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THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2021

Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 9:27 am pursuant to Standing Orders 27(1).

Prayer.

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

The view is different this morning. I recall the House at Amoa that a young woman wanted, covered in red garlands and posts made of teak. I bid you all welcome, to the dignity of our Parliament.

I acknowledge the Leader of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, I bid you in good health, thank you for your patience. To Cabinet, I commend you all for your patience, we are nearing the time for you to share, for the country listening in on their economy.

To Associate Ministers as well as to this side of the House, I bid you welcome, I salute you all for your patience, I commend you all for remaining in your calling through your decisions whilst the journey of the country.

I also acknowledge the respects of Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries, and State-Owned Enterprises. I commend you all for the hard work, patience, you are the strength of this Government.

The respects of the Clerk and the Legislative Office, let us proceed with our work this morning in serving the Parliament.

Least we cannot forget the support of Samoa, thank you for your silent worship, praying for the Assembly of our country. I ask for your continuous support, let us pray to God for the success of today's activities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021
– continuation debate on second reading – Day 22**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned yesterday as the member of Alataua West concluded her remarks, also the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

Now we have reached the time for the Government to respond to matters raised in the speeches of the members of Parliament. The House is also clearly aware of yesterday's proceedings, that the opening presentation of the Government through the presentation of the Leader of the House and Hon Prime Minister.

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Therefore with utmost respect I call upon your Excellency, this is the opportunity to continue your statement.

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, I will not reiterate the sanctity of the House this new morning. I acknowledge Mr Speaker, as well as respectable members of the House, who are present here this morning. Praises are before the Almighty God, God the Government of Samoa is founded upon, you have given praise and thanks together with our hearts and spirit to be guided by the wisdom of our Master specially to perform our duties according to our oath before God, we come to do our duty in political arena of Samoa in the Grounds of Tiafau. The Grounds of Faautugatagi, where the Victory for Samoa was fought, it is also where majority of constituencies are eager to come and be seated in this House to make a contribution. It is the contribution of nobles and chiefs from each constituency that built the Government of Samoa as fought for by our forefathers. Who does not hold this honor, the honor that has been put upon your hands, this is the support of the chiefs in constituencies, who does not carry it, we are not following the oath made on the Scriptures of God, that we will serve as it is our duty and calling to come serve and build our Government, especially to contribute to the many challenges of life these days, especially the pandemic, and the impact of the world by major calamities as well as climate change.

Yesterday I spoke on the working relationship of Cabinet Ministers and Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Private Organizations of our Government. The Ministers of Cabinet are in charge, of all issues in all the different parts of the Government, regardless of the obligation, whether it is agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, this is through each Ministry so that Cabinet Ministers are able to negotiate during their usual meetings.

But all these issues should be documented so that they are clear in the Cabinet Directive, abbreviated PK.

It should be numbered, and the date should be arranged so that it is easy to find when it is urgently needed. The subject of the document should be clear. As for the decision that is needed by the Minister and the Ministry, it should be made by the Cabinet. Decision of the Cabinet, which is abbreviated FK, is written with the date and number, makes it easier to get out of the file when urgently needed. It should state clearly whether a new arrangement or a new policy is needed to be led by Government, whether it requires the drafting of a new Law or something that requires funds to be spent.

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If so, a report from the Ministry of Finance is also required, whether there is enough funds to finance it. If not enough, how can we find it and finance? Whether a report is needed from the Attorney General, or whether an existing Law is required to be amended? Or completely drafting a new Law. If you look at it, the space is scared between Ministers and Chief Executives and their staff that serve different parts of our Government, in order to arrive at a serious decision, a decision that is important, and one that will be safeguarded in any aspect. Another politician who was a professor at USP asked me at the HRPP board meeting in 1989, “Why does the Cabinet only listen to you Tuilaepa on development issues and financial issues?” My response, “I am the Minister of Development and Finance, I am the one who is charge of all financial and economic matters in Cabinet meetings.” Like all issues that affect agriculture and fisheries, there is one way it is brought into Cabinet, it is through the Minister of Agriculture. Even with matters regarding education, there is only one voice that brings forward this matter, it is by the Minister of Education. This is why the Prime Minister at the start pick each Minister for each Ministry to overlook these Ministries under their portfolio.

Mr Speaker this means, the meeting of the Prime Minister and Cabinet which includes 12 Ministers and me is 13, there is expectation to add another 2 in the next Parliamentary term, whoever the Government that will come through, hence Government is growing, as well as responsibilities. You all heard yesterday the presentation by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee the major differences from 10 years to the next 10 years, which is why work ought to be shared. I mentioned our meeting, it is not a meeting that was randomly set up, it was heated, and debate was heated.

Why? Because this is the very meeting that was carried out when some of the Political Party were praying for the illness of our Leader who was admitted in New Zealand, which we did not know the outcome. This is why this meeting was heated, it is unusual, but it was a meeting that had a lot of discussion.

Mr Speaker, the Cabinet meets every Wednesday of every week. If there are many matters, then there will be 2 to 3 meetings in a week. Sometimes there will be 4, especially during times of misfortune for our country. This was to proceed with decisions regarding the Covid during the spreading of the virus and the possibility of Samoa being affected, meetings would continue on to Sunday evenings, to implement long term plans for the distribution of funds but also the situation of the entry of cargo ships from abroad that could bring in diseases. The Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries were called in, as well as those who have businesses in the country.

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When there are serious matters and the meeting date does not align, but are matters that must be decided quickly, then a paper is circulated, especially for patients who need to be taken out quickly, so that help can be given to those who need it, and advice from the Ministry of Health must be sought. Why? A patient cannot be taken overseas unless the report from the hospital is given to clarify the decision. There are many times when families come to us, but the Cabinet cannot act until the hospital report is given. That is where we will know if the patient should be taken overseas or treated here in Samoa, whether they only need Panadol, but there are families who want to take them and a member who wants to use their power which is inappropriate. That is why Mr Speaker, for the protection of the reputation of our doctors, a report must be given from the hospital.

This matter was mentioned in my speech last night, I met one of the gentlemen who is sick with cancer. However, there is a lot of problems with flights, especially difficult. Then four doctors met and talked about it, they told him he should make the decision, but we can treat your cancer in Samoa. Mr Speaker, it is the courage and faith of this gentleman who said, if you know that you have the ability and faith in God whereby spiritual healing will come through your ability, you can operate on me here. We talked, after the surgery was done the cancer was gone as well.

Mr Speaker, our doctors have the skills, but there is still reluctance among some patients, who still want to travel to New Zealand.

Mr Speaker, the clearance of the report must be obtained from those who have the ability to know the type of illness the person is suffering from. These recommendations Mr Speaker from the Chief Executive are important to shape the decision of Cabinet.

One of the oppositions says that the Cabinet is useless, that Government staff efforts are wasted since decisions are made by the Prime Minister alone. It is an unfounded statement, especially when it comes from someone who sat in and observed proceedings, and the schedule of Cabinet meetings and the way it is carried out has not changed. From the time of the Hon Tofilau and myself, they were sitting in here.

Mr Speaker, there is a great talent of deceit in our country, by those who are protesting against the Government. This is why I am speaking about procedures, on the process of things, those who are receiving this information should listen, especially with the announcements stated in newspapers. As for discussions of the Cabinet, the free expression of the views of Ministers is not vetoed.

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When a subject is complicated, everyone is called, whoever is in it, the Chief Executive Officer and Assistant Executives, or the Attorney General, or the Ministry of Finance, or the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Agriculture or the Hospital is called, to come before Cabinet and be thoroughly questioned to provide additional explanations on issues written on the document to make a final decision, for it to be well prepared and safeguarded.

All the Main Estimates Mr Speaker, when it is discussed, it is first considered in the Ministry of Finance and then lastly given to Cabinet. All the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Organizations are called to the Cabinet room and repeat the series of discussions on their respective Budget of that Ministry or Organization. This meeting includes all Ministers of Cabinet, their Chief Executive Officers from various Ministries in discussion. The discussion always ends with a question to the Ministry, “So, do you agree with the funds allocated for your Ministry and your Minister? The Minister may interject and say, “Please, add another piece of cake for my Ministry will not be satisfied, with respect.” There is the Minister of Finance, or I may ask, “Our funds for the Budget that is discussed, is no different from the cake that will be shared, the cake cannot be stretched or made bigger. A cake is a cake. If you have a big piece of cake, who will be given the smallest piece of cake?

Will it be the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health?” This is where the other two Ministers come in, “No, do not be greedy, there are many things that is needed to be done for our Ministries.”

This is the final joint meeting of Cabinet and Chief Executive Officers, then the Bill is prepared for Parliament for the distribution of the Government’s funds, together with the Budget, together with the Address of the Minister that has already been passed by Cabinet within this same meeting. Therefore it is presented before Parliament to be heard by the Parliament and the country. It is presented but the overall Budget has already been considered. This includes all the funds that was discussed by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee. There is nothing that has not been seen by the Cabinet, the various financial divisions, everything is clear. Even the coins that come in and go out, are clearly outlined. Anyone who says that these are wrong, means that they do not understand the Budget, tabled in this House, which outlines all the funds that were donated from overseas and the distribution of each development.

Mr Speaker, under my responsibilities, there is also the Board of Directors. This Board includes His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and Ministers of Cabinet. During the entire time that we were working with our Prime Minister, our leader Afioga Tofilau Eti Alesana, we only met once with His Excellency the Head of State Susuga Malietoa Tanumafili II.

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When the next Head of State came into office, Afioga Tupua Tamasese Efi, this meeting was held twice, it is a very important meeting. Two or three weeks ago, we had a meeting me, Cabinet and His Excellency the Head of State Afioga Tuimalealiifano. This is the Board of Directors. We will meet and talk informally, this is the first meeting since taking office, and we will talk about the time when the Parliament will be dissolved, there will be an important ceremony. As usual during the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly every term, there is always the raising of the flag of Samoan independence at the beginning. About 10 years ago, a policy was implemented, in honor of these ceremonies. The Head of States term in office will only be two times. This is done at the first Sitting after elections, during the first Sitting of the new Parliament. Then His Excellency the Head of State will come and officially open and close the last Sitting, then the ceremony will be held and the Head of State will come to close it.

A big ceremony is carried out, where the Head of State will come to encourage, and voice his gratitude to all members for the work carried out in the past 5 years, together with his blessing. While the country is heading into elections, we were talking casually.

As for the conditions of the meeting, this is an opportunity for the Cabinet to voice a decision. For the Head of State to raise a matter, such as a Law passed by Parliament, but he has an opinion that it is not compatible with the law and his will. This is a chance for these meetings, the Head of State is given 7 days, during these 7 days the Cabinet can modify their views, as well as the Head of State. If the 7 days are over and the Cabinets opinion is still the same, there will be no more action taken, and there is no further word from the Head of State. Then at that time, the Law will proceed. Those are the provisions under the Constitution discussed by our forefathers in 1960 and put into the Constitution in 1962. We met for matters whereby the meeting was called as mentioned. And I will call the meeting, or His Excellency will call the meeting, such are the conditions implemented in the Constitution, this is the sacred space of the Head of State, as well as the Cabinet.

Mr Speaker, this is the important aspect, I thought I should mention in a general state to make it clear to the public who are listening on how Government does its work. The duty of the Head of State is to relax and overshadow. The Prime Minister and Cabinet are servants, who dig up the dirt, together with the employees of Government, to develop our country. The Head of State only has to sit and observe.

Mr Speaker, I will conclude my speech then will proceed with the agenda. In short, in the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which is under my supervision.

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This Ministry has quite a lot of responsibilities, which are responsible for international policies. Along with the implementation of these policies, international policies of any country are based on well-chosen methods. To protect the interests and rights of the country. And achieve its set goals, in order to protect social affiliations with all partners. The selection of suitable methods, to implement policies, to encourage strong partnerships between Samoa and other countries. The desire of Samoa is to promote social relations for the achievement of peace and tranquility in our country.

Strong friendships and partnerships and the strengthening of relations with countries, that have the same beliefs, same values, in order to achieve it within the Pacific region.

It continues and expands its participation with many countries of the world in international partnerships with important contribution, on development and politics of this region. As well as the impact on the whole world. In addition, Samoa's international reputation is growing through its advocacy, direct advocacy, and fearless advocacy.

In participating in the important meetings of special groups, which includes small island countries of the Pacific, as well as countries whose economies are very fragile. In addition to this, our small country also tries to participate in international trade, this is the goal of all these developments, for trade to go smoothly. Because with trade we earn a living, and money to continue our communication and trade that is needed by other Countries. This is trade with countries that are close to us in our region, as well as the whole world. These are efforts to find new businesses, and the promotion of processes that support important changes for general development, of our economy.

Mr Speaker, the important aspects of these international policies are to protect the independence of our country. Such as the free administration of its decisions, especially the expansion of opportunities, for our citizens. In order to reduce the problems of our small size, and the distance of the trade market to our country. Although Samoa is a small island country that is still developing, we must show the importance of our contribution. Some of the important guidelines are based on the implementation of international relations include. 1. To be able to develop Samoa's economy so that it runs smoothly, and well, to achieve stable governance, so that all our people have cooperation and unity. That is the first part. 2. This is to encourage ways to create good relations with other countries, but not affect founding principles, and the emphasis that we place on upholding good relations. 3. We should acknowledge the rights and free administration of any country, especially respecting the force of the Law.

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Meaning, we should look at life and whether it is governed by the Law, that democratic countries are used too. Or whether it is governed using military power. These are the things we should closely look at, in our partnerships. 4. Let us be reliable partners, who are unwavering. Such characteristics will lead to our Government and the reputation of our people to not be acknowledged.

Whether you reside here in Samoa, or anywhere else in the world, outside of Samoa. Let us become a country whose people are credible, and whose leaders are recognized and trusted by the world.

Another important area is our attendance of United Nations forums and become involved in the discussions of foreign administrations and measures to guide all countries. I guess this was the agreement that was signed in Paris in 2015, for the protection of the environment, and other major developments. Which must be continued and not be cut off. We had collectively signed this vital agreement in Bale France. These founding thoughts were used to review the responsibilities of Ministries, and to highlight some of the milestones achieved 5 years ago. When the reshuffling of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was approved in the year 2017. In order to clearly indicate the appropriateness of duty arrangement for various sectors, most particularly the relationship with other public bodies primarily our partnership with countries and foreign Organisations.

Mr Speaker it is reason, which directs all networks, and connection with the Government and foreign Organisations that is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through the Consulates of Samoa and the guidance of Ministry with any foreign international meeting whereby Samoa has become an attending member. Notwithstanding, any communication and partners of Samoa in the country must all contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. 1. In terms of International Relationship, Samoa has become famous and welcoming to foreign Embassies here in Apia. Including the various Pacific Regional forums. What about world conferences that were held here despite the desire of many other countries to receive this grand opportunity which they could not obtain. Like the Pacific Leaders forum in 2017.

The China-Pacific Economic Forum in 2018. In 2020, the EU-Pacific Meeting on Nations political policy 2019, and the signing of the new agreement between EU and ACP, which is proposed to be signed in Samoa at the end of this year. This agreement, will make our country known in the next 20 years given the following matters, which includes the approval of 79 countries of the Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean. Our relationship, and special communication with all European countries of more than 30. Furthermore, the Commonwealth Leaders Conference, which was approved in the meeting I had attended, Leaders of the Commonwealth in Great Britain, which is proposed to be held in 2022 or 2023.

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There is the ongoing observation of these meetings with regards to the pandemic impacts, although it must be conducted here in Samoa. The selecting of Samoa to host this major conference, is a testament and living proof of good governance and foreign relations cooperation with other Governments and other countries. This also reflects our services internationally.

Our invaluable contribution to the world's forum, and the growing population of countries, we are making partnership with. There is also the increasing number of Government Offices and international Organisations that have established in Samoa. These are important aspects, which has produced more benefits for Samoa such as employment opportunities for our children. Furthermore, it includes new offices, a Government Office in Great Britain whom we lost connections within the year 1973. It is now reopened, during that time when the British Government had proposed the joining of the European Union. It has again withdrawn and there is the view to open a special partnership with the Commonwealth nations. 2. The expansion of the United Nations Office in Samoa. 3. The Pacer Plus Office, and the international trade agreement with Pacific Island states for any special requirements. The Regional Office Programs for sports development in Australia. As aware, this is a very critical concern, which was launched a few weeks ago, the agreement for establishing a particular office in Samoa for sports development for the pacific region. Different from the official United Nations Office for the Government of China, New Zealand, America, Japan and Australia.

The expansion of Samoa to be part of international organisations honourable Speaker is continued service for Samoa and her people. Such as the launching of the High Commission in Fiji, the approval of the establishment of our Embassy in Geneva. They were selected from the executive meetings of Green Climate Fund, of UN Women, UNDP Inter Agency Group Experts, and the managing of Pacific Leaders Forum in 2017. In addition, the Chairperson of the ACP or the Africa-Pacific-Caribbean to which Samoa will become hosts in the year 2021.

There is the continuous involvement of Samoan representatives on foreign Organisations, special savings for projects related to development. A slight example there is also continuous support for further strengthening with normal partners and additional foreign partners.

This is living proof of this situation which had marked the applause of 15 countries, together with special doctorate experts, 45 in total, who assisted the resolutions for the measles outbreak that occurred in 2019. Secondly, there is also the invaluable contribution of Samoa as part of a guide within the loop of international relations to discuss fundamental matters for this Pacific region and the world.

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Which includes climate change, good management of seawaters, trading, push the reuse of sustainable weapons. The honesty of our Government to report back to the United Nations of all these matters within the country, is very useful for the investigative support of international programs, for the prosperity of people given our Government taking the lead to implementing these responsibilities, which binds international relations. In the implementing of programs in response to the impacts of Covid-19.

Mr Speaker, there is the possibility of using laid out programs for the monitoring of human rights and the achievement of various key objectives for sustainable development. The good management of international relationship and the strengthening of various foreign partnerships which are very important to achieve the goals for Samoa's development. So as to further receive the required assistance for our demands, it is therefore necessary to continue Samoa's partnership entrusted by its leaders. That are hopeful, firm and have a peaceful administration. The world is observing that although Samoa is a very tiny country, they are faced with developmental issues. Nevertheless, we are still attempting for our voice and input in the decision making of Pacific region and the world, on matters that could affect our country and our people. With regards to the execution of services for international relations, so this work is very important, to know how to implement and make effective foreign relationships. The implementation of this service relies solely on guidelines under the Vienna Conventions agreement. Such includes:

1. The making of temporary residence permit of foreign workers from foreign Governments and international Organisations.
2. To confirm ways based on the Law and policies of the country. To ensure good hospitality provided for these foreign representatives especially all special requirements, they acquire, so as not to interrupt the operation of their works, responsibilities, in order to achieve a good relationship with Samoa. Today you have heard of matters that have affected the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, where the removal of the director was done and his deportation. Which has affected the entire administration of the University for All Pacific Island Countries. The Government has abused their power. These are the very matters that can involve the judgement of foreign countries to officially implement its policies in accordance to the Law. Which are in line with democratic principles of the Commonwealth, with the strong use of abuse of power using ways that are unfitting.

3. Implementing programs for site visits of Pacific leaders traveling from Samoa, with international signed agreements to go in line with no biasness with regards to the execution of these services.

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Particularly proper arrangement of attendance to the State's official ceremonies for National and Organisational representatives.

4. Properly prepare certificates for any new Government representative who will be serving like this when leaving the country at the end of their contracts.

5. Publicize the list of foreign representatives and the required schedules from time to time in accordance with the length of their services to the country.

And 6, the various ways to confirm official documents of a country to make enable foreign countries the use such as the HAKE Convention or the HAKE International agreement in 1961, such as birth certificates and death certificates or registered documents for a company in Samoa.

Then I come to Pacific regional relationship. Samoa has a huge contribution to the development and smooth operation of works implemented by Organizations around the Pacific Region in the past 5 years, most particularly administration works upon these Pacific Organizations specifically by Pacific individuals including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, which serves the forum of Pacific Leaders. Pacific Aviation Safety Office – PASO, or the Office that properly monitors the security of aviation services within our Pacific Region. Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency – FFA is the Office that properly monitors the conditions of fishing of our territorial waters.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, I have already mentioned that this Office serves the forum of Leaders. Pacific Power Association, PPA, is the association of Nations in relation to energy used to produce electricity. Pacific Community – SPC, is an organization that specializes in serving all countries for the benefit of Pacific Regional Environmental Program, the Headquarters which looks deeply into the protection of our environments for the Pacific Island countries. South Pacific Tourism Organization SPTO, is an organization that pushes tourists for all countries of the Pacific whereby revenue growth for their economies relies on for their trading. Pacific Water and Wastewater Association is an association that engages with issues related to the protection of drinking water of the Pacific. Finally the University of the South Pacific for the education of our children.

In the Regional World Leaders Forum that was held and led by Samoa in 2017, it was officially made known to the World Leaders of the Regional Pacific Blue Identify Narrative, a sign for all Pacific Nations coordinated under a salutation, that they are countries under the continent of the beautiful blue ocean. It is a salutation that can provide a general overview of this region which are no longer individual island states of the Pacific, but a continent that is created together and reward the spirit of standing together to sustain our blue pacific oceans. Therefore, they are all developments and actions that maintains no impact on the Pacific which we live in.

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It grows the marine life for our survival as well as for the sake of our children in the future. This perspective will uphold the value of collaboration for all countries, one body to push for all areas which we give priority to within this region including the strong effects of climate change. The good management and protection of our oceans. The security of our region for fisheries and the response upon the impacts of Covid.

These are the general situations for future development of generations to come, and therefore the long-term vision is far ahead. The view of a person that stands at the top of the mountain, and not below the mountain, as it will shorten the view. The fate of these works is to strengthen ways to push for regional collaboration such as the given goals for the period going on to 2050 in the future. Which was approved in our Pacific Leaders forum that was held in Tuvalu in 2019. This goal emphasized the importance of this region, and the various ways to create a better future for this entire region and all the people of the Pacific.

The significant aspect this regional gives priority to is climate change which has affected the security of all countries and their people. This is reason for strengthening the promotion called Kainaki 2. And the regional emphasis is the call upon all international stakeholders including China, Great Britain, Germany, and America. The call is, to make courageous decisions in response to global effects of climate change and the healthy connection for our coastal areas with regards to climate change. Because it is not only us that is affected, but it also affects them, and their children. But there is a guess, that this is no major concern for them, because they have huge land areas which can assist their relocation to the innermost areas. But what about their major cities?

If Pacific Island countries sink due to heat turning into water or the ice in the north and south, making us sink, together with them, and their cities located close to the ocean. New York, Washington, London, Sydney, Auckland, Wellington. They will all sink below the sea. We are also witnessing wildfire on how thousands of land acres due to this same thing. Australia, New Zealand, Europe, countries in South America, North America, fire spreading all over resulting in high death toll. Meaning, it is not that the people are not understood, they understand well the reasons for all these matters. These big nations do know well the remedies for these problems, the only left is, is courage. The courage to implement the processes that must be done. The difficult thing with them, whenever implemented, what is used to implement them? The thing we are using. Stop oil that is affecting the entire world as well as the use of coal. As for them, they are still living on these things. So whenever this is stopped, it will affect all, many people who are unemployed. We are also debating, to use energy from the sun, wind, water to get electricity.

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But there are also disadvantages, World Leaders are more on to making friends with the business world.

It is reason for the statement I made jokingly on Government grants allocated to Political Parties, which must come from the Government. Political Parties that are official within Parliament, there must be budgets to operate their Parties, and not have to rely on companies, why? It could hold the Government accountable in its decisions, and it can lead them to make inappropriate decisions for the sake of the country and its livelihood. Which some of you had questioned, to find a way in order to revive Political Parties, requiring money? There was no money during the establishment of this Party. Thus the entire key for the achievements implemented is done by a Party itself, with Leaders that have one heart, that are steadfast, honest, and do not lie nor deceiving. Such is the difference. That is the requirement, the cooperation of Political Parties, and people who set up Political Parties are not deceiving, they are trustworthy, and are recognizable by the country, so they do not lie. Nobody likes these kinds of behavior.

Mr Speaker, the 11th of December 2020, there was the Pacific Leaders Forum to push the attempts of all countries, with regards to severe impacts of climate change. Samoa has had an immense contribution in developing this BOE Declaration agreement for the security of this region which was passed in our meeting held in Nauru in 2018.

Therefore the promotion of this agreement on BOE Declaration, based on the preparations for ways to respond to all related areas in settling people security during emergency situations and the securing of natural environment and cyber-crimes. Which is engaged by the BOE Declaration and policies for the protection and security of Samoa. Security is using technology which we have seen, and abusive use of defamed information on the internet. The vital emphasis is through collective voice and the strength of regional priorities, specifically in compliance with important elements which promotes its policies for the development of each country based on regional forums of the Pacific and Japan, which is called PALM 2019. Similar to South Korea, Pacific Korea Foreign Minister's Meeting which was held in 2017 with the Government and a meeting with the Government of China, China Economic Forum 2019 through a program called Corrupt Agency and the contribution of Samoa on ways to strengthen collective efforts. It is a regional agency in terms of our developmental works, which has been given priority to as promoted in our Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2017 in 2020.

Mr Speaker, I observe that, it will not be long now. If longer than it could take 3 hours.

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We are now coming to the time which I breach, it is far more than the scheduled time for me to break. But I shall lay it before your honor, what say you, I have compassion for the members as they have not trained for times like this. I can upstand from now and tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Well done to the Leader of the Government for your statement. There is thought that you have received well the reminder. As such for the information of the country. It is reason I do not aim to interrupt; it is thought provoking our discussion today given the important statement of the Leader of the Government for the sake of the listening public especially people who must understand but do not want to. Then there is the view, thank you for bearing me in mind and our works, we shall resume the wonderful statement when Parliament returns back after its recess.

Since we have come to our normal recess as per sitting schedule. I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly go to recess for 15 minutes break and return to resume the statement of the Leader of the State. With due respect.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside at 10:46am and resumed at 11:36am.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. I take it that new strength has been gained by the Parliament after our normal recess through the Hon Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and the respected members of Parliament. The House has highly recognized this respect prepared for this Parliament during this Sitting day.

Then there is the thought, this is a good time to speak on behalf of the Houe of Parliament, to convey a big congratulations to Afioga Vaelaa, who is the wife of Vaafusuaga Toleafoa Ken Toleafoa Poutoa, especially your relatives. This is a very significant day given your respects. Thank you for bearing respect upon the Parliament of the country. I further wish to mention your honorfic salutations *aua le Aiga Taulagi. Le Matua o Satuala ae a Usaalii ma Gafa.* Thank you very much. As for the statement of orator Mauga and your Four. Thank you for your thoughts upon me.

2005

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Ia, tainane foi le susu o Ie e lua, Taofia ma Usoalii, e faapea foi le alaatai o oe Salelesi ma lo outou Toafa ma le nofo a Ituaiga ia Saoluafata. E le tauilo tupu i ana aga faatupu, a o tamalii foi i aga faatamalii. Thank you for the respects, we have received our meal, we are full, and we are pleased with the traditional gift you have gifted us with. What then can we say at this time? We shall say, Lord, God of wealth, may you fill them with your wealth that they have shared us given your love and goodness upon your country through the chosen Leaders. May God bless the respect of both families especially the wife.

During the setting aside of Proceedings the Leader of the State was speaking, the Hon Prime Minister in its wonderful speech. As such, I call upon the Hon Leader to resume your pleasing speech. With due respect

Susuga Hon TUILAEP AUELUA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI LOLOFIETELE NEIOTI AIONO GALUMALEMANA Dr. SAILELE MALIELEGAOI: Mr Speaker, well, I will no longer address this issue, as you have already proclaimed. And so I will now move straight to the matter at hand, whereby the Government will try to clarify some issues, not only the responses of the Government to matters raised in the House through the members speeches, but also for the country observing in support outside the House, as the opinions shown are in need of responses.

I believe I will now address the regional programs for the environment. A permanent regional center for the protection of the Environment, SPREP, has been established in Samoa, as well as our own regional center that is specialized for issues concerning climate change. There are two major areas that are directly related to the disasters affecting the entire world. The International Centre for Climate Change, this is the objective of all the countries, to train the citizens of the Pacific, to obtain enough skills and to increase their awareness about educational programs, scientific research and close connections to find answers, and to provide firm responses to the needs for the development of different systems to respond to these effects, especially to reduce the impact on our environment. When the environment is mentioned, I recall the speed of our long-term plans for agricultural development, whereby we encouraged the planting of coconut trees, cocoas and taros. This is the usual phrase used by the Leaders of the country of this Parliament, work the land and develop plantations, without knowing the effects on the environment by overcutting forests. Before these things happened, the rivers were running strongly, and there was no thought about its effect on the environment.

In the year 1973, as I was reading the mails coming into our Ministry of Development.

2006

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It was 48 years ago when I came across an announcement from the United Nations, that a member from Samoa was needed to participate in the first Forum to look at the matters that had not been taken into account, like the effects on the environment, from that time until the 1990s, and this was when they finally focused more on the disaster that had occurred. But it was only noticed from the broadcast, that the ozone has been affected, as there are holes in the ozone, which is the layer created by God to protect the earth, to control the excessive intensity of the rays of the sun that can make people sick and warm the world.

Also in the year 1982 after the elections, I had just noticed that something different was happening, because I had breadfruit trees that I planted at the entrance of my land, and I would see them every morning whenever I leave or return, so these breadfruit trees are the last things I see when I leave. And these trees are the first things I see when I enter. Meetings with Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries have been going on for a long time since 1970 and it is still being conducted, especially the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to bring this type of breadfruit, which bears fruit frequently and it is from Hawaii. And many breadfruits have been imported, but once they are brought in, they follow the same harvest process as the Samoan breadfruits. Whereby the harvest occurs once a year, which is similar to the local breadfruits. They are the same.

But after the election in 1982, I was shocked when I returned home, as I noticed that one of my breadfruits that had just ended its harvest was already regrowing its cores again. I was very surprised that day and I then thought, this is what the majority of us in the service at the time have been trying to achieve, to grow breadfruits that bear fruits repeatedly straight after its previous harvest ends. That was in 1982. In 1987, the HRPP travelled to America when our Political Party was the Opposition Party. After America we went straight to Hawaii. I looked at the newspaper and I read about 4 pages which had scientific statements, as scientists have discovered holes in the ozone layer, this was 1987 and the heat has affected the world. Then I recalled the year 1982, when the harvest was occurring consecutively, in other words, that was the beginning of the impacts of climate change on Samoa. It was from 1982, but in 1983 a huge fire broke out in Savaii. It was the first time a green forest was burning, as Samoa's environment has been affected by the heat.

And now at this time, as you are listening to the multitude of activities being conducted. This is a way of contribution by Samoa to the efforts of the world to prevent the scourge of climate change. Other issues that are being managed by SPREP for Samoa, includes waste that is being dumped in the rivers that flow to the ocean and the toxicity of the chemicals from these wastes. The liquid chemicals from pesticides, especially water waste being discharged from factories.

2007

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They all flow into our drains and affect our oceans, as they also use the guidelines for the protection of our environment, and our oceans by stopping the usage of plastic bags and other various non-degradable wastes.

The implementation of the Pacific Games emphasized greening of the environment. In other words, it is an appeal to ensure the environment remains green. But the non-greening theme was a good opportunity, used by the Pacific Games that were held in Samoa. To display the importance of the protection of our environment and to cease the normal practices, that increases the amount of toxic waste. The situation with the Pacific Immigration Development Community, PIDC. This Office was established in Samoa in 2016, this is another important regional office that has been moved to Samoa. And they are working together with other Offices, such as the Pacific Centre, to monitor crimes between countries of the region and other countries of the world. The Office is for the organization for senior officials who work in offices that administer the Laws of a country. These offices are very helpful in the implementation of our work for legal protection in Samoa.

Then I come to the Pacific Community or the SPC, an organization that is responsible for the development of the people of countries of the Pacific. This Organization is responsible for education, health, the rights of a person as well as matters concerning youths, culture and gender equality for men and women. The SPC has been very helpful in obtaining scientific information to establish programs for the development of fisheries. To monitor infectious diseases in the region as well as the protection of various information and important records on the history of plants, in order to maintain a solid foundation, for different foodstuffs from the plants of each country. Samoa is leading by example, with the preparation and submission of the first report to the United Nations on the implementation of the sustainable development goals, as well as the official recognition of the Blue Pacific Identity. The Blue Pacific Identity is the assembly of all the countries of the Pacific, a blue continent. This has become an example, with Samoa being a leader in the region and it has made it possible to receive responses from the United Nations and other partners. To implement the matters that Samoa has taken the lead in. And also circumstances that are important for the island countries, because a country like Samoa is at the helm and it is a contributor for the countries of the Pacific. It is recognized, it is acknowledged, it is trusted, it is reliable, and its administration, its traditions and customs are peaceful. This step is very important, to assist with the submissions from these islands to conducts special programs. To support the clarification of the effects on the extreme sensitivity of the natural environment as well as the developments as emphasized in the Samoa Pathway.

2008

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The Samoa Pathway is a public title used to introduce to the world, the development programs of the developing countries of the world, which was officially approved at the meeting of the United Nations held in Samoa in the year 2014. The General Secretary of the United Nations was also in attendance. This earned him respect and was given the international matai title from the rural area of *Atua*. Samoa is also leading the way in expanding the importance of free governance, among countries in the region. In order to make their decisions, and which partners they will work with in this era, with the influx of major countries into the Pacific to find out who supports the most countries. In addition, the importance of joint decisions should also be emphasized. All the agreements that the countries of the Pacific have agreed upon as a whole, to convey their submissions for the general welfare of the people of this region of the Pacific.

Samoa also continues to offer advice, in support of the Organizations in the region, in order to perform all the services for all countries, especially the utilization of these Organizations for various plans in the region instead of assigning it to other International Organizations. This may lead to duplication of responsibilities and waste of scarce resources that we are trying to compete for. Samoa is also continuing to participate in many discussions to change the ways of carrying out work in the region due to the impact of the deadly diseases, because the resources for regional development as well as domestic development of each country are limited. What does this mean, now we are observing how the countries of the world are being affected by these diseases? Many factories have been closed down, and these are jobs that earn people money. This means that we are starting to notice our own worth, as Governments are becoming short sighted on the needs that should be prioritized. This means that it is a warning to us, to place more foresight on our future plans. And appeals for extravagant plans are no longer permitted. Since times like this are easily shortened, as the world is facing difficulties. Social relations are important in terms of trade, which is an opportunity for Samoa to export its own products to foreign markets. In the European Union, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. This has been confirmed by Samoa's participation in trade agreements such as the Pacific EU Interim Economic Partnership Agreement of 2019. The Pacific UK Interim Economic Partnership Agreement of 2021 of this year, and the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relation, PACER Plus in 2020. The PACER Plus is the agreement for the implementation of trade with conditions that facilitate our products to be exported.

It is a long overdue effort. As the Hon Minister Joe Keil, at that time had been working on it during the long negotiations.

2009

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Then the Hon Fonotoe came and continued this process, it was also continued during the time that the Hon Lautafi became the Minister. And now a consensus has just been reached. The thing is that it is difficult for countries to use their foresight, in order to balance conditions to allow opportunities for a country's product. And also open the opportunity for a country's product to be sent to their partners that they are in agreement with, in terms of export and import. The flexibility of the foresight, there are goods that should be exported, and there should also be products imported by the other countries, as it is like a game of chess, giving away pieces easily during these negotiations. There have been three Ministers, who have been conducting these discussions for 15 years, through hardships and it came up at the Forum for Leaders of the Pacific Nations. And encouraged the Ministers to further scrutinize more, and to deepen their prudence. Why? Because the words of the country, "*o le uta a le poto e fetala'i.*"

The implementation of the discussions and negotiations that was done for these agreements, provided a good opportunity to review the policies for trade, and to look at the areas that should be rearranged in the planning and comparison with the conditions of world trade, as well as the appropriateness with the conditions of trade in Samoa. The effects of Covid-19 is also included in trade negotiations. As done with other specific sectors of the economy, and this is one of the initial projects for the PACER Plus agreement. Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, through these agreements it is now possible to strengthen the trade relations between Samoa and its partners. This is through the implementation of the provisions of these agreements, but also the development of opportunities to expand our trade, through aid programs with our partners. It is an important challenge that we should carefully consider, and look for ways to properly use special aid, for trade that is reserved for Samoa. This is the culmination of the aid that will flow into Samoa, and it should be used properly, since this is the hard work of the taxpayers for these countries, and we are using it. Last week, the female member, the Sao Faapito asked for a clarification. Whether there is certainty for the continuation of these foreign aids, that was the question, and I was shocked, for this is a member who has been sitting in the Cabinet for a long time. But yet she is still asking, once we are outside, she will ask again. What is the certainty? The answer, there is no certainty for the continuation of these assistances. How come? Because these aids depend on the economic prosperity of the foreign countries, our partners.

Secondly, the foreign countries are observing us, to see if we are properly using the aid that they are providing. At this time, in all these Organizations, their records are all highlighted red.

2010

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It was stated by the Sao Faapito, all the pages of their documents are all red. There have been warnings, that there are things that may happen when the Government is changed. Through such foolish plans, *i le manao i le i'a ae le manumanu i le upega*. Mr Speaker, the Sao Faapito spoke about the red flags for the measles, but the things they are doing are completely red flags for this Government, they have been warned against due discretion. What are the conditions? Even our Political Party is well prepared, for plans that we do not need. How come? Because this is the nature of life, the nature of life depends on you. When you help your brother, but you notice that he/she has used your hard-earned money, to drink beer and get drunk. What will you do? Will you give them more money if they come asking for help again? No. You do not want to give it to someone who is inconsiderate, you do not want to give it to someone untrustworthy.

Mr Speaker, this is the truth and solid proof on the legitimacy of the plans. The aids are still pouring into our country from abroad. Why? It is because they know that the current Government that is in power is a Government whose decisions are justified. They are served by experts who have returned from training in well-known Organizations abroad as these were the people they had previously worked alongside. In other words, they are well aware that our countrymen are well-informed. And they will make rational decisions for a prosperous future for Samoa. It is impossible to understand for a person who has yet to reach this high level of understanding that has been reached by these Government employees. The plans for the implementation of the work for PACER Plus as well as the initiatives by the European Union to support these programs, for the good of the economy of this region of the Pacific. The support for the trade between the United Kingdom and the region, as well as the ongoing development under PACER Plus, as well as the programs that support methods to increase and facilitate trade. It is necessary to establish a solid blueprint for Samoa on how it can be used in order to achieve its trade needs. Trade policies have played a major role in achieving the priorities of our Government for the economy of Samoa. Such as agriculture, fishing, products to be exported, the development of the tourism sector as well as the development of business sectors.

Furthermore, these policies have an effect on the situation that has been implemented for the general prosperity of our country. In terms of education, health, the well-being of people, major developments for the growth of the economy such as communications and information technology as well as effects of trade on the environment.

2011

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Therefore, it is necessary to carry out discussions with each specific group, as well as various sectors of the Government and the Private Sector. So that they can all contribute to the preparation of good policies. It has been noticed with the emergence of the deadly virus, the communications have been shut down, and social distancing is also in effect. Even going to the shops has been prohibited, because it is severely contagious, and even churches are stopped. So what kind of life did we live? This was the only thing that made it possible for us to carry on with our lives, to correspond with our usual everyday life. The use of high-speed technology has made it possible to continue religious services, while staying at home.

Now another new system has emerged greatly, whereby a son living in the UK communicates with the stores in Samoa, to deliver particular items to his parents at the end of the week, who are residing in Satapuala, or they live in Aleipata in Lepa, or they live at Luatuanuu. They will deliver these items directly to the parents, since the son has already paid the store directly from overseas. These are the aspects of the life that exists now. There is no doubt that many new types of businesses will arise, since this has happened, as the whole world is affected by a disease like this. But now we will proceed to develop our Information Technology. High-speed communications for other types of services cannot be surmised at this time. The internet has recently been released is a special weapon of war, secretly developed by America, in the case of a nuclear war. And it was intended specifically for China and Russia, during the heat of the communist regime. It started from 1990 to 1991 when communism collapsed in Russia, only then did the United States release regulatory tool. It regulates the development of the internet.

In the year 1995, the Ministers of PATA, Pacific Asia Travel Association, conducted a meeting, this was when I was the Minister for Tourism. A man named Surf made a speech, and he was in charge of the development of America's secret weapon, the internet. He made his speech in Auckland at our meeting, and it was mentioned to us. This weapon has just been released to the world. That was when we started our preparations, upon my return to revoke our Laws. In the year 1999, the IT of the Post Office and the wireless systems were sanctioned together. And then it was removed so that it can be released to be used for commercial purposes. In order to develop our communications and to ensure we are able to obtain powerful communication systems, to be used, for the development of Samoa.

This made it possible for us to obtain Digicel and establish Samoa Tel later on, which has now been acquired by Vodafone. But it started from this meeting held in Auckland, from the speech by the person named Surf, who was in charge of this weapon known as the internet.

2012

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And this is how his name was used when operating the internet to find what you are looking for. The phrase, “surf the internet” to carry on his name to be remembered. He was the one who assembled this type of tool. Our Association invited this person to come to Samoa, and he made his speech in the evening when I attended. I state these points, for our vision for the future. For the development of the world, in the long-term, this is where our future is centered. When having high-speed communications it will be used in various businesses, hospitals, education, agriculture, business transactions, all these depend on high-speed communications. This is the reason why we are fully focused on implementing a major project, to lay down cables that run under the sea. Now it has come to fruition, and it is very useful, even the telephones are now able to connect Samoa to any part of the world. What has happened is that the benefits have doubled. It is a good scheme that was intended to be used by people to talk to their children and it has also been used to ruin the efforts of our Government and cause chaos. Now our Government is working on ways to establish rules so as to stop the misuse of these things, especially the downloading of bad movies that our children watch which causes bad behavior in our children.

Some of the important areas that must be implemented in the future, includes the implementation of the business process using the internet that requires people to be responsible for legal regulations, stating that they are responsible for methods to implement technology and secondly, the trading of services, including the development of tourism authority, and thirdly, the development of skills and competences, which are used in international meetings. Whereby we do not need to travel abroad to convey Samoa’s speech in international meetings, as it can be streamed online. The social relations with our Partners, who are implementing the projects that are prioritized, in terms of valuing any method with which Samoa receives assistance from its partners for their development through trade and economic development programs. Through partnerships and national security, especially interpersonal relations. The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to negotiate with all Governmental partners and Organizations, or any other method to conduct friendly relations between the Governments but it is not specific to only aid programs.

Mr Speaker, the partnerships we are having today, have allowed services pertaining the security or the assurance of safety from impacts of climate change. The advance in the economy as well as inter-personal relations for everyone to have a blooming life. If you take a closer look at the tasks which are carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they are extensive, very extensive. They are widened and goes head to head with the functions that are executed by other Ministries.

2013

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The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry for Fishery matters, Scholarships studies as well as Health and it is broad, along with the Ministry of Finance. This Ministry's reach is quite broad, why? Because there is only one connection between the Government and foreign countries as well as other Organisations. There is only one way and one door, the door of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Finance also handles all financial communication between financial institutions. Annual meetings with various partners are still being held, in order to assess the status of organising the tasks for internal relations. Moreover, during these meetings, the partners will officially announce some of the changes in their policies like they have today to Governments they are cooperating with. For instance, the New Zealand's guideline for aid is generalised as the Pacific Reset. The Australian guideline is generalised as the Step up, the British guideline is the Pacific Uplift, and the guideline by the Chinese Government, is called the Belt and Road Initiative.

Mr Speaker, in order to fully implement these partnerships, Samoa is determined to prepare various ways to inform the partners of the good state of policies and ways of carrying out the work through their assistances, for them to have faith in us in regards to the proper use of these aids.

The basis of the reorganization of Samoa, a country with least development, in 2014. This is a sign that Samoa and its Government are capable of leading its development. It no longer depends entirely on other Governments for this situation. In January 2014 the United Nations announced, that Samoa has now moved and is no longer in the group of least developing countries. Its economy has increased to a middle income level country. The advantage of this, is that our partners are able to respond, including the need to release aid in various ways that Samoa can adapt to the appropriate use according to the conditions that have been prioritised in compliance with the development guideline of our Government.

In addition to our presence in the effects of Koviti-19, our partners accepted the request that was given, to change the aid programs in order to be able to respond to the constant changes. as it is, it is still happening, with the deadly disease which has greatly affected our economy.

Thus, by carrying out our partnerships properly, and our participation to any international conferences, and showing our contribution, have allowed us to receive several assistances for 15 specific areas in which the development of our economy has been divided. Our Government continues to give special importance of such plans to the Sector of Health and education because of the difficulties we are currently in, as well as the vulnerable situation at the Administration of the University of the South Pacific.

2014

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Regarding the significant reduction in the number of scholarships funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. Besides that, these programs are incomplete, due to the difficulties of travel because our borders have been closed.

Some partners have informed us about their demands to offer scholarship awards only for those who have completed their first degree. And they need to upgrade these degrees, in order to align with the needed ability, for implementing works in Samoa. Therefore, their assistances go straight to the kind of capacity that is absolutely needed for our development. It is necessary, that we carefully consider these opportunities, which improve and advance the situation of University academia in our country, to allow us to respond to the increasing needs, the growing number of young people as well as the rapid growth for appropriate education and conditions of our locality and wealth which we are able to obtain. It will also allow us to cautiously evaluate, what specific skills and abilities that are absolutely essential at the moment, as well as the near future.

In addition to this, it is necessary to fully review the situation of the teachers who carry out these tasks as well as the schools and other necessary facilities, so that our youth can be taught in Samoa, no longer travel abroad. Sit next to the old man and the old woman and watch their behavior well, because this is one of the problems faced by children who have just traveled abroad. You are free, once you are allowed to go abroad, you say goodbye to your parents, then you go and be free, a newly found freedom to roam around. Forgetting all the tears that were shed with the confession, I will be active in doing my school work, but all of them will be found in the records that are sent from our overseas organization to our Scholarship Committee.

The consultations are still in process at the moment, this is the absolute goal, of long-term plans initiated by our Cabinet, under the leadership of To'oto'oalii. From the Year 1983 to 1984, it has been 37 years since the University at Vaivase was set up, the National University of Samoa in order to provide opportunities that are barely achieved for higher education in Samoa today, during difficult times, regarding the enrolment of our children into overseas Universities. If you do remember when I outlined the Financial Statement in this Parliament, a strategy was established by the Government, that the University will be started with \$5. Those are responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance, if they want to activate an issue, for later discussions, they will have to deposit \$5 because if they do not it will be forgotten. But those were some of the methods we used in the past.

The Government was badly ridiculed, the University seemed like a jest. What is University to the world? What is this \$5? This \$5 that will be used.

2015

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This was introduced here together with a plan for the first time, an endowment was given to schools in the rural areas and Church schools. At least \$50,000 was granted by the Government and it was the very first time that something like this has ever been done. As I stood at this seat where this old man is sitting, the Minister of Finance and announced within this Parliament, the Opposition Party were laughing and mocking, give your \$5 to do something else, something useful. You will not fool the Government and the country. Now some people have got jobs, some are teaching there, thus no one remembers the History and ridicule towards Government which resulted to the establishment of the University which now earns us a piece of bread. The legal advice, for the implementation of international relations, all of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, must be implemented taking into account legal administration of all provisions of the Constitution of Samoa, as well as easy access to the Courts, of righteousness. It includes cooperation in enforcing the Laws between us and other Governments, such as returning a citizen to answer his or her charges.

Mr Speaker and respectable members of the House, the approval of the territorial boundaries of Samoa is being gradually completed. It is measured as given to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations in 2017, records that reflect our Laws of such situations. These data will be the basis for measuring the borders and starting negotiations with the neighboring countries which include American Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, Tonga and Tokelau.

We have faith in the good of our international negotiations, with these countries, that the arrangement of these borders is firm and it will be easy to be officially approved under international Laws. The goal is to not change these borders again, even if they are affected by climate change in the future. These borders are very important, they can identify us, we can be seen from outside of our borders, to not...in case there is an unusual force of another country like America locking our fishing boats, while still guessing where the border lies. Therefore, the Government has come to this decision that these things should not be left any longer instead it is time to implement them.

There have been many conflicts that emerged between us and Tutuila in the past. The Government of America took some of our ships by force. I made contact when I received the request, the Governor responded a few years ago, I will see to it. When I called to ask him, how is it going? I apologise, but that is the issue of the United States of America. That was the only response given by American Samoa, because of this, there is an American Administration present in Tutuila. Once Tutuila makes a step on any particular area, the United States of America will try to stop it. Therefore, in these cases, it is a must to define our borders.

2016

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At our first meeting the Americans threatened us saying, we should keep a distance. We argued that there will be no problem to the boundary between us and America as there is an island overhead of us, it tilts heavily on our side at approximately 6,000 square miles, then back to Samoa, there negotiations were stopped. We have also notified America at the time that we will go to the summit, at the International Courts to ensure that they will not scrape through because the land is the ocean as well, under international Laws, the ocean is under the control of Samoa. So that is where this case is at the moment, as you are all listening, we will start again with our fight.

Samoa, a country with a stable Government, has a very distinctive reputation in the Pacific for political stability. In the last 25 years, it is still seen that the legal authorities are maintained, its policies are stable and rooted. But some necessary changes are also being made in practice, such policies for guidance and development. This is one of the reasons for the establishment of our Government Offices, and Offices of overseas Governments within our country for the past 5 years, such as the Office of the OPEC Fund. This is the fund of the Arab Government which is used to export their oil. They also helped us a lot by financing our large tanks located in Sogi, where necessary fuel is stored. The other organisations are, the International Development Fund, the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the PACER PLUS Implementation Unit.

Mr Speaker and members of the House, there is a chance that Samoa may grow to be capital or a center of this region due to the notable firmness of its administration, its legal guidelines and the stable organisations, who implements the assignments of the Government. This refers to the level of awareness of the Chief Executive Officers as well as Government employees. The majority of them have just returned from their studies with degrees. They have the general knowledge, as well as the experience to carry out different Governmental tasks.

As we move towards the future with the collection of records, for international information on agreements, and treaties signed by Samoa, which is currently under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is very helpful for everyone to have access to this legal information.

Mr Speaker it will also allow us to monitor, if there are any areas that need improvements, in order to strengthen, our continuous involvement within these international circles and to bring prosperity for the people of Samoa, and for the prayer warriors all over the country. Some of the priorities are to improve the skills and abilities to carry out our international relations, confirm the necessary information and records, have enough skills to evaluate all these situations.

2017

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It is necessary for good decisions to be prepared, prepared enough, and based on the preparation of legal frameworks to guide the implementation of various responsibilities.

Mr Speaker, Samoa is a country whose Leaders are victory seekers, her people seek for triumphs. They were first ones to lead at the sitting of Pacific Island Governments. It is also a Government that is protected by our Supreme God. The Lord is her foundation. As the hymn of the Psalmist says, “If God does not guard the city, those who guard it will be in vain.” Unless the Lord guards the Nation that is founded on His Name, all of us will watch it and guard.

Mr Speaker, the responses from the Cabinet will proceed after my foreword. I have not started my speech yet, the introduction has just finished, so that the commencement of our session today will be boldly handled, in which the Member next to me will commence, the Deputy Prime Minister for today. He will be next, he is the Oldest Man of the Cabinet who has served for many years. This will be his last speech, his last oration as his constituency is listening. This will also be his final input from many years that he has served this Parliament. He has such a great contribution, his great contribution, and the opportunity will be given to him, the fire will be passed down to him, the flame of the Cabinet. It is a blazing fire, you may hear, this will be his last service to our Government, then he will be retire in victory.

Some say that rest comes first then lastly victory, as for Him, he starts with victory, then he rests. Well the best of luck to everyone who will be voicing their remarks, then it will come back to me, then I will convey my real speech. Farewell and good luck.

Parliament showed their appreciation by applause at the conclusion of the Opening Remarks of the Hon Prime Minister.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Commendations Hon Prime Minister, also Leader of Government. I think everything is crystal clear right now, because the warrior has spoken, the dove of the day has also flown gently. You are absolutely right, what we heard was only the introduction, but you have not begun with your keynote speech, pertaining the developments of our country. I commend you for the opening remarks, we have heard you through body and soul, Samoa have listened, not only here but overseas. They have heard, as you explain and open the door of the policies implemented by the Independent Government of Samoa in all aspects and areas.

The truth is there is nothing, you have not touched on today. Samoa, there you have it, a chosen Leader by God.

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He is being rhetorically weaponised by God because not only did you hear about developments and international partnerships of the Government of Samoa, and her partners not only in the Pacific, but the whole world. Besides, he has already touched on the internal affairs of the country in stressing out not merely the developments, which have already been done, but also the long-term plans for the well-being of Samoa and its people. Thank you very much, you have spoken well and we will not be bothered to speak of it again. Thank you, may God bless.

And so, just a slight part of the oration that must be addressed by the Chair because the people of the country are paying very much attention, just to add on the address made by Mr Speaker, he had already conveyed his notion, in regards to the issue of insulting the Parliament with words spoken outside. So I would like to add and remind the honorable members of the elected constituencies of the country who are still doing this behavior. Standing Orders of the House 62(7)(c), allow me to read it, “Discreditable references to the Assembly or any member or any offensive or unparliamentary expression.” It reads together with Standing Orders 14 which is the Oath of Allegiance. These parts are read together.

Therefore, the insults towards the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly means you have broken Standing Orders 14, the Oath of Allegiance allow me to read; I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Independent State of Samoa, and that I will justly and faithfully carry out my duties as a Member of the Parliament of Samoa. So, God help me.” I am just reminding you, if you are not attending to the Session today, you may now listen as I declare this. You have already sworn your respective oaths, which you will not behave in a certain manner that might dishonour especially with speeches, the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, that is indeed the Parliament.

These are few things that were notable in the speech by the Leader of the Government this morning and should be addressed by the Chair this morning. It is recommended to be aware of it, then countering its aftermath. The Chair will never stand aside from fulfilling his duties if it gets extremely serious. And that is my request, if you are listening, we have already made pledges in front of the Living God, we will do our job faithfully, no matter what, God is in control of your life.

So, that is just an addition to the speech, because as stated in the remarks made by the Leader of the Government, the Chair should give notices on such matters. Thus, I commend the Hon Prime Minister, you have given permission, therefore, and the Cabinet will proceed responsibly. Also before the respectable senior member takes the floor, the respected member for Aana Alofi No. 1 East.

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I would like to announce, the Chair has also been informed about the presence of his lady and children in this Session to support the oration of the Hon Minister. Hence, I offer great appreciation to the respected lady, you have never belittled the calling, thus the support given to Government and the oration of the Hon Minister. I will now call with utmost respect the Hon Minister. Thank you.

Well since I have been informed, and the Chair must abide. It is now 5 more minutes until 1:00pm which concludes our session. I cannot anchor my ship whilst once again set to sail. It is best to prepare well and praise the Almighty Father for us regain new energy so that we can come back to the House of Tiafau tomorrow in His love and kindness.

Therefore to the dignity of the House in the authority of the Chair I announce the conclusion of the work of Parliament today. I thank you all for your patience, perseverance also to the support of our country. I also commend the speech of the Leader of Government, everything has been made clear this day.

Before we adjourn for today, with respect I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No.1 West to conclude our work with a prayer.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12:59pm until Friday 19th February 2021 at 9:00 am.