

MONDAY, 26 JUNE 2017

Speaker took the Chair at 9:00 in the morning

Prayer.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: I now announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. I also take this opportunity to humbly greet the Leader of this country, respective Members of the Cabinet, Members of the Parliament, Chief Executives of all the Ministries and members of Government Ministries and Citizens of Samoa who are tuning in this morning. I also humbly greet the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Clerk and the office of the Legislative who have served this Parliament.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Clerk read out tabling papers pursuant to Standing Order 49

1. S.R. 2017/6, Telecommunications (Customer Protection) Rules 2017.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2017/2018 – resumption of debate over the second reading from the 23/6/2017 - Day 4

Mr Speaker: The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries spoke about a matter during the last Parliamentary Sitting. I respectfully call upon the Minister to continue.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT (Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries): I thank our Heavenly Father for guiding you to good health this morning Mr Speaker and I ask him again for guidance as we proceed with issues and matters of this day. I humbly greet the Speaker of the House, Hon Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet and the Parliament of Samoa not forgetting all citizens of the Samos who are tuning in this morning near and far and those who are praying from home, thank you for your prayers.

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I apologise this morning for failing to reply due to some difficulties with our technology, but I believe sooner or later you will get a response from the Ministry. Last Friday I have informed the Chinese and Samoa relationship to build the agriculture sector specifically on vegetable garden project in an attempt to develop local vegetable producers and improve vegetable growth (vegetables, tree crops, root crops) in Samoa. The objective of the Ministry as raised by other Members is to improve and grow the economy of Samoa through this vegetable garden project and thus the main reason for Cabinet's approval for the Chinese Government to resume with the first stage of phase four for this project. I believe that you have seen on social media and heard on the radio that there will be ten plus Chinese people who will be coming to Samoa for this purpose that will benefit the whole of Samoa. This project is utilizing 20acre of land at Nu'u to improve the knowledge of local farmers and planters on how vegetable gardening and planting is done using cabbages, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas, chilli and vegetables of all kinds.

Mr Speaker we are taking this programme to the villages and we have also prepared vegetable gardening tools and equipments for this project as mentioned before in this House, things like tractors and other fitting equipments. Initiate irrigation system in tunnel houses for water storage so that this project can be a success. We have four Chinese working in Savai'i and five Chinese in Apia, the aim is to take this project to the planters and those who have registered in this project just as we have been advertising all the time for them to sign up once the Chinese arrive. So, now that we have moved on to the next phase of the project, all those who have been faithful and honest with this project is now listed down so that we can start giving them the benefits of this project. But the most important thing Mr Speaker is that these are the things that we have been trying to produce consistently over the years but have failed.

Statistics shows that we have been spending more than 5million on the importation of vegetables from other countries; recently we received imported cabbages, lettuces, cucumbers, and tomatoes. This was the reason why we had prioritized phase four of this project so that we can stop importing to save money, because we highly believe that the Chinese have prepared this project well and now that we have planters who have seen this project, we believe that we can make this project a success seeing that we are capable of anything, this project is very important in terms of educational, health and the daily life in the villages. We have also spoken to Wholesale Stores in the country, the ones who are importing most of their vegetables from overseas if we could drive a bargain so that the locals can replace those importers and we can start selling them.

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So now we have signed contracts with other companies, to implement a market linkage with the local planters, so that the locals can cater for them in order to provide the vegetables for us to slowly stop the importation of vegetables from overseas so that the Government can save up money. I would like to thank Frankie for placing their order of 800 packets of cucumber, 1000 cabbages and other vegetables variety with the Ministry that is in line with market linkage that they can distribute with other farmers who have not yet received this benefit in the first place. This kind of project is very difficult to manage and develop in our shores given the challenging issues regarding our lands and our own produce before. And in need of big machines to cultivate the land, they have agreed to bring forth machines that we can use to enhance and develop this project into a success. An example, if you own 2 or 5 acre of land and we come around to landscape it and if it is good, we can remove heavy rocks, tree trunks, clear the land, enclosure water tunnel house, and pave a way to the land, after doing this in perfect mode, no doubt we would be getting good quality vegetables to cater for the linkage market.

The other phase of this project we had highlighted, I know a few issues were raised by the Members regarding the BIOGAS, implementation of pig sty to extract gas using electricity and gas for cooking. We have in Nuu, the demonstration site and a group called YWAM for this project where we extract gas to power electricity and all from animal wastes, pardon me, and we have tried it and it is going to save a lot of money. Mr Speaker, this is why we have requested China for financial aid to assist us with this project to fund new equipments, skills and capability to produce good quality products and to enhance a successful project for our benefit. In the past, 10 yard of cabbage farming for the old man was more than enough. Commercialization and mechanization are more important and suitable to generate good income from the produce they make for our economy. There is also an awareness program by the Ministry of Agriculture for children whereby they are enforcing non communicable disease protection by "EATING THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW" from where? From the vegetables that we are growing, we feed them with greens to stop them from eating what they see on the shelves in the shops. Last year Mr Speaker the Samoan Parliamentary Advocacy Group on Healthy Lifestyles or SPAGHL tried to implement a nutritional program to enforce a change in our children's appetite. When I started work with the Ministry I have thought that this is the right way to assist the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Education to initiate and encourage the education of vegetable gardens in schools.

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Those days from 1980 to 1984 when I was in school, we used to have vegetables garden, Agricultural Science taught us how to plant any kind of vegetable for us to eat. However, and just a reminder for everyone, growing vegetables can help us financially and also give our children a healthy lifestyle.

Also the Member for Palauli East Afioga Misa gave us an advice that is necessary for the Ministry, I quote “Laauli, if you go to school, you will notice that parents who take their children to school sit, wait and fan themselves and chat the whole day”.

This initiated program by the Ministry of Agriculture can be done with the assistance of these parents who are sitting around waiting for their children to lend a helping hand by helping their kids eat healthily and for the project to grow. That is the purpose and I wish to thank the Member for the reminder. This is the kind of strategy that the Ministry is looking for to enhance a healthy eating lifestyle for school children and to ensure that they are affordable.

I know we have also discussed tractors, I ask the Members to be patient as we have put forth our request with the Chinese Government but we can start with what we have available for the time being. We have three tractors in Nu'u, we also have vegetable seeds and the Chinese experts who are here should anyone requires them with improving their vegetable developments.

The reason for having these Chinese experts and the Ministry's assistance is done only by request to conduct survey and assessment on the land feasibility for vegetable growth before the recommendation is made. Possibly it will not be long, but phase one has been approved at a total of \$7.5 million.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: This is a very important matter as previously discussed by the Cabinet. The Ministry has to assess the areas where these tractors are needed to avoid any problem. The reason for this is because there was another similar program to this where we had the distribution of tractors to all the districts that later became damaged because they misused it to carry heavy rocks to build the foundation of a house. What a mistaken use of equipments.

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This is why it is very important to set up a program for the Ministry to practice the use and handling of these equipments to minimise the misuse of Government properties knowing that these public assets will never be looked after properly.

This is the explanation to this matter reminding me of the tractors that were distributed in the past which had the authority of the Pulenuu. Before long these tractors were brought to develop the country however they ended up getting damaged.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the Minister to continue with your speech

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Thank you Hon Prime Minister, this is very true, and we have nothing to hide for we have records of all these. Not only tractors were given, but we had also distributed fertilizers which I believe are all damaged somewhere or thrown in the valley but those were the days. The objective is that we do not go back to what we did before, we learn from our past to prevent anymore mistakes in the future. Now we move on to the other project that was mentioned by another Member, livestock, which is one of our biggest developments...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies interruption by the Member for Falealili west.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili West): Now that we are on tractors, thank you for the wonderful speech, I want to query the gas extracted from animal (pig) feces (pardon me) is this the gas that we will be using for the tractors or diesel please?

MR SPEAKER: Very well, it is not the time to use the tractors but will give the chance to the Minister to reply...

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: A man from Safata use to say "Be careful". If you want to understand this, ask the Member for Safata to enlighten you.

MR SPEAKER: What was this man's word?

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: That will be fine Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you.

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Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Mr Speaker since my Constituency was mentioned, I guess the man who said this died long time ago with respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the Minister.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Thank you, I think Leana gets it. When did you think that a tractor functions well using a bio gas? I guess you have the answer to your question. This project is very important, the bio gas, Fuimaono I tell you, this will ease the country. It is the gas from feces of animal. As I have mentioned before we have a demonstration site in Nuu if a Member is curious, we have that site in Nuu for demonstration. Now, I have come to...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies to the Minister, interruption by the Member for Falealili East.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker the other villages of Falealili are now using bio gas or this other form that you have mentioned in your speech but another program we had back in the village where we were introduced with gas from the fue plant, I tell you that we are fine with the one we are using. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, I call upon the Minister.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: I stand solid that whatever we bring to the House Mr Speaker is true and honest. It is new to hear what they are using now and if it is good too then why stop? In fact why not share it with us. This is the first time I have heard of this, and we are happy to support this project.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko (Falealili West): Point of order Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member for Falealili West.

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Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Thank you for this opportunity. For your information the gas that we are talking about is true, the fuel that is used to make this gas is from the sub-village of Sapunaoa which is Piu. This is where one of the Non Governmental Organization Projects is located that is currently using this bio gas. This is what I wanted to point out Mr Speaker, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you...

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Thank you. That is good to know, if however, we are needed to assist with the project we will be delighted to help in fact it is for the benefit of our country. Moving on to the livestock, as mentioned by some Members the state that our cattle farming, sheep, pigs and chicken is in. Some have questioned why we are not importing cattles anymore to increase our cattle farming in Samoa. This program was initiated by SACEP in which they imported 40 cattles the first time they started this, and then they call it the breeding programme. I did not understand it at first but when I was appointed as Minister, I asked a lot of questions regarding this programme for the benefit of the country.

And this was the programme given to us by the World Bank after the assessment and it was suitable for Samoa. I believe we imported 4 to 5 loads of cattle, and had them shipped straight to the country. What happens now? We have no more left, so I had a meeting with the World Bank, they suggested that we need to address this issue and this is why we came up with the programme that Le Mamea approved to only import cattles, just 40 cattles to the breeding programme in the country. What we need is a new blood of cattle, we need to mate the male cattles imported with the female cattles that we have in the country, so that a new blood is formed.

Mr Speaker if two different cattle of different blood mate, it is easy to get healthy cattles and there is a possibility that they can give birth twice in a year. But if we rely on cattles with the same blood to give birth to healthy cattles then we end up with none. Considering this programme, *I have noticed that this is very important and beneficial and it has been two to three years since we started again with this programme.* We also encountered a lot of issues and complaints Mr Speaker however, we tried our very best to keep the people informed and to help them understand and try and look at it from another perspective. We wait and see if this is going to change perspectives of the farmers, the usefulness of technology and technical advice from the Ministry to try and revive healthy livestock.

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At the moment I am working on an advice that I would like to tender to the Cabinet as the Ministers are listening to address the issue of killing of cattles inappropriately. The speed of killing the cattles for faalavelave is no less than 15,000. This is not a good statistic for the World Bank, we can not increase the livestock if we keep slaughtering the cattles for faalavelave. I know we are not telling you what to do because you do what you want to do with your farm and this has also been the tradition of the country, we are only advising to look at things from another perspective because if we keep putting down cattles whenever we feel like it, then one day all will be gone. Which is we have prepared a request to the Government if we could replace the cattles in the Faasamoa with money, two hundred tala (200) and five hundred (500) and a thousand (1000) the max if you are rich.

We are only advising, Vanuatu is in the Pacific, ive been there for conferences and I have heard other views and opinions on this matter and how they look after their livestock, the increasing number in livestock is determined by culture and traditions of a country. Th eministry is only advising and just putting it out there, but we have yet to tender what we have to the Cabinet for consideration, we are ready for the SACEP programme. The arrival of...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies, interruption by the Member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega): Mr Speaker I want to say that, what a very engaging introduction by the Minister. And I can say that he is the right man for the Ministry, very scientific. I am satisfied with everything he has touched on in the speech, from trees to animals very interesting. You have mentioned our cattles; I want to know where they are now? I know that we have had cattles flown over by airplane I guess the number was 40, and just an advice to the Minister, I see that 40 cattles were flown in by plane at the same cost as the other 40 cattles shipped in, I want to know who overlooked this matter to have 40 cattles flown in by plane. You have also mentioned, a very important phrase where you say "putting down of cattles inappropriately" I just want to advice that the Government should head start on this matter and I want to let the villages and the Constituencies know that the Government Members have banned the slaughtering of cattles so that they can stop doing this for the Member...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

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Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: I get what the Member is trying to say, however Mr Speaker you also know that we always refer to the Standing Order, andi have no comment on that because the Member did not speak on that we only spoke on the SACEP project. We discussed a different matter of numbers, however...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Please Mr Speaker the reason why I mentioned SACEP is because this project includes everything else, agriculture, cattle farming and everything. This is the reason why I spoke of this matter if there is a time that are being called and we are covered under this SACEP project, this enables us to have everything. Thank you.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Mr Speaker I believe I have given light to this matter, and I have also mentioned the objective of the World Bank, and we are going to start at this point with the 40 cattles that we received and nurtured in good condition. There are cattles in Savaii and in Upolu as well in the good hands of the people that we call the multipliers. These people register 30 to 40 cattles, and we give them one male cattle to put in the same place with all these other 30 to 40 female cattles to get 50 cattles in a year so that we can distribute to the farmers back in the villages. This is what the Ministry have been trying to do, to implement a better strategy and advice for this country. It is the free will of our citizens, all we are doing is just to remind so that people will get what the Ministry is trying to do. The Ministry has also established a slaughterhouse or abattoir, we already have two (2) slaughterhouse in the country they move around Upolu and Savaii so whenever you would the service, they do it neatly and healthily and put it on the market for the benefits of the farmers. We have by the end of this year hopefully to sign a contract with our own permanent slaughterhouse that costs us less than \$3million at Nuu.

This slaughterhouse will have whatever you need, as I have mentioned before, we had slaughterhouse at the time of STEC but the sole purpose of this slaughterhouse is for the sales of slaughtered cattles, sheep, pigs and all others and we are getting there to signing the contract with the World Bank.

I believe that we have only two weeks before we open our pig house. This pig house is under the SACEP programme, and they will be bringing in more than 10 sows and pigs to start mating so that we can be able to distribute pigs to the farmers in villages. I went and visited the place last week and it is nearly finished, pigs will be arriving soon and we will start with this project and all other good ideas.

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For those who have asked about chicken farming, we have the place ready and I guess it will be opened together with the pig farm house.

We also have machines given to us that will be used to nurture chicken and eggs. Chickens that are imported are being kept in this machine that can hold over 200 chicks. It is really important for the Members to come in and see for themselves what we have been working on for this project. We will start slow, in a month we import 40 containers of chicken boxes, this is the stats that we have however starting slow, we will have to nurture and develop our chicken farming to cater for our country.

Moving on the sheep farming, I have mentioned before that we will import sheep from Fiji, New Zealand and Australia for the mating season now that we have our own. We seek to bring in sheeps that can survive in this weather and in this environment because the last time we brought sheep in the country from Australia and Fiji it did not last long, they cannot cope with the change in weather and environment. However, the Ministry found a way to prevent this from happening, we mate sheeps from Fiji with the ones from Australia to get the sheep that can survive in the weather and we call that the Samoa sheep.

Moving on to fishing, I am thankful that some of the Members have addressed this concern. As I have mentioned in the recent Budget, we have 15 new buoys, at this time of the year we do not have that many buoy left we only have one left and it is in Taga, that one is laid under the ocean, you can see it when you are diving.

All the ones that were on sea, well we have had difficulties in locating them, some have been damaged destroyed, some have been cut off from the bottom, some have been used to anchor small boats, some have been lost. We cannot just sit and not do anything given that this is the hope for many other fishermen with small crafts. At the time when a small fishing boat is beyond the reef, they will look for fish, they will run out of fuel and a ware off engine and then the boat will end up lost. However, this buoy programme seeks to implement buoys around Samoa and Savaii and programmed and we can communicate with the fishermen in all the villages to aware them of this. There will be buoy in every Constituency and there will be an assessment by the Ministry involving fishermen to locate possible areas for these buoys. We also requested the Cabinet for a fund through the FFA, it's the fund from America for this particular project. We have also crafted and renovated our very own Ulimasao boat that is used to take the buoys out to the sea for anchoring.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to seek assistance of the villagers and districts on the day. We are all responsible for these buoys. I humbly ask the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development because this is one of their many responsibilities is to look after these things. We are not giving orders or instructing the people to do these things we are just reminding you that it is our job and duty to look after our properties because if a small fishing boat enters beyond the reef it will not take them long to fish and come back.

We can get whatever kind of fish by using these buoys and put them in the right place. It is hard these days as many people go out fishing, they sabotage other villages' buoys and then the same thing happens over and over again and this is a big challenge for us. The Minister and the Ministry humbly ask all the members of the constituencies that are listening in to please look after these things, protect and look after government properties as it provides benefit for everyone especially the fishermen in all the villages. We are trying to get this up by the end of the year hopefully by August, we have finished the distribution of 15 buoys to Savaii and Upolu.

We also have buoys for those who like to fish in the reef, we have more than 20 buoys for them. We are also waiting for fund from the German Government GEF, to fund these buoys for the elderly men who likes to fish in the reef.

Moving on to Tilapia as discussed by some Members. This is one of the Ministry's other project since there is a bigger opportunity for this kind of farming in Samoa. We also requested Thailand for assistance in this project given that they commercialize in this kind of farming and they are really good at it. The farming and the preserving of the Tilapia is no problem for Samoa. The Deputy Speaker has mentioned that we have a lot of water catchment in our villages that are good, safe, healthy and protective by the whole village for this kind of farming. This kind of farming, we can commercialize it, there is less work to be done in this kind of farming. We just have to arrange provisions so that everything is in place for the commercialization before execution. The Ministry is ready to provide whatever is needed since we have a nursery for small fish and also the market for fish booklet for you to have a look at on the back page, it is all there in the instructions and manual, how to nurse small fish and other sea creatures but it is up to the person, whereas for advertising and creating awareness, we are prepared to deliver. I have also visited the rest of the Tilapia farming areas in Samoa together with my Associate Minister Tofa Faasootaulo and have noticed that we really have a lot of unused water catchment areas in Samoa. We have yet to receive funding for this however; we are also looking at other projects because this fund is for other projects as well.

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This is why we asked the Minister of Finance because we believe this project can be used for exportation if it can be done properly. New Zealand imports Tilapia from the Asian Territory which is miles away when we could export it to them for just 3 hours. I have noticed that we are also selling live Tilapia at the fish market, I believe when you come to the Ministry's Open Day, you will see all kinds of methods that you can use if you are a farmer, fisherman or a planter. The main objective is the development of these projects, and I believe that these people have the potential to do them.

I will assist the fishermen with whatever they need in project. We have also prepared an area to store boats in times of cyclones. I've been to Savaii on a site visit and I have seen the improvement, seawalls and and all however they requested a ramp to get the boats out of the ocean in times of cyclones. So I told the Pulenuu to put together a request for a Samaritan to fund what you impose.

Moving on to SROS, I thank the Member who....

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Member for Falealili West.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker apologies for interrupting the wonderful speech by the Minister. I know I was the one who asked for these man made ramps for small boats and canoes that we now have in Poutasi. I know I also requested for permanent wharfs to anchor boats, I humbly ask if you could look into this request.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: Request is noted for the Member. We had a site visit recently Mr Speaker to Siumu and I believe I had mentioned the Member's request. I have noted the request of the Member from Falealili West and I ask to be patience, Savaii needs urgent assistance. If you go around the villages of Taga, Sataua, Vaisigano No1 you will see that they need more assistance in those areas buut I thank them for being patience. The wharf in Safotu, it has been 10 years since Tuiloa spoke on this, if the tide is low boats, ships cannot come through, this is what I am taking about. The Cabinet has also passed the using of guns in this situation so what we do is to find a way to get the reef wide open. The problem is that, if the tide is low, ships will have to wait out for high tide so that they will not encounter ship wrecked. This is why I ask for your patience, we are doing the best we can to make sure that everything is provided for everyone.

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Thank you Faumuina for your well thoughts to commercialize SROS, I will not say much about it because you were there together with Hon Faamoetaulua, the first Professor who started SROS. They have given a lot to the Government and I believe it is a very good idea to have this scientific research for our country. In 10 years we will witness the wealth from this research facility that we have as you have spoken in the morning about Commercialization, we are with you in that. a request is been processed to the Cabinet that it is time for SROS to move on to the next level, not only in conducting inspections, experiments and beneficiaries, we can also commercialize in terms of exporting and marketing. You speak from experience when you were with SROS, I believe that we feel the same way. This is the way that we are going, we've had enough of calculating and formulations this time, and we look ahead.

We have own made flour from breadfruit and this will be the first thing that we will look at. We have at Nafanua large ovens that will be used to dry the breadfruit and export them overseas; however, we cannot continue with this if the Bill has not yet passed.

We also have private sectors, Afioga Papalii Grant Percival, Eddie Wilson and some others who have had a head start in the flour making from the breadfruit at a small scale in which the Government would like to make it at a large scale. We should also look at commercializing of this local product and put it on the market. We were also invited to the World Ulu Festival that was held in Hawaii and I was thankful that when we got there we were still in partnership with the University. In the year 1973 we gave the University in Hawaii, planting materials for research, from here we were given information that our breadfruit called (ulu maafala, ulu puou and others) are rich with protein and this is good for the production of flour. So, with this experiment I then seek the approval of the Cabinet to commercialize this local produced product and this is why come October there will be a World Summit Festival and we will be the host of this. This festival will feature this product and a chance for us to let the world know about this product that we are making because all the experts from all over the world will attend this Summit. So, we have started working on the process of making this product complete and put it on the market. This is also the reason why we have partnership is to fund big ovens that we now have a few of them at SROS nevertheless we have also requested a small fund from the Minister of Finance to start the Packing house.

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That is our humble request so that we can start with collecting of the breadfruit to ensure that we make this product in a very large scale so that we are able to commercialize it, because this is something that we have been doing but at a very small scale now that the research has been successful, we should be able to produce it, and be able to market it as well.

Moving on to avocado oil, avocado is used to make oil, we have information and procedures on this other product and it is the same intention with the breadfruit flour. We have also heard the advice from the Prime Minister that we should not sit on these important projects, we should start looking at procedures of making the sample product, value added goods and then be able to produce market export so that we can generate revenue and increase the economy of our country. I believe that I have also mentioned fresh talo and also frozen talo, frozen talo is the initiative of SROS. Their research and initiative has enable them to come up with frozen talo, fa'i, taamu, ufi and fa'i Samoa. We were unable to export these products anywhere in the Pacific or other countries however, we will export frozen talo to Melbourne next week and then New Zealand the following week. This is the goal and the objective of the Ministry, as Faumuina has mentioned, we have to step up to commercializing what we have and can produce. Natural perfume, made from mosooi, lagaali and other plants, we have also tested and prepared for these products to be processed.

I am grateful for this term; we are able to work together with SROS. All these products that SROS are about to produce and commercialize, the Ministry of Agriculture will assist in making this happen, in terms they will work on providing bulk of ulu, avoka and others in the process, the idea is that we can be able sustain and maintain the supply of the things needed for this project. I have come to the conclusion of my speech, I want to express my sincere thanks to the Minister of Finance...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies to the Minister interruption by the Member for Vaisigano No 1.

Tofa Lopaoo Natanielu Mua (Vaisigano Nu.1): Mr Speaker I believe the Minister has come to the end of his speech and I believe that I also mention the orange (moli) from my constituency. I humbly ask if the Minister and the Ministry have considered my request, in hopes that it will contribute greatly to the economy of our country. With respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: It is true this was mentioned, I call upon the Minister to continue

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Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: I apologise to the Member, you are correct and I am at fault. I also apologise to the Member for Vaisigano No 1, regarding the letter that you have mentioned, I believe I am a person who loves replying letters, whether you have a copy of the letter, please I ask to bring it over with you so that we can discuss it.

In terms of oranges, I have instructed the Ministry to have a look at planting materials to increase mandarine in the country but as you can see, fruit fly is not a small matter in this area so it is not easy for us to fit it in the market. We also have a demonstration site in Nu'u for high treat and plant; this is the only way for us to be in the market. We import oranges and apple from Australia and New Zealand so what we can do is to start locally, we can work on the planting and then we can cater hotels and schools and I say that, there is still enough market for mandarine. This is Samoa's native plant that has grown through the years, the Ministry is looking for ways to keep this growing so that we can be able to cater locally and to keep our children healthy and also cater for those who are travelling from all over the world.

I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for advising the Ministry to manage and budget wisely for these projects.

My only recommendation, this is the only thing that we are counting on, we depend on what we get from the people, as I have mentioned in my speech a while ago, 80% of people who are farmers, 80% of cultural land, those who can work the land, there is a possibility that we can enhance and implement these projects for the planters and the farmers. Our vision for this term is commercialization and mechanization but it all depends on the funding that we have. We have also sought assistance from overseas aid and the Chinese Government has replied to our request. The implementation and the enhancement of this project we rely on the farmers and the planters for their job and that is what I am counting on. We will also be assisting the farmers in implementing this project, we are not letting them work on their own, until they have the money on hand, that would be mission accomplished, the more we leave them unattended the more the difficulties. If we participate in these projects *together with them, it will be an easy task.* Thank you for supporting this programme and for helping us make it possible, we also have an agro business programme and it is also very important.

I want to thank the sponsors who have helped us in making these projects as successful as possible, Project Technical, Monetary, Policies Training in all aspects, I believe that you have contributed so much in these projects. As I was telling the Minister of finance, we have to spend money to make money.

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We also ask that you look into the second phase of this Project, we must do it now as we started it, even though there were issues and challenges from the beginning however we have managed to pull through it and now it is going the right way, I ask that we should be patient and try and finish the project, bad things happen so that we can learn.

I want to thank the bank that has helped us through these projects, Samoa Commercial Bank, Ray Ah Liki and the staff; they have allowed the farmers to loan up to \$10,000 no guarantee. The Ministry will endorse those who are eligible to pay back what they can loan from the bank, we do this to avoid loaning for the purpose of this project and end up spending on things that are not related to the project. The other money is for the equipments used, such as rakes, hose, wheel barrow, shoval and others. I would also like to thank the Matson Company for shipping our products to overseas, I believe this was a very hard job that the Prime Minister was facing, trying to bargain so that things can be easier for us.

Thank you Laauli Michel Jones, they have offered to help Samoa and I believe that it will take 6 days for the ship to travel to Honolulu, 13 days to reach L.A, Shadow and other countries. This ship usually travels 3 weeks usually before it reaches America however, I am thankful that the Prime Minister was able to help us, reducing to 6 days travel, he also spoke on the grand opening of the MV Samoana a new ship. I believe our means of transporting these products overseas is set and ready. We have also noted that it will take 10 to 13 days to get these products across so that we can collect the income fast.

I would also like to notify the Minister of Finance that the packing house at Atele is quite full at the moment this morning they have notified me that it needs more plugs for the plug ins, also at the frozen packing, they also told me last night that there are 4 companies that they are packing at the moment. In days there will be a request to the Cabinet for a fund regarding the packing house. A few days, a man in Savaii has requested that he pack his own product from Savaii but the problem is that we do not have a packing house in Savaii. This is why I thank the Member for mentioning that we need to fix the wharf in Savaii so that we can establish a packing house in Salelologa to avoid a lot of work to and fro. We are also looking to establish an office of the SROS in Savaii before the end of this year so that they can start their own projects like the frozen talo and other products.

This is why I want to thank the Ministers and the Prime Minister, for supporting the cause of these projects; we cannot do this alone without your help and support. As I have mentioned to the Minister of Finance, your Ministry is one of the biggest commercial farms.

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There are those who are in custody and remanded, you can use them to grow these products and will not have to worry about the budget. I have also notified the Minister for women about our meeting with the respective faipule, pulenuu to look after our buoys and to look out for coconut beetles.

Coconut beetle is the worst these days, destroying our coconuts. What we can do is collect them and refrain from using the coconut stem for any other purpose. We burn them together once we collect. We ask everyone for the help in this matter together the Ministry of Women. We work together to ensure that nothing of this kind will ever happen again.

Thank you to all the Ministers, Associate Ministers, Members and also the Ministry of Health services for supporting and making sure that we are doing what is needed to protect Samoa. We have also requested the Minister of MNRE that a lot of farmers are interested and would like to join this project however they do not own land for this kind of project, I advised that Government land can be used for this purpose and the Ministry will be responsible for it and the monitoring of these projects.

I also would like to thank the Members who are supporting these initiatives for the benefit of Samoa. Toleafoa and Falealii and Safata, I see the hard work you have put in to this project through the 20 containers. We provide whatever is needed, planting materials, technical advice to the public at whatever time we are needed.

I also thank the Minister for Women, I believe that you have tried to help those mothers in need and are suffering. I believe that whatever happens will make us to learn by leaving the past behind us. We do not take mothers lightly; we have so much respect and love for our mothers, sisters and also our wives. This is why we keep supporting the Ministry of Women because this Constituency was the first Minister for Women in the year 1993. This is why whenever women are involved in matters, it is there we see conflicts. We seek help from Government Organizations so that we can maintain the peace and to further provide safety for women in the community.

The president wrote to me saying “Laauli, please donate to our camp because we have women and ladies camping” so I told him okay, and so I ask the CEO to go and gave a look, by this time we have already set up their garden, vegetables garden, so I told him to get the children to learn planting and keep planting. See, this is the way we should be helping and supporting them all at the same time. This is why I keep supporting the Ministry of women.

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To my Constituency, we have done our job, we have done our part, thank you for supporting. Fagae, Sasina, Letui ma Aopo, thank you for your support during this time, thank you for also supporting my partner Faaulusau, I envy our Constituency in this term, God has chosen us both to lead us.

Thank you also Aopo in your honorary salutations, now that we have put everything in place, things that we have been trying for years to complete and initiate in all the villages, thank you, I am able to do this with your help and support.

Thank you also to our families, Sa Tupua, Sa Malietoa and Aiga, very well. At a time when we think we have done it, that is the trickiest part. Please be patient, Letui is also a part of us in body and blood, nothing is impossible to God if we keep supporting each other in times of need.

Mr Speaker, thank you for your perseverance, I believe you are put in that position for a reason and I am thankful for your support and serving the Parliament in every way possible through these proceedings. Bless all the government employess and CEOs, may they have the strength to continue on serving the government and the people of Samoa. Blessing be upon the leader of this country and also the Parliament of Samoa.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon the Minister for Works and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you for this opportunity Mr Speaker. I stand to reply to issues and concerns raised by the Members. I bring greetings to the House, Mr Speaker, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Associate Ministers and respected Members of the Parliament.

Susuga Hon LAAULI LEUATEA POLATAIVAO FOSSIE SCHMIDT: I apologise to the Member, you are correct and I am at fault. I also apologise to the Member for Vaisigano No 1, regarding the letter that you have mentioned, I believe I am a person who loves replying letters, whether you have a copy of the letter, please I ask to bring it over with you so that we can discuss this matter.

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I wish to note my appreciation to Ray Ah Liki and the Samoa Commercial Bank for their farming scheme. When you come into the office the Ministry will give you an endorsement saying that this specific person has good character, is a good farmer, this his income for the week doing this.

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Our thanks are extended to this gentleman for accepting our request. The Ministry gives \$3,000 to \$10,000 and also records of this person with this type of farming. Not to offend anyone, but with all due respect in all reality the majority of our people once they receive such money, it goes to something else. But the money given is to help buy wheel barrels, rakes, and all sorts of tools to help with the development of the plantation. And at the end of this, the Government will stand on the other side, and wait for you to bring in your crops to be measured. Our sincere thanks also goes out to the Shipping Company by the name of Matson. Not forgetting the Prime Minister and his role in compromising an easier way to make exporting crops easier. Thanks to Afioga Laauli Michael Jones, he made it possible to include Samoa in their routes of stops, our hopes is that it takes 6 days for this ship to arrive one way from Samoa to Honolulu, and 13 days to arrive in LA, Shadow and other big foreign countries. This was our hope because before it took 3 weeks for it to make its trip to America, but with the many conversations back and forth with the Matson Company they came to Samoa and spoke to our Government, and our Deputy Prime Minister spoke to them concerning our MV Samoana. I full heartedly believe that our form of transportation in exporting our crops off Island is well prepared now, and it is being recorded that it takes 10 days, 13 days for our crops to arrive in a more efficient way, to the person in whom these crops are being sold too, for the betterment and growth of our nation.

In a time, the request will reach the Hon Minister of Finance as our packing house at Atele is out of room storage, to this morning they are trying to figure out the plugs, for there are no more plugs in regards to our frozen products, last night I was told that there are 4 companies that are packing at the same time. The reason being for this is the call from our Government concerning our export marketing. We only ask that when the request reaches the Cabinet to please take into consideration that our packing house at Atele is out of room, and we need another extra space. Our packing house in Salelologa is not a mystery, it is just recently a good samaritan with a request that he wants to pack his own goods from Savaii, but it is hard as we do not have a packing house in Savaii because if we will have 12 containers from Savaii it will be coming straight from Savaii. Our thanks is extended to the respectable member for his desire to upgrade our wharf because there is no need to have containers be put on a boat to Savaii and be brought back from Savaii. This is the main purpose why we are relying on the Program by China, and other requests to implement a packing house in Salelologa.

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Our other hope is that between the conversations and discussions that at the end of the year we will have an Office of the Scientific Research of Samoa in Savaii so that they too can start on their research of freezing taro and other stuff. For anything that has to do with Savaii work implemented for them as well as containers will be done in Savaii, with this in mind it will help out a lot with the work here in Atele because the packing house is in Upolu and we have a lot of villages that caters to this house, and it will help decrease the over stock and out of room storage. To the Hon Minister of Finance earlier I have mentioned a packing house for the Scientific Research of Samoa but may I just put it forth as that.

To the Hon Prime Minister, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my Ministers, my voice is just a cry of simplicity, or in other words I am a just man. With the Ministry we cannot fulfill anything by ourselves, even with the Associate Minister we are just simple men, with a broader shoulder to lend as a helping tool to ease the load. Just as I mentioned earlier to the Minister of Finance, my company is another company with the biggest commercial farm. The income from my company allows me to buy my own personal tools. I have also put a request forward to the Hon Minister of Women, Community, and Social Development concerning our line of communication with the village council to be on a lookout concerning our poles and rhinoceros beetle.

The rhinoceros beetle is a national issue, districts are concerned about the welfare of its coconut tree plantation, and this is a collective effort. The job is not hard; we only have to gather the rhinoceros beetle, make sure we do not use coconut tree trunks for house poles and for fencing. We gather them all and get rid of them by burning. The small amount of workers now cannot complete this job but my call to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development is for us to work together. I know if there is a call to the *aumaga* or men in the village to clean up their coconut tree plantation affected by the rhinoceros' beetle, I fully believe this insect will be gone away with.

Sincere thanks goes out to Cabinet for your support, and for all those Members of Parliament through the Hon Minister of Health who do not support our Ministry, our main support is by providing healthy food for the benefit of our people.

To the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, our letter of request I believe has reached your honor. Our humble request is that many of our people wishes to take part in the commercial farming, and yet they do not have land to work on, may you please look into the matter that if there be any vacant Government land, would it be possible to bring it down to our Ministry so we may overlook it and to make it easier for our people to do commercial farming.

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We would also like to extend our thanks to our Members of Parliament who are in the forefront of our export market. To the Hon Leaupepe Taimaiono Toleafoa Faafisi I see that your district is in this as well with 20 containers total, and also the district of Falealili and Safata. That is the main goal for us Members of Parliament, we have to be in the forefront of it, the Ministry offers any help from planting materials, to technical advice, and all of that help is possible here at the Ministry. But I truly believe that when Members of Parliament are the ones at the forefront of this, the message is easily carried into the hearts of the villages. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for I am a firm believer that when we all come together as one, the goal is easily achieved.

My next thanks is extended to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, I have mentioned you earlier in regards to your services provided for distressed mothers. Let us forget about our past quarrels, but I know things come to pass so that we can learn to steer better for the future. This constituency your Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development we do not take you lightly, why? Because when we speak of mothers, we prioritize them because of our love upon our own mothers, sisters and wives. Another reason being is that this Constituency took over this Ministerial post for the first time for the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in 1993. For this same reason why do we support your honor and your Ministry as well as my sister Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers. I further support the role the organization plays in the Government, especially those who are heading in the direction of putting up domestic awareness programs for the abused mothers in the country.

The President wrote a letter to me saying "Laauli spare some assistance to our school so our children can have their camp, I told the Ministry head to 'go and have a look' this was when the Ministry had completed their gardening project, and they brought the students over and taught them how to plant cabbage and other vegetables, and that is the main spirit, help and support the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development by eradicating these problems.

To my Constituency, we have done our job, thank you for your prayers and support. Fagaee, Sasina, Letui and Aopo, may you continue to pray and support your representative in fulfilling its duties. I also acknowledge my sister Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers, blessed is our constituency for this Parliamentary term, we have received God's will for us to achieve our work. Let glory be unto our Heavenly Father and may we have the spirit of unity for the betterment of our constituency.

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I also extend thanks to the village in all your honorifics. This is me, nothing has changed, days have passed but I have served our village, all of it is for a brighter future, you have given me advises and for this, my life has a purpose. For many years we have suffered, but our sincere thanks we have reached what we aimed for.

The nearest times to daylight are the greatest times referred to as night. May we bear patience with our neighboring village Letui, they are no stranger to us as they are our own flesh and blood. Send God our prayers as nothing good comes out of quarrel and fights, just a friendly reminder. I like to extend my apologies to my village of Fagaae for not being able to attend our special devotion service in Fagaae due to Parliament Sitting. May I continue to have your support to better our nation.

Mr Speaker, praise God for our continuous prayers upon Samoa. May blessings and strength be upon the State, public servants, Head of Government Ministries whilst engaged with fulfilling their callings and serving our people. To our Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet may you all be blessed also with all Members, and to this side, may I find life to fulfill my duties.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, for your speech has been heard, and well supported in the Parliament.

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

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I humbly stand in response to the raising matters by the Members concerning things like air, ocean and land with the Ministry or Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

First of all, I humbly greet the Speaker of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet and Members. I also acknowledge the Heads of Government Ministries and Corporations, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to humbly greet my constituency in all honorary salutations, and to our people of Samoa thank you for your support. To all the church leaders within any denomination in Samoa, thank you for your support and constant prayer of offering on the behalf of our Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we should always give praises to the Divine for his endless love.

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Mr Speaker, all requests that have been mentioned deals with access roads, road lights, seawall, and drinking water. I have noted down all request and suggestions being made and will have it as an agenda for the Ministry when our Appropriation 2017/2018 is passed.

Mr Speaker many request made concerns access roads which I have received in letter form. I have noted down suggestions given by our Member concerning access roads not having to be cemented. The suggestion given is good, because when we concrete access roads, 3 kilometers of the road could be done with the money and 2 to 3 roads with the scoria tar as the many requests being put forth by the Member, the Ministry will look into them, so that when this Parliament Term comes to an end, all your requests will be taken care of by the Budget Appropriation for the remaining years of this Parliamentary Term.

For all those who have put forth proposals concerning street lights, there is a procedure with the Electric Power Corporation. After the completion of the survey it goes to the Special Committee to be considered for the sole purpose of obtaining street lights.

Mr Speaker any proposal for seawall, it goes through the Land Transport Authority if the Government road is being affected.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong (Urban Seat West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister I allow the member for the Urban Seat West.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you for the clarification, but I did not mention access roads. I only mentioned roads further inland of the urban area for the areas in Moamoa and Falelauniu. This is where majority of settlers reside.

For this reason, I wish to remind the Hon Minister lest you forget it with respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks, go on Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker thank you to the interjecting member, I have come to the main issue he is addressing. In regards to the member's request and the road in Moamoa this is duly noted and the Ministry will take action as soon as our Budget is approved.

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Before the intervention I was on the topic concerning seawall Mr Speaker, in regards to seawalls that are affecting public roads, a proposal is submitted to the Ministry of Land Transport Authority. But if this concerns the protection of private lands then those proposals should be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Mr Speaker I know not only here in Tumua, but also in Salafai, we still have a problem servicing drinking water. The Samoa Water Authority is still in the process of finding programs to better the water system supply for our people.

Some of our Members have asked why our drinking water has a foul smell stemmed from drinking water due to chorine treatment. The Ministry of Health is assisting in regulating the levels of chorine for drinking water tanks. There should not be any need to worry about water filtering. For your understanding, chorine treatment is used to protect drinking water from germs, whilst some Members are seeing it as a health hazard. The more chlorine put in the tank the better it is to kill diseases and germs. Foreign countries have also used this type of method to sanitize drinking water.

The member for Vaisigano No. 1 brought up Terms Deposit listed on the Annual Account for the Ministry of Samoa Water Authority 2015/2015 at the costs of \$11million and \$8million. Mr Speaker I understand the Hon Prime Minister has clarified this in regards to Term Deposit, which specifically refers to cash flows being used to operate the works of the Ministry.

The truth of the matter is there are term deposit of up to \$87,000.00 and \$86,000.00 allocated for projects that needs to be paid up when the work is done. Retentions for completed projects will be paid off after a 12 monthly period.

Truthfully speaking Mr Speaker, the Ministry should not have saved up these significant amounts as Term Deposits given the piled up projects for the Ministry.

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I call the member of Vaisigano No.1.

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: Thank you Hon Minister and Hon Prime Minister for your clarification concerning the matter, but my main point of asking is that you have mentioned your transcript has been checked, but does the Samoa Water Authority have a savings?

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With this in mind let me give some answers, there is interest charge for fix deposit. Thank you Hon Minister for your explanation, but my opinion is that when there is cash flow there will always be fluctuation, unlike the Ministry of Revenue when a person is absent from work he does not get any tax, or when there are no import goods from overseas company there is no revenue for the Customs. But with this Ministry alone, either you think of water or no? Every month there is water bills, in that case there is expectation for every month, there is bills but not all bills are paid at once, we find people who takes their time paying their bill, and for this very reason why I have brought it up, because the Samoa Water Authority should have an estimate of their revenue per month, and what projects can be implemented in these months just like my constituency. For this reason, why I brought this forward, which is why I have explained it thoroughly with all due respect Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks, I allow the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Member for interceding. The reason I brought up this matter is because I have it down on my notes that you have asked concerning the \$11 million and the \$8million, with remarks that if this is seasonal money, and for this reason also the Hon Prime Minister replied. Anyhow I am grateful that the Member now understands, and this I have mentioned before that the Samoa Water Authority is not asked to save money big amount of money seasonally, because there are many projects to be completed for our people and especially your constituency they have requested the lowering of water bill due to the lack in water supply. Mr Speaker this is the only constituency who only pays half a bill, because of the scarcity of water supply.

To our next matter being raised by the respectable Member of Safata, about the MV Lady Samoa II, that is in Aleipata, it looks as though it is about to sink. For your information Member, the Ministry is on guard in keeping an eye out for this, so that it will not happen. At the moment our Samoa Shipping Services and its partners are working on expediting a plan to successfully sink the MV Lady Samoa and convert it into a tourist attraction for our Scuba Divers.

Members from Salega West and Gagaemauga No.3 have asked about renovation works for our wharfs in Mulifanua and Salelologa.

On to the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 I have requested for another additional ship for Savaii just like the MV Lady Samoa III, and we have put forth a proposal to the Government of Japan for a replacement of the Lady Naomi, as it has been nearly 20 years old.

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The highest expectation for the Samoa Shipping Services is that once Japan grants the approval of our proposal the new boat will be transitted through Mulifanua and Salelologa.

To my dear fellow member of Faleata West and the matter on the Electric Power Corporation levy, or the Ecolisation Chart that is \$2million that is in our Budget as additional revenues, if this will have an effect on the cost for our people. For all Members understanding I personally asked the Ministry during the Budget Estimate 2017/2018 preparation if this will have an effect on the cost of electricity because of the additional cost to the Electric Power Corporation, they answered saying no.

The Member has also asked concerning our bridge in Leone, and how the tender process was done for this, and that a Local Contractor should have done the work. For clarification, a tender was put out, and all was called to put in their tender, in relation to our partners with Australia and the World Bank.

Unfortunately, 2 local contractors and 2 overseas contractors bid for the tender, and the lowest bid who won the tender is the Chinese Railways. The official opening for this bridge in Leone will be on Saturday. The Governor of Australia together with our Hon Prime Minister will open the new bridge on Saturday the 1st of July, and all Members of Parliament are invited, to come and accept traditional gifts from the Hon Minister of Justice, and Courts Administration.

Now I will speak on the matter mentioned in the report...

MR SPEAKER: I interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister of Works, I apologize for we have come to our short recess and upon our return you shall resume your speech.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 10:49 and will resume at 11:44am.

Debate over the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 resumed.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed, during our break the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure was speaking. I have a thought but we will wait for the Hon Prime Minister.

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With due respect, I call the Hon Prime Minister for the motion before the Minister takes his turn.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker we will resume our Sitting tomorrow, meaning that we will now wrap up for today, and if there is any further issue we will continue on Monday. The main reason is for Members to have a thorough read of the Bill and have their warm ups like the Manu Samoa who will be competing against Tonga this Friday. Metaphorically speaking it is just like a pregnant mother who has an effect on her husband. I believe when we have good warm ups our team will do good as well.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, thank you. I believe the Hon Prime Minister has spoken, and we shall continue with our work. A thought comes to mind that we will do as mentioned by the Hon Prime Minister we will continue our proceedings for today, and if have any remaining business, we will continue on Monday. With that in mind we will put a motion to resume our proceedings as suggested by the Hon Prime Minister.

With respect I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to carry on.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you for the opportunity given to finish up what I have put forth. I believe we have all been physically fed and replenished to resume our proceedings for the day.

Mr Speaker, there is one thing that I forgot to mention and this is to do with freehold land, with 10 to 20 acres they can subdivide these lands and sell out to $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to our people. But what seems bothersome Mr Speaker is the fact that some have done this, especially when it comes to roads requests. We have some subdivisions that have put forth proposals for roads, but under the law whoever owns the land it is his job, to make sure there are access roads within these subdivisions, as well as pipe lines for drinking water, and electric poles. This matter is important and it is a reminder to our people who are looking to buy land within subdivisions, to ask the owner if there are any utilities or services mentioned above included in the cost of the land and to make sure it is there before the land is sold.

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It has been a case with our road in Falelauniu, because before, the Samoa Land Corporation bought these lands and developed it which now looks good. I strongly consider that all these public roads belong to the Government if cars are using it on a day to day basis. For this very reason, why the Land Transport Authority should renovate these roads again, because beforehand Land Transport Authority had a frame of mind that since the Samoa Land Corporation owns these roads they should be the ones to deal with it. All roads that have been put into place since we had subdivisions, they have been used by cars, and it becomes the Land Transport Authority obligation to fix it and have it as public roads, as majority of the request put forth is subdivisions to the Ministry. That is an announcement and clarification for all Members including our people who are affected by this. Just an estimate it will take at least 10 years before the roads can be under construction, whilst the Government think of someone to renovate these roads, but in the meantime we cannot prioritize it as a matter of now, for our main concerns are our many roads, public roads, and proposals put forth by Members. With regards to any of these request there are laws put in place to protect the buyers from freehold land owners to have the road fixed, to have access to electricity and water.

Mr Speaker I wish now to touch base on a report brought forth by the Committee of Finance and Revenue I wish to speak on.

MR SPEAKER: I beg indulgence Hon Minister we have the member of Anoamaa West.

Tofa Hon Laufo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity. I notice the Hon Minister has now moved away from the topic of roads and public roads, because I have mentioned the road that goes to Sauniatu. I believe this road is a public road. As I have mentioned in my speech, when I spoke to those who have prepared to do the job, their word to me is, we are close to advertising as I have mentioned in my speech. To the Hon Minister I will ask you directly, will this road be fixed or not. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Due to our time, your Hon Minister I give this opportunity to the Member of Anoamaa East.

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Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauro Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Thank you Mr Speaker. I have taken into consideration the process of having access roads fixed from the Hon Minister, for we are now back to scoria tar to save money for our Government which leads to more roads being fixed. I have requested access roads for my constituency going inlands since we are now using both sides of the road, but would it be possible to cement this road given the dust, with all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I give this opportunity to the Member of the Urban Seat West.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Very well thanks, I allow th member of the Urban Seat West, go on Faumuina.

Afioga Faumuina Asi Pauli Wayne Fong: Thank you Mr Speaker and the Hon Minister for clearly bringing up the road issue in Falelauniu, I humbly request your Hon Minister about the roads of Moamoa, the subdivisions there are subdivisions of the Catholic Church. Many of the roads there were not implemented. Just to clarify your Hon Minister with the lands and subdivisions who are now being occupied by our people, is it the Catholic that needs to fix these roads, or is it the Government. There is a public road that goes all the way to Malololelei, but what are your thoughts Hon Minister, would it be possible to have it as another program that needs to be implemented pertaining to roads to Malololelei, Siumu, Safata and Falealii. I humbly request, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Is there an interjection? You may go on member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

Afioga Pau Sefo Taumata Pau (Faasaleleaga No. 2): Thank you for the opportunity. You have mentioned in your speech that these are not new proposals for this Parliament Term, No, this is the fourth proposal and my constituency is waiting. I have shared with the Hon Minister, and this past weekend I have walked sub village after sub village, to prepare ourselves, so that when the Budget is passed then we will pay a visit with the Hon Minister. To the Hon Minister this is my only question, since now my constituency is listening, to accomplish these request put forth as they are not new request they are old request from the 4 previous Terms meaning it is nearly 20 years. But with the proposals being mentioned they are all new.

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For this reason Hon Minister, would you give a straight answer to the matter, as you speak that once the Appropriation Budget is passed, you will come out with the Associate Minister to have a look at the roads.

MR SPEAKER: Apologies Hon Minister, this is your opportunity to speak for the constituency is waiting on your respond.

Susuga Hon PAPALITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Mr Speaker, I am saddened by the fact that I have moved away from the topic and now I have reached the topic of the report presented by the Committee of Finance and Revenue, and now this has been brought forth again, just because of a thought being put forth concerning access roads and subdivisions.

The road being mentioned by the Hon Lauofo Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo, there is a request in my office, and I have spoken to the Member concerning funds from the AF, and that there is funds put aside for the Sauniatu and Fagaloa road. It is in the records and notes of the Ministry that when the Appropriation Budget is passed, the Ministry will come out to do a survey and start the process of the road. The Sauniatu road is important together with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints together we visited the road, and have access that for many years no maintenance was ever done on the road, and I believe it should be a priority because of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the school and other aspect such that our people who are occupying there.

To the Member of Anoamaa East, we also have your proposal on hand, and I have discussed the matter with the Member. Just a reminder to our Members I have mentioned earlier that I have taken note of all your proposals, but if that be the case of always standing up and intervening, then I cannot help myself but take your proposal off the list. To the proposal for a road, no roads have been fixed there before, and for this very reason there were preparation.

Roads like this, I prioritize first because they are the roads who are severely damaged, but for whatever reason you keep putting forth your proposals. This is the fourth year of your Term in Parliament, and by the *third Term, I have requested for access roads for 15 years, and to this day* nothing has been done, but I still win the election. Let us not take these access roads as a way for us to return back to Parliament, but have patience; we will distribute the money and use it wisely for our roads. If not this year, next year, all the way till our term is finished and all our requests will be achieved. That is the response my brother...

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Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauro Malagaitutogiaia Sepulona Moanano: Mr Speaker I have noticed with great care that the Hon Minister is offended by our request, because of questions being put forth concerning new changes. But you have answered. Thank you to the Hon Minister, for your kindness to this constituency. May you be blessed in your duty and calling.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you to the Hon Minister. I apologize to the Member of Anoamaa East. If your road had never been concreted before, the Ministry will look at the number of settlers there, then they will concrete it 1 to 2 meter back, and the rest will be scoria tar all the way back to start our work. When the Budget reaches next year and the population of people occupying in that same area has increased, then it will be concreted further back. For that is how we complete our work here all the way till the term is over especially when it comes to access roads.

Now to my brother Member from the district of the Urban Seat, the answer is no, because these are subdivisions done by the Catholic church for a long time, I have visited the road when your request was brought forward before, and have noticed how severely damaged the roads are, especially with our people occupying these parts of the village. I will take into consideration your request, because Rome was not built in one day, thank you for your patience.

Mr Speaker, now to the matter being brought up in the Report of the Committee of Finance and Revenue, I wish to speak because I was mentioned. In the report on parking fee of \$40, this is in the expense for car registration. The committee ought to think that it is irrelevant and the reason is listed in their report, thus, I too support the decision by the Committee and the Ministry to have a thorough look into the matter.

Mr Speaker, the Land Transport Authority is in the process of having parking meters for Public Parking within our town area, to eliminate problems mentioned by the Committee.

Another addressing matter Mr Speaker is the Police Officers and the Land Transport Traffic Officer, concerning a dispute about minor traffic offences. Under the law of the Land Transport Authority, the Land Transport Authority has authority to collect fines, but not the Police Officers. The Ministry of Police has the authority to report the unlawful abiding citizen, and it is through the Ministry of the Land Transport Authority that you pay the fine too.

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the Hon Minister go on member for Palauli le Falefa

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker I like to thank the Hon Minister for his clear explanation. If you have a look, two things are being mentioned, we have not put forth what you have mentioned but thank you. Our first thing is \$40 for the parking fee for stores, because Government Ministries are the ones that blocks the road for these people who have already paid their \$40 parking.

The matter with the law under Police, the Office of the Land and Transport Authority is new, and laws have already been implemented and you are correct. But the problem that the Committee of Finance and Revenue is looking at, our police officers are under the Government budget and yet we get nothing from them. The problem with the law under Police is that from the beginning no change has been put into it. With that in mind we have suggested for the income and expenditure to find means of how to obtain money for the Government worker that uses this service under the Ministry. This makes it difficult for the Ministry of Police because they operate 24 hours, and the committee is in the process of finding ways to intertwine the law in a friendly way for both the Land Transport Authority and the Ministry of Police, because in reality when you think about it the Land Transport Authority is a Trading Body they work as a business, and the income earned by the Ministry is given to them, which is the good thing, but still the two should intertwine.

MR SPEAKER: Very well I call the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you for the interjection, because you have raised a good point in keeping the peace between the two Ministries, especially with problems that have come up concerning them.

Mr Speaker, I am firm that Police Officers are to protect and prosecute criminal offenses resulting from car accidents. But when it comes to serious offences and collecting fines like what the Member has mentioned, that is when we go back to the law between the Ministry of Police and the Land Transport Authority because with the Ministry of Police when they see minor traffic offences they do not see the need to report it to obtain Instant Fines for the Land Transport Authority.

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I firmly believe that this type of attitude should be corrected; either the Land Transport Authority or the Ministry of Police collect fines, the Revenue will end up in the Government's purse so it does not matter.

Having mentioned this, the Ministry of Police with the Land Transport Authority should work together as one, and come to a conclusion and resolve these issues. It is important for the Land Transport Authority to collect fines for fixing up our public roads because the funds given from the Appropriation Budget is not enough to fix all roads.

Mr Speaker I believe the answers given will help the Member fully comprehend the matter, may our Father in Heaven bless you with prosperous health.

Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu (Gagaemauga No.3): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me, go on member of Safata.

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini: Thank you Mr Speaker, I have noticed that the Hon Minister is closing up his speech. Thank you Hon Minister, nevertheless I have one matter that I need to bring up please, with our taxi drivers and their attire, as I have mentioned earlier in the morning hours when the cruise ship arrive I was astounded at the way our taxi drivers dressed. These are simple things that have an impact on our country. If there is a law or bill with the Land Transport Authority about these matters, when it comes to our taxi drivers' attires, I humbly ask.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: My apologies to the Member for I remembered you have mentioned this in your speech about uniforms for our taxi drivers. The suggestion is important but there is no law with the Land Transport Authority, to reinforce clean uniform or attire, but we will keep your suggestion in mind so that everyone is equal when it comes to attires for taxi drivers.

Mr Speaker I have concluded my speech I pray that our Father in Heaven will bless us with His mercy.

Pardon the member, it is true that this was raised in his speech this thing about taxi drivers uniform.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me this is the final one, go on Deputy Speaker.

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Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu Ketu: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe the Hon Minister has concluded his speech. Thank you for your patience's, after listening to your answers about the matter; I believe we have a law concerning taxi stands.

For this very reason why we have traffic jam in town, and for this very reason why the Land Transport Authority created this law so that taxis can stand at these taxi stand whilst providing the service to our people. Nevertheless, when we take a closer look in the town, even to our Private Parking Area, taxis dominate it, and when we have a look around we ask ourselves where the taxi stand is. For this very reason, the law was created because of the many cars we have now in our country.

Secondly Mr Speaker I feel at ease to bring this up, because of what has mentioned by the Hon Minister, in regards to the Ministry of Police and the Land Transport Authority in carrying out their responsibilities, and that the income being received is for the development of our Government, which is true, but saying it is different when it comes to putting it into action, it does not align, because I too used to work there.

There is no distant between the two, all is well, this is the only Law if it be possible that the Law Reform Commission and the Attorney General when it comes to balancing out where and when their duties starts and ends, borderline, from serious accidents to car accidents.

For that is the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Police, to direct traffic, and minor traffic offenses, that is also the responsibility of the Land Transport Authority, in my opinion, the main issue here with the High Commission and the Ministry, when it comes to the Appropriation, they are asked what are you implementing in this area to improve this area stuff like that. You should have collected arrears to target what these Ministries have reached. May I just point this out, because this is why it is being brought up with the High Commissioner and the Ministry, to be able to reach certain targets laid out by the Ministry of Finance?

For these are small simple things that distant the two Ministries, because they too have Corporate plans and KPI's to reach, so that at the end of the year the Ministry of Finance will see that they have reached their target. Nevertheless, when it comes to carrying out their responsibilities let us remove the word aloof between the two your Hon and our Members. I firmly believe they get along because I have worked there for 35 years; the Land Transport Authority just surfaced but the old boys of our Nation is still around, thank you.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you for the interjection, but with all due respect Mr Speaker if whenever we have an intervention again would you kindly make them sit down, I am trying to conclude my speech so that we can pass the budget.

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Mr Speaker I do recognize this Member as a public servant for the Ministry of Police, I highly accept his words of advice, but I have put forth my opinion, work together is the word not aloof, because I do not know the exact meaning of friendliness, maybe it is unity I am looking for working together.

I do not know the meaning for harmony, but relying on each other is working together. Therefore, sir, you have not made a speech regarding this matter. The report by the Finance Committee was put aside which you should have raised points about because you were involved in police work, and give some advice, the advice given are sitting nicely, but leave us with your advice so that the Ministry of Police can discuss them because you are now out of each. And also the Management of the LTA regarding...

Tofa Nafitoa Talaimanu Ketu: Mr Speaker ...

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Please sit him down please...

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, because I was the one who mentioned the word harmony and to make peace, I was not referring to people but the Law which governs the Ministry of Police and the Land Transport Authority. To harmonise these legislations so there is harmony and so we can understand where this and where that thing is hanging, with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, thank so much. There will not be any interjecting because the distinguished member has spoken; this is the last interjection because it is from the wise heads from this side of the House.

Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG: Thank you Mr Speaker, what the member has mentioned is very important and is a good reminder to the member that spoke about how this subject was breaking the law, this is harmony, harmony in the Law, but not the employee, that is the essence of his remarks and I accept that last bit of advice. Sir, this brief subject should have finished earlier if it were not for the many interjections which have blocked our work. May you live a wonderful life while you lead the Parliament Sittings of Samoa. May God bless the Father of the nation, Hon Prime Minister, the distinguished Cabinet Ministers, Associate Ministers as well as all the delegates of the entire Parliament of Samoa. Farewell and God bless, thank you.

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MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Your duties are not easy, your hands-on responsibilities Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, thank you. Next on our list is the Hon Minister of Samoa Tourism. I would like advice that no more interjections will be accepted for the speech given by the previous Minister, please Hon Minister it is your turn.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI (Minister of Tourism): I would like to thank you Sir, I believe you given me the chance to continue this hour of the day, and I believe it is appropriate for this time of the day. It has now been three days since we haven't yet had the passing of this Budget. I would like to thank you for calling me to speak on behalf of the Samoa Tourism Authority on the subject at hand, especially regarding the Budget which has been discussed in the House.

I will not speak about the honourific salutations of Samoa, because they are from the beginning until the end. Due to time constraint, I will now respond to the questions and queries raised by some members.

As the Minister of this Ministry I have received various comments. Firstly, the member from Palauli le Falefa asked about the increase population of our country, and in response to that, there is neither report nor any misleading information on this. Cabinet has already asked the Hon Prime Minister regarding statistics regarding the report about the Samoan population being 100,097. And the answer, I would like to thank God for His Providence. He is the God of Prosperity and Abundance. He is the all knowing God, who knows what we need from time to time. If our population has decreased then I think that it is not the Will of God to increase it to a greater number. But give us a realistic figure to be in harmony with the economy of Samoa. Distinguished member of Palauli le Falefa, what other factors that I know has greatly impacted the increase in our population, the travelling abroad of a lot of our people. According to what I have been informed about, it is that if we have started the counting of our people, and if there were like thousands of people who travelled overseas to New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America, they are not included in our Census. That means, if we were to *use another term, there is a plus but there is no minus. So the plus we will not know until all these people return back to our shores, so we can have a much clearer indication of where our actual population is at.* I therefore apologize, if by any chance this is not satisfactory at all, we are trying to inform you of only the actual facts.

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

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the member of Palauli le Falefa.

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Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Because the Minister has mentioned the giving of the facts. The truth is what the Ministry of Health or their services provide, there are 5,000 new born babies including those born in the districts. The Ministry of the Prime Minister has 1,100 vacancies for the Quota Scheme, there are 500 according to the Ministry of Health, but we have put that at 1,000 to include people who have died in the districts but not in the hospital, and the 500 people which is precisely what you were speaking about, and if you deduct that figure we will have 2,400 people annually. If we were multiply 200 each year by 5 then we would have 12,000. So in the five previous censuses multiply that by 12,000 we have 60,000, and the net growth over each year will be 25. Because he mentioned some factual factors based on actual statistics and if the Chief Executive Officer was asked to confirm these figures they will. The answer is, yes. With the utmost respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognize the Minister for Tourism.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: I am not going to argue with this father, for the old man is older than me, I do not know whether I am older, or if he is older than I. But thank I will note that down here. Which means that if the problem lies with our Chief Executive Officer, what shall I do? Give them a one two? But again, thanks very much. I am not arguing about this part, I appreciate your kingly wisdom regarding this matter, well, just give me your trust okay, and thank you again sir. I then come to the announcement or the marketing of tourism for tourists. Firstly, I would like announce that it is not unknown from our House. We have the Manu Samoa. The year that we took our team to our First World Cup there were some famous names like the guy that is now the Minister of Sports, that team I think if the players were not tired easily and unfit, not only would Australia have lost, but also South Africa. But I am grateful, Keneti Sio and his team were able to beat Argentina, in a fantastic game of rugby, and that was when the whole world started to look and ask where Samoa is? Just recently, last year, we hosted the SIDS Conference which had the theme titled, Pathway of Samoa. That was one thing that really stood out and was witnessed, accepted and acknowledged by the whole world, even though Samoa is a small island nation with a small population but it is a country that can do great things given our warm hospitality as great hosts.

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I am very obliged to say thank you to the House members, as I notice this morning how beautiful our House is. Glory be to God for everything is in orderly peace and safety. We must go and help to organize things, so thank you Samoa as there is no growth in their wealth, but there I so much cheerfulness, as mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture, just amazing. An elderly gentleman from village said, ``amazing Asita look at the things you have done'', so, again, thanks to the Hon Minsiter of Agriculture, it has been witnessed that he is one of the bold warriors.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Hon Minister to please not reply to matters that were raised, but please speak about what you have to say and then conclude your speech.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Thank you. Distinguished members of the House at this hour of the day there is a lot of money being used for overseas advertising and for your information, nothing has been excluded, as everything here is well documented and every member should have this document of this detailed report thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism. And with utmost respect I believe we have concluded our report as tabled.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Hon Minister. The member for Salega why are you upstanding again? Nevertheless, please member for Salega East please stand up.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: I would like to understand more about the query I made to the Hon Minister. You are correct Hon Minister I am looking at this book as you explained. But, I think as I look at it, I think that the numbers and figures are inserted herein.

The figure in the Budget of \$11.4million is mainly for advertising in New Zealand and Australia. And then a gift from New Zealand of \$4.5million has been added on. That was what I was asking you Hon Minister. *If there were any other countries as well, then I think this massive advertising budget would be alright.* But remember just as I mentioned, that we do not need to market and advertise to Australia and New Zealand as there are so many of our people who reside there already. Another last thing I was enquiring about, can you inform us what television channels these advertisements were shown so we all watch it. You are right Hon Minister that the Manu Samoa are marketing our country abroad, but we only get to play the All Blacks or New Zealand every two, three four or five years.

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MR SPEAKER: I acknowledge the interjection by the distinguished member.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: But it is alright, this is enough.

MR SPEAKER: Sir, we do not need a remark/ statement regarding a speech.

Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Just in case we are not in harmony with the member. I think because the member is an accountant, he has enough knowledge about financial matters. Myself, I am just a lowly person man. I did not go to a place to learn how to look for money. But rather it is practical business knowledge by experience, just like what the old man said to Sio, "Leuatea come to Malua, so I went there, but many church ministers were saying, what is the? Tell me the degree of this church minister, then when it was his turn, then the old man asked, "Sio what is your degree? And Sio replied, " it is VLM", and then the old man asked again, "Sio, what is VLM?" "It is respectfully, so very stupid". So just like I said in my speech, I do not compare myself to any other thing to obtain knowledge, no. I will say what is the truth and I will always say it straight. That is the spirit why the Budget was given, Samoa does not own any funds that are given to us by way of grants. The money is given to us, but half of it is loaned from outside, you do not own that, and that is why they say that they will come to observe which projects and whether they appropriate, so they know where exactly these funds are going to be justifiably used. At this time, there are funds but they are not available until July the real budget for this, so we can see where these funds are being used as per the query by the member.

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

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the member.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, I take my hat off. This is exactly what I was waiting for, an explanation about wisdom of the mind. Now mind is knowledgable and smart though it was so very stupid before. But thanks to Hon Minister for the clear explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Thanks. You may conclude your speech Hon Minister.

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Afioga Hon SALA FATA PINATI: Thank you. Well things like this happen a lot in the Big Island, the boys make a lot of noise, but are brothers. All of us from the big island of Salafai, for your information, we should all work together, give us your shoulder, and we will give you our shoulder so we can try working together, as Faumuina, or Palauli le Falefa has so numerously reminded previously, we need to develop Savaii. If it is good for Apia, is also good for Savaii. With due respect Mr Speaker, that is all this member has to say for now. May we have a blessed meeting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Your speech and remarks are music to my ears Hon Minister. Well, next on our list is the Hon Minister of Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker in all your honorific salutations.

May the Parliament be exalted above the mountains and sky, pigeons called from the tree branches? May the Pillar of Government of Samoa be raised and exalted, from the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the distinguished Cabinet, as well as the support of the Chief Justice and the Ministry of Justice.

I acknowledge His Majesty, The Head of State and his good lady, who are supporting the Parliament of Samoa, as well as the Members of the Council of Deputies and their good ladies.

What about the sacred fish which is prepared for the mutual support of the four corners of Samoa who are listening now. It is a sacredness that has been set permanently as Samoa has already been divided and blessed, and can not be exalted by my voice, or made smaller by any words I speak this morning.

I respectfully acknowledge the prayerful support of the Clergy and church ministers who are praying for the prosperity and success of the Government and country. I would also like to touch on the mutual support of my constituency. Honourific Salutations of the Constituency of Faleasiu follows.

Thank you for your prayers and support upon me as I sit in the Chair of our Constituency. Well, I ask for you to continue supporting me in peace, whilst the pigeon turns its attention to contribute to the Constituency for this Session. Mr Speaker and the distinguished members of this Parliament, I will respond broadly as I can to the matters raised by the members, divided into three areas, just so it sheds more light to their enquiries.

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This is a very different Session Mr Speaker, as there were only 13 dignified members of Parliament who spoke about the Ministry of Health, and the majority thanked the Ministry. With the exception of maybe one or two who were critical, but again the majority were making positive comments and recommendations to the Ministry for the benefit of the health of our nation and her people.

I will begin with the patients we have sent to India, a lot of members raised this matter, and also conveyed their gratitude for the efforts made in this aspect. The truth is that we should be thankful to God who has shown us and directed this assistance and this avenue for our sick people to be taken for treatment overseas, because it is not an easy task trying to appease and respond to our people regarding seeking and receiving the appropriate medical treatment overseas, regardless of whatever illnesses that cannot be treated locally, thus, this requires urgent vital medical treatment or surgery overseas.

This initiative to India, it came about because of three very ill patients who were rejected by New Zealand, as they could not perform the operations and medical treatment, and the bill for one of these patients was too expensive and would have cost up to one million tala to perform, and so unfortunately our limited budget could not cater for this treatment. So then we searched for another avenue for our patients and the Government of India responded to our request. As you are all aware, about four or five years ago, or three to four or five years ago our Prime Minister was invited by the Government of India and so he travelled over to pursue closer diplomatic relations with India and I went with the Hon Prime Minister, and it was there that we stressed out our need for their assistance in the health sector regarding our proposals and talks with the Indian Government. Not only were we in need of assistance for our sick patients but we also needed doctors and medicine. Remember that India is one of the biggest producers of pharmaceutical products that are used around the world?

And so they obliged and a great opportunity was realised as they opened their Indian hospitals to us, and we were able to start working and liaising closely with them regarding the different treatments they offered for our patients.

There is a group, called the Apollo Hospital; I think there is something like close to 50 hospitals in the Apollo Group. Unfortunately, it was not easy making decisions regarding our service when we were in communication due to the many ill patients. You think also about how far away India is and the travelling across the many seas when we send our patients to India.

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Furthermore, upon their arrival in India, they did not have any family there for patients to lean on for moral support and other required assistance needed other than the treatment of their illnesses.

That is why it was so difficult when we were just starting out in this project. And, when these patients were faced with this dilemma, there was no where else that we could reach out to, so we liaised with India for this matter. And so the doors were opened and an agreement was reached to start sending out these three very ill patients. But unfortunately one of the gravely ill patients passed away before leaving Samoa, and so only two patients went, one has already returned, and as you can see that is one of the patients.

These were the patients that were rejected by New Zealand they could not be treated, because of the reasons I have explained. The other one has returned as he has now recovered and has already expressed his joy and gratitude to the Government and our Ministry for the opportunity given to be treated in India. The other patient; you have already seen the stories in the newspapers; the child and his father travelled to India for treatment for his kidney. They were appealing publicly for funding, and his father donated his kidney for his son. Now his operation has just finished, which took 14 hours. He is slowly recovering, and should be returning back with joy to Samoa very soon. So, right up to this time, there were 34 patients who have been sent to India for treatment. I am explaining this is because there was a question posted, why then do we not send all our ill patients to be treated in India?

This is the other matter that our Ministry and the Government looked into thoroughly, because it was very affordable, only one third of our funds was used for patients treated in New Zealand however, that is the amount of fund used for the treatment of our patients in India. That means, we were able to have more patients to be treated in India. Another good aspect of this, even though that is affordable, our Government can assist our people to go. At this time, not only is the cost of operations for our patients sent to New Zealand very high, but there are significant expenses which are carried out by our families there too. The families pay the airfares, roundtrip fare. I think it may be around \$2,000 for the fare which will be paid by the family, when they arrive in New Zealand, they do not go straight to the hospital, but will be staying with family in New Zealand. At that time, they will be cared for by their family, whilst awaiting and preparing for their operation or treatment.

There are many families who have been affected when family members take time off work to care for their loved ones who has come over to New Zealand for their operation/ treatment.

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Firstly, they stay behind to take the patient to the laboratory and am sure that many dignified members understand this very well, as we always travel to New Zealand, and these places are quite far away from each other for their services. The clinic is one side, the X-Ray laboratory on the other side, and you have to visit the specialist on the other end. All things considered, there are also other burdens to bear, and it is carried by the families in New Zealand. We have many families in New Zealand, and so when the patient returns and has recovered, the family is left to shoulder the burdens and expenses.

This is the only time that the patient goes into the hospital and undergo an operation that the Government is liable to pay. When they have been released from hospital, finished their treatment, they can return to their family, and then they may take another two to three weeks to recover and make hospital visits to be checked until they are fully recovered to be able to return to Samoa. So when you add up all these expenses pertaining to a patient, the money used by the family is almost similar to the funds paid by the Government for the treatment expenses. However, in India there is absolutely no expense for the patient and their families. The only expense that is required to be paid is the overnight stay in Fiji before they continue their journey. This is paid by the patient. The reason for that is because everyone has different needs. Some people need refreshments and meals and things like that, so the patient chooses what they need and they pay for it. I suppose that only \$200 goes for the patient. So when they leave and arrive in India, they directly go to the hospital and start their treatment and tests before they are treated or have their operation, and then when they are released they go straight to the hotel.

The hotel where they are staying are very good hotels that they can stay until they are well, then they jump on the plane and return to Samoa. The patients and their families do not have to pay for anything whatsoever, it is all funded by the government. All these initiatives are becoming beneficial for Samoa in terms of financial assistance most especially for the family of the patients. The only matter that our Government is starting to look at is a founding principle, a policy...because at this time we are still giving our patients the choice. A lot of patients are being informed before going to India for operation. They reply, please, I want to go to New Zealand as I have my children there and family, I would like to go to New Zealand for my treatment. So for now it is currently the choice of the patient which we are guided by. But what should be done, there should be a policy, and look at which patients must be going to India, and those who must go to New Zealand, to ensure consistency and harmony for the whole country.

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In my view, we must send all our patients to India, with the exception of emergencies and sick patients who are unable to travel on a plane for long time. Those patients must go to New Zealand to receive emergency treatment. It would be beneficial and lessen our financial burden if our Ministry can look into creating a policy to ensure who should go to India and who should not go to New Zealand. That is the way to go forward regarding this initiative for the treatment of our patients as explained. The hospital that we are sending our patients to in New Delhi India is called Forties; they have more than one hospital. This hospital is the largest of this group, but they also have many other hospitals in other parts of India should there be no opportunity for our patients to be treated at Forties. This hospital is designated as the second most technically advanced hospital in the world, and that is where we are sending our patients. Our heart patients, they do not spend much time there, they just go there get treated and return, they do not have operations on their chests, the operation procedure itself for the heart are done using tubes, and when completed, just one week, they fully recover, and then they return to Samoa.

So on this matter, I believe there is certainly going to be a trip to India to liaise and properly organise these finer details when meeting with the Hospital management as we go forward with our relationship. They have even advised us of their intention to travel to Samoa at the end of July if it is a suitable time for us, as this was a founding agreement we made with them, that not only we were to send our patients there, but they will assist us in upgrading our hospital so that their doctors can travel to Samoa to perform the operations and treatment for our patients here, instead of sending them to India. That is an easier arrangement, so when it is implemented, maybe after three, four, five patients we will see and know it will be worth it and money well spent for a doctor from there. There were 14 operations for the heart that were done here, and this is good for our local doctors and those supporting teams involved in these operations, not only in surgery, but also our nurses, the anaesthesiologist, all those staff members who are in the team will gain invaluable knowledge, experience and practical training.

If we are to continue with this initiative then it would definitely benefit our hospital staff with the advanced technological treatment and also easier for their doctors to come here, and only one surgeon can come and perform the surgeries whilst our local medical doctors and surgical teams can assist when needed in other areas. That is our view and hope for the future stemming from this initiative we have begun, so let us pray that we continue to receive assistance in the future on this regard.

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And now Mr Speaker and the dignified members, I come to the matter regarding health centres as someone already asked, there is a group that is liaising with India, and one of the members asked, is it not time to have an Embassy in India?

That is definitely a great idea, and I think the Government is looking at an appropriate time for that in the future.

Members were always going to voice the matter regarding Health Centres, and I appreciate you all about this subject for district hospitals. And this is indeed the hope and plans of our Ministry, because this was raised by some of the thirteen who spoke about the Ministry, twelve of whom showed their thanks for the plans made to merge the National Health Service and the Ministry of Health. And this was one area that was highlighted in these plans, and the decisions made, as it seemed that the district hospitals were not getting what they should be. That is what we are seeing when we look at the hospital, it has only been five years since the construction of our hospital, there were 300 beds when it was opened, we thought, wow, how can we fill this big hospital? The previous hospital only had 150 beds but we still carried on our service, now we have 300 beds now doubled in size.

There was a feeling like that indeed of how the very big hospital was going to be filled. Now at this time, we need another big hospital just like this one, as the current one is full, and there are hardly any beds available and hardly any space. The matter that is worrying the Government is the epidemic that is coming. My fellow Minister said that his Ministry would support our efforts in our campaign regarding raising awareness of incommunicable diseases through a diet contained of fruits and vegetables they are promoting healthy living and the reduction of high blood pressure and diabetes and cancer, quitting smoking, quitting alcohol consumption and exercising.

That is the reason that the Ministry is still carrying on about it all the time, because it is looking at the mortality rate list of deaths weekly, and there are around ten deaths per week and only in the big new hospital.

Sometimes it is over ten deaths weekly, and around ninety percent of those deaths, is a directly attributable to high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiac related. Those are the main illnesses which are affecting our country.

Look at the situation our population is in now? If you walk down the street and look around at the schools and sports that are being played, how many obese children can you see around? What about on the road when you look at it, how many obese people do you see before you see a skinny person? That is the foundation of these things.

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And that is why our Ministry continue to alert the public and make noise, because it is horrendous! But there is remedy that the Ministry wishes to advise the general public about, we must go back to the districts, to renovate and upgrade our district hospitals, and treat our patients there so there is no increase in the amount of patients and have no treatment available. Those days, when you injure your foot, you would run straight to the committee house and have it treated so it will not get infected, and to kill the infection, and to not go to the hospital. The issue with regards to diabetes, even if you are pricked by any sharp object like sharp prickly and spiky weeds, the patient with diabetes are allergic to it, their foot/toes will be removed. That is the situation now, there is a rapid increase and growth in diabetes, why is the reason? There are no more Committee Groups or Komiti Tumama who used to look after these things, it was the nurses that we all used to go to for help, as every committee had cupboards.

Our Ministry wants to revive that, we must go and treat our people in the districts where it is much closer to their families, to give them easier access and faster service and treatment, rather than wait at the main hospital as this could affect children too, why? Because we do not have primary health care, there is no public health. These are the issues, now it seems that we are enjoying our nice hospital and when it comes to that, we simply forget the matter of prevention. We should look at preventing these from happening. That is why we must start here, just like how the SPAGHL started and the job they are doing which is to visit schools in the districts and check on everyday meals the children are having, because that is where we must start, right from our homes and the schools they attend. I hope that the trees that were planted in the SPAGHL programme are growing, fruits plants were planted in the compounds of schools. So, if children have access to the schools, they will be able to eat the vi and mangoes, have a balanced daily diet and therefore reduce obesity. Now, just to provide a brief summary, that is the object of our work. That is case with the hospitals; the Ministry will have a good look into it, so that they can be renovated.

Even with the presence of doctors, our country is crying out, we have a nice hospital but we have no doctors. That is so very true; it is like the people gaining confidence when they see a doctor. There is one hospital that has a doctor available all the time and that is Leulumoega Hospital. The other district hospitals only have doctors visiting them for only one day during the week and we will try add one or two more days per week if possible.

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The ideal situation, is to have a doctor reside permanently there through roster schedules, and then at the end of the week, they can return to Apia, and another doctor takes over the following week to carry on the work, look after the hospital and serve the public. The reason shy doctors come back to Apia is to look after themselves, I too used to work in a district hospital.

I spent two years supervising the Lalomanu district hospital. The thing was, when I finished my clinic in the morning, there were no sick people, I had to wait and wait and still no patients, so I went fishing, and I went inland to the forest. Those were the things I did to pass the time as there were not many patients. Unlike nowadays, there are so many sick people there in the districts and I know that the doctor is spending full time there now as there are so many sick patients and so many illnesses in the districts within our country. But, I would like to thank all the members for the reminders and recommendations rendered, that is the spirit we are are trying to...

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member of Palauli le Falefa whilst the Minister can take a short rest.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon Minister for his speech which is clearly understood. I was asking about the issue of the timetable of the merging of the Ministry and the National Health Services because I advised abot this issues to be looked at urgently due to the fact that if the feelings of people are affected because of work and the uncertainty of their employment, then their service is affected. That was exactly why I because the Minister is moving away from this issue of merging.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: My brother, please be patient, I am going through my subjects and am yet to get to the matter regarding separation and remerge, and we are still on the subject about district hospitals.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker, he mentioned the merge, now the Minister is going on about something else in his speech. It seems to me that he is moving away from this issue, thank you sir.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Move like other people. I am just making sure all is well, and I am not yet finished. So be patient sir. This part of...

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MR SPEAKER: I suppose what you want Hon Minister, we are nearing the time for our recess and then we will continue and it is not too far away, or should we rest now and return at 3pm?

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Sir, my request was just for a few short hours whilst we try to finish this off. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: But, let not my will be done, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Since we have now reached our break time, we will resume our Session at 3.00pm until 7.00pm. I now announce the suspension of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly until 3.00pm. With due respect. Thank you.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 12.50pm

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly started at 3:00m

Resumption of debate on the second reading of The Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2017/2018

MR SPEAKER: I declare that our Parliamentary Session has now started. We went to our recess and the Hon Minister of Health was making his speech. And so I respectfully call upon the Hon Minister to continue his speech.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I thank you and believe that you and the dignified members of Cabinet and distinguished members of Parliament have had a short rest. Strength has been regained and we all have had our meals. Well, I hope that it renews our strength so that we may continue our session for today. Mr Speaker, when we went to our recess I was speaking about the topic of district hospitals. Because a member interjected about a subject that I am going to be speaking about later, I will now continue with areas which I believe are very important, and were raised by members too.

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That includes one member who said thank you regarding the state of the district hospitals but their main concern was the lack of equipment used in the district hospitals. For your information, what I was talking about going to the districts was to add time for our doctors to serve there, because the equipment used in the hospital, are mainly used by doctors. As I previously mentioned, I used to work at Lalomanu and Sataua district hospitals in my time. These equipments that have been discussed, the member is correct, they must have noticed in those days, when there was everything, there was a small lab in the hospital, there were microscopes, there were equipment for surgery, because we had surgery done in the district in those days. That is the reason why my time at Lalomanu was extended because the hospital at Lalomanu was moved further inland because equipment was affected by seawater. And when the Tsunami hit came about, the Law enforced the moving inland of all hospitals and government buildings that provided government services to higher ground in case they were affected when another natural disaster struck.

That is the situation as you have seen with the closure of the hospital at Fusi and the moving of the services to Saanapu because this service, we do not have any land inland at Fusi so we have moved this service to Saanapu. And so as mentioned by one of the members, this hospital should have been moved a long time ago, but I apologise as the renovation of this hospital has been very slow, yet it has been discussed many times. We have on numerous occasions visited this area with our staff, and advised the hospital, the committee members are listening, this is one of the committees similar to the other villages who have district hospitals, as they are very strong supporters regarding health issues, and fully supportive of plans of the Ministry for health awareness initiatives in the districts.

So we are trying very hard because of the belief that things will be safe here. And the situation is as I believe that when we finish the plans to renovate our hospitals, then we can also renew our equipment and everything else that is needed for the services in the districts. There are easy procedures and treatment that can be performed efficiently in the districts by the doctors without people coming in to Apia. And once we can work together given upgraded communications systems, then there will be more efficient access to specialist doctors at our major hospital in Apia who can assist and advise them regarding the implementing of services so that our district hospitals are up to par. There was an issue regarding the funeral parlour at Tuasivi.

MR SPEAKER: I appease the Hon Minister the member for Gagaifomauga No.3 is interjecting. I call upon the member.

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Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers (Gagaifomauga No.3): I thank you Mr Speaker for my opportunity. Just a word of advice Hon Minister as you are speaking, I was not chosen to interject whilst you are making your wonderful speech sir, but I am just merely highlighting in detail what I mentioned previously regarding equipment. You were just mentioning equipments that were used mainly by the doctors, but my advice regards mainly the lady nurses who are looking after the district hospitals, there are not enough ... an easy example, oxygen respiratory equipment that are used by the sick people, now another patient arrives at the hospital and have to wait until the first patient has finished their treatment using this oxygen equipment before they can use it too.

Those are the small issues that I was expressing in my view, because I believe these are some of the issues that the Ministry are being blamed for, yet the nurses and staff at the district hospitals failed to take stock and advice the Ministry about the various equipments that are urgently required. With all due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, I call on with due respect the Minister for Health.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALAILELEI TUITAMA: I acknowledge and appreciate the clear advice mentioned by the member. That is correct, there is certain equipment that is used by nurses and they have specific knowledge regarding the handling of the various equipment. Well, if this is the case as mentioned, the advice has been received and we will be looking at it accordingly. Maybe, this is what is called inhalers used by the nurses to treat asthma. Normally though, we usually only have one for each district hospital because they are hardly ever utilised, but due to the efficient recording of statistics there in the districts, that is how we monitor and allocate our equipment to them.

For instance, if this was the hospital for this district and if there were say twenty asthma patients there, and then there is a case where two asthma patients at the same time and there was only one machine to treat their asthma attack. Well, that scenario to me is an obvious problem, and **so the Management must plan and allocate two to each district as there** will be many asthma patients using these machines. Well, those situations are why we rely on our district hospital staff to keep accurate records so we can indeed plan ahead so they can have adequate equipment to sustain their services.

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Also, thank you for the advice regarding the mortuary. It is not the first time that advice about Tuasivi was mentioned. I have also spoken before about this, the mortuary is not in a good state. So we made a site visit and had it renovated, now I hear it is not in good order again. Thank you because this work is what we need to do together. There are some issues that are not reported by staff or because they had forgotten about for whatever reason, but they are recording and always reporting about any problems they may face, as this is of great assistance to the Management for the allocation of funds for our district hospitals. For your information, the renovation and renewal programme has now reached Tuasivi. We have observed many parts of the hospital which have been renewed. The last thing we did was the X-Ray. There are now plans, that this work must continue to be carried out, and then the renewal of rooms to cater for our patients.

There was a big downpour of rain which coincided with our last visit, we noticed that there were so many problems with the rooms our patients were staying in, and we discussed these issues with the Management. So maybe we are nearing the time that renewal and renovation work must continue at the Tuasivi hospital, as there have been many parts already finished, and then they can continue with the renewal and renovation of the staff accommodation – catering to our doctors, nurses and medical students sent there to observe and assist – as this is also a teaching hospital – where they do their practical. So there should be plans to renew these units. The mortuary or morgue, well it really is only a container but is old and faulty now, and so we must build a good new and permanent mortuary. While on this issue regarding mortuaries/morgues, for your information, it is not the responsibility of the hospital to look after the deceased. The only deceased people that the hospital has an obligation to look after are those that died and are awaiting autopsies to determine the exact cause of death so that nothing untoward happens to the deceased. We do this in conjunction with the Ministry of Police in their work, so we have the deceased in the mortuary whilst the Police undertake their investigation on the likely cause of death, whether it was caused by foul play or whatever.

So, my advice to our nation, utilise the funeral parlours that are serving the country, Afioga Sefo Pau has a funeral parlour in Savaii, and is cheaper than the hospital mortuary. Another thing, the hospital mortuary, for your information, if there is death reported to us, and if they have already been buried for three days in the ground and the Police Ministry reports it to us that this deceased person was beaten up by so and so.

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Well, the Police then can go and dig up the dead person. So when the deceased is brought back and placed together with the other deceased bodies in the hospital mortuary, they will all be affected with the body of the deceased that was buried three days ago.

That is why, I strongly advise that we use the funeral parlours that are available for the deceased, as for the hospital mortuary, it is specifically for the deceased who are awaiting pending results as to investigations and post mortems as to their cause of death. Well, those are my final remarks and all I have to say with regards to the district hospital.

And so I will now speak about the issue regarding the merge. As I explained previously, it has already been printed in the media, and the Prime Minister has already spoken about it and explained the reasons for the decision made by Cabinet regarding the merging of the Ministry. So I do not have any further comments to make, as there is no other needed and can exceed comments made by the Prime Minister, and the official reasons have been aired on radio, and made newspapers. Remember there is nothing ... and we have also listened to the members of the House and their vote of thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Education, when they restarted their inspector programme again. That is why it is important to look at things if it is applicable from this time to this time, if it is indeed relevant. I will just make a short comment like this, the reason why this plan was implemented was due to the usual requirements and guidelines not being met for the disbanding of the Ministry.

Now that we can see that it has not been met, and hopes were not being realised, shall we carry on if we see that we must consider another way to meet the guidelines and achievements that the Ministry of Health is looking to break, for the benefit of the health of our people.

That is my brief comment, though I can read out the many aspects, and I can finish the whole day just standing here, but is the story, we did not consider this lightly as the Cabinet has looked closely at the situation and have unanimously agreed in their wisdom that it is good for the Ministry to be merged again. And I believe that this is a sign.

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

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Wait I have yet to reach the point that you countlessly stand up about. Sit down and be patient, hold your horse. I have not forgotten, I know exactly where you are coming from, I will soon address that, but I need to explain this thing first.

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We have had 13 speakers for this Ministry; twelve extended their heartfelt appreciation towards the merging of the Health Sector indicating that they are well versed as they listen to the radio, read the newspaper and watch the television and also reason why I make brief responses. However, I can give a detailed clarification however I am also mindful of our time as the day is nearly over.

In regards to the matter mentioned by Afioga Faumuina Liuga, Cabinet has already appointed a Taskforce Committee to oversee this matter. It is true that there are matters we ought to be cautious of, given the changes we have overtime however, we should also be mindful of the concerns that come with it to which the Committee does not take lightly. This Committee comprises of three Ministers and Ministry heads assigned to oversee this merge which we hope to go through so that comes the end of the year everything is operational and all expenditures are covered in the upcoming budget for the coming year. Henceforth thank you to the Member for this reminder.

Mr Speaker I therefore can say....

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

MR SPEAKER: Is the Member not satisfied with the clarification? Nevertheless, I will give the opportunity to the Member for Palauli le Falefa.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you for the opportunity also I thank the Hon Minister who is a close friend of mine. I now understand the matter but it seems I am the only one that is objecting. The knowledge by which this Government decision was made is quite outstanding. The only matter I was trying to emphasize is the timeframe by which this decision was implemented. But they have stated that it is a decision for this year meaning it will be irrelevant by December. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. The Hon Minister may now conclude his clarification....

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: This Minister is quite cunning. It is our expectation that we avoid delay to the implementation of these works.

Mr Speaker this is the contribution of the Ministry. If there are Members who are not satisfied with the response given on queries mentioned, I just want to say this there is a complaint made towards this Ministry. I cannot conclude without speaking on this matter.

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Therefore, I conclude this speech by saying the \$300,000 mentioned by the Member is very wrong in this aspect. He stated that \$300,000 is not enough to renovate hospital in the constituencies. It is true that this amount of \$300,000 is not enough for this development. If we look at page 10 the written statement made by the Minister of Finance and on page 11 in English, it says \$300,000 is allocated to dialysis. There is an increasing number of people being put in dialysis but there are not enough machines to use. The extension for the dialysis unit...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, Point of Order because....

MR SPEAKER: Let the Hon Minister conclude his speech first. I appease the Member for his patience.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Wait until I get to sit in your chair. As for this broken seat mentioned by the Member this means he was a patient at the hospital.

I thought his concern was going to be about the poor treatment he received yet now he is walking. This means the treatment he received was excellent, I am grateful that you now have the strength to walk again. You were in crutches before but now you are one again. This means the Member was treated well. Nevertheless, it does not stop the Member from being suspicious, I will conclude my speech and let the Member finish it for me.

MR SPEAKER: I ask the Hon Minister conclude his speech.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: The matter concerning resources used by patients at the hospital. We all know that these chairs should not be used by anyone other than the patients themselves. In query, how come the chairs are broken? Then you ask another question who uses the chairs? Mr Speaker these things happen....

MR SPEAKER: I allow the Hon Minister to conclude before the member has the floor.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: Things will occur endlessly overtime because apparently I was in shock to receive a complaint about a critical patient and the shortage of bed supply in the hospital ward. I got angry and responded how can there be no beds when the hospital rooms had surplus beds supplies. I even went there to see for myself as it was inappropriate to hear the patient's failing admission due to no beds available.

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I went to the other room and saw the list of patients and found out that five beds were available. I then asked the duty health workers what these beds were for when a patient was calling in to file a complaint about no available beds. The nurse there responded that the beds were all broken. I was in total confusion because we all know that patients can only lie down in beds and when they turn over in bed they can end up breaking the beds springs. I am just in awe how this could happen. This is the same for wheel chairs, some are easily broken. Another issue I wish to point out is that we have some missing wheelchairs. If a critical patient were to come to the hospital this means the wheel chair used by the Member was put aside for repair. But there is a new wheelchair used now for other patients who are in a critical situation. I guess the Member was unhappy considering he might have wanted to use the bathroom but the wheelchair he got was not fast enough. I apologize to the member for Salega East, the important thing is that you were able to get to the bathroom using that wheelchair. With respect Mr Speaker, blessed proceedings.

MR SPEAKER: The Minister has concluded his speech I call on the Member for Salega East.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, point of order, the Minister mentioned page 10 regarding the \$300,000 unfortunately there is no dialysis unit being set up under it.

Secondly the Minister is one of my closest friend for ten years, I am well aware of his personality he is very kind. I was surprised with the response made by the Minister it seems he is unhappy with the matter raised. I strongly believe the reason why he is being like this is because of Hon Faumuina Liuga and the speech he made last week. But the Minister is a humble and kind person. With respect, thank you.

Mr Speaker: Very well thank you. The opinion is noted. I believe the Hon Minister has concluded his speech.

Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA: I am finished I will not respond to the query incase I might be criticized together.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well it is usual to sometimes have such humorous conversations in the House. I am grateful the country together with Members of the House has heard the clarification by the Minister. This is done especially on matters queried by the Members in the House.

We have arrived at the clarification of the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor.

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I call on the Minister with respect.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Commerce Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all, I humbly greet the House, Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers and respectable Members of the House. I also greet Heads of Government Ministries and the office of the Clerk.

I greet all of Samoa from the highest mountain to the lowest in the country. I greet my believed constituency of Satupaitea in all honorary salutations. I greet Members of the community, faletua and tausi, saoa and the strength of the village. I also greet the servants of the lord within our constituency giving the voice of wisdom and life.

I also acknowledge families living in both Savaii and Upolu and my mother Anasoa for her support.

Satupaitea, even though we do not meet everyday because of the duties undertaken but I pledge my services to you to represent our voice in Parliament. I pray for your support while I convey an opinion today.

I will not mention further the respects of Samoa since it has already been mentioned in the speeches of previous Members and the chair this morning.

Some of the matters mentioned involve foreign businesses and it seems there is a competition between foreign and local business ventures. It is true that this problem is increasing but it is also the expectation of Government to attract foreign investor into our country. Now foreign businesses have entered our shores fortunately enough the State has resolutions to any rising problems. The concern voiced which has affected most of our small businesses is mainly made towards Chinese businesses.

There are provisions under the Ministry that has allowed these people in the country to develop our economy. The issue seen is these businesses owned by the Chinese are flourishing. What I always say is, why is it that our people do not have this business mindset? Even though we do not have that much money but this does not mean that all Chinese that come have money they are just smart about making business. If we have *this same mentality, then we will be able to work together with these people and develop our country.* A lot of our people have found work because of these businesses. This is the main objective of Government but considering that these issues have arised, Government will have plans to resolve this matter.

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The Ministry will have to look into this matter especially for our small businesses in rural villages to ensure that our businesses will not go broke because of businesses from overseas. There are plans to submit a draft to Cabinet which I have on my desk regarding a method that could encourage foreign businesses to enter the country. It is not appropriate to allow them to come and invest in our country but when they come our local businesses will criticize them because their businesses are not progressing. Moreover, this resolution will assist our local businesses in the rural areas considering that most of these foreign businesses are now starting to grow in the ruralside.

The matter seen here is that some of our people are now married to these foreign business operators. Then the business is registered under the Samoan citizen then it is registered as a local business owner. It is hard to make a decision on it because of the right of the business owner because they are registered as Samoans or are even married to Samoans. We are currently looking at a way to resolve this concern and to assist our local businesses from being affected from this matter. Not only are some locals marrying these foreigners, but also some local businesses have even created partnerships with foreign investors, then they are registered as Samoan, but there is suspicious that funds are from overseas. This is done to grow their businesses as such matters are not specified within the legislation. The Ministry will also be looking at reviewing this legislation and make amendments on provisions without appearing to be discriminating against foreign investors. After all we wanted foreign investors to come into the country. At the moment the Ministry has withheld the registration and issuing of license certificates to foreign investors to set up retail shops in the country. We are considering if there are too many retail shops in Samoa because the majority of the small shops seen in the country are owned by those in rural villages. This is only a temporary measure but we will review this matter and later draft a paper to submit to cabinet together with recommendations to ensure equal competition between foreign business and local businesses to not be overwhelmed with overseas investors.

A Member mentioned the matter of unfair competition. We already have the Competition and Consumer Act that will be enacted next week. This act will level the playing field between the strong and the weak. There are a lot of provisions implemented in the Bill which will be emphasized on the 3rd of July. There will also be assistance on small businesses for example if a business flourishes they are free to increase the cost of their products but this will affect the small businesses who are trying to develop. One of the provisions of the Bill is setting up a commission which will include the regulator and two others they will be in charge of the issues that may arise under this act.

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There are also other provisions that restrict bigger businesses taking advantage of smaller ones. This is the main objective of the act that will be enacted next week. This act has long been promoted. Also the Ministry carried out consultations and workshops to promote the matter regarding 12 months. Advertisements were seen on television and heard on radio stations for the country to understand especially business owners on provisions implemented in the legislation.

There was also the issue stated on the poor vetting process on foreign investors. The process we have at the moment is good unless we encounter a problem then it should be changed. But there are times when all processes are reviewed. Some stated that there are businesses that come but do not set up businesses. There are services provided by the Ministry where they go on site visits to check where the business is set up. However, an issue has been noted as I stated before the time the application for the certificate of the foreign investor is carried out and the time it is inspected is two years. When inspection is carried out the place where the business should have been has changed and has been relocated to the village of the spouse. These are some of the issues seen but the Ministry is carrying out its site visits. We issue the foreign investor certificate then they have to go to the Ministry of revenue to issue a license to implement their business. It is expected that site visits should be carried out every year.

As for the application all conditions needed are included before we issue a foreign investors certificate from the Ministry of Labour. The matter where some young men went and stole money from the atm it is not noted that they came here through the Ministry. There is also no mandate of the Ministry to carry out research on criminal backgrounds for these people. The only aspect inspected by the Ministry is the eligibility to set up business in Samoa and have a good character etc.as for matters such as criminal past there is a form given out on the plane which declares a person who has that background then the Immigration office is informed. This will inform us if the person is liable to be given a certificate for their business. This is the state this matter is in the Ministry is still following its processes and it seems to be going well. As for the other matter I am not aware if these people came into the country to set up a business but ended up stealing the ATM machine. There were some Members who mentioned the issue of child vendors, this matter....

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker....

MR SPEAKER: Apologies minister I will give the opportunity to the Member for Safata West.

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Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini: I thank the Hon Minister for the clarification made on the matter. The matter I raised related to overseas businesses. I have noted and now understand that foreign investors coming into the country are monitored every two years.

Although the matter I wanted clarified are foreign investors that come into the country and have yet to set up businesses for ten years being here. Whether they are still allowed licenses but it is more than ten years since they have been here but no business has been setup. Are they still given licenses which they applied for to the Ministry? With respect.

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

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: I thank the Member but I do not think there are such people in our country. Business licenses are needed to be renewed every year. This is the duty of the Ministry of revenue whether that business is still active or not. As for the Ministry of Labor we usually do site visits every two years to inspect the businesses set up. Although we are going to change it to one year to go inline with the Ministry of Revenue so both the certificate and license can be renewed together. Our Ministry is in charge of inspecting the location where the business is set up. There has been no report made towards me saying that there is a business that has been inactive for ten years. I also do not know if they were issued business licenses or not. Perhaps it is best to leave this matter to me, I will ask the Ministry about this issue and why it happened? If these foreign investors came into the country then their immigration status should also be affected. I am grateful that the Member has mentioned that there are some people perhaps you can visit the Ministry if you have time and we can talk about this matter. This will make it easier for the Ministry to carry out its work to remove the certificate and a license of their business if it is not being set up.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. Perhaps it has now concluded.

Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker the clarification made by the Hon Minister is understood. Perhaps in time I will mention the companies that we are working together but are not carrying out the business they came here to set up. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

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Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you. The only concern is that these people might become citizens of Samoa. There are some who still think that they are foreign investors but as I earlier stated some have married to Samoans and now have a status of a Samoan.

The issue of child vendors this is not a simple matter. There were some good thoughts put forward. There is no one of us who has not been in this situation. I also sold taro when I was young. I did not have any thoughts that I was doing child labor because it was to take care of my family. I used to sell taro to neighboring villages to get the money to pay my school fee and be able to go to school. At that time the environment was very different from the one we are in now. At that time a car would only pass by once but it is usually just the horses carrying taro down the road. There was no worry for a child to be run over by a car. Nowadays there are a lot of changes seen compared to fifty years ago now we see a lot of problems. Moreover, there are provisions from the UN Convention for the Right for the Child, ILO Conventions for Child Labour. This emphasizes more on the protection of the child and their right to do any work and not going to school to learn and develop their future. This is where dispute is present considering we are now in a different environment, there are so many children roaming around Apia with some being nearly run over by cars. Some children have become aggressive which is a problem for some people, some stay out all night and sleep on the streets.

It was stated in the Hon Ministers speech that they will be looking at ways to resolve this matter. There was also a study carried out by ILO about the rapid assessment on child vendors in Samoa which was launched this year. It states recommendations which will be carried out by a taskforce that will put together. This assessment also includes the parents, they went and interviewed the parents on why their children were set to do this and not to school. There are a lot of issues mentioned in the survey done and this is where the recommendations will be based. The taskforce including the Ministry of Women, Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Labor will try and look at a resolution to resolve this problem. As I said selling of goods is not something illegal but if we do not have control on the environment then these issues will arise. This is the same with the duty of a parent to look after their children it is more important to them to find money. Another aspect of this is there are children selling goods on the other side but the parent is on the other side watching. There are two things that come to mind, why is the parent not going to sell these goods?

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Because no one will feel sorry for them but only the children which will end them up buying matches and others. The selling strategy is they send the children to do the work but the parents sit and wait. The parent would just sit there and watch the children going between cars. There are parents who are not doing their duty. This is why all Ministries should be working together with the community at large to resolve this matter. Some stated....

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

MR SPEAKER: The Member for Palauli le Falefa mentioned that he sold coconuts. I call on the Member.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you for the opportunity. I do not want to interrupt the Hon Minister but I also used to sell taro and coconut but it was safe then because we used horses. The Hon Minister is right because he goes around within the sub-village of Palauli selling his goods. As for the concern voiced I just wanted to ask the Hon Minister of Labor and Minister of Education if it is possible to set up a learning program for children. I am aware that these are some of the Members that usually go to the market on Sunday and encounter children selling lemons. There are times when they come and you ask, if you answer my question I will buy your lemons, who was swollen by the tadpole?" no one responded but it was Jonah. This is the kind of learning these children should be doing but I am not saying that they should not go to school. All of us who used to this are not dumb, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. This question is new to me. Maybe it is a request for Palauli le Falefa. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker considering we are thinking that Jonah was swollen by the whale at sea, it is not the sea but the lake on the northern side of Iraq, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Mr Speaker this is the reason why our session is dragging because of such nonsense. I have not heard of a person being swallowed by a tadpole. Tadpole is used by those who know how to fish, it is this small. How can it swallow anything? This type of statement will only bring disgrace unto us who are neighbors and are the same from Savaii. Nevertheless, I will not speak further on it.

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This is one recommendation as I mentioned in a holistic approach. It affects parents, community, Ministry of Education on finding a resolution in a controlled way. Say the age of a child to be able to do this or what hours they are allowed to go and sell goods, it could be after school? This will safeguard the child and by the next morning they have the strength to go to school. It is also good to develop the knowledge of the child from a young age also ingrain this responsibility to generate the brain and especially their responsibility in the family.

It is alright if they are selling goods in front of their homes but as for the environment within Apia it is too dangerous some problems seen is that some children do not go home but sleep on the sidewalk....

MR SPEAKER: I advice that you move away from this matter....

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: With respect I will move away from this matter. There was a Member who stated Jonah being swollen by a tadpole the matter of Boards. At the moment a review is being carried out by the Ministry of Public Enterprises which includes the Independence Select Committee, not only does it include Board Members from these enterprises but also their knowledge. This overlooks whether the knowledge is still in place from over 6, 7 years ago. A review has been concluded for one of the Ministries it does not mean that it will minimize their work because we also have legislations which is the reason why a review Board was chosen to overlook this matter. We are hesitant on the use of funds so that funds are not spent on paying the Board but give them a service that they can carry out since we have removed other special abilities from in the Board. There are provisions of the legislation that is followed by the Board and the Ministry, thus reviews are already underway before submission to Cabinet for further recommendations.

The entities including UTOS, SIFA and the Development Bank, I have talked with the Hon Minister on a strategy to not include these entities especially SIFA and UTOS under the Public Trading Bodies legislation. They cannot uphold provisions especially SIFA because of the huge funds they have given to develop our sports and others, this is where our dividend policy is applied. I have talked with the Hon Minister to find a way for these entities to carry out their work as usual but not be tied to the legislations made under the Ministry of Revenue and Finance which should be submitted by the end of each year. I ask that the matter be trusted to us we will continue....

Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Mr Speaker I am grateful that the Hon Minister has mentioned UTOS and SIFA also DBS.

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Most of our farmers and businesses are dependent on the Development Bank when looking for surplus the Bank imposes a high interest which greatly affects these people. I wanted to ask what the decision Cabinet has on this matter whether DBS should be removed. If we look at DBS there is no time since it was established that it earned surplus. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: In my understanding if the Development Bank is well established they will get surplus but I will converse with the management under the guidance of the Minister. I believe the money that needs to be collected is not all being noted meaning the collection performance for this entity is not successful. Perhaps this could be performance measures the Hon Minister should overlook it is something that can be done. If the Minister will say that it should include DBS then we will submit it to the Government for their decision.

The Member that mentioned the lands in Vaimauga. I already told the Member last year that there are lands already given to the constituency, 76 acres have been given lease to own, 80 acres is given to be leased and the other 90 acres has been allocated for those requesting quarter acres to live on. This is the only village whereby this measure is undertaken because we have already done this for Nu'u and Falelauniu. I already told you to be patient perhaps in the future the Government will consider your request to sell the 80 acres for lease as for now such decision has not been considered. We have already given 76 acres, this should be enough, put it up for lease together with the other 90 acres expected to be allotted to those requesting a piece of land. These are some of the plans of the Ministry in which we are trying to consult together with the constituency. As I stated last year we need the assistance of Members the work of the Ministry will be much easier if we were to consult with the Alii and Faipule, to be in line with the plans and development for the betterment of the people.

The Member also mentioned if families living beside the airport at Fagalii would be compensated. The response is there is no such decision made by Government. If we do this there will more issues for other areas where bigger airports are located like the one at Faleolo, people there would also ask for the same reward. There are plans implemented by the Government to extend the airport to minimize future accidents. There are also families who live right at the end of the airport, they need to be moved incase they are affected and considering this extension that will take place.

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At the moment consultations are being carried with these families. An extension of the runway is needed to avoid further accidents also for more planes to land in the airfield.

This is the matter now undertaken but I will trust the Member to assist in this matter. It is the objective of Government that our people are safe. Mr Speaker...

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker and respectable Members can I get an opportunity?

MR SPEAKER: Okay I call on the Member.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: I thank the Hon Minister for the clarification made on matters questioned regarding your Ministry.

The only reason why I made the request regarding our lands was to get a price, my constituency wants to convey the price i requested which is \$8000 an acre. We are tired of leasing and we want to assist our Government by giving these lands for \$8000 a ¼acre to assist with the scarcity of funds. As for the lands leased I am grateful because these are the lands owned by Alii and Faipule of Vailele, Letogo and Fagalii. Hon Minister what I was trying to voice is part of these lands sold include freehold lands which was given for \$8,000 a ¼ acre. This is also the same request that I made last year to the Minister and it was responded to by the Hon Prime Minister unfortunately there was a power outage. This is just a reminder because we are tired of leasing out lands we need a price and be registered because in the end these are customary lands. With respect Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps the Hon Minister has heard the request, Rome was not built in a day.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker at the start of setting up these lands majority of the lands were given to the constituency. When a survey was undertaken later on we found that most of the lands have been sold by the families. There was a man that came and offered his land to me to sell then I found out that these were leased lands. This is why the Member is burdened because the old people that were there 30, 40 years ago were devious. This is the reason why there are different people living in Vailele and Letogo now because they sold there leased lands without thinking in the first place.

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They came and had a discussion with Afioga Tofilau Eti, therefore a person from Vaialele and Letogo who sold their lands which was leased from Government should give the lands to those who bought it. It should be fair to those who paid for these lands and have cultivated these lands. This was the solution but the Member seems to be in a bundle because of the misbehavior of those in the past, they were your elders who took care of these lands.

There are measures the corporation is cautious upon, most of the people who were given lands who were not well off gave away their lands to the rich. This ended up with 4, 5, 6 acres of lands being sold off to them considering they are not foolish. If we give them the affordable price they would bargain with the price today. Well only a reckless Government would accept it. As for the request made for \$8,000 a ¼ acre but once it is given they will resell it at a business owner for \$200,000. This is what the Government is cautious about because there are people who are cunning in such matters they use the compassion to voice their request but later will do the opposite of what is just.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. This is a new clarification from Government on this matter. I am grateful that the Hon Prime Minister had the chance to explain this matter further because it is not something new. Perhaps the matter is now understood except for the lands at Fagalii, this could be deliberated between the Hon Minister, Ministry and families living in the area.
I call on the Minister.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you Mr Speaker I also thank the Hon Prime Minister. This matter was already discussed last year and for the clarification of the Member the Government will not be doing leasing to own anymore. This is made in relation to the matter of people selling their lands without notice also there are different people living on these lands some are living on 3, 4 ¼ acres of land but we do not know where some who requested assistance from Government to make it cheap. The price for a ¼ acre in Vaialele is \$35,000 on the market. But as I said it would be great if assistance was given to the Ministry especially during inspections for the constituency to accommodate.

Mr Speaker there was a Member who mentioned the agreement signed by Government which I attended the last two weeks in Tonga. This is the PACER plus agreement and it mentioned a total of \$600,000 saying that he talked with the trade advisor who worked on drafting the agreement from the start. I do not know the exact context this \$600,000 was mentioned, it is....

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MR SPEAKER: Is it a matter raised by Members?

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Yes it was a matter mentioned by a Member....

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Member for Vaisigano No.1.

Tofa Lopaoo Natanielu Mua: Thank you Mr Speaker. In the seminar where the matter was clarified there was query put forward on how much of our revenue will be affected on revenue brought into the country? I believe the total mentioned was \$600,000. Although during the time the seminar took place nothing was prepared on the matter. Later when research was carried out compared to 2015 \$11 million was spent on import from New Zealand, if we were to change it to Samoan tala it would be estimated to \$15million. This amount was greater than the amount that was discussed on the matter. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: I thank the Member but I believe this matter has already been clarified by the Minister for Revenue and the Minister of Finance. However, this matter is being mentioned again, I call on the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor.

The Member I already explained that the Minister for Revenue clarified the matter but I will call on the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

I call on the Minister.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: Thank you. As I stated earlier I do not know about this \$600,000, but this is not the only affect we will have on duty. The enforcement of these tariffs will take place for the next 25 to 30 years. It does not mean that we can determine the effect after a year which will not be found on our borders. It will be more than \$600,000 of the tax that we will not be getting, Government has set down plans to overlook this matter. These trade agreements are just takes up space but the Government will be looking at a way to regain the money lost from these agreements.

Mr Speaker and respectable Members of the House it has been nearly ten years since talks was underway for this PACER Plus agreement then there was the PACER agreement which took six years. This means it took more than sixteen years to consult and discuss this agreement with other countries I strongly believe that all requirements have been met for this agreement to take place.

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The Government does not intend to sign an agreement that will have effect on our country we are hoping that our trade will improve so we can get benefits from this area. Also so we can compensate for the effects of our Tariffs Reduction, this will all be put into action once this agreement is implemented and as I said this will be carried out in the next 30 years. It does not mean that once we sign, it will be rectified then we get all this, no because it takes time to process... This is also the time when the work we do is carried out in reforms so that we will get better outcomes to cover our shorfalls that will arise. This is the same for all other countries involved under this agreement.

MR SPEAKER: I cannot interrupt the clarification made by Hon Ministers on matters raised but we were to go and explain the query made by the Member our sitting will take longer. I recommend as a Chairperson of Parliament Committee I apologize but how about giving an overall summary on matters because we need to pass our Apporpriation so we can carry out the requests of Members. I will not speak further but this is a recommendation from the Chair, I call on the Member...

It seems once a name of a Member is mentioned they automatically want to take the floor, especially to show their constituency they are adamant. I apologize to the Member but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister to conclude.

I call on the Hon Minister.

Tofa Lopao Natanielu Mua: I move with resept to assist the Hon Minister in his response, this is a difficult issue nevertheless I will take into consideration the clarification already given. This is assistance on the matter, thank you Hon Minister.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: I thank the Member I was going to mentione that there will be further clarification on the PACER Plus agreement in the next months. Perhaps we will be able to understand more on the provisions that will be implemented by the agreement.

Mr Speaker there was a Member who mentioned that employment agenices should be set up under the Bill, this is true. There is a probability that it could happen but this can only be done if someone applies for it.

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The Chief Executive does not just get up and ask someone to come and set up an employment agency there was one set up before but unfortunately it has closed. I believe the reason is we do not have the market to set up such agencies for people to go and acquire employment.

There are already policies under the Ministry for free registration of people who need work, there is also an online registration site for them where they do not have to come in and note the information. Then through this site the workplace will look for candidates they want to employ. This is one easy service provided by the Ministry of Labour.

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Mr Speaker the clarification made by the Minister is understood. The only query here is under the Regulation the Ministry advertises licenses where people are eligible to apply for such business, right?

MR SPEAKER: Was this matter mentioned in your speech?

Tofa Aumua Isaia Lameko: Yes I did.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you it is now noted. I call on the Hon Minister.

Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL: We would advertise if we know that there are people who would say, I want to set up an employment agency then a license is issued to the person. If there are no people then it will just be wasting the time and money of the Ministry to advertise but no one is eligible. As I sated before there was one employment agency set up but not long after it was closed down because no one used their services. This could be another factor. But if there is a demand for it then the Ministry will try its best to adhere such request.

Mr Speaker the Chairperson has already spoken on the matter related to Housing. I just want to add on to the clarification made that the policies by which House was set up are constantly growing. There are those who had their homes affected because of the Cyclone Evan they are given loans and at the moment 3% is being paid for houses destroyed. The 17 has been explained and I would be satisfied with only this 17 I thought this was the loan but is 8% except for unsecure loans.

Mr Speaker is there an opportunity? I want to mention an Award that was given last week an award from ADFIAP, Association of Development Finance Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, and I want to acknowledge the services provided by Samoa Housing.

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It is stated here, This Merit Awards is given to the Samoa Housing Corporation and recognition of this consistent exercise of corporate social responsibility, that has improved the lives of many people in Samoa.

I am happy to announce that this Corporation has assisted a lot of our people even overseas institutions have recognized their services through this award. In case some might suggest that this corporation was set up to assist our people but now their services has gone beyond. This institution has recognized its efforts in the development of the lives of Samoan people.

Mr Speaker these are the queries mentioned by Members I apologize if there are some issues that I have not clarified, you are free to come to my office or the Ministry to follow up your query. The opinions raised by Members is important to me, the knowledge of the Ministry cannot make progress alone but we need your input so we can work together to achieve it.

I want to acknowledge the Heads and Directors of the Ministries and corporations under my designation there are times when I am demanding but it is all for the improvement of services. Blessed proceedings and good evening, Soifua.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I believe all matters raised by Members have been clarified with the response given by the Hon Minister.

I now call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Environment.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment): I greet with respect the Chair and respectable Members of Parliament also the Heads of Government Ministries and organisations supporting the work carried out. I acknowledge everyone here today, I thank you for your patience. I know that it might be tiring but I encourage you all to be patient we do not have long to go before we conclude with our Appropriation.

Mr Speaker a summary on the matters heard within the House in regards to the Appropriation tabled before the House 2017/2018. First I want to thank the Hon Minister of Finance and the Ministry on the preparations carried out in putting together of the Appropriation for the next financial year. I have heard and also read the report by the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Appropriation and I thank the Chairperson Afioga Aliimalemanu Tuuau and Members for the work.

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The opinions shown on the Appropriation are quite outstanding we have also heard some of the responses from Government. Even the speech given by the Hon Prime Minister where is conveyed a matter that is not only evident in Samoa and the Pacific but also around the world which is Climate Change.

Mr Speaker considering that this Ministry is in charge of matters regarding the environment I believe this issue of climate change falls within our work plans. An overall summary of what has been voiced in the House by Members which are the same requests from previous years include the improvement for roads, water, electricity, seawalls and water reservoirs. These developments are major ones as clarified by the Hon Minister of Finance, it differs from other developments mentioned by Members including airport and wharf. These developments are dependent on the funds available before Government moves to see progress.

I want to speak on the matter regarding seawalls, disaster evacuation roads and water reservoirs in villages. I apologize to the Chair but it seems some of the Members have taken into account that this Ministry is part of those involved in major developments in the country. Perhaps Members have already heard some of the responses made by Government on certain requests voiced by each constituency, it seems the stance of Government is now made clear together with our work done for the affects of climate change.

The Hon Minister of Works has already clarified the policies of the work carried out in constructing seawalls, part of this development on division made to protect the main road is under the Land Transport Authority. As for the seawalls constructed to protect the shoreline this area is protected under my Ministry. In my view as a Minister on matters voiced to this Ministry funds given are used to compact issues like climate change as for the major developments it should be conveyed to the Ministries in charge. I believe this is an area Government is now looking into to improve standards and services through communication between Ministries so that we can ensure certain developments are executed well.

Some of the programs undertaken by the Ministry included the major program for tsunami relief efforts also the Cyclone Evan efforts. The Government allocated funds for the building of seawalls and disaster roads to adhere to some of the requests form constituencies. This development is in progress which started in 2013 until this year, there are three programs carried out and are being allocated to each constituency.

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There is a program carried out with the assistance of UNDP working together with our Ministry the European Union and GEF through funds given for sustainable development. One of these programs was set up after the Cyclone Evan.

The other third program which is funded by the World Bank will be concluded by the end of 2017. One of the important tasks carried out through these programs that are nearly ending since Cyclone Evan is trying to complete CIM Plans or Coastal Intergrated Management Plans. There will a plan for each constituency which will be a respond from Government. Mr Speaker I believe it would be beneficial to have such plans in response to climate change. I am aware that Members of the House are constantly making such requests year by year. This is the same for the members of villages who come in and make requests.

As Ministers we also question where are all these requests voiced submitted or is there a complete answer to such queries? Or will Government be able to adhere to all these developments within this time frame? The truth is the work carried out and its progress is based on probability. There are always risk factors for each request put forward. Mr Speaker I am certain that all Members of Parliament are aware that there are times when disasters strike and we have to address it firsthand. There are also developments that we can delay for some time and be carried out later is planned well.

Mr Speaker we cannot talk about seawalls, water reservoir and emergency roads before talking about the cause of such matters which is of course climate change. Nevertheless, there are also man made causes that can also affect our environment, example the mining of sand. This is one reason why the earth has shifted is because of the removing of sand from the sea.

This is the same for our water reservoirs some people do not care and just cut down trees and dig the earth. This is a result to the water being polluted because of these runoffs. It is very easy to just talk about setting up water catchments and seawalls but I want to remind the Chair and Parliament also the country listening in that these are causes for it. It is true that sea level has rised and as the Hon Prime Minister stated the heat we are experiencing due to climate changes. Samoa is fortunate that other countries who are not mountainous.

We are in a much better state than others. If we are not able to protect our own natural environment then it is worthless. It will only end up to being dependent for funds from overseas to assist us in building our seawalls, water reservoirs and all other solutions that can compact climate change.

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MR SPEAKER: I apologize to the Deputy Prime Minister but I will have to stop you there since we have arrived at our recess hour.

Therefore, proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for usual recess.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess at 4.46pm and recommenced at 5.22pm.

Proceedings continued with the debate of the second reading of the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings have recommenced.

Before recess the Deputy Prime Minister was making her speech now I am certain that Members have regained strength to continue with our orders.

I call on the Deputy Prime Minister with respect.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe Members of Parliament have found renewed strength with the refreshments provide. I thank the Madam Clerk and the Office for the services provided in serving the Members and thinking of their health. Blessings be upon you all.

Mr Speaker, I will continue with a clarification on the matters raised by Members. The expectations for our CIM plans it is in the final stages of completion then a complete picture will be able to outline our plans. I just want to remind you all that it is quite expensive to have seawalls and water reservoirs, we can do a lot to prevent such problems, we believe in the authority of the Alii and Faipule. Protecting our environment is not something new especially in our Samoan culture especially the effects it has on our coastal areas and water supply.

Mr Speaker the matter of protecting our environment and our reliance on cement, metal and other materials for such developments, it is easy to just plant a tree. We have a program carried out by the Ministry to plant 2 million trees and I numbly ask our country for assistance on this matter, plant it near your house beside rivers and plant it in areas of water catchment. This could be another way to compact climate change.

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The Hon Minister of Agriculture also mentioned the same plans and maybe work together on this program to plant 2 million trees which will assist with their work. I stated earlier the funds allocated to combat climate change for clarification of the House, our request submitted to the Climate Fund at the beginning of the year was accepted. We were able to get close to \$60 million. This fund will be allocated for development of the Apia area as we recalled cyclone Evan that flooded the entire town area. It was like a tsunami destroying our rivers and it affected the town area immensely. The Government is commencing its plans to start this project to protect not only our environment but also businesses and people living in the town area.

We have also started with the development of the Vaisigano River which is funded locally. This will start from the top where our water reservoirs are located beside waterfalls all the way down to the town area. We all know that during such disasters the town is mostly flooded but this can be easily resolved with a good drainage system. This is one of the major projects undertaken by Government Committee which includes me the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. This will enable the town area to be more resilient to climate change.

Mr Speaker I have noted in the Budget that there is an expectation to increase revenue collected on money earned from leased lands, the Ministry will try and adhere to tax collection to assist our Government especially for future developments.

A brief word on the matter stated by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the request for Government lands to be used by our farmers. Mr Speaker the Hon Minister spoke on the term of commercialization perhaps this matter is understood. But I want to convey a word of encouragement on this project. This is one way that will greatly assist the development of the economy. As we share and discuss policies we should also consider that the benefit of this is put into our economy. We can easily do this by using our own natural resources which is our lands either customary, freehold or Government land. This should be one area that the Government should consider to make good use of our lands.

There is one CLAG Committee that has been using customary lands. It took them a long time to carry out the work commenced by the Ministry of Finance which monitors how we could use these assets. Perhaps with time there will be a collective idea on the matter then Government can recommend the use of these lands. As leaders we should take the initiative to think about this and on how to make use of public lands. Whether this could be a good development to use these lands for farming as recommended by the Minister of Agriculture.

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This could be one source of income especially if people are encouraged to grow more produce. If we cannot supply the market demand then we should think of commercialization. This way we will be able to meet the demands given by overseas markets and develop our own economy.

We seem to forget that the majority of lands in Samoa are customary. The question for us is, how can we make use of these lands? Majority of customary lands some have said it cannot be used for business because some are very small but I have noted there are people who are farming customary lands. Most of them only use a small portion of land. The question though, is the small scale farmers able to communicate with large scale farmers? As Members it is important to know that 80% of our lands are customary which is mainly ruled by the authority of Alii and Faipule.

This is a reminder in an initiative to carry out our work collectively so that we can develop our economy. This is a brief response on the raising matters with respect. I bid blessings on our session today.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Hon Prime Minister. We now come to the Leader of the Government to speak of anything else that the Cabinet may have overlooked.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to thank all the members for their views and comments that have had the responses of the Ministers.

I wish to wrap up the Government responses by noting one particular issue, and that is the concern with child-vendors. Foreigners perceived the issue of child vending as a form of coercion from the parents which should not exist. There are two types of children in this world, those who go to school and those who sell goods because there will always be families who are fortunate and families who are less fortunate. Then comes the question, why is this happening? That is the core of the problem we have different talents from God and different income levels. *The undeniable fact is that these children come from families that are less fortunate.* Therefore, the solution in such scenario is to try and find ways to raise the standard of living for these families. If these families have a steady form of income, then the possible outcome is having less child vendors on our streets. Because we are receiving a lot of comments on this issue, this is just confusing the matter especially for those who grew up in rich families, you speak nonsense because you lack knowledge and experience of these matters.

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Therefore, there is more than one solution to this problem and we all understand it. This is what the State has been doing, develop the education sector, health sector and so forth, in order to raise our living standards and our economic level and to avoid child vendors in the streets. All the children of Samoa are good and smart because of how good we develop the health sector for them not to get sick.

So everything else that we have been working hard towards like road switch, promotion of our agricultural products etc all aim at raising living standards in Samoa. The question is, can we still achieve this whilst we are still living? I remember the woman who poured a pint of pure nard on Jesus' feet and Jesus' disciples responded, what a waste of oil that should've sold to get money to be given to the poor. Do you remember Jesus' words, "*You will always live amongst the poor*". Meaning no matter how much we do we can never avoid poverty because poverty comes from choice and some will live wrecklessly and consequently end up like this.

Poverty exists everywhere in the world, even in America, although she is a wealthy and powerful nation, homeless cases grow and poverty is very much visible in some parts of America and even in India. This is because we are given the freedom of choice by God to choose how we live our lives. This too was done by Adam and Eve by creating a paradise for us to live instead they chose hell. That is reason why we are like this due to the choice made by Adam and Eve and up to this stage majority has been following suit. Regardless of what the public perceives, everyone has the freedom to do as they please and the freedom to choose whether to accept help or not. No matter what the State proposes, not everyone will agree but that should not stop us, we must build our State to become a better country.

The Ministers have already given their responses yet we also have other resorts such as our tradition and custom through the alii and faipule in the village. We also have the spiritual side from the Church Ministers and various organisations in the country such as the Victims Support Group to remedy these concerns. We also have the Ministry of Police and parental guidance however some of them choose to do as they like but that should not stop us neither give up on these problems.

In 1983, a huge sale was up stretching from Morris Hedstrom to Nelson or Bartley store for all sorts of furnitures and houseware and I was shocked when 12 women approached me in tears, I said, 'what seems to be the problem?' We came to you since you are closer to where we have our stalls, Tofilau and other Ministers are a bit further, the Lands and Survey Office have destroyed all our belongings. They warned us before however what we are doing is our only source of survival Tuilaepa.

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- consideration in detail

This is the only means for us to get the school fees for our children. I felt very sorry for these ladies and picked up the phone immediately to call Tofilau requesting his permission on behalf of these women; Tofilau replied ‘When did that happen?’ I responded, “Right now, the women are here”, and he said, ‘that is our main responsibility as Ministers; we should look after our people who are seeking wealth by making developments in the township area. Before the next hour, I discovered that the women were filled with excitement and were busy hanging up their items again and if you recall those times, the township area was a big eyesore regardless that did not take away the fact that we the HRPP leaders, a party that stands for the human rights of our people should do for the sake of the people. That is the entire and rightful purpose for our establishment since 1983 and in 1989; the market in Fugalei was built for people to sell their products properly making us change the Apia market into a flea market.

Mr Speaker I have explained all this because the purpose of the Human Rights Protection Party is to stand for the rights of the people especially the less fortunate. God is alive in our souls and one of Jesus’s’ teachings, “*If you have remembered God dwells with everyone.*” Perhaps one should not harm another human being.

Mr Speaker let us go into the consideration of this Budget.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks, I still cannot avoid myself from listening to the Hon Prime Minister’s statement.

The State has already given its responses in regards to the summary made the Hon Prime Minister and the raising matters by the members in their general talks. The motion has also been put for the second reading of the Bill seconded on the 30th of May 2017.

The Question was put and the motion set on the 30th of May 2017 was approved for the Appropriation 2017/2018 to have its second reading.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2017/2018
- consideration in detail

MR SPEAKER: The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider in detail the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 and the Main Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2018.

Before we proceed I wish to make a note of the Corrections in the Samoan Print to the Main Estimates 2017-2018 on the Supplementary Paper No.2.

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**Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail**

Pursuant to Standing Order 134(1), consideration in detail commences on the Schedules:-

**FIRST SCHEDULE
VOTES & APPROPRIATIONS**

MINISTRY **APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL**

MR SPEAKER: We will proceed with the consideration in detail of the Appropriation and let me remind that members are given 15 minutes to ask in regards to anything on this schedule including the Ministries in this schedule.

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES: **\$17,341,655.**

Approved.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOR: **\$19,189,691.**

Approved.

**COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY:** **\$7,655,608.**

Approved.

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE: **\$100,313,401.**

Approved.

FINANCE: **\$75,695,977.**

MR SPEAKER: We have an Amendment to the Committee's Finance and Revenue, I call the Chairperson.

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Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU (Chairperson of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee): Greetings Mr Speaker and members of the House and the Government heads gathered here this evening.

Mr Speaker I move, *That the Appropriation for the Ministry of Finance be reduced to \$1,931,500 and applied to the outputs on behalf of the State under the Development Bank of Samoa to read the Total Expenditure for the Ministry of Finance as \$73,764,477.*

Seconded by the member for Palauli le Falefa.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Chairperson of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee to clarify the motion.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Thank you Mr Speaker and in accordance to the Committee's findings, an appropriation of \$1,931,500 for the Ministry of Finance was paid to the Development Bank of Samoa to pay off its debts for the financial year 2016/2017 in July 2016.

We had this debt in 2008 during the Global Economic Crisis. The Cabinet approved the recommendation for the withdrawal of interest rates on borrowings and applications at the Development Bank for a period of two years as well as business foreclosure.

A total of 31 business and 18 hotel developments were affected by this restructuring on the concern that they were unable to pay their debts to the Development Bank. Upon Cabinet's approval the State assisted by paying the interest of \$3.9million to the Development Bank for a period of two years. The installment of \$1,931,500 started in the financial year 2014/2015, and 2015/2016 and was completed in July 2016. However, the Committee has found the ongoing installment for this borrowing in the Appropriation 2017/2018. With all due respect thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Alright thank you.

Appropriation of \$73,764,477 is now approved for the Ministry of Finance.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE:

\$22,607,740.

Approved.

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Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail

HEALTH: \$88,478,915.

Approved.

JUSTICE & COURT ADMINISTRATION: \$12,279,017.

Approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT: \$26,667,188.

Approved

POLICE: \$30,189,444.

Approved.

PRIME MINISTER & CABINET: \$7,739,197.

Approved.

REVENUE: \$11,752,982.

Approved.

**WOMEN, COMMUNITY &
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** \$10,708,066.

Approved.

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**Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail**

WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: \$39,309,694.

Approved.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: \$3,132,198.

Approved.

AUDITORS OFFICE: \$3,522,368.

Approved.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION: \$1,963,794.

Approved.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: \$6,940,211.

Approved.

OMBUDSMAN: \$1,119,496.

Approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: \$4,938,096.

Approved

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Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail

NATIONAL PROSECUTION OFFICE: \$1,404,964.

Approved.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: \$2,598,323.

Approved.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS: \$5,314,479.

Approved.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION: \$1,291,513.

Approved.

PRISONS & CORRECTIONS: \$9,673,758.

Approved.

TOTAL REDUCTIONS IN EXPENDITURES 2017/2018: \$509,896,272.

Approved.

MR SPEAKER: Since we had a reduction of \$1,931,500 in the Ministry of Finance, the Total is now changed to \$509,896,272.

Approved.

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**Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- consideration in detail**

CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$511,827,772 out of the Treasury Fund.

MR SPEAKER: There is an Amendment to the Clause in the Supplementary Order Paper No.2

I call the Chairman of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee.

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move the Amendment to Clause 2(1) as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

Omit the total “\$511,827,772” and thereby substitute with “\$509,896,272,” to read (1) as follows:

There may be issued out of the Treasury Fund and applied to Outputs or Sub-outputs to be delivered by individual Ministries and Departments, Outputs provided by Third Parties and Transactions on Behalf of the State for the Financial Year 2017/2018 sums of oney which do not exceed in aggregate the sum of \$509,896,272.”

Amendment approved.

Clause 2(1) approved as amended.

CLAUSE 3: Grant and appropriation of \$493,052 out of Treasury Fund.

Approved.

CLAUSE 4: Grant and appropriation of \$15,354,833 out of Treasury Fund.

MR SPEAKER: We have an Amendment in Clause 4 in the Supplementary Order Paper No.2.

I call the Chairperson of the Revenue and Expenditure Committee.

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**Appropriation Bill 2017/2018
- third reading**

Afioga ALIIMALEMANU ALOFA TUUAU: Mr Speaker I move the Amendment to Clause 4(1) as follows:

“AMENDMENT:

To omit the total “\$15,354,833” to read (1) as;

There may be issued out of the Treasury Fund and applied to Unforeseen Expenditures for the Financial Year 2017/2018, sums of money which do not exceed in aggregate the sum of \$15,296,888.”

Amendment approved.

Clause 4 approved as amended.

CLAUSE 1 & TITLE:

CLAUSE 1: Short title and commencement.

TITLE: Appropriation 2017/2018.

Approved.

The Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 progressed with Amendment.

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2017/2018
– third reading**

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move, That the Appropriation Bill 2017/2018 be now read a third time.

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Health and the Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

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

26 JUNE 2017

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2017
- first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister of Finance.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

EXCISE TAX RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2017– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Excise Tax Rates Amendment Bill 2017 be now read a first time*

Seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

CONVENTIONAL ARMS BILL 2017
– first reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Conventional Arms Bill 2017 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

26 JUNE 2017

POLICE SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– first reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Police Service Amendment Bill 2017 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and the Minister of Health.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION BILL 2017
– first reading

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETEELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I move, *That the Sex Offenders Registration Bill 2017 be now read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

FILM PRODUCTION (TAX INCENTIVES) BILL 2017
– first reading

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Film Production (Tax Incentives) Bill 2017 be read a first time.*

Seconded by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BILL 2017
– first reading

Afioga Hon SILI EPA TUIOTI: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Energy Efficiency Bill 2017 be now read a first time.*

26 JUNE 2017

Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

Seconded by the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture.

Motion approved and the Bill was read a first time.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2017
– second reading

MR SPEAKER: Given the signed Certificate of Urgency by the Leader of the House, the Legislative Assembly will now proceed with the second reading of this Bill.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017 be now read a second time and I wish to elaborate on it.*

Seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development and the Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Minister to clarify the Bill.

Afioga Hon TIALAVEA FEA LENIU TIONISIO HUNT: Thank you Mr Speaker for the chance to clarify the objectives of this Bill.

Of the 8 sections in this legislation, 6 of those have been amended. This bill has had several talks by the public given the tax exemption on church leaders and His Highness the Le Ao o le Malo. This legislation further has amendments for Capital Gains.

I will start with the exemption of Church Ministers from this legislation. We started consultations since March of this year, 2 in Upolu and 2 in Savaii i.e. one in Salelologa and one in Asau.

The purpose of this bill is for all Samoans to equally contribute and take part in the development of the nation. The only persons exempted from this bill in 1962 and 1965 were Church Leaders and His Highness O Le Ao o le Malo.

There were 19 churches involved in the consultation process including the Chamber of Commerce. The main objective is for all Samoans to take part in the development of the nation. This was no easy job for the Ministry however it must be achieved for the welfare of the entire population of 197,000.

We have had several requests from the constituencies that must be achieved.

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Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

The main aim of the Ministry is to collect revenues for the development of the country and to remove the tax exemption from the Church leaders and the Head of State.

Another amendment to this bill regards the Salary Scale of the country. Currently the public servants at the annual salary of 12,000 per annum are not taxed and thus the \$12,000 salary will now increase to \$15,000. This is a huge incentive for this financial year's budget achieved by the Ministry.

If an individual chose to sell an asset within 12 months of purchase he/she is to pay 27% of the capital gains from the transaction. If the individual chose to sell the asset after 12 months 10% of the capital gains should be paid to the Ministry. This is the importance of collecting revenues as this is the primary means to develop Samoa.

There is also a drop in excise tax to 100% for our exporters.

Given an example of 500,000 credit tax to the Ministry of Revenue, and the request is approved for this amount to be invested to a hotel, then the outstanding total for the Ministry exceeds to \$500,000 million in tala. This credit tax will no longer apply at the end of June this year other than tax holidays and incentive tax for hotel constructions and foreign business investments.

This is the only section I wish to omit as other companies have returned their investments to pay for these outstanding taxes given that they were more concerned with their investments and forget to pay their due tax.

That is all on this bill to omit tax exemption for the religious leaders that will become effective on the 1st of January 2018 whilst Parliament is dealing with the normal processes to achieve its role.

That is the clarification Mr Speaker in the purpose for all Samoans to contribute to the development of Samoa, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you well guess there is no one else.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Thank you Mr Speaker the purpose for this legislation is on point seeing that everyone must have equal rights when it comes to revenues. For anything new it is difficult to adjust and recognize and I trust some of us here are agreeing with me. I am concerned with the number of religious leaders consulted with regards to the 49 constituencies yet only 15 leaders were sought. If the number of constituencies is less than 40 then this is a very low percentage for this consultancy process.

This bill will not come into effect until the 1st of January 2018 and therefore, I ask that the bill be withdrawn to allow for a wider consultation to gauge the views and opinions of the public.

26 JUNE 2017

Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
– second reading

There is an English saying that goes, “*There is many ways of skinning a cat.*” I don’t intend to object but perhaps there are other avenues that can easily be taken by the religious leaders. These religious leaders are no longer staying in their villages because they have moved to other villages to serve and have made these villages/constituencies become their new families and homes. This is the view on this bill because it says that a form will be given to them to fill to state how much money they receive the past four Sundays.

The question that comes to mind is whether the same application to religious leaders applies to us too as I speak for myself, everytime we have something in the constituency they always pay respect by giving me something. Is it appropriate for us to also make returns to the State on a monthly basis? This is why this legislation is not fair for me alone because I have discussed this bill with two other members and my mind has not been settled for the past three days given that almost all of us here are related to religious leaders.

This is why I bid for further consultations with the Church leaders of individual constituencies because as far as I am concerned well correct me if wrong, the resolution at the Malua Annual Conference states that they oppose this legislation. So as I said one way or another everyone is related to these religious pastors and you can always feel the touch of the Holy Ghost and their blessings whenever you shake their hands. Not only that, these people are what we should prioritize otherwise this is exactly what the Pharasees used to do; they mock Jesus and his disciples.

Additionally, Hon Minister, I do not agree with your statement that says all tax collectors are unloved.

Zacchaeus climbed the tree and was a tax collector. You see Jesus’ love for Zacchaeus was true when he asked him to come down because he wanted a word with him. This is why Jesus died, because of sinners and not the righteous.

I see the projected income from religious leader is \$2million but if we can allocate some finance from the Unforeseen to cover this as we have the 2/3 majority for this approval. Hence it is hard for me to accept this legislation but would agree if our political party reconvenes as I trust the majority of us here would agree to withdraw this bill too in seek of further consultations before it’s a go. We must get a collective decision from the Church Ministers and not just 15 given that Malua has accorded their rejection of this bill and I suppose this will be similar view from the Methodist Church when they have their conference next week. That is my personal opinion Mr Speaker, we are both from God although this bill has my support, rather we should have further review and assessments such as the expression *skin a cat*.

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Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017
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That is the request and if it sounds offensive let us bear forgiveness. The spirit is we are one Party and we do things collectively for the future of Samoa. Have a blessed Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon TUILAEPA AUUELOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker I wish to acknowledge the Minister and his boldness to tax religious leaders given the oath he made as he asserted.

Just recently I did ask the Minister about the conclusion of their consultations and he addressed that everyone agreed except for two, this is like the story of Peter who always says yes to Jesus and when trouble came he was gone.

Mr Speaker the reason why the State did not do well in 1981 due to financial constraints and this is what we should be doing, when money is needed, this is the Minister's responsibility, look for ways to seek revenues to implement the requests of the constituencies through your representatives in Parliament.

I recall what happened to Great Britain when the State had no recognition of its own members of Parliament instead they directly asked the people, what happened next? Because the public lacked insight of what happened well that is similar situation with us and this tax and the general term 'Revenue'. One pastor asked, 'Why do we have to pay tax again when this money was already given to us to live by and that tax has already been deducted? I responded this is your own contribution to the State. Globally and in terms of revenue collection, the view is not how this tax was paid neither how this revenue is collected, the main thing to look at is Revenue and how this revenue was incurred either on a fortnightly basis or weekly basis. Other forms of income are not covered under the definition for Income. This is the very basis for the current Ministry to collecting its revenue from tax at present. When you are afraid to do something then you are making way for the devil to take control.

I was the faced with the incident from the past when the VAGST bill was introduced in Parliament. Many were outraged saying that they pity the people who will starve to death? What happened next? The public were very concerned with this proposal however when it was implemented, there were no problems the presumed effects were not even felt.

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 – second reading

It is difficult for me to sit and listen to members who repeat the sayings that this is what the Cabinet should be doing yet when Cabinet is seeking everyone's contribution into our development yet again they come up with something different.

Mr Speaker perhaps the correct word here is contribution instead of tax. I made a statement during the time of the World Cup and listening to the words of these religious leaders and their sentiments, 'I pity these boys they played so hard in the World Cup.'

So it is unjust for a Samoan to profess their love for our country but refuse to make a contribution and collecting taxes is one way to build and develop our beloved Samoa.

Mr Speaker, when a child is taken to the hospital and finds neither medical treatment nor a doctor, we become angry. Even with the teachers when there's a shortage of teachers we complain and turn to the Ministry of Education to do their job, either way, we must make a contribution in order to bear benefits.

Even with motorists they also complain about fixing their roads, but how? How can this be done? It is done through the people's contribution; and it is not nice for some to make contributions whilst others are just sitting and rocking their chairs without making any contribution.

Mr Speaker that is the explanation because when are to direct our attention to the Bible and in regards to tax, even our Lord and Saviour himself also had to pay tax and when it comes to Paul well Paul had some very strong words taught to the Roman Ecclesias, pay your tax. So for any Organisation, any proposal by the State is from God and anyone who rejects/objects is a lawbreaker.

Mr Speaker the Bible is filled with such things, even when the Pharasees were tempting Jesus, He said only one thing. Who's picture was it? It is the picture of Caeser, give Caeser what belongs to Caeser and pay tax. The bible is filled with the teachings about tax. True is the saying by the member of Aleipata, Jesus loved the small man who climbed the sycamore and why did Jesus love him? Because he is doing a job to rebuild Israel and with financial assistance it requires the involvement of more than one whilst Jesus was teaching people that were giving him money including gold earrings, gold rings which Judah whom was Jesus' treasurer at the time would go and exchange these material things with money. Many of Jesus' teachings cover all sorts of issues through people from the sick to the poor and the rich and these people would come with money to Jesus who in turn redistributes it amongst them. This is no different with the money we are collecting regardless, that is your contribution to Samoa and its development

Have a blessed Sitting.

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ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. We have the proverbial expression, "*Taoto le ataata o Tauleleia, taatia le ato a Maluafiti,*" given the statement by the Leader of the House in clarification to this Bill. I guess we will have until tomorrow for us to bring good views and thoughts to this Bill.

Since we have now arrived at adjourning time, it is about time for us to finish our Sitting.

Before we adjourn I call the member for Aana Alofi No.2 to end our Sitting with a word of prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 7:05pm until 9:00am on Tuesday June 2017.