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FRIDAY, 26 JUNE 2020

Mr Speaker took the chair at 9.05am.
Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the commencement of the Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

It is a pleasure to see the dignitaries of Parliament in good health, and also the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDER

MR SPEAKER: I announce that I have in my hand the Amendments to the State of Emergency Orders as verified by His Highness Le Ao O le Malo I call upon the Clerk to read out the following Amendments and to Table them before Parliament.

The Clerk read out the Amendments to the State of Emergency Orders.

1. Fishing Vessels and Container Ships

- I. Permission to dock Fishing Vessels at the Matautu wharf shall not exceed 48 hours to unload fish, and the restocking of supplies before leaving Samoa;
- II. Permission to dock two Container Ships at the Matautu Wharf at the same time, will depend on justifiable and appropriate reasons and the capability of the Ports Authority and other government bodies to carry out the necessary safety actions;

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Other Announcements by Mr Speaker

- III. To continue carrying out the Health safety measures provisions at the Wharf, for the protection of the public from the pandemic shall be the collective role of the Ministry of Health, Ports Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

2. Bingo Games

- I. Bingo Games on Friday are open but closes at 10.00pm;
- II. The times for the bingo games on Saturdays remain and closes at 5pm.

3. Ferry Schedule between Upolu and Savaii

- I. Travelling between Upolu and Savaii is now open to everyone age 60 and over;
- II. The use of Pensioners Identification for free travel between Upolu and Savaii.

The following changes shall take effect from Thursday 25th June 2020 until further notice.

The provisions of the State of Emergency Orders initially given out will remain in effect.

Signed on this Day **25 of June 2020**.

Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II
OLE AO O LE MALO

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**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3) 2019/2020 &
 APPROPRIATION BILL 2020/2021 – debate on second reading**

MR SPEAKER: During adjournment yesterday the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries was giving his address.

I respectfully call upon the Hon Minister to continue with his statement on matters raised by members.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry): Mr Speaker, the dignitaries of Parliament have met once again in good health due to the Grace of our Lord in Heaven.

At the end of our meeting yesterday, there were quite a few interruptions from members on matters which they did not speak on. So unless you allow me to respond I will do so, and will abide your ruling. But I will now continue my address on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Our agricultural export products from 2015 were nonu, fish, cocoa, oil, taro, Samoan banana, lime, yam and breadfruit. The total value of our export products in 2015 was \$40.4 million and in 2019 it was \$64.5 million. It gives one the sense of appreciations as I mentioned yesterday, the contribution of our farmers and fishermen to the economy. We are witnessing improvement. Mr Speaker some members spoke on the project called SAFPRO, Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project, or as we referred to from the beginning in Samoan, SEFIPOLOMI. This project is for 5 years and takes off this year. The capital appropriated in the budget as Cabinet were questioned by some members will depend on the work to be decided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance and what can possibly be done within this financial year to begin next month and will be \$11 million to \$12 million. That is my brief explanation. But the total cost of the project will see \$13.9 million from the World Bank through the International Development Association (IDA) grant, the regional grant from the World Bank will be US\$6 million. The IFAD grant will be \$3.6 million. So the total funding will be US\$23.55 million. As I have explained that money cannot be used within one year. This undertaking will be for 5 years. The two Ministries involve are currently collaborating with the planning and allocation of capital so as to respond...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker a point of clarification.

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MR SPEAKER: Did you mention your point of clarification in your remarks?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: It seems that I am the target of the statement because I did speak about it during my remarks but, it was directed to the Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: To the Minister of Finance?

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I am of the view that it will be fully understood if...

MR SPEAKER: Well make it brief.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I had thought that what I raised would be clear and understood. My concern is in the budget it shows \$11 million given, just like the USD\$3.6 million that was converted.

MR SPEAKER: I advise you...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Sir this amount is within the Budget. I do understand that the process for grants is that it is delivered in part. So the grant from the IFAD has been given, but the IDA.

MR SPEAKER: I advise you....

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I do not know where this money has gone to.

MR SPEAKER: When we discuss the Budget in individual items you may then raise this because the Minister is giving his general address on export products. So I beg tolerance of the member but when we get to single items you may then raise this.

The Minister will continue his address.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker for clarifying his matter.

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker with all due respect, I seek your discretion as this is very important.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies but I will allow the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Thank you. In order to shed light on the matter, I move that, *the member table his records for the information of the Minister of Finance and the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee so as to deliberate the issue since USD\$20 million is in question.*

That is the motion where I am asking for the member's records to be tabled.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: To clear up the Ministers statement. That is the motion with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Please resume your seat whilst the government gives its response.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker you have given your ruling and there is the opportunity to deliberate these matters when we come to the consideration of our expenses and revenue.

The thing is, the Minister of Finance has given his address but it seems that they have just come up with their thoughts. I got up and asked the member for Salega a single question concerning Vodafone and BlueSky. So I interrupted to say that I will cover it later. What disappoint me is that he once occupied that Chair and yet he has forgotten about these rules, time is up and that is it. So if there are matters to be considered there are opportunities of 15 minutes that will come after. But at least have patience until the matter is understood.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

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Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but I will allow the member for Urban Seat West...

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: I too want to understand this document that is proposed to be brought forward. So I second the opinion that it should be brought before us for our information...

MR SPEAKER: Do you wish to know what this document is... I beg tolerance of the member for Faleata...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, this party of three are all getting it wrong, one after the other and yet you have given your ruling. Do show some respect to the Chair.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, the motion is in accordance with the Standing Orders. So I beg tolerance but the motion must be accepted so as to clear the matter on money, whose money is this? It is the people but there is no record showing in the Government books.

MR SPEAKER: I have given my ruling on the matter to save time and so as to progress with our orders. The Minister of Finance has given his statement and the Prime Minister spoke about the other area at the beginning. With the opinions raised well I say that the Minister of Agriculture is on the mark and in due course when we get to the consideration of individual items you may then have the opportunity to discuss it further.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Sir we will say no more and will respect your ruling.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I need to clarify this....

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I raise a point of order concerning the Prime Minister's remark. The reference to us as a Party is incorrect and I am conscious of the fact that the public are listening. Stop misleading the public.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I rise again to....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member whilst allowing the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Since they are talking about the consideration of finances as if we are covering up something, but our actions are done according to Standing Orders. The opportunity is passed, when the Minister of Finance took the floor. So are we going to allow this? That is anyone can just get up and fire away. You had over three weeks to peruse and to comprehend the budget.

Mr Speaker, I'm trying to discuss the issues but this Party of 3 keeps interrupting. You cannot hide a chick for it will continue chirping. I am sorry but your Party of 3 is not recognised unless that number is 8.

Mr Speaker that is the case. But if you decide to become official well then do the righteous thing which is to resign and go back to the polls.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker I am full of respect.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Let me say this. I beg tolerance of the member for Faleata and Gagaifomauga No.3. I am trying to keep order so as to have some control over the House and the debate. Our actions and the way we conduct ourselves must be done according to Standing Orders. I have before me the records of our orders and all the speeches in the House. The Minister of Finance has given his response to the point raised by the member for Salega and supported once again by the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

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The member for Faleata has also taken the floor to support the motion yet it has been explained. Such behaviour is unacceptable in Parliament, so I beg tolerance of members and ask you to have patience until we get to the consideration of the budget where members will have two opportunities of 15 minutes

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I have given my ruling. Members persisting on persuading the Speaker after having made my ruling is contempt of proceedings.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you. The thing is I am not affiliated to a party. I too am curious whether this document serves to be true. It is best that we all look at this document for it could be a false one that is misleading all of us.

MR SPEAKER: I did say to you to hand in the documents to confirm this but you could not. Leave it at that...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes Mr Speaker it is why I got up as I have confirmation. I wonder if your honorable would agree and accept the motion. That is my plea with respect.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of you but you will have to wait until we get to the stage when it will be considering into detail. The Prime Minister will take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I had thought that these members would not be taking the floor to submit their documents of confirmation. Yet they did this before where their documents were not substantiated. This includes that guy standing over there.

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I ask you to hold on to your papers as we have piles of them which were not proven as it was all lies.

Mr Speaker that is my assistance.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker the accusation is serious.

MR SPEAKER: My commiseration.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: The public understands. How can you say the Committee Report has not come to us yet? Mr Prime Minister it is sad that you are a slanderer.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: How sad, the Committee have not given their report and yet he is claiming that it was not substantiated?

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker perhaps the member has forgotten that the other report has already been submitted and it contains so much details clearly stating that it was not a generator but a fridge, such were the details on the documentation. When this matter went before the Finance and Expenditure Committee it was revealed that it was not a fridge but a generator. This was procured by the member standing over that side.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker well just look at the trouble is he stirring up?

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Therefore I have referred it back to the Committee...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Listen to that. Just look at the stirring he is doing because the Committee Report has not been presented.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The stuff I am talking about was initially from the Committee.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: The Committee which you selected. It was not just for the Finance Committee to consider your Report.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, the distinguished member...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I have a lot of respect for you Mr Speaker. Do not abuse your power.

MR SPEAKER: Members become uncontrollable because you persist on taking the floor. The government cannot sit back but will respond to matters you bring up. My apologies but I am allowing the interjections on the matters you raised. Although the Minister has already responded a dozen times and also the leader of the government. I beg tolerance of you but such is the nature of life we are living in. You must also understand the difficult task the government has to clarify matters raised during debate. Your opinions will not substitute the government's stance. Members have the right to voice their opinion but when it differs from the Government's clarification it is the government's opinion that is final. The government's response is the last straw of matters explained in this house.

My apologies in that case.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, my name was mention concerning packages received.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member. But an old man once said, "that a chicken gets harm when going into another house." Yes.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: My chicken does not stay home. It is always here in Parliament. I wanted to respond to the old man but it is alright, and is not a chicken but a rooster.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member, but it is like that as one may become harm when involved in a different fight.

I call on the Minister to continue.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Ministry follow the projects set out in policies which I will read out for the information of the public. This reminds me of a statement made by a European individual, which is “those who live in glass houses don’t throw stones” Since it is why you get stones thrown at you. Do you really think that you can throw stones at us and we will not react?

Mr Speaker one of the projects we are now concentrating on...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, if only he could give an honest answer and not become afraid to respond to the question there would be no trouble. But, he is scared to address how the \$50 million was used. That is the cause of this commotion.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker a point of order. This is the nature of this member, very rude. We have loads of information yet to be divulge because we are not hiding anything. The problem is that you had ample time to digest the subject and here you are bringing up your issues one by one and I am referring to those three. Now my apologies but the report you are referring to has not been receive from the Privileges and Ethics Committee. The report from the Finance and Expenditure Committee was referred back due to your request that it should go there first and what you asked was done. We are now waiting for that report. The first report from the Finance and Expenditure Committee that was read and discussed contains wording which I spoke about. Now it is not malice Mr Speaker, but was merely discussing the contents of a report brought before us.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: My apologies Mr Speaker but this is sad and am very disappointed.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: It has been referred to the committee for its consideration as per request from the member and just as well the consideration of the matter has long been done already.

Mr Speaker, that is the reason I got up.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, I feel that...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, this is very sad and am so disappointed and hurt. My apologies Toleafoa but the public are listening to my being labelled as a liar and not fit and every accusation that was said this morning but the report is yet to be table. The Report from the Finance and Expenditure Committee is one sided and I did not have a say in that. When it got here I am labelled as dishonest which prompted me to make the request. So the committee report is yet to be table and this was framed by you with the intention to harm me.

MR SPEAKER: I will say this...I beg tolerance of Gagaifomauga No.3.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order. The report that was initially submitted has been tabled and is the basis of my statement. But everything else that was said on TV, well you caused all this. What is the meaning of all this? You are the instigator and I am countering your stuff. If I do produce these documents of confirmation you will turn around and say that the Prime Minister is wrong and that I would be charged with contempt of court. What are you talking about? You are the one that is acting in contempt of court.

Mr Speaker, it is over and I forgive the member. I forgive you.

MR SPEAKER: The matter is now close.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: The public will judge for themselves. You started this. You have disclosed every detail yet we are all waiting for the court decision. Which will be given today. The very matter which you are discrediting me of.

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member...

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

The announcement from the Attorney general has been released setting the record straight on the false claims this member often raves about. They are using their power and no one can interrupt their right to charge anyone for that matter. When things get to that stage the court will take its course and the member is going around telling people that I encouraged these court matters. So I say to the member, Tupua I beg tolerance of you and you should listen to Auelua and Fatialofa whom defends you since you are a matai of Lepa.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: You are not playing your part to defend Tupua and Puletiuatoa. You disrespect our mutual relationship.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Well hence my taking the floor, for you are very dishonest.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Where is your protection? Where is it? You are acting with malice to intentionally destroy me.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am trying to get you on the path to integrity. I am trying to sort out what you have done. The public will be judging. Crossing the line.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I too am trying to correct the things you are doing. The country will judge. Where is your protection? Trespassing the boundary.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member. Everyone in this Assembly are of equal status, but respect is accorded to where it is due. Who do we accord that to? It is the leader of the government, the leader of the House. No matter how hurt one gets and whatever issue that may have harm a member, our mutual respect should be foremost.

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We were elected to become members at this assembly where it is founded on culture and traditions. What are they?

Respect and so I say my apologies to members as you must have courtesy and tolerance. I beg tolerance of the member for Gagaifomauga No.3....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, you are quite correct and I take the floor at this moment to apologise to the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 and I have forgiven you as well as the member for Salega and that other member. I have forgiven you all. Let us go forward.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker If I may have erred I apologise. Mr Prime Minister God knows that deep down I respect you. But it is sad that we have become so far apart because of these issues. So humble yourself before God and I have forgiven you. May I express my apologies to the Parliament of Samoa. I will say to the public that whatever I have said please do not take it the hard way and Laauli will take back whatever I may have said this morning.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. This is exactly the type of situation where this adage applies, “the men may have been striking at each other but they are brothers” You both hail from Lepa, Yes. It is the reason I was trying to sort it. But I do not need to advise your good self. Yet my attempts to resolve issues is for the sake of Parliament. Therefore, let us cast such differences to places where no one resides and focus on our task.

I call upon the Minister for Agriculture to continue

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, continuing with my statement the other project which has been signed and will be starting sometime this year is SCATAP or the Samoa China Agriculture Technical Aid Project which is in collaboration with China and will run for 3 years at the tune of \$5 million, this will focus mainly on vegetables.

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We have also looked at the programme which started last year with phase 4 having been done and the focus will now be on phase 5 which mainly concentrates on vegetables. This programme has yielded some wonderful results like we witnessed during the recent South Pacific Games where we ordered very minimal supply from overseas as the bulk of vegetables was available locally and that is a testament of the success of this programme.

With this programme it is providing us with chicken feed being produced locally. That was the additional procurement item injected into the programme, the machines to produce chicken feed. Its cost is 50% cheaper than what is currently spent to buy chicken feed. If we continue this collaboration with scientists from the government of China and our Ministry of Agriculture who knows there could possibly be able to acquire long term solution like no longer having to import such food items from abroad. We also have Farmer plus project which was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the governments of New Zealand and Australia. That is still continuing...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I think we should not go any further but acknowledge the importance of the development you are now being informed of and I applaud the Minister. I also acknowledge the staff and the kindness of China where this assistance is coming from. They are the people with this type of expertise. We will never be able to progress with the development of poultry, eggs and also with the support of the developing of piggery and cattle. If we do not solve this problem which has been around for a long time. Now we did have a factory to produce animal food. That did not succeed and it did contribute to the failure of these developments. Going into the future we need these people to develop the business of livestock poultry and eggs. I know there are two entrepreneurs with the vision to advance poultry and eggs. I know there would be more livestock business like piggery which would further develop husbandry as long as we can eventuate the production of animal food in Samoa. But we must ensure that we have all the necessary factors to do it.

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Livestock businesses will not progress if we do not make sure this factor is well established. Mr Speaker the success of this kind of business depends on the growth of poultry and eggs. If we get this business going with locally made products that are available. There is an abundance supply of fish from a number of fishing vessels now coming here. We can get fish-meal which will enhance our preparations of animal food.

Mr Speaker, I thought I should make a particular statement on this note as this is the key to poultry farming and the production of eggs. So I do acknowledge the two large companies focussing on this and of course it is the reason we do not hesitate to assist which does help them progress and prosper in their business minimising our dependence overseas for animal food products. Moreover, it does create employment for our people and really boosting these developments at the same time. I am of the view that the biggest benefit for us is the experience passed on from the Chinese experts to our local people to start up vegetables gardens and growing fruits. Which will encourage local farmers. Our stable diet has been taro, coconut and cocoa and we now have the additional skill set in farmers to develop vegetables which substitutes what we have always been doing and it takes only 2 to 3 months before you harvest these. This type of food supply is also desired by tourist visiting Samoa. This is exactly the kind of food they like and it is the reason the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is our supplier of petroleum and they want us to have sufficient supply of petroleum in our storage. As the demand for oil is increasing. For the sole reason that we are at the centre of this region where Samoa is convenient for the fishing vessels to stop to refuel. This is a new market for our farmers dealing in poultry and various other farming development selling really good quality products than what we are consuming. Mr Speaker this is why I have taken the floor due to the vitality of this project to the country.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you and the Prime Minister is absolutely correct that when there is supply of chicken food every family will be raising chickens and we will have no shortage in that area. Your effort to develop the country is applauded. I call upon...

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Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker and I appreciate the Prime Minister's statement to support my address on behalf of the Ministry. Speaking of chickens, the prices of eggs during March and July was really good. I was informed that the cost of a dozen eggs dropped from \$7+ to \$4. It was very welcoming to everyone. That eggs are produced locally. It just proves its many advantages like saving money as these are import substitution and our people are able to consume and enjoy fresh products.

I mean they come out of the birds with all due respect yesterday and is served on the table the following morning. Unlike before when we had to order the product from as far as America. In saying that we acknowledge the Tanumapua Farms and Sunshine Farms for their contribution to this development. I did mention Farmer Plus which is consultations between the Ministry of foreign Affairs and New Zealand and Australia resulting with this programme. There are 6 countries throughout the Pacific which have all benefited from the AU\$46 million. The Committee is open to recommendations as to improving the exportation of our products overseas. Cabinet appointed a committee called the MORC Committee whose members represent the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance, Commerce and Industry and the Private Sector and Chamber of Commerce in charge of applications submitted for this program.

Some members questioned the exportation of taro. The price of taro to New Zealand and anywhere else is between \$60 and \$70. We have been informed by Farmer Joe, Agro-Farms and Sua Tanielu and others exporters that they are selling taro at 22kgs for \$60 to \$70 and the same price applies to taro going to Tutuila.

Now and then the price drops depending on the market as I have explained before. When the demand goes down or there is also a lot of taro from elsewhere the price is reduce. Currently the price of taro the farmers are selling it to overseas market is quite good. I have discussed eggs and at this time there is plan to develop poultry. There will be a Product Chicken Development Project to distribute chickens to farmers to raise and buy them back. This programme has the assistance of the government through an Incentive Board to ensure it is done. This is planned to take off in the new year and there are now tools to start this project. Members of this Assembly and the public understand that every assistance sorted by the government in this area is to encourage the area of agriculture done by farmers.

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As I have alluded to earlier our people have always been working. Proof of that is when export of food products from abroad was affected there was no element of hunger throughout the country and that is comforting and gratitude was expressed yesterday to farmers. We gave out taro shoots, as well as cattle and sheep to farmers whom have been on the waiting list for 2 years through the Stimulus Package from the Minister of Finance and his Ministry. There was also assistance for those in the fisheries area and has been publicised by the Fisheries division.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli (Palauli West): Please Mr Speaker I wish to thank the Minister since he is now on the topic of the Stimulus Package...

MR SPEAKER: Did you mention it in your remarks.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: I was just about to mention it when I was interrupted. But do give me an opportunity to say thank you to the Ministry of Agriculture.

MR SPEAKER: If you had it down on paper but did not voice it that is a no.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: It is covered in the budget now discussed.

MR SPEAKER: Make it brief.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli: Thank you. I applaud the Minister for this program of the stimulus package of \$2million spent on taro shoots distributed to the public. It is a wonderful program but the problem is \$2 million given by the Minister of Finance is not enough. I went to get some taro shoots from Nu'u and was told that they are waiting for more money as the funds given already has all been used up. So I recommend that an extra \$2 million be added to the stimulus package for these farming methods.

MR SPEAKER: A matter that is submitted in the form of an instruction will not be accepted but must be voiced as a recommendation.

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Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: That is the recommendation please. The program for cocoa and coconuts is great and my take on the cocoa is that 4 to 5 years and you will see it bearing fruits. With the coconut it takes 5 years before you start to see its fruits. So I say please start up incentives to pay people to do these things. But the program is wonderful and I do appreciate the government allocating money for this purpose.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko (Falealili West): Mr Speaker, I seek an opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Did...

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: I did cover in my statement the matter on fisheries. I want to thank the Minister since having being informed the day before yesterday from Poutasi there is now a buoy for fishermen. I must also acknowledge this guy Luafutu Faamoana responsible for setting this up at Poutasi. “Falealili! We now have a fishing buoy all done”
With taro shoots, I recommend that and based on the annual report of 2017/2018 which describes the taste of the taro Samoa #2 and Tanumalala as exactly the same. There were 5 choices to taste from and these two, taro Samoa #2 and Tanumalala taste the same. So my recommendation is to focus primarily on these two types and thank you for the taro shoots.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister to continue with his statement

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: I appreciate the interruption and I like Afoa’s recommendation. The Minister of Finance has heard your submission. The point raised by the member for Falealili is opposed by the problem that the Tanumalala taro only yields two shoots at the most. It is unlike the Fusi and Salani taro as well as the 4 month’s taro which simply is after four months it is ready. All of these types have multiple taro shoots. So with the two recommended it is perhaps ideal for the strong farmers, those that can cover 50 acres with taro at a single time. For the small farmers it is hard because if there are no shoots since their taro will have all gone overseas with the shoots. It would be difficult to find shoots to grow. I heard the recommendation and the Ministry are also listening. You are correct about the nice taste of that taro you mentioned but the taste of this taro that yields after a short period of time also taste just as good.

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We are still experimenting and the bulk of taro that were handed out during the stimulus package deal is the type that yields very fast. So very soon this particular taro would be popular with growers. It has now been widely distributed around Savaii and part of Upolu whilst other parts have yet to get it. You now understand what is being done with fishing buoys. The previous buoys.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister whilst I allow the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker we are discussing the state of Agriculture and Fisheries. Perhaps this is the opportunity to clarify the grant from World Bank or IDA and also the IFAD, International Fund for Agricultural Development. This program is for 5 years to manage. With SAFPROM our donors are the World Bank who have given US\$20 million, IFAD have contributed US\$3 million to support agriculture and fisheries. For five years now this is the first year that \$11 million is allocated in the budget. That sum will be specifically for the operations to be done this year. The whole sum of these grants are not given in a lump sum but instalments from the World Bank or the IDA which is a branch of the World Bank which give out interest free grants.

So the World Bank has given us \$11 million for implementations proposed for this year. It is the same with IFAD who have given \$1.2 million reserved for the upcoming year. So the fact is although US\$20 million is the actual amount from the World Bank, but it is given to us through instalments. So US\$20 million when converted is about \$50 close to \$60 million tala. The bulk of the grants coming our way have all been agreed to and sealed under agreements. The figures recorded in our budget is specifically for the financial year looming and vital for projects mentioned by members like the development of agriculture and fisheries. The SACEP project did not cover fisheries but after consultations between the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank and IFAD they have agreed to help out in the development of fisheries as well. This is not only for food security reasons but to improve our capability to increase our export variety to boost our foreign exchange. That is my clarification and in support of the statement from the Minister of Agriculture.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker I want to express my huge appreciations to the Minister of Finance. For you have given a precise account of the topic we are debating. The concern of the member for Salega East is the exclusion within the budget of the amount from IDA. It is now clear that the grant from IFAD is noted but not the funds from IDA. I was looking at the Supplementary in February thinking it would be presented then yet the grant was accepted on the 2nd of July 2019. It has been a year and the public have yet to see that wonderful large sum of money, where has it gone to.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuiofi: Mr Speaker the World Bank and IDA is the same organisation. As I have said IDA is the entity that gives us the money without charging interest. Unlike other countries borrowing from the World Bank being charged with high interest rates depending on the affordability of their respective economies. Particularly small nations like us which has enabled us to attain this grant. We should be grateful to organisations assisting us in financing our developments our government is placing priority on. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well said... what do you wish...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Mr Speaker the Minister of Finance has touched on the program SAFPROM at Savaii which we all attended when it was open to assist in the area of agriculture and the likes. The problem with this program right now is that people have been making contributions. If say 5 thousand is your...

MR SPEAKER: Is it a point of order or clarification? Since you are giving another statement.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: It is a point of clarification please.

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Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Mr Speaker I have so much respect but what is happening is that he did not mention this during his address.

MR SPEAKER: That is a problem.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: I am requesting the Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: No then.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: The contribution must be regarded as of importance....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the fellow member from Palauli West. But members cannot interrupt the point of order from another member. The point of order is merely support from the Minister of Finance. The address that is occupying the floor is that of the Minister of Agriculture. Unless it is a matter concerning the Ministry of Agriculture otherwise I cannot allow your interruption. The Minister of Agriculture will continue.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you your Honour.

MR SPEAKER: My apologies Minister but the Prime Minister will take the floor.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: The point discussed by the Minister of Finance is rather important and must be understood for although a very small difference yet it takes up so much valuable time. These huge international corporations have branches as mention by the Minister of Finance the source of avenue grants come through like the IDA and the grants we are talking about. Sometimes when we talk about these matters it is at the top professional level. This time we are talking about the IDA but they do not understand. They probably think the IDA is different and then ask where the money from the World Bank went. That is the IDA.

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Mr Speaker there has been so much commotion because they do not grasp the picture. That under the World Bank is the IFC (International Finance Corporation) and the IDA. IFC is where loans come from for developments and they are usually in billions. 2 billion. You hardly find a country in the Pacific funded by the IFC because they deal in billions. This grant however is from IDA for small projects which do not cost billions. Only the big boys go there and the interest rates charged are fairly high. But with IDA their interest rates are fairly low and sometimes grants are given for free or perhaps even at 1% or even below the 1% mark. The critics against IFC brought about the establishment of this small facility in Australia. This is where the funding of our projects are coming from like the hotel in Siumu and other projects. The IFC branch has a very interesting title because it is like the South Pacific facility so that grants can come through to us via IFC these are the differences explained by the Minister of Finance in response to the constant asking where is the money that was said to come from this organisation when it is the same entity. Thus my taking the floor to congratulate the Minister of Finance for elaborating this point which has been often raised by some.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you I call upon the Minister of Agriculture.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker there was an interruption relating to fisheries. I have disclosed the assistance given out by the Ministry of Agriculture and this has been made known to all fishermen. There is also the assistance from The Minister of Works and his Ministry with the registration of fishing boats for a whole year which is great help. With fishing buoys, well I have been told that as of last week there are now buoys at Apia, Aleipata, Siumu and Palauli. It has been confirmed that a buoy has been installed at Poutasi last week. The next locations will be Falefa, Faga and Leulumoega, Safotu, Salailua and Asau. Those are the villages we hope to give fishing buoys to assist the fishermen and to make their expeditions more convenient.

Now I want to say a bit about ships that tranship at our wharf at Matautu. There is currently one company that have made an agreement with our government to bring in their loads of fish. These vessels do not fish within our fishing zones but elsewhere in the Pacific nearby and only come here to unload their fish into containers for shipment overseas.

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A small boat is 60 tonne and they spend around \$15,000 to \$30,000 every time they come into shore. The slightly larger boats are 120 to 150 tonnes and they are called trawlers and those boats pay up around \$50,000 and for the small boats to be filled up it requires 60,000 litres and for the big boats they require 360,000 litres when filled up.

We have not yet able to accommodate filling up these large boats as we do not have the oil capacity. But we continue to communicate with these companies and perhaps in future we will be able to fill up these large boat when we do have enough oil supply. The money I am talking about is spend on buying their food vegetables and groceries from a store and money going into paying their agents here and the fees they pay the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ports Authority so such are the benefits of this company here. In 2019 they spent \$12 million on their operations at the wharf. There is plan to build a processing ware house when they have the capital to do so. When that happens it will no longer be referred to as a transshipment but export to us. Considering the quantity of fish this company shipped abroad we could be looking at \$100 million worth of products this company will be shipping out and will be consider as our export.

The conservation project at Lefaga is noted to be going well as mentioned by the member. That the maintaining of the project is very good and there have been times when tourist visit this conservation project of clams. This is the feedback from the Ministry therefore my commendation to the member and the constituency for keeping to the agreement organised by the Ministry in sustaining this area of our services.

The Ministry is still looking at a Floating jetty for Falealili and we do understand that there are now floating bags are still available here and perhaps we could somehow get some assistance from that. As of now we will be considering it in due course as the applications to the SAFPROM program is under way so the Ministry will be looking at it and determine a way to realise your submission for a floating jetty and the Ministry have done a review and it is possible. Though it is very difficult to construct a wharf at that part of the country. But with ramps, construction is currently in progress for one at Siumu. A ramp has also been done at Aiga i le Tai as requested by the distinguish member. These are programs that can continue. But....

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the Government.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I wish to advise the Minister if he could translate ramps and floating jetty. For the information of fishermen in the rural areas so they may know what they are. They are hearing that Siumu is getting one but what about them? So it is best to clarify these items by translating what the words mean for the information of people in the rural areas. They are thinking that some constituencies are receiving better preference than others when they themselves desire the same.

Mr Speaker it is important that these projects are equally received by every constituency engaged in fishing.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you your honour for the, well the ramps are for the purpose of pulling out boats such as twin hull boats and small canoes. For areas where there is a seawall it would be just impossible to pull out boats from such surrounding. So the Ministry have opted to assist by entertaining the requests from constituencies for ramps convenient for taking their boats out and pulling them back to shore. Floating jetty is a small floating platform for docking boats.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker a point of order with respect...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: I appreciate the Prime Minister's question which has enlighten me on the meaning of a ramp. My constituents are listening and they do need these things but I will wait until next year to make a request for such. At least I now know that the government have the green light on the construction of these projects. If we have funds remaining, please remember my large constituency and install a ramp for canoes to access the water. My canoe is not in use as I am concern that if I do take it out it may become crack. But if we can get this assistance, with respect.

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MR SPEAKER: The member for Siumu will take the floor.

Afioga Faalogo Iosefa Sopi (Siumu): Thank you for the opportunity. I rise to express my appreciation to the Minister for the ramp at Siumu. But If I may remind you of my request for a buoy not too far out for our fishermen on canoes please in case you forget.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you The Prime Minister will take the floor.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. I did not imply to cease assistance for Siumu, after all Siumu are the first to comprehend this English term so accord them priority. After that Aleipata itupa i Lalo and do not extend this to other constituencies because they do not need it. Their representatives have not brought it up.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu (Gagaemauga No.3): Mr Speaker...

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki (Aiga i le Tai): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon....

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu: I am noting down... This constituency of Gagaemauga No.2 are fishing people. Since I now have the opportunity and after hearing the wonderful statement from the leader of the government. Matautu needs two ramps we are fishing people, and I will submit applications on Monday.

MR SPEAKER: Well done.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: Mr Speaker I seek an opportunity...

MR SPEAKER: You are all indicating your desire to speak but you did not raise this during your general remarks...

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Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: Mr Speaker when we talk about the coastal reefs well Aiga I le Tai need not elaborate as it is our heritage. I applaud the Minister for the ramps that are now in place for my constituency. More ramps are still in the making. I cannot thank you enough but I must also remind you of our other requests which is for marine lights or beacon which are guiding lights for boats when approaching shore since the passage way to shore is quite bad. So we need lights for this purpose and I guess the Minister will be working towards it. Perhaps this will serve as a catalyst to members listening and they could put it down in their new request.

MR SPEAKER: Well done and do not travel at night when you do get lights.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: A point of clarification Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Falealili.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Thank you to the Minister and thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The reason we requested a floating wharf since we also have this novel development of tourist going to the island of Nuusafee. This is the point used by tourist to go out to the island. Not only this, but it can be used by fishing boats and canoes. The ramp to pull out boats at Poutasi is complete and so thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you the Minister will continue his address.

Tofa Hon LOPA OO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you honorable Speaker, well there is... as I see the mentioning of tourists too, i will respond in half and the other half will be answered by Sala.

MR SPEAKER: Add in there a person that pulls in boats for Fasitoo uta. Bring some... not much just 4 ramps.

Tofa Hon LOPA OO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, the fact is every demand from members shall be done. But I will say to the Deputy Speaker that his village do not need a ramp. If you go and have a look at where the river runs at Saleia it is ideal for pulling up boats at that spot.

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But the Ministry will look into your request and I am indicating to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry to take notes of everything raised by members as I cannot do it whilst speaking at the same time.

What was the other thing, the cooling machine for Siumu, this is the matter we had a dialogue with members of the Siumu fishing community and we have provided them with a cooler for the fishermen of Siumu. Since credit for cash power often runs out or a person has to come all the way or calling the Ministry asking for money for cash power. It is the reason we decided to lease this to Siumu and let them look after the cooler and the land where it is placed. This removes the situation of them depending on the Ministry. As sometimes at 12 midnight, when Siumu calls the Manager of the Fisheries to send someone with cash power. So we came to a decision which would be convenient for the Revenue Board to relinquish the managing of this. But we must cooperate at all times.

Some members mentioned fishing boats and SAFPROM now have this program running including the fisheries. Which are responsible for the design of a new super double hull boat which will be better than the design we currently have. It is also in consideration of the recommendation from the Ministry that fishing boats should go beyond the 25mile zone off shore. Hence the initiative from the Ministry to introduce a bigger boat that will suit this period in time. It would be around \$200,000 to \$300,000 and we must understand that this is the reality of things. If we want something bigger then prepare to pay the price, you cannot demand something bigger and only willing to pay \$20.00. So we are currently in consultation with members of the fishing community association. And throwing ideas into the venture so as avoid anyone saying they were not aware of what went on. It was the Ministry that came up with idea but the consultations current going on is based on the demands of the fishing community to acquire a boat that meets the needs of the fishermen.

There are now aluminium canoes with the balance log that can now be made. Its price will be \$5,000 and comes with a motor of 15 to 25 horsepower. There are also aluminium pilot boats which runs on a 25 to 35 horsepower motor and they will cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000. So that is my response as to the question raised in this house.

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There are two companies specialising in the manufacturing of aluminium fishing boats. The Ministry is not partnership with any company so if individuals applies to SAFPROM with the size of the boat it wants and say the application is approved with the money available you can bring in your own boat builder to build your boat.

Afioga Toomata spoke about mechanisation or the utilising of machineries in farming. My response is there will be checks by the Ministry. There is no project of US\$10 million which was discussed but only the US\$3million that was proposed. However, with the usual assistance from the government of China it caused the cancellation of this purpose but there is a counterparty finance necessary in other words the Ministry can provide funds to go together with grants from China. The Ministry did carry out an investigation at the time and it was expensive. The government ended up contributing quite a lot for purposes like building premises and the need for specialist engineers and the other factor is the bulk of these machines come from China and are relatively new to the Pacific. The majority of excavators come from Japan and South Korea but with grants from China part of the deal is that machines be procured from China as well with provisions that there must be people here to oversee these developments. The other thing Mr Speaker is as you are well aware I have been in this game for a long time. But I can testify now that it is not easy for the government. As you know it is for this very reason that government relinquish the Public Works to avoid the...it is the role of the Private Sector.

That is the situation now there is yet a program set up for this purpose. I...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker this is a small matter and I did cover it in my remarks...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the Minister whilst I allow the...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa: My commendations to the Minister but since he is now on machines as I did mention this in my remarks. As I have said before this constituency is visited by everyone from around the country for sea urchins, and bottles of long spine urchins *fagu vaga* or bottle of long spine urchins.

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You all understand the marine reserve at my village of Fagalii. You do know that the village communities at my constituency has several rivers running through. The water from these river stream has created deposits along the shoreline causing a swamp. I wonder if your honourable does have a program to assist with the regrowth of the coral reef as it is the knack of Vaimauga East to engage in this and it does yield a variety of edible seafood enjoyed by everyone.

So as I mentioned in my remarks the several streams at our community and the reserve at Fagalii for your consideration. I am concern with our coral reef as the sea and fugafuga have seemed to disappear. Our community also rejected the group that approached us for maisu. But that is the situation with us and the need to save the shores of my constituency.

MR SPEAKER: The member is absolutely correct particularly with Fagalii. I call upon...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, so as to save the Ministers time...

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I rise with all due respect to say that the Farmer Association of Salafai are requesting to remind you of their 12 requests for Agro Business. This was not in the contents of my remarks but they have called me about it. If you would please look into the 12 request blocked under the Agro Business. If you would look into this with the Minister of Finance as they have come here about this on many occasions but I will leave that up to you.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker, I heard the last bit of your remarks to keep Fagalii in mind. I think Sula has missed in his remarks to say that part of the environment is affected by the gas station at Fagalii with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I forgive you but I will remind you that throwing yourself into someone else fight will all of a sudden get you a cut eye. Since we have approached our usual recess hour, I beg tolerance of the Minister but you may continue when we resume.

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The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will now be suspended for its usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly suspended for its usual recess at 10.29am and resumed at 11.17am.

Debate continued on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3.) 2019/2020 and the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. Before recess the Minister of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries was giving his address, I respectfully call upon the Minister.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe the refreshments for the energy to continue our duties has been pleasant and went down well. I don't have much to go but I will touch on two very important matters such as the rhinoceros beetle in which a request was made for an explanation into the PVC pipes attached to coconut trees. This trap contains a virus placed into it by the Ministry so the beetle will fly around and when it does go into the trap they are brought into the Ministry and the assistance of the local communities is also necessary. The other thing I want to point out is the bulk of land that was under SLC are now occupied as residential properties but there was a lot of trees including coconuts put down which boosted the number of rhinoceros beetle causing the problem around the country.

It is necessary to clear our land and I do urge the Minister of Pulenuu to look into this matter of clearing trees off land. We have assisted with providing chain saws to make this program official and in due course we will provide some more chain saws for usage as in the communities like Satapuala and the nearby communities currently engaged in clearing their land area. How the virus works is that it is injected into the male beetle and when it mates with the female it will catch the virus then. What the Ministry does is it puts the beetles it catches into a machine and mince it or blends it and creates a fungus.

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I will ask afterwards to the Chief Executive Officer for the translation of fungus but it is something like a virus. I am trying to clear the air on this note as there was a question yesterday but like I said we do need to cooperate on this issue and clear our land and coconut plantations by getting rid of coconut logs on the ground. The drill is to cut down the affected trees and pile them in one lot as we normally do in the process of getting rid of the beetle.

Let me talk a bit now about the African Swine Fever that is affecting pigs. This disease has now reached Papua New Guinea and before that it was in Asia. As I mentioned before this started in Africa. It has not reach Samoa but in preparing for it we do have a machine to test pigs when that possibility comes. This machine is being used for COVID test being done and it can also determine people's DNA. For any other similar test that need be done there is this machine at SROS. Mr Speaker I am a bit concern with the constant interruption of Afioga Afoa from Palauli. I wonder if he may have this fever, so I am tempted to tell my CEO at SROS to check on the old man and have him do a test for this. Mr Speaker that wraps up the address from my Ministry. I do thank you Mr Speaker and members...

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota (Faasaleleaga No.2): Mr Speaker...

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The Minister is wrapping up his remarks.

Tofa Namulauulu Sami Leota: Thank you this is a small matter about our export of taro which I mentioned in my remarks. The Ministry has made an announcement to concentrate on the salani taro and the green taro. But my community plantations are due for picking yet the green taro seems to be discouraged and yet they are now 4 months some at 6 months and are almost mature and ready for export but they have stopped it. I will leave it with the Minister and whatever reason it may have led you to this decision.

The second part concerns my request to SAFPROM is for an opportunity to explain to the Savaii community as to the process concerning applications for people to become eligible and taking advantage of this program.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you...

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Mr Speaker I want to acknowledge the Minister and the statement given. I note that you are concluding your remarks. But there is a point which I mentioned in my speech concerning food stuff taken overseas as gifts for our families in New Zealand and Australia. As I have stated earlier these coolers of fish are destroyed and wasted at New Zealand and Australia. What I am trying to say is that our people must understand what to take and what not before leaving our shores.

Afioga Sulamalana Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker to save time...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member but after hearing the matters you are now raising. You did not bring these up during your remarks.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Please I did speak about bananas, and my constituency are listening.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. But there are issues which you sort out afterwards. It is not that every issue must be said during our sittings when sometimes you can just call the Chief Executive Officer and say, “what is the story with this?” So why not call the CEO tomorrow after this meeting. Make it brief then Vaimauga...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: I am a compliant member but the fact is, I am relaying the view of my constituency where there is a gentleman that is popular at Fagalii due to his experience with the Israeli banana. I raise this to ask if there is a solution to the problem experienced with this type of banana and others too. You are wrapping up your remarks but have not addressed this issue. A lot of people at Fagalii are concentrating on this type of banana so we would appreciate a remedy to this.

Secondly, may I say that since I am in charge of this side of the Chambers. I want to let the Minister know that the member Faleulu is not affected with the disease since you asked whether the member for Palauli may be in harm but he is not.

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MR SPEAKER: Wrap up your statement Minister.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, there is a reason I thought I will not speak about bananas. I know that if I did say something about bananas there would be a possible rift between yourself and the member that you mentioned. But it is best that I say this and that is maintaining this type of banana is rather expensive and you are looking at \$4,000 to \$5,000 per acre within a month to maintain them.

So it would only be ideal for people with money to manage such project. The Ministry on the other hand are not being inactive as we are focussing on the types of bananas we had before so as to revive it...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member as the Minister is at the conclusion of his address. Minister wrap up your statement.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Thank you honourable. Our research office at Nafanua are also engaged in their experimentation of this particular banana, but I do ask you all to be patient.

The question of the member from Savaii, tofa Namulauulu, the taro you were talking about is self-life and is short. It is currently being avoided by the growers because it quickly becomes rotten and is prone to fungus before it is sold to our market. This is a fact which has surprised our exporters. But however it can be sold frozen. We do have a substantial supply of frozen taro so we would encourage this taro the same. Let me say to the farmers that if you can't export your fresh taro then have them frozen as we now have a very good strong market in Australia for frozen taro.

With fish to Australia the limit you can take is 5kilo but you cannot take more than 5 kilo of fish when you travel to Australia, and do put them inside coolers. And you will also need quarantine documents from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at the wharf so you may be able to take your uncooked fish with you to Australia and New Zealand. There is no limitation as to the quantity of fish you can take. There are people taking two coolers over but as long as you have the paperwork from quarantine. Otherwise you will have to accept the fact that you will not be able to take your cooler of fish with you to your family.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa Hon LOPAOO NATANIELU MUA: Now to conclude my address which has been somehow difficult at times due to the nature of our debate. Metaphorically speaking we were like within the deep forest but alas I have reached the open space of the finishing line as of a river bed without scathing marks of the stones underneath the river floor during our exchange of ideas and wisdom of the Assembly for the general public and generations to come. In closing may I say blessings be upon my constituency, blessings be upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries and also the Scientific Research Office. Blessings upon the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Public Enterprises and this Assembly. Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. We now come to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

I respectfully call upon the Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I too would like to concur with you in the invocation you accorded to our Heavenly Father for His Grace, His Faith and Compassion which has enable us to gather here again today. May God be Praised.

I extend greetings and respect to the dignitaries of this Assembly, with your honourable Mr Speaker, the Honourable Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. My compliments also to that side of chambers with chairpersons and vice chairpersons and members of our parliamentary committees and members of Parliament. I acknowledge the Clerk and deputy clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. We also have amongst us the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Public Enterprises.

I must also accord reverence to the country at large from titular heads to the young children. In the same token I pay my respects to the clergy throughout the communities around the country praying for our prosperity. I would like to send special greetings to my beloved constituency of Urban East.

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Mr Speaker I will be addressing my constituency when I come to the end of my statement. The religious salutations, as well as traditional and pertaining to government I will not dwell into it but will accorded in brief as the chants for a belle. Such are the dignitaries pertaining to the Royal Families and the royal sons, the oratory group of Tumua and Pule, Ituau and Alataua Aiga I le Tai and the Vaa of Fonoti.

Mr Speaker, this is not an instruction but a suggestion, if you would not allow the interruption that is looming for I have 30 minutes and allow my statement to go uninterrupted until the end before they can interrupt. I say this with respect but it's up to you.

Mr Speaker I respectfully rise to respond to matters raised by distinguish members. As this Parliament understands the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure is responsible and adheres to legislations and policies of Public Enterprises under the authority of the Minister of Works, the Land Transport Authority (LTA), The Samoa Ports Authority (SPA), Samoa Airport Authority (SAA), Samoa Shipping Services (SSS), Electric Power Corporation (EPC), Samoa Water Authority (SWA), Pacific Forum Line (PFL), and PUMA.

Mr Speaker the majority of members spoke mainly on roads through village communities and access roads going inland, and humps to be done on the road. Electricity is needed as well as the water supply and sea walls. I appreciate the members that touched on the services of our Shipping Company. And the operations of the Airport Authority. Some of the issues that were mentioned I have alluded to during their interruptions.

Mr Speaker before giving my response to matters raised by members I would firstly like to applaud the Minister of Finance and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry and staff for the thorough compilation of the Main Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2020/2021. I must also accord my appreciations to all the government Ministries and Public Enterprises for their supportive role to the preparations.

I also wish to acknowledge the Chairperson, vice Chairperson and members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the report and especially their recommendations contain within. My commendations on your role and leadership. My prayer is that God's blessings be upon you in all your endeavours and calling.

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Mr Speaker as I have said earlier most of the issues raised relates to access roads and public roads towards and passing through communities which needs upgrading. Also street lights, drinking water, sea wall and road humps. I have noted down every request from members as I have said and the various authorities concern will be prepared for it once the budget is passed.

There were members asking for humps to be done on the roads at their communities and this brought about a recommendation for over bridges to be done which is a road crossing. LTA did some research on this matter concerning over bridges like the one in front of the Development Bank and was mentioned by the member. It was considered safe and suitable for the security of the public although problems did surface for instance the availability of funds to make it happen as it is quite expensive.

The member for Falealili West raised the point of trainings for seafarers to ensure their safety on sea vessels and fishing boats. For the information of the member there are trainings currently happening for the safety of fishermen done at the NUS Maritime School. The member for Falealili East queried the funds of \$4million under the CSO programme of the Samoa Water Authority. For the attention of members please refer to the Main Estimates which contains \$4million of this fund reserved for the CSO operations and just beneath that indicates another sum of \$11.4million reserved for capital works. I say this as the member asked that the funds of \$4million tala be used for plumbing work to connect water supply towards village communities. That is the clarification concerning the \$4million tala which is specifically for capital works.

So when you read through the Main Estimates it indicates \$6 million being reserved for this financial year. For the new year \$11 million of this grant is injected into it. As the Assembly are now aware that money no longer comes directly from EU as it used to be. The management of infrastructure projects have been depending on this. So that is my elaboration on the matter, and if we do not use the assistance from CSO the management will be responsible for the expenses and on top of this the cost of water supply maintenance. To elaborate on this \$4 million, there was a request from management for \$2 million.

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For expenses such as electricity from the usage of water pumps which cost \$3.2 million. The clearing of location where water pumps are placed and water tanks cost \$400,000. This is expenses for people's lands being used to set up brand new water pumps and water tanks.

There were also other additional items listed under the applications, such as fire hydrants and digging up parts of the road when pipe lines are cut and families request for this to be done we also reserve funds for such purposes when having to repair the road that was spoilt in order to carry out work. So that is the situation for the information of members and the public at large.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Until the address is finished...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: He is exactly on the point I covered...

MR SPEAKER: Did you mention it in your remarks?

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: It seems that the Minister is responding to me as it was I that raised the \$4 million for our CSO or Community Service Obligation.

MR SPEAKER: The member will speak.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: We are misled by the wording in the budget that \$4 million goes directly to the CSO. But I gather from the Ministers clarification that most of the money covers the expenses such as paying for water pumps used to run the water. So it seems that it is only written under CSO when actually this whole money does not go to helping out disadvantage families for water connection to their homes if water supply is yet to reach them. It is why I asked for an explanation and now that we know that the bulk of this money which is \$3.3 million covers these expenses.

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I was of the view that it was the Ministry's obligation to cover the expenses themselves not affecting the funds earmarked for CSO is specifically for that purpose. So as to ensure power lines reaches the families located way inland that have yet to receive power and water. I have questioned this issue as it seems vague. It is said that the funds are for CSO but it is not, as the Ministry are using it to pay for the water pumps and maintenance of the areas where these pumps are located.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you the Minister will continue.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, I had thought the member understood my clarification of the issue he raised, and I am wondering whether he is pretending to be unclear. The funds for CSO is not use to cover the bills for electricity or to pay for water pumps as he stated. The expenses for electricity is covered through the usage of water pumps distributing water to families and communities. But you are saying that this must be paid by...you are correct that SWA are covering these expenses.

Which has brought about this benefit that is going to the consumers and the Government will carry the burden of the expense. So where do we turn? We use this money as I have explained the \$11 million reserved for the projects and developments members ask for. For new projects such as village communities whom have yet to receive the water supply this is the funds shared to the Water Authority as the assistance from EU has been ceased. So we use this fund to allocate resources and it is not just for your constituency asking for water. A lot of communities are requesting the Samoa Water Authority for this service. We are still continuing the service so that all of Samoa is covered with the water supply for their livelihood.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiliili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: The member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West queried the usage by some of senior pensioners' ID to travel on a ferry. The Shipping Company was asked on this note whether this can be confirmed and they say that senior's usage of their ID's to travel on ferry's is secured.

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The possible usage by family members of pensioner's ID's is prohibited. So I beg tolerance of the member but this accusation is simply not true.

Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow (Faasaleleaga No.1 West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The member for Faasaleleaga No.1 West will have the floor.

Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow: Thank you for the opportunity. I did not make up this story but was a rumour I got from someone.

My apologies if I may have offended anyone of the staff but I am raising this as thought provoking idea to ensure the safety of properties but thank you to the Minister. My plea is for permission to allow pensioner's to use their IDs. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: I understand that within any organisation these kind of things happen where the children or family members of a pensioner will without authorisation use the ID's to travel on the ferry. Your closing remarks was on part of the SOE. Let me say that our seniors can again travel on the ferry using their cards at no charge. Mr Speaker some member's asked whether acceptance of the IDs which has led to respond. Since the SOE was in place the committee advised NEOC to stop seniors from travelling, or people age over 65 are vulnerable to COVID-19. The old adage is such that prevention is better than cure.

So this morning I am happy to announce to seniors that Cabinet have lifted this stoppage so you may once again use your ID cards to travel on the ferry of our Shipping Service. The member for Faasaleleaga No.3 asked why the airport at Maota and Asau are no longer use. Is it no longer safe for planes? For the information of members and the public our airport at Maota is still open for business. The safety audit by the Aviation Authority was conducted recently. It is just that not a lot of travelling is happening at this particular time but the airport is open. Except for the one at Asau that is no longer safe for usage at this time.

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The member for Faleata No.3 asked about the stimulus package to minimise electricity cost for hotels. The member requested a further assistance on top of what Cabinet have already resolved and is indicated within the Main Estimates of 2020/2021. Mr Speaker 10 hotels have been fortunate to have received the daily fix charge which is the point of concern from the member resulting in the slash of 50% off the normal rate. Not only this, but 10 sene is removed, other components of the Tariff such as dead charge and usage charge. The 10 hotels were noted to be using a lot of electricity were, Sheraton Hotel, Sheraton Resort, Taumeasina Resort, Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, Return to Paradise Resort, Coconut Resort, Sinalei Tropical Resort, Saletoga Sand Resort Jetover Hotel and Tofamamao Project.

Mr Speaker and member's other smaller hotels do not get this advantage of the 50% of the daily fix charge and the usage charge. The member has asked whether the daily fix charge could be reviewed so as to make the 100% reduction rather than just 50% due to the sad ramifications from COVID-19 on hotels. The management of EPC is of the view that the assistance already made is sufficient and it has also been realised the minimal usage of electricity at hotels at this time as there are no tourists due to COVID-19.

Mr Speaker and members of Parliament EPC incurred a loss of \$1.5 million in the month of April after giving the go ahead with the reduction in electricity cost from the stimulus package. The government have once again extended the stimulus package to December of this year. Management and the Board of Directors are contemplating how will EPC survive at this extensive period. The truth is the effect on our economy from COVID-19 has been huge and serious. It has affected the services of Ministries and Public Enterprises alike like EPC. The real serious impact if this effect on our economy continues will be to look at some of the Public Enterprises with turnover being greatly affected to temporarily lay off some of their staff. The Government does not support this but this is inevitable if this continues to affect our economy.

We all understand the effect on hotels and particularly small businesses under the private sector at this period in time. To the member of Faleata No.3 whom is my brother in Christ, your difficult request will be considered by EPC and their Board of Directors.

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The member also raised water hydrants for Mulinuu. The Water Authority have informed us there are 2 water hydrants here at Mulinuu. One is close to the Meteorology office and the other one is located opposite the old 2AP office. The member also brought up the quarry companies at Vaitele. I know that these companies have been located at Vaitele and were approved and authorised by the Government at the time as it was within the industrial zone. We visited the sites with PUMA and confirmed that there were 4 quarries there at Vaitele. There are now complaints from the public due to the effect of these companies operations on daily life. PUMA are currently doing their investigations for a solution to the problem.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: My apologies to the Minister whilst I allow the member.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you Hon Minister but I do not want you to respond in haste since we are approaching our adjournment time. So prepare well for next week.

But the point we are on now is rather important. I appreciate the fact that you have said to leave it with you. There were a few of us that came to see you and we are grateful for your response. But we have submitted all the relevant reasons like paying the bills for consumptions or using services, what is used and the additional cost if you would consider with heart. As we have shared with you the other company has a bill of \$20,000 for the usual monthly usage with \$23,000 of extra cost. Which is more than the actual cost of usage but I do appreciate the fact that you have addressed this issue. The other consideration if employees as they must be retained considering the difficult times we are in. The point you made on profit well let me say that EPC is owned by everyone. So let us not focus on profit at this time but really look at things in general and going forward.

But I am happy that the issue concerning these quarries which is now in your hands because it is important and it may be an idea also to approach the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment. But we will be waiting for your favourable response. Since when we met that day your children approached to inform you of disconnecting some families' power supply, but appreciate your stance. As you were saying these time were in is to show compassion and common sense. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: The Minister of Works will continue.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker I urge the Chief Executive Officer of EPC to make note of that as I did see the report of the hotel. It is true that the fix charge is higher than the consumption. So do look into this and sort it because if that is the case with the high fix charge and the usage is minimal then do something about it.

The other thing I want to say to the member is to pay up your current arrears as it is the reason power is disconnected due to the unpaid arrears. I have also pleaded with the management to reconnect your power supply but do sort out your arrears please.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I beg tolerance of the Minister but Lealailepule does not have arrears. The Minister very well knows that I approached him on behalf of other people seeking assistance. But the arrears mentioned by the Minister only started when COVID began. There were no arrears from the beginning, as it only started when COVID hit us. So I appeal to your Hon as it is not my arrears nor the company's, it is the arrears of COVID-19. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I appreciate the statement of the member that had just resume his seat. I like how he is using common sense. Common sense is a sword with two sharp sides. Just in case you wrongly use the word common sense and EPC will turn around and put up the cost again so it is complicated.

Hence is my taking the floor again, for we may possibly say a lot about it next week and in the end EPC have hiked up the cost again for there could be other original sins we are not aware of.

Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I guess... But since we have approached our adjournment time so I guess...

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Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua: That is why I got up to remind you of the time. But If I may get an opportunity I would gladly accept.

MR SPEAKER: Why not say your interruption outside? Minister you have two minutes remaining....

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, I know my time is up but let me respond to my brother in Christ still. He is right that the arrears are not Lealailepule, it is the Sheraton. Now I am wondering whether he has shares with the Sheraton since he is persistent in arguing this for Sheraton only but does not argue the same case for other hotels. With respect since my time is up.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. There is a saying that, there will come a time when you get caught. I beg tolerance of Lealailepule but we have come to our adjournment time.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Please honourable, yes I want to clear the air. I am not a shareholder. I am the owner. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well said. He professes himself as wealthy the poor guy. Since we have reached the normal adjournment time on Friday which is 12.00. Before doing so I call upon the member for Urban Seat West, Hon Faumui to conclude our meeting with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:01pm until 9:00am on Monday, 29th of June 2020.