of the Hon Prime Minister may lay solid in our hearts and begin anew so that our work in this New Year will be fruitful and great. I express gratitude to our distinguished Parliament and all its honorary salutations. I believe Samoa listened and observed the success of our meeting.

Lest I forget the Clergy and their hard work in praying day and night for the future and success of not only our meetings but also for the future betterment of all Samoa. I acknowledge your hard work and pray that the Lord continue to bless this meeting and its members. Pray we meet in good health on the date upon which we will adjourn to.

Before departing, I call on the honorable Reverend, a member from Salega, Tofa Tapuai Toese Ah Sam to lead us in prayer to end our meeting.

Prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 12:30pm, until Tuesday 18, March 2014 pursuant to the Parliament Sitting Program 2014/2015.