

FRIDAY, 24TH OCTOBER 2014

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I believe we have once again re-gathered this new morning as we reach the end of our business this week. Such is the spirit of gratitude to all dignitary Members and your significant statuses.

Well done on your patience this week - God has heard our invocation this morning hence we shall continuously praise Him for His everlasting grace and kindness for guiding us to this Friday which is the final and short day of the week where we will end our session at 12.00pm.

If at times things become rough, well that is normally the case hence we share the same goal as we progress with our business of the day.

Thank you Samoa and to all the servants of God for your never-ending support and prayers that have assisted this Parliament remarkably well.

We have heard the message this morning, "Focus our sight on God". Keep to God our view as He is our Guide in and out. If anyone is not a churchgoer, this is a good message for you today.

Be prepared, undoubtedly we shall ensue with hope that the meeting will end well today.

MEDIA COUNCIL BILL 2014
– second reading resume Day 3

MR SPEAKER: Before adjournment yesterday, the members views have been very attentive. We have arrived at response time for the Hon Prime Minister hence I call upon the Hon Prime Minister for your final statement before we put the question as we progress with this Bill.

I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I greet everyone here this morning given God's gracious love. At the end of our session yesterday, I did touch on one of the raising views hence I shall resume responses with other matters.

The foreword this morning speaks on the normal Parliamentary practices and procedures regarding proposed legislations in the House.

There had been many valuable and deep insights expressed by members of Parliament about the bill. Such statements reflected on the notion that the media is a cornerstone of democracy 'both as a matter of public record as well as in its watchdog role.' I note that all statements in the House stressed the importance of the role of the media. This is not a secret.

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All views including mine places emphasis on the invaluable contribution of the media group which is not new. The only concern highlighted in all statements was the need to report the truth and to give all sides affected an opportunity to respond so that stories are not one-sided. One sided stories cause trouble. This is not what the leader of this country wants. We don't want to incite trouble because of a journalist or a gossip-monger's inability to prepare his work well. Consider how clear and simple the law is. The heart of it is to ensure stories are factual and balanced, that's what the law is about. But to have it (Media Council Bill) twisted, twisted and twisted some more, it reflects the true color (of the person). In other words, whoever opposes the law, he is the chief of speaking evil about other people, a troublemaker, manipulator, likes to spread misleading information and a liar.

We have all read Court rulings about incorrect reporting. What about numerous apologies on the newspapers and other media outlets, reflecting their inefficiency? That is the basis of this bill to provide for the development, application and enforcement of a code of practice relating to the news media, and to promote and enhance professional journalism for related purposes. That is the only way to raise quality standards for journalism work in Samoa based on professionalism and integrity of the highest order. How many families have been embarrassed by stories that are unfounded? How many churches, leaders of churches, Reverends, villages and families who have been embarrassed by the abuse and the reckless use of media freedom?

Legally, ruining someone's character through an incorrect story deliberately written with the knowledge that it is wrong, is worse than murder – character assassination vis-a-vis murder. Why is it extreme? With murder, we will not see the dead person again because his body has disappeared but with character assassination, Mr Speaker, the person will live with the shame until the day His Maker calls. Meantime, he is miserable together with his family, spouse, children and village. The right of the affected person is the main highlight in Samoa that is not protected. That is reason behind this provision under Clause 4(2) from yesterday's debate, which acknowledges a Samoan true identity and customs in the village.

Mr Speaker the bill might be new to us in Samoa but it is not new to overseas countries like New Zealand and Australia who were pioneers in such developments. They too came up with guidelines to stop the abuse of media freedom by their media people.

Such abuse breeds the 'high-minded mentality that the media can topple governments. This was evidently shown in some submissions yesterday. The HRPP understands this very well because this is the behavior we've seen for 32 years since the HRPP came into power. But such reporting has never been able to persuade the people of this country. In verification of this, I refer to one of the international examples relating to poor media ethics.

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The first was legal action taken by our government against TVNZ and journalist Barbara Dreaver over a One News story which wrongly conveyed that Samoa was 'awash with guns and drugs. In the end, the New Zealand Broadcasting Standards Authority fined TVNZ \$5000. This woman was fined by a huge amount. It was proven that the story she wrote was a lie and their Council fined her.

Mr Speaker, it wasn't long ago that the News of the World was closed because of what had happened. The newspaper was 160 years old, owned by billionaire Murdock, he was a billionaire because of numerous false stories that were published in his newspaper. It was closed because of dirty and corrupt ways his writers used to fraudulently collect information in relation to a young girl who was kidnapped and killed by terrorists. The writers also used corrupt ways to steal emails so they could write their sensational stories which were appealing to the eyes so people could buy more newspapers, and in the process making money from the life of this young girl.

The corrupt and dirty tactics led to the abrupt closure of the 160 years old News of the World Newspaper. This is the essence of having good code of practice according to the legislation, to guide the reporters and the Authority well as provisioned in the Act. This ruthless behavior by Murdock is also used by the Samoan media to collect information to produce false reports. This was clearly provided by the Speaker yesterday pertaining to unconfirmed claims presented. These claims are extremely weak which seemingly look as if the Government will rule the Media Council.

Firstly who appoints the Membership of the Association? The answer is the Association of journalists. That is clearly given in paragraph 36 of the legislation.

Secondly, who appoints the Council? So it's the media instructing their own members. The answer is the Media Board Committee who is made up of journalists alone. These two Committees binds and rewards power to power for the media group to regulate the members of the media behavior. The Authority is not involved. From the sum of 11 members, five is from the Journalism Association whilst the other five is selected from the 20 in the Media Council.

Mr Speaker, see the easy bill we have involving power to monitor media standards and professional development. The only involvement for appointment process making is His Highness the Le Ao o le Malo who makes a temporary Council appointment if they are (Media Council) unable to appoint its own members. This is the same extortion thing that had happened with the Red Cross. The former President of the Red Cross is in our presence and he is well aware of this. Power no longer exists on extortion or blackmailing.

These are some of Jesus' teachings; no kingdom lasts forever if at war. That is the reason for appointing this small Committee to oversee this temporary Committee until the Council members of the Red Cross resolves their case. The same case happened with SASNOC whereby extortion was involved.

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What happened? They called us (Government) and I called a meeting with the Sports Federation Council to resolve and negotiate their differences paving to the reinstatement of the new SASNOC we have now.

That is the similar power withheld by the O Le Ao o le Malo to select a temporary Council particularly when cooperation is absent calling for a new Council establishment to formally execute media work. J.A.W.S. and the Council have to go hand in hand because they work hand-in-hand to implement the law. The Association plays a vital role in operating the Council to strengthen the professionalism of the media. The view about the former Journalist President who was Uale at the time was an appointment by the Association. I noted (from remarks in Parliament) that Uale was used as a front while a dagger was hidden by arguing that Uale was a government person.

The Government has no business whatsoever in the appointment of Uale to the Presidency, it was done (by JAWS) during their meeting. As for questions about the Council being funded by the government, these are irrelevant statements. How many times has the Journalists Association asked the government for financial assistance? These came to me directly and assistance was granted, especially when they hosted some major international meetings. This has never interfered with their freedom to say anything against me and the Cabinet. It hasn't stopped it. Why should this (Council) be different? Somebody said that a lot of money is being used for the salary of the leader of the Opposition and yet for all that he has only become worse. To the Leader of the Opposition, all you do is bringing further faults to the table. The goal of the government's assistance is to ensure that this important Council doesn't disappear quickly because of the lack of finances. The main intention behind the Government is for the Media to remain independent despite likely government funding to assist the Council in its initial phase of its work. The Media industry also requested some financial assistance which shows just how weak they are financially. The objective is the long delayed complaints of those....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, a point of clarification...

MR SPEAKER: Sit down member I shall give you the chance when...I will...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Let the Prime Minister rest for a bit...

MR SPEAKER: Sit down member.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Even if it takes two days for me to stand it does not matter.

Mr Speaker, the concern on the long overdue appeal cases is briefly given in Clauses 18, 19, and 20. The notable keyword herein is “*tutotonu*”. This is the central aim of these provisions. In the English translation, “within”. 20 days is given to reach a decision but if it takes a day or two, why not? It does not have to be 20 or 10 days. The aim of the bill is to reach a well taken decision. That is the essence.

The journalism profession not only protects this area of expertise, but it also involves easy, affordable information for the victims that are affected by these reports.

This is provisioned in Clause 28 which provides for the orders that the Council may make if a respondent is found to have breached the Code of Practice. This is similar case that our government with the Council of New Zealand.

The maximum fine per violation is \$5,000. This is a large amount that can be amended until it reaches its peak, but this is something to start off with.

Mr Speaker, this bill must incorporate further provisions on a person who wishes to become an excellent journalist, not wandering around and all of a sudden become a writer.

Section 32(4) also provides the power to the Association membership to set up their own guidelines and regulations. The normal process is to create rules and regulations to guide the eligible members of the Media Council. The answers to all the complaints are inside this legislation. I am briefly highlighting the different sections of this legislation that covers all raising matters.

Have a blessed meeting Mr Speaker and everyone, the same to the inquisitive reporters who have heated up the atmosphere in the House. Farewell and blessings.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Well done Hon Prime Minister the owner of this critical bill. What else...? The chance was given yesterday...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Yes, I have stood up long time ago. Because the Leader of the Opposition is affected as well as its benefits and salary. But be mindful Mr Speaker, the Government has to do what is right for the Opposition side and its leader. What concerns me....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Palu, I am clarifying this....

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Give me a chance Mr Speaker as the Prime Minister has been speaking all morning....

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MR SPEAKER: I gave you a chance yesterday. I shall clarify your concern before your chance is given.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: A point of clarification Mr Speaker pursuant to Standing Orders? I am not yet finished with my clarification.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I now understand. I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I did not take that case as an extreme case. That is not my word. I am only quoting the words that were given yesterday. You should've responded to that yesterday, but I am giving the comparison by a member of this side given your adamant talks on government funds. Government funds will not jeopardize the media's independence. Your independency is not affected, you will still be standing. That is the same case with your salary that is funded by the government.

Mr Speaker, this is not my statement. If this statement was significant to you, then you should've interjected yesterday. Your time is up, your chance to intervene has ended from yesterday where you should've avoided this statement. I plead like the post office, I only email messages which are not mine.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, my concern is funding...Look at Savali and 2AP that is wholly governed by the Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Palu, I have already given attempts. I have not allowed you to speak and now you are....Palusalue, are you listening to what I am saying, are you still not listening. Palu...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Well I am trying...

MR SPEAKER: That is a disorderly behaviour in the House.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: This is not disobeying orders, I am asking for a chance to this Side.

MR SPEAKER: Sit down. This is seemingly going towards the wrong way. Do not take my respect for granted...unless I permit you then you can speak, yet you freely speak as you wish. Is that the appearance of a good leadership? I have given you all day yesterday to express your views in which you spoke openly.

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**Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014
– first reading**

Similarly to this morning, you attempt to raise matters that were raised yesterday. Do not overstress yourself in case you succumbed to the wishes of the Government and its integrity. The Prime Minister's statement is well given, yet you still attempt to remind the same to the Minister of Health. Has this removed your integrity?

That is the intention to express the media work without being restricted. You've seen it, the JAWS no longer exists and is being deregistered. Why? Due to worrisome and disagreements. How permissive? Government duty is to assist all its governmental bodies. That is the basis behind this bill. Palu this is your last warning. Do not rise should you wish to. Lefau, not only are you a lawyer by profession but also a former judge, I ask you to clarify the Standing Orders to your side. The essence is to abide with our House rules. You do not rise whenever you feel like it. This is not a banana branch (pafai). Palusalua, it has been four years since I gave you my respect and advice, nonetheless I see that you disrespect me as the Speaker. This matter is now clear.

I call the Leader of the Opposition that is what we call 'permission' instead of rising immediately and speak that may lead you to strike the electricity post.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker, I beg tolerance, because if this how it will be, I will be avoided.

MR SPEAKER: I have given you a lot of chances.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: I beg forbearance if I have overstepped any boundaries. I know you are a Speaker of chances and forgiver. Hence I ask for your forgiveness if I have disobeyed you with the aim to give a small contribution from this few side. I plead that you forgive me. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: The apology is acceptable.

The motion was approved and the Media Council Bill 2014 was approved for its second reading.

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014
– first reading**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders, this bill will be referred to the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee for their review and report back to the Legislative Assembly in a future sitting.

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**Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014
– second reading**

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise to move, *That the Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014 will be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Enterprises.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2015 (SPONSORSHIPS)
BILL 2014 – second reading**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Certificate of Urgency assented by the Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to the second reading of the bill.

I call the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise to move, *That the Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014 will be read a second time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister for your clarifying statement.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, this bill presented Samoa's bid to host the Commonwealth Youth Games through the Samoa Association of Sports in the past three to four years. Like other countries, we are engaged with some difficulties involving two organizations since last year. This Association is networking with other countries as well as the government. The addressing issues also occurred back in 1983 and 2007 when we became hosts. Pardon me but this is like a two headed horse with each head being dragged on opposite sides. This is the essence of this Commonwealth Games Bill.

In July of last year, a notice reached us that if they will not receive any confirmation of our full preparation of this event, they will cancel the event given the disconnected communications with the SASSNOC. That is why the Cabinet stepped in to overtake this process as Samoa could benefit very well from such event. We could benefit through the marketing and promotions process attracting the many visitors to Samoa.

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During our meeting in Washington, I was stunned to receive news from the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Games that there was a 54th Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting that needed my assistance. I told them to bring the meeting to Samoa as this is the exact time where we will host the Commonwealth Games. Hence we will have a dual event held at the same time, the Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting. 54 nations is a small meeting compared to the 200 nations that we hosted (SIDS). The government's intention is to attract tourism businesses and increase job opportunities for our children because all this would be useless without employment growth. Childbearing development is on the rise as witnessed in some families. Hence we should plan ahead in terms of economy and job creation for future graduating generation. There is set plans to have two fishing companies by the end of the year which will produce 700 job vacancies.

Mr Speaker, that is the foreword to this bill with the hope that it will be a success. From the previous conference (SIDS) we've created a private sector partnership to produce more employments in assistance to the government. The sports facilities and gymnasiums will now be used for the Commonwealth Games. That is the reason why I stated yesterday, most of the government assets including vehicles etc will be used for the upcoming meetings including the Tuna Commission Meeting, and another conference next year at a time like this before we have the Commonwealth Games.

This bill therefore encourages closer ties with the private sector and their support to bear fruits to these initiatives that will in return benefit the private sector. That is why they should assist us (government). Otherwise when we ask for their assistance they say, "why not provide us finance and reduce our taxes".

That is the whole purpose of this bill to capture the (private sector's) assistance remembering to reduce their taxes. The Cabinet has thought that such is a good thing. If that is their contribution, we have different ways of giving assistance through allocating taxes on received returns. This bill also covers duty on equipments required for the Commonwealth games that ends on the final day of the event. This bill will automatically be repealed after one year requirement in case it affects government investments. If observed Mr Speaker, yesterday we discussed the lighter load on those who are unable to pay the costly private lawyers.

Today, we are giving reduced burden to the members of the media to effectively do their jobs. This is all we are doing, providing less burden with the hope that this House will support this very small bill. That is the only provision which is very tiny and is no huge bill. Have a blessed review of the bill.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I will give the chance to the Leader of the Opposition before the member of Faleata West.
I call the Leader of the Opposition.

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 – second reading

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, the question is brief for the Hon Prime Minister's wonderful statement, light burden for the lawyers, light burden for the games and the media. In query, what about the high cost of living in the country? If only we can obtain a bill to lessen the burden for the people.

MR SPEAKER: I now get it....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, until it is time to give the bill on the low cost of living then I will give a statement but do not discuss that but focus on this one, we are getting to the point where we'll have to spoon feed everyone.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance as well as the respectable representatives of Samoa and its supporters this morning. Thank you also to the Hon Prime Minister for this bill.

This bill is highly supported with a few queries. Firstly, can the Government Ministries support the Private Sector Companies and Public Sectors and obtain the same rewards.

Secondly, this bill has the Parliament's approval of its roles and eligibility selection requirements, sponsorships and support. However the bill does not clearly state the appointment of a Board body for this Company. In query, this should've integrated herein, the appointment of the Board to this Company....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the notable member let me give the clarification.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this Committee under the Companies Act was also passed in Parliament. That is why Company is not incorporated but it will be repealed as soon as the work is done. There is a different bill for that. Once the process requires (government's) decision making as read out in the beginning, we also missed the bus due to difficulties between the government and the SASSNOC. When difficulties arise such as this, government will resort to legal ethics by using Companies Act that was passed in Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: I call the member to resume his statement.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. Now that this Company is established, am I correct that is has been appointed and set up. I support the Hon Prime Minister that these are now new; we are used to hosting these games events. I take this opportunity to thank the government and the SASSNOC for hosting the (SIDS) Conference.

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Although we faced some difficulties, but thank you to the representatives who fought to have the games in the country. This is a good opportunity to utilise our sporting facilities and promote our nation. Furthermore, we will hold the upcoming conferences. We received news about the Chinese President that he will arrive in Fiji after the meeting in Australia. I request the Hon Prime Minister that this significant Chinese leader should visit us as we were pioneers to forming partnerships with China.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member I call the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker lest our good relationships with (China) is affected, please direct your comments to this bill, remember we don't have a direct flight to China, whereas Fiji has one, that is why we shall renew our departure area by January or February at the beginning of the new year, where we will have a new jet way in the second floor like the one in New Zealand for easier access. Once we have all these new facilities, it will be efficient for the larger aircrafts to fly directly to China and America. That is the government's proposed plans hopefully at the commencement of the new year.

MR SPEAKER: I call the acknowledging member to continue.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. The last question your honour, if the tax credit confirms a rising growth to millions, how is this done, are taxes cut by instalments in case the company asks for the entire returns from a given financial year. But if by instalment, then...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I get it, since you are the Chief Manager for Aggie Grey's Company, if you give one million, I will be very interested to look at your case.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker it shouldn't be a million, it should be more than that.

Mr Speaker, this is weird morning, this is the first time I've seen you getting angry but you know what, you don't have the looks, because you are a person of God, peace in your heart, and...

MR SPEAKER: Leala, give your conclusion.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: The Psalm we had yesterday, do good things like a tree planted by stream of water yes, but today's psalm speaks about fixing your eyes to the Lord where help comes from, do not pay attention to the Leader of the Opposition, if wrong, return the vehicle yes.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the only word you uttered that is correct is streams of waters whereas any waterfall, it flows swiftly surviving no plants.

MR SPEAKER: I see.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thanks your honor, no it is plants that grown near the river, it is not planted in the river.

MR SPEAKER: But it's a river.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, assist the Prime Minister who lacks knowledge in Theology.

MR SPEAKER: Well you know God's nation, hosanna, hallelujah, praise the Lord. They are same people who shouted to have Him crucified. Stop playing stupid games with me.

Well I believe we have reached our morning recess, may the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for its normal recess.

The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its normal recess at 10.13am and resumed at 10.52am.

MR SPEAKER: I now announce the resumption of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. I believe we have reached this part of the day. I believe you have regained energy from our breakfast this morning.

During our break we were progressing the urgency of this bill, the chance is now open to the floor for debate.

I call the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

Afioga TOELESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, thank you also for the delicious breakfast prepared by the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, I wish to contribute to the proposed legislation beforehand. Firstly Mr Speaker, I wish to extend appreciation to the organisations who prepared the bidding process that has made us host the Commonwealth games in Samoa. This bill carries out the laid out programs in preparation for this event. I only wish to provide a few submissions to assist this Company with implementing their job.

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Firstly Mr Speaker, I wish to know why this Company is incorporated in this legislation. I recall a previous statement by the Prime Minister – given the urgency of this bill. Recalling the South Pacific Games that was operated under an Authority, it seems that the Parliament no longer reviews and reports these Companies.

But this involves other Ministries like the SOES that have their reports reviewed by the Parliament on an annual basis. Such is the execution of this legislation under the Company's Act. Hence the Parliament no longer has authority over these reports that have been wastefully funded. In belief, a lot of these games will involve several Ministries and Corporations in the country. To obtain clarification, why is it set up as a Company over an Authority like in the past years – and report back to Parliament once the execution process is completed.

Secondly, if these company is a success, all shareholders should earn some profit. If these shareholders cannot pay shares by the government, they too should be rewarded with some profits. One section states for exemption on income tax for the company. In assistance, this must be considered appropriately as majority of our SOE companies pay taxes and see if necessary to obtain government taxes.

Mr Speaker, on sponsorship, the SIDS and SPG involves smaller countries whilst the Commonwealth Games involving 54 nations are loaded with money and have duty rights earning us major sponsorships from foreign Companies out of the Pacific that can broadcast this event globally. Such is the new company that will be set up to reconsider...as major finances is required to fund duty rights, but companies like NIKE will also contribute significantly to our economy in terms of promotion and equipments used to avoid....not only with sponsorships as well as the requirements to boost our income level.

Mr Speaker, those are a few submissions to the bill, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. I call the member for Palauli le Falefa followed by the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I speak as I too was involved with the preparations of the South Pacific Games 2007. I firstly extend gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister for establishing this new legislation. First of all, the government complies with its mission to develop private enterprises or the private sector that have immensely contributed to the country's economy.

This host Mr Speaker and the respectable Parliamentarians that make up thrice the country from the South Pacific Games. A total of 54 nations will take part which is roughly 300% in comparison to the participating nations of the SPG. I see for sponsorships, we have both cash and in kind sponsorships for the games. Hence we use the price value to calculate it into money value.

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This is the issue engaged with the Board Committee for SPG at that time is specifically copy right, least we now have a legislation which I know time will be referred to when issues arise.

Mr Speaker, that is one issue we encountered during the South Pacific Games, fighting our copy rights for those offering their finance and items as well as requirements.

As mentioned by one member the coverage area is worldwide, not like the South Pacific Games which involves only the region and the Oceania, but this hosting, I believe we'll earn lots of competitive sponsors for Official Carriers or people who aim to broadcast news about this event globally – hence this is a great opportunity to further promote Samoa with its customs, social hospitality and earn more opportunities for our business ventures to grow employments for our locals. One member mentioned that the responsible company will have tax free entitlements on top of its valued products imported in the country which is the basis of this bill.

Mr Speaker, those are some of the submissions in regards to the experience earned from the South Pacific Games. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done to the respectable member. I call the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Utu Salele.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTU SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker. I once again extend gratitude for the proposed legislation.

I foremost convey appreciation to the Hon Prime Minister and the government for this vital chance to attract the many proposed upcoming conference events such as the recent SIDS including other upcoming events and the Commonwealth Games.

Perceptually, after the Olympics Games, the Commonwealth is automatically taken place next internationally with the involvement of various nations as well as participants and several athletic events specially broadcasting events worldwide. As laid out in this legislation, I am grateful as we remain consistent with this government partnership with the private sector, for true that government always takes initiative, as well as working in collaboration with the public and private enterprises to solidity economic growth in the country in all its sectors.

The new change incorporated as discussed by some members for the South Pacific Games, according to the legislation, the supporting companies will be awarded 100% income tax relief in return for the good service they provide. The South Pacific Games had 200% but given the enormous sporting field we now have according to set plans, 100% is more appropriate.

Another key area is the full administration of this event by a Company. Such covers the monitoring of audited reports for regional records that are accredited under international standards which is significant. Hence whatever plans we have ahead, at least this is set appropriately.

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– second reading**

Similarly to companies, they must pay taxes given government's large assistance through its partnership lessening the burden on the people, 100% without interest rate. These will administer the companies like all the other companies, they must contribute to our local economy through tax and policy requirements set out by the Ministry for Revenue.

I therefore conclude with a statement to the honourable Mr Speaker, the member for Salega wholly support this legislation that must take effect in preparation for the upcoming meetings and the Commonwealth Games. I congratulate all who have contributed to preparing this event, well done on a successful event. This is called an economy that does not involve tax payments but multiply effects. All these contribute to our economic level for the welfare of the nation.

That is the brief explanation, thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I think nobody else wishes to speak, hence I call the Hon Prime Minister to respond before we proceed with this legislation.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I give gratitude for the statement in support of this event. Truthfully, if we wouldn't have received sponsorships to the letters we distributed to lessen the burden, we would not have submitted an amended legislation to attract the businesses by marketing and selling their products during this very event that will benefit the entire country. That is the exact reason why this legislation was presented when I spoke of the sensitive issues at the initial stage.

We were only given two weeks to negotiate, if we could not cater for these submissions, then we wouldn't have been successful to host this event. We would not have hosted as there are plenty other countries that have done it before, they too could've hosted it. But given our strive, although we've recently hosted the SIDS Conference, the facilities and developments that we worked hard for will be very useful for such event to take place. We would have immensely missed our chance including the food preparation arrangements followed during the event.

That is reason for giving chances to the interested companies to which most of them (companies) showed interest by way of making their products marketable (to the SPG participants). Hence the use of this sporting event will help promote their patriotism to the country by attracting customers to buy their products. Therefore there is no such thing as a free lunch in this world. The chicken is thrown whilst they still hold on to the afa, '*be satisfied with what we offer*' hence they (participants) too want to receive the benefit in return, which is their plea.

One asked if the government enterprises are entitled to this sponsorship. In response, we do have government enterprises who can apply. TAB is one, with available funds to games such as raffle and the casino. We also have the SIFA. This organisation assists financially when funding rugby activities.

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**Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014
– consideration in detail**

Such government bodies are eligible and could become sponsors in support of this international event.

Some said that money is not everything. That is the situation, in case the Water Authority may also respond by offering their sponsorship through water (supply) to the event free of charge, this will cater the entire country from the good water source at Faleolo which could last us forever. Then the participants will take this local product with them and promote it globally. That is one reason behind the statement which said that money is not everything, but we also receive in kind donation other than cash donation. All these are covered under sponsorships.

TV rights are under negotiations with our local (media) Corporation, so that nothing is overlooked during broadcasting. Such is given in the legislation; all stories must be well written and researched before submission to the government as this company is government owned under a one year contract. The difference between this company and the rest is that others are on a continual contract basis but this one specifically deals with sporting events. Once the games are over, it will automatically be closed down with audited reports, and revenue submitted to the government.

Mr Speaker, that is the explanation with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you.

Motion approved and the Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorship) 2014 was read a second time.

**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2015 (SPONSORSHIP)
BILL 2014 - consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the certificate of urgency received and assented by the Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to the consideration in detail of the bill.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 102, the consideration in detail commences with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Interpretation.

Approved.

CLAUSE 3: Sponsors.

Approved.

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Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorships) Bill 2014
– consideration in detail

CLAUSE 4: Tax deductions under the Income Tax Act.

Approved.

CLAUSE 5: Customs duties.

Approved.

CLAUSE 6: Minister's Order.

Approved.

CLAUSE 7: Company exempted from income tax.

Approved.

CLAUSE 8: Expiration of Act.

Approved.

CLAUSE 9: Consequential amendment and saving.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.

TITLE: Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorship) 2014.

The Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorship) 2014 now progressed without any Amendments.

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**COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2015 (SPONSORSHIP)
BILL 2014 – third reading**

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to the certificate of urgency received with the assent by His Highness Le Ao o le Malo, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed with the third reading of this bill.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move the motion, *That this Commonwealth Youth Games 2015 (Sponsorship) 2014 be now read a third time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public & Governmental Enterprises.

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

MR SPEAKER: We now come to the end of our business for today but in the event of monthly sittings, we have commenced from Tuesday until Friday pursuant to our sitting program scheduled.

With great respect, I convey sincerest appreciation to all respectable members of the House for your patience from the beginning of our scheduled sitting day until this part of the morning. I beg indulgence, well done members, well done on your participation and attendance to our meeting. I believe we have received your tremendous contribution not only with new legislations, the second reading bills and debates as well as passing some of the very critical bills such as the recent bill we just had. The essence of our business is to achieve all set targets. I bear witness for the work achieved today is more than expected.

I extend deepest appreciation to everyone in the House for the scheduled work done. Whatever we have achieved today, it is not us. We must give praise to God for we have reached the end of this schedule. We must bear our humble hearts on our callings and how best best to use them, we are only useless servants. Whatever exchanges we had today, this House is known as Laloifi.

All views, comments and wisdom shown today specifically your well known wisdom is stationed at Satuiamaa the place of viewpoints, that is the belief.

To the dignitary House, whatever duties received and presented, that is how decision making is done. If we seek to find transparency and accountability, we don't mix our words, hence we endeavour with respect, we are nation of significant status and divisions, the tree that has been designed, Tiafau the sacred lands of Samoa, I beg tolerance for you are the chosen representatives of Samoa, we come to make good use of our calling by serving Samoa for its benefit and welfare in the future.

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Motion for Adjournment

Therefore, respectable members of the House, let us seek God's peace, let us be faithful and bear honesty, how good and pleasant it is when the people live together, we bear the essence of fighting for the good, show our views all for the benefit of Samoa going forward.

I also extend well appreciation to Samoa and your support, I believe Samoa is a country of significant statuses, nobody can change that, your significant statuses is permanent in all of Samoa's honorific salutations in serving Samoa for a better tomorrow. To the servants of God wherever you are, Samoa is believed to be blessed by God. Whatever exchanges we had that sounds irritating to your hearing, you know well, your prayer calls for the paramount meeting of Samoa not be forsaken.

Respectable members of the House, we have ended our sitting for this month, let us rest next month before we assemble back in the final month of the year. I believe you are well protected by God's unfailing love, we pray that all difficulties shall disappear, let us seek the mountains for assistance. This is a brief statement before the House, with hope that our journey is safeguarded this month and the engagement of the Prime Minister and Cabinet with its set duties and roles, business trips specially this side of the House and its continuous responsibilities next month.

I wish to remind all that there is an all mothers event presented in the invitations we gave out to everyone. This is your chance we will have food and soft drinks as well as health promotional activities for good health. Whoever is available for this Samoan Tausala night this evening, please feel free to join us as everyone is more than welcome.

We shall have lunch this afternoon at Tofilau Eti Alesana prepared by the Office of the Legislative Assembly, afterwards you can make your way to the place known by Lealailepule as the house of the living. Do not use it as a house of whisper and other things but use it as a house of the living.

That is the spirit this afternoon, hence we have reached the end of our session today. I call the Hon Prime Minister for your statement and motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, we shall do as you say from your seat. Everything that you said is the same congratulatory message to all the members of the House, despite the short sittings we had this month, we have achieved the many tasks including the proposed legislations we have approved. I speak on behalf of everyone here.

I rise Mr Speaker to move the motion, *That the Legislative Assembly be now adjourned until we assemble back on Tuesday 16th December 2014 which is the last sitting of the year.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Revenue.

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Motion for Adjournment

Motion was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Before we end our meeting, we will have a celebration to bless our dispersal before we adjourn our meeting.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was adjourned at 1:02 pm until 9:00 am on Thursday, 23 October 2014 pursuant to the Sitting Schedule Program 2014/2015.