

MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2014

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.00am pursuant to the motion for adjournment of 27th March, 2014.

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I respectfully greet the dignity of the House assembled this new morning as we give our thanks to the Lord for kindly guiding us here. I humbly greet the dignitaries of the House and all its honorific salutations, to the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet members, Leader of Opposition and its members.

Words cannot suffice to completely express the extent of gratitude for the everlasting love of our God for his guidance and love upon us each and every day. Today is the day that the Lord has made for us to rejoice and be glad of his mercy in guiding us back to our work.

I commend your tolerance and continuous presence in this House. We may have had trials and difficulties with the pink eye disease however; I am happy to see all distinguished members healthy and well. I am also thankful for the presence of the Leader of the country who was away for medical check-ups. We prayed and hoped for the Lord to guide us back again therefore praise and glory be unto Him.

Lest I forget to acknowledge the perpetual support of the country listening today; therefore I humbly greet Samoa and all its honorific salutations. I commend you all for your support. I firmly believe that your prayers and support are all felt however your Parliament will now proceed for its works of the day.

I now propose that Parliament proceed with its business of the day. It is overt that the previous week and previous sitting much of our work has yet to be completed. However a plea to the members of the House to give heed for there is still much work to be done. It was why our meeting had adjourned at the beginning of the month. However the good Lord has guided us safe and well therefore I propose we continue with business as usual.

Members of the House I pray for your patience as we proceed with today's program and tonight as well.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister.

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STATEMENT BY HON PRIME MINISTER

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker and dignitaries of the House. I believe it is my responsibility to humbly greet you all and give thanks to the Lord for guiding us here today as you frequently lead us in prayer each time we meet at Tiafau, the sacred land of Samoa. I commend your efforts in practicing your oratory speeches on us which is proved excellent, well done.

I stand with all due respect to humbly apologize for my unexpected leave of absence in the middle of our parliamentary sessions in the previous month. It seems that I had left our meeting without a word. Now here we are yet again and a fellow Minister has just reminded me, “in our previous meeting I was 68 and now I am 69;” or 96 because we tend to confuse the numbers of 6 and 9 all the time. These numbers of 6 and 9 are the worst.

Time flies by really fast. However this is a very opportune time to convey my humble thanks to the praying men of this profession especially the dignified of this House, the Leaders of the Churches and all those who visited me in the hospital at Motootua. Furthermore I thank those who kindly visited me at the Mercy Ascot Hospital in Auckland whilst I had prevention shots to strengthen my immune system pardon me.

I mention this because recalling from previous parliamentary session the Hon Minister of Health advised us to strengthen our immune systems in bodies even though I nearly died, but its good for things to occur to obtain good thoughts.

Special thanks to the Leader of Opposition for visiting me at Motootua. I never dreamed that you of all people would pay me a visit, but you fulfilled your duty as an Elder Deacon of the Church. If you have not yet bestowed a Deacon or an Elder position then that is your calling. What better role than earning dignity in the House with limitation in case we are singled out when these are just the norms of our work. However I later discovered that the Leader of Opposition has laid claims that I was in critical condition and was nearing my days, which wonders me on the intent of your visit. I doubt there isnt anyone here who does not wish to go into everlasting life? It is only a matter of timing. I only pray God to delay until after a few more elections in the future.

Mr Speaker and the dignitaries of the House I commend your tolerance and patience throughout our proceeding. I see that the workload has minimized reference to the Bills and Reports based on your shared thoughts and opinions. This is a week of remembrance for our Lords suffering. Mr Speaker there is intention for us to resume our sittings until Wednesday before we rest. We must progress through as much Reports as possible and conclude with the long awaited Report of the SLC. A vital phrase by one Melanesian to take note; “Jesus said to take it easy.” I am the new Minister of SLC and I would like to assure the Leader of Opposition that ever since I have returned my white blood cells and my immune system is strong as a chainsaw.

Have a blessed meeting this morning. Thank you.

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Statement by Hon Prime Minister

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you for your speech Hon Leader of the government. I trust the dignitaries of the House have received your greetings and we praise God for the opportunity to resume our work. Are you about to stand? Do you have something to say? Is there respect in what you are about to say?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: I was longing for an opportunity to rise as the Hon Prime Minister has respectfully greeted us. Thank you God for we are rejoined joyfully with the Hon Prime Minister after seeking medical attention in Motootua Hospital as well as in New Zealand.

Samoa and the entire House all prayed for you and your speedy recovery. As constantly debated it is my belief that the sickness of the Hon Prime Minister should not be withheld but supported. Hence we commend you as per your normal statement, your heart destroys a machine once its checked, but now it is not your heart but your leg. Therefore we are sincerely grateful as we all prayed for your recovery. As with your concern if we had honestly prayed for you. Yes that is the main question. The House is thankful with your presence this morning as you resume with your duties.

I also take this opportunity on behalf of the Opposition to congratulate you and commend the University for bestowing you with one of the highest remarkable achievements to officially mark your service in the country. We congratulate you and hope the Lord blesses you on your endeavors as the Leader of our country. As for todays set tasks your honor, God protect as we breeze through our reports before tackling the Audit and Parliamentary Committee Report as noted by the Hon Prime Minister who is the Hon Minister of the SLC. God bless your honor and this Parliament.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you Leader of Opposition for your speech. I believe we have uttered the many words of thanks and the good events happening. The Hon Prime Minister has clearly stated whilst being hospitalized, he was 68 and meeting today marks his 69th birthday. I had thought that you the Leader of the Opposition would lead us with celebratory drinks but nevertheless there will come a time for that.

Today is also a milestone for me as I am now 48 years old as I and the Hon Prime Minister share the same birthday; 14th of April. Hon Leader of the Opposition, I wanted to adjourn our meeting today so we could celebrate these special occasions and avoid the queries on my prayer as well as scheduling of the Order Paper which should be left unto me for smoothly running of our business.

Nonetheless, I comment the Hon Prime Ministers speech and the Leader of Opposition. We will now move on with our business schedule.

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PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pursuant to Standing Order 51(5) the Clerk read out the Select Committee Reports.

1. P.P.2013/2014 No.138, Health and Social Services, Internal Affairs and Community and Social Development Committee Report 2013.

CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

P.P. 2013/2014 NO. 108, PRIMARY PRODUCTION, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR COMMITTEE ON P.P.2012/2013 NO. 75 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2011 – CONSIDERATION

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI (Chairperson of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee): Thank you, before I move a motion I would just like to add on to the statements by the member for Aana Alofi No. 1 in giving thanksgiving to God for the commencement of our proceedings. We were separated but have been rejoined in good health by His merciful love and guidance as witnessed this morning.

I also extend greetings to the Hon Prime Minister. We have parted in previous sittings due to medical assistance and most of the members were able to visit you in the hospital. We are also grateful for your 69th birthday as well as the 48th birthday of the Mr Speaker, hence God does wondrous things for us to serve our duties and responsibilities.

We also thank the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House. I believe we had all prayed continuously to the Lord to grant good health to our Hon Prime Minister so that he can continue his duty as the leader of our Government and country.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly considers the Committee Report containing its Findings, Recommendations and Solutions.*
With respect.

Seconded by the member for Siumu, and the member for Alataua West.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Thank you.

“RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommends the Government to:-

1. To establish a Marketing Division in the Ministry and employ persons with upmost knowledge on markets and trade, in order to administer all topics that are in its relation so that assistance is given to Farmers in their Development.

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P.P. 2013/2014 No. 108, Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee on P.P.2012/2013 No. 75 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2011 – Consideration

2. In Future to prepare an Annual Report that will include revenue from every agricultural development, so that exact sources of revenue from agriculture can be attained, as these sums were from the efforts of the Ministry.
3. To attain a cargo of cattle and sheep in order to satisfy the demands of Farmers, while the program is under revision, as there will be a new method in importing breeding animals.
4. To support the Development Programs of the Ministry that is underway.

RESOLUTION:

At the end of its investigation, the Committee resolves that the Legislative Assembly approve:

P.P.2012/2013 No.75, Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the Financial Year ending June 30 2011.”

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Chairperson. This is the opportunity for any other member to comment on our report.

I call on the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I humbly greet the distinguished Members of Parliament in ensuing our duties and receiving good news about the birthdays of the Mr Speaker and the Leader of the Government. Praise God for the strength granted upon you both. Well done. I pray for more days like this for you to serve Samoa and her people. I also greet the support of Samoa. It is my prayer as a member to the Lord to continue to bless you both in your endeavors in the future.

I convey sincere thanks to the honorable Chairperson for the constructive report. I believe this large Ministry has been reviewed by the Committee. I have read it thoroughly pursuant to your recommendations and submissions. Hence I wish to comment on some issues.

I thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the many projects and works carried out in initiating new changes and new developments within the Ministry.

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I comment especially to your lovely photographs with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Associate Minister in the Newspaper at the end of the week; on a conference held in Fiji on fisheries. As stressed out in the Committee Report together with its concerns, perhaps this meeting would enlighten us in clarifying these concerns.

If you recall your honor from previous meetings I mentioned the various kinds of fishery resources we dislike but are exported abroad. They breed well and are effectively managed around the Pacific and Western waters. Such is my question; why can we not carry out this kind of development? According to the Ministry's report, regulations are imposed on large foreign companies from entering our fishing zones to breed the *maisua*, *aliao* that are in abundance in our shores. Is it possible for us to execute this kind of aquaculture in an effectively manageable way such as these countries to increase our income?

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the member, but I give opportunity to the interruption by the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I had reviewed these Ministries as former Associate Minister of the respective Ministries. The current status is that regulations are imposed on the fishing of these fisheries resources but breeding is not. The report I received is that negotiations and consultations are conducted with owners of these development, but it is not prohibited as preparations needs to be carried out first. Hence these peoples needs have been met.

For your information, there is not much marine life available in our lagoons as most have been overfished given the permission granted upon the small fishing development in the past. And the negative impact on our environment was noticeable. The large rubbish trucks which dealt with cleaning the coastal areas added major concerns on our environment, whilst encouraging developments for the deep inland areas was government aim.

There was a time when prickly fish, slugs, large curry fish and brown sandfish were netted in the shores of the Mr Speakers constituency. I measured them and they were this long and this wide (*the Hon Prime Minister used his hands to describe the curry fish and brown sandfish*) from the deep sea. Those are the type of fish that these people aim for because the money earned from this catch is enormous. Giants were found in the shores of my constituency. They are similar to curry fish and prickly fish which is this long and wide and are reddish. I traveled to Vanuatu in 1984 and noticed that Vanuatu had plenty of Giants and none in Samoa, hence in 1950 I managed to get a taste of this fish back at my village and found it extremely soft and tender.

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I believe this is why the fish was quickly extinct due to the high consumption by the people but that is its name *sauai* (giant). Word has it that it is found in the deep waters of Aleipata and I advised the late Minister of Agriculture Taa Tavaga Seuala to consult with other countries to permit these fisheries to breed in our seas. However this is not prohibited as there are incomplete negotiations and arrangements undertaken but these fisheries are usually done on land to reduce the negative effect on our marine resources including fugafuga, loli and such that is consumed by our people.

Your honor, that is the clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister for the assistance. I call on the member to continue his statement.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you for the clarification. Your honor if you notice, everyday, our constituent from the East of Faleata to Puipaa depend on fishing to earn a living. The only concern for us as fishermen is that our boats can barely sail through due to the many sea cucumbers that are this big (*the member used his hands to describe the size of the sea cucumber*) which is plentiful and should be well bred. I support the Hon Prime Ministers statement on overexploitation. But since it is practiced in other countries as the Hon Minister knows, and with communication links, the locals can follow these breeding methods to earn income for these constituencies.

Additionally, provided in the report are the Committees concerns on regulating foreign fishing vessels intending to fish 25 miles from within our fisheries waters. The Ministry suggests this is as useless restriction given that fish migrate and does not stay in one particular place. I am unsure as this is the statement given in this report. If the restriction is useless, then what is the purpose for granting this permission and what benefit does this have for Samoa? As our large fishing companies are slowly shutting down, hence could this be the reason why? I wish to know how much payment incurred for fishing license and what good does this have for Samoa in allowing these fishing vessels particularly Asian vessels. If we travel to Asia....

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member but let me give this opportunity to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to clarify. I call on the Minister to speak.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Very well thank you. I greet Mr Speaker and the dignified House this morning. We are now discussing the Report of this Ministry and the Hon Prime Minister has already presented additional matters that will be discussed later.

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Hence we are now discussing foreign fishing vessels to which none has been issued a license as of yet. That is the fact, no foreign vessel is allowed. However, the Ministry is considering a new bill that will hopefully be of benefit to the country in terms of earning income accumulate fish for exportation. Therefore as of now, no license has been issued yet for any foreign vessel.

That is my humble response.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister. I call on the member to continue his speech.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: The intention of the Ministry is now stated by the Hon Minister; the issuing of license will be issued for the Taiwanese Shipping Companies. Such is the query based on the Committees concerns as opportunity comes with a blessing. If we have large fishing vessels that could reach beyond the 200 mile boundary, we could benefit from income earning. If that is the case, then what are the terms – these vessels can be hired or leased to generate revenue but pay a fee according to this report pardon me your honor.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Please rise.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Mr Speaker with due respect pardon the member but that is how things work. There are no fishing vessels at the moment but the Ministry is looking into potential arrangements given the pressing issue with overseas countries that do not practice fishing other than cannery fishing industries that is assisting with their economies. Nonetheless investigations are ongoing before the Ministry presents this Act to Parliament for consideration. Hence we should not proceed with this matter as it is still in the pipeline. That is addition with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker I wish to speak about our fishing boundaries which are not clearly defined. How can we openly discuss zones when it they are yet to be defined? At the moment we are slowly measuring our boundary zones with American Samoa. The difficulty is with the small northern islet of American Samoa when measurement is bound to be in the middle. This particular island will eventually draw us to case with America at the World Court.

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We also are yet to finalize zone boundaries with Tonga on the south, Fiji on the Southwest. Meeting us in the western side is France and Tokelau on the Northwest. Consultations should be made with New Zealand, Kiribati and Cook Islands along with Niue. We are compacted in the narrow ocean space. Our country has the smallest ocean mass surrounding due to the close nit of the neighboring countries. Fish swim all over the place, they can be in Niue today and could be in Japanese sea tomorrow. So once they pass through our waters, that is our opportunity to catch for money. We will be hosting one of the largest forums on fisheries in December after the Small Island Developing States Conference for Island states SIDS Conference. Usually \$21million is appropriated to various countries particularly countries that have more fish in their waters including Western countries to the North of Japan. However we are located in the middle of the ocean where little fish is found and only a foolish fishing vessel would sail our shores. Arrangements have recently been made with regards to the increase in amount of funds allocated for this project. The amount is now \$60million; this money is to be distributed to all 15 member countries of the forum including New Zealand and Australia. Details of these appropriations; 15% is distributed to countries including Samoa whilst 85% is allocated to countries with abundant fish. Samoa is exempted in the 85% category because there is hardly any fish found in their waters. Hence hopefully by the end of the year, these set plans will go well with the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries.

That is the additional statement from the Ministry but do bear with us as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is on it. Matters are stressful due to the delay in finalizing the boundaries of the exclusive zones. We might tread hastily into the waters and it may not even be ours but American Samoas. It means American Samoa has the authority over the fishery waters. Nonetheless the good news is that at the moment the West side of the Pacific is gradually changing due to global warming. It is causing the West to slowly become warmer as shown in satellite images depicting yellow images in the West Pacific. The yellowness shows the warmth atmosphere causing the fish to swim to our waters. Once that happens, Samoa will then be part of the 85% of the appropriation and also the 15% along with others. Therefore I urge the members to bestow your faith in the Ministry as the Ministry is working at *achieving those goals. There is hope to establish a fish company in Samoa* which hopefully by the end this plan is a go as undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr Speaker that is a brief explanation in assistance to the matter being questioned and I decree that things be faithfully left to the Ministry as they are working effortlessly to make possible.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the assistance. I call on the member to continue his statement.

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Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. Lest we forget the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries presence in our previous meeting where we approved the Maritime Zone Bill where the Hon Prime Minister affirmed that these fish boundaries have already been in place. I am now confused with the Prime Ministers statement.

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker there is a huge difference between what you said and what I said, measurement has not yet been taken. But we will conduct a leadership forum on this in August where we will be briefed about the semblance details of the zoning areas. As of now the Maritime Zone Bill involves a legal extent of the bill once implementation takes place.

Mr Speaker that is the clarification of this matter.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I believe the member for Faleata West is now in full understanding of the matter. Thank you.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. I will now move away from this matter. The best thing is that the Committees concerns have been noted and let us hope that the Government considers these issues during negotiations and preparations of these very crucial matters.

I am very grateful of this recommendation to have another shipment of lambs and cows. I was one of the disappointing members with the short supply of sheep. However I have changed my mind given the quality of sheep we have. The only concern is the price incurred. Hence I support the Committees recommendation to the Ministry to add a few more supplies to increase the number of sheep for the countrys consumption.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the patience of the member as opportunity is give to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: I thank the member for raising this issue. For the information of the Assembly the sheep that were first brought to us were from Fiji. The rare white sheep called the Fiji Fantastic was selected for its high fertility potential and tolerance to heat. Not only that but when it breeds its off-springs usually consist of two or three lambs. The Ministry has considered this in collaboration with Ministers of Agriculture at the meeting we attended in Mongolia as well the another meeting hosted by Fiji where Fiji is reluctant to sell their sheep as more and more countries are vying for these rare sheep.

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However on the plus side I am very glad to announce that the Hon Minister has promised that an additional 100 sheep will be supplied to our current flock in case they inbreed. Furthermore the Ministry is looking into another breed called tobar that is common in the regions of New Zealand and Australia and perhaps decisions will reach once negotiations are final. It is the hope that once this arrangement is a success the tobar breed will be bred with the sheep we have here that is suitable for the consumption of the country. Mr Speaker that is brief description to the issue and I shall assist upon further queries. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I call on the member to continue his statement.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Hon Minister of Agriculture for all the hard work and persistence for success. The only concern that is common amongst the farmers is with regards to the sheep supplied. There were more ewes than sheep, some two sheep and no ewe which is reason to the slight increase in the number of sheep. But with the breeding sheep that you mention, one sheep per...

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member, but I give this opportunity to the Hon Minister for his clarification.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Thank you. The Ministry is well aware of the ram sheep and the ewe sheep. There is no such thing in this world where a family gets two ram sheep and expects to breed ewe sheep. Sheep cannot be distributed like that. The process is that whoever requests for a sheep of any sex is given according to their preference, whether it is two or more. It basically depends on the number of your cattle at home. However we will continue to look for a specific ram sheep that can breed. Therefore I urge the member to bear with us as we try to achieve your requests. The only concern is that the inbreed process should be with another breed of sheep so that sheep livestock can be maintained.

Well, that is my brief explanation on the issue.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I will now conclude my statement. I thank the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. If we talk about inbreed...

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West I beg your pardon but I will let you continue your inbreed comments after the Hon Prime Ministers statement.

I call the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has a policy that caters for these specific services of cattle farming where they are distributed to farmers and if plentiful they are returned to the Ministry with the aim to reduce inbreeding. This policy still stands but the problem lies with a number of cattle farmers who are reluctant to sell their sheep to the Ministry that are resold to other farmers. The aim is to minimize the possibility of female sheep inbreeding with its offspring which is the Ministry's objective. Or perhaps the problem lies with the fact that most of our cattle farmers lack stock yards.

Furthermore the Hon Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are awaiting special injections that can numb the sheep. Farming conservations in Africa are done this way for farmers to upgrade pastures and increase their herds. Moreover, the village of Fasitoo-uta situates a number of cattle herds. Such is the importance of our increased sheep farming given our twins, triplets and five sets of twin flocks. Such is our aim to improve the production of animals for our farmers but it is difficult to discuss this process with the member for Faleata West because he is not a cattle farmer and neither does his village of Vaitele. However the villages in the rural area happen to own quite a few given the efforts of the Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call on the member for Faleata West to conclude his speech.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker. There is only one person in Parliament that is able to produce more sheep and that is the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. This is because he is a scientist who conjures up medicine to increase the offspring for the animals. On the other hand the Hon Prime Minister knows little about these things which is true. Therefore I beg forgiveness to the Chairperson, as for me I have only 25 sheep at the moment. Two sheep are...

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: I wish to correct the statements by the member. I do not practice any medicine for the enhancement of breeding offspring but only for the health of people. That is where your statements are incorrect. Nevertheless I can assure you that the Ministry is trying to better this glitch so that the number of sheep farming may increase. And perhaps this will be better for future consumption. Hence is the vitality of this sheep kind as it hardly catches diseases.

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However when a sheep catches a disease, I can assist with but not nothing to do with increasing offspring.

Mr Speaker that is my brief explanation and I thank my fellow colleague.

MR SPEAKER: Time is running out for the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I would just like to thank the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for the assistance to the SCOPA fundraising where two lambs were roasted during the feast.

I also thank the Chairperson for he is the number one cattle farmer of Fasitoo-uta for this report.

Bless this meeting.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker and the distinguished members of the House. I will direct my views to the report but firstly I thank the honorable Chairperson and the Committee.

The recommendation number 3 is very important to this member. However it is not the sheep but the cows. This recommendation Hon Minister is very important because the number of cow is increasing. The matter concerns cattle farmers in Savaii.

For the information of the Hon Minister and House, Savaii is mostly relying on cattle farming because taro plantations have been extremely poor in terms of export. Therefore I like to humbly acknowledge the great assistance of the Hon Tofa Liomatua Alesana Gidlow who is a Business entrepreneur from Lalomalava. This businessman travels around Savaii in search of farmers requiring funding assistance for their farms. I thank you Lio for the admirable assistance to our island.

My prayer Hon Minister and the Ministry, these animals are very important to the farmers given their requests before the Ministry on this respect. That is the situation your honor, if this is the intent of our Committee to import this new breed variety from Australia and others, then is it vital, but if it is referring to different breed kinds, as the Hon Minister had reiterated in one of our sittings, the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology should also bear knowledge of artificial insemination.

I believe this is the only way for us to obtain these modern techniques to produce the number calves sales to other farmers. This would be very beneficial to our country. As a member I personally support the Committees recommendation because we are in dire need of more calves to assist with our economy and so as our cattle farmers.

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That is the basis your honor but I am all for it, appreciation to the Chairperson and the Committee for recommendation number three.

Thank you.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I shall grant you the opportunity let the Hon Minister respond. I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: I thank the member for supporting our current status according to previous sittings, the Ministry is well aware of the members views and the high cattle expectation.

According to the census conducted by the Ministry, the number of cattle farms has reduced greatly due to the many family obligations, *faalavelaves*, which is unregulated given our normal cultural practice. The Ministry is also looking at the average cattle farming for sale to foreign farmers or to the Ministry. This is specifically for those who are interested in cattle farming development.

Importing cattle from Australia is also very difficult as shipping can be very stressful for the cattle resulting to some being killed.

That is the issue hence negotiations are still undertaken with cattle farmers in Australia, but the World Bank has suggested new cattle flock from Australia can be flown into Samoa by the huge 747 aircraft. However it can only carry a small number due to high cost.

The main aim of the World Bank under the SACEP project is to import this new pool of cattle from Australia to crossbreed with our local breeds before they are distributed to our local cattle farmers. Negotiations with the World Bank can be rough as though they want to dictate our development, when our main intention is to reduce the number of killed calves on the ship whereas traveling on the plane is safer and efficient.

As the member mentioned, artificial insemination is by far the most inexpensive option there is as sperms can be frozen, brought over and inseminated into our cows to produce more flocks. So the Ministry is still undertaking to utilize...carry flocks on planes or shipping. The advantage of importing calves by ship is that it can carry a larger number. It is true that we have received numerous requests but given the reduced number of calves at this point, such is the use of this program to import cattle from overseas for distribution and reduce the cattle inbreeding whenever necessary. We have requested farmers with growing number of calves to sell some of their flocks in order to avoid this issue. That is the clarification your honor.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done. Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification. Is there anything you wanted to discuss Hon Minister of Revenue? Very well, I call upon the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Falealili): I greet Mr Speaker and respectable Parliamentarians. I rise to express views on the Committee Report, sincere thanks to the Chairperson and Committee for the tabling report. This report is based on agricultural development involving various animals and the plants which is one vital sector of our economy. I fully support five recommendations provided in the Committees report. I wish to place emphasis on the first recommendation to establish a main market to sell agricultural produce overseas. Hence this initiative by the government involves specialized people with knowledge on this particular market.

We are aware of the prosperity we have achieved, thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries considering the various produce like taro and such. The main concern now is problems with our export. Hence we need... Since the establishment of government, there was a Produce Marketing Division. This division specializes in seeking overseas markets and individual in selling our... particularly now that our taro produce is going well. Hence the Ministry should be well assisted on their part to encourage them to... with people as in view of this report, we should have marketing analysts or experts to project export earning which is the hardest part, selling produce overseas.

Another component is the insufficient veterinarians to monitor and watch over the animals in this sector as well as the insufficient supply of lamb available for distribution to farmers.

That concludes a brief description on this matter your honor and distinguished members of the House. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue. I give this last opportunity to the Chairperson for any other responses as the Hon Minister has clearly defined everything according to queries raised hence I put the question.

I call upon the honorable Chairperson.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI: Thank you. I extend appreciation to all members for their comments on the Committees report. I believe these comments would be a good reminder to the Hon Minister and Government for the good and worthy developments for our economic stability via agriculture.

I take it that everythings well presented by the leader of the government and the Hon Minister in response to the various areas raised by the members.

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The only matter I wish to speak upon is reference to the statement by the Hon Minister of Revenue based on recommendation one. As known, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries does the handling and processing of taro for our exports. This is a very significant process witnessed by the Committee, and I doubt that the public servants dealing with our foreign affairs could not handle such doing in terms of quality.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries deals with selecting the best quality taro that is suitable for overseas markets to avoid the problem of worm virus contained in taro in the past.

Therefore sincere appreciation to the CEO and the Ministry through the Hon Minister and the Government for this good development; but I advise you to seek other ways to enhance the quality of the taro that is acceptable to overseas markets.

With due respect, thank you.

Report was approved.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, the Government is to present to the Assembly a paper responding to the recommendations made by the Select Committee no later than 90 days after the report has been approved.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 85, FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE
REPORT ON P.P. 2012/2013 NO. 51 & P.P.2013/2014 NO. 14,
STATEMENT OF TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD ON THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2011 AND THE FINANCIAL
YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2012 - CONSIDERATION**

Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee): I thank Mr Speaker for this opportunity.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish you and the Hon Prime Minister many wishes on your birthdays. I pray that the good Lord continues to bless you both in carrying out your duties in Parliament. Mr Speaker on his duty as Chairperson of our proceedings and the Hon Prime Minister on his role as the Leader of the Government; happy birthday.

Mr Speaker I stand with due respect to move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly consider the Committee Report with its Findings, Recommendations and Resolutions.*

Seconded by the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo and the member for Alataua West.

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MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Chairperson for the reading of the Recommendation and Resolution.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity.

“RECOMMENDATION:

After consideration by the Committee of the reports given, the Finance and Expenditure Committee recommends the following to the Government:-

1. The Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board must make it a priority to establish a law that will incorporate both the Gaming Act 1978 and the Totalisator Agency Board Act 1990. The Committee recognizes the importance of having just one legislation that guides betting activities in Samoa and other relevant activities;
2. Management and Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board must establish policies and guidelines for the allocation of financial assistance to sports and other organizations as well as the donations to the country as a whole such as educational programs and assisting health operations in Samoan citizens overseas;
3. The Management and Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board must prioritize financial assistance to sporting organizations for that is the main focus of the Board since its establishment;
4. Management and Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board for betting must seek out other avenues of sources of income for the organization to increase its budget so as to improve and develop the sporting organization in Samoa which is its main focus.

RESOLUTION:

At the end of its investigation the Committee resolved to recommend the Assembly to approve:-

1. P.P. 2012/2013 No.14, Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011;

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2. P.P. 2013/2014 No.51, Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012.”

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Chairperson. I beg pardon to the member but I give this opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to speak about this Report. This Report is presented under the name of the Hon Minister of Finance comprising of two financial years ending on 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012. Hence part of this Report covers the former Chairpersons time in office as clearly presented.

I extend appreciation to the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the Chairperson, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang, Deputy Chairperson Tafua, Palusalua, Lealailepule, Tialavea, Dr Afualo Wood and of course Taefu Paulo for the recommendations provided.

Your honor, this report provides very important recommendations. The essence of setting up this Organization in 1990 was to generate revenue in sporting activities, education and charity organizations for assistance. Hence is the approval of this bill.

This Bill is important considering Parliamentary deliberations and its referral to the Standing Order Committee which was referred back to Parliament and was rejected due to the term gambling. During Parliamentary debate, the government leader gave a ballot based on members conscious.

Mr Speaker the vote count was not based on verbal votes. Reference to our Parliamentary records, the division vote was called and votes were counted but our party was given a choice to vote. The Hon Prime Minister voted against whilst I voted for the bill given that I was a former Minister of this bill at the time upon Cabinets approval, however the mindset of the Committee and people at that time was negative on gambling.

On the overall perspective, that was the basis of the Committees rejection of such bills. Consequently, based on past records, 17 members supported the bill whilst 16 were against it, a win by vote. This started the establishment of TAB but that is the basis under Section 3 of the bill which stipulates educational, religious, cultural activities and other charitable organizations including gambling. The reason for this explanation is due to the recommendations provided under the Committees report which I find very difficult.

There are three recommendations and the first one is: to prioritize an act that incorporates all games under TAB and horse racing. Horse race in countries abroad but the bet is placed here. Additionally, casinos are all under TAB whereas the rest is under the Ministry of Police and Prisons.

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This should have been incorporated long time ago but I held onto it given the good undertaken by the Ministry of Police and Prisons. Based on the old acts, the Ecclesias and other small organizations are using this opportunity to raise funds to build churches and encourage organizations to seek funds. That is the issue for me as everything is now incorporated under TAB.

Personally I think that the provided bill is enough as we are going on to four years when yet we are still awaiting the casino. This also involves complaints on bonus games. On an advice, "The thing is, the reason why we fail is due to not raising the winning amount. Notice that once the lotto reaches \$500,000, the place is flooded with people running to buy a lottery ticket. Does everyone pile up the lottery place when the winning prize is up to \$500,000? If the winning amount is small, revenue will also diminish.

Mr Speaker, for me, that is the first problem. The first recommendation is good for the Ministry of Police and Prisons as they ensure that payment is met by the Ecclesia or church group, but I have often advised this Committee, "This is not the way to fundraise but make sure to prepare good raffle prizes." That is what you should do. I do not intend to repeat this because once the prize money reaches \$300,000 or \$400,000 it is competition when yet we are still struggling with selling bonus and bingos to raise money for the unprivileged churches. I understand the Committees intention to earning more income using our conscious but that is not the spirit of doing things. Others would say that if we overuse conscience, it will be used for the wrong reasons but to me conscience is a commandment from God that was put into a man when he was born. Before the missionary arrival to Samoa with Moses 10 commandments, this had already existed in Samoa? The village already had laws, respect your elders, do not steal, do not lie and do not commit adultery or murder. The good news came later when we adopted the rules of consciousness. Hence the Hon Minister makes the decision, on three rulings, only one is considered of the three. But if 2 or 3 are taken, then this is wrong. Why? Because the law of conscious was bestowed on the first person on earth, and Moses had only been born yesterday and wrote the bible which we have just received. Most atheists used conscious and are in heaven whereas many churchgoers obliterate conscience and go to hell.

Secondly Mr Speaker, the second recommendation is to establish policies and guidelines for the organization to donate to gambling, health, charity provided under the 1990 mandate. The report seems to focus solely on gaming. This act was not specifically provided for gambling. Therefore the responses are provided without recommendation two.

For recommendation 3 – Prioritize the development of gaming which is the principle objective of establishing a board by the government which I object. The act did not confine to gaming alone. Hence the responses are provided for in this bill without recommendation two.

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The reason for raising this matter is reflected in the wording of the report which seems to place emphasis on other things other than gaming. What other things? Education is stipulated under the section of the bill. Mr Speaker I completely support recommendation 4 which is very important whereas recommendations 1, 2 and 3 all exists under the bill. If we turn to the Holy Bible, these principles are significant aspects in life. With Gods commandments, "Thou shall not make idols and worship them." But the people did when Moses returned so they died and Moses prayed to the Lord and God said to make snake like objects out of lead (Copper) and hang them above for people to see. These are things that were molded with hands. Later on the Ark of Covenant was built and transported to and fro which are also made by man. What exactly can we learn from that? The Law is conscience and should used.

Mr Speaker I would like to urge the Committee to approve recommendation 4 whilst 1, 2 and 3 is currently implemented under the Act, whilst my concern is that once this is carried out, the Ecclesia and other Organizations will be greatly affected as bingo is one popular game used for fundraising. Such involves heated discussions on the rejection of casino, I told them fine, abolish all gambling activities including bingo and see what will happen? Progress on this went well after this rejection at the time.

Well that is a brief review of my thoughts on the bill and the Committees excellent Report.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Hon Prime Minister for his speech. I believe the House has fully grasped the meaning in accordance to your will. On the other hand I would like to inform the House that we have now come to our usual recess time. Opportunity shall be given for more speeches once we re-commence.

I now declare that proceedings of the Assembly be set aside for usual morning break.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10.44am and resumed at 11.16am.

MR SPEAKER: I believe we are fully rejuvenated at this moment and time of the day. Praise God for his offering, we have received a birthday cake in honor of the Hon Prime Ministers birthday for us to celebrate together. We have also received a sack of flour to prepare us additional food for our meeting here at Tofilau Eti Alesana House.

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Sometimes in the afternoon, a small gift will reach us from my constituency however I thank the Hon Prime Minister for his gift on behalf of the members. Later on today the normal cultural practice will be conducted otherwise sincere thanks for the food received as we ensue with our work.

Before our recess, the Hon Prime Minister was clarifying the bill on the Committees report and the floor is now open for debate.

I call upon the honorable Chairperson and then opportunity shall be given to the member for Faleata East.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I believe your honor and the distinguished members of the Parliament have well received fine nourishments for our bodies as we resume with our business of the day.

I stand with due respect to firstly thank the Hon Prime Minister for his statement on our report. I am saddened with the Hon Prime Ministers rejection on three of our recommendations as he is more aware of this bill. I wish to state the reasons for these recommendations.

Mr Speaker we called the CEO Oloipola Terrence Betham to share his insight on the matters mentioned in the Annual Reports and the effects imposed on this governmental sector. Oloipola affirmed that Government should consider the merging of these two legislations that he oversees as the Ministry of Police and Prisons is fraudulent in managing this sector.

I mean no offense to the Hon Minister and Ministry of Police and Prisons but merely stating the facts presented during our interview. Furthermore, Oloipola presented verification of individuals business licenses in seek of personal gains. The proof provided contradicts the Act in assisting Organizations in terms of charitable affairs. Mr Speaker it is reason enough for the Committee to have government relook into this legislation if part of it is not properly managed by the Ministry. The Committee accepted the advice from the CEO given the lengthy issue involving two legislations rather with one, negotiations and consultations plus rising concerns is manageable.

Mr Speaker I do not refuse the comments by the Hon Prime Minister in regards to the second recommendation, but the Committee solely aims to comply with proper guidelines as the report indicates unequal funding allocations for the education sector. For instance your honor, one student education costs \$150, \$200 and \$50 for another. The different fund allocation suggests for guidelines so provide equal distribution of funds for all, the CEO was queried on this and he said, "The Board does the decision". Provide guidelines to balance everyone out of this welfare.

Recommendation 3 was also rejected by the Hon Prime Minister which is similar intention of the Committee on raising funds and assistance for the people.

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But the Committees main objective was to develop the gambling games such is the general view of the public, TAB was established for gambling but the country is unaware of other economic benefits presented to other organizations. I am not disappointed with the rejection of our recommendations, as these were based on our findings that could assist government in improving this organization.

However thank you Hon Prime Minister for the strong recommendation on our part which we solely approved.

Mr Speaker it is my concern because our work has not been easy. I apologize if the Parliament is not satisfied with the outcomes of our work but we investigated to the best of our efforts. It is sad to hear of the Hon Prime Ministers disapproval of these recommendations. Nevertheless I thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well honorable Chairperson, thank you for your speech.

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

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: As said TAB is under the Hon Minister of Finance. In records, this means that TAB was under the supervision of the Finance which was headed by Papalii for the first half which he did not carry out because I feel he was too busy. As said earlier, that is the indication of those working for TAB on the aim to earn higher income. Another major plan by this organization is putting up advertisements using sporting icons or gold medal figures upon Cabinets approval. I guess this is one reason why we earned a few gold medals in 2009 for the first time from the Commonwealth Youth Games after over 40 years given the funding policy assistance on gold medal achievers. We are yet to participate in the Olympics provided in the legislation. Perhaps the Committee had overlooked this part under the Interpretation Act of the Principle Act.

Hence do not be alarmed as all your submissions are considered and the legislation does not need to be reviewed. However the main aim of the Committee is additional revenue depending on churches, organizations including government enterprises, they have their own way of fundraising including social and cultural activities that incur a minimum fee or license that is processed through the Ministry of Police and Prisons.

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If there is a problem, it should be the Polices hence lest any individual or business raising funds feel obligated to be punished from proceeding with their fundraisings. This is where Ecclesia fall back on for good developments. The part with beginners is all covered under gaming, given these financial assistance, it is difficult such as the saying “consider a request on its own merits” meaning that we should not think lightly of people with genuine requests such as a mother of five and her husband is jailed seeking funding assistance to pay for her childrens school fees which is the main objective of these small organizations.

These information are given for Committees review and decision, but if this is maintained then the entire country has had enough which is the concern hence this should be limited to smaller organizations as we do not have enough funds. We had a year when an old woman of five approached a Minister seeking funding assistance to pay for her daughters University school fee. This initiated the idea for TAB to create 30 scholarships to assist with situations like this but if it becomes permanent recalling from our school years, most of us were chased out of school due to unpaid school fees but we still attended even if it takes a week or two, the parents would strive to seek fund for our school fees. I too was part of this until my father affirmed the payment of my school fee. Government has now funded most of the students school fees. Yet we are still receiving claims on unaffordable school fees.

Mr Speaker that is the intention of Cabinet in finding all avenues to satisfy the needs of our people, prioritizing the ones in need of this assistance. Your honor I understand what the Committee is talking about, if 200 is allocated for 200 students in Samoa, then this is impossible but matter should be left with the Committee for their conscience as the wise men speaks his mind. Mr Speaker, this is very simple as it is currently undertaken. I conclude that recommendations 1, 2 and 3 are highly inappropriate whilst 4 is very well appropriate. I move again that we approve recommendation 4.

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

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I rise as member of the Finance Committee. With respect your honor the submitted resolutions are not of Chairperson Hon Papalii, but were based on the Committees investigations. The statement by the Hon Prime Minister is accurate given that the act is his, but the rising concern is that the given issues were not reviewed by the Committee. For instance....

MR SPEAKER: Your point has been noted, I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker in 1984 the Universitys bill was tabled comprising of 7 amendments and recommendations. If we had approved the member to govern CBS, the institution would have been bankrupt. Mr Speaker it is important to stress that Committee recommendations should be approved blindly. This House is not a rubber stamp that merely approves Reports without careful consideration. Therefore I have clearly clarified why government disapprove recommendations 1, 2, 3 because they are events that are currently undertaken, why amend a legislation over another existing one? Recommendation 4 is hundred percent.

Mr Speaker it does mean that a recommendation is not approved does not mean that it should not be executed, but Parliamentary Committees task is also vital in carefully considering these reports. We are also in the present of those who were involved in passing these laws, in case we receive something erroneous.

MR SPEAKER: I take it that the Leader of the Opposition is clear.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker I will be very brief.

MR SPEAKER: Please continue.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: It is clear in Standing Orders that 90 days are given before government responses, chance is given for careful consideration of the reports by the Hon Minister and Ministry instead, it is sad to note that part of this report is abruptly cut pardon the listeners....

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker there is no reason for the member to be saddened but should listen carefully. There is no reason why amendments should be made when that is what is happening right now. The recommendations are not approved for any other reason other than adding unnecessary work for something that is being done at the moment.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: A point of order.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker this is the problem with the Leader of the Opposition, he refuses to understand. But that is the recommendation before the House, approve 4 instead of 1, 2, and 3.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe the clarification by the Leader of Government has been noted and understood by the Hon Leader of Opposition as member of the Committee.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Just a gap that is thwart with problems occurring at the moment, problems that are....

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition I urge your complete support with our work. If we proceed according to Parliamentary practices and procedures then matters are clear. Please refrain from constantly disrupting the responses of the Government in times of debate. As we all know the procedure is there for the Government to provide responses within 90 days so that we are fully clarified. But for now, government responses are verbally given before submission of official written responses in accordance to Standing Orders. That is the clarification for understanding in case we have reached a decision today, neither, the principles are clear. I give opportunity to the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister especially the Chairperson and Committee members for the clarification of this report. I have been observing and listened intently and I have some concerns that previous speeches failed to touch upon.

Firstly I express thanks to the organization for their various contribution to the gaming events for the people. Perhaps this Organization is one of the reasons why many of our players dreams have come true and also that of our sports teams. Hence I have a recommendation for the Hon Chairperson and the Organization. Currently, TAB is prioritizing funding allocation for international teams or national competitions held on island. As for individual or team initial preparations, this is not covered under this funding. Such is the concern to the Committee, these preparations are important otherwise these representatives are unprepared internationally.

Secondly, TAB has issued business licenses for Digicel and Bluesky to carry out Text to Spin and such gaming activity. How is this process carried out with the licenses received other than the license issued from the Police Office? This game is conducted almost every evening. I have limited understanding of the legislation, but I sense that 60% of this earning should be distributed for charity events according to the legislation. What is the TABs Board investigation on these two companies Digicel and Bluesky. It is good to generate earning but other times it is abused pardon the listeners, considering the business license issued under TAB.

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Lastly, unclaimed winnings from the Lotto as we sometimes get three lucky numbers plus the bonus and get a win of \$5 or something like that? Most people seldom claim these winnings. Has the Committee investigated these matters, what about unclaimed winnings? That concludes my thoughts on the matter but I would like to thank the Committee and the Organization for their assistance in these sporting events.

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give opportunity to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU (Gagaemauga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. We should not direct our views based on other members comments. Thank you to the Hon Chairperson and Committee for the Report. I also agree with incorporating the two legislations considering the differences in the branches and these gaming events. The recommendation suggests better ways for the Organization to develop income distribution from charity events. Perhaps having one Management to oversee this is more efficient. True is the statement by the Hon Prime Minister to fundraise through bingo by men and women elderly. The only concern is fusion of gaming activities with businesses and companies. Such is the matter on telecommunication companies making money through phone gambling games and business license issuance. Non-profit organizations should avoid issuing licenses from the Ministry of Police and Prisons.

Such is the recommendation to the Chairperson and the Hon Prime Minister that although we have a legislation on gaming activities, but specifics should be provided for gaming activities for businesses and companies and the groups in the village community.

Another thing with these companies is that they do not miss a second which is good to earn profit but I believe they should be controlled and regulated. The concern that is troubling me right now is that these business promotions may lead our children to the wallets of their parents in search of money to play these games. It can become a bad habit for our children. Those are some thoughts on the issue. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you member for your words. I will now give opportunity to the member for Falelatai and Samatau followed by the Hon Tuiatua Faanofonofu.

Member for Falelatai and Samatau you may stand.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI (Falelatai and Samatau): Thank you Mr Speaker and distinguished members of the House. I wish you well on your birthdays. Given that the name Paul was used, it is to good to correct something small.

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Moses did not write the Bible, that is the correction hence there are five books that is related to Moses. If you wish to gain further understanding, find your way to my constituency.

MR SPEAKER: Member for Falelatai and Samatau, is there anything in the Bible written by Moses?

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: No there was none.

MR SPEAKER: That is the correction.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Moses is the main character of the first five Books of the Holy Bible.

Mr Speaker I am in doubt of the word reject recommendations when what I see is approved recommendations. Have a look at the Committees recommendation two; to establish policies and guidelines for allocation of financial assistance. The Hon Prime Minister has stated that 30 scholarship awards have been issued. The provisions and policies were set before these 30 scholarship awards. In my view, recommendation two is approved with this response as in truth, the Committee is executing this task, such that some elderly would approach TAB with a bill. Hence thanks for the clear guidelines set for this financial assistance.

Mr Speaker the duties and responsibilities of the Police are well defined. I shall not comment further on this as the respected members of the House are well informed of this matter. The Casino Act arrived with its own Management in the House and was later amended and incorporated under TAB to administrate this Act. But that is the Committees aim for the first recommendation; do reconsider as the Ministry of Police and Prisons is well defined.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the member but opportunity is given to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the distance between west and east is similar to what the member is pressing. The Casino is not separated as it comes under TAB when the current speaker is also a member of the Committee.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member to continue.

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Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Committees aim is why not use this established section by government to issue license on gaming activities and related sectors. The Totalisator Act also talks about charity events.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the current speaker. I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Ministers interruption.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker TAB is appropriately performing their duties with Casino now under their supervision. Hence why redo a decision on top of another when this task is currently undertaken. I guess you have made your decision without witnessing this undertaken.

Mr Speaker I believe the current problem has not been reviewed carefully by the Committee. If you had gone through the Act, 1, 2 and 3 would not have been given in your report. Hence the Committee did not look into the Act.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker a point of order as the Committee is mentioned. This report and act were considered at the same time. Statement made by the Hon Prime Minister on the current undertaken process has flaws on the Committees part as the Ministry of Police conducts a different process of issuing license that are used under the pretence of Ecclesia for personal gains.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Your honor a point of order. The duty of the Police is not cease to exist as they continue to follow up. Even if the payment is processed at the Police Office, they will always do the follow up. There is no difference. But if an Ecclesia makes payment to the Ministry of Police and Prisons for their gaming events such as bingos and bonuses whilst TAB executes the work, hopefully by the end of the year, the Casino will commence construction, and such small gaming events will probably not exist anymore given the proposed huge gambling casino. The only reason for switching to casino is because the lottery prize money is not good. If the prize money is attractive then the people will play. Such is the true essence of making these cash prizes more attractive to encourage the lottery players. That is the basis as I was copied in these email exchanges and that is not how we make profits, we make good money by raising the lottery money prizes.

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MR SPEAKER: I think the matter has been defined given the interjections by the Hon Leader of the Government and the Leader of Opposition. The Government responses on set policies have been provided for in the Act and recognition of the Committees recommendations. The Hon Prime Minister has also explained the provisions in relations to the concerns of the Committee and nothing is left aside as everything is smoothly running now. Therefore member for Falelatai and Samatau, I advise the member to move on to other matters.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Totalisator Act also recognizes charitable organizations which must be reviewed hence the only concern is that it looks as if everything is being molded together. But if all licenses were merged under one authority and police concentrate on their duties, then everything is sorted accordingly. In the start the police were able to carry out this duty, but as the population grew and have become aged, the new government body (TAB) should be used for issuing licenses but as mentioned there is a legislation on charitable events, cultural activities, education and church developments not denying the fact that some are fundraising from the use of this business license. Have a blessed meeting.

MR SPEAKER: The Ministry of Police and Prison is hearing our proceedings hence we should be mindful of our speeches in this House. Perhaps it is better to hear from the members of the Committee about these concerns and the false use of charity and non-profitable organizations. Nevertheless we shall await the official response from the Government in due time. I give opportunity to the member for Faleata West. I apologize, I give first opportunity to the Hon Tuiatua and then the floor will be free to this side of the House. Hon member please stand.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker. Any Committee or government organization will feel hesitant if their decision making have been rejected. I was uncertain earlier but have now fully supported the Hon Prime Ministers speech. I have also accepted your advice on the unapproved recommendations 1, 2 and 3 as they are currently practiced. I refer the House pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 170, which states, it shall be the duty of the Finance and Expenditure Committee to (a), consider any bill, or other matter referred by the Assembly pursuant to these Standing Orders; and any Estimates or review of ministerial and departmental performance. Still on the Standing Order 170 (d), to recommend to the Assembly on possible changes needed for the Estimation. That is the provision provided for under the Standing Orders in relation to a recommendation by the Committee for the sake of the House.

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I have a distinct view from previous speakers, I solidly support the Hon Prime Ministers statement on the word....given that he was one of the Conscious Voters for the Bill based on common sense at the time. The only advice to the Hon Prime Minister who is the Leader of the government, we should also consider our conscience based on the good execution of our submitted recommendation that was approved. But I rise with deep respect, to give our best wishes to the birthdays of Mr Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister. Importantly, I wish to state your approval upon recommendation 4 of our report which says; Management and Betting (Totalisator) Agency Board for betting must seek out other avenues of sources of income for the organization to increase its budget so as to improve and develop the sporting organization in Samoa. In addition to part 4 if the Chairperson allows it, add 'The Government to consider the counsel and discretion of the Committee in the recommendation 1, 2 and 3'. I ask for Government to reconsider and review the recommendations and not necessarily make any final decisions but do recognize our proposed advice.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: As heard in our previous preceding the Leader of Opposition has prominently stated that government must prioritize the Finance Committee which is very important. Thus when the Finance Committee is discussed, all our concerns should be prioritized. The member has also stated provisions under Standing Order 170 for transparency of the Committees implemented tasks as you can always take over any matter pertaining to other Parliamentary Committees who fail to provide in due time. I am willing to carry out these duties, but the Hon Prime Ministers statement is clear, your recommendations are not declined nor unapproved as such practices are currently active and government is managing TAB and the Gambling Control Authority.

We have fully recognized these recommendations for the future and will relook into them to ensure that they are on the right track and envision strategically. Your respectable Committee member, it is hard to reconsider any additional visions on top of these reports that have already been signed by the Committees Chairperson. Therefore I beg forbearance to the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo for any additional reconsideration is unacceptable given sufficient information provided.

I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I do not wish to make extensive comments on this report. The only addition I wish to make is, if the Hon Prime Minister has fully accepted recommendation 4, that is impossible if 1, 2 and 3 is unacceptable as the three leads to the last recommendation.

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The first recommendation was put forward by the chairperson of TAB to merge these two legislations, hence....

MR SPEAKER: I beg the tolerance the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker the members argument is very weak, there is a word that is spelt 'a n y' 'any' for the board of TAB other avenues other than 1,2 and 3 do you get it? The problem is that you do not know the Samoan Alphabet.

Mr Speaker it is clear.....to seek other ways such as recommendation 4. Reference to recommendation 3 for instance; give priority to sporting activities which was Governments main aim for setting up a board for TAB. But will relook into this as this Principal Act was initially prepared by me and everything presented will be prioritized. I am saying that all policies are equal in the discretion of the Committee. Nothing has been added hence we should continue with the current undertaking which is still good. This is pointless, because even if we hold a ballot and end up approving this report, I would otherwise reject it and still no work is achieved after 90 days.

Mr Speaker these decisions are not meant to be put in the air but should be executed by Cabinet hence I should make additional comments on this legislation since I know much about its priorities which you otherwise say that only gaming events are given priority instead of other key areas, no, we prioritize everything listed hereunder in the legislation.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Rise. I call upon the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: A point of clarification reference to the speaker who is also a member of the Committee. Perhaps it is in Standing Order 145 that all tabling recommendations and reports before the House is based on the discretion of the Committee which appears to be inappropriate.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member for Faleata West but I give opportunity to the Chairperson. Are you relating to the point of clarification by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2? Please stand Chairperson.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker I only wish to make a point of order to the recent statement. The resolution of the Committee was not based on the advice of the Director but had assisted with our recommendation otherwise the resolution was based on the Committees decision. Thank you.

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Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker I rise with regards to the member for Faleata West's recent statement, this is the recommendation from the board which...that is the intention with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I rise as I fully support the Chairperson, Susuga Papalii and his statement. The Chairperson is correct.

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker it is clear that we establish laws that the Hon Prime Minister regulates and is circulated for translations before referring to those who administers the Act. Of the three steps derives the current issues. During the regulation process, this bears the opportunity for any recommendation provided to improve the act. Such is the Committees assistance to those managing the bill to merge the two legislations to develop and strengthen financial support that will assist us with our developments. That was the Committees assistance to developing this bill which was not fully prepared by the Hon Prime Minister in the past.

On section two states a list of donations which to me is inappropriate. By looking at it, if funding assistance is presented to netball teams, national bodies, you have no proper list which provides for equal distribution of funding assistance given the different allocated amount that is carried out as you affirmed.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member, but I give opportunity to the interruption.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker we received an initial report on money donations to various organizations. Moving on with this donation process, it defeated the whole purpose which poses concerns for new change and set requirements in order to be consistent with carrying out this event. That is the Committees review prioritizing those with the highest needs. This also applies to sporting proposals. I understand your point but that is not the spirit of doing things. Sometimes funds are wrongfully distributed to sports organizations that have already been de-registered. Furthermore the Education Office has established a policy that counteracts to the statements made by one of the members in terms of financial assistance to Organization for their preparation processes.

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Now we have three sectors administrating this funding assistance, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, TAB and SASNOC, but the problem with SASNOC is that they somewhat lack financially due to a problem they encountered. However most of the donations come from the Vote Item of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and if a problem is encountered, government will then seek unforeseen expenditure for financial assistance.

Mr Speaker Cabinet has a lot of conscience in meeting these assistance, I understand your point on equal distribution but this world cannot permit similar demands as we all run into bumps and valleys of the world and open spaces. That is the nature of life, some organizations require assistance and must be reviewed accordingly.

Mr Speaker that is reason for the statement 'consider and an application on its own merits', seeing that the application letter has met all criteria and requirements before it is considered.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the member to continue his speech.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you. The Hon Prime Minister has laid support for the Chairperson which is enough. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No. 3): Thank you Mr Speaker. Just one question for the Board that is managing TAB, it has taken over 20 years since other private companies have been carrying out the investigation for the Board Committee, is there set plans to privatize this organization in the future? Sincere thanks to the companies for their duties and commitment to the work of the organisation but I firmly believe that 20 years is more than enough to acquire skills and knowledge in implementing the work for the organization. This also allows for generating more revenue by working together with the Board full time. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Chairperson for his response.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker I only have a few more responses to provide as the House is well informed and the assistance provided by the Hon Prime Minister as he owns the act. The only queries is in relation to Digicel and SamoaTel, pardon the member who raised this, but it is best to obtain a response from the Hon Minister overseeing this organization.

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Our Committee has not had any investigations on text to spin games and the like. Benefits for business license queried by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2 are still intact. If business license for charity events is transparent, that should not be prevented. The main problem received from the CEO based on our investigations of these nonprofit organizations, is request on permits seeking money for their own interest over a charity purpose. It is the reason why the Committee sought approval of the Assembly because the Gaming Act 1987 and the TAB Act of 1990 are old Acts.

However since the Government has not approved the recommendation to incorporate these two acts hence this must be relooked into as per provisions of the act.

Another thing....

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker, just a small matter please...

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the member.

Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: The Chairperson did not grasp the meaning of my statement. No it is not a matter of charity but the text to spin, the games on the phone, bets and bingos. What concerns me is that these two events are operating under one license paid to the Ministry of Police and Prisons. The difference between fundraising by women elders from bingos and commercial businesses is that these businesses are earning profits. Therefore these companies and businesses must obtain licenses whilst the bingo operators obtain a \$6.00 fee from the Ministry of Police and Prisons. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the member for your response.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you as I now understand the Hon members query. But I think it is best to obtain a response from the Hon Minister, bingos by the elder women is not covered under this permit for they are given a chance. However the member is correct as the licenses for Digicel and SamoaTel companies should be under review and should be operated under TAB instead of Police as it is inappropriate. Additionally, the Hon Prime Minister has mentioned my former portfolio as Hon Minister of Finance based on the current discussed reports 2011 and 2012, for the information of the House in case I am erroneously accused...when Hon Faumuina was the respective Minister during this period. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

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Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker the statement about Papalii is precise, a person who understands the matters received, not otherwise...such is appreciation to the submitted reports as Papalii was the one who Chairperson at the time and he speaks clearly of them. Nevertheless gaming events should still come under TAB and disallow business operation under the act. But the Hon Minister will follow up the matter which should have been considered by TAB long time ago. As for police assessment, I recently had a press release on the state of the Commission of Inquiries Report on the Police with Cabinets directive pursuant to customs related matters. As stated before, these are the things that the Police should be responsible for, execute their duties transparently because even if it was not under the authority it will eventually end back to police. Such is the importance of this matter which is in line with Cabinets directive to upgrade the division of the prisons and police that was submitted last year according to the act. That is the aim your honor, we do not disrespect the works of the Committee given the significance of recommendation 4, but 1,2 and 3 still exists until now. The only thing that worries me is that if 3 is approved then priority is directed to sporting events instead of other things given similar respect to TAB policies and guidelines. That is essence of accepting 4 because it is very important and if it is properly executed then 3, 2 and 1 is set.

Mr Speaker that is the most important thing but motion has been moved, *We approve 4.*

MR SPEAKER: Any additional matters Chairperson before we put the question?

Susuga PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG: No Mr Speaker, I only accept the recommendation with sadness. Thank you.

Report was approved.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker for the sake of clarification; four has been approved.

MR SPEAKER: Based on normal practice and procedure Hon Prime Minister, all debates must await the official government responses until after 90 days. All government responses must be written and whatever responses given are official response. That is the procedure of our work whilst approval of reports based on submissions and comments, I have already given clarification on sections that have been approved and rejected in the report, and written government responses will be reported back after 90 days.

14 MARCH 2016

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 88, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on
P.P.2013/2014 No. 21, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance
Company for the Financial Year 2011/2012 – Consideration**

Pursuant to Standing Order 54, the Government must no more than 90 days after a Select Committee Report has been adopted by the Assembly, present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to the any recommendations contained in the report.

**P.P.2013/2014 NO. 88, FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE
REPORT ON P.P.2013/2014 NO. 21, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SAMOA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2011/2012 – CONSIDERATION**

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker I with due respect to move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly consider the Committee Report along with its Findings, Recommendation and Resolution.*

Seconded by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 1, Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow, member for Sagaga le Usoga and the member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker:

“RECOMMENDATION:

Based on its Findings the Committee recommends to the Government:

1. That the Corporation carries out an advertisement campaign in order to broadcast the importance of holding Life Insurance, with various benefits to its Policyholders.
2. The Corporation must bring awareness to the country in the importance of protecting life through insurance until it has matured. The Committee believes that it is vital as insurers can benefit from monetary bonuses during the time when contributions are received.
3. To publicize locally and overseas the names of account holders in the Corporation whose life insurance has matured but have not been withdrawn.
4. For Management and the Board to deliberate other areas in extending their services in setting up various insurances different from the life insurance policies implemented by the Corporation.
5. For Management and the Board to reconsider the rising interest rate on small loans concerning contributors.

14 MARCH 2016

**P.P.2013/2014 No. 88, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on
P.P.2013/2014 No. 21, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance
Company for the Financial Year 2011/2012 – Consideration**

RESOLUTION

At the end of its Investigations the Committee recommends the Assembly:-

To approve P.P.2012/2013 No.21, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance Company for the Financial ending 30th June 2012.”

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Chairperson. There is opportunity for the members to express their views in respect to the report.

I recognize the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker and the honorable Chairperson of the Committee for the tabling recommendations and resolutions.

I personally wish to thank this Company. In respect to the Insurance Company Report, I greatly admire their policies and guidelines. By observing the upcoming Audit Report, this Company does not breach the Management of the Public Finance Section 13. Hence, sincere gratitude to the Company and staff for adhering to the Public Finance Management Act and its good work for the future.

I also see that we have a lot of profit and reserved funds based on the report. The first Recommendation is very important Chairperson and the Committee in conducting public awareness for utilizing this service. However my question Chairperson, government and Cabinet, which of this involves insurance for the Police. I hold value for the safety of the Ministry of Police and Prisons and I am unsure whether they are executing this now when it has long been debated. And I do not need to express the difficulties they face to keep safe for the country.

That is the main concern to assist the Ministry of Police and Prisons.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member as opportunity is to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: I beg forgiveness of the member who used to be a police. This is not a Police Report but the report of the Insurance Company. I believe the Police have heard your concerns and your love for them but this is not the right time. That is advice to the member as he forgets that is a member of Parliament and not a police.

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**P.P.2013/2014 No. 88, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on
P.P.2013/2014 No. 21, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance
Company for the Financial Year 2011/2012 – Consideration**

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you. The Report is on life insurance which also includes Police and the work they do. It is important for the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government to take these into consideration.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: I would to make correction as we are now directing towards policemen when you should be commenting generally instead of being biased. As I said earlier, matters pertaining to police should be debated when we come to the Ministry of Police and Prisons Report.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: A point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, what would you like to clarify?

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: It is very simple, if it has not been done then say so because the subject is very important. We are talking about the lives of police here, if insurance has not been done then say so before proceed.

MR SPEAKER: We will discuss this when we have the Police report.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi: The reason why I stood up is because the priority of the insurance Company is towards insuring the life of the public and none else. But once we have the Police report then we can discuss it even if it takes up to eight days hence this is not a police but the report of the Insurance Company.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: I give opportunity to the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker with all due respect I wish to assist the Leader of Opposition given the debated report. He should bear understanding that this is not a Police Report but the Insurance Company's.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the member.

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**P.P.2013/2014 No. 88, Finance and Expenditure Committee Report on
P.P.2013/2014 No. 21, Annual Report of the Samoa Life Insurance
Company for the Financial Year 2011/2012 – Consideration**

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Well, thankfully my raising of the matter has stirred up some clarification. The only reason for standing up was for some assistance to the Ministry, nevertheless I thank the Hon Prime Minister and the government. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: The Leader of Opposition also assisted even though he was not an official police but a police in disguise. Hence is his assistance in police work in the country.

I trust there are no more members to share views so question will be put.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I thank the Committee for the well prepared report.

I give great importance to Recommendation 3 to publicize the names of account holders that have matured because if they are left sitting there it could be taken by someone in the Insurance Company. I thank the Committee for their foresight.

Another one is the advertisement campaigns. This Company was established when the Colonial Mutual Life was no longer in Samoa. That is why this Act was drafted in 1976 for our people to gain insurance and retain finance within the country. We had two Insurance Companies including the Pacific Insurance which claims for emergency cases providing us with two insurance companies for the government.

The problem with the Pacific Insurance can be bankrupt at times without an emergency. Such is the change of name into life assurance. Such is the difference between the two insurance companies. But now we have witnessed an increase in foreign insurance companies which poses the why question? There answer is because we do not give enough benefits. It is why the Committees fifth recommendation is important because the Board should be reviewing the interest rates so that account holders can receive affable benefits. Mr Speaker all these recommendations are very important and I recommend approval.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give opportunity to the Chairperson for additional statements on the matter before putting the question.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker. There is no further comment other than assuring the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 that the currently debated report does not involve Police. I thank the Hon Prime Minister for fully accepting the recommendations in our Report. Thank you.

Report was approved.

14 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 90, Works, Transport & Environment Report on the P.P. 2012/2013 No. 71, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2011 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, the Government should present a Response to the Select Committee Recommendation no later than 90 days since the Report was approved by the Legislative Assembly.

P.P.2013/2014 NO. 90, WORKS, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON THE P.P.2012/2013 NO. 71, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAMOA PORTS AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2011 – CONSIDERATION

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Chairperson of the Works, Transport & Environment Committee): Mr Speaker and the distinguished members of the Parliament, I stand to move a motion, *That the Assembly consider the Committee Report presenting its Findings, Recommendations and Resolution.*

Seconded by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, a member from the Individual Voters, Hon Mauaiva Pat Ah Him and the member for Aiga i le Tai.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Mr Speaker:

“RECOMMENDATION:

At the conclusion of its findings, the Committee recommends that the Government-

1. Focus and uphold the Authority’s main legal obligations to save funds being expended on unnecessary developments irrelevant to the service provided.
2. Revise the Authority’s lease agreements of its land and assets to ensure a modest return on assets.
3. Assist the Authority financially in repaying loans because of the current unstable state of their returns.
4. Consider appropriate options for instance the leasing of the slipway to freight companies to utilize the Satitua Slipway to assist with return on assets.
5. Increase the return on passenger fares travelling via the Mulifanua to Salelologa wharves and vice versa from .50sene to SAT\$2.00.
6. Purchase a dredge as was recommended in the previous Committee Report.

14 MARCH 2016

P.P.2013/2014 No. 90, Works, Transport & Environment Report on the P.P. 2012/2013 No. 71, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2011 – Consideration

RESOLUTION.

At the conclusion of its considerations, the Committee resolved to recommend that the Assembly:-

Approve P.P.2012/2013 No. 71 Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2011.”

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Chairperson of the Committee. The floor is now open for comments.

I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I thank Mr Speaker and the honorable Chairperson and the Committee for the Report. Conceivably another additional statement to this report with the assumption that this has been leased out to Samoa Shipping and you can correct me about that Chairperson if time permits. But I have some concerns I would like to address with the Chairperson.

Firstly, the land at Matagofie because it looks as though ever since this lease was signed, no work has been undertaken according to the Committees findings and the lease is almost expired. This is one essential land given its location which is in the town area with a beach surrounding. The lease has taken some times now and a recommendation has just yet been given which states until the lease is expired. Proper contract requirements should have been arranged to resolve such issues from arising.

Secondly your honor is reference to recommendation three which states, “Assist the Authority financially in repaying loans because of the current unstable state of their returns.” It is very disappointing to note that under findings, none of it tells what this loan specifies given their full support to meet the repayment. If we observe the last recommendation which states, “Purchasing a dredge as was recommended in the previous Committee Report.” I would like to ask the Committee why this was analyzed properly because in recommendation three, it clearly states that government should pay for this debt whilst in recommendation six, a dredge should be purchased. What is the cost of the dredge? It is also given that the first dredge has been sunk into the ocean without any clear reason.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the pardon of the member speaking but I ask the Hon Minister for his clarification on the matter.

I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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P.P.2013/2014 No. 90, Works, Transport & Environment Report on the P.P. 2012/2013 No. 71, Annual Report of the Samoa Ports Authority for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2011 – Consideration

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker I firstly wish you warm wishes on your birthday as well as the Hon Prime Minister and achieving the valuable ages of 50 and 70 will arrive in no time soon so praise the Lord for his blessings on you both.

Perhaps this report and raising concerns is one of the most deliberated matters earlier as well as its aforementioned recommendations. And with Governments main aim for these developments, is to create high employment for the people of the country.

Secondly, government seeks services to raise the standard in enhancing its services with regards to this report. In essence Mr Speaker the words of our Savior when Peter and the disciples went fishing, and he said, “throw the fishing net into the deep sea, not the shallow area but into the deep.” The same depth derives this development and planning to grow job creation for the people, those who can execute the job such as this House to achieve employment. Employment cannot be achieved without the proper development and strategy to enhance service capacity.

As for the dredge, it has taken over 10 years since the dredge was used to carry out work at Satitua, Mulifanua and Salelologa. These large machines are operated on water and contain difficulties during operation. The tropical cyclone in 2012 caused damages to the dredge that sunk in Mulifanua. Investigations were carried out by the Australian Company where the dredge came from, however the fixing costs of the dredge was much higher than its initial cost. Nevertheless the machine is important in deepening the wharf and ports.

On the plus side, things have changed for the better as in 2012 a performance audit was carried out by the Auditor in terms of enhancing services in the Port Authority. On that same year a scoping study was carried out by a foreign company who oversaw possible steps to better the Authoritys services, not only in domestic travels between Upolu and Savaii but also internationally. All these arrangements have been made and suggestions have been noted for improvement.

Arrangement has it that the slipway in Satitua is now under the supervision of Samoa Shipping Corporation. This is different from the slipway in American Samoa because our slipway is environmentally friendly as it docks the boats on dry land instead whereas American Samoa docks on the sea. This development is very important as Samoa has just joined the Shipping Corporation and this service is important to ensuring the safety of our environment. Furthermore a ferry/boat was gifted to us and traveled between Samoa and Tokelau and has been restored and added to our Satitua slipway fleet.

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Moreover, negotiations have been finalized with Cook Islands for our Vessel to be used by them and charged to Pukapuka which is on the north side of the Cook Islands. More arrangements are carried out upon their schedule and their vessels using our slipway. These are good development.

The recommendation has it that a private company should take over this process, however government has decided to hand it over to the Shipping Corporation as they are responsible to providing good service for the government and being the first to have most shipping vessels to travel to operate for Savaii, American Samoa as well as Tokelau and Cook Island.

All are major developments that have improved with our shipping services and the tabling report, all these have been achieved. The dredge, slipway and traveling services between Tutuila and Samoa are main responsible to the Samoa Ports Authority.

With regards to the marina, perhaps if we travel by ship around New Zealand and Australia you will note several small towns with marinas and docking vessels. But this has been a very crucial initiative for us in setting up a marina. Those visiting us in sailing boats need this kind of setting for water availability and easier access inland. Hence this is good development. Since the last cyclone, the two piers A and B have been destroyed. There was contact with the Insurance Company to rebuild pier B however, the Samoa Ports Authority are seeking a potential company to assist with reconstructing pier B. With this new marina in place is the beginning of further developments in the future.

The Hon Prime Minister and Government have furthermore received studies on the plans for Vaiusu wharf which comprises of a separate area for docking cargoes and area for cruise ships. This is the analysis from specialist in this field, there should be specific area for sailing boats which is another source of income for our executing plans.

This is consideration for the report at hand as such is direct undertaken by the government. Reference to recommendation five, I disagree with an increase from .50 to \$2. Such is the reason for government plans to incorporate Mulifanua and Salelologa under the authority of the Shipping Corporation because once this new price rise is approved, the Corporation will also increase the travel fares for the passengers.

Fortunately, the hope is to upgrade the service so that it is affordable to all specially for the traveling public when paying their fees and ferry fares.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure but I give notice to the interruption by the member for Aana Alofi No. 3. I call on the member to stand.

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Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:
Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. A point of clarification as the Hon Minister has responded when this is not the time for Government Responses which is usually after 90 days. Mr Speaker this is opportunity for the House to share views and concerns in regards to the Committee Report before responses are given by the Chairperson and Committee, this is not yet time for responding Hon Minister. Thank you.

That is the point of clarification your honor.

MR SPEAKER: Your concern has been noted member for Aana Alofi No. 3 but you are wrong but government is free to respond any time. If the Hon Prime Minister or Hon Minister wishes to respond during debates, the opportunity is granted. But as I said....

I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker that is essence in providing more speeches on this report, otherwise it is now 1.00pm, but the advice given is right, increase the fares from .50 to \$2.00 and but given the blame to the members for Gagaemauga No.2 and Aleipata Itupa i Luga as this is their recommendation but upon the Committees approval, many will protest as such pertains to more protests. Who knows if such increase takes place, that side will be the first to protest. Nevertheless we have more views on the report but it is now 1.00pm.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: Well yes, that is basis of tolerance to the House, pardon the Chairperson as we now arrive to our adjourning time, we shall commence debates on this matter and opportunity to the Hon Minister and Chairperson to provide their responses.

I thank the respective members of the House this part of the day. I believe we have carried out smoothly and unhurriedly in our proceedings as we maneuver in great detail the works of the day. The views have been voiced and government has responded accordingly. Therefore I would like to extend warm thanks to the distinguished members for the forbearance and patience during our proceedings.

I declare that we have an educational programme in schedule. This program could not be rescheduled given our sitting days amendment earlier this year, hence we shall proceed accordingly with the presence of our lecturers and Samoa Parliamentary Strengthening Programme.

14 APRIL 2014

Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

Our programme will take off at 2:00 today until 5:00 and then we retire for some rest which is reason for our sitting adjournment due to our seminar. We will continue tomorrow with new strength and Assembly will decide on the night proceedings, if not then we shall continue on until Wednesday to complete scheduled business.

In regards to our refreshments and nourishments, it is prepared by the staff and additional celebration in honor of the Hon Prime Minister and Mr Speakers birthdays. I urge the members of the House to join our Seminar as the Committee are also preparing allowances for you.

I have high hopes that the Lord will guide us all to a new day tomorrow to continue our work. I thank the support of the nation and acknowledge all of Samoa and its honorific salutations.

Before we adjourn I call upon the member Hon Maualaivao Pat Ah Him to lead us in prayer to bless our food and also our seminar tonight before we officially adjourn.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:05pm.

TUESDAY, 15TH APRIL 2014

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: It is with great respect that I greet all members of the House this morning. I believe we have gathered here today to see the progress of our orders today, sincere thanks to our Heavenly Father for His love and blessings that has assembled today. Just as well to the Leader of the country, Cabinet, Leader of Opposition and members of that side of the House. I believe we are in the presence of Samoa and its distinguished chiefs and orators, faletua and tausi, heads of government ministries especially public servants who are partaking in parliament proceedings. I wish to acknowledge everyone's presence today, thank you for your patience. Yesterday we conversed on some very critical issues that will be ensued in today's proceedings. I believe we had some intense moments but with God's presence, we are not forsaken. May the devil and evil spirits be cast out of this House so that no problem will arise in today's deliberation for the benefit of the country. I also would like to acknowledge the support of all Samoa, thank you for taking part in our proceedings. It is the sole duty of the individual to serve their country for the better development of villages, constituencies, families especially congregations whose prayers have blessed this Parliament. I believe it is now time for us to carry forth with today's orders, let us work together to fulfill the agenda pursuant to our Order Paper schedule.

MESSAGE FROM LE AO O LE MALO

Mr Speaker read the Message from His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo.

1. "CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY.

Pursuant to Standing Order 99(2) **I, TUI ATUA TUPUA TAMASESE EFI, AO O LE MALO,** hereby issue the Certificate of Urgency to the Legislative Assembly to consider the Bill listed hereunder in its current Meeting.

1. Electoral Amendment Bill 2014.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this Tuesday 14th April in the year 2014.

(Signed): Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
O LE AO O LE MALO.