

*01 MARCH 2021**MONDAY, 01 MARCH 2021**The Speaker took the Chair at 9:13am.*

Prayer.

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

Greetings to everyone in good health and wellbeing, and your perseverance in attending our Sitting this morning.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– debate continued on second reading – Day 30**

MR SPEAKER: The Proceedings adjourned on Saturday evening as the Minister of Finance was completing her speech.

With respect I call upon the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I call upon Hon Toetaufanua to speak in relation to the matters raised.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO (Minister for Education, Sports and Culture): I wish to extend appreciation to the honorable Speaker this morning. I speak with great admiration. We are in the sacred grounds of Tiafau, hence I must be cautious observing the revered gathering here today. Lest I make noise and end up waking the ghosts of the haunted house.

Such is my acknowledgement to the honorable Speaker, as we rise in good health and spirit this morning. What about the dignity of this House? Mountains are calm, valleys are overflowing, and the outback is softened. Consecration and sanctity exist in this entire side of the House given the presence of the chosen members of Parliament.

What about this entire side, the presence of the Leader of the Government the Hon Prime Minister and your Cabinet, also the Associate Ministers and their support. The care of Samoa gathered here this morning, with the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations. Greetings to rejuvenated health and spirit received today.

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We give gratitude to the Highest for His goodness upon the refreshed life we have received and for his guidance upon everyone here today given our callings and duties which we were chosen to do.

Mr Speaker, the story has been often told to the listening country, the legendary story about Salevaogogo the warrior, which must be told again. It is said that the Atua lad wanted to play the aigofie game. And there was a boy named Fogaa who was always pale looking, and they played a match. They succeeded the Amouta field, they then moved to Amotai and again won. Then a response came that the final match was to be held on Moamoa grounds. Such is the feeling today honorable Speaker; it is said that victory has been gained and the lad has returned. Tell him, to maintain victory and take it to Fogaa. Why deliver it to Fogaa? There are people there. Such is the sentiment today. Triumph has been received given our supplications and prayer before our God of Victory, who created life for this Parliament. What about Samoa? We glorify God for His mercy and His goodness upon us. I also trust that a new day has arrived like the story about the Tuamasaga house.

Thus I shall not climb the post in Falesoa nor go through that process which marks the day of Malietoa, because the words of Samoa have been laid out, the division of Falealii of Tumua to Tulimataala has been done in terms of our honorific salutations which no one can change. There is view this morning Mr Speaker that the dignity of Parliament is seen in the gathering here today and as such, it is crucial that I pay homage. I pay reverence to the fields of Tiafau, which is the place of refuge and a sacred meeting ground for all Samoans and a place where our tradition and culture are displayed for a better future. It is the place where all orators and chiefs come together to express farsightedness and wisdom, for better decisions to be made for Samoa and her future. Then there is the view in mind that I must be vigilant as sacredness and integrity is observed here today. The House is filled with the kings and orators.

Greetings also to Samoa in all your honorifics salutations. Adding on, I wish to acknowledge His Highness and His consort. Greetings also to the Member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. What about this House?

Furthermore, I acknowledge the honorable Speaker and members of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers. The Chief Justice and the Judiciary. The President of the Lands and Titles Court. Well done to your support upon our Parliament.

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I also greet the members of religious ministers of the Gospel who are imploring and praying day and night for prosperity upon Samoa so as to save her people from any oblivious plague arising.

I further greet the listening Samoa in its honorifics *Aiga ma latou Tama, o Tama ma o latou Aiga, le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. Greetings.

Lest I forget the support of our Eastern Island state of Tutuila and Manua and their support, the Governor General, Lieutenant General and Representatives also the Speaker of the House and members of the two House. In all your honorific salutations. *Ia, o paia ia aua Sua ma le Vaifanua, o Fofu ma Aitulagi, Saole ma Saleaamua ma le Launiu na Saelua. Ae a le Alataua? Afio le Laau na Amotasi, Faatui o le Motu, alaalatai le Tootoo o le Faleula ma upu ia te oe le Manuatele*. These honorifics of Samoa I cannot change adversely as this divisional status remain complete with the support of Kings in your residences and your silent oratory. *Taalolo, tulou, tulou ia*.

Allow me to make a mention of our constituency and their support Mr Speaker, lest I forget to make acknowledgments of my roots.

Then the words pertaining to Fogaa is recollected and therefore we must be cautious of what we say inside this House just like the saying to Malietoa and Vaapue. Why? Because your support is not easy to take. Sagaga le Falefa, Luatua and your Gautaala, the venerable of the 3 Kin, allow me your support as I make our submission on behalf of our constituency. What about Fogaa? I do not need to mention it, Loau is currently speaking. You are a close relative. Therefore, Samoa e, may you rest at Niafane and anchor your support there. Have a restful time and show your support whilst I make a submission before Parliament.

On behalf of my constituency, I will direct my speech on the Budget.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with the statement of the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. And the University of Samoa and Samoa Qualifications Authority. I was appointed in this position in 2016 under the trust of the Hon Leader of Government to lead this huge Ministry. The truth is Mr Speaker, the road is rough and bumpy, and this is no easy job to take. However, I had pleaded before God. I wish to make a clear explanation, and whatever insufficient service we had in these past 5 years. The long-term vision and general outlook of the education sector today and tomorrow, I will talk more on the works that have already been implemented on the overall.

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The Budget, the works we were able to achieve internationally and for the Pacific region including the general works attained and implemented for Samoa.

Such is the essence here honorable Speaker so that everyone is clarified and that nobody is left uncertain. Fulfill the demands for this Parliament to members who have raised these matters in relation to the Ministry that I am overseeing. Therefore, observing the Budget honorable Speaker, the Main Estimates from the previous 5 years is incredible. The disbursement of funds with open arms given priority being granted upon the Ministry of Education. Why? I guess everyone has an answer and interpretation. As for the Minister, this is the main source. If children receive better education, then our country will prosper, if children gain knowledge, then families will succeed. So too will the Church. This is the reason. For priority being granted by the State every year. For our children to gain insight. We have seen it; it has become fruitful. This is the truth. The tree that was watered and planted has now flourished and grown. But what of this morning?

Observing this gathering, if it was not for the Ministry of Education none of you would be sitting here. Yes, thus poses the question. Whom did you gain knowledge from? I do not have to tell you. I can see Olo is not in his head....

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister of Education as I allow the remaining Senior Member of this side of the Chamber.... Is there anything...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you. The Hon Minister's statement is pleasing. Just a reminder to the Minister, it was your parents who have taught me. It was your church minister who taught me how to read the alphabets from a to v before I attended primary school when I was 5 and a half years old. Just a reminder, that early childhood education has been forgotten. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: It is covered in the circle. I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: I agree with the honorable member.

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Where did the church minister gain knowledge from? Where did your parents gain insight from? Well, I do know have to say it.

MR SPEAKER: That is reason for raising these matters. Do resume.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: That is the main focus of the Government, priority should be given to education.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu (Gagaemauga No.3): Mr Speaker, I did not want to interrupt, for a chance to be granted.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the honorable Deputy Speaker, if there is anything else, whether it is still about the education of parents.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu: The Minister of Education's statement is very important. I only wish to provide assistance. A question has been given, where did the pastor gain knowledge from? And what about the parents? However, the question here, who did the teacher gain its knowledge from? We are all receiving knowledge and wisdom and everything else is gained from God. Lest the Minister forgets, lest you move on, when you are forgetting about the foundation. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the reminder of the member is good. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: *Ia, ne i galo Afiā i si ona vao.* God is the master of the universe, I will not speak of it no more, as we all know it. He is the source of knowledge. Which is passed down to the teachers to make these gentlemen here knowledgeable. Such is the essence this morning. But true is the honorable Speaker. Such is what I said earlier today and my thankfulness unto God for his discernment and His compassion. But because we are on this earth. We use the instrument so that we can share this wisdom. Such is the way Mr Speaker, give priority to our Government. How to use it, I do not have to say it. The budget statement, Auditor, search money, sort it out, bring it before Parliament, yes. Nothing is concealed nor blurred. Everything is clarified. Starting with \$89million in 2016, and what now?

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It is now \$122million, yes implement our works and the objectives of the Government in order to prioritize our education sector within the 5-year timeframe.

This is commonly raised by the Leader of the Government the matter regarding education and Government assistance. I have explained it because it is vital to the hearing of Samoa. What did we have in the past? Parents had to pay the school fees yes for the sake of this House. Parents had to find school fees by selling coconuts and collecting coconuts. What now? Children now have free education. Free education. Therefore, if a child does not work and study hard then no doubt you will not succeed. \$18million is now allocated for this year in the Budget. It was \$14million in the previous Budget and now it is being raised. Perhaps comes the next Budget it will go higher. The aim is to give our children knowledge and for them to become wise.

Government ensures that everyone gets the share and so biasness does not exist, not just for public schools but also include Mission schools and private schools, give them a share, distribute wisely, with open arms. All Mission schools I see there is an allocation of \$5million per year, for teachers' salary, the same with teachers of private schools. \$5 million. This assistance has made it possible to educate our children without having to pay any school fee. Tuition fees is also covered together with many other things that were not possible to obtain by past generations. Thus, this is very important.

There was a member who said, thank you that the school fees are now being paid for our children, it is true. There is a policy by SQA and NUS that relates exactly to this assistance for those who we said, the word that they say, the poor, and so we heed appreciation to SQA and NUS for this support. There are about 1000 students that have been educated under this program by the Government through SQA and NUS in support of paying their school fees especially the poor. That is the vitality. Why? Because this is the objective of the Government, for the people, by the people so that future generations are not left behind whilst growing up. Leave no one behind. For all citizens of Samoa, Samoa and its citizens.

Then coming on to setting up of school buildings honorable Speaker. This is one common concern raised by the majority, Loau, do have mercy upon our school building, and playing field. It is like a repeated phrase to me. Our government through our foreign partners. Why? What stupid Government spends money on a government that is unstable? And what is our observation of this?

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Japan, China, big powers like America, that are offering us assistance to establish our school buildings, well managed. Since 2016 when I first arrived, there was a completion of 52 school buildings. That job is still ongoing until today, it is continuing. A few new ones have been launched recently just last month. When we go home the old lady would say to us, oh my I am in awe... the word wow was being said lengthily by the old lady. This is a remarkable thing we have witnessed. Why? The aim of our Government is to give priority. There is a normal saying, *e le o le anofale a o le fale, e le o le fale a o le anofale* it is not the interior but the house it is not the house but the interior of the house. The Prime Minister even said, that these two-go hand in hand together, *e o gatasi lava le anofale ma le fale* consistently the interior goes with the house. If the house is good, the interior will be intelligent, everyone will be excited to go to school because the classroom looks wonderful and so as everything else.

Such is the aim of the State, there is effort for the service to reach all areas pertaining to school buildings. I trust the House is now receiving it in relation to the raising matters regarding school buildings.

MR SPEAKER: I beg forbearance to the Hon Minister as I allow the member for Faleata, Afioga Faumuina Wayne.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance. The Minister is now on the matter regarding education. The normal question here Mr Speaker, through the Minister. I wish to remind our school building that was ceased and could not be implemented. We are still waiting on when this will go through.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister you may resume your speech.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you Mr Speaker. The saying of the country, *e le faapito manu ia tasi*. Lest you observe that the Minister has overlooked us. No that is for you to sort out the plans of the Ministry. If you had not complained too much your school building would have finished by now.

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

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I would have thought we go back to reviewing Government policies. It is not the duty of the Government to fix school buildings. That matter pertains to villages. I recall a College of Aleipata in Lalomanu. I think it was in 1960. There was only one College for Aleipata, Lepa, Lotofaga in the constituency of Lotofaga. Then Lalomanu made a decision to remove this College and replace it with a Secondary School.

Then, the Government gave a chance for a village to fix this College. From Aleipata Itupa I Lalo, Itupa I Luga, Lotofaga, Lepa and when it went on to the exact time in the year 19... until recent time. I think it was in 1964 where the church of our village was built. Then my village decided to build a school building. And that was why we had one college for the entire Aleipata area up to Lotofaga which was called Aleipata Secondary School.

What was done in those days. To date, I think it was in 1995, after cyclone Ofa struck in 1991. There was a state's program, it was the first time for the Government to step up and helped with the fixing of school buildings, after the destruction of several school buildings by cyclone Ofa. There was also the request for funding assistance from New Zealand. I was managing the three-member Committee, we had visited the back area and to see if the school buildings were fixed or not. There was the village of Neiafu. I made my rounds to see the school buildings and had asked for an update of this work. The old man Tuaaufai at that time said. Do not worry Tuilaepa they are all locked up in here in this building. And then I would look at the church here, the one destroyed by cyclone Ofa, the iron roofings were new. Then I would say to this old man, break the house where these materials are in. And the old man would reply, do not worry they are all there. Then I said, break it down I want to see it. This was when I became the Minister of Finance. Break it down and there was nothing in it, because the building materials were used to build a church. Then I ordered the village to fix a school building that was requested to the Government. If not, then your school will be closed. That was when the village had gone and took out a loan for a school building that was being diverted.

Mr Speaker, more than 115 school buildings were destructed and were rebuilt by our Government through financial aid from New Zealand and our Government. Such was the initial program by our Government to request the Japanese Government for funding assistance upon this program. So, this program is continuing until today.

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Things happen for a reason, and I had learned something from the village of Samusu. Whenever we have our site visits there, we would always see overgrown grass when already the distribution of iron roofing has been made. And I would only see...then I thought the grass is about 3 feet above ground. Then I would go with the Committee so that they could see it for themselves. I would look at the grass, I would stand on...and hear noise coming from the grass, and then I would search and find iron roofing laying underneath it. Disposed there, because they were received for free.

And upon getting there I received an order. That if a school building is not fixed within 4 weeks' time, it will be closed and a village house will be used. Then Samusu would start moving to fix it. When we got to Fagaloa we saw a pile of 100 concrete mix lying around and then the State's power would be used to close the unfixed school building if it is not done. Mr Speaker, this is the normal nature of our people. Whenever they are given something for free, they would use it mistakenly. Mr Speaker, such is the ongoing program we are carrying out. A total of over 115 school buildings were set up by the Government, and it began from the time of cyclone Ofa. Even with the program I mentioned regarding the \$18 million funding.

It began with the Main Estimates approved by the Government with \$50,000 in the month of December 1983 for the new year 1984. Now that it has reached \$18million. And the vitality of this program is that we have discussed Pre-Schools. Perhaps I will broadcast this total when I have my program other than the money disbursement to Mission Schools and Pre-Schools. There are various Pre-Schools for the EFKS Church, Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and others. Schools that were known as Pastor's or aoga faifeau is no longer called that, they are now called Pre-school. I therefore agree with the Minister's statement that literacy is now carried out in preschools. In addition, pre-schools are now funded by the Government. Although they were done for free in the past, as part of a pastor's service to God.

Mr Speaker, a response has now been made to the school that was mentioned. The design of it costs \$600,000 before the start of the project. It is a policy that is inappropriate. Because once this goes through, then all schools will go by this model, costing \$2million. But what I wanted to say is that our partnership with Japan is now being applied. There are times when China would just give us financial assistance even the European Union, the same for America. However, the ongoing program, is from the Government of Japan.

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For that we will always appreciate the Government of Japan. Although the measure is that \$30,000 is more than \$20,000. That is their threshold, done by view. Furthermore, review is done by looking at photos, they look at tender and those who do it. JICA has also prepared all statements and reports, so that they are well aware of how the money was spent for building a school. That being said, once the Committee makes a mistake, then the cost would be inappropriate. However, the truth is, it is a must to complete a school building with the money offered from Japan.

In relation to the growing number of students in other schools and the need to set up a two-story building. But do note that a two story is huge work. The foundation is dug underneath, so that it is solid and does not fall down when an earthquake happens particularly today where constant earthquakes are striking given climate change. With regards to such matters, this is the assistance of Government from its partners. Whatever is best, may it be a contribution for the parents of children who are educated there. However, if good money management skills are applied, we will have excess. The reason for mentioning this is because there was the erection of a school building in our village, but I do not care about it, for all of us working here in Apia. We check how money is spent thoroughly. And if misused, we punish those who are dealing with it. So, we do have enough funds from Japan. That is the reason, they also have engineers which consists of wise people erecting school buildings. JICA is well aware of how many school buildings and rooms that are needed. They are in contact with the Ministry of Education on this matter. Mr Speaker that is the assistance.

The setting up of SQA curtailed from a view in Cabinet, which covered a lot of schools we have today. BA and MA have been awarded to people who have not passed SC, in addition to PhDs. It was the main reason for this initiative, to avoid the bad reputation of our country. If you want a Doctorate qualification, you can easily get it in Samoa. For the protection of the education system of Samoa's integrity it was reason the SQA was set up. Even with other Universities and qualifications made available in some Colleges on theology. The SQA must check it thoroughly to ensure this is fitting. We do not want overseas people to mock us on our qualifications. The reason why this is happening is due to cautiousness. Some are here with BA qualifications awarded 4 months ago and a Doctorate qualification from 2 months ago, I know it.

Mr Speaker that is the caution. For a Samoan to pass from these Institutes and is recognized when finding employment overseas.

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That is also why there was the initiative by Samoa to establish the Australian Institute here. In a meeting attended by our Leaders here, this matter was almost rejected by the Prime Minister of Australia, but we made a solid urge to set up this Australian College in the country, why? Because when you receive your award, from the Australian College, the name Australia will be printed on it, it will be an award from the Institute of Australia. So, if two people come with a pass from this school, and two from our trades field at NUS. And they would go under Quota and go to a company with these certificates. What certificate is accepted by Australia; anyone is accepted in Australia as it is an award from Australia? Such is the nature of life.

Mr Speaker, I will add on as it is vital to go back to the rural areas, for clarification on the reasons for putting for each matter. So, this matter is continued by the State, help will be offered to our schools.

That way, the works implemented by the Government is very important to see if this house is safe. Because things have happened in the past regarding school buildings. Not long after the setting up of a school building and it would run down, and the floor would turn into a wreckage. Mr Speaker that is the assistance, to shed light on the contribution of the State with regards to school buildings and education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister. Pardon me...is there a chance, the Prime Minister has given clarification. I have noticed with this particular matter; it was emphasized by the member for the Urban West. Therefore, many chances were given to discuss this matter, regarding school buildings. As such, the explanation has been given by the State. In addition to the clear statement provided by the Minister, the State has also given an insight of other important matters. There is no biasness with the established school building of the member as support is also shared with the country. On that note, the Minister of Education has already spoken, so let us bear with him. Let us proceed accordingly, as debates are useless for now, the important thing is that the Minister has spoken to leave it to him. He shall look into it.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you Mr Speaker, no it is accepted with appreciation. Just a word of gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister, but no debate. With respect thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. That is the feeling as... I feel blessed to be able to raise matters for my constituency. When the Minister says so, then it will be implemented, that statement will be followed up in the future when works are progressed, as I am included in that list. I beg the pardon of the member for Faleata. Let us look at the matter shared by the Minister.

What is it, is there a serious matter for your constituency?

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching (Faleata East): Mr Speaker, it is not for the constituency. It is an additional clarification with regards to the importance of this matter.

MR SPEAKER: No, the clarification is not necessary. The interruption is not needed. I beg tolerance to the member; you are dragging our Sitting wrongly. I call upon the Minister to resume his speech.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: I thank you honorable Speaker, I see that the clarification has been provided by the Leader of the Government in relation to plans by the SQA and NUS. Except for a person that is short of vision and lacks hearing. Thus, one orator once said, I pity you for you have eyes but do not see, do go to the hospital to check your sight. I pity you for you have ears but do not listen, do go and check your hearing so that you can hear properly the statement given.

Most of the issues have been clarified, why? To provide clarity for our services. Honorable member, FK has been approved, after FK, then treasury then you. Are you satisfied? Very well. Work is ongoing, it is open for our Sittings, it is based on Government policies. There is a difference with the perspective within our country and the view from outside particularly the Pacific region. This is very important. There was also a comment on literacy and numeracy. I had received a lot of statements and gratitude. The standard of communications is now being raised, there were issues back in 2015, 2014 with regards to our examinations.

Continuing on, what time is it today? We have 91% or 9% that is small percentage for our country. I am still talking about school students, leave aside the adults as they have passed school already. They can use the newspaper to read, as for education, we have reached 91%, 91.9%. Yes, we have reached that high standard.

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Our work is like that as we move forward, we have done really well so far. NUS, SQA and the Ministry of Education in particular, it is important to obtain clarity.

During this time honorable Speaker, no doubt this year 2019, we had faced the measles outbreak. Next, we had the Covid19 which was no small virus. There was the huge effort by the Ministry of Education to educating our children. Most consultations fall heavily on attempts to ensuring that full online education was accessible by all our children. The measles was no easy outbreak, school closure, how did we do it, how was the service made available? We used advanced technology. It was also mentioned, because we do not know. Whether the covid will reach us after the measles, or whether we will have another major pandemic based on observations, whether we will be lucky or not. We cannot predict as we are seeing and facing a lot of these difficulties in the world. We must look back for us to get clarity. The Ministry has also gone through it in order to provide better and advanced technology. We have also discovered extended cables. I say this, big cable small usage when right now, big cable bigger usage. Such is our appreciation to the Associate Minister for the request put forth on cables extension. The service has reached our schools in the rural areas. The importance is our image as we move forward, and we will no longer use books and A4s in the future. As you will use a small tablet or a laptop in school or even at home or from the rural area or using a cell phone. These are the devices that the world is heading towards, as the virus is still spreading due to living sinfully.

Those are the communications Mr Speaker. There is a statement for improvement, raising standard for information technology for all schools. So that resources are made available to all schools on internet. These are the objectives of the Ministry of Education, to make internet available to educate our children online. To raise the knowledge and experience of teachers and students on technological programs implemented within schools. That is the aim at this time, to fully prepare all schools. Teachers, students and parents. In case there is school closure again. What shall we do? What can we do if there is another pandemic virus arising?

The Ministry has prepared us to use technological methods or advanced technology. There is an existing program that is ongoing today. No endeavor is a waste Mr Speaker. Mistakes also happen with regards to events happening; however, we are still trying.

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The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is working closely with the Ministry of Education to make available communications all across the country, such is the intention.

There is another service by the Office of the Regulator and our Ministry with regards to satellite that have had heated discussions in the past, they have now been laid out. Go through the right process in order to implement this service. Be happy. I am relieved to have received this service. It is not bad but take into account the right process to implement. The Regulator is also assisting in continuing this service, if the lines do not reach you, then use the satellite. Right now, procedures are being laid out so that comes the mid-year, service will be made available fully. This service will reach the rural areas for online education to educate our children from the rural areas and those living around the town area.

With the shortage of teachers, most of the times you would speak of this regard. Due to several reasons, this is no hidden agenda, as said, some are switching jobs. With the lack of teachers within various constituencies, there are ongoing programs carried out in the back areas for children to find interest in the field of teaching. If your village is isolated in the rural areas, there must be teachers within your own villages, yes.

That is my plea to the Ministry and the University, the children from the rural areas, encourage them and share them the good news, to come and teach. Because a child from Siumu cannot come and teach in Aleipata. Because Aleipata must have people there to teach in their schools. But right now, a Falevao will go and teach at Samusu but how will he or she go? There is no bus. Which means that by the time they get there the school has already closed. In that case parents, if you are listening in, that is the essence here, try and push your children to go to the Ministry of Education. Go and teach in pre-schools, secondary schools up to colleges and there are a lot of opportunities available. This profession seems not important to them, but a teaching profession is very significant. There is the teacher's song that is normally sung, raise me up, lift me up but some say that the teachers are worthless. But looking at the works calendar it is becoming fruitful. That song is very important when we sing it in schools for teachers, although many do complain about it.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau (Alataua West): Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg forbearance to you...I allow the honorable Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Afioga Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuuau: There is no plan of interrupting the Hon Minister and his wonderful speech. The main plea is do give a brief clarification of free education at NUS, to avoid the issue about the village councils and their appeal.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Perhaps you are getting it. I gave the chance to the Chairperson of the Committee of Finance. The question is, do give a general overview of the concern regarding free education. At the University. Go ahead.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you for the question that has further clarified the statement. The Faculty of Education at NUS, is where the teachers are taught, and are paid by the Government through the NUS budget.

Therefore, all Government scholarships when it comes to the other side, the Government pays for 3 to 4 years. So free education is provided. That is the essence. But in comparison to teachers pay today, this is one matter that has granted a huge pay honorable Speaker. It starts with \$25,000, \$27,000, \$29,000, \$30,000 going up. As such, it is like that. If the parents are listening in, push your child to go...

Another thing, your child will remain by your side if you...your child does not need to come all the way to town for school. They will easily attend Primary School and the teachers will get paid there without having to come to town, and you will spend time with your child until the child grows up and gets married. That is one reason why there is shortage in teachers for other constituencies, because of marriage and teachers traveling to Savaii where the family of the husband resides. That is it. Then the Ministry will have to sort out how to plan this out. So, observing this if too much otherwise...never mind. So, if the parents are listening in, do encourage your children to go to the Ministry and become teachers.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Pardon the Minister as I allow the Government Leader if there is another clarification.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, a point of order. With regards to our citizens being awarded with scholarships and those who are unable to receive this chance to go in accordance to the ruling line. The significant matter is the raising of our university education to another level. Therefore, they do not have to pursue education abroad, degrees can be done here. Because the majority of the parents want their children to continue education overseas. But there are times the New Zealand and Australia change their scholarship policies particularly with the current pandemic that is affecting and changing school policies. Therefore, the strength is no longer the same with these scholarships awarded including the numbers required. It is the main reason our university was set up in 1984 with a decision made in 1983. It does not mean that the sun will always rise. There are times when we have rain, disasters, shortage of opportunities to go abroad, regardless of this, at least we have our own University. A new University has been set up given our long-term policies set out in the year 1983.

The meetings that were held especially Cabinet meetings, this was the exact time when revenue earnings and our economy was significantly dropping and now, we are having rising demands on this matter. The particular words made in this House, why else is another University built again? It was possible to do it for \$5 only. This is one laughing matter. Although the main focus was to envision long term, there are times when we face difficulties, but at least a university is now in place. Now that we have the virus, and the Government is facing many challenges, and they are starting to look at all Governments who are supporting us financially as they too are giving priority to their problems especially in relation to this pandemic virus. People are getting unemployed. Millions in America are becoming unemployed, and this has affected financial aid from entering our country. This disappointing news are being broadcasted by the World Health Organization and many are witnessing this as being unfair because the big powers are giving priority to treating their own people first whilst less thought is shown towards other countries. This is no lie honorable Speaker, the cautionary word from us who knows well the psychology within the country that least countries are assisting us, and it is a whole new change. That being said, if we aim to lay out inappropriate plans, it will affect us from getting any more foreign aid.

In relation to education, that is the current situation, the country is going through a different stance. The main focus is to push our National University of Samoa, NUS.

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We have also found another change, the University of the South Pacific is no longer called an Agriculture University, it is now made for general courses. Therefore, the core is now planted to broaden further knowledge.

For that reason, consultations with our partners are now ongoing, if there is any change with our citizens, then we ought to find other assistance if it is too pricey to take them abroad and grant us financial assistance to help out with our university here. Although the main thing is for our children to live closely with parents to oversee them. Many problems are occurring with our children, some have committed suicide. Why? There is the thought that it is due to not living together with parents. So, living together here, it makes a huge difference.

Mr Speaker, such is the importance of this matter received by the Minister, as there are various issues that parents are not thinking about at this time. Mental health issues upon our children when removed from Samoa, they have been with their families for a long time and suddenly they are moved and live separately from their families. Such is the reason the entire decision of the NEOC Committee was changed because we have received reports on what has happened with our children for living alone in their rooms and reason for the repatriate flights that were planned to bring them back home from China, Japan, and Australia during the Covid pandemic. Even with older people living abroad, especially those that have worked and have served abroad like policemen working for peace and security and those people that were taken by the Indian Government including missionary works in Africa. They are important to our government.

Perhaps when it comes to the Pacific, you have heard of the news from Tutuila, traveling here is still put on hold up until today which is unlike us. For us we have over 4,000 passengers traveling here. It is the reason we are pleading with the travelers to keep in mind the covid restrictions and to officially avoid the virus from getting here, but to come and be with the parents who have longed awaited them.

Mr Speaker, this is the addition to the clarification by the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. Well done to the clarification your honor. Thank you.

I call upon the Hon Minister, Afioga Toetafanua a le Malietoa.

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Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you honorable Speaker, and also the Hon Leader of the Government for this clear clarification provided. As I said, it is not easy, there are plentiful difficulties, although you are still trying to make the full service. Our university is also attempting to achieve for the better. It is mentioned, as statements are constantly given on it.

The true essence is to teach our children in Samoa. There is also word spreading about our USP in Fiji such as the current negotiations we have today. It is obvious to our local listeners that news is put across by our newspaper and radio platforms regarding our University. Because if our University closes at least we still have our university for students to attend. Thus, a plan is made and there are also current issues today that we are trying to remedy the relationship between the Government of Fiji and the Counsel of the USP. Hopefully everything will turn out well for our USP. There is also the rebranding of the University of the South Pacific from Alafua which was recently relaunched and renamed as the branch of the USP in Samoa, it is no longer called the University of the South Pacific in Alafua.

The objective is to raise the standard and become more recognizable than the University of the South Pacific. In addition, there are various other Universities whereby other programs are made available in order to raise the standard of our service for our university and to make competition, so as to raise the standard and knowledge of our children. I will speak no further on this matter Mr Speaker given that all plans are now clarified.

Our internet and information technology, some would use it wisely and some would use it inappropriately which resulted in the overlapping of information. My daughter came up to me one evening and said, Dad, I will create a page for you for people to like you, it will be useful for your election. Then I said to my daughter, very well that will be alright if it is a good thing. But when I saw it, alas, it was amazing honorable Speaker. Yes. I saw over 10 million people who liked me. And I saw so many positive comments, I love you, Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I allow the Prime Minister whether his comment was a part of this matter.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I am ashamed to give this question, but I will say it anyhow.

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I wish to ask; these are the people who are seeking their forefathers during your youth years and during the time you played rugby?

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: No, this is no lie honorable Speaker. Perhaps it will affect the rest of ...however the importance of making good use of worthy statement for the sake of our children and families overseas. I laughed at some of the comments, love you babe. I have thought, oh no I will get caught here. It is best to cancel this page. There is another comment, of dislike. It says, Loau, you are uneducated...stupid fool. Then I laugh to myself. That being said, you stupid fool. But who wants to look at a stupid fool?

So, Hon Faumuina, because I heard the old man saying that I am stupid. Well, it is good to be stupid for you not to know anything. Because who wants to look at a fool? It is worse. As such Faumui...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Because there is... whether the situation you are giving clarity on if one of you is aware of this dumb whether...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: I only wish to congratulate the Hon Minister, as the matter raised by him was said by Jesus to his disciples, there is no one above John the Baptist, except for the humble one. That is the only person that is above John the Baptist. But since the Minister has spoken mentioning Faumuina. The constituency is listening in and they are well aware I have been around the world several times but lack knowledge of anything. Look at this? Do correct the statement of the Minister to see which one of us you are referring to, because you lack insight. With respect.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker if there is thought allow me a chance...

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. It is like that. It does not mean...the statement. We are...I think it was three weeks ago since we had the recommendation, before we have the remaining Parliament. Like that.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Is there a chance?

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MR SPEAKER: Do note, yesterday a church minister preached on TV2 and said, that our Sitting is pleasing to hear. I do not mean to praise you however, you must bear harmony. How can you speak that we implement harmony when Parliament Leaders is taking the lead in disharmony.

I have thought, I will conclude here the statement from the religious minister from yesterday. Since we have arrived at... I beg the pardon of the member as we have come to our normal recess...

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you. Let us go outside and talk. Thank you very much.

MR SPEAKER: Wonderful. We shall set aside Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for recess hour.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess at 10:40am and resumed at 11:26am.

Debate resumed on Government's Response on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Well done to you and your perseverance. There is the view that new energy has been received to resume our work. Perhaps this is the chance to call upon the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture to continue his speech.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I second the view as raised this morning, we have finished our morning tea break, in order for us to gain new energy to resume our work in accordance with our callings.

During our recess there were talks on matters such as the one I had raised with the Ministry. I have thought Mr Speaker, when the sun sets I still have a lot to say, however I respect our time lest there is thought that I am praising myself. However, the true spirit here is to provide clarification on plans in accordance to the works of the Ministry.

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Then I come to the matter regarding teaching profession as mentioned constantly by our Government Leader and the upgrading of our teachers to another level for the sake of our children. This program initiated from, so far, we have 456 teachers who hold Bachelor of Degrees right now. Most teachers have received Certificates, some have risen to Degree levels. Which is a good sign. The Leader has spoken, that this plan is very expensive. However our Government endeavored hard for our teachers to achieve this level.

Mr Speaker, another area under my supervision is our culture. Tradition and culture are also taught in our schools so that our children are aware of their true identities and their language, their tradition and culture.

Plans for the erection of the cultural building has been laid out, and it is almost complete, the Leader has also talked about it. The aim is to polish anything else in preparation for our culture, for our children to showcase our culture and to treasure our cultural assets. This is another plan laid out for our Museum Cultural Centre in Malifa. It will be completed very soon, since there is still the closing of our borders and the Chinese people who are engaged with the building of this Culture Centre project who must also return back home. Another proposed plan is our dictionary. During the previous week the old men were able to complete this project, piteously, it was one huge job. The English word for faatonu upu is dictionary. Where all Samoan terms and words will be covered here for the education of our children. This is our identity, it is our language to be accurate and whole, which is now completed.

There is a short point that will...before our book is printed, our dictionary for the Samoan Language, they will be disseminated to schools for educating our children.

I take this time to extend appreciation to the chiefs and orators in the country. O Tama ma o latou Aiga o Aiga ma Tama, they are all included here. O le usuga a Tumua ma Pule who have compiled this book, it was no easy job. Also, the members of the clergy, retired church ministers, nuns, who have put together this book. Thank you for your works and efforts. This is the statement as I too belong to the sports development group, which I oversee. Sports development is one area that we must focus on. In 2019, we had hosted the Pacific Games here in our country. I do not mean to say it, given this wonderful plan. During a brief time, we had a previous decision, because there was no country in the Pacific to host the Pacific Games. Then we reached out to provide assistance to our neighboring islands.

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Such is the reason this was fulfilled within our country. Perhaps everyone is aware of it too.

There were 27 requests that were achieved on the overall. We have also seen the effort of our country to make it work. We are not biased. We therefore appreciate the general public during that time. For your hospitality and your cheerful expressions for this to be achieved. Our guests have returned with satisfaction and the message from us in all preparations. During that time, I observed that we had planned for venues and accommodations for our guests to stay, we were worried. But what? We were given an answer. If the President of the Women's Fellowship of the Methodist Church is listening in, most particularly the members of the clergy, you have responded to us. When the Government needed assistance. Well, we appreciate you for your endeavors and service to the Government during this Term. As known, the Church's Annual Meeting was postponed for us to host our Guests. The spirit is to voice appreciation to the Methodist Church, we appreciate all that you have done, thank you very much.

I have thought Mr Speaker, I will now conclude. There are few points left to say. When you look at this book, this is the Education Sector Plan 2019-2024. There are plans that have already been laid out for the Ministry of Education, or the Education Sector. It will not stop here, we have already begun 2019, 2020 and so forth. Therefore, this must continue. However it is not our will to be done, and if finished here and we bid farewell afterwards, well what can we say about it. Although the essence of this booklet involves all the strategic plans covered in it. If you want a copy, then do come to me, it will be useful for you too.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member, there is...because you did not speak on this booklet. But you are upstanding, when the statement is now on this booklet.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): The query is short, this booklet I have here, has SQA when the Hon Minister has not come to it. I have one question. As he is resuming his duties, for the sake of looking ahead SQA. Because it seems that the objective here is Post Secondary, it is only for graduating adults. However, I believe this function should be removed from the Ministry for them to implement it, commencing from pre-school, primary school up to higher learning education, this is the main focus of our education sector. With due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: The recommendation is also good. But...surely you will become Minister if you are to...because there is no vote for you even if you return. I call upon the Hon Minister of Education, do conclude now.

Afioga Hon LOAU SOLAMALEMALO KENETI SIO: Your will is vital, I take heed of it for review, it is nothing bad. It is good to recreate and if good it is nothing bad. I also have the results for the Samoa School Leaving Certificate and the Samoa School Certificate I am submitting. Our children are very knowledgeable, look at the results, Samoa College oh my, they are very smart. Maluafofua College, it is...unbelievable.

This is a view for improved knowledge and skills gained for the teachers in teaching the children. If you need a copy do go to the Ministry of Education to get one, all information is archived. The children of the country are very clever.

Mr Speaker, it is time for me to conclude now. I observe that the sun has set at this hour of the day. Then there is the thought I will conclude now. I must say something to the support of my constituency. That being said, this is another constituency that has implemented new changes. It has been divided, given long term plans of our Government where appropriate. Sagaga le Falefa right now, comes the next general elections, we will be known as Sagaga No.1 and Saleimoa to be called Sagaga No.4. That said, Luatua and your Gautaala, if Faletolu is tuning in, the sacred three lineage. I am speechless in the spirit of appreciation. Thank you for your support, I have worn your scented ulafala, for the sake of Parliament. Thank you. Even though we have not yet been redundant, because indeed you are family. *Ma e le galo Afiā i si ona vao*, in your honorifics. Thank you for your support and prayers. Also speaking in particular of my sub villages of Aele, Aele the very song by Avele and the words of Loau, you are not forgotten Aele, you will remain treasured in the heart, acknowledging the reverend, and the four chiefs and two talking chiefs in the village council. The same with our village of Nu'u, a sacred village where Samoa resides. Your honorifics, *O lou faalagiga o Aiga ma Tama o Tama ma o latou Aiga. Ae a le usuga a Tumua ma Pule*, we will meet in a future time and talk about a better honorific salutation for us.

So now, I convey appreciation to my sub village of Tafaigata in particular. A presentation has already been extended to you Tafaigata. A new school called the Saint Paul's Academy has already been set up here to educate the children even though there are no settlements yet.

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Paul was converted from Saul and is no longer called Saul. It has also converted a land where the persecution of people was done and has taught the people about the water source flow, henceforth, I appreciate your prayers.

Lest I forget the support of the President and the President of the Women's Group and the members of the clergy. We have collaborated, and you do reside in Fogaa, whatever service offered by Loau and the village, I beg tolerance to the members of the clergy. Thank you for your prayers and support. To the reverend elders of the village, President of the Assembly of God, Reverend Tavita Pagaialii, many a time we would meet, and you would bring blessings, in your advice to sum up all statements, I appreciate you very much for your advice forwarded. This is the statement honorable Speaker; I will finish now. When closing time comes for us to part ways, may blessings be upon the dignity of the House.

Ne i galo Afia i si ona vaa, honorable Speaker, we look up to your seniority, I also observe that your foresight will return home, well done to your service. Especially our retiring senior fathers, may life fill you with more strength.

Then I come to, lest conflict of interest is forgotten for the sake of workers. I observe the presence of the Chief Head Laaunafausia. Alas, the people of Fasitoo are very knowledgeable. The Prime Minister is from Fasitoo, the Speaker is also from Fasitoo, the Head of NUS is also from Fasitoo, well done. You are the man. Thank you to the Female Chief of SQA, well done to you and the team, you are my girl. Most particularly Afamasaga who is a professor...do not mock her, she is a professor herself. Well done, Afamasaga, we respect and acknowledge you for your service. *E faigata oe na e tofitofia Malo, matua ma le usoalii aua le Falefitu ma upu i le fale Fasitoo*. We are pleased given our collaboration. Afamasaga you are my brother. To our staff, we shall meet again, perhaps come April then your life will be finished...well done to your service.

The statement of the man from Fogaa is now complete, May the goodness of God be upon us today, we will now turn to the next member, my fellow brother Faaolesa. Bless you.

The House showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of response by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there are matters I wish to clarify as raised by the member at the ending of his speech. I have tried advising my Ministers about it. When it comes to...it can affect your mother, submit a letter outside without having to give it here. There is an advantage as it is an eyesore matter. Which came across the Hon Minister regarding electoral constituency boundaries. Perhaps this is a very good time to clarify this matter again, which is becoming an eyesore for other constituencies due to wrong interpretations given. The reason to readjusting electoral boundaries is no secret. It was a common issue raised within this Parliament, ever since I became a member. And a solution was sought from then on until today, a solution regarding the growing number of populations in a constituency when there is one representative. This is important and it cannot be avoided. The population of Samoa will always increase similarly to America and Great Britain.

That is why the House was divided into two in America. There is the upper House of Senate and the total number of dual representatives for each state remains. The total number of States is 50. With only two members per state. So, the meaning of two, is to provide consistency for all states when it comes to matters that goes to the Senate for approval. But when it comes to...there is another House of Representatives, in relation to the total number of populations per state. Therefore, as raised by some of the members of Samoa it is very true, because this can affect their representation in this House. So, the strength of a constituency with a high number population is very inappropriate in comparison to a fewer population for a smaller constituency with one representative in Parliament. In this case high significance is rendered upon the larger constituency. Why? Because their fundamental rights are greater and because they hold more numbers. So, what was Parliament's solution in the past? They used phosphoric ink which was permanent. Once applied it is indelible. So which wound did he apply this on?

So, raising the number of electoral contenders from one to two for some constituencies has given the voters the fundamental rights to cast 2 votes. And during the process, the other constituencies have considered this as unfair meaning they will have to cast one vote per candidate. This issue has been around for a long time. It is reason why the Government was looking for a solution to resolve it.

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By doing so, they had to assess the nature and actions of the voters which led to the derivation of the general election system because this was not our method, it is foreign practice.

We did attempt to find a solution for this foreign practice. Which was reason we sought a recommendation from people like the Government of New Zealand. Since New Zealand is very solid in boundary readjustments in the interest of countering this very issue. As such, this concern pertains specifically to the Government in relation to the election of candidates. This was how a method was determined in order to improve our electoral procedures and processes which led the staff of the Electoral Commission to go ahead and implement this. Therefore, the restructuring of constituencies in accordance with the total number of populations, we went back to the Supreme Law. Justice must prevail whenever it comes to general elections. What does upholding justice mean? Justice must be maintained for the majority including the members of Parliament. So, justice must be achieved, one constituency, one representative, one voter, one vote. That is the International Law pertaining to general elections. What did we do, we implemented this practice successively. We shall repeal two members to one. It started off with Safata and it progressed continuously towards other constituencies. Including Faasaleleaga, and Falealili, Salega, as well as the votes for independent members. We all know it, it is not history, the chaos that occurred in Safata saying that there will a division in the constituency. This is the statement of the State, the division of the constituency will not happen. This is the nature of decisions done by the State. Whatever decision the Government makes, there should be no involvement of cultural activities within the affairs of the State.

Then an example was given, take note of that. It was in the village of Lalomanu where a Police Station is based covering all the constituencies of Aleipata area including the constituency of Lepa and the constituency of Lotofaga. Even with the district hospital, it is a public district, a hospital district, police district and an agricultural district. There is one office which covers the entire Aleipata area including Lepa and Lotofaga. Also, the electoral constituencies are not cultural constituencies. It was clearly provided in the clarification given.

Such was the reason the first step was carried out so as to reflect one constituency and one candidacy. After the first step, then came the second step, the restructuring of State boundaries, they are not cultural boundaries.

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Then they were divided, to bring about consistency in accordance with the number of population within the constituencies. They could not provide complete consistency. So, the numbers were reduced so as to obtain some sort of balance. Although the balance is inaccurate, at least there is some sort of consistency made.

That was the intention, meaning, electoral boundaries are not permanent. What is the meaning of permanent? Whenever there is an increasing population and increased number of voters then we may have to go back to the old electoral boundaries. That was said to Saleaula, so it is not something that will remain permanent forever. Even when the population is lessened, we can implement accordingly. However, the only Paramount Law, for the purpose of consistency, whilst for the numbers, it will remove what Parliament was debating about back in 1962 until the implementation of this new process. So, Parliament is currently implementing this now. And this is one milestone achieved by this Parliament. These major changes will go into the History of this Parliamentary Term. Previous Parliaments could not find a solution. However, it is now made possible by this Parliament.

Mr Speaker such is the clarification. This is the reason I said to Saleaula, it is not a permanent boundary. It is a boundary that is adjustable through the making of wise decision. What is the normal saying we say? *o le uta a le poto e fetalai, o le uta a le vale o le taofiofi mamau*. Henceforth, foresight has been well given during this Term. In addition, regularly observing false allegations on set boundaries implemented, when both ha been involved in the decision-making of this Cabinet, and again go in public and make false statements otherwise.

That is the concern, this is no permanent decision, but a wise one. If it can be sorted again, if the population of a constituency increases, with regards to providing consistency for all constituencies, then we can go back to electoral boundaries. Although it does not remove our cultural values, the Constitutional Authority belongs to Saleaula. Constitutional Authority is its duty.

That is the reason for this attempt, given the strong message brought by Saleaula, “Leave it now.” What is to leave aside? Stop deceiving, Saleaula is well aware together with the entire country. Despite your attempts to deceive, it is impossible, how can you lie when the member is right here in this House the member for Saleaula, How can you lie when the member for Saleaula is running in the upcoming elections.

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Mr Speaker, this is a mistake, the entire country is aware of the huge mistake they made in their statement, it is a huge deception that is vulgar.

Mr Speaker, such is the vitality of you taking over, to clarify clearly the State's electoral boundaries as opposed to cultural boundaries. The boundaries laid out by the Government according to its Policies, vote, police, hospital, normal recess, procedure, right from the start during the initial arrival of Europeans who have set out the boundaries for the Government.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, I ask the Minister to conclude his speech. Very well, it is done. It is like that, I am also testing the Minister if there is anything else left to say. So it is done, thank you.

It needs no awareness as you stated, after the club match of the warriors of the country in Amotai and Amouta and the last game in Moamoa, the Lapalapa were covered and were taken to Fogaa. Take it straight to where you reside, which needs no explanation as it is a well known story about Victory.

Hopefully, may the listening constituents endure perseverance, leave it to us to finish that letter. That is the essence, if only I can rest and I can vote for you, I would have voted for you again. Nonetheless, may we rely on God, we now come to the statement of the Minister of the Electoral and the Court Administration.

Go ahead Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU (Minister of Justice and Court Administration & Office of the Electoral Commission): Mr Speaker, we are nearing the end. Even though we climbed the vi tree or came down from the nonu tree, let God be exalted, now that we have reached a smooth ending. Well done to your perseverance, the flying pigeon has returned and is received by our hands.

The heart of gratitude, in accordance to the warmth of our fellowship and our service for Samoa. I greet the honorable Speaker, the Hon Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Associate Ministers. Greetings to that Side of the House, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, and the members of Parliament. I further acknowledge his Highness Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the Member of the Council of Deputies and His Good Lady, the Chief Justice, the President and the Judiciary.

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Lest I forget the pleas of the members of the clergy in the various parts of Samoa so that blessings are upon the country. Your cultural salutations *i le usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti, o Tama ma o latou Aiga, Aiga o Nofo, Aiga o Tupu, Aiga o Papa, Aiga Tafaiifa.*

Lest I forget the support of our Eastern island state in all its honorifics. I wish to voice gratitude to the honorable Speaker, Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Faafisi for the hard work achieved for the Parliament of Samoa. Thank you for your patience and endurance. I see that you are finishing soon the same with our senior members Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavai, Faasootauloa Pati and Hon Tuitama Leao Dr Talalelei Tuitama. Thank you for your input and vital contribution to the Parliament of Samoa, may the goodness of God be upon you and other purposes and callings, God is for you.

We appreciate the Government Heads for their long services. Government solely relies on you and your efforts. Thank you for your loyalty and we especially wish to thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for your ongoing effort in serving our Parliamentary Sitzings. Well done to your endeavors and perseverance.

Lest I forget the late members who have been called by our Almighty Father, no will shall be done except the will of God. We are grateful for His gifts through these passed members whom we spent time together. Their invaluable contribution to Samoa and her people remains unforgettable, Tofa Sefo Pau and Afioga Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Toleafoa.

I wish to greet the support of our territorial constituency of Vaimauga West No.2 in all your honorifics salutations.

Thank you for your authority which I uphold and your recognition, and commending you for your recommendation put forth, and your support and patience upon me.

I wish to talk about the work summary that was debated and supported by your members given Cabinet's approval in order to press through with the projects within our territorial constituencies of Vaimauga West No.2. Firstly, there were talks on setting up of the proposed Alaoa Dam which will be implemented. This project was under discussion during my time as Chairperson of Directors Committee with EPC, because it was the engineers of EPC who spearheaded the preparation of this project.

The aim is for this project to bring more assistance for water catchment areas. To reduce the flowing of water which causes floodings within the Apia vicinity and areas nearby.

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This project, has already had Parliament's approval, at a cost of \$100million USD. And this huge funding is a grant from our partners.

2, I remind the setting up of new School Buildings for Apia Primary School, that was approved for this Term, to be implemented this year, when the Covid restrictions are lifted. 3, Support the establishment of a National Museum and Culture Centre in Malifa, 4, Support the improvement for the beautification of the Apia Waterfront Project, 5 Support the building of the Vaisigano Bridge that was launched 6, Support the development of the concrete bridge at Lotosamasoni now being used. 7, Support and push the development of drainage system next to the Vaisigano bridge to provide protection and security from floods and water explosion. Request and confirm the implementation of a survey so as to avoid floodings within the Apia vicinity starting from Malifa to the dead water in Tauese. 9, Push for improvement of currently completed main roads at Palisi. I heed appreciation to the Government for the developments implemented, as well as the approved development projects that will be established within my constituency.

Then I come to the HRPP Political Party and the economy of Samoa. Paving the way here was not easy for Government particularly the economy of Samoa. Government has faced a lot of challenges with Samoa's journey since Independence in 1962. For example, the Main Headquarters for World International Offices were relocated to Fiji such as the Main Headquarters for the United Nations and the University of the South Pacific.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I advise the statement of the member, most of the issues have already been clarified by the Government Leader. However the related affairs of Cabinet is like that. We do not mean to teach you, we also do not compare your statements to the statements of members. Because you have 2 hats (responsibilities) which is Parliament and the Executive.

You are speaking as a director in Cabinet, in response and to provide clarifications to the matters raised. So just reminding you, the member's statement is different, which questions the raising matters...about their constituencies. As for you, well you do not have to acknowledge your own many works that were achieved. Samoa is now gaining prosperity, who? It is director related works, Cabinet works, and just a reminder, it is like that but the statement is good, but do keep it short.

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Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: Constituency was implemented regardless your will shall be done. But the reason for the removal of these Corporations was due to differences with the Government in the past. This was the exact time the Prime Minister of Samoa had undertaken administration. However the major challenge in the History of Government, is the strike from the Public Service Association workers in 1981, this was during the administration of Hon Tupuola Efi who was the chosen Prime Minister at the time, or the Hon Tuiatua Tamasese Efi.

The reason for placing importance on this matter is because this was the rightful time the HRPP was Government, after the 3 changed administrations that were done in 1982. For I trust this was God's answer for Samoa, for the HRPP to take over administration. Like the response of Lady Nafanua, await your kingdom from heaven. Meaning, the HRPP administration was prophesied. So with the order of economy under the HRPP ruling, since then, the economy of Samoa had improved.

Although there were natural disasters and global impacts, nevertheless, Samoa never went into poverty. Why? Because the administration by the HRPP went well and so as the firm implementation of policies. The living demands and security of our people were also met together with our foreign financial aid and the saving of new finance assistance for our people when it comes to bad days.

Now that we have seen it, it started off with food shortage, and the limited distribution of chicken backbone back in 1981 until today and the various kinds of diseases we have today due to various kinds of food available.

MR SPEAKER: This is the reason for my assistance, respectable member, I am also cautious lest the Speaker is accused of interfering with your work. So just assisting with the raising matter from the Leader of Government and the Cabinet as these concerns relate to the Ministries they oversee.

But with regards to what you are saying, it is unrelatable, so just reminding you but it is up to you. Our work is limited by our time. I call upon...do not worry, keep doing what you want lest it is difficult to...

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: The time between the 3 of us has been shortened due to the prolonged... however...

MR SPEAKER: Alright, the member may continue his statement...

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Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: I would then like to thank the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, because he has helped the Pacific countries, New Zealand and Australia, through his advice and guidelines.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, leave this matter to us. But do address the Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: Let me...

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: Mr Speaker my speech is now all over the place, bear with me...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the reason why I am taking the floor...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There is a scripture from God we always say, 'Not unto us, but to God be the Glory.' This is why I recommend to move on, in case you think I like it, when I really hate it.

MR SPEAKER: Well such are the aspects, because you have not known the Leader of Government for 30 years, as this is the only Leader that does not want any praise. Yes, the main thing is our work, the work speaks for itself. Jesus rode on a donkey, John the Baptist warned the people not to shout, but he said no, let the people shout because if they do not, the rocks and stones will shout. Yes, speak of the work and wealth that exists.

We all know that there is no need to question that. Therefore do not think it upon ourselves, but let us say, all the good things that we have done, Praise be to God. It is like that, so the country is aware of the good work we are doing. You have done it because you are the Cabinet.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker....

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MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the member, but I will take heed of the advice and adjust with the Minister. Therefore I call upon the Minister, you cannot advise the Minister respectable member.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I just want to ask if he has found his papers then I will sit down.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance of the member please take your seat. The member also has a role in the church... Olo what is your church again? Very well thank you.

We all know that where there is glory there is the peace of the Lord.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker it is the church of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, please address your Ministry, Hon Minister

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T AINUU: Mr Speaker I apologize for the misunderstanding. Now to the Ministry of Justice, policies have been put in place, and the Ministry have made amendments entirely. This includes good governance, reduction of crimes, use of technological methods, to improve services, especially in carrying out the work of the Land and Titles Court.

These amendments were implemented based on the challenges recorded in the past, in the duties implemented by the Ministry of Justice. Policy review will continue, in response to the needs and challenges of the future. We would like to convey our gratitude to the Law and Justice Sector, which is chaired by the Registrar of Courts for his excellent work in carrying out the necessary duties and responsibilities.

The financing of these projects is strongly supported by the Government of Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the United Nations Organization, UNDP in particular. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Chief Justice, the President and the Judiciary for the continuous work they carry out so as to uphold justice. Your job is not easy. But everything is victorious with the hope from the Holy Spirit. I would like to express my congratulations and thanks to the Registrar of Courts, Moilei Simi Vaai, and the staff for the good work they are doing, planning and implementing, for the Ministry of Justice.

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Now a word on the Electoral Commission. These are some of the objectives of the Electoral Office for this Term. First, the Electoral Commission is now an independent arm of Government. This process was achieved under the Electoral Commission Act 2019. This was made in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission of Enquiry who was tasked with the investigation of several past elections. 2, the verification of the belief, one man, one vote.

This was enacted under the Electoral Constituencies Act 2019, with the amendment of territorial constituencies to electoral constituencies as stated by the Leader of Government this morning, which will be implemented in the April 2021 General Elections. 3, Electoral Office to continue the ongoing awareness of the National Voter's Day celebration every year. 4, There were 2 by-elections conducted during this Parliamentary term, after the approval of the Electoral Act 2019.

A record was observed that there was no vote, and one was invalid. This is due to the quality of the information provided in the new ballot papers. 5, the early registration of voters, starting right after the 2016 election, until the last week of registration. The Registrar had visited the entire country despite the influx of people on the final day last year, it is important to be reminded of civic duties.

There was a total of 16,000 new registered voters since the 2016 Elections. The Parliamentary Committee has also noted the promptness of the Annual Reports from the Electoral Office. I would like to convey my gratitude to the Electoral Commissioner, Tofa Faimalomatumua Mathew Lemisio. I commend you for your efforts and for your perseverance.

I want to make known with respect some of the work accomplished by the Ministry of Justice and the Electoral Commission under my tenure as Minister. First, the construction of the permanent building of the Electoral Office which is nearing completion. This is the first time that a special Elections office has been constructed in the history of the Independent State of Samoa. Second the construction of the new office of the Ministry of Justice in Salelologa, the work has started, the new office will replace the old office in Tuasivi.

3, Bills that were tabled before Parliament and passed for the wellbeing of Samoa and its people. The Constitution Amendment Act 2020, Land and Titles Act 2020, Judicature Act 2020, Electoral Act 2019, Electoral Constituencies Act 2019, Electoral Commissioners Act 2019 and the Electoral Amendment Bill 2021, which will progress.

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These are the Bills that have divided the opinion of the country, it is known that others are still in rejection even though they have been passed. My Ministerial statement has already been tabled before Parliament, before the third reading of these 3 Bills, which created tension in the country. I strongly believe that this is the day our forefathers who were part of the Constitutional Convention dreamt about, on recognition of our customs and traditions in the Constitution.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my Associate Tofa Sooalo Mene, the member of Gagaifomauga No.2. Thank you for the advice. Your humbleness is the strength that has brought strong support in the many achieving decisions of the Ministry's work output including the Electoral Office.

I want to thank my constituency of Vaimauga West No.2 for your support and trust upon me during this Term. Thank you for the support.

In relation to the new amendments that will be officially enacted in the upcoming elections, I wish to make a clarification to my constituency of Vaimauga No.4. I thank you all for the support given during these changes. My prayer is to continue serving the constituency. Give me your trust to be able to complete the work that has been approved for the benefit of the whole constituency.

I thank the elders of the constituency of Vaimauga Sagauga for the foresight on the significance of your support upon the developments of the Government since the beginning of Samoa's freedom including Apia turning into a township area, the hospital at Motootua and the wharf in Matautu where the new generation are thriving.

I want to thank Government for the vision and future plans to build another wharf at Vaiusu to counter the problems and challenges facing the port in Matautu. I am speaking in this context, because this district has contributed for the prosperity of Samoa and its people by supporting the Government plans for the public good. There is no Government that does any development that harms its citizens. The representative of Urban West or Faleata No.2 is happy to access the town in Apia, the hospital in Motootua as well as the port in Matautu for his business but refuses to give something for the welfare of his family and his constituency.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Mr Speaker, if I could get an opportunity to make a comment.

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MR SPEAKER: This is what I was worried about, I appease the member for Urban West and the Hon Minister, this is what I was worried about. On this issue, the presentation given by the Leader of Government is very clear, also by some of the members who are affected and involved in the development under their duties. However, you have once again mentioned it, this is what you call finding faults. Once a member or a Minister tries to find faults, it portrays, that this is a Minister who likes to befriend discord. But where there is a glorious Government, people are peaceful.

This is why, please have compassion, word has been given directly by the Leader to clear this matter. But please be considerate after the Prime Minister clarification, house your concerns with the will of God. If matters regarding your role are completed, then conclude your speech because we have a lot of work that needs be done.

I appease the member Afigoga Faumuina Wayne thank you. I also know that you are the person...I have thanked many times during the gatherings and devotions of your church that you always lead the choir, I do not know if you play the piano and things like that. Yes. I appease the member, as life is such. Therefore, I call upon the Hon Minister, do not ruin your speech which has been heard so well. But do summarize and conclude your remarks.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: Mr Speaker my apologies. However, what I was speaking of was a comparison that this constituency gave up its lands. I thought the member of Faleata would do the same. But it does not matter since you have spoken.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, there is only one thing...

MR SPEAKER: Do not interrupt Olo the Hon Minister is trying to find his papers to continue his speech.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: This is why I wanted to say something until the Minister finds his papers then I will sit down. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Olo please, you are one senior member the Chair relies on. I feel safe with you. I do not know if this is why I am sick because of you. Please conclude your speech. Please Afamasaga, Toeolesulusulu, hand over the paper which you two have hidden. Such is the Aana style behavior.

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Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: I have been mixed up with the statement of the Minister. However, before I conclude, I want to address my constituency of Vaimauga No.4.

MR SPEAKER: What now? Do conclude now.

Afioga Hon FAAOLESA KATOPAU T. AINUU: The respects of *Alo o Sina ma fuaifale o Salevalasi ia Tamaseu ma Faualo, le Matua ia Faaolesa ma Onofiatele, aemaise le tausiga a le faletolu ia Tuiletufuga ma Letaa, faapea le Vainalepa ia Falasii ma Lealasila*, as well as the respects of Samoa, chiefs and orators, *saoao* and *auluma*, *sao aumaga* and *aumaga* who reside within the vicinity of the constituency. Thank you for your support, but with your permission I want to be of service again for the next 5 years.

Lest we forget the support of my spiritual fathers, Susuga Elder Fiti Aloalii and the Congregational Christian Church in Apia, Susuga Elder Efu Efu EFKS of the Aai o Niue and Susuga Elder Utufua Naseri who have retired from the Apia Congregational Christian church in 2019, as well as Susuga Talalelei Tuua of the EFKS in Mulinuu, Susuga Komisi Samuelu of the EFKS in Fugalei East, Laupama Solomona EFKS in Sogi, Susuga Peseta Auvaa EFKS Leufisa, Susuga Faatafa Nefu EFKS in Alamagoto, Susuga Maliota Siaea of the Methodist church in Matafele, Susuga Palota Vaili Metotisi Aai o Fiti, Father Spa Silva of the Catholic church in Lalovaea, Father Maresa Kalolo Father Palisi, and all other ordained servants of God who are working in our constituency. Thank you for the prayers for the benefit of our province and the country.

I also congratulate my brothers and sisters who we will be running together in the elections. I thank you for your willingness to serve our constituency. We are all interested in achieving what is good for the district, but I humbly pray to you all, to give me authority thus my boat has set sail. It is I today but you tomorrow.

The respects of our constituency, I served you before the country while you were always behind me with your support. There is no doubt that there were times when words were directly spoken by your member. If there have been any mistakes, I ask you return them to me, do not take my mistakes literally, because *e poto lava le tautai ae se lana atu i ama*, the sailor is wise but there are times when he makes mistakes. All the best with our Proceedings Samoa.

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Parliament expressed appreciation with a round of applause after the response of the Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. We do not praise, but the speech of the Hon Minister was short and sweet. I know that you have prepared a lot but have chosen to assist the work of the Chair and the progression of our orders. There is understanding that we will meet again this evening, with the hope that the Leader of Government has stated if Ministers are not able to conclude, then it is left to whatever time we can finish. Well, that is the love as we try to implement our work. Now I am sure that you are one Minister that loves the Speaker. Therefore, my prayer, I will kneel in the dark and pray that you will be successful in your election.

We have now come to the Minister of Communications, Information and Technology.

I call upon Afioga Toeolesulusulu also Afioga Afamasaga, you are the predicted Government for the constituency of Aana. I am certain you will not have a long speech hence it is mostly to respond to matters in general. Good luck with your speech.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): I congratulate the Hon Faaolesa for his wonderful speech. Thank you Mr Speaker especially the respect of the House today, I note, that we have arrived at the last part of our session, and it is time to conclude the final sitting of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker before I start, I am not only a Minister but also a trainer in matters of health. And I keep reminding the House, I am part of the one touch ministries. In my observation Sittings are taking too long. And I can see that members of Parliament are restricted in sitting. As a trainer I advise regarding our health or the hospital, to move your body. It is like what is seen on TV and heard on the radio nowadays, especially the backbench Afioga Sula and Afioga Gafatasi. Move your body, try pumping your arms like this, so that the blood can flow, because once the blood stops circulating your health will be affected.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, since this constituency has been mentioned. It is why the member of Vaimauga is upstanding.

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This member does not support the Ministers opinion, but I think the speech given by the Minister of Justice and Electoral, that is Vaimauga. I pray that we conclude our Session for the day, a speech cannot be followed by a speech by the Tapunuu. This is why I wanted to take the floor; the Minister spoke about the developments of Government implemented in Vaimauga. This is why I take the floor, what is your opinion but to move a motion to finish our Sitting because the speech of Vaimauga cannot be followed by Aana on matters the member stated.

MR SPEAKER: Tuisamau I thought you were considerate of Pulemagafa sitting at the Chair with mutual respect, however you have instructed the Chair to finish our Sitting. This is too much pride. I also said that the Speaker is forgiving, I will not accept your opinion, we will continue. I call upon the member, the senior member of Falealili.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker I rise with respect, since this constituency was mentioned. Perhaps if we recall the Parliament Sitting in 2018, where the member spoke. He also gave an example in 2019. It seems it is always us that the Minister keeps using as examples. His advice is good, and I know that it is good encouragement, but it should not be voiced here but outside during outdoor trainings. But not for the Parliament, because there are special times when members of Parliament train. I have already reminded him a lot of times, do not question the strength of my hands. I have already spoken with him. My hands are strong and quick, do not be fooled by the body. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I believe it is the observation of the Minister because there is a difference between the strength of your hands and your breathlessness. What can hands do when you are out of breath? Thank you.

It is good to laugh...since you are upstanding. I call upon Lealailepule, please make it brief.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I have advised the Hon Minister, if I could start our response, to answer to these two members. If not, I request the Minister of Agriculture, for your boxing gloves that you brought, I can use to fight these two.

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MR SPEAKER: During the break you can use the Minister's boxing gloves. Thank you.

Afioga Fuimaono Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker, the remarks by the member of Faleata are wonderful. I note that Faleata is showing off his fight with one of the smallest members of Parliament. It looked as if he was beating his son with what happened. Faleata just be cautious in case you wrongly head to me.

Afioga Hon AFAMASAGA LEPUIAI RICO TUPAI: Mr Speaker, I will continue to give advice to the members. Another important thing is the consumption of water. I have been changing water bottles regularly. After the first half of our work, I would be on my fourth bottle of water. However, I can see that the majority of Parliament are not drinking their water. Water is important for your health. There are instances that if you do not have enough water your body cells dry up, like what is happening with Tuisamau, Afioga Sulamanaia. It is very wrong. I also remember the transportation of the banana; I do not have to explain it. It ended up with the two brothers Tutuila and Ape, they were the ones travelling to Tutuila bringing oranges which they wanted. But where was Tuisamau and everyone else at that time? No one was found, nevertheless...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker, since my constituency is listening. This past Saturday, for the information of the House and Samoa, there was a rugby match. Who won? Where does the winning team come from? But it was the selected team from Aana that was brought by the Hon Minister. They did not get anything, this village of Lauili was the champion, son of the earth. This is why I say to this member, it is here where things arrive first in Vaimauga, then it is distributed elsewhere. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Both of you are correct. But since we have arrived at our recess hour, let us leave our dishonesties in here.

Thank you, it is good to laugh while doing our work, it is good for the country to hear, that the leaders of the country argue but always end up joking. I thank and commend the dignity of Parliament, especially the Chief Executives of Government Ministries and Organizations.

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If there has been a rude statement made by the Chair, I believe I am safe with you. Therefore, let us find strength for this evening.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside and will resume again at 6:00 this evening.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 12:53 pm and resumed at 6:10 pm.