

MONDAY, 24th MARCH 2014

Mr Speaker took the chair at 9.00 am.

Prayers.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: We are grateful this new morning as the House has risen in good health and spirit. Whilst resting towards the end of the week, I believe we have returned blissfully due to Gods merciful love and kindness. I have noticed that everyone are in good spirits and are determined to carry out the orders of the day as per normal Parliamentary schedule.

Greetings to the respectable members of the House this morning. I believe everyone is well aware of the absence of the father of the country who is seeking better health. There is belief the House is not without favor as we are in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Cabinet and Associate Ministers, and this side of the House, Hon leader of Opposition and the dignity of members of the House. I humbly greet you all as we are about to embark with our normal proceedings of the day.

We have our set program for the day hence nothing will be changed, except some slight amendments which is appropriate and for the better. As noted in this program, one of the main objectives is to remove much of the reports as well as legislations that must be in place in order for government to execute its tasks. I rule that we must not holdup. These reports must be reported back to the Assembly after three months to avoid accumulation given the 70 current reports. It is a tiring process to review and assess them all but I need your support and patience.

The main objective is to achieve Parliament plans scheduled in the Order Paper particularly the arrangements between the Leader of the Government and the Deputy Prime Minister to resume as per business order.

I pray with utmost respect given the eye disease spread in the country. This has been in discussion the whole of last week. Clearly, prevention is better than cure. Therefore I plea that if you are infected you should not be here as you will greatly affect the others postponing our sitting until a later date. This is witnessed in the absence of the leader of the country hence it is best to comply. *Once the doctor gives instructions, we must adhere to rejuvenate strength.*

Therefore I humbly request that if anyone is infected with the pink eye disease, I beg tolerance, you must seek better health before proceeding with our business in Parliament.

20 MARCH 2014

Motion for Adjournment

MR SPEAKER: Before we adjourn, I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 to conclude our sitting with a prayer with respect.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12.35 in the afternoon until 9.00am Monday, 24th March 2014.

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Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

I convey sincere appreciation for your participation in the opening of further government new developments last week in the presence of the dignified Faleiva and Aiga Sa Peseta, respectable Matautu muaau tutasi of Pule Ono, great thanks to the constituency. I respectfully extend gratitude to everyone specially the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and respectable members of Parliament.

Also to this side of the chamber Afifio o Aiga ma Tapaau aua Aiga, Safune and Taulauniu, sincerest congratulations to the Hon Minister for this important program we have witnessed as well as partners. Thank you for the traditional presentation gifted to the government, may God be praised.

This weeks sitting schedule aims to complete and achieve all orders in the agenda. We advise that you must take heed of our timing schedule. The aim is to ensure that our quorum is met even during recess hours hence is my request.

I ask Lealailepule to take heed of that side given our time schedule. We must proceed according to our time schedule.

Similarly to this side of the House, Tofa Tialavea since the respective member is absent hence I request that you work collaboratively with Afoafouvale to meet our quorum at all times.

Those are the announcements but I take it that we must set sail now, let us begin. We have 70 reports to achieve. However way we proceed, everyone will partake until we meet the sitting schedule program. This is the announcement with great respect.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II (Leader of Opposition): Mr Speaker a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the honorable member.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Thank you for the opportunity granted, thus Samoa and the House is now well versed with the Hon Prime Ministers situation and his seeking of medical help in New Zealand.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the special request as this matter was debated in Parliament in the past weeks. On behalf of this side, we convey our warmest wishes and bests to the Hon Prime Ministers and his wife, with hope you will find healing and speedy recovery. Mr Speaker we hope to meet again soon, glory be to the Almighty God.

I rise given your clear orders for today regarding the absence of the Prime Minister, we have in replacement the Hon Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as this side as we resume with our normal business.

The reason why I ask is because the Controller and Auditor General report and the reviewed report by the Parliamentary Committee are rightfully missing. I wish to find out as the country is listening, what is the status of this report.

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Other Announcement by Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER: I get your view. I get it and will respond to that.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Or shall we await the Prime Ministers return for an answer?

MR SPEAKER: Leader of Opposition, I thought you were clear of the Order Paper given. Your query on the reports removal from the Order Paper is wrong. Look thoroughly at the pages of the order paper. The House has already approved the Order Paper. Hence do not be alarmed. Nothing is changed, this meeting is where we will review everything and you should well know that this matter should not be taken lightly by Parliament. You are also aware that we are praying for the Prime Ministers condition who is the rightful person and Minister of the implicated Ministry pertaining to these reports.

Therefore leader of the Opposition be patient. You have also debated my prayer last week; hence do not ever question Gods authority. The objective is to put everything before God, as for the set plans and program that is upon my discretion. It is the authority of the Speaker to prepare and set out the orders as for everyone you must be prepared. We have several reports to consider and review, but let me manage our orders. Even if we reach Friday, we shall proceed accordingly and appropriately.

Another important aspect is that we are seeking good health. The old man has fallen ill due to his keenness to complete our work. So we must be considerate, I have also prayed for your pink eye disease, hence praise be to God we have reunited this morning. Therefore leader of the Opposition, read our Order Papers thoroughly to get the correct process to our orders.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker you have spoken and it is clear, nothing has changed. But why put the report to last? If this is your decision, we extend our gratitude. But the status we now have is that the report is now put to last.

MR SPEAKER: I understand your view leader of the Opposition.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I am conveying my words of gratitude to you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: See the wonderful view of the member for Falealupo.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Our business order is now clear.

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**Apprenticeship Bill 2014
– third reading**

MR SPEAKER: I order the member to sit down. Let me manage our orders. God is everlasting. We pray for the good health of the Leader of the country, until we can ensue and fulfill everything else. We are not forsaken upon the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister who will take over our 70 reports. Let us proceed and mind other matters until clarification is required, then so shall it be accordingly.

Thus let us commence with our orders of the day.

**APPRENTICESHIP BILL 2014
– third reading**

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Minister of Commerce, Industry & Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker, I humbly greet the Speaker and all honorable members of the House, also the prayers of all of Samoa this morning. I am thankful that we are able to assemble and carry out as per normal. I rise with respect Mr Speaker to move a motion, *That the Apprenticeship Bill 2014 be read a third time.*
Seconded by Minister of Finance.

Motion approved and the Apprenticeship Bill 2014 was read a third time and had passed the Legislative Assembly.

**LANDS, SURVEY AND ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT
BILL 2014 – third reading**

Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): Mr Speaker before I move a motion I wish to enhance further the praises given to the Lord above offered this morning, praise Him for safeguarding us here today His Holy Spirit is present each day. I also congratulate my constituency for their hospitality last Friday, in the opening of a new hospital for Puleono Salafai and Vaipouli Savaii, you have done it well for our people especially the constituency.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Lands, Survey and Environment Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Sports & Culture, and Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure and Minister of Police, Prisons, Fire & Emergency services.

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

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UNIT TITLES AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– third reading

Tofa Hon FAMOETAU LOA LEALAI AULO TO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII: With utmost respect I move a motion, *That the Unit Titles Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and Minister of Police & Prisons, Fire & Emergency Services.

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

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– third reading

Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communications and Information Technology): With utmost respect Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, Minister of Natural Resources & Environment and the Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure.

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

POLICE OFFENCES AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– third reading

Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police, Prison, and Fire & Emergency Services): With utmost respect Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Offences Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Sports & Culture, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources and the Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure.

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

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TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AMENDMENT
BILL 2014 – third reading

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Trade, Commerce and Industry Amendment Bill 2014 be read a third time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Justice Courts Administration and Minister of Finance.

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

MARITIME ZONES AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– second reading

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker in absence of the honorable Prime Minister I move a motion, *That the Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to clarify.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to clarify upon the bill.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker this is a very brief bill that mainly defining amendments to the word definitions. It defines the high and low water level marks. It also amends the term “order and good government” to “good order and security”. As well as substituting the term “fishery” with “EEZ”.

These amendments provide to up skill and enhance Maritime Zones terminologies and vocabulary to be in line with the todays modern terminologies. The term contiguous zone comprises maritime zones that are beyond or adjacent to the territorial zone defined as a point that is 24 nautical miles distant and nearest point from the baseline. And within this set zone boundary the government may exercise any powers and necessary measure to prevent infringement of customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations and penalize those infringing this zone boundary lines.

Those are slight amendments to the bill with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification deputy Prime Minister. The House is now open for debate; I believe we have touched base on this during our de-briefing last Monday with the Ministry’s clarification and those who attended –I believe this bill is fairly important.

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– second reading

But I will give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER (Aana Alofi No.3): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, I also want to thank the Deputy Prime Minister for the clarification on the bill. I believe this is a very important bill. I wish to know the proposed bill process.

Firstly, the defined terminology of high tide mark and low tide mark. In terms of natural disasters involving cyclones, flooding and high tidal waves, how is this impacting the coastal areas. Most of these long settlers have experience with coastal erosion from 20 to 50 years. In interpreting these terms, every time we have flooding, this is due to the vulnerability of these areas to the low and high tide. Hence the vulnerable coastal effect is measured annually if necessary using a baseline year or the initial year when Samoa signed the In Cross Act or the Maritime Zones Act.

In effect, once land is washed into the sea removing settlements from the coast, families would usually claim these reclaimed lands by seeking land permit from the Environment Office. These reclaimed areas are normally legislated and should be government owned.

Nonetheless, taken from the clarification of the Ministry, the aim requires an EEZ extension beyond the boundary line; if for example, most of their land for the constituency of Gagaemauga No.3 has been eroded by 100 meters in the last 20 years. Therefore these categorized lands.....

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to my professor friend. I call upon the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Since the constituency of Gagaemauga No. 3 was mentioned these are all covered under the Environmental Resilient Protection Project against climate change. This does not involve Gagaemauga No.3 alone but the entire country. Thus the Ministry is investigating the critical sites and areas given the limited funding we have available compared to government funds received from the United Nations to assist with climate change programs. It depends on the level of impact hence support and assistance is the main concern of members. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Environment for your collaboration. I call upon the member.

Afioga TOESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity as well as the Hon Minister. I shall now use my constituencies of Fasitootai and Vailuutai leading to Satapuala. I have mentioned the erosion effect of 20 to 50 years since 20 years time, currently, if used, what is the low tide mark we have as baseline. If it is the current year therefore, the measurement should start from beyond.

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Therefore all these reclaimed lands from 20 years ago is now government owned. The problem is claiming land permit from the Environment Office if families want it reclaimed, further effect at a measurement of 20 meters in land or 100 meters from the EEZ will result to less land space. If an initial baseline of 57 was used to measure land areas in the beginning or the year the zone convention agreement was signed, it would have been possible for these residents to own these lands. For instance, the mangrove areas given climate change effects hence I believe this must be reviewed properly to find the exact mark for us to use.

MR SPEAKER: The member for Aana Alofi No.3s view is well taken and the Minister has clearly elaborated the plans and programs. Lest your view is mistaken with the 20 meters and 100meters hence we must be mindful of the impacts. 20 meters is completely destructive. With the current impact we see today, I feel that the effect of over 20 meters to 30 meters from 20 years ago is not possible. 100meters is quite large. No 100 meters land in Samoa has been impacted by coastal erosion, pardon the speaking member, the Minister of Environment has spoken according to undertaken prevention programs. Similar concern was raised in our briefing; the fool (Tuivalea) is not present in government. But if any district is affected as you speak, then appropriate action must be taken.

I call upon one of the member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi followed by the Minister.

Afioga Hon LEAUPEPE TOLEAFOA APULU FAAFISI (Aana Alofi No.1): Thank you for the opportunity. I believe this matter ought to be elaborated as it also involves this district. In essence, is it possible to adjust given the location of our church, hall and pastors home that have been relocated to the rocky area (papa) called Lepisi named after a village man.

Claims have been relocated inland given land evidence (pine) which is common sense. Despite the legislation, we must be flexible as this landfill will become government property, government lease that is buried by the church or individual generating government revenue, when in fairness, the land should be measured by the Office. As the saying goes, 'Lands are known through the words of the chiefs whilst the hilltops are known by the words of the paramount chiefs.'

According to the bill, these reclaimed area are all under government authority. That is a small reminder...

MR SPEAKER: Very well. The members view is understood. As mentioned earlier according to the Minister, this legislation stands as guide to regulate these land estimations. Hence 100 to 200 meters of eroded lands 300 years ago sounds more appropriate plus the impacts 40 tsunamis and 10 plus cyclones, then this is more applicable.

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Hence I give the Hon Minister of Works the chance followed by the Minister of Environment and the Deputy Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport & Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, I greet everyone here this morning. The matter beforehand is tasked by the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment. The high and low tide has the assistance of the Global Positioning System or GPS which is satellite that assists with this task and is linked internationally through the Ministry using tight cage around Upolu to predict climate change and tide schedule. By monitoring the high tide schedule today it is in fact a huge problem. Samoa is on the average mark compared to other coral islands that have been severely impacted.

The erosion impact upon land reclamation requests, the Land Estimation Ministry will adopt starting from the original water mark to the reclaimed area. The result from this estimation is taken. That is currently undertaken by the Ministry without any problems whatsoever. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for your assistance. Pardon the Leader of the Opposition but will now give government response. Your need patience until you are clear.

I call upon the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. The matter voiced by the member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi given the Ministry records, photographs of these coastal areas are taken periodically using GPS. There was a case on tombstone (loa) buried on their landfill whilst the other claimed that the tomb is on customary land. These land marks information were sought years back finding the initial coastal area location and the current one. The case was taken to the Lands and Titles Court and the result was given. But correct as you say that climate change impact does not reach 50 meters nor 100 meters given the map estimates that I study and assess in my office from the Ministry. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo: Mr Speaker, I believe the matter is now well defined. What is happening now is the climate change effects, the impact of sea level rising is caused by larger countries and the huge industrial factories that releases pollution.

And this is why our ozone is affected causing further heat globally. If we look at the photos and television we find melting ice in the North and South Pole due to the sea level rising. By this we cannot do anything about it unless gas emissions from industries and factories are controlled in larger countries to minimize the effects of harmful gas and pollution.

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This is greatly impacting us including the islands of Tuvalu and Kiribati. Perhaps in the next 25 years, Tuvalu will be sunk in the ocean. According to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, we have in place various international environment prevention programs such as implementing adaptation programmes and resilience programmes to assist us with these climate change effects. These programmes have assisted with seawall constructions and further environmental improvement.

As for land reclamation, the ownership is justifiable, even with freehold land maps and information; they are available in the Ministry and through the Hon Minister. That is the explanation, hence let us have the question.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. I believe we have made ourselves clear member for Aana Alofi No.1. We shall not debate upon this. The raising matter is critical as “e au i le tauola e au foi i le fagota tatou uma,” *We all get to carry the fish basket and become the fisherman, too*”, which means that we must always be prepared and be skilful in life. The member for Aana Alofi No.1 Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi has also stated that we must be mindful of the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet and their undertaken. Also the Minister of Works is a qualify surveyor himself and the map of Samoa has already been drawn which is unchangeable. But if there is further doubt on this matter, the Ministry is available for clarification. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.2 followed by the member for Faleata East.

Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU (Faasaleleaga No.2): Thank you.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker, pardon the member....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon, I give the opportunity I thought you were clear.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: I only rose to remind that the member has not finished when yet you are concluding especially when we are keen to hear the replies to the raising issues that you are correcting. The member should resume his comment due to your interjections.

MR SPEAKER: The member for Aana Alofi No.3 is shaking his head which is an indication that his done. What then...we cannot prompt the member if he has nothing further to say? Take heed the elaboration is for the Ministers. If I have to explain, I have to explain but your explanation Leader of Opposition is not forbidden but do not impose the member Aana Alofi No.3 because he already understands incase the advice wrongs you.

I call upon the member Faasaleleaga No.2.

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Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity and the support of the dignified House. Briefly....I wish to gain insight of this bill, there is substitution to the term fishery with EEZ. Perhaps my query is important to the Deputy Prime Minister whist the country is listening in especially the fishermen. Hence the substituted EEZ term from fishery is a 200 square mile zone from the shoreline. This 200 mile is vitally accessible by the fishermen and the country. The question is what is the extent of this 200 mile zone in comparison to Tutuila near us and other Tongan islands....how significant is this 200 mile distance from our neighboring countries?

This is one vital sector that assists well with the countrys economy, particularly fishermen fishing within our 200 mile zone. I wonder if the legislation is enforced on illegal fishing particularly overfishing within this 200 mile zone given the submitted amendment to the EEZ? With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I beg your pardon Deputy Prime Minister for the last members elaboration before the government response is given. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you Mr Speaker, perhaps another chance will be given to the Deputy Prime Minister but the question by the member for Aana Alofi No.3 following the baseline and its borderline from the EEZ hence a baseline must be drawn to mark the coastline and shorelines vulnerability to climate change. This base line must be permanent and must be maintained. As with the amendment in Clause 5, substituting words ‘order and good government’ with ‘good order and security’, I want to understand why it has been changed because the first one is understandable.

Also, substituting ‘fishery’ with ‘EEZ’ in the final amendment, the Samoan translation for the Exclusive Economic Zone is well defined so why not leave it as it is. If this zone is removed given the country’s economic assessment nonetheless, as mentioned by the member we should try to generalize it a bit further as a least nation to retain the 200 extensive zone and improve our economic growth by seeking legal action to reduce illegal fishing? With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Members views have been stated I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister for his response.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker this vulnerable situation has never been encountered before given the highly focused 200 mile zone and baseline that is currently maintained. That is the case because on the eastern side lies Tutuila, the northern is Tokelau and Kiribati, Fiji and French Polynesia on the west and Tonga on the south. This 200 mile zone or the EEZ have long been negotiated.

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That is the difficulty Samoa now faces. As for the substituting terms stated by the members, it is no difference as the aim provides for an explicit insight of this legislation. The zones are well protected and are under surveillance to ensure revenue earning from the fishing sector. That is the situation Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker, I need assistance from the Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, illegal fishing within this zones is widely known as reported in the newspapers affecting our local fishermen. So what actions currently undertaken to prevent these illegal activities from occurring to ensure the growing economic development from these specified fishing zones? With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well...

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaio manu Taeu Masipau: This is only minor issue given the incomplete response by the Deputy Prime Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member.

Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaio manu Taeu Masipau: Does this mean that up until now we are still negotiating with other countries or are we still awaiting until....

MR SPEAKER: The question is clear, I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker I have clearly clarified the specified zones, which have been negotiated several years back, hence the agreement is now settled. That is clearance Mr Speaker.

As for fishing, we are mainly after the high migratory fish called tuna, they migrate according to the cold and warm seasons where at times they are found in various areas of the Pacific, and times where they lack from our zones giving our fishermen a hard time to catch which is nature your honor.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Motion approved and the Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014 was read a second time.

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Tax Administration Amendment Bill 2014
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the Maritime Zones Amendment Bill 2014 will be referred to the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee for consideration and be reported back to the Assembly in June 2014.

TAX ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2014
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue): Mr Speaker and honorable members of the House I move to clarify further amendments made upon the bill tabled before Parliament today.

Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Tax Administration Amendment Bill 2014 be read a second time and there are matters I wish to discuss.*

Seconded by Minister of Finance.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister on his clarification of the bill.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker one of the fourth amendments to the Tax Administration Act 2012 is now substituted to 2014. Section 2 states for secret tax documentation submitted to the Revenue Ministry taking heed of strict confidential information from the public other than the Ministry.

Thirdly the bill also states for revenue earned from 10% withholding tax to ensure the correct terms are given on reserve funds allocated to the taxpayers.

Section three provides for employers registration given the issued taxes by the Ministry of Revenue.

Finally, Clause 4 states the importance of information withheld by the Ministry. Even with the Statistics Department, they must be mindful of the legislation on withholding information confidentiality amongst the taxpayers. That is the clarification on the bill your honor.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue for the clarification. The floor is now available for comments.

I call upon one of the members for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

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Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Individual Voters): Thank you for the chance your honor. I wish to be elaborated withholding taxes as mentioned by the Minister as most organizations do not collect tax upon the task execution undertaken by the contractors. What is the charge on this as portion of this withholding taxes should go into the Ministry of Revenue. Upon the contractors returns, it is not clear whether it is a refund or another tax needs to be paid. Because I perceive that these taxes must be withheld instead of paying it out to the contractors working for the government. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Minister of Revenue.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker and honorable members of the House the member has elaborated coherently upon facts. The withholding tax is cut whilst performing the task... government withholds 10% of this amount. After a year, an annual account report is prepared including withholding taxes. This withholding tax is refundable. But it is true that more companies do not exercise withholding taxes. According to the legislation, cutting taxes is a must considering the companys refunds or returns at the end of the year. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Anybody wishing to take the floor? I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker is there a last opportunity?

MR SPEAKER: Are you not with the clarification given. Forgive me member for Faleata West I will give the opportunity to one of the members for Individual Voters, Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue for the explanation on the question. But I wanted to ask, what are the consequences of not withholding taxes by this organization? The withholding taxes are paid out to the contractors according to the Minister of Revenue. That is the essence, hence the organization is violating the law. With utmost respect.

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

Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko: Exactly right. Taxes must be withheld according to the law. There is further section on withholding tax enforcement to ensure tax cut to government. However, some companies do not cooperate after claiming total tax payment resulting to no tax cut. With respect.

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MR SPEAKER: I believe the Hon Ministers precise explanation given Governments main objective of imposing tax cut to government. With further concerns on this matter, until annual reports are reviewed by special analyst on whether to claim refunds, then that is the process. Whilst imposing tax cut is one of Governments main aims to generating revenue.

I call upon the member for Faleata West followed by one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Tofa LEALAI PULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Minister for the tabling bill as well as the Ministry for collecting taxes set out for further government developments.

I wish to ask about the employees registration, what method used and how to obtain it. Because some are employed as taxi drivers or work in the plantations every day. How are these people categorized?

For safeguarding records, this is an important aspect to safekeeping employees tax administration records in the Ministries. I wish to note Clause 9(a) stipulating serious offence of at least 50 penalty units or at least five years imprisonment term. Does the four years below not serious compare to the 5 years and above considering money charge. That is something to gain understanding. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Minister but it will be easier to reply after all queries are given. I call upon one of the members for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega): Thank you Mr Speaker. I only wish for one thing from the Minister of Revenue but thank you for this piece of legislation given that 10% withholding tax levied on the Samoan citizens and companies and 15% on foreign companies. This must be reviewed to obtain more foreign companies to compete with our local companies.

Additionally, how much earning is obtained from the Appropriation Estimates given the importance of this contribution to ensure total income collected this year.

That is the question with respect. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon one of the members for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster.

Tofa LEFAU HARRY SCHUSTER (Vaimauga West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Hon Minister of Revenue I doubt the bill is unimportant.

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The only concern I have according to the constitution, “Every law affects everyone including the government.” What concerns me is that this legislation speaks more on the government regarding information requests from the Inland Revenue seeing that this is a Justice related matter. Pursuant to the laws and offences or civilian laws, every right is bounded by this law. Judiciary is not impartial of the government; hence government has more right than the individual offender in a case involving the two based on a tax related matter.

In view, government is taking this right excluding the individual. If I to sue the Ministry of Revenue giving authority to the Ministry through the Attorney General pursuing similar right to me as an individual given the case between myself and the Ministry of Revenue. But if I do not have this right then the decision is impartial giving more right to the other party. Hence everyone is bounded by law. In comparison to the Supreme law, how much amount does the Civilian Case is paid to the court? If the Ministry of Revenue is following up the individual’s tax payment, they too have authority over the legislation given the required information. What if the individual member who sued the Ministry is correct? He/she will have less charge given inaccessible information in the Office that proves for the Office confirmed mistake which led to....hence he/she should follow up the large amount.

Hon Minister of Revenue this is an opinion on the submitted bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe there is no other member.... I call upon the leader of Opposition.

Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II: Mr Speaker I have a brief contribution reference to the bill. This is the first time I am grateful to a bills amendment given your intention on collecting taxes to assist with the Governments Budget Estimate.

Now that the amendment has been re-submitted so that the companies and contractors comply with the terms of reference given the 10% estimate by government to withhold or return these dividends to the country.

The question through the Minister of Revenue, do we have any confirmed *offence on such companies and what is done about it* given confirmed reports by the Chief Auditor about companies that are violating this offence. This new provision will assist in generating income for Governments budget estimate

Secondly there is submitted request by the business owners given the increase taxation imposed, yes. Currently, these businesses and the Chamber of Commerce is tasked with sorting the pricing list. Such is the request to government to assist with this taxation that they are paying. That is the question to the Minister of Revenue, what has been done to this request given that one of Governments aim was partnering with the private sector.

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Otherwise, government seems to be vying with the private sector giving complications to the private business industry. The government must take heed of the private sectors assistance given the large number of employment in the country that if failed; workers are laid off impacting the country's economic stability.

Therefore Mr Speaker I pray that the Minister take this matter into consideration. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. We have one more member Hon Minister before you can respond. I call upon the member for Faasaleleaga No.4.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA (Faasaleleaga No.4): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I wish to assist with the constant raising issue about the 10% withholding tax pertaining to contractors. I am well aware of this given the set guidelines and policies of government Ministries. As stated by the leader of the Opposition, the companies withholding taxes are not paid for whatever reason. I believe this is not the companys fault. If a contractor is working for the Ministry without a tax cut, this falls on the Ministry itself. Those are the guidelines such as the well established work of the LTA today. Once a claim is made the withholding retention tax is cut. These taxes are reduced by the Ministry before the money is received by the company.

With utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: I will still give the opportunity to the member for Vaa o Fonoti then the Minister can respond.

Afioga TIALAVEA FEA TIONISIO SEIGAFOLAVA (Vaa o Fonoti): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I only wish to be clear of one issue. Thank you for the proposed bill. All contractual agreements are signed. The question, if this part of cutting withholding tax is not in the contract then how is this carried out when the contract has been signed with SOE to perform this task? Which of the two has more authority please?

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Minister, the opinions of members have been laid forth.

Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO: Mr Speaker, I will respond to all the queries. Therefore do not interject particularly you Palusalue you are young.

Mr Speaker, everyone is aware of the Governments plans including taxation that we discuss endlessly everyday on unfixed roads and water shortage. Our budget depends on revenue earned by the Ministry of Revenue which comprises of 80%. The estimated amount earned from withholding tax is around \$10.2 million.

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International Criminal Court Amendment Bill 2014
– second reading

The issue on unpaid withholding tax is against the law, as the law affirms that if you are a contractor, you must pay out 10% withholding tax to the government before you claim it in returns. The purpose for this withholding tax is to secure it, although the goal is by the end of the year there will be returns and such process can be arranged.

The matter on 10% earned whilst 15% reduced tax, the local companies should not be comparable taking heed of foreign companies and the withholding taxes difference. Some raised that the Ministry of Revenue does not cut taxes. This does not involve the Ministry of Revenue alone but also other Ministries involving contractors agreement which is illegal. These taxes must be paid otherwise the Ministry of Revenue is at fault here. This falls directly on the Ministry and the Chief Executive. If these taxes are not cut then penalties must be incurred. No one is exempted from taxation.

As for the query by the member for Vaimauga Sisifo, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster, on the different treatment of court matters, I think it should not be different. Section on this should not be covered in the legislation categorizing different treatment of one Samoan with another which is breaching the law. Everyone must be treated equally including the law.

I see that all raising matters have been achieved, hence if we have further clarification, until recess time, then we shall proceed hence I move the motion, *That question be put forward Mr Speaker.*

MR SPEAKER: It is Parliamentary practice to take into consideration the clarified information. I believe the bill has been reviewed thoroughly by the executive and yourself.

Motion approved and the Tax Administration Amendment Bill 2014 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the bill will be referred to the Foreign Affairs, Trade & Revenue Committee for consideration and be reported back to the Assembly in the June sitting.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AMENDMENT
BILL 2014 – second reading

MR SPEAKER: In absence of the Hon Prime Minister I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker in absence of the Prime Minister I move a motion, *That the International Criminal Court Amendment Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to clarify upon it.*

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Metrology Bill 2014
– second reading

Seconded by the Minister of Finance and one of the members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the honorable Deputy Prime Minister on his clarification upon the bill.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker, this is one of the shortest bills that must be passed given its international standards. The purpose of the bill is to amend the International Criminal Court Act 2007.

Some of the amendments needs to be endorsed based on the resolutions from an International Conference in Kampala in Uganda. These amendments were ratified in Rome and Samoa being one of its members for this United Nations Convention in Rome that we became part of in 2012.

The only amendment that must be incorporated is the crimes of aggression. This involves amended resolutions from the conference I mentioned.

That is a brief clarification Mr Speaker in relation to the bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification. I give members the opportunity to elaborate upon such important bill.

I believe the Assembly understands the matter.

Motion approved and the International Criminal Court Amendment 2014 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the bill will be referred to the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee for consideration and be reported back to the Assembly in the June 2014 sitting.

METROLOGY BILL 2014
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Metrology Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to clarify it further.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance and one of the members for Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Metrology Bill 2014
- second reading

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker. This bill has been prepared for several months. It seeks us to be in line with our trading partners abroad to developing the different goods measurement scales. The involves our close trading partners including New Zealand, Australia and other countries for effective trading changing the current system of imperial system to metric system.

For example the use of units, yards, ounce and pounds will be converted to grams, meters, kilo, liters etc. The bill also certifies approved weight standards by the Ministry for trade. Electronic scales are now widely used in stores.

The Ministrys function is to seek appropriate time to inspect sale of goods by weight or measure in stores.

Another thing is the incorrect labeling and scaling of goods. There are different kinds of weight or measure used for goods including net weight and such. Most store owners now use electronic scales and metric system from abroad.

Most gas stations now use liter unit for selling petrol and diesel.

The bill seeks to repeal and replace the Measures Ordinance 1960 sparing time for the shop owners to adjust to this new change that when comes time for enforcement, they are in line with these changes. These measures were also learned in schools involving the imperial system and metric system.

Mr Speaker, that is the essence of this bill, converting from imperial system comprising of pounds and ounces to kilograms or metric system. One of government aims is the application of the metric system broadly for our trading partners of New Zealand and Australia and shifting the International Date Line so that we are in line with them. These changes caters for easier traveling abroad to attend to business and family obligations by the locals. And that Mr Speaker is the clarification on the bill.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification Minister which I believe is now clear hence we will resume debate after our normal morning recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10.44 and resumed at 11.21am.

MR SPEAKER: I am gratified coming to this final part of our proceedings today seeing that we have gained strength from our morning recess. The intent is to energize the members to continue with our business as scheduled.

Before recess the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour was discussing the Metrology Bill which is understood by everyone in the House. Priority sets that we shall not be heavily impacted by a wide range of worldly changes but importantly, weights or measure does assist largely with our trading goods and services in the country.

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Metrology Bill 2014
- second reading

This is the chance for members before the question is put. I call upon the member for Faleata East, you will lead our debate this morning.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO (Faleata East): Thank you your honor for the refreshments this morning. I rise to contribute on the tabling bill. I firstly wish to thank and support the Minister and the Ministry on this bill. I only wish to ask if the Attorney Generals advice was sought on this bill.

This bill targets various weights or measures for work including weights, distance, electricity, speed etc. This involve no major change considering our current situation resembling back to sections 1 and 2, most of these changes are applicable now. The only advice upon the Minister and the Ministry is the removal of units for foot, inches, pounds, ounce and gallons that should be converted to liter.

This is one basic we all learned in school given the knowledge we have in Samoa today whereby foot can be converted into meters, inches to centimeters, weights into pounds, grams into kilograms, litres into gallons.

In assistance why not use the scale system we have now by enforcing the law despite the purpose of going hand in hand with countries abroad.

This is because there are still countries in the world that apply the feet measurement unit and inch including America whilst Britain still uses gallons today. If our children tend to travel outside, they must be well versed with these measures prioritizing these basis in school syllabus as opposed to the measures on selling goods in the legislation, selling and....hence this should be incorporated into the Ministry of Education curriculum to build up childrens knowledge. Normally when going shopping, people would usually ask for a pound of lamb instead of kilogram of lamb. The scales in shops still exists today that when asking for a good per pound, it automatically converts units into grams. But we should not discard these basic skills from our children; rather we must still apply it.

Whereas the bill beforehand aims to implement and adopt these changes that were initiated in Kampala and will be legislated in Rome. Most of these legislations aim to be in line with the changes of the outside world without examining its advantages in developing our children and people. Hence is the request upon the Minister to consider this part of the bill considering the imposed penalties. Most carpenters would use foot and inches instead of meters and inches as stipulated in the bill. I request the Ministry to review this part of the bill as nothing is wrong with the current system that provides experience for our people. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you member for Faleata East for the speech. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

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Metrology Bill 2014
- second reading

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity and the proposed bill. Firstly before giving our an explanation is there a dire need for implementing this bill? Is there a problem between the shoppers and store owners resulting to the Ministrys implementation of this bill? The problem is that we did not have enough negotiations with international consultants in reviewing this process whether it was appropriate to undertake or not. Even so, there is still inconsistency in the measuring scales with other parts of the world. We too lack local produce considering our imports from New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan and America. But we cannot impose fees as New Zealand and Australia have an export limit compared to the vast nation of America. The largest market for our taro produce is our neighboring island of Tutuila including other items.

This is the concern. Also the use of yards to measure material when we go and buy material we are familiar with yards, 1 yard, 3 or half a yard and so as the shop owner and seamstress. So why change it to meter?

When purchasing a pound of lamb, residents in the rural area are used to a pound of sugar. But with the kilo unit, a pound no longer exists unless it is a whole kilo. We are used to lamb pounds, why? I live on a quarter acre land in Vaitele and no one knows what a hectare is, what exactly is the Samoan translation for this, if I reside on 10,000 hectare square meters, no one will understand what this means. Why change a system that works well? If we were to hold public consultations on these new systems, I see that petrol is now in litres, see we can still adjust.

We are not irrational because we are well educated, in Zealand, we may see a US or UK labels on shoe or clothes sizes. But a persons nature is temporary. Hence we copyright these products like other countries according to the demands. The penalty involves 300 units; \$30,000 impended in the legislation. How are these penalties incurred?

The Minister has the authority to choose private inspectors or investigators to site this undertaking that is conducted by the Ministry on a daily basis. Why instigate added role on top of expenditures? A pound of butter and half butter confuses us when we say half a kilo butter or quarter kilo of butter? Therefore Mr Speaker we must withdraw this bill. Find the Terrorist Bill tabled by the Minister of Police which was redrafted and re-submitted with satisfying results.

Your honor, that is the view, this bill is inapplicable to us that with shop owners on the rural side, a pound of sugar, onion and salt are some of the limited goods available at their store when they are yet to receive added burden from this new application systems. I think we are over regulating the rules instead of lessening the burden on the public. In consideration I speak from experience, the bill must be withdrawn because it does not apply to us. We have several good bills that we support whereas this one, it is inappropriate.

With due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: The members view for Faleata West is well noted. We are on top of this bills initial process. Based on your comment, we have another chance at the Parliamentary Committee meetings to further your comments. There is no intention of proceeding through its third reading today. No. the Ministry and Minister are not taking the matter lightly thus there is still opportunity for your submissions. After our debate today, your views have been note by the Minister for the Committees review and final amendments. You are well versed with our normal procedure. This bill had taken up a lot of the Attorney Generals time. Nonetheless, your submissions can be referred to the Committee.

I call upon the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries): Thank you Mr Speaker. The members view is well taken. Thus I am saddened by the fact that he is one of the youngest intelligent members in the House. We have to adapt to the changes we have at present. Talks on kilos and meters have been in discussion for a while now but if we look at the outside world, athletics, it is confusing to use 100 feet that will apply soon. Instead, they use 100metres and 4,000 metres. The term feet no longer exist. Only knowledgeable athletes understand the metric system. Kilograms and meters were utilized long before the bill. I relate to my profession and the application of these unit measures in kilograms, ounce, and pound when I weigh medicine supplies. Yes the world is constantly moving forward. If we do not adapt to change, we will pity ourselves especially our children today who should be aware of the current metrics system instead of old time terms. As for statement on the insignificance of this bill when it relates well with the curriculum taught in the rural areas involving meters and yards etc. Thus the bill is still significant to our children moving forward.

And that is assistance to the bill as discussed by my fellow member.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. Is there further discussion member for Faleata West, you have heard the....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Thank you for the assistance. But I stand by my statement, is there any particular reason for this change, have we faced with any problems? The aim is that we must be flexible with change outweighing the advantages and benefit for the country. As said earlier, we cannot amend the measurements applied in America and Britain to be in line with us and China. They have their own system of measurements.

The athletes measure is negotiable, whilst measures and weights on food products such as sugar per kilo, the pound unit does not exist anymore.

But application should be affordable.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member; I give the opportunity to the Minister of Communication, Information and Technology.

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I call upon the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. As the member is after the main reason for this change, hence the reason is that the child will not have to compare the terms anymore. If we think about it, we are conversing between two types of systems thus a child will not be comparing a kilogram with a pound because we will now have one system used. That is one reason.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me I give the opportunity to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister for his clarification on the matter.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Thank you Mr Speaker. The bill is vitally important. We have talked about the change in weights and measures with reasons. Additional to that, Samoa is now using the metric system. In shops they now use scales. Liter has been extensively used in gas stations. Until today, there is no legislation on metric system. Given appropriate timing and overflowing goods available at the current, the government and the Ministry have considered incorporating this change.

Another reason is to be in line with other countries in the region using the metric system including the daylight saving time change. Our major trading partners of New Zealand and Australia also use this metric system similarly to most Pacific island states. This is also taught in schools. You see the whole picture now? There are vast reasons to implementing these changes.

The only concern that sums up your views from that side is resisting to new changes. Our government developments cannot be withheld given resistance to new change. The world revolves around new change and as our developments.

Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II: Mr Speaker a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I will give you the opportunity later.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Last week since these new changes were made, most of the changes were from overseas. We should not sit but revolve around the world and its happenings. And that Mr Speaker is the reason.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Faleata West but I would firstly like to give the opportunity to the Leader of Opposition.

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Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker because there are serious accusations against this side affirming that we do not accept new changes, hence we support that so long as they are good and appropriate. Look at the time change? What do you think the time is now? You want us to have the same time as New Zealand and Australia? Time change doesn't make us different from New Zealand.

MR SPEAKER: Hon Leader of Opposition, leader of Opposition...

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: The clarification given should be rectified.

MR SPEAKER: We do not debate on what has been already passed by the House.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: An example sir.

MR SPEAKER: Do not use corruption as examples to the main events we are discussing. Be straight to the point, the time change is gone for the passing bill and yet you are still complaining? Use other examples to elaborate the matter beforehand instead of complaining about passing matters. That is the intention but the system is currently in practice....and the Standing Orders states that we are not permitted to talk about things that have passed.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Mr Speaker the accusations by the Deputy Prime Minister are serious, saying we do not agree to new changes. Therefore I claim to correct this; we are not against new changes that are relevant an appropriate.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker it looks like this is the 15th bill that we have considered and passed. I approve other bills other than the proposed bill which I object. The member for Faleata West is not stupid; he pursued a scholarship in Australia twice because he is smart. As for the changes I am trying to convey, they are international laws....

Afioga Hon Le Mamea Ropati: Mr Speaker, a point of order please. I clearly confirm that this is one of the intelligent members who is now calling himself stupid. He is really smart, I am not sure if he is as wise as Solomon. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: I beg your pardon member for Faleata West I have already requested your coordination. There is still opportunity once the bill is referred to the Parliamentary Committee for consultation.

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You are free to voice your views and concerns instead of generalizing the bills withdrawal. This was not lightly prepared by the Attorney General. I cannot make this any easier. As for your concern, there is a grace period before the Ministers signature is given. If it takes 50 years without putting it into practice, then we will officiate international standards together with our trading partners.

Therefore I humbly ask the member to go in line this matter. I believe your advice is now understood.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I pray indulgence to all members of the House, if we can adjust to these international changes then the implied changes are acceptable given the different kinds of bills including international laws that must be complied by all nations. Hence this bill involves international standards products available abroad. Another issue mentioned by the Minister of Works involves purchases, income earning, that can only cater for a pound of onions and a pound of sugar for the family in the evening and in kilo does the person have to wait until the sufficient amount is found before buying a kilo? If you want to buy 2 yards or one, until you have enough for a meter then you buy it.

MR SPEAKER: The discussion given is clearly understood, I call upon the Minister of Communication, Information and Technology.

Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau: Thank you for the opportunity. An easy example was the one I gave earlier also mentioned by the member. If we are talking about 2 kilos or a kilo the money earned is not enough, the shopkeeper will divide it into half a kilo that way they will earn more. Also, students nowadays are struggling with how to convert kilogram into pounds?

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Sir, the Minister completely understands the opinion shown, as for us today we have become highly intelligent individuals and we know what a pound and a kilo is. If we are to use kilo, then pounds will be useless. If you go to Britain they use pounds, at the hospital to weigh a child. Half a kilo is not equivalent to a pound right? It takes two and a half pound to get a kilo. If you want to start a mathematics class today....

MR SPEAKER: It is not two and a half.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: How much?

MR SPEAKER: It is 2.2 kilo.....pardon the member for Faleata West the clarification given is now understood.

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Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker these are just a few opinions but I am not saying to withdraw the bill, remember the withdrawn Terrorist Bill by the Minister of Police that was resubmitted after being fully reviewed. The use of pounds and kilos can still be taught to the children. Now after one gallon of petrol, we have one liter of petrol everything is being reversed. Thank you Deputy Prime Minister I do not contradict the new change, the accusation is unreasonable because new changes are good.

Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, I am the only one with good, evidential submissions because during my school years, I was known for 'without a rubber', I never make mistakes, have a blessed meeting.

MR SPEAKER: The member of Faleata West has spoken, he is not stupid. Let us not draw on the matter because you seem to be compared to King Solomon, the wisest King in the bible.

I call upon the member for Faleata East, followed by the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Mr Speaker the Minister has clarified but am unaware if he has answered my query hence this is one exact reason to keeping the rights of our children from learning which is the bills correct intention, discarding children from learning the unit measures on pounds, feet when visiting other countries, they will discover that these unit measures still apply. The metric system may become useless in the future as these new inventions are used by people to sell their ideas given in pattern section of the bill. We should embrace this knowledge and teach our children especially when traveling abroad in the future. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your assistance on the matter. I now give the opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No.3 followed by one of the members for Salega Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. There are two matters I wish to speak about, first once the bill is passed, other systems will become useless including the imperial system using our lands. Currently land size uses the old imperial system, what is government set plans on this, considering money spent on converting these land size measurement into metric system? Speaker I believe....

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Minister who is rightfully responsible for land size measurement. I call upon the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

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Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Lealaiauloto Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Perhaps the maps stored in the FPS System or British System is the old ones that uses foot, pound, seconds, but according to the bill, we will use MKS system - metres, kilograms and second or centimeters, grams and seconds taught in Physics at Samoa College.

There is a map using this old British System hence if such is used, then maps will be converted to the MKS system or the new metric system that is well known around the world. If money is required to provide this service, it must be done according to the law. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give final opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker, as for the concern on saving finances for rather important developments. This is the reason for taking the floor, to reduce expenditure but proceed with other changes that benefit the country.

MR SPEAKER: Well assistance will be given by the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, these changes must be executed now as witnessed in maps, imperials and metrics systems involving proposed plans of over ten years given the Survey Regulations and its long passed amendments incorporating passed records of measured land size during the British rule has not changed but if required then it can be converted using the new current system that is prepared by the Ministry. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member for Aana Alofi No.3 I give the opportunity to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo: Mr Speaker I speak of the member for Aana Alofi No.3 taking the statement by the Hon Minister of Works on certificate of title on computer folio, conducting a survey on lands and titles office in square meters including quarter acres or 1,000 square metres per quarter acre. This should not affect the childrens curriculums in schools using both imperial and the metric systems. Mr Speaker that is clarification on the issue.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member to conclude his speech.

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Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for the assistance. The statement submitted by both members is correct, once the bill is passed, it will change. If the land measurement was taken in the past using the imperial system, this should all be converted to the metric system but change is adaptable moving forward.

This is just advice on land matter, if land measurement is proposed to take place again, use the current system, instead of retroactive considering past events. Secondly Mr Speaker, if this is government aim, I support this official metric system dismissing thoughts on the old systems rather give time so that we can adapt to change.

This official metric system is good change involving America as one of our trading partners that is also used by our locals there. If a business person from America travels into the country with this metric system, finding interest in the imperial system on land negotiations or...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member but I give the opportunity to the interjection by one of the members.

Afioga Afoafouvale John Moors (Palauli): Mr Speaker, I do not intend to interrupt your speech give his talks on one of the countries I was taught in for the interest of the country, the metric system is also taught in America in order to trade with other countries of the world. With utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the assistance. I call upon the member for Aana Alofi No. 3 to conclude his speech.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you, the significance of the matter has been clarified by the member, given the current systems as opposed to another new system in the future we bear understanding, but if we discard this, it will disadvantage our young generation going forward considering trading relations with other countries, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I now give the opportunity to one of the members for Salega Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele followed by the members on this side of the chamber.

The member for Salega Afualo Wood Uti Salele.

Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE: Thank you Mr Speaker for the bill laid before the Assembly today. Various expressions have been made but it all sets down to one main objective which is achieving an official metric system.

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The aim is reducing living costs particularly involving commercial goods. The Samoan translation is very in depth compared to the English terminologies that have no exact Samoan translations. The two systems is used worldwide i.e. metric system and the imperial system. These unit measures include kilogram, Celsius, kilowatts that is rich. These have been translated into Samoan enriching our Samoan language.

Looking at the two concepts and its translations, the aim is to remove the other system according to the legislation adding advance terminologies to the Samoan language and vocabulary enriching the oratory language as well as the worshippers language etc.

The aim is to improve and develop experience and knowledge expansion. The use of the current system is a good plan. But do take heed of both languages, Samoan and English although Samoan language is publicly used, but the English language is widely used for our trade. I do not support the omission of imperial system from schools which must be reviewed.

I remember when I was in school, we were taught of the two systems that were good to know lest let us proceed with the metric system in the legislation. Because some terms like joule is translated into 'toule' in Samoan. I am unsure about these translations given the established Samoan Language Commission; they must confirm these translations. Although these are technical terms in the English language, but it has contributed well in our Samoan language. This has enriched our language for Gods servants in teaching the Good News.

I support the bill but the plea before the Deputy Prime Minister through the Speaker; keep these systems for our childrens learning. Lest some of them will travel to American Samoa or America, yet they are familiar with the application of these concepts. That is the recommendation Deputy Prime Minister, please consider the inclusion of these two systems for our childrens learning as well as its translation into the Samoan language.

This is assistance on the bill thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the recommendations in relation to the bill. Last opportunity will be given to the member for Faasaleleaga No.4 then a clarification will be given by the Minister.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA: I convey sincere thanks to the Speaker. I rise to voice an opinion about the tabling bill and its measures.

Mr Speaker I support the proposed bill. As submitted by some of members we should not use only one system like the one used in America.

Mr Speaker if we look at the international measuring tools, e.g. measurement tape it has foot labeled on one side and metres on the other. This means that our children should still be taught the same of these systems involving feet, gallons and others.

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Metrology Bill 2014
- second reading

Another situation involves American citizens traveling back and forth who are familiar with the American system whom are used to units. Considering scholarships awarded to those in China, Japan, we should consider learning anything.

The Minister of Education also elaborated on the certificates attained by the students in order for them to find jobs abroad. This is a great incentive but if this student finds a job in America knowing metric system alone, they will find it difficult to adapt and adjust. Those are my concerns but I support the bill Hon Minister and Ministry, but....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member because you mentioned the Minister of Education, Sports & Culture. I call upon the Minister.

Afioga Hon Magele Mauililiu (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Mr Speaker teaching students the metric system is not hard because it is really easy to understand. This is not a problem as students are very smart and they can convert these systems easily. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member it is clarified that the matter is easily followed.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGA: I will not debate the Minister but as requested before, it is critical for a student to be aware of all these systems, teach them anything. If they are jobless here, they can easily resort to other countries where they can apply these systems. Apply their system instead of ours. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister for his clarification, all members have concluded their submissions.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe each concept have been clearly defined as well as recommendations by members.

The Education curriculum is no problem. I was also educated nowhere else but Samoa where I learnt about the two systems. This legislation should not affect the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture in expanding knowledge to the students about the two systems. Given this, our country has done remarkably well at learning the two systems. It is vital because when in New Zealand, Australia and America, we are familiar with the metric systems. This has invented a variety of new terminologies to the Samoan language deriving from the English and Spanish languages as stated by Afualo. Essentially, this had deepened and enriched the Samoan language context.

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Statistics Bill 2014
– second reading

The following translation was undertaken by the Legislative Translators, Ministry and Mathematicians with the assistance of the Samoan Language Commission taking into account the terms and formulas. This Commission can review this assessment appropriately. The imperial system will not be discarded from the Samoan language that is generally utilized.

Hence we have the House Select Committee who will reevaluate this matter on a transitional period. This does not mean that once this becomes law, it is enforced immediately. Time will come for public consultation on this together with shop owners before the law is effective.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you honorable Deputy Prime Minister for the clarification.

Motion approved and the Metrology Bill 2014 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order the bill will be referred to the Primary Production Industry and Labour Committee for consideration and reported back to Assembly in the June 2014 sitting.

Therefore I leave it unto the chairman Leaupepe and Committee to consult on the bill and be given back to Maota at an appropriate time.

STATISTICS BILL 2014
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: For understanding of Parliament the bill was first read on the 24/1/2014. In absence of the Hon Prime Minister I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker in absence of the Prime Minister *I move a motion that the Statistics Bill 2014 be read a second time and I wish to clarify.*

Seconded by the Minister of Revenue, Minister of Finance and Minister of Communication, Information Technology.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker this legislation was initiated under a project carried out by the Ministry of Statistics. As part of the project the Bureau reviewed the current Statistics Act 1971 to re-enforce and consolidate different sections of the Bureau to repeal the old Act passed in 1971 to create a new legislation involving the many current changes taken place.

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**Statistics Bill 2014
– second reading**

The main objective of the Ministry is collating information. As an independent governing body that collected statistical information, this led to establishing governing policies and procedures. Protecting information confidentiality other than the national developmental policy information is one of the main functions of the Ministry. This legislation aims to conduct a five year population census arranged by the Ministry in 2016.

It also signifies the importance of birth certificates, marriage and death certificates records and information.

This legislation incorporates other Ministries such as the Births and deaths certificates office that is administrated under this Ministry. This association has been only for a few years but with this bill it will initiate a solidified foundation for this department in future.

Therefore Mr Speaker is a clarification upon the bill.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: What is the concern member for Faleata West?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker I wish to voice an opinion upon the bill if you may allow it.

MR SPEAKER: The time for speeches is over.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Mr Speaker a clarification has been concluded.....

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, I thought members of the House were satisfied. Firstly I will allow the member for Faleata East to go first, the commander.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: Thank you Mr Speaker, Hon Minister and the Ministry for this important bill.

Firstly, I congratulate the Ministry for playing a vital role since its establishment up to collating population census data and information for the country. The essence of district representatives, economists and various government areas is crucial in accumulating information and data for the Ministry.

I have one question regarding this legislation, there is section on the arrangement for the new CEO post for SPS as opposed to a CEO of another government Ministry should the Ministry requires statistical information about this particular Ministry.

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Statistics Bill 2014
– second reading

According to the bill the CEO can reject this for the Ministers discretion. If the Minister disapproves then the decision is referred to the Board. This is exactly where I need clarification. Why refer the matter to the Board that involves this particular CEO who refuses to do the job as well as the Minister who are all part of this Board. This involves a conflict of interest and should be reviewed. Why not refer the matter to the Cabinet or another independent body instead of reporting back to the Ministrys Board.

This is all but I salute the bill given this independent governing service in the country.

Thank you your honor and the Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for the clarification. I call upon the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. This is one vital Ministry in the government that was supervised by the Finance department years back. In spite of that, government wanted the Ministry to become independent given the significant, reliable data and information that was required for the Governments set plans and developments. The countrys long term plans all relied on the accuracy and consistency of this statistical information.

Such is the word of gratitude for this legislation which has strengthened the Ministrys rights and authority on statistical data collection as well as protecting the confidentiality of these records. Sections of this bill also involves government officials oath in keeping this confidentiality from the public. The bill also regulates births and deaths records that are important.

One of the questions concerns the selection authority and power of the CEO to select his/her own staff starting from the ACEO. Currently, incase this contradicts with the PSC set policies and procedures, the ACEO level is under the authority of the PSC to The issue I want to question, firstly as stated in the bill, nonetheless it is now clear under the legislation, the discretion is based on the Ministry starting from the ACEO level. This is a rising concern at the current within government Ministries. The truth is this bill derives from ISP which has just been implemented by the Ministry of Statistics. This means that those under this change has the knowledge and skills they were learned from the consultants, and if those chosen for this position are chosen unwillingly then money invested will be wasted.

I solely support this legislation if changes are for the betterment hence the selection criteria should be delegated to the Ministries in selecting the most qualified, suitable and reliable candidate. The only problem is the power of the Minister in selecting the Chairperson for the Advisory Board. It is clear in the legislation; the Chairperson has three years terms whilst members have two.

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– second reading

The question is why three years term for the Chairperson and two years for Board members. Or do members take a break after two years whilst the Chairperson resumes the three years term? Is the timeframe for the two appropriate? The rest of the sections are considered. I also wish to question our ties with the government of Japan given the scholarship awards to the Ministry of Statistics staff in Japan. This is one leading nation in terms of statistics. Is this service still provided to expand the skills and knowledge of our people?

But thanks extensively to the Ministry and the countrys recent population census carried out. The only concern is providing reasons for the slight change given the 5 year period. We are aware of people migration and death whilst the total population census number is still retained.

Another growing number that needs to be accounted is statistical information on farmers taken on a ten year period that can be reduced to five as ten years is too lengthy. Mr Speaker those are some of the questions in assistance to this bill. With respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for sharing. I give the opportunity to this side of chamber. I call upon the deputy Speaker.

Tofa AGAFILI PATISELA ETEUATI TOLOVAA (Palauli West): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill. Thank you to the Minister and the Ministry for the proposed bill. The new legislation involves the Ministrys old objectives and responsibilities since its establishment catering for effective and efficient job execution.

I specifically wish to talk about births, deaths and marriage certificates. During the government reforms in 2002 the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2002 was passed whilst the Birth Certificate was managed by the Justice department. From that period until today, the births, deaths and marriage certificates have been referred to three Ministries.

Thank you for legalizing the Registrar Unit. Since its passing in 2002, the Registrar and the Ministry of Justice and Courts were part of the legislation. The same Registrar supervised by the Ministry of Finance is now back to the Statistics department. The bill also states for the Registrar supervision of births, deaths and marriage certificate records.

The CEO is the overall Registrar whilst the ACEO is the Registrar for the births, death and marriage certificates office. The official registrar in the bill 2002 was the Ministry of Justice. Thankfully most of these surveys will come under the Ministry. I support the bill, with respect.

Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I will give this last opportunity to the member for Aana Alofi No.3.

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Afioga TOEOLESULUSULU CEDRIC POSE SALESA SCHUSTER: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity as well as the Minister and the Ministry for preparing of the bill. I greatly support the establishment of new divisions within this new Ministry.

The only recommendations is harmonizing the Statistics department...given the conflict of interest between Ministries based on their different data collection methods used that should be enforced, the Ministry should work closely with the Authorities given the qualified personnel on statistical survey and data collection to compile reports that is tabled in the House.

There is wide discrepancy with the statistical information spread here and abroad requesting the assistance of the Ministry across other Ministries on conducting statistical surveys. For instance, the data given by the Airport authority to visitors is different from the data given by the Tourism Authority and Immigration. It is really important to work together and provide a proper data collection method in order to provide reliable and accurate data and information.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to respond to the queries of the members of the House.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker, the request of one Minister to another Minister for statistical information is acceptable based on appropriate reasons. That is the normal procedure. Hence there is no reason to report back to the Board involving a conflict of interest. The advisory committee has two years term whilst the Chairperson has three years hence the significance of one continuity year for the Chairperson is for her/him to resume his/her duty as the Chairperson. Also take heed of the term 'reappoint' taking consideration of the advisory committee members, if they are eligible to be reappointed again and resume their duties or not.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon deputy Prime Minister I give the opportunity to the member for Faleata West.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you Deputy Prime Minister, the issue we are trying to convey is the inconsistency of the bill given the variety of legislations provides for this three term service. I guess the three years term is sufficient time for the members service. The bill further defines for a six term period before a person resigns. The three year term is quite confusing. Another issue is the Committees meeting schedule once a year. If this is unnecessary, why include it in the bill. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the deputy Prime Minister to continue with his clarification.

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P.P.2012/2013 No.87, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No.61, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Water Authority for the period 2010-2014 – Consideration

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker. In response to that, members are reappointed on a two year basis until they reach a six year term similarly with the Chairpersons appointment. Unless the member wishes to resign on valid reasons, then amendments can be made accordingly. As for working collaboratively, the Immigration passes monthly information on visitors arrivals according to the monthly bulletin. This strengthens ties between the respective Ministries in providing accurate and consistent record and information.

The selection criteria for ACEO level given government set policies and procedures, although this lies with the Ministry hence it is appropriate to be in line with the normal government procedures. That is the explanation.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Mr Speaker I wish to be clear of the Ministers final comment, it says in the bill that the ACEO is selected by the Ministry. Do we discard this clause and comply with the PSC Act, the Principal Act says that the Government Statistician selects these level of employees (ACEO) for the Ministry. If this involves Government Ministries, I give my support. But if you are suggesting we follow the PSC Act there is contradictory between the two Acts according to the Ministry.

MR SPEAKER: The query by the member is clearly noted I believe the bill has not been referred to committee for thorough review and once that is done, the issues will be addressed.

I call upon the deputy Prime Minister.

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker as mentioned earlier the terms in the bill is justifiable given the set Government policies and guidelines on advertisements and selection requirements.

Motion approved the Statistics Bill 2014 was read a second time.

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Orders the bill will be referred to the Government Administration Committee for consideration of issues raised by members this morning, especially notions showed and be reported back to the Assembly in June 2014.

CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

P.P.2012/2013 NO.87, REPORT OF THE WORKS, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON P.P.2011/2012 NO.61, STATEMENT OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES OF THE SAMOA WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2014 – Consideration

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P.P.2012/2013 No.87, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No.61, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Water Authority for the period 2010-2014 – Consideration

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Chairperson of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Chairperson Works, Transport and Environment Committee): Mr Speaker with respect I move a motion, *That the Legislative Assembly notes the report of the Committee together with findings, recommendations and resolutions.*

Seconded by member for Palauli.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the chairman to clarify recommendations and resolutions.

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA: Mr Speaker these are some of the recommendations made by Committee after consideration.

“RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the completion of its investigation, the Committee resolved to recommend the government to:

1. Recommend urgent need for alignment of sewage waste lines for the Government Building at Matagalalua and Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration building to the Sogi water treatment facility, in order to diminish the blockage of septic tanks and in accordance with Government Policies regarding environment treatment.
2. The need for the Ministry of Finance to work together with the Samoa Water Authority in order to complete projects for villages that currently do not have water access.
3. Install a new voltage regulator to the electricity post situated near the new pump at Falealupo, to monitor the changing in power supply used by the water pump. The quicker the installation of this machine will ensure the protection of this expensive water pump from being damaged due to rapid changes in power supply and further preserve the use of government funds if the current pump is damaged and a new one would have to be purchased.
4. Samoa Water Authority to prioritize building additional water catchments for storing water, at areas that have access water, especially at Fuluasou, in order to avoid the need of having to allot the usage of water during the dry season.

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5. Samoa Water Authority to see to the immediate switch from PVC to other new pipes known as Poly E Pipe, due to the longer efficient usage of these pipes, furthermore to minimize the waste of water due to damaged pipe lines, as noticed by the Committee that approximately 70% of water is wasted due to the damage caused to the pipelines.
6. Strengthen ties between the Samoa Water Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for the reservation of land used to collect water, to ensure surplus water, as noticed by the Committee the current allotment of water during sunny season.
7. Samoa Water Authority to examine maintenance of old water pumps at the bore-holes that are currently in place around Upolu and Savaii.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you respectable Chairperson of Works, Transport and Environment Committee. I take it that everyone is now clear. As witnessed today there is current work undertaken on renewing sewerage drainages the Tofilau Eti Alesana building. It is a pressing problem for the Ministry of Justice, nonetheless, the report has been tabled with recommendations this morning, the treatment plant work is now executed by a group of more than ten overseas professionals starting from Sogi to the Justice building. I give the opportunity for anymore questions if not, I will put the question to approve the report.

I call upon Tuiatua Faanofonofa, member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker, I convey thanks to the chairperson and respectable members of the Committee for their recommendations in the report.

I move with respect I have one query, whether the Water Treatment Plant is able to accommodate water waste accumulation from Sogi to the Legislative Office and the Ministry of Justice, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Faleata East.

Tofa AVEAU TUALA LEPALE NIKO PALAMO: I believe Tuiatua has given this very important question whether it is possible for the treatment plant given the large amount of water waste and water overflow.

Secondly, has the committee looked into reduced service charges given the high costs available with businesses in the town area?

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**P.P.2012/2013 No. 87, Report of the Works, Transport and Environment Committee on P.P.2011/2012 No. 61, Statement of Corporate Objectives of the Samoa Water Authority for the period 2010-2014
–Consideration**

Have you worked with SROS on this issue given the water waste flow into the coastal area affecting the district environment? As raised in previous sittings, how is the waste treated, is there is a solid answer to this, so that the marine life, the costal and districts areas are not affected? With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I call upon the Chairperson.

Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola: Mr Speaker I clarify on the question put forward by Tuiatua Faanofonofu, the process is well taken on water waste management until today with the assistance from overseas.

Work assessment and analysis by SROS is also going well and so as the treated water for consumption. Similarly with the works of the Samoa Water Authority, as aware, we have various districts that are in the pipeline that can duly cause the delay to water treatment. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I give the opportunity to the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala: Mr Speaker, adding on to the clarification of the Chairperson, such projects were researched as phase one is completed hence work now proceeds towards other parts including Treatment Plant in Sogi. We also have overseas companies working on the project specializing in this area.

The other issue regards payments costs given the two years overdue service charge to these companies. This long reviewed process sets a rate that was again reviewed in 2012, 2013 including a recent dropping rate used by the households, companies and government that they have to pay. These costs are all available at the Samoa water Authority. Continuous water tests are monitored and carried out including solid waste that is discharged at Tafaigata leaving minimal amount that is treated. There is ongoing research carried out to ensure the safety of the environment. As for the work carried out by the Water Authority they are doing their best to ensure the improvement and well maintenance of our developments. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe everyone is now clear. The member for Aana Alofi No. 3 is there a matter you wish....

Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster: Mr Speaker I only wish to clarify further as I am a part of the committee never mind, the Minister has thoroughly explained most of the queries, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your assistance.

Report approved.

24 MARCH 2014

Motion to Amend Sitting Hours (S.O.31(1))

MR SPEAKER: Pursuant to Standing Order 54, Government must, not more than 90 days after a select committee report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

I believe we have reached recess time. I would like to thank all members present today for your participation today. I believe everyone is well versed with our programme of the week.

As mentioned, we must ensure to fulfill our tasks this week. There are more than 70 reports that needs approval therefore the House, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet schedules should go accordingly so that we can accomplish all orders. Also taking heed of the leaders absence, given our motion for our night sitting, hence we must seek what is appropriate by regaining our strength. Let us proceed to our break with Governments decision to resume only with our day sitting for today, thus we must rest before we come back tomorrow and consider our reports. Thus our goal is to evaluate all 70 reports by the end of the Friday sitting. That is the announcement by the Speaker pursuant to our sitting programme schedule. That is the situation as government responses will be provided before further discussions.

Secondly we should also be careful of the pink eye disease that is widely spreading around the country. Protection is better than cure, we must find strength and good health to resume with our proceedings. I give the opportunity to the deputy Prime Minister for a motion to conclude our first sitting day this week and return tomorrow to continue with government orders. I call upon the deputy Prime Minister.

MOTION TO AMEND SITTING HOURS (S.O.31(1))

Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, a job well done with our orders today. It seems that we have already considered 11 Bills and one report; there are still a lot of reports to be considered about 70 as stated in the Order Paper. Therefore Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That normal sitting hours of 9.00 to 1.00 pm be returned as stated in Standing Order 31(1).*

Seconded by Minister of Finance.

Motion approved a normal sitting hours were restored pursuant to Standing Order 31(1).

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Motion to Amend Sitting Hours (S.O.31(1))

MR SPEAKER: Before adjournment I call upon the Associate lady Minister, one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 1, Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow to conclude us with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were adjourned at 1.00pm until 9.00am on Tuesday, 25th March 2014.

TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2014

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am

Prayers.

MR SPEAKER: Trust the Lord has been gracious and merciful in guiding us here regardless of the terrible weather conditions. I also extend sincere thanks to everyone that regardless of family matters, district and other urgent matters, you have sacrificed everything for our business today. Leaving aside other matters and attending to today's business.

I give thanks to the presence of the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Hon Associate Ministers, Leader of Opposition and the Respectable members of the Parliament. I implore a reminder as the Speaker that in order to save time and energy we should abide with today's set program. I also observe that some members have just arrived hence I bid them to please stay alert as we are about to commence.

PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clerk read out the list of Select Committee Reports pursuant to T.T.51 (5)

1. P. P. 2013/2014 No. 134, Report of the Education, Science, Communications and Information Technology Committee on P. P.2012/2013 No. 23, P. P. 2012/2013 No. 78 .2012/2013 No.79, Annual Report of the Samoa Sports Facilities Authority for Financial Years 2008/2009, Financial Year 2009/2010 and Financial Year 2010/2011.
2. P.P.2013/2014 No. 135, Report of the Education, Science, Communication and Information Technology Committee on P.P 2013/2014 No. 24, P.P. 2013/2014 No. 25, Annual Reports of the Office of the Regulator for the Financial Years ended 30th June 2009 and Financial Year ended 30th June 2010.

CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

P.P. 2012/2013 NO. 88, REPORTS OF THE WORKS, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON P.P. 2011/2012 NO. 87, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT FOR 2008/2009 – CONSIDERATION

Tofa TUSA MISI TUPUOLA (Chairperson of Works, Transport and Environment Committee): Greetings and good morning to the Honorable Speaker and the respective members of the Parliament.