

MONDAY, 24TH JUNE 2013

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I now announce proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced. In the spirit of respect I wish to greet the dignified and chiefly standard of our House. I believe that we have returned in good health after our rest in the weekend. Praise God for a new day. I feel that we have also arrived with renewed strength to our bodies, minds and especially our spirit. The word of God preached in last Sundays mass reminds that our Cross to bear is our calling and every individual values their calling particularly when fulfilling our roles and responsibilities. Nevertheless, I wish to extend sincere gratitude for we are able to assemble again today given a number of legislations especially lapsed business, otherwise I still feel I should still convey my deepest gratitude for your presence.

I also wish to extend our greatest appreciation to the support of Samoa today. We believe that every droplet of your sweat counts, we deeply feel your support particularly your patience and prayers for the success of your leaders and their duties. There is certainty that any plans set out today, we shall lay them before God, as it is through Him we reach the best decisions.

PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk read out the Select Committee Reports tabled pursuant to Standing Order 51.

1. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 18, Report of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee on the P.P. 2012/2013 No. 43, Samoa Law Reform Commission Annual Report for the Financial Year 2010/2011.
2. P.P. 2013/2014 No. 19, Report of the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee on P.P. 2012/2103 No. 3, Samoa Tourism Authority Annual Report for the Financial year ended 30th June 2011.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE BILL 2013 – third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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Attorney General's Office Bill 2013
– third reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker I rise with all due respect to move a motion, *That the Attorney General's Office Bill 2013 be read a third time.*

Motion seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

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

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Attorney General's Office Bill 2013 has progressed and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– third reading

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister for Revenue): Mr Speaker and esteemed members of the House, I rise to move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2013 be now read a third time.*

Motion seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community, and Social Development and the Deputy Prime Minister.

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

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2013 has progressed and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2012
– consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders 106, the Legislative Assembly must first approve the Select Committee Report on the Bill before opportunity is given for the Bill to be considered in detail.

I call on the honourable Chairperson of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee.

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Constitution Amendment Bill 2012
– consideration in detail

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA (Chairperson of the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee): Mr Speaker with all due respect I move a motion, *That this Legislative Assembly approve the Committee Report to allow the Constitution Amendment Bill 2012 to progress with amendments and corrections.*

Motion seconded by the member for Alataua West, member for Vaimauga West Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua, member for Gagai fomauga No .2, member for Falelatai and Samatau, and the member for Palauli.

Motion approved.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Legislative Assembly now approves the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee Report on the Constitution Amendment Bill 2012.

The Legislative Assembly will now consider the Constitution Amendment Bill 2012 in detail.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 102, consideration in detail will commence with Clause 2.

CLAUSE 2: Member of the Legislative Assembly.

MR SPEAKER: There is an Amendment to Clause 2 as given in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call on the honourable Chairperson of the Justice, Police & Prisons Committee.

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA: Mr Speaker I move an Amendment to Clause 2 as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

To omit the expression “Speaker” and substitute thereby the correct expression “Electoral Comissioner” thus the new subclause (1F) reads:-

“(1F) if, in the selection of the required women under clause (1B), (1D) or (1E), two (2) or more candidates have equal number of votes, the additional Member shall be elected by lot before the Electoral Commissioner with the presence of the candidates or their authorized representatives and at least two (2) police officers”.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the esteemed member.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill 2012
– consideration in detail**

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESIA SCHUSTER (AanaAlofi No. 3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I wish to greet the dignified Parliament as well as the country listening in.

Firstly, I am appreciative Mr Speaker for the opportunity to put my....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance esteemed member, what is....

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESIA SCHUSTER: The part in Clause 2 Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: For Clause 2, I beg tolerance to the member for Aana Alofi No. 3, as you have heard the ayes and we are moving on...you should have risen before the honourable Chairperson concluded his comments.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II (Leader of Opposition): A point of order Mr Speaker.

The Chairperson stood in relation to the Amendment...as he wishes to comment.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance as I now understand why you rose, however, do allow me as I have not put forward the question to nay when I was trying to clarify this circumstance thus the question has not been put to nay. Anyway, I call on the member, do keep it short.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESIA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I also beg your pardon Mr Speaker on any mistake by this Party. Mr Speaker I wish to firstly thank the Committee for considering this matter, as I believe this part is significant to the Act, I convey appreciation as many have expressed their views including mine Mr Speaker when this bill was presented before the House during its second reading.

Firstly, I give thanks for the opportunity to increase the number of women candidates in Parliament, however, your honor my concern and advise as previously proposed, I feel that if women are important so that number is increased and raising the number of Parliamentarians to a total of 54, including the addition of 5 women members, further after Elections, results in more than 10% of women members succeeding every year.

An example Mr Speaker as it is known, and given this slight concern, if there is a rising number of women in the future, we can similarly allocate seats to the increasing number of constituencies as rightfully initiated from the start of our Independence, there was an increasing number of Individual Voters.

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But as of the current, the Individual Voters Roll has decreased, hence some of these vacant seats were allocated to other representatives of our country. This is my viewpoint Mr Speaker, but I fully support the increasing number of women in our country, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I call on the esteemed member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker. There are not many thoughts on the Bill.

I only wish to question the Committee given that the proposed amendments seems to support the old amendment and views submitted during deliberations on this Bill on an appropriate formula to measure large and small constituencies, in case we end up with two representatives for a small constituency at the expense of a large constituency. What exact formula did you mean to submit? This is what we thought should have been provided for Parliament's understanding for the sake of the constituencies. However, only one amendment is submitted. Hence this is why I am quering the Committee on whether they have explored this part of the Bill.

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele I would like to give the opportunity first to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILA EPA FAITALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, the Chairperson rose to propose a very simple amendment in selecting the required number of women under the clause. That proposal is also similar to a raffle. The concept of a raffle is not new. This is not conducted before the Speaker but is carried out before the Electoral Commissioner.

We have had several rulings in the past and when election results yielded a draw; the normal practice used by some judges was to conduct a whole new election. Other judges would appoint the member with the second most votes. Others hold a draw. Therefore, the matter presented by the Committee is important because a Speaker has not been appointed then, but it is vital because the respective person that should be carrying out this draw is the Electoral Commissioner.

Women Parliamentarians in Samoa is not new, they have been in Parliament for sometimes now. By record, the highest number of women in Parliament was four from the last Parliamentary Term. The main attempt is to set a benchmark of 5 which is the central aim of the amendment in the Constitution.

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If the outcome sets at 5 then it means that we will not be using this amendment if the result settles at 5 women succeeding into Parliament which in turn maintains the total 49 members in the House, however, if five is not met, then the amendment is applicable.

That is the provision provided under the Bill. This bill differentiates us from other countries of the world, where the nomination of women from other countries is based on merit.

If you can recall Mr Speaker, the normal procedure in most countries is that only men pursue education whereas women directs their role around the homes and communities, and look after the children as part of their everyday duty. Nevertheless, as life progresses, change was adopted and women are becoming more educated with some holding higher academic achievements. In any part of the world, whatever knowledge they attain, women too hold some of this knowledge.

It is not a bad mechanism to use women who have God given gifts when running and making decisions for a country. This is the main principle of this bill.

Other countries have provisions stipulated in their legislations where some constituencies only allow women to be elected and men are excluded. This rejects the opportunity for men to run as candidates. This is dissimilar to our bill where men are not excluded from running for a position. The only amendment sought and perhaps the only one that differentiates us from the world is one where we use the sorting out total of members, sorting the total, whilst the current total is 49. Hence if the result turns out that only men are selected and zero women, consequently, an additional number of five women is nominated directly. These five counts will reset the number of Parliament members to 54. This is the only amendment embedded in the Constitution Amendment. No other Parliaments in the world ever conducted this amendment before but us, so that men are not exempt from their rights to compete in the elections. That is the second difference to the Bill.

The third distinction as practiced by a number of countries in the world is the nomination of women. This specifies that they run in the ballot without vying through the election process in which five women are nominated aside directly.

The current trend in Parliament is that these women become Parliamentarians without taking part in the election process, and whenever they attempt to comment in Parliament, they are told to be seated as they are known as ‘paper tiger Parliamentarians’ due to the fact that they have not gone through the election process. This is why women refuse to go through the election process in favor of no process that if they lose, they agree to lose in the hands of those who voted their leaders and representatives to Parliament.

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Secondly, women will still run for elections and if this is the normal view by the country where men is clearly dominating the decision making then, this formula is used. Who knows if comes forever and still this five is retained?

Nonetheless this is an opportunity for women to utilize God's gift in supporting Parliament, especially during periods of deliberations given the normal nature of men, hence if a woman succeeds, she is able to fulfill her role as Samoa greatly values one customary principle from the beginning. What is this set principle? The main objective of this principle is to ensure a peaceful harmonise relationship amongst women and her brothers.

Mr Speaker this Bill is not sailing away from Samoa's culture and traditions as set out from the beginning. As established from the start, women were not ignored, they were well known goddesses like Nafanua. Amongst them also was the peaceful ruling and warrior Salamasina. Mr Speaker the contribution of women and their famous salutation 'pae ma auli' is not eliminated, and perhaps their presence in this House can be very assuring for us when seeking harmony and love.

Mr Speaker this bill was not established for any other reason. It is with great essence that I wholly put forward this submission before we reach a final decision today.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your comment Hon Prime Minister. I call on the member for Faleata West who previously commented.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI: I have one query Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister has only spoken on a few sections of the bill but since the start of deliberations, no member has objected from this side on the increasing number of women. We were of the intention that the Committee might have looked into the execution process nevertheless; the bill has already been endorsed. It will depend on the number and the territorial constituencies and query on whether the Committee has considered a formula for implementing this process.

MR SPEAKER: The members view is now understood nonetheless the opportunity is given to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILA EPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Let me provide assistance once again to your continuous upstanding. Another solution to another set number of formulas is provided as.

There is setback with these various formulas which I saw in the newspapers. Our current method is very simple unlike other practices such as holding two votes for the entire country, two for men and the other for women.

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My goodness! This is like a heavy load and huge burden. If with our current system we only mark one X year after another, surely some votes will be cancelled, because even with the X mark, it would be very difficult.

If this adds more to the problem as the rising member is trying to explain, another supplementary view would be ‘nominating members.’ We can have five candidates for the whole country to vote from, which means you have two votes, one for a representative and a vote for a female candidate running out of the 49 or forty plus members from all the territorial constituencies.

Mr Speaker, this amendment holds a very complicated motive in achieving a process that aims to provide a genuine, precise and simple practice which also sets higher standard. One X only and that is it. The criterion of either small or large all comes down to one voting system for all voters regardless of the size using the proposed method. The number of voters in a constituency is another measure. This is the only possible method and if large constituencies were applied, then there will be no possibility for the 40 plus territorial constituencies. This means that only large constituencies will be considered. How then will the other constituencies view this?

It is an unfair process but is considered one of the best that equalizes all women candidates based on equal opportunities to vie in their best abilities and capabilities as representatives.

The process involves equal opportunity for all despite the size of constituency whether large or small. But if the old is applied, there is a positive chance that only four or five large constituencies in the country will have a definite chance of women succeeding in Parliament, whilst the rest has zero including thousands from small sized constituencies.

This is why I rise Mr Speaker, the system we use is one which provides equal opportunities for all in the country.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister on your comments that matches the view of the member. I call on the member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you also to the Hon Prime Minister for your clear comments in accordance with the important bill that is before us comes its final and third reading.

The importance of this Bill, I thank the Minister and everyone who prepared it as it is not easy especially the amendments to the Constitution. If we can recall from one season after another, the reason why there is an increase in thoughts and opinions is so that we are able to obtain vital decisions for the prosperity of the entire country on its every level. Such is the bill before us today.

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Like the Samoan phrase, “*Women have completed their thatching* (E au le inailau a tamaitai po o tina).” In viewing the bill, it seems that it will assist women to achieve their goal. Which is a good undertaking given the set number of women now being established and no matter how we achieve it, majority of these four or five seats will be succeeded to women.

True is my statement on goddesses Salamasina and Nafanua, and other women successors until today who hold higher positions in government Corporations, Ministries, Congregations, village councils, but it seems that Parliament has not achieved this. And I have a submission I wish to relay, I state my full support on this Bill. Thank you for the initiative in ensuring that this point is understood. Only this, is it possible to consider women’s dignifying positions, to allocate them five seats, and still apply the constitution, because this is the foundation set forth from the start, select five for them, to ensure that this was the projected objective of our campaign in preparing us forward in the future and in particular this House. Women have quite a number of contribution which supports us through since men only express their views and ideas whilst at the height of our debates at times, Parliament motive is sometimes steered away from its apt direction due to the absence of this motherly advise which enables us and our country to go through.

Mr Speaker, these are the opinions of Salega in assistance to our topic. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your comments. Thank you member for your comments raised. I call on the member for VaimaugaWest, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (VaimaugaWest): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. My comments are short and based on Vaimauga population as well as submission under the Constitution Part 15. This is rightfully the part which seeks priority to the legislation for the advancement of women. In viewing the Constitution, our forebearers prioritize women and children. The Act sets out one requirement which is seeking equal opportunity for everyone which specifies that either it be men, women, chief or untitled chief, discrimination should not be applied. The constitution was established specifically to differentiate...that any law passed by Parliament to develop women and children, the constitution need not go against it.

In viewing Part 15 of the Constitution on women, not only does the statement of the Constitution states that everyone is treated equally under the law but the execution of the said bill must indicate equal treatment for all. The set bill is an opportunity for everyone.

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I respect the Hon Prime Minister's comments on the essence of the Bill, where women must take heed of the opportunity to add more number to Parliament. The member of Vaimauga West does not object, given that this is a very suitable and pleasing practice.

Only this I say, the bill only applies to adding five women if the required number is not met after the elections. Hence women still has equal opportunity if this five is elected. So when this is implemented, the percentage is converted such that the total percentage of voters is obtained from the maximum number of these women candidates. This is where the effect of the bill, for me alone, is different from the essence of the constitution and what will happen in the future. Women are given the opportunity but not equally with the process.

With us in the VaimaugaWest constituency, we are now acquiring over 8,000 voters. In comparison to other constituencies, for instance, if there is a total of 400 voters and women candidates are running from Vaimauga West along with them in this 400. If a woman runs from the VaimaugaWest earning them 1,500 votes from a roll of 8,000, whilst a woman candidate running from a roll of 400 earns 200 votes, therefore 50% is achieved, but this percentage will not be earned by the 1,500 voters of Vaimauga. This is based on the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill which in my view, is not the same practice that casts a burden over us at Vaimauga and other large constituencies; giving women very less possibility in comparison to women running from small constituencies. That is my only recommendation to your Hon Prime Minister and that side of the House.

The Bill is excellent, but in moving forward we need more opportunity for us in Vaimauga West. If it is an amendment to simplify matters now, then good. But in the future, we should still coincide with our Constitution and Bill, so that opportunity need not disregard us from Vaimauga West given our small number.

That is my opinion I wish to submit before the House. Thank you very much Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for your comments member for the House of Vaimauga. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I am of the opinion that any change we make should be measured according to its implementation. Not all proposed amendments results in major shift because in final they will not be considered. That is the nature of life, any proposed change is insensitive which can lead to numerous consequences.

The bill before us today speaks open opportunities within our given times. God has abundant days, it is unpredictable because most of its occurrences today is good as it relates to the bill.

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For example Mr Speaker when Parliament was removed from this side, this was the first time a Prime Minister was being removed from his position over a particular reason due to a piece of legislation. Confirmed information recorded that there were some disqualified votes in the past over some deceased victims.

Government amendment proposals on ways to minimize such issues from occurring created them the idea to produce identifications (IDs) which was 100% important. IDs must be created so that officers can confirm your identifications in the...then it is ticked, without knowing that further issues will arise from it. What were these issues? People will no longer have to travel and cast their vote, instead running candidates will have to do the work and collect the voters. They get picked up, create IDs today, tomorrow and the next, settling a response that none has been produced when over 10 IDs have been created which in turn leads us to one sole purpose - to earn them monetary gift which is practically carried out by many others on a frequent basis.

Mr Speaker, this explanation is only an example. We are unsure of the possibilities and if by chance, the result turns out that Vaimauga West succeeds and wins all the time based on this condition. The difference noted such as in the position of the Deputy Chairman of the Rugby Union it has confirmed votes of 50%. And if this 50% turns out to be all women in favor of men, then there is no possible chance for men. That is the situation Mr Speaker, we are only speaking in theory, but more amendments will be in place once the legislation is enforced. For us to reject and put a hold on this bill will prevent us from determining better ways to develop this process, the intention is to assist women in enriching their goal. Thus is the saying, not only do we view the legislation as one which equalizes all, but one we must learn to execute according to our theory.

Mr Speaker, that is my final rise, given that opportunity is soon to be granted as the saying of the country goes, 'God's days is never-ending.' What does this phrase means? It is derived from this chance, for whatever ways to interpret this opportunity for Sāmoa in order for women to complete their goal in support to the House and the country who nominated us.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the honourable Chairperson as there are two more members left.

I call on the member for Siumu.

Tofa TUUU ANASII LEOTA (Siumu): Thank you Sir for the opportunity. I rise to express my views on the Bill in the belief that this Bill is vital with Government's aim to prioritize equal opportunities for women. I also wish to render my full support to this matter.

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However the matter as clearly stated by the Hon Prime Minister with the process we are currently conducting gives rise to that typical suspicious feeling. The comment by the Prime Minister states that women elected internationally get into a mocking stage along the process. This is a major concern to our current process, if women win these seats, there will be a major concern which speaks the truth about...in case any woman gets overexcited when occupying these seat, then I recall the joke by the comedians Petelo and Sumeo, (.....).

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I pay high respect to the esteemed member particularly other members who wish to take the floor today. We have reached the amendment to the Bill where all comments on the amendment should be divided from the bill as presented by the honorable Chairperson. Due to the importance of this matter, I still feel that opportunity should be granted for the benefit of that side of the House. Comments are all scattered around when it all means one thing whics is to remove the Speaker and be replaced by... to conduct a vote on similar results (draw) that is the clarification. I beg tolerance incase we get another similar comment, and joke about it when we are generally deliberating on the bill, otherwise I extend great thanks for your submission has been well laid out.

I wish to grant the final opportunity to the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4, before we conclude with our difficult Leader of Opposition. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No .4): Thank you for the opportunity Mr Speaker, I believe that the entire Parliament is now familiar with the bill as discussed, and I wish to rise and provide a short submission on behalf of my constituency as it duly supports the bill presented herewith.

Do note Mr Speaker, this constituency succeeded some of the most essential womens in the past and none anymore until today, but I wish to convey utmost gratitudes to your Mr Speaker given the amendments to this bill, I believe Faasaleleaga No.4 holds a number of qualified and competent women. But I wish to submit a view to amending the provision of....I wish to query the situation after the elections such as when women obtain draw results or one such as myself or another male couterpart, because it is a fair decision that a draw should be conducted keeping in mind Mr Speaker the idea of a professional fighter, if a person challenges the champion of the world and when it comes to a draw, a judge or referee's final decision is awarded to the one who holds the belt of the world, similarly is the person who represents a seat.

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In similar to this practice, why not let the Committee reconsider it and remove the term draw that is if I were to occupy my constituency's seat and I am considered a draw in the end, for simplicity reasons, why not refer directly to a final decision, or simply grant the opportunity to the current seat holder. Do note that a draw only applies if I did not succeed my constituency's seat, and two new members are now vying for it in which a draw is applicable. But if I hold a draw with another candidate, that is the motive with all due respect, the opportunity should be granted to the one who represented the constituency before, because 5 years is not an easy service to the constituency.

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done on your comments your Associate Minister. I beg tolerance to the Leader of Opposition as I give the opportunity first to the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, before the final opportunity is granted to the Leader of Opposition, I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration): Mr Speaker with regards to the Amendment currently under discussion, I support it, the subjectmatter on the Chairperson and the Committee is simple which provides recommendations to the Parliament. Secondly Mr Speaker, as you all notice, there are only two women members in the House that includes myself and the honourable member for Faasaleleaga No.1 and based on what I have heard this morning, I am saddened with the language used given the repetitive general statements said on the bill.

Lest not the aim to achieve the purpose of the bill be an endorsement to some parts of this bill which uses foul language which should be omitted.

The Hon Prime Minister elaborated clearly about those running through the elections procedural process for women nomination in countries abroad other than holding a general election as per normal standard procedure which poses a different view from the people. The Prime Minister's notable clarification in terms of language is explicit and acceptable. However in rise of the member for Siumu and his comment which he expressed with reference to comedians Sumeo and Petelo on a statement he refers to as, 'ua le o se pusi atoa a o se afa pusi po o se fasi pusi,' *it is not a whole cat but a half cat.* Mr Speaker, I do not tolerate this kind of language in this House, it is disrespectful and it is racist against women, this is called 'two mouths' faauigalua. If the House and your honor do not understand the term 'pusi'(cat) I can reiterate if you are not clear, but we are all aware of it.

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This I beg of you Mr Speaker, I requestfully ask, to have these words spoken by the member of Siumu be omitted, they are disrespectful, inappropriate and indicates the underestimation of women which is the very essence of the bill. That is my request your honor Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I believe you have spoken your Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration and I speak with utmost respect for you are one of the very last Jews in this House, not to mention, you are a role model for all women inside this House.

I beg your pardon on the offensive language used with regards to its purpose but I accept your comments in the spirit of respect. I beg tolerance in the standard of general comments in order to gain further understanding however we have overlooked this, hence your comments are correct Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, I feel with essence your deference, based on the level of words spoken by the Associate Minister and I beg tolerance.

This is also the intention of the Associate Minister in clarifying his opinions but if we have skipped over, then please do forgive me.

I instruct the statement spoken by the esteemed member to be removed.

I call on the member for Siumu.

(The Speaker instructed that words spoken by the member for Siumu be removed from the Hansard: “e le o se pusi atoa a o le afa pusi”)

Tofa Hon TUUU ANASII LEOTA: Mr Speaker, I beg your pardon Sir and the dignified House. I do not know the words I uttered were offensive, there are far more unpleasantary words than these, but the words spoken are clear, if...let the Hon Minister comment on her definition of ‘cat’ and the ‘cat’ that I know.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member, as I feel we should not deliberate over this matter. The chair considers the view of women pursuant to how she feels.

We should not debate over a cat, in case we recount the origins of a cat and never know this may prolong our session. Otherwise, I accept the comments of the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration and I beg tolerance to the esteemed member in our endeavor to distribute time evenly and obtain transparent information without affecting any members’ opinions. Nonetheless, knowing that this is a very sensitive issue otherwise I believe it has been settled accordingly.

I call on the Hon Leader of Opposition.

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Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM (Individual Voters): Mr Speaker with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Any member for Individual Voters, I have made my decision that the Hon Leader shall make the final comment.

Afioga MAUALAIVAO PAT AH HIM: Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: You will get another opportunity when we reach the consideration in detail of the Bill, this is not the final opportunity, as we progress with our discussion. I call on the Leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Thank you for another opportunity granted. Mr Speaker, no it is not that we are intractable, but seeking opportunities and I appreciate your distribution of opportunities to us this fresh morning.

Praise and thanksgiving is before God this morning, especially seeing that this is a very unique morning starting from Friday until now, and as witnessed that side is still in its regrouping form and spirit that is very obvious in our deliberations.

Mr Speaker, for the sake of women and Samoa listening in, the Opposition fully supports women with regards to the increasing number in the House. The only reason the Opposition contests with regards to the process in place, as in the Hon Prime Minister's apparent statement, similarly to our view it is like *'the chicken is stoned whilst the meshstick is held, 'togi le moa ae uu le afa.*

Such is our intention to the women listening in, in which we support given the normal procedure, allocate five seats to women, why worry? If the amendment to the Constitution to amend the number of women in the House is correct. That is our concern, allocates five seats and if the results turns out that 10 women succeeds on top of these additional five, then the total number of women in the House will be 15. Consider the chairman's report, most of the women in organizations and committees are only after the women's official set number.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the Leader of Opposition as the opportunity shall be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: A point of order Mr Speaker. I am unclear of what the member is trying to say hence there is no other possible way, this is the only solution where we can obtain five, which is the minimum number that can grow.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill 2012
– consideration in detail**

The reason for this statement states that incase anyone views it differently, when the method initiated here is simple and is considered the most possible method that will officially determine the minimum five which has no limit when it grows.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, as the opportunity is granted to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker, thank you as I take note of the dignified Chamber.

I rise with all due respect, I have already made a decision on every aspect of the legislation but as noted, they are general comments on the bill as a whole and its achievement. However, I wish to point out one specific statement. I was invited by the non-governmental organization for Women, under the umbrella of SUNGO on Saturday night, on an event which involved their compilation that required...this being one of the matters raised by women, which I clarified in depth and was gratefully received by this convention.

My main concern, lest the opportunity be granted for members to generally comment, when clarification was well taken by the women who are the king orators of the country through their chiefly titles and in this gathering, their 'easy to take in views and gratitude expressed before the government was indeed their honest intention. The statement addresses the intention for those women running under reserved seats, otherwise known as 'second status citizens' in which the government finds it difficult to pronounce this term...but the comments stated by the Prime Minister is nonetheless not a mistake, whereby any member wishing to issue a statement on woman candidate, which by the way would have been more clearer if that side understood enough otherwise, this means that if 5 seats is not achieved through the nomination process as stipulated in the constitution or 10%, then the General Elections is still held for all the candidates.

Other than the selection criteria process submitted for women's nomination is also government's utmost motive whilst there is still hope. There is pressing demand for women's voice to be heard, so they too can represent and contribute immensely as evident in some of them being heads of government Ministries and Corporations.

In reality, due to the rising number of women I believe that in the upcoming elections, if the Constitution Amendment principle is achieved, that no less than 50 or close to 100 women in total will run for the ballot. Who knows if comes the 2016 General Elections and the increasing number women will compete as candidates...that is why we must...

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– consideration in detail**

That this will undoubtedly be agreed on in the views of women leaders of SUNGO and those leading these non-government organisations when working collaborately with the Government to attain an insight and clarification on this from Saturday night. They have also accepted the proposed amendments in case their general comments befit their thoughts; lest however, time is now closed for such comments. Hence, I present this respectfully before the House.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I rise on the raising matter by the Hon Minister on his general comments regarding 50 or over 50, in case this becomes a threat to some candidates. And in case that 50 turns out with two only as we have at present, conversely this becomes a threat to other candidates.

In case this becomes a threat to our Parliament members when we currently have two, and four from the previous term and again, we might obtain two. We never know if opportunity comes considering the normal government procedure. It seems that men are getting a better chance, but, time has changed and more people are becoming educated, so with time period, we might gain another three in addition to the current two we have now, then this legislation will never be enacted.

This legislation will only come into effect if the 30% is not achieved, but is not a law which restrain us men from running in case opportunity falls more on men and the Minister's general statement is a threat.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that the matter is now clear, I beg tolerance over that side of the House, your Leader of Opposition and members who rose, that is the intention of the Chair.

The Committee's report is now before us and there is a slight amendment for us to go through which once again leads us to the formula. There were meetings conducted by the Committee in which you should have sought their opinions and clarification on regarding these matters hence I requestfully put forward that government responses have already been submitted. I am unaware of any responses other than this in which the chair feels that the matter has been entirely settled. The honourable Chairperson I believe in comparison to the member for Sagaga le Falefa. We do not need to question the integrity of the honourable Chief Executive Officer of the Electoral Commission. There is absolutely no opportunity for troubled expressions I beg tolerance, to the House.

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– consideration in detail**

The Hon Prime Minister has clearly stated that we take it easy, and let us consider slowly the first four and half of that. In case we want too much and the plant is only very small, a plant which needs revival, through small pours, not chuck it with a bucket of water in case the new plant gets carried away. So may I remind members and the leader of Opposition in case we discuss the complexity of the matter when the amendment beforehand is to omit the Speaker when a Speaker is not yet nominated during this period hence the role is taken over by an Electoral Commissioner who does the election of candidates with similar results (draw) on the similar day.

Nonetheless, the opportunity is given to the Leader of Opposition to conclude his comments before we progress with our work.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: My views need not be prolonged only this I wish to make clear for the Opposition's sake concerning this subjectmatter.

The Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development interjected with a statement on a second class is exactly where this bill lies together with amendments such as the Opposition's intention for women not to be categorized as second class but first class because this amendment relates to additional members to second class when Opposition aims for first class, grant them five and increase the number of female representatives to first class level in the election.

Another issue your honor is the official statements by the chairman and matters with SUNGO that is brought before the House. Mr Speaker, most of these women who approached were automatically granted five seats. When Elections are held, the outcome turns out that 10 will succeed totaling up to fifteen (15) members which is exactly the point we are trying to raise. If women are listening in, that is our main motive. However the Prime Minister has commented, let us discuss this slowly and steadily because considering women in first class as stipulated in the proposed amendment.

That is all I wish to comment about with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the Leader of Opposition as the opportunity shall be given to the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I now take it that the comments of the the Leader of Opposition and the members of that side support the bill 100% except on the condition of second class, there are no such classes in this Bill in case women categorise themselves as second class or economy class. The bill does not have any classification categories if elections results turns out that all women succeeds then they are all in first class.

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Again we have noted our full support on this matter however if there are any objections to the results, how then, will the women view this, you literally have two mouths, that is what you call ‘two mouths’. That means you are all marked X by women in the next elections. That is what I wish to state as women are listening, you are all marked X. Hence at least the country too has heard that there are no second classes which is also clear for the women.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: A point of order Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Leader of Opposition.

Afiog Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: If it is being heard that that there are no other votes against this other than the matter beforehand your Hon Prime Minister. We support second class with great sadness as proposed, additional members do consider this attempt. If a woman enters through this process this is viewed as an additional member. Do classify this if second class or....

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, I take my hat off as you are all as mentioned are against this. That is the only concern I wish to note.

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA: Just an additional comment Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the honourable Chairperson.

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA: Let me firstly respond to the query the Leader of Opposition concerning on the additional member or other members who have expressed their views on this similar matter. If you note under the constitution 44(a) (a) the statement is clear in amending a time where the territorial constituencies were amended into two seats. Hence this similar term applies to these members or part members as it is clear that they are all additional members.

Mr Speaker, I shall continue my explanation on this Bill given that our Committee did not consider it lightly as we took out most of our time in sharing our chiefly intentions and views inside our Committee. As you are all aware of the judge, honorable Lefau and Papalii are some of the gentlemen who have sound knowledge of the bill and especially members from this side. It was a prolonged process and most of them – if you have read the Committee’s report thoroughly, it is clear that this Bill is very important.

I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister and those who took part in this Bill because we must first of all clarify, and if we end up with 49 seats in Parliament after elections, 10, 5 or more than that, there are 10 women in total, therefore, this bill will not be used as clarified by the Prime Minister.

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– consideration in detail**

There is no need for us to worry, however if it is below the stipulated requirement then the bill is taken into consideration for women to make up the five numbers or 10% of the seats. As heard on your statements, your wonderful comments are very assuring. All women of Samoa now has a raising standard particularly in government Ministries, State Owned Enterprises, as you are also aware of the Main Budget in the previous week, three of the 16 SOEs gained a profit, and these three SOEs are all women. Notice and behold the wonderful accomplishments by these women. This means I fully approve your comments which I proposed.....

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance to the Committee Chairperson. Is there another matter you wish to relay member for FaleataWest?

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: As the honourable Chairperson is moving away from the queries that were submitted, hence the query is directly pointed out and I am pleased with everything however the time for this formula to be used as he states has not yet been reached, they have not reach it yet during their investigation which the heart is satisfied with it. I am very saddened with this Committee and their work.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude you comments Chairperson.

Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA: The formula as raised by the esteemed member I believe if you thoroughly had a read through it is very clear in the Bill. It is set out in 1b, 1d for 49 seats. The bill requires 10% of 5 Chairs; if this number is not attained then the Bill is used. However, with 49 seats in Parliament, if five women achieve this number after elections, then the Bill will not be used. There is no reason why you should be overly distressed as the Bill is clear for women to be part of and increase Parliament.

Another member for Vaimauga, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster raised a question which until I get it then I will go through the question by the member for AanaAlofi No.3, the percentage as mentioned. I believe we have discussed this matter in our Committee for some time and it is clear that there are conditions by the Electoral Commissioner to divide these territorial constituencies into two seats. Therefore if your constituency is halved then there will be a difference in numbers which will go equally with other constituencies.

This is also the belief of our Committee where set requirements need not differentiate other territorial constituencies as well as those constituencies with increased number of votes. There is one specific formula applied to all official ballot booths in all constituencies, hence one legislation as set out in the bill.

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– consideration in detail**

Such is my view on the question raised, which is clear the Hon Prime Minister has already clarified and so as your honor Mr Speaker, the task is under the jurisdiction of the Electoral Commissioner where the draw is conducted before the honorable Commissioner before submission is before the House. It would be an embarrassment if all women vote results are submitted before the House and the Clerk conducts a similar draw because in due time a Speaker has not yet been nominated. I believe it is the same draw unless we get a win of two women win, I take it we will not adopt the dignified way or procedure such as, ‘you today and I tomorrow’.

Your honourable member for Faasaleleaga No.4, I beg your pardon that this is not a fight, there are different definitions to fighting over a draw and the draw we are discussing, this is a different, hence until a fight match starts, then your opinion be carried through with due respect. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you for your clarifying comments your honourable chairperson. I feel that we have reached the true essence of this amendment to the Constitution and I give thanks to the responses by the members. Do not take this personally your honorable Chairperson; it is not easy as we are handling the Constitution, given the spirit and thought of bearing importance for women within our country. Nevertheless, the matter beforehand is now clear and justifiable.

Amendment approved.

Clause 2 approved with an Amendment.

CLAUSE 3: Interpretation of the “Public Servants Services”.

Approved.

CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Constitution Amendment 2012

MR SPEAKER: There is a Correction on Clause 1 and Title as shown in the Supplementary Order Paper.

I call on the Chairman.

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Constitution Amendment Bill 2012
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Afioga TUISA TASI PATEA: Mr Speaker I move the Correction to Clause 1 and Title which reads:-

“CORRECTIONS:

Clause 1 and Title:

To omit the number “2012” and substitute thereby the number “2013” thus Clause 1 and Title reads:

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2013”.

Correction approved.

Clause 1 and Title approved with a Correction.

The Constitution Amendment Bill 2013 progressed along with Amendment and Correction.

MR SPEAKER: I turn to the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE STANDING ORDERS

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I rise to convey my sincere appreciation and congratulations to all the members in the House for their opinions expressed on this Bill, it is not easy for Government to take in your views. Hence I rise to extend heartfelt thanks, as I feel that this is one of those very important sittings and motion for our country listening in.

Any constitutional amendment does not suddenly occur without a purpose which is to fully utilize all talents and abilities of our own people for the development of our country, for whatever responsibility whether it be Parliamentary obligation, or the duty of the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries or CEOs of Corporations, let us prioritize our people, whether it be a man or woman, they too have God given gifts, and we shall not withstand these opportunities for them to fulfill. These are ways to obtain inflow blessings into the country, which all falls from the mountains.

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Motion to Set Aside Standing Orders

Hence is the reason I rise in the spirit of respect to move a motion, *That the Standing Orders of the House be set aside and let us proceed with the third reading.*

Motion seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and Standing Orders 107(4) were set aside.

MR SPEAKER: The Bill will be scheduled for its third reading sometimes today, and we will proceed with our work as per usual standards.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I rise with due regards to the motion moved, as it is not hidden for members to rise again hence, it is better that we progress with our divisional vote.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I second that we proceed pursuant to the Constitution Amendment. This Side is ready with all due respect.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2013 – third reading

MR SPEAKER: I believe that the motion by the Hon Prime Minister is appropriate and is seconded and passed so that the Constitutional Bill 2013 be now read a third time.

Pursuant to provisions in Article 109 of the Constitution, in order for the 2/3 votes to be achieved, I turn to the Clerk to ring the bell for our vote, whilst members upstand and call their votes.

Bell pealed.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your patience in the House. We have now reached our Divisional Vote. For the information of the House, I will say the question for members who wish to stand in support of the motion.

Your names will be called out by the Clerk and each member shall be seated once their names have been called and that is how we progress with our votes.

Question: I call on all dignified members who wish to support the motion on the amendments to the Constitution 2013 be upstanding.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill 2013
– third reading**

DIVISIONAL VOTE

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi.
 Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo.
 Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa.
 Tofa Hon TuilomaLameko.
 Afioga Hon FaumuinaTiatiaFaaolataneLiuga.
 Afioga Hon TuisugaletauaSofaraAveau.
 Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua.
 Afioga Hon Le MameaRopati.
 Afioga Hon TuitamaTalaleleiTuitama.
 Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu.
 Afioga Hon FaamoetauluaUlaitino FaaleTumaalii.
 Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokai Posala.
 Afioga Hon Sala Fata LisatiPinati.
 Afioga Hon LeaupepeToleafoa Apulu Faafisi.
 Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota.
 AfiogaToeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster.
 TofaTapuaiToese Ah Sam.
 TofaAveauTuala Lepale NikoPalamo.
 TofaTuileutu AlavaaVoi.
 Tofa Lealaipule Rimoni Aiafi.
 Afioga Afualo Wood UtiSalele.
 Tofa LevaopoloTalatonu.
 Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.
 Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta.
 Afioga Hon PalusaluaFaapo II.
 Tofa Fagaaivalu Kenrick Samu.
 Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua.
 Tofa AloFulifuliTaveuveu.
 TofaTuiloaAnetelea.
 Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa.
 AfiogaTuisaTasiPatea.
 Tofa Lenatai Victor FaafoiTamapua.
 Tofa Sooalo Mene.
 AfiogaTaefuLemi.
 Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors.
 Susuga IfopoFilisi.
 AfiogaTialavea Fea Tioniso Seigafolava.
 TofaTusa MisiTupuola.
 Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.
 Afioga Peseta VaiifouTevaga.
 AfiogaTafuaMaluelueTafua.
 Afioga Hon GatoloaifaanaAmatagaAlesana Gidlow.
 Susuga PapaliiteleNiko Lee Hang.
 Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa.

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**Constitution Amendment Bill 2013
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: Well done. Those on the contrary to the motion, please rise.

NAY – 0

MR SPEAKER: The Speaker has witnessed that there is no member who is against the motion.

This is the end of our vote. All those who supported the Constitution Amendment Bill 2013 is 44. All those who opposed, none. I now announce that the question put has approved the third reading of the Bill, with a complete 2/3 majority of members of Parliament, which is officially approved.

Motion approved and the Constitution Amendment Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed the Legislative Assembly.

MR SPEAKER: Today I wish to announce that after Bill had progressed, the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2013 is now officially passed by Parliament.

In view, fisher Samea goes out fishing for a reason or ‘*things happen for a reason*’. Hence, this morning marks one of the milestones in our Parliament particularly for the women of our country. Your esteemed duties and roles as spelt out in the traditional salutation as dignified Aiga, Aiga and their Tama, Tama and Aiga tainane le usoga a Pule ma Tumua Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. Hence is the feeling of gratitude upon this House, Samoa e, you still value your traditions and foundation, with women being the core function of family covenant and lineage. I convey my deepest gratitude to the House today, as I feel that this is a very unique morning given the support of men towards our women. Let God’s name be glorified for all that he’s done and let us pray that for the first time ever in history, our women will represent and serve you as we continue with our work.

That is the spirit that we cannot set aside, thus conveying our appreciation to the House, such that this bill has reached its conclusion which took us several days and nights to deliberate on, and extend sincere gratitude to the Government, Committee and esteemed members for your preparations today.

I also wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the support of Samoa and various members of the public from dignified members particularly the support of faleupolu and that of our women, let us ponder and prepare to serve Samoa through your sound decision making in your salutation as ‘pae male auli’ for Samoa and serving the government. Hence I wish to convey heartfelt appreciation and may today’s work be blessed.

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NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BILL 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: During adjournment time on Friday 21 June 2013, the Hon Minister of Health was speaking in response to the issues raised by the member over the second reading of the Bill.

I respectfully ask the Hon Minister of Health to rise and continue with his comments.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker, I will no longer comment on the issue raised as your honor have already stated pursuant to this brand new morning, it is a new morning for the women of Samoa, I shall now set records straight according to the proceedings of today's sitting as also noted as of today's session shall not prolong given a few more matters left on our agenda.

Mr Speaker, during adjournment from our previous sitting, my classification was towards some raising issues by members, pursuant to the National Health Services Bill. Hence as you all aware as per discussion your views are noted by Satuiamaa, the bill is not new, as per negotiations from the past, whenever there is slight amendments that is before the House. Hence during adjournment from last sitting, I have responded to most of the issues raised except for very few, which I will now clarify.

The member for Faleata West raised the matter on hospital fees, this is the second member to have raised this concern, for the Ministry to reconsider medical bills or patient fees. There is a certainty as discussed in the House, that of the current the services provided is insufficient compared to the improved service standard not only within the service area given the numerous changes taken place, but also the rendered services at the emergency area.

The view is correct and I feel grateful to the views and concerns raised, that within the Ministry such issues needs to be addressed and provide recommendations, because at the current, very small portion is financed by members of the country compared to the improved health services provided. Hence such recommendations will be submitted for the Ministry's consideration to further improve health standards.

As clearly identified patient medical checkup is not inexpensive, we are still offering free treatment for patients in the hospital, but for further clarification of this matter, the service provided is not free whilst most costs is compensated by the government. Patients' fee is only \$5 tala, and distribution of this expenditure is allocated to checking and assessing the individual patient, whilst I am of the opinion that this price has perhaps increased to \$10 tala per individual patient.

I will clarify and analyze these services starting from patients arrival, which begins from finding your medical registration number or the patient's medical records.

These people are paid for, even with the general services of those at the entry point of the Out-patient unit, such as nurses, porters as well as security personnels until they reach the general practitioners.

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National Health Service Bill 2013
– second reading

The doctors have their own separate fees in comparison to private practitioners, after this, they proceed to the treatment area. The treatment area involves medicinal, injections; operation and dressing which are all covered under this \$5.00tala fee. Upon the requirement of a special medical service, such as those of surgeons, pediatricians, gynecologists, or any specialist including pharmacists the patients are referred to these specialists whenever there is lack in the services provided in the hospital. After this they will proceed to the laboratory. To obtain a blood test if required, the laboratory service also involves payment. Further along the process comes the pharmaceutical unit which supplies appropriate medicine for the sick.

If all these services are combined together starting from entry point until you exit the hospital, the total cost for all the aforementioned services offered is large and significant. If distributed amongst the services provided, at the expense mentioned, this totals up to \$50tala per patient alone. If we go into midnight at any given time and only one patient pays a visit within a given hour, this will cost over \$500 tala or \$600 tala which covers the services of all health officials offered for this individual patient, whilst government provides a larger compensation for this same patient. It is in this regard that I wish to convey my appreciation as the House is now considering the views of that side, which has enable us to fully understand the numerous tasks executed by our government in catering and improving the health services of our country. I render my utmost appreciation to your great support upon the work we carry out, with sincere hope that we shall continue working together towards implementing our health services.

I believe these are the only concerns left from my clarification pursuant to...there were other issues raised by some members whom are not present with us today, hence I raise the view that I do not wish to waste my time in clarifying them when they are not present.

That is all Mr Speaker, that is my clarification and I request that you put forward the question with all due respect.

Motion approved and the National Health Service Bill 2013 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the Bill will be now referred to the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee for its consideration and shall report to the Legislative Assembly in a future sitting.

I convey my deepest appreciation this part of the day; I believe that we have reached our usual recess; I feel that we should have a break as set out in our sitting schedule.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:45am.

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National Health Service Bill 2013
– second reading

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly recommenced at 11:15am.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative has recommenced.

I feel at the conclusion of our break this morning, I believe we have regained our strength given our morning tea provided. Our office's intended purpose and expectation is to secure your health with refreshment which I believe is enough for us to continue with our work. I once again convey my appreciation to the House for your patience.

Our work shall progress as scheduled on the fifth day, returning from our recess the Hon Minister of Health was about to conclude with his responses to the Bill, we shall refer it to our Committee as per normal procedure, and it shall report back to our House sometimes in the future.

TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL 2013
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For the information of the Parliament, this Bill was first read on 30th May 2013.

I call on the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013 be read a second time and I wish to comment further on it.*

Motion seconded by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Prime Minister for his comments.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, I feel that we have fully received the refreshments provided; I convey my appreciation to your honor as well as the office.

I rise to shortly clarify this bill, it is a short bill that probably contains one, two, three or four amendments provided in this paper, it is a bill that serves to re-amend the Trade, Commerce and Industry Bill 1990. The slight changes provided Mr Speaker, includes the standards of establishing a taskforce committee, which comprises of the setting up, appointment and term of appointment for members, as noted by the House, three years of service, the official members of resignation and removal of and scheduled meetings of the Committee.

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Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

There is also amendment to change the Clerk from this period, where the Clerk must also called the Chief Executive Officer, to go in hand with how we call it nowadays – the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Speaker, this Bill as presented states that a Minister is a chairperson. This part of the Bill has been revised by the Attorney General's Office that even if there are no contradiction with other government bills in place today. The Committee is unlike a Board Committee such as the ones we currently have now instead of a taskforce Committee where consultation is conducted on matters relating to the government and the private business enterprises.

There is opportunity for another member from the private owned business to take part in this Committee much to a necessary basis.

Under this Bill Mr Speaker, there is no legal binding on the condition of the Committee to invite a person from other Ministries whenever it is a requirement. For example, the famers seeking consultation on matters relating to this sector.

Mr Speaker, those are some of the slight amendments pursuant to the consequential amendment presented before the House. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: As noted...I give the opportunity to members who wish to speak. I call on the honourable member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you Mr Speaker, especially the esteemed and dignified House. Nay, I stand as my concerns are very simple, the Hon Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister has commented on this very important bill. However, I wish to speak on the composition of the Committee given in this Bill. In my opinion one of the strategies for its improved economic development in the country is through agriculture.

By seeing this taskforce Committee, there is no member from the Ministry of Agriculture nor any farmer representative. Do note dignified members of the House; this is one Ministry or sector of the government where we highly depend on, not only in seeking good health for our people but also trading services. Because even if we look at our products in overseas markets, it is true that there is not much gained from the Ministry of Agriculture but if seek other ways to selling our agricultural products, there is a positive opportunity for our farmers in the country to gain contribution. Hence as discussed by the Hon Minister, there is opportunity to invite our farmers to be consulted with these given opportunities.

In viewing this Committee, there is a representative from the Tourism Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Private Sector, a representative from the Association of Manufacturers. Even though it is true that a representative through the Private Sector and Chamber and Commerce sector the products, but I still believe that farmers are one of the strong pillars in the country.

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Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

Hence I am in view, that whatever opinion the House as well as that of the dignified Committee, I believe that a representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture** should be involved, otherwise if not then perhaps a member from the Farmers Association.

With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. The opportunity is now awarded to the Deputy Prime Minister. There are other members who wish to comment Deputy Prime Minister. It is good to grant the opportunity to the member so that you will have one time to give your clarification. I call on the member for Saleaula.

Tofa LEVAOPOLO TALATONU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. My view of this constituency is very short in accordance to the Bill. Thank you Hon Minister especially the Ministry, I keep note of the expectations behind this aim, that is pushing our products to overseas markets especially our agricultural products.

Just a humble request or suggestion to your Hon Minister, this part of agriculture which has taken us quite a while to fulfill, the insufficient agricultural products. We should find other methods or ways for our farmers, particularly specialised machinery such as tractors and the like. Could your Hon Minister consider the revision of the LTA Act in extending the timeframe for tractors to be used by farmers. Look at the farmers in Fiji whereby their economy is growing strong because of these farming, we do not intend to weed and the like because this can be operated by these tractor machinery and can structure land.

Even with planting of taro leaves, such machinery can be used with very few labour intensity to production growth. Hence it is pertinent to allow a review on raising method standards to be used by farmers in order to raise production for our exports. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call on the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Proceedings now cut due to technical difficulties with the sound system and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for 6 minutes.

MR SPEAKER: I now announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have been resumed. It is shown today that our work should be resumed. I now give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

24TH JUNE 2013

Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, that Minister has already spoken hence what is your concern, because from my view, it seems that is only a question, but I beg your pardon that side, let us proceed with our orders in this Paper before we give it a break?

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I rise with respect to second the comments of the Prime Minister. I beg tolerance of that side; we will proceed because we can always get another chance in the Committee. This is my assistance with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I believe that is the procedure we shall continue and schedule the works of the Committee given the issue on our resources. I believe we have reached the end of our work for today. I wish to extend the spirit of gratitude to the dignified House as our testimony is vastly different from that of God. The Lord has extensively told us to give it a rest but due to the view of the Leader of Opposition. Nonetheless, today's plan is.....

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker, since I have noticed that the Leader of that side has met his will, we will draft a letter for all to sign for his removal.

Seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Motion approved and the Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013 will be given to the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee for consideration and will report to the Legislative Assembly in a future sitting.

We will rest today with great respect. I am certain that the spirit of gratitude is not minimal within our House due to our meeting today, beginning from Monday of the previous week, your views and concerns have been appreciated beginning from the discussion of the Main Budget until today and its set Bills. The spirit of thanks need not be diminished from the Chair even though we have ended our session due to the inconvenience of resources but let God's name be praised. I pray that God will guide you safely to your unfinished tasks and duties until we meet again on the scheduled date.

I wish to convey my appreciation to the dignified and dedicated Heads of all Government Ministries gathered here today, thank you all for your hard work. I believe that 'atoa tupe I le fafao' or *the box is filled with money* due to your hard work and dedicated sweat and service for the government particularly for Samoa.

24TH JUNE 2013

Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2013
– second reading

There is an important event pertaining to our Parliament tomorrow, Tuesday 25th June 2013 at 1.00pm where Parliament is invited by the President of the Samoa Red Cross Association, Afioa MatataualiitaAfa Lesa to participate in Promoting Respect for International Humanity Law a Handful for Parliamentarians of Samoa. I requestfully pray that our Parliament attends this very important event at Luafatasaga, Mulinuu as we have all been officially invited by this important organization in the country known as First Aid or Red Cross.

Before the meeting is adjourned I call on the Leader of Opposition to prepare us with a prayer.

Prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 11:37am until Tuesday 6th August 2013 at 9.00am, in accordance with the Parliamentary Sitting Program 2013/2014.