

17 AUGUST 2015

MONDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2015

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

OPENING SPEECH BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has now commenced.

In all respect, I acknowledge and greet the esteemed and dignified accord present in the Chamber. I greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and that side of the House and all the respective Members..

I believe we have been well rested in the weekend. We also had a lengthy Sitting in the previous week, but thankfully we are here yet again this morning, so that we may conclude with our work. I believe today will be the last day of our Sitting in this Chamber. It is no secret since we have already conducted the demolition ceremony for the House. It is why we must give thanks to God for the respective Members of Parliament who once stood here before us as leaders of Samoa. Thankfully we are the Leaders in this Term and we have witnessed the Chamber in its last days. Our Parliamentary Term has concluded with the demolition of the House. Thanksgiving to the Lord for the peace and the wealth blessed upon Samoa and most importantly the wise counseling that has enabled us to determine the future and laws of our nation.

Furthermore, I greet and acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its honorary salutations. Thank you for the continuous support and prayers for your Parliament.

I also acknowledge the Pastors and Servants of God; thank you for the silent prayers. I believe the prayers continue to maintain the Blessings over the Parliament and its Proceedings.

Lest I forget the respective Members of the public present this morning. I acknowledge the CEOs and Heads of Government Departments and Corporations present for our orders today.

MESSAGE FROM THE O LE AO O LE MALO

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

Message from the O Le Ao o le Malo

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MEMORANDUM To:

Mr Speaker:

Pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa and Parliament Standing Order 95, consent is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly to proceed upon consideration of the following Bill:

1. Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015.
2. Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this 14th of August 2015.

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

CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

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

1. Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015.
2. Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015.

GIVEN UNDER my Hand this 14th of August, 2015.

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

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2015
– first reading

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue): Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House; I second the gratitude conveyed to our God for the graciously blessing upon us this new day.

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015
– first reading

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I greet the Hon Prime Minister and Ministers of the Cabinet and all distinguished Members of the House. May all the Praise be unto God for His unconditional love for us each and every time. Mr Speaker I stand to move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister of Public Enterprises and Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (No.4) 2015

– first reading

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Justice and Court Administration): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 be read a first time.*

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

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2015

– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I have here in my hand the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo in regards to this Bill, therefore the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to the second reading of the Bill.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker and esteemed Members of the House, I stand to move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 be read a second time and I wish to elaborate more on it.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister of Justice, and Court Administration and the Minister of Public Enterprises.

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015

– second reading

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the Chamber the Bill does not contain lengthy amendments. The purpose of the

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Amendment Bill is to amend the Excise Tax Rates Act 1984 which is also the Principal Act. The purpose of the Bill is to amend the schedules to increase the excise tax rates for tobacco, alcohol, bottled water and fuel. There are two sections of the Bill; the first is the rates: which provides for the short title and commencement. The other section amends the excise tax rates on products locally produced.

Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House, I recommend that the Bill be amended. Bless the Proceedings of this Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification Hon Minister. I trust the Bill has been noted as the objectives have been made clear by the Hon Minister.

The Chamber is available for Members to share their thoughts, if not then I shall put forth the question.

I recognize the Member for Faleata West, I grant the opportunity to the Honorable Member.

Tofa LEALAIPEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I extend acknowledgement to the distinguished Members of the Parliament of Samoa and the support of Samoa. We are very fortunate to be living in a peaceful nation thanks to the blessings of God.

I have just received the adjustment of tax and I only just read it, thus the reason for my delay in standing. Mr Speaker the Appropriation Bill which provides for the increase of tax rates locally has been approved. However we must also bear in mind the previously discussed Competition Bill 2015 which provides other aspects in need of consideration.

The purpose of our Government is firstly to minimize the cost of living. This can be achieved when local factories are increased. It will not only decrease the cost of living but it will also provide employment for the public. When employment is provided it will also minimize the numerous problems the Government and all of us are facing today.

Furthermore, industries cannot increase and grow in Samoa if imported goods are more affordable. I observe the list here and I note that it begins with spring water.

Mr Speaker last week, I met a Fijian producer who stated that he was here to promote their "Fiji water." I was shocked why this would happen. It is true that Fiji water is being consumed globally but we must also consider that we have plenty of water companies locally. Moreover, it is good in a sense that it will increase competition and lower the costs, but how can local water be more expensive than imported bottled water?

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 – second reading

The reason why local bottled water is expensive is because we do not produce plastic locally. It was produced in the past and it is being produced by some but in small volumes. It is why I spoke before in terms of hard competition between

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local industries and foreign ones because it is expensive importing the empty bottles.

Therefore, it is something that we might have needed to compromise and adjust because what we want is to minimize the costs and effectively set up businesses in Samoa. The increase of local businesses will create jobs and save our foreign exchange and the like. Now it is being increased it will surely affect the cost of our locally manufactured bottled waters.

Mr Speaker I come to the 3% tax increase that has been imposed on the beer. The increase is the same for alcohol that is 3% alcohol volume and alcohol that is 15% alcohol volume. Overseas countries encourage the consumption of light beer which has low alcohol volume content. It is also done so in the hopes of helping the health of the people. However I note that the alcohol percentage difference is being overlooked here. We need to decrease the tax on light beer and increase the tax on stronger beer so that people will be encouraged to purchase light beer.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I suppose the Member for Faleata West needs a reprieve.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI NEIOTI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker this is the problem with granting the Member the opportunity, now he is going on and on when there is nothing new.

The reason why the tax rate for light beer is still being increased is because there are barely any consumers that purchase light beer. I have been going around looking for alcohol that has less than 2% alcohol. The beer I drink is 1%. It means it is only water and one would go crazy looking for it but cannot find it because companies do not manufacture it. No matter how high the tax is people will still buy it. However with the high tax it will hopefully encourage people to buy less of these products.

Mr Speaker that is my thought on the matter.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Yes, but remember the Bill is general and the important thing is the health of the people. The Hon Prime Minister has spoken and we are very much the same; we both drink light that is hard to find. Nonetheless this is what the Ministry of Health should be encouraging; the decrease of tax for light beers.

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 – second reading

To illustrate more Mr Speaker, note the bottled water. How is it that the cost for spring water and sodas are the same?

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI NEIOTI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to ask the Member if

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he wishes to increase the tax. If the Member feels strongly about the increase then I suggest the Member move a motion to that effect.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. Increase the tax for alcohol with high percentage content and decrease it for the alcohol with low alcohol content. It is the same as the tax imposed on the sodas and natural bottled water. The point is that regardless of the persistence of the Minister of Health in encouraging people to drink water it is a challenge when soda and water cost the same.

Mr Speaker the alcohol volume content of 15% or less the cost per liter is nearly \$50.00 while alcohol with an alcohol volume content of 50% or more is being only \$10 per liter. What does this indicate? It is encouraging high volume content for spirits being locally produced, this is unacceptable. It is one of the reasons there are so many deaths and sickness in Samoa.

It says here that if the alcohol content is 15% or less, it is almost \$50.00 but if it is 30% or more it cost less at \$18.00 per liter. I am not sure who drinks these spirits. In other words, it is cheaper to produce a spirit that has 60% alcohol content rather than a spirit that has less than 30% alcohol content.

The Hon Minister of Revenue should reassess these conditions especially the Hon Minister of Health. It is a very serious matter. We have also approved the tariff increase so that revenues of the Government can be accumulated. Personally, it is inappropriate for alcohol with a low alcohol content to expensive...

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member, but I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker since the Member has mentioned me in reference to the similar increase for sodas and bottled water. If the Chair and distinguished Members of the House observe carefully the Bill has no mention of an increase for water. The water mentioned in the Bill is the one with added sugar or sweetening stuff but not water. The Bill is correct that water should be affordable and sweetening water expensive. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Tofa Lealailepule did you read the Bill?

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015
– second reading

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I feel very sorry for the Hon Minister as it is their Bill and yet they do not read and consult on it. Refer to page 2 with Schedule 2; 2202.1010 there is water. Mr Speaker that is what we are trying to reiterate.

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Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I request that the Member for Faleata West to clarify and explain the Bill, as it appears that the Hon Minister does not understand.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker refer to the English copy. “Water, including Mineral Water and Aerated Waters, containing added sugar.” Just below it states, “Water including Mineral Water and Aerated Waters, containing added Sweetening matter.” There is no mention of pure water in the Bill.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker in the Samoan copy it clearly states “*Suavai Auli* (pure water) which includes Water...Mr Speaker there is a comma separating the two words but it is being read as one phrase...”

MR SPEAKER: Tofa Lealailepule if you have made a mistake I suggest you apologize to the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI NEIOTI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, the statement is that it is pure water with added sugar that makes it sweet.

MR SPEAKER: I recommend you conclude your statements Member for Faleata, it has been clarified.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker we have approved the increase of tariff but we should consider our progress forward and the objectives of the Hon Minister of Revenue in regards to the Bill. This is a collaborative effort. It is true that we may gain on one side, but at the cost of illness to our people especially as we are trying to control the consumption of this product as is the intention of the Hon Minister of Health and SPAGHL.

We also addressed the issue of cigarettes and only the 20 pack was allowed. The Ministry of Health came with their opinion that the 10 pack should be removed because smokers smoked faster with the 10 pack. Thankfully the decision was reversed because when you are trying to quit smoking, you use the smaller pack until you reduce your cigarettes smoked which is why the 10 pack was re-introduced. There is also a tariff imposed on cigarettes in this Bill.

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 – second reading

Mr Speaker, perhaps our Party has collected their views as I was attempting to make my speech lengthy so they can read the amendment Bill.

Blessed day.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I remind the Member that you are a Member of the SPAGHL. You can witness on the television that I am working on behalf of SPAGHL while you roam around. There is no need to be concerned on that front.

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Hon Minister of Revenue, I trust that this is the only Member that wanted to speak. I believe we have one more Member and then the opportunity will be granted to the Hon Minister for a response.

I call on the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER:

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Minister for clarifying the Bill. I apologize as one of the Members stated that we have just received a copy of the Bill.

Mr Speaker the only section I wish to speak about is with regards to the last section on motor spirits and distillate fuels that is now being increased from 10% to 15%.

Mr Speaker, I believe our nation is working towards clean energy by way of bio-diesel. Therefore, I believe that we should try to reduce the tax or remove the tax or subsidize it as we are trying to encourage clean energy. We are looking at not only making the production economical but also for the supply to be accessible within our country. There are minimal impacts on our environment. I hope the Ministry would consider this especially considering the effects on our nations.

Our raw materials are imported and filtered on island then we have the fuel we use. I seek clarification on whether there is a tax on the imported product and then it is again taxed after it is filtered. If there is a double tax, what then are the impacts?

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon...

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleata East): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Yes well, I grant the opportunity to the Member.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity.

There are a few things that have not been mentioned Mr Speaker.

Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 – second reading

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity Honorable Member.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Thank you Mr Speaker.

In my interpretation, this is the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 which means that the products listed are locally manufactured. However we have an objective which is being spearheaded by the Government whereby people are encouraged to produce goods locally. It is beneficial for the countrys economy as well. However it must also be in consideration of healthy living which is the

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purpose of the Bill in increasing tax on these goods. Furthermore considering the many accidents caused by alcohol consumption.

I am talking about the fact that the increase of taxes is for the purpose of discouraging people to purchase these items. Instead we should be formulating a way for people to stop purchasing the items altogether which would be a disadvantage for the business people. Nonetheless I still need to understand the reason why the 15% alcohol costs \$44.00 per liter yet the 57.12% alcohol only costs \$35.20 per liter. I merely wish to understand the difference and the increase on this item.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Revenue before I put forth the question.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of Parliament and those present in the Chamber. I acknowledge the Members that shared their concerns on the Bill.

The Bill as mentioned by some of the Members indeed stresses the importance of healthy living. Mr Speaker our nation is being encouraged to produce goods domestically especially for the benefit of our economy. Therefore, the Bill with consideration of healthy living aims to increase the taxes on these items so that it is not affordable. It is why Mr Speaker that all the concerns raised has been thoroughly discussed during the drafting of the Bill. The increase of tax on alcohol is mainly to discourage people from consuming alcohol.

Mr Speaker I conclude my response.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Motion approved and the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 was read a second time.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (No.4) 2015 – second reading

MR SPEAKER: Since I have here with me a Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness, O Le Ao o le Malo in regards to this Bill, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to its second reading.

I call on the Hon Minister responsible for the Electoral Office.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 be read a second time and I wish to explain it.*

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Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister to voice her clarification statement.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker and the distinguished Members of the House. As stated last week during our Proceedings, a new Amendment will be prepared. It is so that all Constituencies are equal in the transfer rule of every five years as provided in the Bill. It was neglected in the drafting of the Bill providing for the Urban Constituencies to which Members of the House voiced concerns in regards to voters coming in and out of the Urban Constituency.

It means Mr Speaker, that this Bill will legally bind a registered voter in the Urban Constituency for five years. They will be free to register elsewhere once the five year period is up.

There are only three Clauses in the Bill. Clause 19 of the Bill will omit Section 22 of the Principal Act.

Mr Speaker, that concludes the clarification in regards to the Bill. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister for the clarification on the amendment Bill in response to the concerns and thoughts voiced in the previous Sitting. I trust the matter is clear. Opportunity is granted for a Member who wishes to speak, if not the questions will be put forth.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Minister for the clarification on this matter. However I am very confused on this Bill. It is still clear that a voter can register only after five years and then the rule of transfer applies. However in section 2 (4) it states “(4) As an exception to section 16(3) and (4), a registered voter in Territorial Constituency may, at any time, be transferred to an Urban Constituency if the voter is qualified for registration in that urban Constituency.”

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 – second reading

What I am trying to clarify is that if a voter has recently transferred and registered in the Constituency whether it is Territorial or Urban, does that mean they are also free to transfer tomorrow if they change their mind? I am asking Hon Minister because that is what is happening at the moment.

The other matter Hon Minister is whether the pastors who are temporarily residing in these areas are included in the transfer rule. The Bill seems to have neglected to include these Constituents and it is causing confusion. Nonetheless I acknowledge the clarification by the Hon Minister in regards to the concerns raised. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I grant the opportunity to the Member for Faleata East followed by the Member for Gagaemauga No. 2.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker and I also acknowledge the Hon Minister in regards to the clarification and acknowledgement of concerns on the Bill.

I wish to query on clause sub-clause (4) and the phrase 'at any time.' In sub-clause (3) voters can be transferred to another urban or Territorial Constituency. However in sub-clause (4) it states that a registered voter may at any time transfer to an urban Constituency so long as they are qualified for registration in that Urban Constituency. The problem is a recurring issue in the Constituencies of Faleata and Vaimauga as voters are no longer being qualified in terms of residence but of kinship to the candidate.

Perhaps registered voters in the Territorial Constituencies that recently transferred to the Urban Constituency can be automatically transferred to Territorial Constituencies if the five year period has not expired. Hon Minister can you please shed some light on the matter.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Honorable Member your concern is noted. I grant the opportunity to the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 followed by the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU (Gagaemauga No. 2): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. My question is brief. I wish to thank the Hon Minister for acknowledging the thoughts and suggestions voiced.

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 – second reading

Mr Speaker I observe that most of the Amendments on this Bill revolves around these two Seats of the Parliament. Therefore, I wish to query whether there are any plans of the Government to remove these Seats in Parliament. In truth there are no half castes or *palagis* in the Urban Constituencies. All Samoans have matai titles connecting their families in villages around Upolu and Samoa because we then will always be amending this Bill.

MR SPEAKER: I recommend the Member refer his comments specifically to the Amendment Bill.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you for the opportunity.

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MR SPEAKER: Very Well. Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo I grant you the opportunity before the Hon Minister's response. Very well, I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, the Member concerns raised is the exact purpose of the Bill. Before this amendment, voters were free to transfer within the Urban Constituencies.

Firstly, the importance of this amendment is that once the voters register they will then be bound by the Law within that Constituency for five years.

Secondly, the exemption as mentioned by some of the Members refers to those residents who transfer from Territorial Constituencies to Urban Constituencies. Therefore, the provision is that those who will register in the Urban Constituency, also the new rolls that will be established, those who are registered in the Territorial cConstituencies can only transfer if the 5 year rule has been fulfilled. However the exemption is that those under the Territorial Constituencies can register under the new roll if they satisfy the requirements such as residing on freehold land. That is the exemption in the Bill.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister for the clarification which is what we were trying to query. This means that the proposed amendment will not solve the problem. This is exactly what I was trying to say. It is not only Faleata but all of Samoa that is affected. If you take your voter to be registered in your Constituency, the urban candidate can take the same purpose and transfer them to their Constituency without meeting the 5 year transfer rule. I am talking from experience because it is happening in our Constituency whereby constituents first register with us and then later on they are seen in other candidates vehicles. It is not only happening to us but the whole of Samoa is affected by this exemption given to the urban seats.

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015

– second reading

Mr Speaker, this is wrong and inappropriate. Favor is being given to one roll over the other. There is no issue with the transfer after the five years but there should be a revision because it is wrong. We assumed that the amendment was from our recommendations but this amendment still allows the transfer to an Urban Constituency even if they have just registered with us the day before. This is absolutely unacceptable Hon Minister. It is unjust and it is a crime. Why is there separate legislation for the Territorial Constituencies and the Urban Constituency? Are they different from us? Why can they not be permitted to be transferred to our Constituencies within the 5 years? If we are given the chance to transfer them from the urban Constituency after they have registered then I would be grateful. We have exhausted our opportunities speaking on these exemptions, who are exempted and who are not?

We have made our speeches. The exemption awarded to the Urban Constituencies should be allowed to us also enabling the freedom of choice to

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register in our Constituencies such as Vaimauga and Faleata. You are prohibiting what they want and allowing them to go to these Constituencies. Priority is being given to land in the urban area and what about the Vaimauga and Faleata land where these people are residing? Matai from outside Faleata and Vaimauga are making the decisions for Faleata and Vaimauga. Only the matai from Vaimauga and Faleata are in these areas. Wherever one travels in Samoa, you must respect those governing the Constituency. Now this wrongdoing is being done, (.....)

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member, I believe...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker the provision should be changed. It is unlawful and it is merely serving two seats when all of Samoa should be considered. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I have noted your concern. Tofa Aveau is there something else?

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker I wish to voice a request because this provision affects our Constituency. I support the concern of the Member in regards to the Bill. In my interpretation of the Bill, those living on freehold land in the urban area but were voting elsewhere can be transferred at any time to the urban roll. This Bill forces them to register.

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 – second reading

This is what is happening now. People are being told, if you reside on freehold land, you should register or be transferred to the urban roll. It is happening in the Office. However I believe people should be given a choice whether they wish to register for the urban Constituency or not. Furthermore, the Office of the Electoral Commissioner is advising voters to vote in the urban but not under the voters matai titles. It is my recommendation that voters be allowed to vote using their matai title because it has more value.

To conclude I highly believe that voters are to be given a choice instead of being swayed to the choice of the Office. The Office is not looking to find out where the person wishes to register and vote. The only thing that matters to them is...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

MR SPEAKER: I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: The notion is that it seems that the Office is forcing people to vote and where to vote. The Bill alone provides for eligibility of a person whether it be the urban or Territorial Constituencies.

The statement that the Office is forcing voters to go here and there is incorrect. The only duty of the Office is to record why each voter wishes to register in which electorate.

Mr Speaker I am not sure what it is that the Members want. At first they claimed the residents on free hold lands are the reasons for the problems arising in the voting polls of the Vaimauga and Faleata Constituencies. Therefore this Bill separates those registered in the Territorial Constituencies residing in free hold lands. Nonetheless, freedom of choice is still granted to individuals on where they wish to register. Mr Speaker that is my clarification on the issue.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. The Hon Minister has spoken and it seems that the Lady Minister does not understand her own Bill. I acknowledge the last statement in regards to the freedom of a person to vote. However, this right of a person to vote is being denied by the Bill introduced. The previous amendment differs from this one as it was made for all Constituencies and now this provides for a separate transfer rule. The Hon Minister states that there is one poll for all persons, which should also mean one Bill for all.

MR SPEAKER: I note the Members concern. I beg pardon of the Member, but I grant the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, I am fully aware of the Bill. I do apologize to the Member, if a Member is elected to the urban seat, I beg leniency of the Vaimauga and Faleata because the newly established electorates for freehold land where many reside are within your Constituency boundaries.

Your personal conflicts resulting from those living on freehold land and the Territorial Constituency...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I will grant the opportunity after...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Yes, well I believe that is the nature of our issue. It is due to the Urban Constituency boundary line on the Territorial Constituency. Thank you.

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

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Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, the matter is very simple. The Bill introduced states that an urban seat candidate can easily transfer a voter already registered for Safata. However it further provides that once Constituents register for the Urban Seats they can no longer be transferred. All we are stressing is the imbalance of the provisions of the Bill.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I grant this opportunity to the Tofa Aveau before the Government response.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Thank you for this opportunity. What we are emphasizing is really simple. In terms of urban Constituents with no kinship in Faleata or Vaimauga, they are entitled to transfer when they wish. However, for a Vaimoso resident who is a Vaimoso but resides on free hold land that person is being forced to transfer.

It is why I recommend that this exemption should not be permitted...

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, this Member has not spoken. *(Points at the Member for one of the Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang).*

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member for Faleata West, but I grant this opportunity to the Members involved.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

I call on one of the Members for one of the Individual Voters Susuga Hon Papaliitele followed by Afioga Maualaivao and Member for Siumu.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Individual Voters): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I stand in disappointment at the remarks voiced by the Member for Faleata West in regards to the Bill being corrupt and unfair as it caters to the Urban Seats. I believe these remarks stem from the issues of the Faleata Constituency alone. I do not note the Members for Vaimauga making such notions. Furthermore, during the discussion of the introduction of the Urban Seats there were also grievances voiced in that regard.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Point of Clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member, opportunity will be granted.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: The transfer is clear in the Bill. The statement that voters can register today and transfer tomorrow is incorrect. The only transfer is to the Territorial Constituency and the voter cannot transfer to the

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urban after because we have passed the Bill for this in June. However, what is happening now.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker it appears that the Hon Papaliitele does not fully understand the Bill.

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member, but the opportunity will be granted.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: What I am trying to emphasize and clarify to the Opposition is that the Bill is correct. The Amendment of this Bill was specified for the Individual Voters. We are nearing the General Elections yet we are still discussing this Bill. The candidates for the Urban Constituency includes both of us currently in the Individual Voters seats.

MR SPEAKER: I beg the patience of the Member.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: However I further reiterate that the statements about the Bill are incorrect. Residents are free to transfer when they wish. The Bill provides rights for residents on freehold lands to be registered and transfer as they wish; it is their right. However, what I observe from the Members now is that they seem to blame the Urban Seats claiming corruption.

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 – second reading

Therefore, I beseech to the Speaker for the statements to be deleted from the records.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I grant first opportunity to one of the Members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him. I beg the Member to accept the Chairs decision.

I call on Afioga Maualaivao.

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him (Individual Voters): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

I stand with due respect this morning, to acknowledge the Hon Minister for the Bill. I do note that it is incomplete but the intention is the change to the urban constituency. The concerns voiced are harsh therefore we need to maintain composure. The issue is very important. However I observe from the Bill in reference to the Members concerns. On page two of the Bill it states “(3) Section 3 16(3) and (4) applies to a registered voter in an urban constituency if the voter wishes to be transferred to another urban or territorial constituency.” In “(4) As an exception to section 16(3) and (4), a registered voter in a territorial

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constituency may,” therefore it means that the Territorial Constituency resident may transfer if they are eligible. Furthermore in Clause 3 it states that “(3) Section 16 (3) and (4) applies to a registered voter in an Urban Constituency if the voter wishes to be transferred to an Urban Constituency if the voter is qualified for registration in that Urban Constituency.” The Bill clearly provides for freedom of choice for either resident of the Urban or Territorial Constituencies to transfer if they wish. The exemption is not forced but the option is given should people need to utilize it. It is my interpretation.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I have noted your concern honorable Member.

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him: Mr Speaker, it is important that I reiterate that we as Members would not forcibly transfer voters. We are explaining and promoting the benefits we may offer in our constituency. Thank you and bless our Meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call on the Member for Siumu and then the Member for Faleata East.

Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015

– second reading

Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise due to the reference of my constituency by the Leader of the Opposition. I also stand in support of the statement of the Member for Faleata West because it is something that is happening right now.

The Bill is biased towards the Urban Seat whereby residents may transfer within two weeks. It is not right. The 5 years rule should apply to everyone. If they are transferred within that week, then that should be the end. Therefore, I am very disappointed that the recommendation was not considered and the individual voters seat left alone until after the Elections then the seats can be added to the Faleata and Vaimauga Constituencies.

MR SPEAKER: I note your concern. Member for Faleata East is there something else?

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Is it a different matter because your first issue was noted.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Yes, I wish to clarify on the statements by the Members that have just spoken. First of all, the word stressed in the Bill is ‘at any time.’ If section 4 did not exist then it is appropriate; the Section that provides the urban voter to transfer at any time. Section 3 is fair and applies

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to all Constituencies to transfer every five years. However Section 4 provides that urban seat voters can transfer at any time. This is why...

MR SPEAKER: I note the Members concern. Member for Faleata West you have one more opportunity.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you. The reason our Meetings are long is because the opportunity is given to the Members that did not comment before on the Bill. Members are making remarks on the Bill yet they do not clearly understand.

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West, I granted the opportunity because their Constituencies were mentioned. They are to be given the opportunity to be acknowledged and respected.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you. I apologize Mr Speaker, but the Member read out the Bill which is the same Bill that we are reading and yet he does not understand it but we do? The Member stated that the transfer should not be possible...

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him: Mr Speaker I wish to let the Member know...

MR SPEAKER: This is why our Meeting is prolonged; please direct your statements to the Bill and not on the Members.

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him: Yes exactly. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member for Individual Voters but it is not a matter of earning points. I beg pardon of the Member; I believe your statements were very clear.

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him: Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Yes Member for Faleata West?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: With all due respect Mr Speaker, the statements made are not directed at the Members but are in regards to the Constituency. It is why it is important that the laws we make are fair. Clarification has been made that there is one Roll which should means that there is to be one Bill. Furthermore, the Hon Minister also stated that we need to accept if voters wish to transfer to the Urban. I honestly am not mad at that because voters are free to do as they wish. What I am stressing is the freedom of a resident to transfer from the Urban to the Territorial Constituency. Why is this

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right being withheld? Why is the right granted to the residents of Territorial Constituency to transfer to Urban but not vice versa? This is why I said (.....).

Furthermore Mr Speaker,

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

MR SPEAKER: I beg pardon of the Member for Faleata West, but I the grant opportunity to the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: If Section 3 of the Bill is observed carefully, it can be noted that the residents in the Urban Constituency can indeed transfer to the Territorial Constituency. I believe it is what the Member is more concerned about in reference to the section 3 of the Bill.

Mr Speaker, Members are debating back and forth but the Bill remains clear. The amendment provides so that residents do not transfer ever so often when they wish. Once the decision has been made, then the Bill will enforce that residents are to remain in that Constituency. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

MR SPEAKER: I believe the matter is clear. I beg pardon of the Members for Faleata West and Faleata East. I also beg pardon of the Member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua but I believe the Hon Ministers clarification is clear. Therefore, I beg the Members to allow the Bill to progress. I truly believe this is not the final Elections. Therefore, we shall observe. I acknowledge the concerns of the Members for Faleata West and Faleata East, but we need also to consider the statements of the Hon Minister. The voter is free to decide where they wish to vote. The human right of a person is expressed here whether they wish to register and vote in their territorial constituency or urban constituency.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West please take your seat. I beg Members that the matter has been clarified, the Hon Minister has responded on behalf of the Government. The concerns of the Members have been noted nonetheless. The final decision is that the voter is free to choose. I observe that the Members Tofa Lenatai and Lefau are calm because this is not a grave concern. Therefore Members I will put the concerns to rest here.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Yes Member for Faleata West?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I stand to correct the statements that I am voicing my concerns for my personal interests. No that is not the case

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because I believe it is crucial that one rule to should be applicable to all constituencies. Thank you but I have three suits already sewn ready for the next term. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I note the Members concern. I hope you have one prepared for your journey to heaven.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Yes.

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Thank you. Mr Speaker I sit here but I take offense to the accusations made by the Members in regards to the Bill.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

The Government has prepared the Bill with the assistance of the Attorney General and it is appropriate. The key phrase often mentioned here and is one that has moved the Members for Faleata West and Faleata East is ‘at any time.’ However I believe the Members are worrying needlessly and the phrase that the Members should consider is ‘if the voter is qualified’ and that is the job of the Electoral Officer. It is not your duty.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua: Member for Faleata West take your seat. Have respect I am a Mataia. It is important that you are aware of facts which I will therefore tell you. The clarification is on point but the problem is that you are too concerned for matters that do not concern you. The Bill is catered to the recommendations voiced by the Members last week. Furthermore, the Bill is clear and accurate and the duty rests with the integrity of the electoral officers so that the Bill is well executed. Therefore, I beg the Members to exercise patience so that when the 2016 Elections come we will observe the flaws to which we will then address when the new Government steps up.

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Yes Member for Faleata West?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I acknowledge the statements voiced against us.

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MR SPEAKER: It is not a matter of earning points therefore I beg the Member to let us progress with our Orders of the day.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: It appears that we do not understand the Bill. The issue is the transfer. The transfer exemption should be applicable to all Constituencies as well as the term of five years. The Hon Minister is referring to something very different from what we were voicing. Nevertheless I only have the peace of the Lord in my heart.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– second reading**

MR SPEAKER: Member for Faleata West, I pray that your words match your actions. If you speak about the peace of the Lord then your actions should also be peaceful. However it is the opposite because I am trying to calm the conflict caused by your statements. Therefore I ask the Members of the Chamber to bear in mind that we are not the only ones involved in the Meeting. The nation is in audience. Furthermore, the preparation of the Bill was done so by the Attorney General and Government and Cabinet and I believe if there was something incorrect, it would not have been tabled. Therefore, I recommend that the statements voiced by the Members that the Bill is corrupt be removed. The Members affected are quite offended.

I acknowledge the Members for Individuals Voters, the Afioga Maualaivao and Susuga Papaliitele for your Seats are currently being discussed in reference to which constituency it will belong to. Therefore, I pray the Members maintain composed and I hope the Chamber will grant opportunity to the new Seats. The days of the Lord will not end here, and the concerns I believe have been noted by the Government and discretion will be exercised in regards to it. I give opportunity to one of the Members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

[Statement by the Member for Faleata West instructed by the Speaker to be removed from the Hansard :...Ou te ofo ia te outou i le tou fai o lenei mea piopio. A ou taua le mea lenei, o le mea piopio, o le mea le sao, o le mea le amiotonu. E sese ai le Tulafono, e piopio ai lau Tulafono.]

Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him: Mr Speaker, thank you for your acknowledgement. I also thank the Government for the Bill. I am very excited for the New Seats and we all know that we all enjoy new things.

I only wish to recommend with the Speakers discretion if the statements voiced by the Member for Siumu be removed also. I believe the Member for Siumu showed support of the notion from that side. Thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA AUUELOA LUPESOLIAI NEIOTI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I move to correct the translation as follows:

“CORRECTION:

To omit the phrase “Individual Voters” from all records and replace with “Registered Voter.”

**Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015
– consideration in detail**

The correction is based on the removal of the Individual Voters Roll and it will not be included in the legislation. The definition for “registered voter” in the Samoan version is incorrect but the English version is correct as all the voters are equal under the legislation.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Justice and Courts Administration.

Correction Approved.

MR SPEAKER: Well the Chair will handle it and I believe that there was no extremity of the statements voiced by the Member.

I beg pardon of the Member for Siumu, but the Chair will not acknowledge the concerns of the Member.

Motion approved and the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 was read a second time.

**EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2015
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: I have here in my hand the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo regarding this Bill. Therefore the Chamber will now proceed to consider it in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, Consideration in detail of the Bill commences on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Schedule Amended.

Approved.

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CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short Title and commencement.

TITLE: Excise Tax Rates Amendment Act 2015.

Approved.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– consideration in detail**

The Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 progressed without Amendments.

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (NO.4) 2015
– consideration in detail**

MR SPEAKER: I have here the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo in regards to this Bill. Therefore the Assembly will now proceed to consider it in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Order 102, Consideration in Detail of the Bill commences on Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Section 19 amended.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, I call on the Member for Faleata East, Tofa Aveau.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Mr Speaker, due to the urgency of this Bill it could not undergo Committee proceedings. Therefore I stand to move a motion.

MR SPEAKER: What is the concern?

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I move a motion, *That sub-Clause(4) in Clause 2 of the Bill be omitted. Sub-Clause 4 that reads; “As an exception to section 16(3) and (4), a registered voter in a territorial constituency may, at any time, be transferred to an urban constituency if the voter is qualified for registration in that Urban Constituency.”*

Thank you.

Seconded by the Member for Faleata West.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker for the sake of the records of the Sitting, on behalf of the Government move to object the Motion.

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor.

MR SPEAKER: We will proceed with the normal procedures of the Chamber. The Chair will put forth the question and decide from there.

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– consideration in detail**

Motion denied.

Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo: Mr Speaker I request for a Counting Vote.

MR SPEAKER: The Speakers ears are perfectly fine. I take the discretion and the nays have it.

Clause 2 approved.

CLAUSE 3: Section 22 appealed.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Electoral Amendment Act (No.4) 2015.

Approved.

The Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 progressed without Amendments.

**EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2015
- third reading**

MR SPEAKER: I have here with me the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo in regards to this Bill. Therefore the Assembly will proceed to its third reading.

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I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2015 be read a third time.*

**Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015
– third reading**

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL (No.4) 2015
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: I have here with me the Certificate of Urgency signed by His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo in regards to this Bill. Therefore the Assembly will proceed to its third reading.

I call on the Hon Minister of Justice and Courts Administration and the Office of the Electoral Commission.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Electoral Amendment Bill (No.4) 2015 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Revenue and Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Susuga Hon TUILAEP A FATIALOFA AUELUA LUPESOLIAI NEIOTI AIONO SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I think we have approved close to 20 Bills in this Meeting and some have even considered themselves lawyers by attempting to appeal the Bills.

But before I come to that, I move a motion, *That the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourn until Thursday 27th of August, 2015.*

Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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Motion approved.

Motion for Adjournment

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker, just to confirm the date for the next Sitting in August?

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Neioti Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi: Yes, it is the 27th of August, 2015.

MR SPEAKER: Our next Sitting will be on the 27th of August.

Well, I believe we have come to the end of our Orders of the day. Therefore I acknowledge the Members of the House for the patience and remarks voiced not only in the Sitting this week but also last week.

I hope the Members of the Chamber dismissed the remarks and comments voiced today. I trust we are all familiar with the nature of the councils outside this Chamber and thus the Chair is grateful we have concluded for the day.

On other matters, this afternoon the contractors will be here to remove the furniture and relocate it to our new venue at Tuanaimato once the Games have concluded.

Furthermore, our Sitting on Thursday, 27th of August, 2015 will be held at Tuiatua (TATTE) until the end of September. The Sitting for October will be held at the temporary location at Tuanaimato. The Dissolution of the current Term will take place in the temporary location along with the State Opening. Therefore I make these announcements with the hopes that the Members take note so that arrangements can be made.

Further announcements, I ask the Chamber to remember to remove all your personal belongings from your stations. Perhaps leave your wallets for the staff to attend to but take your documents as we will not be returning back here. We will now proceed to record all records of the last 5 years while the contractors proceed with the removal of the setup for Tuanaimato.

Acknowledgements cannot be forgotten for the Members of the Chamber and most especially the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. I acknowledge your patience and discretion and efforts. I believe remarks voiced by the Members are noted and considered and whatever may be the case in the persistence of the Members, the Government has remained calm and observant.

To the Opposition and the Leader of Opposition I also acknowledge your contribution in our Chamber. I firmly believe your concerns are for the better of the nation and I trust you will lean on to the Lord for His blessings.

I further acknowledge the Heads of Government Departments and Corporations for your presence in our Sittings. I pray the Lord blesses you all in your duties and service to our Government.

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Motion for Adjournment

Lastly, I acknowledge the support of all of Samoa for your Parliament has made it to the finish line. Thank you for the support and the never ending prayers. I pray the Lord continues to bless you all for the service and care done every day. I acknowledge the village councils, the *faletua ma tausi, saaoa ma tamaitai* for your contribution in the development of Samoa.

Before we conclude I ask the Associate Minister also the Member for Faasaleleaga No.1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow to lead us in a closing prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 10.48am until 9.00am Thursday 27, August 2015.