

18 JUNE 2020

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2020

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 and the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 at 6.13pm.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce that Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. With utmost respect I acknowledge the dignity of the House this time of the evening on the continuation of Parliament and its Proceedings. I welcome the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Cabinet and Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge that side of Chamber, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons as well as the respectable members of Parliament.

I also greet Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries who are able to be with us this evening, in support of the work of Parliament. I also believe that it is with utmost respect I greet our country this evening, from the highest mountain to the lowest, I am grateful for your support given to Parliament. Blessings be with you all.

Before recess this afternoon the member of Falelatai and Samatau was speaking, therefore with utmost respect I call upon the member to continue with his speech.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe members of the Legislative Assembly have already been acknowledged this evening. Thank you.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Mr Speaker before recess I was going to speak upon a matter, however this constituency will now start with our speech. Thank you for the opportunity.

I was interrupted this afternoon while I was speaking on the positive aspects of our state of emergency, the positive aspects of witnessing education programs on television and internet, which has also aided affairs in families, the village and Church, giving us a break from the many activities implemented in villages and the Church.

The matter of funerals in families, let us carry on with what we are doing now. The reason why families suffer is because of us alone. But I am happy

18 JUNE 2020

with this new arrangement implemented and the country also understands as well. Death is a divine calling from God, however it seems families are being crucified in trying to carry out a big funeral which will only result in them suffering.

That is why Mr Speaker, this constituency supports this new arrangement if it is to continue. I am grateful for the time restrictions for shops and others, and it has been observed that everything is fine.

Our only request is the use of our police force for enforcement, I think it was last Saturday, a funeral was held at Aana and we witnessed it was full of people. A humble request to our police department, we are dependent on you to uphold our state of emergency orders. Hopefully the police station at Afega or Faleolo inspected the funeral that took place in that area. The objective is for orders to be followed and upheld. Our family had a lot of funerals during this time of the state of emergency. The program was arranged with the number of those to attend, including the pastor and so on, then I will go do my work while one of the chiefs of the family will attend to the village and pastor who will be in charge of the funeral. Families suffer because of themselves, we are now respecting Sundays, there are many means by which we have to honor Sunday, I apologise to the House, hence everyone has a different opinion and we all believe in God, but let me give you a few scriptures to inspire the observance of Sunday

I believe Government has made a great contribution to the recognition and observance of the fact that Sunday is Sabbath day, we honor the Lords Sabbath on Saturday for the Old Testament and Sunday for the New Testament. We should remember that Samoa founded on God used to be on the side of the Constitution, now we have included it inside as a major part of the Constitution.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

During our Friday sittings we try and finish orders but once it is 12 noon the proceeding adjourns, why? Because we honor Saturday Sabbath. We have contributed a lot in this area, we have stopped the selling of alcohol on Sunday, making this day more respectable. Regular Government working days are open for 5 days, then we take two days off in respect to the Sabbath days, Saturday and Sunday observed by some of our Christian brethren.

However, there is expectation that the observation of Sundays are given to the Churches. There are some Churches who do not allow fire on Sundays.

18 JUNE 2020

Therefore, how can a fisherman or taro seller sell anything if they are not allowed to do *umu* on Sunday?

These are the rules long been implemented by the church, some do not allow smoking or drinking alcohol, they are not allowed to play bingo or eat certain types of food, or have socials.

These are provisions implemented by the Church to emphasize holiness, people from these Churches seldom go to prison, and they are well organized. There are Churches that up to now are still upholding restrictions and doing their services from home, they are giving priority to the welfare and health of their congregation, perhaps this is the church we all should be attending. They have one church service on Sunday, which is good enough. The meaning of the word Sabbath is to rest, to take abstinence from work over the past 6 days, and rest on the 7th. This is what it means for Sabbath. But I will leave it as it is, there is church in the morning and evening, however it should be emphasized that there should be rest because it is Sabbath. This is also the meaning of the word Sunday, a day when we are not allowed to work and take a break from chores that we struggled with all week. These are a few observations on upholding the rules and the good and bad...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, I will give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, since it was mentioned earlier, with the scriptures of the Lord, it is stated that he is the Lord of Sabbath. There was also a statement, questioned by one of the members on this matter, because Jesus did work on Sunday, but it was for healing, meaning work of compassion can be carried out on Sunday.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

This is the reason why ever since the start our doctors have been working. We are following the footsteps of Jesus, caring for the sick, because it is here when our Lord did miracles for the sick that he was blamed. For the member who asked, this is why our doctors are working, even our police force to protect our people, which is admirable.

Mr Speaker this is a response on the matter, the speech by the member is important, because now I do not call him Saul anymore but Paul. Ever since the member graduated from a theological seminary, eventhough he was not

18 JUNE 2020

ordained a pastor, but the richness of his understanding in theology has been noted, even Government has responded, I thought of responding later but I believe it is best to do it now incase I forget, this is the response of Government, except for such work carried out by our Savior, it is why our doctors and police carry out their duties. We are following in the footsteps of Jesus, Sabbath is for the people but not people for Sabbath.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe the matter has been made clear in the House and for the member who asked about this matter earlier, this means this question should not arise again. I call upon the member of Falelatai and Samatau to continue.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker, we ourselves have the spirit that we all worship and believe in God. But the message of the Church itself is a spiritual one. The Church does a lot of good work. But perhaps an immediate question arises as to what role the Church has in the development of the country, how about the development of harmony in the country. The emphasis of peace, love and forgiveness, also the encouragement to turn the other cheek. The church does not speak provoking words. And if you do, find another religion to go to as it is stated in the Constitution, the freedom of religion, free to choose. It is voluntary. You go with all your heart, mind and body, but it is not an attempt by a pastor or a matai or someone else to force everyone to go to church, no. It is best for someone to be their completely than in body and be concerned of the standards of society and so forth. Freedom of religion and freedom in every sense of the word, the freedom stated in the Constitution for the individual to choose their religion.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

Thank you Hon Minister of Health, we have been preparing for the onset of the disease for months now. No one is confused when it comes to washing their hands, since you and the Ministry have been well prepared with the notices and announcements given to the country. We express our congratulations and thanks. We are still experimenting for when the disease arrives, because we have only two things to look forward to, the arrival of the disease, or the arrival of the vaccine or the medicine to resolve this problem. A humble request Hon Minister is to monitor our borders at the

18 JUNE 2020

airport and wharf. We always see the influx of our Government staff, Immigration, and security at the airport also the medical team in vans taking passengers to the hotels, we sit and pray, steps are to be taken by the whole group after leaving passengers at the hotel, what is next? Store?

These are a few things we want to be informed with, because once the disease arrives, the next step should not be wrong. It must be well managed, to have masks, gloves, the clothes worn, the procedure must be meticulous in transporting the passengers to the hotel, then be ready for the next step. Well, we do not have a car wash like the ones overseas, where the car goes into the wash, and is washed, by the time it comes to the other side it is clean, the inside is then sprayed, but these are a few thoughts Hon Minister. But these are a few examples so that our country is prepared when the disease arrives. We are practicing and learning about ways to prevent it, once it arrives we must follow the steps 1,2,3,4 and make sure we do not miss one. Everyone who works have families, have children that they return to in the evening, but this will make it hard to trace the disease. A lot of diseases are caused by animals and livestock, pardon the respects of the House and our country. We are now faced with a disease found from the market, even snakes and others, there is the swine flu mentioned by some members, and the SARS, such diseases will never end. These diseases got here while we were already plagued with other diseases from mosquitos and flies. But the good thing about our country is cleanliness, people are used to cleaning their homes, their surroundings, villages and environment where they live.

However, for our livestock we must consider, I heard from from the previous comments that they ought to be put down, let us start slow, put them in a sty, there are some villages that still have their livestock roaming, a request to our Environmental Advisory Committee when the council convenes, you should take the lead together with this House to have livestock fenced in.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

For families and communities, these are all God's creation the only difference is that we live in different spaces. We are living together also our children are happy holding their pet puppy. There are other chicken diseases where chickens have wry necks, they are usually slow as well, and there are times when children just pick them up but it has a disease.

A humble request, members of the House should be vigilant, and animals are not safe anymore if are to live together, we must give them protection. This is the same for our country, it is only a small country. If we think about

18 JUNE 2020

the birds, reptiles and animals found in our lands, there is not much, but there are still people who enjoy hunting pigeons and bats, well we do not have many left. There is a saying in our country, *e lele le lulu ae valoia e iao*. Lucky is a village where the *iao* is found. Also the students rowing the *segavao fautasi* with their teacher, I am certain they have not seen that bird. Blessed is a village who hears the sound of the kingfisher to signal the rain. I myself rarely see them anymore, but those who see it are very lucky. There are sanctuaries set up by other Government bodies to protect the manumea, the manumea nearly looks the same as the pigeon which also lives in the forest. If people were to hunt and kill a pigeon but later discover it is a manumea, Samoa will not have it anymore, I ask that this House work together to enforce the protection of our local birds and the sanctuaries put in place. These birds are only found in Samoa, but if they are on the verge of extinction, we will be the ones leading in eliminating them.

The Hon Minister of Education, thank you for our one Government grant, I also thank our Government. Keep in mind this was assistance from New Zealand and other countries, and now we are implementing this grant with our own funds.

A request to the Hon Minister, we must make sure that the process is carried out properly, to ensure that funds are safe and used where it is supposed to be. Funds should be secured and reported to Government on how it is used. I pray that we have Auditors carry out this duty. If a photocopy or an expensive equipment is to be purchased there should be 3 quotes to decide on, make an ordinance on who has authority, the Ministry of Education should handle the school grant with the supplier, to ensure that the method used is secure. This is my suggestion so that the grant given by Government is used wisely, these are our own funds allocated to finance these areas.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

I want to thank all school committees in Samoa for your hard work, you have been serving in your constituencies and villages for a long time. I commend you all for the effort, I know such role is carried out for the development of our children in schools. A humble request to our Committee, there is a small registration fee of \$10, \$20, used for school fund and building fund since there are no more fees, let us be honest and use funds wisely and report back.

18 JUNE 2020

A request to some of our constituencies, there are a few bad school committees of primary schools within some constituencies, the village does not know their representative in the committee. A humble request is to appoint someone that will be useful for Committee. The connection of committee and the Ministry of Education is through the Principal. I also heard some were calling to find out about the school grant. The committee should be patient and rely on the Principal who is in liaison with the Ministry on implementing school grants. Only 10% is allocated to utilities, for repairs. I have been involved in committees for a long time, therefore the Principal and teachers should know about the minor repairs, than I who is in the committee. This is why I congratulate our committees and recommend that there is no one who knows more on what needs to be improved in schools than the Principal. Meetings should be carried out every quarter to improve areas of service.

Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I am grateful for the roads as mentioned by the member of Lefaga and Faleaseela, the road from Mafafa towards Faleaseela, it is now in good condition. You mentioned that after this road there would be improvements made for the main road going towards the wharf, I will continue to pray, because this part of the country is wetland, starting from Mulifanua all the way to Falelatai. It is a swampy area where the coast is the sea and highland is wetland. There are times when I pass by and there is a big hole in the middle of the road, because the foundation of the road is loose, because of the sea water and swamp water. I humbly ask the Hon Minister to overlook this matter, to ensure that the road work is done thoroughly and even. A lot of people travel to the west side, perhaps the majority of Government developments are there, the airport and wharf, perhaps by the end of the term other Ministers have yet to come to our constituency. I humbly concede that those living in that area are also humans, I ask that you visit us and talk with us on what is happening on that side of the island.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

Hon Minister, the bridge between Matanofu and Falevai, it is now dilapidated. I have already told you about all the access roads that are in our constituency. I also pray for the improvement of access roads, there are 15 access roads in our constituency and only 4 have been fixed. My humble request is to make sure we are considered as well, hence I am aware there are others you are trying to distribute. We only pray for further improvement, I do not know what more I can say, we are confident on your

18 JUNE 2020

support and acceptance, we not need much money to fix it, we just want the car to get to where the youths are working. The issue now is, they have to park the car and walk halfway to the plantation. Therefore, Hon Minister we humbly ask for your consideration on this matter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has two more minutes.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: The area inland where we are working at Falelatai, we are neighbors with Satapuala, Faleatiu and Vailuutai. We work up in the mountains, they work of the other side while we work on the other.

Our humble request Hon Minister, there are roads, but we only need access roads to connect to the ones inland, it just needs to be fixed especially for the public to use during evacuation for natural disasters. We could take this opportunity to fix these roads to make it easier for our people to travel. This is the road I mentioned.

As for our road maintenance, constituencies should know which contractor is in charge of road maintenance. I am curious to know, because there is a different company doing it but when I pass by there are different workers present. They do not have the knowledge, but I want to talk to them, but it will be better to make it transparent on how the work is carried out.

The Hon Minister of Justice, do not be angry or upset, these are some minor things requested to the previous Registrar, but I have noticed that it keeps on happening. The Land and Titles Court, we understand how many days the appeal will take. At the end of the day when there is no appeal the spirit is reassured, there is no appeal and the decision of court is final. However, this is not the case, whenever an appeal goes in, the Ministry will deliver the letter to the Judges to let them know about the appeal and tell them to respond. It would be alright if it is not the last day of the appeal, but if the appeal date has passed, I am saddened, because the court did not prepare on in a short period of time.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Faletai, but I will give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Justice.

Afioga Hon Faaolesa Katopau T. Ainuu (Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration): Mr Speaker, the matter of appeals, has already been legally regulated under Section 81 of the Land and Titles Act 1981, it states the dates for appeals, and no further request is eligible after the date stated.

18 JUNE 2020

But there is also an extension of days, if you apply within 21 days, there is an extension that can be given to your side of court to add another month to file an appeal, but the Court cannot dismiss it, it is legal. The law does not have the power to prolong the date set out in the Act. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the member now understand? Thank you Hon Minister. I ask the member to conclude.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Hon Minister. The statement you made is synonymous with the knowledge that I have with me, however I want to say, this is not the case. It is best to end with this discussion, however the Minister and Ministry should look at the office writing on court matters in response to appeals, when we check the date has already passed. Even for the two month extension given, it is over, yet the office still writes for a response. I will leave this matter to you.

Mr Speaker I want to thank the Minister of Public Enterprises, in regards to Samoa Land Corporation for making it clear on the list that Aana Alofi No.2 College is on lease, it is very clear that the College is using the lease, as for the village of Apolima it has a different lease. To clear the confusion the lease for the college is different. The matter has been clarified and I am grateful, I pray to the village of Apolima with respect, *susu ai Sa Sau ma Tooa ma le Usoalii, e alaatai ai Sa Sauma*, to support our College since it is safe with our village. You are the frontliners, the constituency is big, therefore let us make an effort for our College, you are also the ones that will protect our school grounds, students and teachers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to remind the member that his time is finish, but I will give you an opportunity to speak to your constituency. Remember there are subsequent opportunities that will allow you 15 minutes, you have already spoken for 40 minutes.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you Mr Speaker, I believe this is enough, we have a lot of opinions to convey, however I will respect the Chair in the administration of our orders. I want to thank the House, with respect to our extended session. May this evening be fruitful for Samoa, my constituency also listening in this evening, your member is doing well. There will come a time when we will meet, do not worry we have a lot of days left to prepare.

18 JUNE 2020

Keep the brethren ready, let us not disturb them. If some of the members do come by, at least we are seated and calm, let us meet someday.

Blessings upon my constituency of Falelatai and Samatau listening in, as well as this Sitting. Also many blessings upon the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. He is the sole representative of the constituency of Falelatai and Samatau. I have a feeling that the wonderful speech and sound advice given has been heard by all. The House are also aware of the matters, thank you for the recommendations, we will leave it to the Government, they will distribute for our constituency. I now call upon Susuga Seiuli Ueligitone, the member of Sagaga le Usoga.

Susuga SEIULI UELIGITONE SEIULI (Sagaga le Usoga): Sagaga No 2 your Excellency. It has been replaced with Sagaga No.2. Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I have just finished conversing with Saleaula, and I have been given the opportunity to speak before Saleaula. First of all, I greet the dignity of the House, it is the House of providence for Samoa. It is a House where foresight is spoken, it is the pinnacle that elevates the words of Samoa, in front of God for blessings upon Samoa. I humbly greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, also Associate Ministers.

I also acknowledge members opposing Government, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons as well as other members of the House. I greet the Chief Executives of Government Ministries and Organisations, who are the hands and feet of Government for the benefit of Samoa. I acknowledge the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly also the respects of the office serving this Parliament. I greet all of Samoa, I believe you are a dignified country, a country already chosen and not viable. There is nothing that can be added or taken away from your respects. Your respects from the beginning until this day. Mr Speaker, I believe I should speak upon my constituency Sagaga No.2. They are listening and giving support thus they cannot ever be forgotten. The 3 houses of my constituency, Tuanai, Afega and Malie.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

My village of Tuanai, *le afio o Saena ma le aiga Sa Saena. Susu Luafatasaga o le alo o fuatino, afio Tuitea na tofia papa. Lau fetalaiga Tupai le fale ma le afu o le Alataua.* Also my village of Afega, *le afio o le aiga Sa Gauifaleai, lo oulua toalua Fata ma Maulolo o tuitui o le Gatoaitete, le vagana i tulafale ma upu ia te oe Tuisamau.*

18 JUNE 2020

My village Malie, *i le susu ai o le Tapaau Faasisina, le susu ai o Malietoa, e susu i lona nofoa vaevaeloloa i lona fala folalooa i lona tala na atoa, a malele ua faafofoga i ai Samoa. Afio Maualaivao ma le Matua ia Faamausili, susu Seiuli o le umi na taulata i le Toafitu ma Auimatagi. Susu Taito o le fuaialii ma le Aiga Sa Maualaivao. Le mamalu tele i pou e fitu o le Maota o Malietoa ma lau Fetalaiga Auimatagi, le alo o Lelu ma Salepo, le upega o fetalaiga i le lauti na laulelei.* Your member has prospered, for your support is like that of the applause for Feepo. Mr Speaker I will not be long.

The Budget, the House have seen the Estimates, it presents 25 key features of the stimulus package. I will summarise all of these grants but would like to add a few thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance for this plan. The interest on contributions to the NPF, which is \$35 million for this financial year, is expected to start in July. For the information of the members of this Parliament, a large number of public servants, companies and corporations are waiting for this important assistance, as many things are needed this time in our daily lives. I am grateful to the Hon Minister of Finance for this great initiative. As stated by some members in this House, we are grateful for the old people's pension which has been increased by \$160 from the previous \$145. It is also a joy to the grandfathers and grandmothers now. As with other regulations, pensions will continue for those who travel by boat between the 2 islands of Upolu and Savaii. But I would like to ask the Hon Minister of Finance, in regards to NPF, why not include our island of Manono. There are a few women and men travelling in these boats, between Manono Island and Apolima in Upolu. It would be great if you could include these old women and men the pensioners under this scheme, I heard it is only between Salelologa and Mulifanua, but it would be better if Manono and Apolima islands are included as well under these benefits.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

Then I come to the matter of shelter improvement under the ADRA programme. I want to thank the Hon Minister for this program. It was noted during the measles outbreak, that a lot of families affected by the outbreak were financially vulnerable. But they can build good homes for them to

18 JUNE 2020

reside. Thank you for such assistance given to families who are less fortunate, through the collaboration of ADRA. Thank you for...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member of Sagaga, I will give the opportunity to the member to hear what he wants to say.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: The request made by the member to the Associate Minister of Works, it seems he is requesting something of the Minister he is working with, however he is voicing the request in the House, but he should be talking with his Minister. Convey a request because it seems like authority is overstepping onto individual boat owners transporting people. This is between Manono and Apolima, with respect. Similarly, it looks like the Minister is not communicating with his Associate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Minister.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: The member does not understand the speech made by the member. The request is made to NPF, they are the ones in charge of the pension. As for boat fare, we will talk about it later and see what needs to be done. But the member is talking about the pension, because only Upolu and Savaii are free, and the member wants the same for Manono. Therefore, the request is being made to NPF whether it will be accepted under their scheme.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can see that the matter has been made clear with the clarification of the Hon Minister. The member should recall that there is a difference between matters in and out of the House. The constituency is listening, the member may continue.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: Mr Speaker, a point of clarification. If this request to NPF is accepted, and the benefits are given, they will not be able to travel, they will use the pension for travelling but there are no boats to travel in, with respect.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is good that the member is listening, as for matters on a point of order or clarification, the Chair must be informed first.

18 JUNE 2020

Susuga Mulipola Leiataua Laki: I want to assist in clarifying the matter, since villages of this constituency are mentioned. The member is speaking about public matters, it is not something he and the Minister should be whispering about since it is something that will benefit the country. Therefore, I support this initiative, Manono should also benefit from this scheme, if the boats from my village are going to be overseen by Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Aiga i le Tai.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: I understand that the pensioners, includes everyone no matter where you reside, if it is Manono, once you get the pensioners card you can use it, a wharf is going to be setup in Manono, perhaps there will be boats then. However, there are already boats being used for transportation for Manono, where the elders ride for free since they do not have to pay a fare. This is further clarification on the matter, as the previous member just stated such matters affects the country as a whole. All pensioners, when you turn 65 you go to NPF you get a card that you can use for free travel and free medication. The reason why pensioners are being withheld from travelling, is to abide with the advice from NEOF, but the Shipping company is not withholding these benefits, perhaps very soon a recommendation will be given by the Committee in charge of Emergency orders. Then travel will be open again for elderly men and women to travel on boats, to use their pension card. For now, it is on hold due to our lockdown. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe the response given by Government to clarify a matter is the answer for everyone. Therefore, pardon the member who wants to speak on this matter, I believe it has been clarified and understood. I call upon the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: Mr Speaker since I am the Minister of NPF, the policy implemented for pensioners only allows for travel to Salelologa between Upolu and Savaii. But since the Chief Executive of the National

18 JUNE 2020

Provident Fund and Chairman is here, I have advised him to carry out a review, and make a recommendation for another time. Should we open free travelling for pensioners between Manono tai and Manono uta, as well as Manono uta and Apolima. Perhaps it is something that we will be looking into, before a recommendation is made and be included in the Budget or the next stimulus package. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House has heard the speech of the Hon Minister of Finance that is the spirit. The Minister should remember a boat is a boat. The distance is the same, there are a lot of elderlies in Manono and Apolima, but the Minister has spoken as the Chief Executive is listening, make this happen quickly. Because the House is disordered over this matter, 65 is 65. Whether they are from Manono, Apolima or Savaii. The member of Sagaga No 2 may continue.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: There are things that has not yet been decided. The Covid which is affecting the whole world seems to like those who are 65 years and over. But we will wait until the pandemic resides, then it can be reviewed, the main purpose of this to discourage those 65 and over to travel but to stay home, incase something happens and we will be the first to go. But let us be patient, once a solution is found a review will be carried out as proposed by the member of Manono.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the member to continue, as your constituency of Sagaga No.2 shows support.

Susuga SEIULI UELIGITONE SEIULI: Mr Speaker, do not intervene since my minutes are nearly finished. A clarification has been made by my Minister to the member who interrupted, we are not in charge of the pension as I requested to the Minister of NPF, to be merciful, elderlies travelling between Manono uta and Manono tai also to Apolima still pay boat fares.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

The wharf will also be built at Manono uta, providing for larger vessels with more people travelling between Manono. This is why I request to show the same compassion to this side of the island. These are the only assistance

18 JUNE 2020

I can recall for now, the blessings, I want to thank Government corporations for everyday assistance, for our water and electricity costs has been decreased until December. This is a great relief for our country, because these are the things that are needed everyday, electricity and water. This also includes other organisations who have offered support services during this time that Samoa is facing the disease. Our Main Estimates 2020/2021, if this House looks at the Budget, there are 34 Ministries and Corporations that have been allocated funds to operate their services. Of this amount, no Ministry or organisation has less than one million, it is more than a million, and some Ministries have \$100 million, in the Budget allocated for Ministries and Corporations of Government for the financial year 2020/2021.

I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance for this Budget, I commend you for the efforts as well as the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance. Thank you for your distribution to areas that need assistance, for the foresight and consideration for what may follow. This constituency supports the Supplementary Appropriation 2019/2020, as well as the Appropriation 2020/2021.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Minister of Samoa Land Corporation. Thank you Afioga Lautafi Purcell for releasing 120 acres for this village, this village has long been requesting assistance for lands inland of our village. I am grateful, we have started surveying the 120 acres of land that has been donated to this village for agricultural development. Perhaps this is all Mr Speaker.

I commend Mr Speaker, for administering our Parliament this evening. May the Lord give you strength and wisdom to fulfill your duties this evening. God bless Samoa and this Sitting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well. I commend the member, outstanding speeches are made by those who have the knowledge. The constituency have heard as well as this House. I commend you for the preparations, I now call upon one of the eldest members, this is your opportunity. The member from Gagaemauga No 2.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Afioga Hon FAASOOTAULOA PATI TAULAPAPA (Gagaemauga No 2): Thank you Mr Speaker, the Hon Leader of Government, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet present. I believe, before I comment on the

18 JUNE 2020

Budget, first of all I want to thank the Leader of Government, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as all respectable members of our Assembly. I acknowledge Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries present here with us. I believe the tide has turned and the lowlands have swelled. Thus opinions have been heard, of tama and aiga, aiga and tama. I thought I would not speak, but I believe it is understood that members who spoke are enough to contribute to the Main Estimates. However, I sat here with concern, and now take the stand with anxiety. Least there might be boisterous statements made upon opinions conveyed in this Sitting.

Therefore, I want to apologize, I believe I am too old, also my strength is not what is used to be, it is why I am cautious, with respect there might be a word said out of character. But I want to thank all members who have shown support for this constituency, on matters conspired. I believe I do not have to speak more on the matter. However, since there is a mix up of information. This is why I have taken the floor to clarify this matter. I am grateful to those who showed compassion for my constituency, because Samoa is a country already chosen. A path has already been set out. But I will not think about it. I do believe that all authority are from God. This is the spirit of this member, I am old and my strength is not the same anymore, I have forgotten some information.

I want to thank the Leader of Government, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. For the good work carried out for the benefit of Samoa and its people. This is why I was thinking, because there were some people that came to see me. They said, that I should go to my village and oppose the Bill, I responded, I have already seen the Hon Prime Minister as well as the village, my time is finish. Who would want it, however I will keep the peace. I am cautious of such matters, because I have been in politics for a long time. I am in a position where I should respect and obey the Leader of Government, on what terms? I have accepted the statement of the Hon Prime Minister that it will be changed again. There will come a time, whatever the situation may be? If so, then I will wait with the belief, wherever it may lead, perhaps there will come a day and time when it is achieved.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

This is also why I have thought, there is still the seat of Saleaula. But the only thing I am worried about is Saleaula not being successful next time. This means there will be no more seat for Saleaula. At the moment I am

18 JUNE 2020

trying to negotiate with my village that we should try to get a seat. Perhaps there will come a time, or day, according to the will of God. God is willing, as for other circumstances I believe I am not alone on this matter. It is happening to all of us. For Tumua, also the other constituencies, which I believe is like my constituency. I believe it is not a constituency that should be disputed, Saleaula and Fatuvalu are the Puleono of Salafai.

This is why I keep praying to the Lord to have mercy. Perhaps one day, the Hon Prime Minister will change his mind and bring Salamumu back into our constituency. It is not something that will be left alone. A village will not be night forever. But this is the spirit in me, I do not have the strength, perhaps I will come again.

I will not laugh at such things because if I have the strength, I will come back. I will personally try to confront the Hon Prime Minister, come a day an official decision will be made, for he has the calling of God. God has the power to change the will of the Hon Prime Minister, then our village will be placed back where it used to be, we do not vote here, as the words of the country, the path to authority is through service. We do not vote here in Upolu but will start by going to Saleaula. These are a few things I concerned over. Therefore, I pray with respect, to whoever who has compassion for Saleaula and its endeavours, please leave it to Saleaula, have mercy because Tofa Olo Fiti is a Saleaula. This is also why I lost to Tofa Olo Fiti, I knew it was an offence but I did not indict him.

This is why, I have a pure heart. I do not want to prosecute someone before the law. But I will conclude on this matter. Show amity towards Tofa Olo Fiti and Susuga Laauli Polataivao, I have, and I know they have great respect for me. Maybe it is because I am an old man, I humbly ask that both of you come and embrace our Government, let us all work together. A village will not be night forever, for the Lord is always kind. Day by day, I pray the spirit of the Lord be with the Hon Prime Minister, so his love for the people may grow, so that our Government will be restructured.

There is a matter with the Courts I want to speak upon. There is the procedure that after a court case the judge signs it, the person who reverses the decision, is imprisoned. Unfortunately, how many times have decisions been changed and appealed? It just portrays that the administration of court rulings are dishonest. This is a humble request to the Judiciary.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

What does it mean for a court decision to be finalised but is later appealed? But the judge has already signed that Lafai has won. This is a

18 JUNE 2020

recommendation, it seems there is no certainty on the decisions signed by the Judiciary.

The Hon Minister of Environment. There is something I want to voice, incase I will not come back, perhaps I have already visited you about the headland beside our constituency, the flow of the sea is being blocked coming inland, for the fishes to come into the lagoon, we visited with our village. I request with respect, whether there is additional funding from the Ministry to resolve this matter, perhaps if it is granted I am certain you will come back.

I want to thank the Minister of Works, thank you for the developments. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance, for his generous support, because I believe eventhough there is an increase and decrease in our Budget, you are still doing your job. This is the same with all the other Ministers, I am grateful because I know it is not an easy task, but this is my plead Hon Prime Minister, I will be patient with what you have stated to be done. There will be another time. It is not yet time for God to call upon you, but I hope Salamumu will be returned back to Saleaula with respect, bless our Sitting.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, with all due respect, I humbly ask for an opportunity to say a word to the elder, of Saleaula with respect. Yes, Tofa Faasootauloa Taulapapa...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you the opportunity.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: There is no intention to strike again, hence the speeches conveyed within the House have been heard. Our sitting is a sitting of friendship. Matautu is present, you have observed the attempt of Saleaula, and Lavea or Asiata, it is true that it is compassion. The member has spoken therefore we will not speak further, we have so much respect for you Tofa Faasootauloa Taulapapa, not only are you one of longest serving members of this House but you are also Pule Faavae.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

All the chiefs abide to you. But those were also our concerns. I did mean to threaten you Tofa Faasootauloa Taulapapa. I was following on the matter

18 JUNE 2020

why our Party has removed me. But this is the spirit, I have so much respect for you. We do not have anything further to voice, we will give the opportunity to Saleaula. There will come a day. May the Lord show kindness in prolonging your life, to weather calamities so that we will achieve good results.

Thank you Matautu, as for our efforts in the past, that is how we look after each other. Because you are the first, by whom the Maota of Vaituutuu seeks refuge, Tupua in Vaituutuu. Those are our aspirations for Tupua in Finao. It is not Lavea and Faletoi we are taking care of it, but as for disputes expressed this evening we will sail like Sa Saumani. With respect.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call upon the Leader of Government.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker the member of Saleaula have spoken, and the House have listened. The only thing I am worried about, is that the member has confessed.

If we were to apply cultural practices, this is the only thing I am worried about, it is perversion. The Bill has already been passed by Parliament. We are now using it now. The member of Saleaula has also spoken upon it as well. The only thing that worries me, is the use of words making it look like these are the circumstances voiced by the member upstanding, but this is not the case.

The member who just concluded. The only thing that I have noted is perversion. But a decision has already been made by Parliament.

Mr Speaker, let us progress with our Sitting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, pardon the member upstanding, I believe we will...

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, everything is clear with those who have a good heart. You know what the Leader of

18 JUNE 2020

Government said is best, that is his own opinion. However I am clean of such matters of perversion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will conclude this matter. It is finished... Laauli take your seat and let the Chair speak. The Chair will convey instructions. The rules that govern this House, is that no one can speak on a matter that has already been passed. I gave you the opportunity out of consideration, this is enough. Your statement has been heard, it is enough. As for the other part of your speech, I apologise to the member. I will not accept other matters not related to the issue be discussed. This is why I want to say, this is enough. The decision has already been made by the House, let us follow it. If there is anything further, is there a reason why the member of Faleata is upstanding?

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: I wish to speak, if you see it fit. After your speech.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, let the Chair carry out its duties until it is concluded. It is best if I remind members, if the Chair speaks, our work should be done together. Members should show support, because the work of the Chair is guided by Standing Orders. Therefore we cannot bypass it.

I appease the member, to be patient and wait until the Chair concludes his statement, then an opportunity will be given. I believe there is nothing more to say on the matter. But I thank the Elder member, for the speech conveyed hence the constituency and the House have heard, thank you and God bless. I call upon the member of Faasaleleaga No.3.

Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU (Faasaleleaga Nu.3.): Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you for the work you have done this evening. First I would like to acknowledge the dignity of the House, the House of sovereignty, here in Tiafau. With utmost respect I greet the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister also Cabinet.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

I also acknowledge this side of the House, Chairpersons of Committees, especially members who are present with us this evening. I also want to take

18 JUNE 2020

this opportunity to acknowledge His Excellency Le Ao o le Malo and his Goodlady, the Member of Council of Deputies and his Goodlady. The Chief Justice, President and the Judiciary, thank you for the support while the Parliament of Samoa attend to its duties.

Let us not forget the clergy for their prayers night and day, for the blessings upon the Government of Samoa, not only that but for the blessings of Samoa especially in such times, with the problems we are facing and pandemic. I acknowledge the work of our clergy and church denominations in the country. Least I cannot forget the dignity of all Samoa, a country already divided into honorary salutations therefore I will not speak further on its respects, because these are the respect of our country from the past that no one can change. As for this opportunity, it is mainly for appreciation.

I want to thank the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet for the several development faced with Government, ever since 2016 since this term started, up until now developments are still in progress. Samoa is witness to all the work done. Therefore I want to commend you for the courage, thank you for your patience. Thank you for everything. Not only for the developments done in Apia, but also for Savaii, the airport and ongoing road works, thank you for all the work.

Thank you also for the work in Savaii, such as the Maliolio bridge. I believe this is the spirit of God, let us work for the betterment of Samoa, thank you Hon Prime Minister. I commend you for the courage and patience, eventhough there have been many challenges, the word is, ‘those who beleive in God, prosper in what they do.’ I am also grateful to our Ministers, I know the majority have already thanked you all for the work faced with the Ministries.

I thank as well the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries, I commend you for the hard work, also a special thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance, the Chief Executive and Ministry, especially to all the Ministries who worked together in putting together the Budget. I believe the theme has been achieved, the theme states, weaving a prosperous and secure future for Samoa together. The theme is very interesting, and this is the themes that seems to have been achieved, this is seen in the distribution and proper allocation of funds.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

Congratulations to the Ministry of Finance especially the Hon Minister, I feel proud Afioga Sili Epa, the son of Faasaleleaga, from the island of

18 JUNE 2020

Salafai, I commend you for your patience and courage on distribution. This is the spirit of the Lord, for those who believe in Him, it is also the spirit of the Lord for everyone to be blessed in this allocation, which is from our parents, forefathers and children. Not only that but for those who have special conditions, you have distributed to them as well. Not only that but to the various Ministries, thank you, the theme speaks the truth, let us weave together a prosperous and stable future for Samoa. The theme is just and right, so praise be to you.

For the Appropriation, this constituency gives their support, the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, we support the Budget as tabled. But we have a few requests we wish to convey.

Before I voice our requests, there is only one Minister that we want to voice our requests and recommendations, the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Hon Papalii Niko Lee Hang, the majority of our requests are for the development of access roads, seawall and a few other things. But I want to say thank you, on behalf of this constituency, Faasaleleaga No.3, from Saipipi to Siufaga.

I wish to extend great appreciation to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for the huge projects spent on this district. Seawall areas and access roads, the people are saying, gratitude for the works, they are not cheap, they thank the Hon Minister, Susuga Papalii or Afioga Unasa.

Thanks for the help, the only matters I raised in my speech in 2016 for this district were seawall areas and access roads. Truthfully speaking, these access roads were raised when in reality, the people had settled further inland. All plantations, work, school buildings, temples, pastor's homes, they have all been relocated inland because of the strong and huge impact of these waves upon the settlers.

It is just like traveling to Savaii in Faasaleleaga, strong waves can wash the sand and land inland from the coast for this district. I thank God and the State for the works in operation. The same appreciation for the work in Savaii especially the bridge in Maliolio and this large project. The only advise, now that vehicles can now pass the Maliolio bridge but when it comes to Lano, they are blocked as raised by one of the members. A concrete bridge in Lano is necessary. When passing Lano bridge, it will be good to go through Itu a Tane and Asau areas before reaching another problem in Sapapalii.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

That means, there is a need for these rivers or alias to bring assistance. Because it would be meaningless to have Maliolio when the vehicles will come to a halt in Lano...

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the speaking member I allow the Hon Minister to speak.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you, I have already mentioned these concrete bridges which was raised by another speaker in Lano and Sapapalii, and underway plans for these major projects. Maliolio is now finished, followed by Lano, and Sapapalii. The statement is correct, the drainage that is blocking the...when we have floodwaters. Leave it to us lest this matter is raised again. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, go ahead member for Faasaleleaga. The Minister's statement is well explained.

Afioga TOFA FOLENI LIO TAMA GALU: Thank you Hon Minister, it is true as you spoke about it, but just a reminder. The water in Maliolio, Lano and Sapapalii as in truth, *e a ulu tafega, ae selefutia Vaisigano*.

The river in Patamea and...there is huge valley there, when water breaks, it can greatly affect Faasaleleaga. In saying that, the waterway from the sea in the village of Lano and Sapapalii including other villages at Amoa area. Because nowadays, the huge impact is brought about by sea level rising and water. But thank you for all the good works done because when it comes to the transportation of emergency cases to the Tuasivi hospital and there is a block, then that is one reason.

Another thing why this bridge is needed for us in Savaii is because there is only one township area which is Salelologa and a wharf. The same people in the itu a Tane, Asau o Salega, they all need the wharf in Salelologa. If there is a block due to the waterflow then work and school cannot go through here, but gratitude to the Hon Minister, plus another big thanks for the Salelologa township area.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet, for the development that has begun in Salelologa and the NPF development which is very significant building for the sake of employees in Savaii most particularly the senior age group.

The only thing, there is the Maota airport in Salelologa, thankfully this domestic airport is also under development, when this airport is opened, this Maota airport should resume operation. Those are some of the developments in Savaii which is necessary to implement. Because when it comes to critical conditions and the inter ferry schedule is not on time, then it all comes back to here. Additionally, a second ferry would be good for Savaii like the Lady Samoa III which I hear it will be done. Gratefully we have the Lady Samoa III plus a few small ferries that is doing the work for us in the meantime. That said, let me address my constituency.

To my constituency, let me extend great thanks to the State for all the good works and major developments they have achieved for our district and Samoa in particular. As such to my constituency in all your honorifics, well done to your support and prayers. Thank you to the members of the clergy for your never-ending support and prayers. Just a reminder in regards to our current state restrictions, I convey gratitude to the NEOC team. Thank you. The only plea, let us go with that, although we have no cases yet, but no one knows that. With the virus that is now affecting the world, it is not known whether this is a reminder from God to the world, because the Bible says, “when disease and tribulations hit us, then know that the Kingdom of God is coming near.” This is the reminder to Samoa and the entire world. Therefore, we must pray and fast everyday, this is the only way. If the doctors’ knowledge has become limited in finding a cure, there is only one remedy, pray and fast. This is the only way for Samoa and the whole world. Thank you Hon Prime Minister and the Committee for being vigilant for our protection, all the restrictions we have in place is for our own good, up to Sunday this is the important thing for me, Sunday must be honored so that all people go to church to pray for blessings upon Samoa and our families.

To my district I know this is also your will as conveyed, well done to your support. With respect to the honorable Speaker, thank you for conducting our sitting tonight, may it be blessed together with the dignity of Parliament, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and staff, Government Chiefs and the notable Sitting this evening. May the spirit of God be with us when we disperse tonight. With all due respect. Thank you.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done to the member for Faasaleleaga No.3, he is also the Lay Preacher, thank you for the good words of encouragement as we move forward.

I will allow the member for Faleata West or Faleata Number 3.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West): Thank you for the chance Mr Speaker. I firstly greet the Meeting House of Samoa where decisions are made for the prosperity of Samoa. It is the House where you enter with great respect and observation as it is based on solid foundation. It is based on solid rock which does not change from the beginning to the end.

With respect I greet Samoa from high mountains to small mountains, the chosen members of the clergy of Samoa in your honorifics. I further greet the honorable Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, deputy Prime Minister and the dignity of the Cabinet, Associate Ministers, distinguished Parliament and the public servants of the State who are serving the country everyday.

Fai mai e faapopo o ni aso ua a o aso folau e le tuua. No medical strength nor military energy can stop God's timing. The only thing we can do is to manage our journey and depend on God to lead us all the times. This Term is coming to an end, whilst we are still complete, and God only called one man. Although majority are seen with grey hair and some with thin hair, thankfully you do not have my bald style, I am still cute. The chosen leaders of Samoa was not easy. I will conclude with you my statement as there is change which we now have. Just a few things here I wish to remind to the constituency before I get to the Budget.

Firstly, we have an encouragement from the lady manager of LTA, the same with the Minister, in regards to the road in Falelauniu, which was raised by the Urban Seat member, long time ago, from the previous Term until the time I had undertaken the post for Falelauniu, I had begun making this request, and had no longer became a member of Falelauniu, otherwise I had continued a prayer for the Hon Minister, because whenever I give my words, I must comply by it.

Falelauniu has responded, our road is now being tendered, thank you Hon Minister and Government Chief. Even if I am not the representative of Falelauniu, thankfully they have responded, and the road connecting to Aleisa, the Prime Minister has already spoken, those are a few matters. Faleata does not demand anything.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

I have one common request which was the school in Vaitele, the request started with Vaitele Primary School and just last week, it became Tafaigata Primary School. I do not know how it changed from Vaitele to Tafaigata. Although it is fine as it is the same thing. Hon Minister, many people have thanked you, both our schools were constructed together, thankfully the old prison site will be used for this school building which is suitable. But do not forget that I have longed requested the Vaitele school building, you said, we have 6 more months to go for this Term, please I leave it beside you the necessary thing to do about this regard. Note that there is only one college for all these primary schools and the number is getting big. Faleata hall is now completed and is the first hall ever established as we all witnessed during the launching last month, henceforth, thank I appreciate it very much.

Hon Minister of Women, I will not speak any further as you have already spoken of Women which is very important for villages in the town area, thankfully a plan is now in place for it which is highly necessary, particularly with the komiti tumama or hygiene groups, I trust this will be a great revenue earning, let us see if this komiti tumama will come under the women's council. The *komiti a tina* is also the *komiti tumama* to avoid confusion and complexity with the progress of programs and if this is your proposal your honour, then very well.

Another thing as I said before, with regards to the Ministry and in my belief, this is the whole key focus for all developments in Samoa. It is also the central point of communication for the Government and all the villages of Samoa. Keep in mind, whether necessary to change the name of the Ministry of Women, insert Ministry of Community and Social Development to include all women and men and everyone in the village community.

The Minister of Land, there are a few complaints which I trust you have received on...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the current speaker, I permit the Hon Minister the chance, perhaps there is a critical matter to...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker, let me just remind the House that this is the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. It is not just women, there is also the community and social development for the country. With respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: This part is clear. Go ahead.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: The advice has been laid out and your attempt to correct it.

Coming on to the Budget currently under discussion, honorable Speaker and the listening public as well as the Minister, the Budget is a complete one. I have never seen a thick book with the details herein stating the full details of the budget. The advice to this Parliament, once we have the budget, we should have two Budget schedules, it is the Budget Statement and the physical strategy statement. If we can have a read through these two books, then we will know in detail wholly the reasons why the Budget statements are made. The word that become the main focus for me or the theme of the Budget, let us work together for the guaranteed prosperity of Samoa and its future. The word I wish to emphasise is future. We started off with live by the means available, right now, we cannot rely on anything else except the future.

Hon Minister of Finance, the problem faced by the world today is not easy. Many of the problems and its severity has form a combination of health crisis and economic crisis or financial crisis. The world is in serious trouble including Samoa.

The meaning of my explanation, our economy and normal finance process will no longer depend on fiscal strategy. Thankfully our debts are still retained below 11% and 20% for expenditures, revenue. Therefore, there is a huge chance to borrow money whenever required. In my belief, more requirement is needed. The statement issued from IMF says, we must get out of our comfort zone, and use conscious mindset, in accordance to the physical and mental side and that of our economic status. There is no coronavirus case yet in the country, nonetheless, our economy has been horrendously affected.

The emphasis here your honour, is survival. There are 3 main things which I wish to emphasise for human survival. The main focus the world is emphasizing today involves these 3 elements; (1) health. (2) food security. (3). Employment. These are the 3 things that we are giving great importance to right now.

With health, I heed great appreciation with the status that our country is currently in. I am not praising or anything, Samoa and the entire world is aware of your roles and responsibilities, for the protection of Samoa, and therefore continue the necessary work that ought to be done.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

On to food supply, I wish to convey appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture, for the sufficient food supply that is available in Samoa. I see that the cultivation of crops is developing and the negotiation of export supplies and taro is easy, but priority should be our homes first. We see it in many countries around the world. We even see it in America which is one of the richest countries unfortunately, her economy and people are now suffering from starvation. What about us? We thank God for his neverending supply to us. We had disputed the issue on us being in isolation and now what? This had led us into our own security. Others say that our weather is tropical, however, this has taken refuge upon us and our protection.

Then you give importance to employment. Because all economies of the world depends on employment. As such, some have commented about the raising economy of Samoa since the start until now and queries on our economy. If you look at the statistics, for someone to come to Samoa to find search the situation of our economy?

There is information that we must first look at. In relation to the statistical figures of Samoa's GDP and economy, this information goes through the Bureau of Statistics first before it comes to us for our view. In that regard from 1990, the GDP for Samoa was only \$300,000. And in 2000 it came to a billion, and in 2020, it was \$2billion. The developments of Samoa therefore depends on this number, which omitted us from least developed country to developing country.

Hon Minister of Finance, I acknowledge the State for the Budget for the sustenance of employment for our people for the next 12 months. In advise, with regards to the situation of workers in other areas of the private sector especially tourism and the general public.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the speaking member, the Leader of the Government may have the chance.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, try and translate GDP into Samoan as our district do not understand it. My district is alright as they know English.

Can you repeat your announcement again? GDP is the total accumulation of a country's revenues together with the Government's. You multiply that by the total population to get one person for the given \$10,000 per annum.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

But it would be nice to have your figures again for the sake of our districts in the back as they do not understand other parts of your English translations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the respectable member to resume a response...

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister, I guess he is correct, I always make reference of Faleata people, I mean they are now watching TV and they are getting the computer to work these numbers. Hon Prime Minister, this is the job I do, if the constituency lacks insight, speak Samoan to them.

However, the important thing stated by the Hon Prime Minister, my papers are getting mixed up by Soalo who is touching me, true that the most vital matter now is our income per capita. It is money for everyone else. From 1990, the measure we used was 1,700. Up until 2,000, it is 4,000 and right now, it is 11,000. Perhaps there was no latest update for this number by the Hon Prime Minister, however this is the update I have received, the income per capita is now 11,000.

Which means that Samoa now has an improved standard which is excellent. Whose job is it? It is all of us. Before the virus and this Budget, we were one country with a significant high economy, as clearly indicated in the Budget. Then came the virus and the situation with our economy, as I said, we are at a stage called survival, or trying to survive again. Such is the meaning of my advice Hon Minister and the State, we have so many works from the past until now. And therefore we should not think lightly of these things. As the Hon Minister stated, there was only one year where there was a slight reduction in our economy, it was only in 2016/2017 and from there on, since the closure of Yazaki Company. The belief right now, there is the closure of 2 to 3 Yazakis.

I thank the Government for holding back the public servants. Although the advice is, I too have 10 workers. I have advised the workers that there will be a layoff for the time being until it gets better...but they cried. What then shall we do about it? The we tried to negotiate the wages for workers from one week to another, and pray that hopefully time will come soon... for us, a worker at EPC who is staying at my place said, Leala, when you wake up in the morning you put on your overall suit and your boots and get on the the truck and that is just enough for me. Even when you get \$50 per fortnight, at least I am happy.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

It is very important. Do note that the RSA Scheme people are returning home soon for further plans in the future. Schools will be finished at the end of the year and there will be a rising number of workers. In saying that your honour, I trust you have received it too, a remedy for this problem is required as we move forward.

There is an advice that assists with the preparations of the State 1. We are now fully assured, protect Samoa from the virus, there is no case in Samoa. So, most restrictions can be lifted now, that is my belief. Close borders as stated in the orders and if there is the need to lift a ban, I trust we should look at that, hotels and the normal undertakings, shops, restaurants, clubs, and everything else, is the normal activities of this world.

There were a few comments on small shops operations which is nothing new. It was recommended 10 years ago the order for opening hours so that there is some collaboration and contribution towards our economy. If this is the will of the State, good, rather it is vital to look at Friday, Saturday as the shops are now closed on Sundays and so time extension for opening hours should be implemented.

For Sunday, when time permits as this is covered under biblical doctrines, because I refuse as we all had different education. For me alone, it is my temple, my heart.

Another issue is electricity bill. I guess this is what Parliament was following on the many businesses and developments regarding electricity fees. Right now Hon Minister of Works, there is an increased fee... I am not talking about the normal consumption cost that utilizes units, I am not rejecting anything, I urge that you pay up your units, wherever you are, pay it. There is an additional charge that the State should look at, leave aside that cost for another 6 months or 12 months. Particularly for this existing fix rate. The current fix rate is only applied to 100 companies. Also note that these companies employees about 90% or 80% of people in the private sector. The cost, starting from \$130 per day to \$1,500 fix rate per day, which is quite expensive, especially for capacity of 50 workers and over. Because we cannot undertake a consensus from these companies, stop work and allow the State to offer assistance on fix rate.

We now have the assistance from the EPC, to reduce the fix rate of 50% on this addition. Your honour, if you have \$1,500 fix rate to pay per day, if it comes down to half of that, it is \$750, which is separate from that normal fee.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Your honour that is the plea, have a look into this as it is vital. Leave this money aside, and bring the companies agreement to retain our people for now. At this stage, it is vital for us to make necessary decisions depending on what we are seeing and the situation we are in. If there is a monitoring process, and there is a thing called return in equity, which is what the State intends to make returns of 7% which can be negotiated. It can be done. The main focus is to pay up bills and do not avoid that and allow the EPC to absorb that including ourselves. Because the charge I am hearing is the fee for no loan repayments which uses to execute this job. This is therefore not something bad.

Personally, why are we being penalized to pay this loan at this point in time? Extend back to 50 years time for us to make gradual repayments for true as Peseta stated, we all make loans. I have been employed for over 30 years yet I am still paying my loans. I told my spouse, do not worry, we will always live by loaning, but we will use our children to pay for them. Yes we have the loanpayers. Such is the explanation. Another vital point, because this is pertained to the business people who are facing the employees.

Hon Minister of Finance you are one courageous Minister. You have made a lot of good changes. You have said that this will commence in July, no that is your own opinion, but these matters are negotiable. I am not saying, that recommendation be given, no that cannot be avoided as they are good developments. The appropriateness is to bring consistency for businesses to pay up these things. As they have been in operation in Samoa for long, and they were the first ones on this matter. Because there have been many new business companies that have not been paying any tax. So the advice to your honour, give it 3 to 6 months time for this to be fulfilled. Looking at it, they are there to consult and if a person can implement this given the large capital cost for other offices. But will leave it to you Hon Minister. Then we come to stimulus package which brings light burden and benefit for our country, thank you very much. Thank you to the NPF and the \$35million funding that will be distributed. This is one Ministry that is sharing the load from our suffering.

The prayer for the Ministry Heads, do not submit it as a loan, distribute this 7% to the back. Give it to them as it is their own choice, if affordable they can leave it in their accounts, if needed, offer them a direct gift of 7% for the time being. Because the receiving bonus is mostly 10% and if 10% then it is nothing new, it is something normal. And if we distribute it for free, then it will more be excellent.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

The blessing of those who give is far more than those who receive. Yes, as for us in Parliament, Fagaivalu had spoken of it, this is another small bald headed. It seems funny but it is not funny at all. The State's purpose for initiating these pensions for us is great. But it is important to look at the implementation, as we must see it fit according to the demands of today. Because if I had just come in at 30 plus years of age, there will be no money at all and if I want to make a loan using this pension.

And it is disallowed as it is prohibited. Have a look whether possible for special provisions can be made in assistance to our fellow member. Another thing, there a tariff or added percentage at this point for the business people. Just a slight recommendation, it is something that can be done, it can be negotiated. Thank you very much for the soft interest rates for individuals and borrowings for large groups. Particularly this interest rates not only at NPF, but also small finance services which must be regulated. The central bank should implement an advice to these small finance services so as to avoid any default on the loans of people who are finding it difficult to obtain loans approval.

On to this Act, I should say something on this existing Act which has resulted in so many comments from the public. The more the thoughts, the more knowledge and awareness, worthiness and goodness of something. The first thing in my belief, is who did it? And what are the reasons behind these changes? We have all lived here in Samoa. And there have been many issues on the rise, and so who else do we seek refuge from? We seek help from this Parliament. Such is the reason for the necessary changes. But they are not big. Although the main focus of my view, I have talked with my sister living abroad last week. I said to her, look, we here in Parliament are Samoan chiefs. Fathers, families, we have chosen to live and end our lives here in Samoa.

The meaning of my explanation, we are caretakers, we are trustees. Whatever laws we do, we do it with love and assurance for the wellbeing of Samoa. Because when we have someone else coming here with its own thoughts and mind to make laws, that could influence the prosperity of the country, it will be a pity for them, yes, because our children growing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member you have 2 more minutes left, before you conclude.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: Thank you. I have thought that... if it was the old man Toleafoa... my time would have been longer although you have... I obey you. Matautu recalls me as Lealaileauloto. But you too have a chief title in Vaitele, although you have been banished from the village due to this type of attitude.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude your speech. A chance was yet to be granted...

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: We surely respect you, pardon me, you are a comrade, who are we for you to rely on, you are... on to MNRE and the deputy Prime Minister which I forgot. When you go around the engineering places in Vaitele, there are so many wrecked vehicles and accident damaged cars there. I said it in the first place, whether possible to get a car crusher machine to flatten these vehicles and take them overseas. This is a big issue. The Regulator office was under fire, and there was no hydrant. Importantly, it is urgent that a fire hydrant must be in place for any new building, Justice building, Parliament House, and huge workplaces. Another thing your honour is the settlers living in Vaitele and the quarry situated there. It was appropriate in the past but right now, this is becoming a huge problem. A directive must be made to relocate these people because when the air goes up, it will hugely impact these residents given the rising number of them living in this part of the country. Your honour, my speech is not even half way through despite I will give my word of thanks.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate your consideration.

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: I firstly wish to thank my constituency of Faleata West. It is the founded constituency of Samoa. Yes it is available in records. We are in unity that the division of our constituency will be in three. Although we will no longer have Faleata West, but we will have 3 separate constituencies. It will be 4 to Faleata East. As such I extend appreciation to the State. Thank you too to my constituency of Faleata West for your support. This is significantly treasured. *I le afio, susu o Seiuli ma ona alo. Lau fetalaiga Ulugia ma le tou aiga sa Ulugia ma le Falefia o Alii.*

18 JUNE 2020

To our village of Saina, in all your honorifics. I specifically speak of the village of Vailele in your honorifics. Well done to your respects thanks now that our constituencies have been exchanged. You have been given that respect to serve the Government and our people, well done. Now on to the State, Hon Prime Minister, you have took on these crisis since the start of your term from the Samoan Economic crisis and its economic status in 1981 and 1982. It all started from there followed by many other crisis, cyclones, floods, tsunami, no doubt about it. Now that we have this virus together with our economy, yet you are still leading our country. There is one other problem, the challenge we face everyday, is the political crisis. It is something that is resumed every single day. For what? Well done to courage, I do not mean that, as that is your duty, the main thing is prayer, sustain courageousness and bravery for Samoa. At times of adversity and tribulations, this tells us how a leader can be. Well done. To the dignity of Parliament, the main aspect, comes the end of this Term we are still working together and may we all come back in the next Parliament.

Honourable Speaker if you are listening in Afioga Toleafoa, I extend appreciation and thanks for your long and dedicated service for Samoa. May God bless you. Matautu you are suitable, I do not mean to brag. You are used to that as muaau belongs to Puleono. Your voice is delightful to the hearing...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do conclude your speech now Lealailepule as you are...

Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI: To my dear parents who are tuning in, papa and mama, thank you for your support and blessings upon me. To my family and relatives around Samoa, especially the public servants of the State, let peace and joy be upon us. Thank you and blessings.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, well done. Lealailepule do not forget that your name is Tupuola. At least you are strong, until our village conducts its meeting then a decision will be made on you. As for today, we are all ears. The House has longed to rest however, since your statement was very important such is why you were granted more time. That said, thank you, this is your assistance and advice for the benefit of our people through this Government. Since we have arrived at our recess time, I declare with respect that Proceedings of the House will be set aside for a 15 minutes recess.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly set aside for normal recess at 8:23pm and resumed at 9:23pm.

Debates over the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & the Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 resumed.

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

Parliament has been rejuvenated from our teabreak in resumption of our works this evening, I heed your perseverance and patience. I see that the member for Palauli West is not in his seat, when he pleaded that he will give his speech this evening, before I allow the deputy Chairperson of the Revenue Committee as well as the Chairperson. Oh well the member is now here...

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Mauli (Palauli West): Mr Speaker, I have already appealed to the Speaker earlier today, I will be the last one to speak, followed by the chairperson, he has accepted it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member, I instruct you that this is your time to give your speech. Followed by the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson. That said, this is your chance with respect.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Mr Speaker, until the remaining speakers are finished, then you can speak last as approved by the Speaker earlier. The clerk knows it...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. For the information of members, those who wanted to speak have finished. You now have the chance and if you do not accept, the House will carry on with its work. As such with respect, this is the chance for the member for Palauli West.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you. We shall abide by your word. Let me look for the papers to my speech although I am not yet ready, rather I will speak anyway.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

I wish to lift all exaltations to the Most High for his love and kindness upon us. I further acknowledge his highness Le Ao ole Malo and his good lady. The same with the member of the Council of Deputies and your good lady. The Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Associate Ministers, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary.

Mr Speaker and the dignity of Parliament. I greet the Chiefs of Government Departments and Corporations. I further welcome the chosen servants of God in all denominations around the country and the world. I also greet Samoa in all your honorifics. I furthermore greet...

Greetings also to the Governor of American Samoa and the Government of Tutuila and Manua. Greetings to the other arms which are the executive and the judiciary. The honourable Speaker and the President and the notable members of the bi-cameral Government, the Legislative Assembly of American Samoa in your honorifics. I further greet Palauli West No.1 in your honorifics.

I wish to greet the members of the clergy in Palauli West who are prayerfully working for blessings upon Samoa. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The will of Palauli West is no hidden matter to deliver our objection of the 3 controversial bills before this Parliament and the State. Thank you Palauli West for accepting my advice, to meet first with the Special Parliamentary Committee who came to consult and clarify these 3 Bills. We have Fuailuga and Foailalo left, the Committee will come as soon as this meeting is over. The main concern of this constituency is the Law's provisions of the paramount chiefs (sao) conferrals. I wish to correct that. Why does the State have to override our family treasures which is the sole authority of families alone? Whether 1, 5, 7 or even 100 paramount chiefs, do not supercede the authority and treasures of the country. Thankfully the Committee has arrived and have recommended the State and Parliament to omit the provision on paramount chiefs from these Bills. I will also try and follow up....

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not mean to interrupt the respectable member although we have our Standing Orders. Firstly, a member should not read out his speech, 78(9), secondly, you have started talking about the Bill, when we have not yet arrived at the Committee's work which is currently in progress according to these Acts. There is thought, move on with the main focus and leave aside these matters as work is undertaken for the time being, Parliament talks will be on it in a future time.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

This is the assistance in accordance to the member's statement. But do carry on with a different topic.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: The main thing is that a submission has been made for this district, they want to hear their voice through their representative in this House. The most important part, you have heard me giving your submission. Time will come and we shall meet again given that we have more than enough time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do get on with a different topic.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you for the chance. I wish to talk now, there is a civil war within America between the children of the light for Jesus and children of darkness and the covid-19 disease is one reason for this civil war, although it is true that this war is happening in America but it is also affecting us. I now wish to say that Samoa is also being affected by this virus. And we must seek a remedy for it as right now, I see that our country is getting frightened. Even this Parliament is getting fearful due to this virus. However, I trust this disease is a scam disease. It is a deceit and a threat. The reason for saying this is because this virus is not a deadly one as aware. It is not like the 1918 Spanish flu disease. It was very dangerous during those times. It is not contagious like the leprosy. This one for me, there are records and findings such as this flu. They are like cousins, like a flu or cold, it is not something for us to worry about.

Right now, scientists from all over the world is on the race to see who could be the first one to discover a vaccine for this dilemma or virus. But in relation to this matter, pass 20 years ago, we had 7 different flu that came with it, and to date, no vaccine has been found. The only remedy today is drugs. We have Panadol and amoxil and other kind of tablets. If you have high fever, get a wet towel to bring back your energy. So the existing virus we have now the Covid-19, we should not be afraid. And watching the Television on the 7 million covid cases around the world. And the recovery cases of about 3.5 million. Half of that number have come to a full recovery. Therefore, there is remedy within the entire world for this disease. And therefore we should not be fearful.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

I trust that during our country's shut down, everyone were able to take well the plans of the State. All borders and local businesses were closed down. We all came to accept it because of fear, this disease is like the Spanish flu, we were affected by this Spanish flu in 1980. This disease was similar to leprosy which took our people to the isolated island of Makonai. I personally feel that this virus is dissimilar. This disease as explained, is the cousin of the flu name cough, which is normal. So my explanation is...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the speaking member I allow the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Point of order for the sake of the country as we are in the presence of those who understand these things and the received testaments from members, this disease is not a virus. It is not something that we ought to be scared of.

That statement is wrong. This outbreak is caused from a virus. These are different types of viruses that are causing diseases. Other bacteria that causes the leprosy is also a virus. Another disease that is like a flu is also a virus. And it is also a virus that causes it.

It is the same with this COVID-19 which is also a virus. Since this virus is new, no one has been infected by it. No one has the immunity to protect itself from this virus. Allow me to elucidate the preventative measures and reasons why, the member is saying for us to remain fearless of this virus.

Once there is a virus transmission, the inner system will be ruined. As observers of this virus, it enjoys entering the lung cells. This is why breathing becomes a problem due to the severity of this disease.

Once a virus enters a body it is a sign that they are foreign body which is not normal for a body of any human being, whereas the body of a person that contains foreign bodies within the system. This means that when a virus enters that body, it automatically works to produce antibodies which aims to fight this virus and to avoid disease.

18 JUNE 2020

The problem with this virus is that it is new, the people's immune systems are not used to it. So when we have this virus, it is like the spreading of the Spanish flu in 1918 which posed a huge impact on us and was the first of its kind in Samoa. Such is reason why we are afraid of this virus, none of us has the strength to counter this virus. It takes time for our immune system to build up these antibodies to fight against this virus if it enters our bodies.

For this reason, we are awaiting and praying to God for a vaccine. A vaccine for the information of the House, is invented from a virus which has been weakened so it does not cause disease but still generates an immune response and produces antibodies. So when comes time for your body to be infected with the real virus like the Corona Virus, then your body is able to fight infection. Such is the use of the vaccine.

The objective for Samoa at the current when this virus reaches us, and a vaccine is found. We should all be vaccinated, everything must be prepared for this virus so that no one is affected like the vaccination we had for the measles. The measles is also a virus, it is a different kind of virus.

As such Mr Speaker, I only wish to make correction as it is difficult for me to be tightlipped and listen to unjust decision, lest the dignity of this House is misguided, with due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you to the Hon Minister's statement, I think the clarification is well taken by the current speaking member, they are aware of these things. Do not forget, the virus is quite hard to eliminate, it is a virus not a bacteria. It is best that I make these matters known, it is quite difficult to get rid of them as it depends on the antibodies. But do go ahead.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you to the Minister for the explanation. I am in contact with the most qualified doctors and virologists around the world with regards to things like this. My advise, let us update ourselves with the status of this virus as it is new.

Such is my talk on this virus, I have done so many investigations and negotiations with high qualified virologists on this virus. Things like that, it is time for me to elaborate to our country as what is happening now is that you are only getting frightened.

18 JUNE 2020

Pitying the Prime Minister who has been misled by these boys to wear a mask, but do note, this mask will make you stress. You will lack oxygen, stress and anger will start to build up. That is why the sister of the Deputy Prime Minister got angry, due to her wearing a mask. If the mask was removed, nothing would have happened. During the time the mask was worn by the Prime Minister, they were in dispute with this fellow member. Now that we are witnessing the right thing about this virus, therefore, do not wear mask again. I advise you all, a mask is for doctors only lest you get addicted with the time...

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the member, sit down. It looks like, I allow the Hon Minister. Your talk is far from the main point without evidence. It is better to move away whilst I allow the Minister, as the country is listening in.

Tofa Hon Faimalotoa Kika Iemaima Stowers: Thank you honorable Speaker. I have longed wanted to interrupt earlier, but thank you to the honorable Tuitama who is doctor. If you look at the struggle the entire country is in, it is like a cloud surpassing over us, even though we work there is still anxiety.

The aim of the Ministry especially the health practitioners, is to monitor at all times, the connection between the World Health Organisation with those with all the information regarding this virus, and the attempt of the Ministry and the Committee in particular who are strong advocates to submit recommendations to the Cabinet, when we are at a time of uncertainty. And now that we are getting this message which seems to be funny but we must consider the general public on what they should be doing for their own protection. So if this is a laughing stock to some people who are not kids, which is just very disappointing whilst Samoa is listening, well we are not kids.

We are the Leaders of the country, although I hear laughter which seems like a movie or something like that. Though I do feel disappointed if we allow talks like these while the country is tuning in on...whilst I am striving to protect the country.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

There is slight concern, which confuses...not all people have the right mind. Some people will misinterpret things like this, then our immense efforts will be in vain which we have been striving hard to do, however money is getting big. In comparison to the criticality of the measles, it is still heavy in mind when I was chosen to be part of this Ministry, because I have seen the measles with my own eyes.

If by chance this virus affects us, I personally believe in God's love to protect Samoa, as during the measles outbreak, a lot of international teams were able to offer us assistance. Now, we no longer share that assistance. If we get this virus, then we will look at the measles outbreak, it would be pitiful whether we will be able to afford it. We only have 68 doctors serving in the country including those who have been allocated to the rural health clinics for Upolu and Savaii, we can never afford it rather we must rely on the love and goodness of the Almighty Father.

So, we may laugh and talk about this major concern which is affecting the entire world, but if we think thoroughly about it, who is to blame, it will be us. Where were we when the country had no protection.

Well honorable Speaker, I guess time will come for another explanation but that is the concern of the Ministry of Health particularly the sacrifice of the Committee especially the State and all of us. All our constituencies and us are worried for our own people, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Hon Minister of Health. I have thought as we have testaments and witnesses, with regards to life and health impacts however we do not have a remedy. Such is the reason for these measures made in the country, we must be protected from this virus if and whenever it reaches the country.

Henceforth I order the respectable member who is speaking of these things, to move on to other matters as that your own opinion. The collected spirit unto God particularly the protection for the peacefulness of the country, that is the main aspect. As such I advise the member to move on as there is a great impact on that matter lest we discuss and talk and a case reaches our country, then who do we ask? The State will get the blame.

In saying that, pardon the speaker, move on with your speech and get on with another topic, with due respect.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you honorable Speaker, the talks I make, they are not lies, they are facts. There are evidence here.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I permit the Leader of the Government.

Afioga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr Sailele Malielegaoi: There is a country that needs correction, it is Brazil. It refused and rejected the protection and warnings from the health officials upon their country. Brazil is second to America on the total number of death tolls and covid cases.

On that note the recommendation and directive upon the member has been made, move on to another matter as the allegations you make are quite immense. And if you disobey, then we will have to move on to other speakers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you to the Leader of the Nation for his statement. Honorable member for Palauli West, let me just remind you. An order for the State of Emergency has already been tabled with the approval from the Head of State for this order to officially go into effect. As such I recommend that you move away from this matter. If you disobey then I am afraid I will have to proceed with other rules in accordance to our Sitting practices and procedures.

I remind the member to move away from this matter. A Consensus has been made, use masks and all preventative measures for the protection of the country. That is your own personal view. Go ahead as you have 2 minutes left.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thank you, I was of the belief that there comes a time for me to see the Prime Minister to talk since I have the remedy for this problem which is useful and could possibly...

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I move with respect to the member, if you do not comply with the given orders, it is better that you move on should there be any other matter left. I have already clarified the overall summary and status of this country.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Very well I will move on to other matters. It is great that I will be speaking about the Budget, well done Hon Minister for the wonderful Budget.

The NPF has a financial assistance of \$35million that will be distributed to members and all that. I trust there are people who are in need of the NPF assistance with regards to borrowing. Priority and chance should be given to our locals who want to set up some developments using NPF loans. Should you require to put up project development like farming or to improve your store and so forth, the NPF does not have that sort of assistance right now.

Also, only those foreign people are allowed to be given huge money. \$5.5million was approved for one of the business entrepreneur from Asia. It is easier for foreign business people to receive this huge amount from NPF. However the NPF should also consider our locals like the Parliament...

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: Mr Speaker...

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the Minister of Finance.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuioti: Pardon the member, point of order. The \$35million inclusive under this stimulus package.....pertains to NPF contributors. It is separate from those who are borrowing at NPF. Contributors with dividends are the only ones that will have this \$35million distribution. Other assistance which our banks and the commercial banks are working closely with has the assistance of the Government to pay 2% interest rate within 3 months time to assist borrowers in order to develop their businesses and money for families.

It is the same with our SPBD branch, made up of women whom are also bearing support. Some have also asked if assistance could be made to Finance Companies. I think it was our Sitting last year whereby the Governor of the Central Bank was directed on this matter as Financial Companies are not regulated and the Central Bank has also informed me that by December, a draft for this Legislation will be in place to regulate Finance Companies specifically in relation to interests and savings.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Whereas the issue you raised, dividends are for those who are making contributions. This is the gratitude.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow the member to conclude now as your time is finished.

Afioga AFOA AMITUANAI FALEULU MAULI: Thanks for the clarification Hon Minister, this money is well taken however I have requested for a chance upon our people, so that they can loan apart from these things. The chance for big loans for several other people at NPF should also be allowed to build their developments.

Whether no member will come back, for our retired CEOs and there is a chance for them at the NPF, for them to obtain some financial assistance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well thanks.

Afioga Hon Sili Epa Tuiofi: Mr Speaker, they are correct, businesses and people are not stopped from making loan requests with the NPF. Borrowing is permitted like the loans made with the Commercial Banks including proposals whereby lands and assets can be submitted to guarantee a loan. Therefore Mr Speaker, this is not avoided, the NPF can approve a loan based on the request and a person's capacity to meet the loan repayments.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks, pardon the respectable member as your time is up.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauiiili Tuivasa: Mr Speaker I rise with great respect, the member's view is very important. We have come to the core part of our discussion on the Budget and whether the member can be allowed 2 minutes as the member is a qualified accountant of the country, he has just arrived at the exact time where he can begin his speech.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the respectable member and the moving motion, the speaker has finished talking when these are the critical areas he could have raised. As such I disapprove of the motion, the time is up and in accordance to Standing Orders 92 the speech must be concluded. Pardon the notable member, your time is finished.

I call the honorable Chairperson.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA (Palauli le Falefa): Thank you Mr Speaker, for the opportunity given, so that contribution can be made for the Main Estimates commencing this year 2020.

Thank God for guiding us here this evening. Thank you for the second chance granted for us to make our submission in support of Samoa. I agree with the challenges from some of the members who said that we should revere God. So that God will in turn favour us.

One of the members stated, there is no new thing under the sun. This is the statement by Solomon, and Paul said, if anyone is in Christ, the old has gone, the new has come. Meaning anyone who belongs to Christ has become new. I trust, that all new creation in this Parliament, pardon my mouth and fire. Some also stated, ‘if God does not create the house, they will labour in vain to build a house.’ Another statements says, ‘children are the heritage of God, and like the arrows in the hand of a warrior’.

Hon Prime Minister and the distinguished Parliament, the bow is held in your arms for the wellbeing of Samoa. In belief, if we trust in God the arrow will fire directly on to where it should go. Therefore, the arrow should be placed in the bow or the bulls eye if we go by objective and aim of the budget which says, together we weave for the future.

My interpretation of the keynote address by the Hon Minister of Finance, if God has put you first with everyone else, may it be a blessing for Samoa. May this Parliament be a blessing for our country, you can be a blessing if God has blessed you too. The Psalmist said, “You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.” All the members in this House, their cups must overflow, so that your service will prosper the people. So to the listening Samoans, the reason why this service in Parliament is vital is because it is useful, so that when their time is over and their children can take over in the future. Someone said that yesterday’s can be a learning experience for today, the events of today can build tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, great job. Well done Leaupepe. Thank you for your leadership of our Parliament.

Tuilaepa, Hon Prime Minister, deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet, well done to you and your great service. It is a joy for us to see people receiving water supply and electricity and all the little boys and girls now have a cell phone. This reflects the love and deep prudence of the work that we do for our country.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

Thank you. I firstly wish to acknowledge the work for my constituency. Thank you Papalii for the access roads. If this road is fixed lengthily inland where the settlement of Taemanutavae is, not only will this be an advantage for the access roads, it will also be a good site towards the attraction site. Our village of Sili, this is the only village in Samoa where we have talking plants and what we call faugagana, but you will never understand it if you are not a person from Palauli le Falefa. We are the ones who understand these plants. Such is why I plead Papalii, continue fixing our roads until it reaches this fau tree.

The vaipapa of our district and village of Gataivai, it has continued for 5 years now. Due to the limited funding distribution, the work is almost complete. The independent vaipapa if the Hon Minister of Women Community and Social Development is listening.

The extended works for the vaipapa is continued on to Sili, Papa and Puleia. There is a requirement for an access roads for the villages of Papa and Puleia perhaps by the end of the year or the start of next year. There are a few public roads that have been damaged between Vaiala and Gautavai and the old village of Sili if you could look into it. Even the connecting road from Puleia to Gautavai uta, such is the laid out plan. Those are the requests of this district.

I support the Budget Statement. I believe the Hon Minister was led by the Holy Spirit. I would normally raise remaining balances. During the first year of our Parliamentary term, there was a left amount of \$101million, the following year 2017/2018, there was a remaining balance of \$31million. Now in the previous year, the totals I am stating have already been researched. It was \$48million. In the coming week, there will also be a remaining balance which I trust will be over \$10million. Therefore, Sili knew very well that this money will be very much required. I have signed a joint statement from the ACB, European Union Joint Presidency to confer all the countries of ACB the layout of their borrowings and things like that to the World Banks, IMF and the Development Banks and other countries, and their assisting partners. This is further reflected in this Budget of ours. Well done Hon Minister. That is the current update right now.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Looking at statutory expenditures in our Budget, it has dropped to \$10 million. Why? Have Parliament become priests for no pay rise and their renowned positions? Why? The support of Samoa. Another thing is the drop in spending for our external debts. This pattern on financial assistance from external banks institutions and partners to our economy should continue. As such I thank the Hon Minister for the farsighted knowledge.

Then I come to the Ministry of Education. Loau, for 3 years I have challenged you about school dropouts. However, I thank the Associate Minister and the Government Chief of Education for the \$6million granted for a new program so that students are able to go back and resume school. Thank you very much.

The main thing here is consistency, because these children, they mainly enjoy sports. \$4million or \$5million would have been better to build sports complex because if students' will be taught with physical education, then sports will also be necessary. Because we were only given a total of \$150,000 to build sports fields which is therefore not consistent. You know Sili very well, he is not a sports person but he likes walking, but Alaisa and Mulipola are relying on him when he only enjoys playing golf, whilst playfields for rugby, cricket, and soccer.

The reason for this urging of the heart is because majority of the Manu Samoa guys are all from Palauli le Falefa. They all come from Gautavai, Sili, Puleia and Papa. Our cricken team always succeed. They come here and played and they won the trophy, the same when they went to play in Tutuila, they are sporty people. But I thank the Government and the Ministry, there are far too many words. There are times when I look at the Hon Minister, the Ministry Head and the honorable Associate Minister, I would cry, I am not lying, I appreciate you all. May God bless you and the Ministry and staff? They said there is no remedy for the covid-19 but Isaiah 53 says, "By your stripes we are healed." What other remedies do you need? If you are covered by the blood of the lamb, you will never be affected by the virus. The only reason why we will not be healed is because of sin.

There was a patient that came to Jesus for healing, Jesus said, your sins are forgiven. And the pastor said, oh, I thought he would be given for healing. Who are you to forgive sins? Jesus said, forgive your sins and you will be healed. Go you are healed. If then you are not covered by the blood of the lamb, you will be infected with the Covid-19.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Thank you very much to the district health clinics, they have been of great help to the country. It is good to know that the doctors will go there and new facilities will be built for them in the districts. Thankfully there will be medical supplies for these health clinics, because the reason for no medical supplies in the districts is because there are no doctors and lest they are prescribed wrongly.

Hon Minister of Health, one of things I am hearing is komiti tumama or hygiene groups, it would be good to bring in a representative from these groups to the district health services because our health clinic in Satupaitea Palauli le Falefa and Palauli for instance, therefore there are only 10 villages or 11 villages in it. So having 2 representatives from these villages come to the health clinics would be more than enough to spend a week or two to gain briefings for the sake of each village in the districts. That would be one useful requirement.

Hon Minister of Agriculture, I have thought that there will be more...as we are looking at making our own products in replacement of imported products in accordance to Cabinet decision using SROS to begin locally made items like chocolate, flour and so forth. But it would be nice to start off on our own so that we can rely on our own locally made products instead of having to rely on imported products to reduce our seasonal investments overseas. In regards to current foreign reserves of nearly \$600million, the order of imported goods relies on this amount which takes almost 8 months. As such Hon Minister, if these items start production, our district is very organic especially my village of Sili where the taro supply should come from to produce whiskey as they are organically grown there. We should therefore produce more and make it cheap and create employment for our people. This is one area that can replace employment for our people particularly in hotels and farming areas. Because if farms can be made to work everyone in the family then the entire village must be able to work together to grow more crop supplies not only for our own sustenance, but also for the sake of our exports to overseas markets.

Thank you Tialavea, I had given you a challenge to search for \$550million funds. You have visited that area in 2019, and you managed to collect a huge amount of \$30million. Thank you for your courageousness. Since the covid and measles, our revenue will therefore return to the old mark in 2016.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

It is only \$50+million drop, but well done to your efforts, it was not easy, the hardship was overwhelming. I pitied you for not coming to play golf again and train, try and stay home and rest. Oh the people are saying that you no longer have a home. Well we will try and do a fundraising to build us a house.

I wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Justice, and the relocation of the Tuasivi office to Salelologa. During the 2011 election one of the Parties said that the Government had constructed the market in the scrubland. Now that it will come to 10 years counting the coming election, they will discover that it is not an overgrown area there but a township area where it will situate 2 gas stations, an NPF building, a police office, Ministry of Justice and plenty more will be made available there. The area is not an overgrown grassland site. Now that Sili is the current Minister, the township area will become more beautiful. Because these boys are saying, there will be more sugar products and other items sold at the market. That is one thing you know that Savaii people are clever about, the market is there yet they would build small stalls on the main road, the rent is free, the thoughts of this island is quite different, they are very wise to live.

Then we come to...one of the members had spoken on SamoaTel purchasing. The reason for stating this is because it was also raised by other members and its vitality as some said the purchasing of SamoaTel was bankrupt. The value of product depends on the reselling price. And the principle for trade, it is to do with the want of both the seller and the buyer. The main focus of this talk is the birth of this UTOS. What is happening now is that 20% of BlueSky is owned by UTOS and the value of Vodafone is 25% which is owned by the people of Samoa. The main aim I am after is the removal of the dividend that is paid by these people, which is their own investment. I pity the old lady scraping the coconut and the person that is going to the plantation, and the person going fishing and this dividend that is being paid again which is not profit, it is otherwise known as money taken for them (UTOS). It is not their money, is the money that belongs to these people. Sili and Lautafi, do not make dividends again, return these investments to the people.

Look at the cocoa seller/rubber in front of Bartley and Eveni Stores, and their prices of 5 or 10, the coconuts sold at the market and when you fall from the coconut tree you can get hurt really bad. Return the money to these people.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

As for this UTOS, it is providing assistance, these people are now doing what the old women and the old men and the youth and the untitled men are enjoying with this energy here, 3,200 members.

The aim Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet is to earn 20,000. If we have 20,000 members, our developments will all be financed by UTOS. The Samoan chambers has been built in Auckland. What is it? It is from the funds of the UTOS members. It is the money of these people. The more units, the worth it. That was the main reason why the Government had set up the UTOS or unit trust holders for Samoa so that the low income earners can buy shares from companies or stated owned companies for the wellbeing of many. Such is acknowledgement for this huge initiative. Therefore \$30million has been donated to our Samoa Airways or the Polynesian. UTOS now has a net worth of almost \$200million. I would have thought that it would reach \$300million in the previous year, never mind, it is in the hands of the Board of Directors who are experts of the country. I also extend great thanks to the Board of Directors and the executive team. For your awareness this company only have 12 members and most of the money earned from it is being used for Government developments. I therefore wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet and this Parliament for the decisions made.

I undertook the Cabinet Development Committee CDC visit with the Revenue Committee and had seen the airport at Tiavea, which was superb.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pardon the current speaker I allow the Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, before the member moves on to another matter, I trust this matter is pertained to the Minister of Finance given the many works carried out by the Ministry during the time he was former Minister of Finance, he understands the basis of this savings which stemmed from the decision of the State for the transfer of the Samoa Tel. Perhaps a time will come for the Minister of Finance to make its response in regards to the many raising matters in the House. But the raising matter by the member is very important which I know very well, but I trust time will come for more clarifications on it.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 & Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates

18 JUNE 2020

The most important thing as mentioned by the member, is withholding of huge company's shares during the State's compliance of this policy or strategic view in order to release leases of public companies from the State and be operated by people who hold special knowledge so that 200% revenue is attained instead of 10% using wise knowledge that our people do not have, particularly so to extend this benefit to the ruralside of the country, as millions and millions of money were used by them to reinvent the infrastructure so that this service is extended to the backside of the country. This is the first time the State has established this savings in order to create and operate investments for the benefit of our people and so that our own people are able to hold shares within huge these kinds of huge organizations. We are not the only State that is doing investments, other nations are also operating investments like this by way of removing all companies which the State affiliates with and have people with more experience handle it.

Time will come for the Minister to speak on this matter. And a resolution made by the State, I am guessing it was March 2011, after the BlueSky Company had won the bidding, they do have several branches around the world including America and Europe, these large companies have broad knowledge and connection with the outside world. The importance is the congratulatory remarks from the member who was also the former Minister of Finance at that time the implementing of these matters. I trust the Minister of Finance will elaborate further on this when we have our response. Majority of these things, are deep, if a person who lacks insight looks at it, they would only see the top without knowing the core of the matter. Now that this initiative has begun which has given birth to more opportunities for the general public to invest their money in particular the churches. Some of these people have invested large sums of money here, because they receive large dividends from it, rather than saving it in the banks. Mr Speaker, that is the support, lest the member moves on to another matter. Another thing is the raising comments on Budget preparations. There are other ways of gaining reserves in the end. Why is that? When preparing the Budget, the appropriation is measured directly from project plannings, the Ministry Heads have already been consulted with this, which is something that must be achieved in a year.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

That is the long term vision, we do not know what will happen in the future. Whether there will be a storm, cyclone and work will stop. Evertime something stops, climate change is still on the rise. Climate change is getting worse, and there are some jobs that could not be implemented due to this change. We have had 3 main projects that was meant to be implemented in March of this year but already, it is June now and nothing has been done, why? Due to the covid, that is reason why the people overseas are unable to come and do the job. As such, problems will still continue to happen, particularly with proposed projects that must be implemented by using our locals to argue the lands. That is another huge issue as to why some works cannot be achieved at the end of the year leaving behind unused funds. As soon as the Budget is tabled, all the Ministries see what is necessary, if there is no emergency or natural disaster. Normally during the planned budget period, the budget is more than a billion. Some Ministries have proposals that go up to 2 billion budget. Note that the Ministries are headed by clever people who have returned from overseas Universities.

Therefore, the preparation of Budget Statements cannot be done carelessly. And the reason for reserves at the end of the financial year is due to unexpected emergency circumstances happening in the future, whereby these reserves are necessary.

Mr Speaker, this matter has come to the House and it must be explained. As such, there should be no reserves when it comes to executing our works without any emergency. Whether it is an emergency regarding the weather, or a problem with designer, engineer or a person overseas. Or even an issue regarding land ownership. And matter that was raised with the Tiavea airport. Everything has already been laid out, but the problem is the people from Apia have interjected causing the delay in this project. As such, we can never stop. Regardless of the rising problems, the main thing to do is provide a remedy and implement what needs to be done. That is reason why when the end of the year comes, there is always money left. As for some years, there is no money left at the end of the year, and more appropriation is required, such is reason why we have Supplementary Appropriation every year.

Mr Speaker, it is necessary to explain this bit for understanding. Because it is not yet time for us to speak on this matter for the sake of the listening public. There is balance of \$10million left, why was that not used for this matter. That is the situation, there are times circumstances happen all of a sudden, and only God knows what happens in the next 12 months.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

That is the assistance on this bit, as we are still speaking of remaining funds at the end of the year. There are times when money is huge, there are times it becomes less. There are also times when there is none.

Mr Speaker that is the clarification I stood up to make.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well done Hon Prime Minister, I am of the view that all members are taking this well, that said let us proceed with other topics...Go ahead Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: Thank you Mr Speaker and respectable members for your productive speeches. I just wish to clarify this bit as mentioned by one of the members. It is said that \$30 million will be donated from the Unit Trust of Samoa or UTOS to the Samoa Airways for the sake of the listening public. That was the thought we had. As for the borrowing lest the people is mistaken on the donation from UTOS. It was a loan that was utilized to repay the Samoa Airways Company. That is the first reason, instead, it has been renegotiated, as a borrowing of only \$15million was approved. So that is the clarification in response to the statement of the member, with due respect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe the member has longed been in Parliament, he should pick up these matters well. I allow you the chance to conclude your remarks.

Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAOLATANE LIUGA: I wish to thank the Prime Minister for the clarification of this matter. I do understand it well including the Minister. This is the explanation I received which has been corrected and I beg your pardon on it. I am not saying to give, no it is money to borrow, because the Unit Trust of Samoa or the UTOS is an organization for our people.

The last matter since your time is up, is our site visit to Tiavea. We had witnessed the magnificent airport there. The testament received was that the area is now 1500meters, and we even gave our recommendation. Why not extend that land area so that the 737 aircraft can land there, for the time being, work is still underway on this site so it can turn into an international airport for planes to land if they cannot land at the Faleolo airport due to bad weather.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

Such was the mentioning of overhead bridges by one of the members. If it is something that can be done by private companies, they would have done it. Then the State can lease it to them for about 10 years until full payment is made before public asset is transferred back to the Government. They can also advertise by removing the billboards on the roadside area in order to sell the product. That is what they are also doing in the outside world. They would use these companies to sell these products by leaving their business advertisements going forward. Thank you honorable Speaker and also to my constituency. Thank you for your prayers and support not only to the members of the clergy, as well as the four kings and and the four orators. Your support is more important than the work we do. Thank you for your endless assistance. Soifua.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very well thanks, well done to the honorable Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Everything has been well clarified, the Leader of the House has made his statement the same with the Hon Minister on some of the concerns that needed elaboration, as we have amongst us those who talk and those who observe. The spirit today, everything is done out of respect which has ended well. And since we have arrived at the statement of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee however since it has been a very tiring day for everyone, I have decided that the Chairperson can start his speech tomorrow in relation to the Budget under discussion which began yesterday until this evening.

Since we have arrived at our adjourning time given the approved motion. I wish to extend great appreciation to the dignity of this House for your perseverance and diligence in fulfilling your callings. The spirit today is the normal practice of the House. We laugh and joke as we rely on God for his leadership. We aim to seek gold although the crux is to find prosperity for the sake of our people. As such, to the distinguished House, if I have erred you this evening, I beg your forgiveness. I appreciate all your concerns and input this evening. I further heed great appreciation to Samoa for your neverending support and prayers, the works of Parliament this evening has reached the end appreciatively. Whatever faults we have done, I plead your forgiveness. *E tetele lava pesega ae matua lava i le oooo.* With God all sins are forgiven. Great job and thank you for your great support. May blessings be upon you this evening.

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2019/2020 &
Appropriation Bill 2020/2021 – second reading debates**

18 JUNE 2020

To the revering House, let us heed the goodness of God and pray for renew strength upon us so that we can resume tomorrow's work according to the sitting agenda. Before we adjourn, I ask the member for Falelatai and Samatau to end our Sitting with a prayer this evening.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 10.55pm until 9:00am on Friday, 19th June 2020.