

8 FEBRUARY 2021

MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9:20 am.

Prayer.

MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed.

NOTICE FROM THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Pursuant to Standing Order 76 of Parliament Notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly for consideration of the following Bills as follows:

1. Ministry of Women Affairs Amendment Bill 2021.
2. Internal Affairs Amendment Bill 2021.

GIVEN this day Friday, 5th February 2021.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE

CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Mr Speaker read out the Certificate of Urgency.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 100(2), the Notice is hereby given to the Legislative Assembly for consideration of the Bills mentioned below in a State of Urgency.

1. Ministry of Women Affairs Amendment Bill 2021.
2. Internal Affairs Amendment Bill 2021.

GIVEN this day Friday, 5th February 2021.

Hon TUILAEPA Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
LEADER OF THE HOUSE

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Other Announcements by the Speaker

MR SPEAKER: I greet the sanctity of the Parliament this morning, even though the weather is not good, opportunity has been granted from God for us to be here today to carry out our duties. I salute you all in good health and spirit.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER: For the information of the Parliament I have received the Amendments to the State of Emergency Orders already signed by His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo.

I now call upon the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to read out these Amendments.

The Clerk read out the Amendments on the State of Emergency Orders.

**AMENDMENT OF STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS FOR COVID
- 19 – 4th February 2021****Plans for flights to return citizens in the 2nd Quarter of the year.**

In its meeting on Thursday, 4th February 2021, the Cabinet discussed the Paper (PK2021 90) that approved the process of travel for the 2nd quarter of this year scheduled for the return of people to Samoa as detailed below.

1. 17 April 2021 – Flight to repatriate Samoan citizens from the United States, Hawaii, Canada, Alaska and Europe via Auckland. Negotiate with the Government of New Zealand and Air New Zealand to adjust the arrival times of flights in Apia to be in line with the flight times from America.
2. 07 May 2021 – Repatriation flight from Australia and New Zealand for RSE workers and passengers from Asia including patients who were in India for treatment.
3. 28 May 2021 – Repatriation flight from Australia and New Zealand including the repatriation of RSE workers.
4. 18 June 2021 – Repatriation flight from Australia and New Zealand.

These Amendments will come into force on the 14th February 2021. Other provisions of the Emergency Orders previously issued will remain in place.

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Presentation of Papers

This decision was made under a State of Urgency in accordance with Section 38(1)(c) of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa.

Signed:

Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II
O LE AO O LE MALO

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Clerk read out the list of Papers pursuant to Standing Orders 49(2).

1. P.P.2020/2021 No.130, Ministry of Women and Community and Social Development Annual Report 2019/2020.
2. P.P.2020/2021 No.131, Samoa Water Authority Corporate Plan 2021-2024.
3. P.P.2020/2021 No.132, Samoa Water Authority Statement of Corporate Objectives 2021-2024.
4. P.P.2020/2021 No.133, Annual Report of the Samoa Qualifications Authority 2019/2020.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– resumption debate on second reading – Day 14**

MR SPEAKER: With respect, we adjourned our Proceedings Friday last week when the member of Anoamaa West concluded his speech.

I believe another opportunity is available for another member to take the floor and speak on our work.

I see that Afioga Sao Faapito is upstanding, the member of the constituency of Lotofaga. Greetings Hon Fiame Naomi, Afioga Sao Faapito, you may proceed. All the best with your speech.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Lotofaga): Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. As for now, despite the bad weather, this House is still blessed with purity and good life, which has led us to the start of this week.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
– resumption debate on second reading**

I greet the respects of Mr Speaker, the dignity of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, in the presence of that side of the House, to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as Associate Ministers.

Also to this side of Chamber to the Chairpersons of Committee, and to all respectable members of Parliament.

I acknowledge the public servants of Government who are assisting our work, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff, as well as Chief Executive Officers and representatives of Government Ministries and Organizations.

I also acknowledge with respect the support of Samoa, its political and cultural respects, especially the sacredness of Gods anointed servants at its many altars.

Mr Speaker, before I voice a word on our matter tabled before the House, the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1), I want to express my heartfelt condolences on the passing of one of our members Afioga Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Poutoa.

This is the spirit as expressed not only by your Honor on the day it was officially announced that the member has passed, but also in speeches and statements of this House, because of the pillars of the House has fallen, the respectable member. Therefore I want to convey condolences to his wife and children especially the family, and the constituency of Lefaga and Faleaseela.

It has been noted with the progress of our speeches on the Appropriation the statement by some members that there will be members who will be retiring after this Term, starting with Mr Speaker, as well as other members who will conclude their services as Parliamentarians. We should also convey our well wishes, especially on leaving behind duties and our fellowship over the years. May God bless you all in your duties, and there is no doubt that there are other callings upon which your knowledge will be useful.

Mr Speaker, in general this member supports the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1), because we have already passed the Main Estimates last year, now the Hon Minister has tabled the Supplementary Appropriation (No.1), it is noted that there is an adjustment of some parts of the economy or funds have been shared in areas that need priority, especially this time with the challenge Samoa and the world is facing with the effects of Covid that has affected the economy.

I believe Mr Speaker that Samoa is not different in what the world is currently facing. But in our discussion on policies, such is the spirit Mr Speaker, I wish to speak on some matters and voice an opinion, or to convey some aspects that we should think about together to build success for our country.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021
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First of all Mr Speaker, I speak in general on part of our Budget, which is the Budget Support, or the financial aid that is provided by our partners to assist our Budget and the development of our economy. Mr Speaker, I believe this is an important part of our Budget.

In contrast to the financial assistance that has been directly included in our Budget, this assistance from our partners is crucial, especially when the amount of tax collected by the Ministry is not met, when other areas of the economy have been impacted.

Mr Speaker, I believe, this assistance or Budget Support, is very important and should be made clear for the understanding of the House, on how it is being used to aid our Budget as well as our developments.

Mr Speaker and respects of the Legislative Assembly, I know these types of assistance, of Direct Budget Support into the Budget of Samoa from our partners, is a medium that has assisted us greatly, because if we were to distinguish direct support and other methods, like projects, grants or short-term loans with a small interest, there are conditions that make it difficult. I know that in the continuation of our partnership with countries and organizations that are supporting the Government of Samoa, this is one change or measure that have helped us a lot. So not only for us, but I think it is also easy for those who are donating or providing such assistance for us. But the only aspect that I wanted to discuss in our deliberations, is this is large amount, of funds given by Governments and Organizations abroad, I request the Minister whether there is a way to provide more details, on who it is from, and what are the conditions, whether there is a special need of those countries and organizations in the use of their assistance.

Mr Speaker there are also other aspects that we should pay attention to, because in the progress of our income, we can read and make a model, on the stability of our resources and Government income from time to time, through taxes and other resources that are also used to generate money for our Government.

But this funding, is to assist with our Budget, the Direct Budget Support, a question that comes to mind, is there a certainty that this assistance will continue in the future, or will it be dependent on our income. Mr Speaker these are the areas that are unclear, and I am always thinking about it, especially in securing the economy, to ensure the operation of the Budget and the development of our country.

It has been noted that there is a drop in our Government revenue through our usual resources. We do not have to guess the reason, because of the effects of the economy, especially the closure and release of some employees of our country.

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This is the first matter that I wanted to speak upon on our Budget, the transparency of funds, because less than 50% are our own funds, but a large amount of money, an uncertain amount of money, may cause us to have a problem in the future.

Mr Speaker it is also noted under financial assistance and projects, there is a lot of funding presented in our Budget. Some projects or grants are big, while others are quite small. Mr Speaker I am thinking of now as I direct my statement to the Hon Minister of Finance, whether the funding received should be reassessed considering the state we are in, to modify where these funds can be most useful. It is true that most of these funds have already been allocated, but this is a request, is this not a good opportunity to assist us with an economy that will help us at this time.

For example Mr Speaker, it has been heard that there is a project funded under the Ministry of Agriculture to plant trees to help employ some workers who have been let go by their workplace. This is a good example, because this is one Ministry that has many resources that receive a lot of assistance not only for the Ministry and its functions, but it associated in sustaining our economy, not only in terms of money but also employment.

Now in the discussion of the relationship of the economy and the different sectors of Government work and income. I want to speak upon the relationship between the environment and our economy. Mr Speaker there is no doubt that these are the 2 matters faced by the world and us today, climate change and the economy.

Samoa as a nation in the Pacific region, and our region is seen as a powerful force to convey the message and testament, in the effects that our world has experienced due to climate change, and even though our region has little contribution to the financing of these gases that have caused climate change, however, the Pacific region is part of the globe that has been most affected by climate change. We should think about it, since these are the 2 issues faced by Governments and different administrations, climate change and the economy.

Therefore a humble request to Government to the Hon Minister of Finance, whether we should look at our policies that will allow us to work on these areas that challenge us in way that we can respond to the effects of climate change, and also respond to the needs of an affected economy. There are a lot of matters to discuss in regards to environmental development, I believe this is an area that we need to think about and value.

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While I am still on the matter regarding the environment and climate change, there are many speeches and statements of the House that have discussed, especially the effects of our environment, due to climate change, for the need of seawalls, drains and other things that some of the constituencies are requesting for the assistance of Government. I heard in the speech of the Leader, that there has been a slight change in the policies of Government, regarding seawalls, especially for constituencies on this side with the constant requests from villages. I also heard in the statement by the Leader, the clarification on developments where these funding are allocated from overseas, and work that can be carried out with our own funds. I am speaking about foreign aid, it has been noted that aid is received for actions to respond to climate change, that is to reduce greenhouse gases, and another major area requires the implementation of large projects, these are actions taken to protect our environment which includes seawalls, drains, roads and others.

It has been noted Mr Speaker...

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini (Safata West): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I call upon the member for Safata.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Thank you very much honourable Speaker for the opportunity. Thank you, Hon Fiame, for your remarks. But this is one matter that was mainly emphasized by this constituency, seawalls, but now I hear there is a mention of policies. Mr Speaker, as I mentioned in the past, some of the villages of my constituency came. Afioga Fiame did not mention any policies, even during the response given in the previous Sitting of the Main Estimates, Fiame did not state any policies, and this is in the records. However, I have noted that the speech conveyed speaks about policies. If Afioga Fiame had not lied to our village, our village would have accepted it. The only thing she said was, for the village to move inland. This is assistance on the matter, with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you, perhaps the interruption is right, but I call upon the member since you were the Minister of the Ministry where the problem arose, especially matters regarding drains.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, the terms are similar, the word lie and not wanting to convey a response is the same. Nevertheless Mr Speaker, I will proceed with my statement.

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These types of work, however an example of the policies of Government, priority is given in protecting its assets. If not, the recommendation is for our people to move inland, yes, that way they will be saved from the effects of...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies Hon Fiame but I will allow the opportunity to the member, since this is a matter that was heavily mentioned in his speech. You may speak if there is anything else...

Afioga Leanaa Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker, there is a statement on the word lie. However, Hon Fiame is aware, that the respects of the village and constituency came at the beginning of this Parliamentary term. We sat face to face, and she said, your seawalls should have been constructed long ago. But now that we are at the end of this Term.

MR SPEAKER: Please clarify what you said, at that time you were the Minister of Environment? For the clarification of the country.

Afioga Leanaa Ronnie Posini: You are right, it was at the time the member was Minister. I note that she is now discussing policies, it is unfortunate she did not mention it then, the policies of our country. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon the Afioga Sao Faapito.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you. What can a member do with the pleas of the constituency? Blame me for not constructing the seawalls of your constituency, perhaps it will resolve the issue for the member, on the disapproval of the district.

Set it as an example, the majority of our communities that have moved away from residing in places close to the sea. An example is the constituency of the Hon Prime Minister, this is one constituency that is surrounded by the sea and mountains. What has been done? They have done what should be done, they have moved to higher grounds. This is a statement made as a sign of what we should be thinking about. Whether it is not this time, or is it near or far away, but climate change, is something that our Government has no control over, to stop the power of nature and affects it has on our lands, which washes away our beaches and communities on the coast.

Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Apologies Afioga Sao Faapito, but I will give the opportunity to the member of Palauli le Falefa.

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Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you, I have no intention of interrupting the wonderful speech of Afioga Sao Faapito. The only matter I wish to clarify is the statement saying, Government protect Government assets. The coastal areas where families are exposed to strong waves, this is the responsibility of the Government, the Sao Faapito is aware of this because she also requested for a seawall, and it was done. There was a seawall constructed for Vavau and also Lotofaga, there were a lot of seawalls constructed during my time, which was done under the environment funds.

This is what I wanted to clarify, it is not necessary to only protect the assets of Government, but what about the assets of individuals? Customary lands are affected, policy should be changed if this is the new policy used, to bring in funding for the environment sector that deals with the protection of Government and country assets.

With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon Tofa Olo, is there anything... Salega East...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): No, Afioga Sao Faapito, has clarified these policies. And these are the only policies that are made clear, the protection of Government assets, like roads close to the sea. Afioga Faumuina Liuga was also Minister of Environment, and there was no clarification on the protection for customary lands. As for other matters regarding policies, I was listening to the statement by the member of Safata, this is something you know about after ten years. I know that the member is still quite new, and he does not understand much about policies. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Interruptions should be made to the statement of the Afioga Sao Faapito. There is no reason to intervene in the interruption by Afioga Faumuina, the member of Palauli le Falefa. Those are our Standing Orders, do not fight over matters that are not relatable. I will give the opportunity to Faumuina.

Tofa Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: Thank you. I know that Levaopolo is aware, that he requested for a seawall, and a seawall was constructed for Saleaula. It was done with the intention to protect people's assets, individuals. Also, there is no one that requested for a seawall during my time that did not get one.

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This was the only seawall that was not done for the protection of Safata, because Safata requested a seawall to be constructed in the mangrove. Then I told them, the mangrove is a natural protection of the land, because it is where fishes breed, and provides food for the people. A seawall was constructed for the Sao Faapito, it was quite beautiful. I went there and I was told for an extension, then we did it with sand to extend it further.

MR SPEAKER: Well, you have heard Levaopolo. Before policies were complied with it was only Government assets.

Tofa Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga: These are policies regarding the Environment. As for the Policies mentioned by Sao Faapito, are the funds from the World Bank to build roads. The reason why these roads are protected is to minimize damage, of the investment that was made to improve the roads. With respect.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The matter is now very clear. Once the Elders explain the matter, it is understood.

Once again I call upon, apologies Afioga Fiame...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker. It seems interruption has already been made from that side now it is from this side, well it is fine.

Mr Speaker, I do not know what the interruption is about. I have not finished; I will start again with my statement...

MR SPEAKER: Who are you interrupting?

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker, since my name was mentioned by the member of Salega.

MR SPEAKER: It seems that you two are arguing over the matter but clear your name. It is true, that you are mentioned by Levaopolo, but Levaopolo is no longer a member, it is only Olo who is present.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker, this is the reason for bringing up the matter with the interruptions heard...

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, are you allowing this interruption?

MR SPEAKER: No, I will not allow it if it is an interruption to Levaopolo, but if it is anything else that needs clarification...apologies Safata.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: I will now continue with my remarks.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Safata.

Afioga Leanaa Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker, I would like to clarify the matter voiced by the Sao Faapito.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, since you are upstanding. I will be blamed if the matter has not yet been clarified.

Afioga Leanaa Ronie Posini: Mr Speaker my constituency is listening, the opinion of my constituency is important to me which is why I am here. This is why, because it is important for the district, and we must express an opinion on the matter mentioned.

Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. No you cannot speak twice, I appease the member.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker can I intervene in the interruption.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, I humbly ask for an opportunity for this constituency.

MR SPEAKER: On what?

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: To clarify what?

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Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: Towards the speech of the Afioga Sao Faapito.

MR SPEAKER: Since our Standing Orders are affected, I beg tolerance to the Afioga Sao Faapito. Please hurry up member for Vaimauga.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa: This constituency is full of respect upon this senior member of Parliament, but since our constituency is listening in to seawall areas. The constituency is still receiving accusations made in this House by the Sao Faapito, on seawall areas. What was the statement? The submission made, move to the inland areas. But thank you Hon Prime Minister for saying that our embankments will be implemented. The reason for this request is because it is affecting our people. However, the statement that seems grave to our constituency is the securing of assets. That was the intention, to prioritize our assets but what about the lives of the people? It is the reason which seems to mean that you are being self-absorbed, when she used to sit there. The joy for this constituency. There was also a request for the seawalls of Laulii where massive sea waves are getting stronger in the coast, and the response made was to move inland, it was said in this very House, and disappointment was felt at that... Nevertheless, I respect the Sao Faapito a lot, even though it seems you are being narcissistic, despite assets being prioritized, but what about the lives of the people. It is the lives of the people that...

MR SPEAKER: Just giving the member some help, that was the speech of the Sao Faapito during her time as Minister. Now her speech has changed today, and it is like that. Common sense must be used.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: You are still mad.

Afioga Leana Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker Point of clarification. The main thing is my disappointment with Olo and his statement saying that, a thought can only be made when 10 years is reached. This was not the treatment we were selected here by our constituency to do.

When we entered this House, my mind was heavy, because Olo was covering up for Fiamē. And if Fiamē's lie is now caught, well Fiamē has confessed it, even though Olo is trying to cover it up. With due respect.

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MR SPEAKER: Because I am not thinking of Olo, as the interjection is made to another interruption.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Mr Speaker, even though purity seems deceptive, but this is a very serious matter, a member accusing another person as a liar. We do have Parliamentary records, that was the response I gave them during my time over there.

MR SPEAKER: I permit the Prime Minister and his will in clarifying the...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I personally feel that our debate is well expressed this morning noting the strength of words used so as to provide more clarity on these matters. Government decisions, seems to be made up of 2 major processes which must be followed, they are decisions that are based on the Law, which is necessary to do. When the Law is applied, it cannot be changed. And when policy is applied which are set by the Cabinet. There are two things to implement this, either use the Law or Policy. When Policy is applied, there is farsightedness, and therefore it can be changed. This must be understood, breaching must be avoided, so it is not necessary to follow up the Government on a Policy, as most policies are flexible as done by the Government occasionally. There are also policies that are based on the Law. But it is difficult to negotiate those things, as the main difference is that Policy may be changed, but when the Law is used, then change is difficult to apply. That is the first matter I have thought to clarify.

Secondly, the appointments of Prime Minister and Cabinet is clear based on the Law. Whenever the Prime Minister selects its Cabinet, and it is necessary that each Minister has a role to implement. And for these roles and responsibilities whenever there are issues, they must come to the Cabinet to seek first if budget is available, and the possibility to fund.

What Laws are we protected by? Mr Speaker, and the two Ministers whom I selected, Fiame and Faumuina are sort of arguing about it.

I chose Faumuina first and Fiame later to manage the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. A lot of responsibilities came under this Ministry including Climate Change. I am not sure whether there were 24 Assistant Chief Executive Officers. This is perhaps the biggest Ministry, and one could nearly get affected from the many Assistant Heads they have. But they all report to the Chief Executive Officer and above them is the Minister.

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Furthermore, the Minister would also ask for their opinion on what needs to be done on top of their knowledge and the implementation of the Law which regulates their works. For me, I would ask the Minister to see these matters. And they are the ones who submit recommendations to me and the Cabinet. And so Cabinet's decision is based on this recommendation with regards to appropriations given, particularly money from the world funding organisations to develop a major project. So these assets must be protected and if it is the roads that are undertaken, therefore it is necessary that roads are protected from the effects of climate change and strong tidal waves we see today, it is very dangerous. As witnessed today it is also the Pacific islands that are being mostly affected from the negative impacts of climate change. Other island nations that were not formed from volcanic eruptions were formed from coral reefs limestone.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Please Mr Speaker, is my time also covering the Prime Minister's speech which is almost finished.

MR SPEAKER: No, it is covered, the recommendation is for referees.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, the reason for clarifying these matters is to provide clarity to avoid misunderstanding. It is important, I have asked my Ministers, and for the same reason, if a Minister goes overseas, I will take over its Seat and will become well aware of everything being implemented.

Mr Speaker, a time will come for Government policies to be reviewed, they are not permanent. But grants come with conditions from our overseas partners which we must followed, as funds will be ceased if we do not comply. The same process applies for all fundings from overseas and nothing is sure, the Sao Faapito has also asked if possible as nothing is possible, why? Because once the implementation is problematic, funds will be cut off completely. He should have understood this as he was part of the Cabinet for a long time.

It is reason we must be patient and comply with the conditions given. It is the foresight of the Government; it is not only the funds from an Organisation that can be used to fund these developments. The seawall areas can also be funded from other funding sources. It is reason I upstand to make correction, these policies are not permanent. Use common sense. Use farsightedness to implement the works of the Government.

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So it is similar to what I am saying, funding of bus stations is a very good development for travellers. And if our partners are seeing that the Government is not doing a good job with these money, they will cut it off. These conditions were not permitted for almost 10 months until a justification report was sent to them stating the importance of these matters which as a result, the funds were again made available to us. Therefore, it basically answered another matter on donors raised by the Sao Faapitoa whether it was verified. So the truth is any financial assistance from overseas, none of that was verified. It will only be verified when given policies are upheld and the smooth implementation of developments. Because it seems they are seeing that the funds received are being disbursed which is something for an untaught child to ponder. Wanting something for free is the norm, in relation to giving, only a lazy person thinks of it. Wanting something for free. And that is the main reason why grants are cut off quickly from overseas.

Mr Speaker, that is the response.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the Prime Minister's statement is well clarified, and therefore do not interrupt her statement anymore. She has elucidated and this matter is now clear.

Go ahead.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you very much. During injury and the advice from the referee, perhaps we are...let us move on like that. Continuing on, I am thankful to the member for Palauli le Falefa for the assistance upon this matter. In relation to seawall areas, policies and his own will is to give priority to people's lands. Well, that spirit is also good if money is sufficient. The member is correct during her time in overseeing the Ministry, this constituency was also benefitting from this foreign aid projects that built its breakwater constructions. During that time, the process by the Hon Minister was approved however the member's time as Minister was quite lengthy compared to our time, and policies have been quite helpful for getting funding assistance. Perhaps the matter raised by the member for Safata is also supportive. The response we gave, since the mangrove areas, perhaps this could provide assistance to the member of Safata. Because the constituency may think that the member is not doing its job.

Thank you very much to the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification but if this response is used, it will mean that the Government is responding directly to these constituencies, Vaimauga East, Safata or Anoamaa. Because these are the same constituencies that are constantly imploring.

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So if they will bear benefit from this, I will be confused whether this is due to policy change or common sense as the Prime Minister said, the main thing, is that public money belongs to the country, they are set out based on conditions. The main thing is the spirit of thanks if your seawall areas are done before the general elections because Government policies is now changed, and it is best that I now speak of a different topic.

MR SPEAKER: Move on as clarification has been provided by the Prime Minister.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Yes, then I come to...

MR SPEAKER: Since the Minister of Finance was mentioned. Therefore, I allow the Government treasurer or the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti (Minister of Finance): Mr Speaker, I interject the wonderful speech of Afioga Sao Faapito.

The Prime Minister has spoken of major developments like building the seawall areas within the district communities to protect them from serious effects of climate change that are affecting the village lands, houses and properties close to the sea. This is very important. I wish to advise the negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and the Development Bank of Samoa and the Green Climate Fund to allow the opportunity for the Development Bank to be an agent of the GCF, so that money is made available from the Green Climate Fund to implement the works like seawall areas for the village communities, most particularly the issues relating to climate change, which are also affecting the low lying areas as frequently raised by the member for Safata.

The Prime Minister has spoken, and Government has also discussed on possible way to receive public money to implement urgent works required today particularly for village communities that are greatly affected from climate change. If current negotiations are successful between the GCF and the Development Bank, then that will be another major assistance for our district communities requiring this assistance...

Afioga Leanaa Ronnie Posini: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Since the member of Safata is very keen therefore I permit him another chance...

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Afioga Leaana Ronnie Posini: Thank you very much, based on Fiaame's statement, saying that your seawall area must be done before the general elections. It seems she is being sarcastic. The appointments and callings of members are made by God. It seems that...is it a campaign you are carrying out...the appeal for a seawall area was done in 2016. And it seems it will be done before the general elections, Mr Speaker it looks like this is your campaign...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: I was not being sarcastic. I am telling the truth, I hope the seawall areas of Safata, Vaimauga, and Anoamaa will be done before the general elections. Because the Prime Minister has spoken, using government money to fix it.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: I see you had not allowed the Sao Faapito to speak yet. I am interested in the member's speech. However, the Sao Faapito is standing up on her own freewill to interject. Can you give her your order, and ask her to note the Standing Order, she has been a member for a long time however she is not getting the Standing Orders. I wish to listen to the interruption of the member.

I had publicized that seawall constructions must be done which is in the program, whether they can be done before or after, what is important is that notice has been given from the Government to implement the work needed. I have visited and inspected these two villages and they have been seriously affected. Therefore it cannot be stopped. The constructions of seawalls before or after the elections is therefore not the spirit of the Government. The essence is its programs.

America has also changed administration; it has again joined the Nations that put priority on climate change. That being said, there is a big chance for donors to make change in order to improve our seawall areas but confirmation on this will only be known in 2100 meaning we have 79 more years before reaching that century. That is the year where the heatness of the sun will be reduced.

The elections are not important rather the commitment of the Government is more important to the constituency. In addition the election results are also not vital, it is all in the program and the constituency is also listening, it is not a decision that was done carelessly.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well thanks. Allow me to say this first before we have the member for Anoamaa East. Perhaps the member for Safata West is satisfied. Thank you. It is like that, knock and the door will be opened, but knock and pray. It is like that. Yes.

Hon Prime Minister, no Fiame is good, but seeing that side, it is Olo that is making Fiame stand up whilst Fiame is good at upholding orders for me.

As such, I call upon the member for Anoma East, Susuga Lufilufi.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututi’a Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Thank you Mr Speaker, we have heard the speaker’s statement speaking to the Sao Faapito. All statements we make in this House are received by the constituencies and people have different thoughts and responses.

The statement on village relocation given in the House, as I got to our Meeting the old men said, that 5 billions is needed for this relocation. Very recently the Minister was saying that our seawall areas were very much affected, before I sat down the village was satisfied and were thankful to the Government. As stated by the Prime Minister whether the seawall area will be set up before or after the elections, nevertheless the support of our village is very grateful that this program will finally reach us. Thankfully at least cheap roads will be built instead of the one that was said to be relocated inland, it is not known where to get money to fix it. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done thank you. Good news is on the way like the saying to Samoanagalo. Well done as the constituency is listening in. There is view Fiame do not be stressed out on the general elections as the choice is for God to do. But do direct your thoughts on this matter.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: No the general elections is not important, it is the seawall areas. Thank you. I beg tolerance to the Government Leader for standing up freely. I will not do it again however I will stand up nobly.

It is best that I move to a different topic, I will speak on the matter regarding Political Parties. The Budget specifies the money allocation of \$200,000 for Political Parties. I am also well aware that this decision was made when I was in the Cabinet. Perhaps, I would think that this decision is good seeing the need for money to operate our Budget, which is the essence of this Budget, to assist with the \$200,000 refunds.

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Regardless Mr Speaker, it is important to include money allocation in the Budget to support Political Parties. Continuing on to this Parliament, it seems funding allocation of \$200,000 is opposite to policies and Principles on Political Parties Recognition in Parliament. The truth is, there is only one Political Party. So \$80,000 is allocated for Political Parties for this Term, but there is only one Political Party.

This raises the question honorable Speaker, and our perspective of politics because we do have the existence of Political Parties in the country. The Human Rights Political Party is the first to get officiated. Followed by the establishment of other Political Parties, now that we are the end of this Parliament, we are preparing for the general elections in April and there are new Parties underway.

Mr Speaker the personal view, if Political Parties is another way to assist public administration, then how is the wealth of the Budget operated in order to provide support for these sorts of preparations? Because if we look at the existing budget and the purpose for it, it is to support Political Parties. And that money stays in the Budget of the Legislative Assembly.

Moving forward I have thought with the Government, and all of us as we near the general elections in particular, good governance is something we must value and give priority to. If Political Parties is a way or process to improve good governance within a country, what can we do with our policies with this sort of assistance to increase these Associations. Mr Speaker, we all understand, I have been a part of Political Parties, the same with other members here. However the question is, what is happening with Political Parties in Samoa? Why is there a non existent of Political Parties like other Governments?

Mr Speaker, funny when reflecting back to our history and our journey regarding Political Parties. One morning I had listened to the Proceedings of the House and the history of our Parliament, and a time like this before the existence of a Political Party, when the Prime Minister and its Cabinet was appointed, it appeared that the rest of the House is the Opposition.

It appears the thought is provocative, the existence of Political Parties is vital to provide apparent plans as the Human Rights Protection Party became the first Party to have proven its manifesto, and target that during the Term so that the country is aware that they were able to achieve good developments. After that, there was only one Political Party that succeeded the Parliament of Samoa. And for me this is thought provoking, for all of us to contemplate as we head closer to the polls. Because what is the meaning of a Political Party when failed. What are the reasons for this failure? Perhaps there are plenty of reasons why they became unsuccessful, as no official Political Party succeeded Parliament since the 2011-2016 Parliamentary Term.

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Mr Speaker, if we have allocated an appropriation from our budget for this area, I advise that we reconsider or allow the Electoral Office, as the Law requires Political Parties to make registrations to the Commissioner and also to prepare ways to improve processes for committees as well as Political Parties. Because in my mind, what is happening to us is that it seems that Political Parties pertain to electoral candidates. It is only during the general elections time that the supporters are sought. Whilst according to personal perspective, the meaning of Political Parties for the Government of the day and various other Political Parties, seem to fall specifically on Parliament members. However I guess another meaning for Political Parties is an association of people of the country who hold opinions on matters of priority for different Political Parties. Lest I prolong my statement, the main focus is vital, and it is necessary to review our policies, what money and whatever possible ways we can take to offer assistance for the development of good governance in our support of Political Parties.

Then I come to the Ministry of Health. I had attended a memorial service on Cancer disease prepared by the Cancer Society, which was attended by the Hon Minister on who was also the Minister of Health, and also a mother of the Cancer Society Association.

The reason for raising the Cancer Society, is due to Government's objective in its policies with its partnership. To value the efforts and works shared through the services available in the country in partnership with the government, Private Sector and other similar associations. I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister; the focus is not to ruin the service of the Ministry. What I saw this particular day, the Hon Minister was the only one in attendance, and nobody from the Ministry of Health was there. Doctor Salausa also attended it. But I did think and had witnessed, and may this be an example, as this is similar act with our partners in the State, we talk about partnerships, but the application is not there. Accordingly, why interested in partnership, what is the meaning? What must be implemented for this partnership to show it exists? May I also extend appreciation to the lady minister for bearing her support upon this part of the country by offering assistance through the health sector and follow up help for the members of the public who have cancer?

I further entreat because various reports are being received on cancer, with the constant message from the Association to quickly see a doctor. As continuous information will be received on this situation...

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers (Minister of Health): Mr Speaker...

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MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Saying that the people got there late. How can we work if our partners are correct to stop this, as many people have died due to the delay?

MR SPEAKER: Well done thanks. I call upon the Minister of Health.

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: There is no intention of interrupting the Afioga Sao Faapito and her speech.

It is true, that he contacted on Sunday and a letter from the Cancer Society was submitted so that they can attend the Sunday service which also pleads the collaborating services and support of the Government through the Ministry of Health on treatments and service delivery for those who are affected with cancer disease.

During that evening I know there was the attendance of the Head Director and others, and I am not aware whether other people got any invitations, but it is good to witness to ensure that these areas are better for the Ministry including Saturdays, Sundays and night times.

It is not an excuse, I was with Salausa and I had talked to the Head Director, and we represented the Ministry, and due to several other services and the monitoring of works for our protection, this was one of the reasons he gave us his explanation was because some people did not take heed of the measures for our protection. Such is the explanation lest you think I am taking light of this concern given the various acknowledgements submitted from members as wellbeing is still witnessed until today. Emotionally I bear witness particularly during the wee hours of the night, the current service delivered is not being done carelessly. So that is my testimony in response to the many questions made to this Ministry.

Sometimes I get anxious lest the government heads collapse suddenly, and employees will be short. I want the people to have enough rest, it is the lives of the country especially the children of Samoa working within these Ministries as public servants. Well done to their services. Having enough rest for the Government employees is very significant to me. With the utmost respect honorable Speaker.

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MR SPEAKER: Well done. I wish to assist the current speaker. Glad to hear clarity in the statement of the Hon Minister of Health as Political Party was mentioned by the Sao Faapito, which was quite lengthy, but this matter is being stipulated in our Standing Orders. Lest this concern is not covered in my clarification, then I will get the blame for not elaborating this role.

I refuse to interrupt another speaker if various matters are raised, regarding policies and general matters related to the economy. Since Political Party is and its establishment and registration are being discussed given the normal procedures of the Electoral Office, they can only be officiated when the quorum is met in accordance to the procedures of the House. It is how this situation is determined...

Political Parties are...I have thought the main aim and stability for Political Parties is already well known. When Political Parties are firm, then so as the Government. That is the belief, as it is impossible for the minority, how is it possible to unify 51 or 50 members of Parliament when 9 cannot be united. This is the question people are asking, the same with the previous Leaders. How can we socialize, this is one word that was used. How can the minority endeavor to unify the...during the time we had 49 members and now we have 50 members in Parliament, when the unity of 8 or 9 members cannot be done. That is the situation Fiame, I have thought you are aware of this when we have been here for so many years now.

On a different matter, if Political Parties are stable, then so as the Government. If the Government is stable, then Samoa will prosper, we will also gain the support of overseas partners who are generous to offer us assistance to develop our country. However what overseas Government wants to donate to us when seeing that there are only 8 members? It is like that; they might as well throw it to the sea and give assistance as... yes. It is like that.

Since we have arrived at our recess time, Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly now set aside for normal recess. Thank you.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess at 11:36am.

Government Responses resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2020/2021.

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MR SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed. Well, thank you for your patience to the members as well as the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Organisations and the Legislative Office. Thank you for the extra strength to continue our Sitting.

Before recess Afioga Sao Faapito Hon Fiame was speaking, therefore I call upon the member, your time is less as your given time is nearly finished.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Fiame as I allow the chance to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, there is no doubt the House have heard the preparations of the Afioga Sao Faapito who was Deputy Prime Minister. I believe she has greatly contributed to our deliberations, therefore if it is alright with you, to allow her more opportunity to conclude her speech. It has been noted that chances have now permitted to the members to complete their statements, hence our last Sitting for this term. This is a request to the Chair.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. The Leader of the House has asked for another opportunity to conclude the speech of Afioga Sao Faapito, since this will be our last speeches for this Term. Therefore I want to thank the Hon Leader of the House for the opinion, thus it will be done.

I call upon the Afioga Sao Faapito to continue with her remarks.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am certain that members of the Paliament have already had tea. I want to thank the Clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly for the meal preparation to strengthen us. Thank you, also honorable Speaker, for the opportunity.

Thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for the opinion conveyed, Mr Speaker, I have prepared for the scheduled time, as well as interruption time as you stated, injured time and also the advice from referee. I do not think there is anything left to say but thank you Hon Prime Minister for the respect and taking into consideration my opinion.

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During the end of our Sitting you were speaking to the Chair regarding the issue I raised on policies. Leave your opinion with me, I am right, we have all been involved in politics and Political Parties, but perhaps it is recorded in the records of the House the spirit in which the message was conveyed in terms of the development of the politics, through encouragement and strengthening of Political Parties. If we look at the economy of this Term, million tala was allocated for Political Parties. As your Honor has stated, it must be strong, if that portion of money was received to help the Political Party the million tala.

I will now go back to the Ministry of Health; I thank the Hon Minister for the interruption. The matter I wanted...

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

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Afioga Sao Faapito, I call upon the Leader of the House.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There was a mention of the million tala to assist Political Parties. I will spend more time to speak on this matter to provide clarification. But I am surprised about this million being mentioned. We all take note of words used. Lest the attention of the public is being misled. But I will be giving a long explanation when the time comes for me to talk about these matters.

MR SPEAKER: Very well thank you. I call upon Afioga Sao Faapito.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will now continue with Health-related matters, in the spirit of partnerships, as mentioned the Cancer Society. But there is another organisation that was proposed, like the Health Foundation, with the objective to develop services outside of the Ministry, and to work closely with the Ministry to further improve health services. We had put priority and importance in this Organisation however, we are unaware as to where it has gone to.

A recommendation to the Hon Lady Minister, I want to emphasize a statement on the Cancer Society since I understand it. The work and the services of the organisation, they have employees with health skills. However due to policies and legislations, it is not possible to implement this service to families and homes of those who are affected, because this is not a responsibility the Organisation should carry out.

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A humble request to the Hon Lady Minister, if these Organisations exists, that specialises in Health and they have employees, such as doctors and nurses. Is there a way, or a Legislation, or the approval of registration, and all other laws, that can allow these organisations to carry out these services? I believe this will be of great assistance to accomplishing these health services in the country. This is a humble request to the Hon Lady Minister of Health.

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me Hon Sao Faapito, but there is an interruption from the Hon Minister of Health. I call upon the Hon Lady Minister.

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. The Governments partnership through the Ministry of Health and many other partnering groups, we share a warm and close relationship by talking and getting involved. This is also what the Health Sector did in the past, the different groups that worked with the health were assigned to provide health services in rural areas.

For example, as mentioned by the Sao Faapito at the beginning of her speech the Cancer Society. They are working all the time, they are also listening to us at this time, and there are funds that the Ministry is providing to help with the implemented projects of our partners. Some are not there, but everytime they call, I stand and go there. It is like when I attended the first church service. I have thought if I attend as the Ministry Head there is no need for the staff to go. It is why an explanation ought to be given. I am unaware where, nor is there a complaint from our partners lest there is the view that we are losing focus. Our connection is still close and so as our sharing for what is necessary in accordance with their services. In addition, we have already congratulated them for their support and collaboration. We are continuously receiving their aid, as I also recall similar support provided towards some of us in this House through fundraisings, like the Cancer Society. I do remember the same finance support being received greatly by the Hon Prime Minister and some of the Cabinet Ministers from strong donors. There was not a time there was a rejection from the Ministry of Health on a matter that was important and worthy in order for collaboration to exist.

This is my gratitude to the country, especially those who are standing strong to support Health related work. As life and health of Samoa is the focus of all the works of the Ministry today, just as it is now with Covid-19, the focus is to protect our people's lives from any effects. The works of the Ministry are also prioritized, if staff is short, Group A is deployed, and Group B can carry out tomorrow or next week, so that the allocation of resources can be done.

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So not only the people but also the resources for our partners and us to use and collaborate. I apologize, as most of the works since I took over the Ministry, I did go whenever I was called always.

Thank you, Hon Sao Faapito, this is my first time to see what is called cancer. Thankfully as I did observe his attendance, but we are trying our best with the works of the Ministry based on the resources available to carry out the work. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, perhaps some have forgotten, there was a time, and this was the only Prime Minister of a country that shaved his head, as part of the Society's fundraising. That time is unforgettable but thank you.

It seems the spirit has been awakened because this is rare to see. There is no other country in the world where a Prime Minister would shave its head so as to raise fund for an organisation. But thank you, I just want to remind the Sao Faapito, to speak directly on rare matters, support stems from the core of the heart so that...it was all of us, we all contribute to this cause, as we we work together such as the saying *tatou te au i le tauola e au i le fagota*. Nevertheless, several matters have been clarified by the Minister, I now call upon the honourable...

Pardon me Afioga Sao Faapito but I call upon the member of Faleata East, Hon Salausa, the respectable doctor.

Afioga Salausa John Ah Ching (Faleata East): Thank you. It is a matter that requires clarity. Thank you, Sao Faapito, for raising a few issues which needed clarification for the sake of the listening country. The matter mentioned on partnership or collaboration is quite important, the Sao Faapito also spoke on opportunity granted to members of the Cancer Society who hold the skills in order to carry out trainings or clarifications.

What I do know is, because the church service for the Cancer Society that was recently carried out, I did attend it as I was invited, as the representative of the Ministry of Women. This was the Ministry's partnership of the Ministry of Women, and the entire Sector would all go on site visits to the rural areas with the health sector. We go together with the Cancer Society, Red Cross, Fiamalamalama, Faataua le Ola, all of these groups are involved, and we would visit the rural communities to carry out trainings. These partnerships are ongoing. To capture full understanding, they are ongoing, however it is again shown in the statement, the emphasis of various sectors and partnerships including the Health Sector, the Women's Sector, the Education Sector and so forth. Thank you for the opportunity.

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

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture): Thank you for the opportunity, you have mentioned and spoken about the situation with Cancer, and the great contribution of the Hon Prime Minister, and his shaved head for this cause.

Mr Speaker, I wish to add on for the sake of my constituency tuning in as I was being questioned, when I went to the village meeting my head was bald. I also had no eyebrows. Since this was an important cause, that is why, lest our constituency thinks that it was only the Prime Minister who had shaved his head, we also did with Hon Afamasaga. A total of \$50,000 was almost received from us, in assistance to the Organisation's fundraising and in respect to the Afioga Sao Faapito's statement. The significance of the reason for the causes of cancer. Yes. It was here where we found the importance of this situation. The importance of what caused cancer and many of those who are affected with cancer in the country. It is due to the consumption of tobacco, which is the main cause and smoking, yes. Not only do you go out and promote it, but you should also walk by it, if you talk about it then you should walk it by reducing tobacco consumption, for our country to be cancer free.

As I said earlier, it is something that needs further clarification, since my constituency is listening. The Elders said to me, "Loau are you crazy, why have you shaved your head bald." I replied, you have heard, it was for the cancer awareness. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I am asking since all the people who attended the ceremony are those who want to find a way to not get cancer, that is the important aspect. Therefore, my question to the Minister of Education, have you quit smoking?

MR SPEAKER: Well... since there have been...

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: Yes, I have done almost every stupid thing in this world, which is the truth. But this is the only stupid thing that I have not done, but I have done everything else. The only thing I have not done is smoking. With respect.

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MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): I wish to assist with this matter, there was a mention of the cause of cancer. I would like to talk about it, but I can summarize it as, the testimony of the extraordinary experts in the world on the issue of cancer. They say, “everything under the sun, including the sun itself can cause cancer.” That is the statement.

MR SPEAKER: Very well. I call upon Afioga Sao Faapito.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure): Mr Speaker, an opportunity please.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: I do not know if the Prime Minister’s statement to give me the opportunity to continue my speech is the truth. For the Cabinet to make their interruptions and show their knowledge of the matter and set aside the chance granted for the speech of the member.

MR SPEAKER: You are right, but we have one more interruption from Papalii the Minister of Works. I know that it does not relate to the matter conveyed by Tuitama. But I will allow Papalii to speak then the Sao Faapito can continue her speech.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I tried to take the floor before Hon Loau, to support the reason the Prime Minister had shaved his head. This indicates the strong support of the Government or the Cabinet, to the Foundation for their campaign they implemented for support. A lot of money was collected at that time when the Hon Prime Minister shaved his head.

I therefore upstand to tell Loau and Afamasaga, however he himself have stood up to say it to himself. I thought he was going to wait until we talked about their assistance to the Cancer Foundation, with the Hon Afamasaga. I thought he was going to wait for one of us to praise them. This is the case, please let me finish.

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: Mr Speaker, I have long wanted to argue with a Minister. Now the Minister is upstanding, and he wants to argue. Alas I have much respect for him.

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Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: No, I am not trying to argue, but this is within our culture, of one praising oneself. That is what should be done by another person for you and Afamasaga. Do not try and pick a fight...

Afioga Hon Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio: Mr Speaker, these words are not easy to take. As mentioned, I spoke about it since I was questioned by my constituency especially my village. On what made me crazy to shave my head. This is why I spoke about it, since they are listening in, as it seems it was only the Hon Prime Minister. This is why I stood up, but not out of a desire to praise. With respect.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, let me finish...

MR SPEAKER: The Minister may speak and then the other.... make it brief Papalii.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you Mr Speaker, the situation in which Loau and Afamasaga were prepared. We all wanted to go and shave our heads, but we were concerned of what was stated by Loau, the country and especially our constituencies will think we are crazy. This was my concern, but I do not hate my brother Loau, I am explaining the matter about us. We cannot praise what we do. Praise be to God but wait for the Ministers to praise you two for the work done to assist with cancer. This is why the Government supports this foundation. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps, the other reason why it was not shaved, was it not being allowed by the wife, no matter how much they want to, but if the spouse does not allow it, once your head is bald your suitcase is left outside. Perhaps this is why Papalii was scared. Never mind, I call upon Leala.

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Yes. I sit here but I seem like Ae. On the discussion of shaving heads. If you look at it, since there is a statement saying when you shave your head you are crazy, it is not, it is a style. Another thing, these members their support to cancer is temporary, as for me my support is for life. Everytime someone sees me they feel happy, and the cancer goes away. Therefore, with all due respect, let us not talk about bald heads, because it is a trademark of Lealailepule. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: You have heard... I call upon the Minister of Commerce...

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Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour): Thank you Mr Speaker. I take the floor since the matter discussed, greatly affects me. I understand the time when these members had their hair shaved. I took my hat off to these two members together with the Hon Prime Minister, because of their great support. You cannot make such decisions lightly, but it was done by the Ministers and the Hon Prime Minister. I also did the same when I was in New Zealand in support of the Cancer Society. When I came here there was a time when I planned that I should go support the Cancer Society in Samoa. So I attended the meetings, and I wanted to understand the management of this Association. And it was great, at that time, then I gave them my support, and I told them I was going to work together with them, because I had a good reason. It was strong, I also met the Sao Faapito at one of the fundraisers, and she knows my support for the Cancer Society's activities, whatever it may be. At that time the momento was good, however during the past 2 years, it seems the Association has lost its momentum. I do not understand the reason, I have not received any pamphlets for me to gain awareness of the actions that taken about fundraisers, and other things. This is up until today.

Last year, I was going to cut my hair, for these fundraisers, but I was queried, that there was no letter saying, it is now time for our fundraiser, and to find sponsors for financial assistance, on cutting hair. It has never been asked anymore in case we are blamed for not coming to the service prepared by this Organisation, but the spirit itself we want to give support. Let us know, and inform us about it, then we will be able to understand and go there to make strong support, on the goal of the Association. This is one Association that should continue and should stand strong. The people of Samoa should understand, not only with the effects of cancer, but also to support those who have cancer at the moment. Mr Speaker this is a stance, in case they might think otherwise, but let us know, then we will know what is being done so that we can go there and give our support. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. Well... are you affected by this enemy.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: It is something I wish to clarify further. In case the country might think only the Cancer Society is in partnership with Government. This time every year, the financial aid is given in the Budget for our Red Cross. In consideration of the significance of the services provided by this Organisation. There is also funding allocated for Meti. To this old man that everyone knows Walter Vemeullen, because of the way he helps those who snore when sleeping. Also reducing the problems of diabetes.

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A total of \$200,000 is allocated there every year on partnership, because not all skills are available in the hospital. These group are assisting us, the same things should be done by the Government. If we do not have these services in the hospital, these skills are found with others in the country, assistance should be given to them so that we can work together. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: The matter has been clarified as stated by the Minister. Thank you, to those who offered support, that is how we help, we work and assist. Perhaps this situation has been understood. There are funds being allocated to other Organisations, it is distributed when there are enough funds, it also resolves some of the things that are needed especially Health. I call upon Afioga Sao Faapito, I appease the member hence opportunity was given for a clear explanation on the opinion you stated. But you may take the floor to continue your speech.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you. I believe the remarks of this member has been useful to show the understanding of not only the Cabinet but the House. This is interesting, this is the meaning of our exchange, on this important matter. As it started with the Ministers speech, it seems to be moving towards the point where the support is given. Especially starting from the Hon Leader, Ministers and members, for this effort. This is also word to Mr Speaker, which has been noted by the Minister of Works, on our work. When we do a good job, it is not ours but the praise of the Lord. However, what I have found, the opportunities given was to show the major works and outstanding work carried out by the members of this House. But that was not the spirit of the subject that I tried to deliver, or whether there was a failure in the delivery of the subject. Hon Minister of Health, the Organisations we partner with include those with medical and nursing expertise. What I mean is to open up services or thoroughly prepare Policies for them, so that they can carry out treatment, or other assistance to members of the country, who are affected by this disease cancer. This is all. Because if we were to solely rely on the staff at the Hospital, that is it. But if there are some staff of Health Organisations who have the medical expertise, or a way in which they can carry out treatment and this work. This is the meaning of my statement.

On to Covid-19 now honourable Speaker, I know that we all are grateful, since our country is still safe from this disease. And I feel that the Government has a lot of work to do, and priority is placed upon our borders. In order to stop the spread of the disease. Our Government is also faced with respects of the people of our country who want to come back, and such duty is not a trivial task.

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The efforts taken to organize all those who want to return to the country, but we also need a lot funding to implement this achievement. But we cannot stop our minds from questioning. Because our priority is given to border protection. However, this is not quite clear, what exactly are our plans and what should we prepare for when the disease arrives. We have heard word that we will soon be getting our vaccinations, well let us hope. Let us hope that this assistance will soon be here. This is the matter that we constantly talk about in the Budget, there is a lot of aid been given, but where is our preparation, if something happens like the disease reaching our country, especially Mr Speaker, I know that we have learned a lot from what has happened with the measles in order for us to deal with Covid.

I have also seen that the work of the Committee that was responsible for reviewing the reports of the measles that was tabled before Parliament has been neglected. Mr Speaker, I do not know when that report will be discussed? Because it seems the work of Parliament has progressed and it has been noted especially during this Term, that we rarely have the opportunity to discuss reports especially reports on serious issues in relation to what happened in the country.

Mr Speaker, what happened with the measles, I am grateful for the response from overseas countries and Organisations in solving the problem on the spread of the disease in our country. As a result, 83 people died, some of them were adults but many were young children.

Mr Speaker, if there was lesson, we learned from the measles outbreak, and what happened with Covid, it is to be able to read what might happen. The region has long been talking about the measles resurgence in the world...

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon me...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: The outbreak of measles in New Zealand, these were the signs Mr Speaker, there is something that has happened...

MR SPEAKER: I appease the member as there is an interruption...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: So the question is, Mr Speaker, did we read those signs? The Hon Minister may speak...

MR SPEAKER: There is an interruption from the Hon Minister...

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Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Thank you Mr Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the speech of the honorable member. But I believe that we cannot stop listening to the things that were asked about our border protection, policies, Plan of Actions when something happens we are being noted from time to time, especially with the interviews of the Leader of the country not only that but the National Emergency Operation Centre, there is no rest in giving updates on what is happening, as questioned.

In the statement regarding a lot of lessons learned during the measles, I agree with the statement. That is the lesson that we followed and also the report was tabled, and there was indepth discussion for days talking about the measles when it was considered.

We are all aware of the reasons the emergence was caused. A small percentage of children were vaccinated against measles. And there are many reasons why. Not only did parents not value taking their children to get vaccinated, if the saying is correct that a child is precious to a parent, it should be important for parents of some Church beliefs. There was an accident that occurred at our hospital in Safotu, which stopped vaccinations and delayed injection.

These are the important lessons that we have learned from all this, the Government has stepped up, I am grateful for the support of our partners from abroad leaning their assistance to help us. But looking at it mentally, we have already implemented a solution in here, the Government has implemented the law which we call the Law of Love, so that this issue will never happen ever again in the future.

I also tried in the recent Sitting on the Budget to touch on measles and the health reasons to give priority to, but one of the members stood up and said, how can we discuss this matter again when the report has already been thoroughly deliberated here. The reason why I wanted to bring back the measles, is to remind people since the work of Health is bustling. Not only with the main hospital in Apia, but also for hospitals in Tuasivi and in rural villages of Upolu and Savaii. There are vehicles, where staff travel to villages and constituencies, to carry out vaccinations that have not been done. Or for those who might get measles, this is the situation the Ministry is trying to implement. There is ongoing work and advertisement on awareness I do not know what else. It is stated during the day, evening, on radio, TV all other outlets, I believe that some in the country have called in and thanked us. This is a statement in relation to the remarks made in the House with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well congratulations, perhaps the desire of the Hon Sao Faapito has been satisfied.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you to the Hon Minister for the clear clarification. And there is no doubt about the Hon Minister and the work he is implementing at this time, remember that when the measles outbreak occurred the Minister was not part of the Ministry. But it has been noted, since his induction, his appointment has been wonderful...

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Well the...

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: In performing his duties...

MR SPEAKER: I implore the honourable member, since you have again... the statement is accurate, but since it affects the honourable member. As for the Hon Sao Faapito, when these things transpired you were here as the right hand of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Nevertheless, we will not discuss it any further. But please soothe your statements, as it is not easy for the Hon Minister to respond. However, Hon Minister, I have conveyed your wishes.

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Well, that is what I wanted to explain, for your information, I was appointed 4 or 5 months before the measles outbreak occurred. I have been in the Ministry for a long time with respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, yes, this is how we do things, moderate the statements on this matter and move onto another topic because...just to remind you that you were also at the helm on this side, in regards to this matter but set aside other things.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: You are correct but it was interesting to hear the statement made by the Leader this morning in regards to the question posed by the Minister to his Offices or Government staff about those with special skills. If there is a final message in this matter, I would say that if something arises from our interpretation of the things that will occur, these are also known as red flags.

When red flags appear, especially for those with special skills, this is when they will start to pay attention. From my point of view, these are the things which were not included in these reports, our inability to identify red flags. Our Ministry did not know, but I knew, there were 2 major health meetings in 2019, and this is the message they conveyed, the measles has returned.

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Those are red flags, so what? We continued normally, it occurred in New Zealand, which is another red flag, but we ignored it.

Mr Speaker that is the meaning of my statement, to those who have the ability and duty to deal with these things...

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

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Read the signs, the red flags that have appeared...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Point of Order....

MR SPEAKER: I implore the honourable member as I call upon the Hon Prime Minister...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I am very surprised that the former Deputy Prime Minister who sat on my right is constantly bringing up this issue. There are many discussions in our Cabinet meeting that is incomprehensible for her, because she is always on her phone during discussions. And when we conclude a matter, she would ask questions.

I do not know the type of red flag that is being mentioned. But after the announcement was made about the road next to the hospital, which is in front of the Netzler store, it was filled with red flags in the morning of the vaccination. But it is still stated that there are people who refuse to get vaccinated.

The issue honorable Speaker, the red flags have been put up for a while now, but when it comes to the decision, we cannot force the people. Now the vaccinations are done, but more than 2,500 were vaccinated last. Their opinions are still the same, because they were treated with Samoan traditional remedies when they were young.

That is the difference between Samoa and other countries, many of the countries do not have their own remedies, which uses leaves. The vaccination was recently created in the year 1963. But I was treated with such things, with a Liane and such, and it cured my illness. Most of the mothers who have children will understand, as advertisements were broadcasted and they sat in front of their television and watched these advertisements.

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But other people will never understand, it is not important to them, because they do not have children, and they usually go out every night instead of sitting in front of the television.

Mr Speaker, these were the announcements that were made, I watched them carefully, and the 2019 measles report has been laid in our Parliament for a long time, and it explains all the actions that were taken, as well as the many red flags that the member had mentioned.

Mr Speaker, I do not know what kind of explanation I should give the member, as they have made up their minds to criticise the Ministry of Health and looking down on the work done by the many doctors and nurses and the caretakers who would travel to the countryside.

Mr Speaker, this is the situation. I also travelled to the rural areas and observed the things and the work that was being done. We also travelled to Savaii and witnessed what was being done. And I would like to thank and apologise to the doctors and the nurses and the Government employees who travelled to the rural areas for the work that they were trying to do, but until now they are still being criticised by those who do not have any working experience.

Working is not easy, as you have to wake up at 5m before daybreak, do a prayer and then travel to the rural areas to conduct vaccinations and then return home late at night because the work they do is crucial. It is very easily criticised by those who have never worked nor travelled to the rural areas to witness the work that is being done.

Mr Speaker, those are my additional thoughts. It is like they are beating a horse that has already dead.

Well, Mr Speaker, this is my assistance to our issue.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, well...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): Mr Speaker I would like an opportunity please...

MR SPEAKER: Well, be patient as the Speaker is trying to say a few words. The discussion of this Report is already in the series of our Order Paper of the Day. It is finished and only the Report has been submitted before the Committee to be reviewed and to report back to Parliament.

Here, Parliamentary Paper 2020/2021 No.116, Report of the Social Sector Committee on Parliamentary Paper 2019/2020 No.199 Report on the Measles Outbreak 2019.

So this is the clarification on this matter. If this is what Laauli had wanted to speak about, or is it different...

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Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, I speak with respect to maintaining the dignity of our debates especially our Standing Orders. Yes, Mr Speaker, most of the speeches value the nature of our current life in the House. The Leader of the Government spoke that a person who does not have children will never understand...

MR SPEAKER: Then no, I beseech the member, our Standing Orders...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I beg tolerance honorable Toleafoa, maintain the dignity as these are insulting words, these words are offensive...

MR SPEAKER: You do not question the...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Please, I implore you to remove this statement from our records. The biography of the Sao Faapito is being scrutinized. Toleafoa, I beg you...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I implore you Mr Speaker, not only is it my wish, but it is our efforts. These words are offensive, they are insulting, please.

MR SPEAKER: Be patient and calm down, since I am trying to say something, but you are still upstanding. Well, I was giving a clarification on the other issue that was raised in the speech by the Hon Sao Faapito, which caused the Leader of the Government to stand and speak on this matter.

Well, now you are upstanding, but the Prime Minister's statement is not specific to the Hon Sao Faapito, it is made public in terms of maternal knowledge. It is a motherly knowledge to measure the progress in which God's precious product is born to the couple, as well as getting vaccinations, 6 months like that. Even the... I believe it goes on for 15 years.

Only the mothers are familiar with this situation. But the aspect that the Hon Prime Minister was talking about, he did not mention the name of the Hon Sao Faapito in the current situation. But if Laauli did not speak, the country would not anticipate that the statement by the Prime Minister is specific to the Sao Faapito. No, we are all aware, that the Sao Faapito is one of the *aunafa'apae*, so the sentiments of the Speaker are preserved.

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As for the words in our sitting, it is clarified in a way for the mothers to know as the fathers cannot undertake such circumstances. Yes if the Government did not uplift the lock down, when they visited, there were elders who have died because they refused to get vaccinated. Well, if the other families did not die, it would not be... like that.

We do not have the same feelings, there is only one thing that differentiates the people created by God, and it is the mind. Everything is the same, but the only difference is the way of thinking. Therefore, if it has offended the honour of the Hon Fiame, I apologise but the Chair perceives the statement differently. Laauli I also apologise for the statements.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you honorable Speaker, a lot of things have escalated from my speech, even in your stance as the Taupou it is covered in your statement.

It reminded me of our visitation...

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

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: I was speaking in the general noun, it was general with regards to the very mothers who have lost their children, as they have become aware. They now have the knowledge because what is happening is that they are taking their children to get treatment.

Even the difference in television and radio, for the elderly women and those who do not have spouses and are rarely found at home, they watch the programs that are presented by the Minister. I am very attentive when these programs are broadcasted regarding the health programs which I never miss, and they are aired constantly in relation to warnings about the measles.

Mr Speaker, this is what the Minister was trying to clarify. But since it has been a while, we now have a laid-out Report in this House to introduce more programs for the Treatment of Measles. And the words stating that it was not discussed, this Report was tabled in this House, and when it is also given to the Parliamentary Committee to review, then it is brought back to us for discussion. Just because the member is going to talk about the Report does not mean that it was not discussed thoroughly. But who told you not to give your opinion on it?

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Mr Speaker, the explanations that we are trying to give are very clear, to resolving this matter. This is an old issue, and their complaints have been published in the Observer a lot. How many times has it happened? They have complained many times and I have always responded. I consistently responded with the cause of the measles since we are all aware of the root. It originated from New Zealand, and the Government responded with a mass vaccination, whereby the nurses travelled throughout the country to implement. But afterwards, there were still many people who have not been vaccinated especially those who lived close to the hospitals where they could just stand up and walk to get vaccinated, what can we do if a person refuses to get injected? And the Government gets the blame.

Mr Speaker, we are not on another planet, we are here in Samoa. But what saddens me the most, Fiame was present during this Cabinet meeting. But not once were these issues mentioned to the Cabinet.

MR SPEAKER: There is an idea, dismiss this issue for... I implore the Hon Sao Faapito to move on to another matter.

Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: Thank you very much; I would just like to say something, I recall an inspection conducted by the Government after the tsunami, and when the Cabinet carried out its inspection, we went around to the other side of Aleipata that was affected the most. And we also visited my constituency, and we went to where my house is situated. So upon arrival I saw that my house was still standing with minor damages, then we went around and our journey continued towards Lepa and Aleipata.

We stopped at Lepa and observed the surroundings, but I noticed that some of the members of the Cabinet were laughing while looking at me. When we resumed our journey, I asked my fellow Minister who was in the car, what were you and the members laughing about? But he said, I do not know whether to tell you or not, I told him to just tell me. But he said, when we went down, to where my house was, we saw that the house was still standing unaffected by the tsunami. And then they jokingly said, this proves my status as a maiden (*taupou*), just like the volcano in Savaii, as the magma flow went around the tomb of the maiden (*taupou*). I am thankful that there are various ways to indicate such conditions. In case it was intentional, I accept the opinion of the Hon Prime Minister for his public speech.

MR SPEAKER: Fiame, this is your honourable status.

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Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA: I trust we will conclude our statement. But this is the only issue, regarding the red flags. The red flag is like a beacon. But that is the only question. If we were quick to realize and notice the red flag, there would be a change in the outcome that we experienced with the death of our children. That is all, for us to know how to comprehend, and there is hope, just like the meteorologists, who brings us reports on the situation of the current weather, it is also the case with our health. There are always red flags and indicators but are we able to read them.

To conclude our speech Mr Speaker, it has been noticed that some of the members of the House have also spoken about the usual situation; with the conclusion of this House and this Parliamentary term as our opinions will not deviate. But it is with the essence of conveying blessings for this Parliamentary Term, starting with the Hon Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet and Associate Ministers, as well as this side of the Government to the honourable members.

May our hopes be conveyed after this Term, as we prepare for our election, this is the essence and the hope of Samoa who has received the gospel. It has been illuminated, as we have been self-governed for almost 60 years, and nothing has happened, so let us prepare with joy, and whatever decision our country will make, for those who will continue the service, thank you. Those who will retire like the Hon Speaker or some who will not return, let us all feel the spirit of gratitude for still having our opportunities to give our opinions, and to give our services for Samoa. Bless the Assembly.

Parliament showed appreciation by clapping their hands after the speech of the member for Lotofaga.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I stand to express gratitude to the *Sao Faapito* for the speech before this House now. But I did not want to interfere with the 2 serious issues that were mentioned, I believe that suggestions should not be left unsaid. There are 2 serious issues that need to be addressed. But with regards to Politics, I will answer it thoroughly, when the time comes for the Cabinet and I to respond.

But the part that I wanted to give my opinion on regards the Cancer Society as mentioned by the member. I will not go back to the comment made by the Hon Minister on the effort participation of this Organization with their fundraising.

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I remember that this was the way of this Organization since it was first established, they would organize meetings like this and then they invited me to come and give a speech. So when I went to give an encouraging speech to those who are at the forefront, this was when they started using this method of shaving their hair to raise money. I remember that there were four of them who carried out this practise that day. As for me, they wanted me to carry out this purpose, so I told them to give me 3 months, because there is an issue that I have to attend abroad, so I went abroad first and will return to carry out their event. Well, this is the opportunity for them to use my promise to find some sponsors for them so that they can receive more money.

The reason I mentioned this is because this is the beginning of this type of fundraising. There were others who opted to follow suit, which included the *Sao Faapito*. I think I recall the *Sao Faapito* dyeing her hair, as for me, I completely shaved my hair. It is an ugly sight to see a person do something like this, but they did not value it, because the intention behind it is important to me. Not only that but they sent many other requests to me similar to the previous meetings. And I would attend them. I noticed that those who are participating have family members sick with cancer, and this is the important aspect of having an organization like this to support the work that is being done by the Ministry of Health.

Their 2nd meeting was held on hospital grounds, I also attended and gave my speech on prostate cancer, and others made fun of me for it. But I have read about the disease for a long time, I have read about 3 books on prostate cancer, and I know that the disease affects all men, if you live long enough. If you survive from other diseases, prostate cancer will end your life. There are also ways to restrain it. So at the meeting that I was talking about, it was based on these 3 books that I read. I remember the other member of the Government; he attended and did his research, now he understands. So our House also understands that all of you, like others will start getting it at the age of 50. The youngest Minister of my Cabinet had it and passed away.

Mr Speaker, the reason why I stated this issue, because there are various organizations, which include the civil societies to be established. If they have events, it would be good to call me to come and give a speech, and now that there is help provided by the Government. In other words, the Government does not turn its back on any organization. There is nothing to support them, as they should rely on the hospitals, rely on the doctors, and rely on the Minister. But it is important to put this forth.

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I did not think it was a matter that should be submitted in the foresight, in the absence of a doctor from a sermon, the one sermon that was held. I was also called upon, and then I called the Minister, “I have an appointment, so unfortunately I will not be able to attend, as you are the Minister, and if you are there then that represents me as well.” But this is essence of all these organizations, they are pleased to see that the invited guests are in attendance since the important reason for attending is to receive financial assistance envelopes. It is a good aspect.

Mr Speaker, there was a prayer held by another Ministry, it was recently, and from my observation, I advise these Organizations, if you have plans for sermons to be held on Sundays, you must first consult the Minister or consult me, and then I will make a request for these sermons to be held on Sundays, they should be done on Saturday. As on Sunday, perhaps majority of us in this Parliament, we all have duties and responsibilities within our Congregations. For me, I am the leader of 2 major meetings, and they are held on Sundays, which is the same time as when these devotions are conducted. Perhaps most of them are in these Organizations, and they do not think about this situation, as the Minister is involved in their Churches and sermons that are held at the same as these Church meetings. That is the situation as the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries are also listening, if you are holding major religious services; hold them on the weekdays or on Saturday evening, but leave Sunday free, because our country is a Christian country. Many of us have our own positions and must participate in the organizing of our Congregations. It is easy to not participate and then be blamed here, but the problem is the organization of the program. The matter is very simple.

The important point is that the Minister was present; the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry was present? Who else is superior, since the Minister of the Ministry is also in attendance? But this point is important, because these are the people who make these decisions; they do not understand these things, so not attending does not mean that they do not show support. What is the meaning of these things if they do not support it? The Minister of Finance has also spoken, that the assistance is not only given to one Government Organization in different areas, which includes this group, for cancer patients, for those who are unable to move their bodies, paraplegic, those with impaired vision and those with mental disorders. Well, thankfully there is a treatment now available for kidneys. It was not easy bringing this treatment from abroad, since it is quite expensive. Our Government will also lay down other plans for this treatment in Samoa.

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Mr Speaker, participating in one meeting does not mean that you can look at the absence of others, and then you would sit and say that it is not supported by the Ministry of Health. Perhaps this is not the essence of the Cancer Society. But if the Sao Faapito attended with the intention of finding faults, then what can be done?

It seems that this is exactly the intention of the Sao Faapito seeing that there are no Doctors and then thought; now I have something to talk about in my speech and completely ruin the good spirit that is reflected in the appearance of the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry. The essence of the Organization has been made political. So what is the status of the Organization? How will they face the Minister again, when they are hearing that they have been defamed because only the Minister attended with the Chief Executive Officer while the entire Ministry did not attend, but we are confronting Covid, so the required course of action needs to be monitored presently?

Mr Speaker that is what makes me unhappy, for us to bring such attitude to politicize the Organization. So how do they feel about what they are hearing now? This incident has caused a rift between them and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, because the *Sao Faapito* has used that ceremony to slander the Health.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Mr Speaker, Point of Order...

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: To participate in one ceremony, and then make a public speech to be heard by the country, this is what you call defamation.

Mr Speaker, this is the conclusion of my speech. It is just a reminder, causing an altercation to the relationship between the Health and the Cancer Society is crossing the line greatly, as they are dependent on them for the assistance given by the Government.

Well, bless our Assembly for today, as things that happen are good for generating ideas.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, I call on the Hon Sao Faapito.

Afioga Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa: Thank you. No, there is just a small matter that needs to be corrected. The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry did not attend, as it was only the Hon Madam Minister and the Hon Salausa. That is all.

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The other aspects that the Prime Minister spoke about, well, that is his own practise, but the intentional spirit is to expand the opportunity for the Organization to perform the service through their employees. Well, thank you Mr Speaker.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoui: Mr Speaker, well another doctor was also in attendance. That seems to be the case. But the reason why this matter was raised by the *Sao Faapito*, is because the Cancer Society has suddenly become politicised. This is a very bad behaviour shown by the *Sao Faapito*, as her behaviour was good when she was on this side, but now it has become worsened since she moved to that side.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Afioga Hon Afamasaga Lepuiai Rico Tupai (Minister of Communications, Information and Technology): Mr Speaker, I respectfully stand, since the Hon *Sao Faapito* and Olo have left, but this is another important point that was raised in the speech, in regards to the consumption of tobacco near our House thus affecting the many public servants who are working to serve our House. But I respectfully appeal, if there is a part of our land where a rope can be pulled, then put a sign stating that this is the area for smokers only, so that it does not affect the majority of us because even for me, when I go outside to where the Hon *Sao Faapito* and Olo are smoking, even during the rain I would go around them, because I would rather get wet than get cancer.

That is my request with respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Okay, I will think about your request. Thank you very much.

Well, we have arrived at the end of our work for today, congratulations for the speeches, and I commend your perseverance in conducting our work. Well, it is not easy, but given the purpose of seeking good luck for the prosperity of the developments of the Government especially the support of Samoa.

But there is a thought, for the member of Faasaleleaga No.4 to start the speeches for tomorrow, as it would be good to announce this, since he told me that he wanted to give his speech. Well, it would be good for me to say, that the respectable member for Faasaleleaga No.4 will be the first to speak in the love of God, on the sitting day tomorrow at 9:00am.

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Well, before we adjourn, I call on the member of Vaimauga East to conclude our Assembly with a prayer. Well, Vaimauga East, the orator Sulamanaia, say a pray to conclude our work.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 1:00pm until Tuesday, 9th February at 9:00am.