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THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2020

The Speaker took the Chair at 9:09am.

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

I offer salutations to the Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet as well as the honourable members of Parliament. I would also like to extend greetings to the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries and Corporations this morning.

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MR SPEAKER: Debates on the Bill will continue. And the business of the Legislative Assembly adjourned last night after the member for Vaimauga West No.1 concluded his speech. Well, I respectfully invite another member to speak, as the Parliament is also available for the members' speeches.

I call upon the Principal orator, member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo to speak.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo): Mr Speaker, thank you and greetings. I also greet that side of the House, to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet and the Associate Ministers as well as the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons and the members of Parliament. I also offer salutations to the Legislative Assembly, Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries and the Private Sector.

I would like to touch on the country as I am the first to make a statement. I acknowledge the presence of the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good lady, the Member for the Council of Deputies as well as the Chief Justice and the Judiciary. I have already greeted the Cabinet and the Hon Leader of the House as well as the honourable Speaker and the sanctity of the House.

I acknowledge Samoa in all its honorific salutations, and our brothers of American Samoa with all its honorific salutations.

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I also offer greetings also to the two Houses, to the Honourable Governor and your beloved friend Lolo as well as the President and especially my friend, Savali the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Those are the sanctified parables of our country ranging from Saua to Analega, these are the dignities for eternity, without the slightest subtraction or addition.

I also pay tribute to the servants of God, who are the Heads of each Church, as well as the many who are praying for the benefit of Samoa. You have already given oblation this morning, and I thank God *ua e noanoa le taitua as manoa le taisua*. Like the saying, words of blessings have outweighed condemnation. As the words said to mount Salafai, the ears are eager to hear the stories. This House has been notified over the past two days of the speeches of the honourable members not only on the needs of their respective constituencies but also giving their support to approve of the Main Budget 2020/2021 as well as the Third Supplementary Budget 2019/2020. And the statement made by the Minister of Finance is true. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister especially the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance for the detailed financial statement. And it is true, you have the privilege and authority, I remember that you had stated, I had asked you yesterday, and what you said was interesting, that there is a lot of desire to improve all areas of the country but unfortunately Taemanutavae's hands are tied because the plans are all based on the funds we can earn from our taxes. So as I had said, you the Hon Minister possess the privilege and authority.

I also thank the Hon Minister for Revenue because of the resources, on which we depend on for all developments and remuneration of public servants. This is a compelling contribution by the Hon Minister for our taxes. And it can be seen by the other countries that we are working together, raising our funds and needs for our own developments for the prosperity of the country, and this is also a motivating factor for our foreign partners, as it was mentioned yesterday with the \$107 million. As well as many other grants received from overseas and grants such as non-refundable donations. And we are lucky to be blessed by these countries especially by our business partners.

I also take this opportunity on behalf of my constituency to express our gratitude to our partners, Japan, China, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and many other countries. The goodwill and generosity of these countries are unfailing.

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I would also like to thank the Minister for Revenue and your Ministry for your patience and hard work. I still remember what I said to my brother from Vaimauga, if the member for Vaimauga did not leave your Ministry, the revenue received would not amount to millions of dollars. But the elder was determined to make more revenue. On that note, a statement that was made by the Hon Prime Minister when he was the Minister of Finance, that the demand is measured by the size of the coat fabric. But I will say this, for this Parliamentary term and this Budget, our requests should be measured based on the deadly disease that is spreading around the world because this will cause a setback for all of our current plans, so if by the will of the Lord that our country was to be affected by the covid 19 virus, it will mean that our Government will be degraded. Also, I am always looking forward to the proclamations as it reminds me of the proclamation that Moses made to the Israelites after he met God. Before the Hon Prime Minister spoke, we had already turned on the radio and were listening for a decree because currently, there are already 16 proclamations, and I notice that the Minister of Education is shaking his head. These are the declarations that you wanted to hear, to know what the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet are going to discuss.

So I offer gratitude and praises, as your work is not easy, especially during these times which have become a burden for the Honourable Ministers, working day and night. I doubt you get enough sleep, as for us as soon as we get home we watch TV and then sleep, but for you the Honourable Ministers, you are restless, similar to another elder that was always restless. But in all that, a spirit of gratitude to God, and praises for his providential authority and his kindness to us, that no one is affected. Hopefully, the request by this constituency, slow down with your work rate. The current planning and subtlety are good, as to ensure plane travelling is allowed sooner. Our partner Air New Zealand or the Government of New Zealand is enough, but let us still be cautious, and give them 14 days of quarantine. Do not give it a chance because of those reasons.

Remember the ship that came in 1918, and keep in mind that once one or two people stepped on to Samoan soil the Spanish Flu spread quickly and many people died. Hopefully, this problem does not happen to us. If it does occur, how do we prepare? There was a Ministry that came, and there were 3 groups, the group from the Government as well as a group from the private sector that came to explain information about the virus 19, which Gatoloai said it was 19. Or it can be 20 as well, maybe by next year it will be 20.

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As for the plans I mentioned, when the Ministry visited our village and constituency in the rural area, their explanation of the worst case scenario and the problem occurring now was satisfactory. So the good thing about the worst case scenario is, if the disease were to occur, the country would be uneasy and many people will be panicking, some people will start to lose their minds and will not know what to do. But the preparations that the Ministry brought, I asked them if it would be better for a family to find the largest suitcase or box, to store in bed sheets, pillow cases, napkins, face masks, which is being worn by the Hon Prime Minister. You can put whatever you want in this large suitcase just like an emergency kit, perhaps this is the contribution of our Government to each of our families. What happens if there is a *faleoo* and a couple with 4 children? That is another matter. This means, there should be curtains to cover the *faleoo*, also divide the house and build a toilet for the guests. These are all the preparations described by the Ministry, and I thank you for the arrangements and vigilance, whether it occurs or not, but at least we are well prepared. This is a spirit of gratitude to the Ministry.

Thank you very much to Afioga Faimalo, also praises to the Ministry of Health, thank you for your determination. I am also grateful to Tuitama when he was the Minister of Health, as the honourable member was the one to deal with the measles. The efforts of the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry as well as the staff of male and female doctors and nurses were remarkable. Your line of work is not easy. As I mentioned in my previous speech that when I arrived from the airport I said, sole, it seems our plane has landed on a different planet. Everyone is wearing masks and hats, for protection. It is very beautiful to see, and it makes the heart proud, although it is a small country, but it makes it possible. True is the word, this person Tuilaepa looks beyond...

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

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister): Mr Speaker, since the member had mentioned the face mask I am wearing, I feel sorry for the 4 people who are standing in front there, it was specially sent by the Protection Committee and included in an advertisement that was circulated throughout the country to continue these practises.

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So I feel very sorry for the people that come from overseas, they are obeying the announcement that was made by the Government. This is why I am wearing my mask, which is especially important, because this House should be a good role model for our country. That is a short statement as there are many of us who are not wearing these masks, lest this House is thinking, the Prime Minister and this Party are very foolish, but we are trying to comply with the orders that was given by the Committee to the public. Hopefully, as I can see that the members of the Committee are not wearing their face masks. With the hope being brought in we will all have a face mask.

MR SPEAKER: Good work. I call upon the member for Vaimauga East.

Afioga Sulamanaia Fetaiai Tauilili Tuivasa (Vaimauga East): Mr Speaker, I want to rise for a few minutes to assist with the speech of the...as this member will not interrupt the speech by the Tuiatua unfortunately as I was sitting down a text was sent from my constituency because they heard that the member for Vaimauga was mentioned in the speech of the Tuiatua. As explained to this House, when the member for Vaimauga was working in the Ministry of Revenue, there was no expensive tax collection system used but it was satisfactory for the country, it was collected when the workers would visit the families. That is an explanation for Tuiatua because there are allegations as communicated through devices, allegations as if there were problems with this service.

But as I have said, the explanation by the Tuiatua, this is our member who was in charge of the Ministry that collected the tax, which was collected in the Ministry. But there were no expensive materials that are being used today for collection, as it was collected through social interactions. Because the Ministry of Revenue is an abominable Ministry, but the good staff would go and explain... because they are not going to distribute money, they are going to collect it. As that was the intention as my constituency is listening.

That is a brief explanation to Mr Speaker on the statement made by the Tuiatua.

MR SPEAKER: Well, I call upon the Minister of Revenue.

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Afioga Hon Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt (Minister of Revenue): Mr Speaker, I know the member is correct, and this is also the member that has the record in the Ministry of Revenue for collecting \$1,500,000 in one day. Congratulations to the member during his tenure, as that record still exist. If only you were still working, but unfortunately you are now a member.

That is the clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Well done. So these are the qualities that stand out in the House as a member but saying that it is possible to practise and witness the good characteristics when they served the country. Well, blessed is Vaimauga to have such a member who has experience in the things he has done.

I call upon the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you also to my brother from Vaimauga, the Hon Sula, your hard work and quality services to the country has been shown. Those things are not done for free but the spirit of God will enrich the honourable member. Thank you also to the Hon Prime Minister for the mask. I also brought my mask but I did not wear it because I worry as I might wear it incorrectly but by looking at the mask you are wearing, it seems that you are wearing it incorrectly. But occurrences are useful, that is one thing I had learnt from the day the Ministry came, the correct way to use the mask.

Just a request as I have read the Budget 2014/2015, Samoa's economy jumped to 4.3 percent. For 2015/2016, the economy had a growth rate of 8.1. This was the result from the conference that was held here for the All Blacks versus Manu Samoa rugby match, and I do not remember the conference, but anyway, there was also the Commonwealth Games that were held here, and the SIDS conference for Pacific countries and the United Nations, which coincided with the opening of the fishing company that increased the amount of exported fish. So, much of the economic growth has come from these sectors, and so a request to the Hon Minister Sala Fata Pinati, it would be good if you had communications with the Minister of Finance... oh and for the Hon Minister for Tourism, in regards to the hotels.

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I have noticed that two or three of our new hotels have been established, the LAVA hotel which is near here, also TARITA, ELISA and the AMANAKI hotels. If we associate with these sectors and the airlines, to put at least 5% or 100 to pay the locals and family members from overseas that visit, or to keep it open until the disease passes, so that tourists can visit quicker and fill our hotels and we can also earn some money, not only for taxi and bus drivers, hotels, restaurants, and such services, those are all the different benefits, these are the spring offs we will receive when our hotels are full, but this is due to the cooperation between the airlines of the hotels and our Ministry of Tourism, to assist as another source of revenue in the near future. Because the only money we have now as I said, is subject to all this and is dependent on the virus not reaching us. But let us hope, as I have said, it is only a suggestion to the Hon Minister.

Just a general idea, as I have heard some members talk about our road that is known as the West Coast Road at the airport. This is a good road but it will now also have built in road bumps, which means our roads have too many road bumps. That is what the tourists say when they visit, why do you have so many road bumps? But in my opinion, if the engineers come to build a few over bridges as it is not too expensive. I know it is not very expensive, as it probably will not cost as much as \$100,000 per road. It crosses from one side to another.

That is why I request it be built in the town area, maybe build 3 or 4, starting from the other side of ANZ going towards the Government building, it ends on the other side of the footpath which will not be used as a crossing anymore by people, as well as in front of the old Molesi building where the Development Bank is located. If we had an over bridge there, it will beautify our town area, and pedestrians will be able to cross while the traffic flows smoothly, and the policemen would not be overworked by it. The only thing is to ensure that the people will all use this bridge. And so I request, for our engineers to examine this especially the LTA sector if it is feasible to implement these on our roads at the airport as well as extending it to the rural villages where there are three churches adjoined on that main road as well as the school, this is a very necessary plan that needs to be conducted. How come? To save lives, not only the children but also the elderly. It was not too long ago that an elderly lady died in Fagalii, as she was in an accident while walking home from bingo.

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Another thing that saddens the heart, I would always visit the countryside every week for two or three days a week, and the roads starting from Fagalii, Vaialele, Laulii and so on are very bad. It is good, that Falefa has been slightly improved, as I had mentioned it before, but I ask those who are contracted to implement these roads to please be sympathetic. Perhaps the road workers are laughing at us and saying that the Parliament is foolish, and that is the truth. I have also spoken to the CEO of Finance, as I had seen a small stretch in front of the Taito store in Vaialele. But when traveling there by vehicle, it takes you almost 15 minutes to get to Laulii as well as Letogo due to the poor conditions of the road. It affects all of us from here because we use this road to travel to the countryside.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Transport.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Transport): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. To correct the statement on the issue raised by the member, the East Coast project has already been prepared and it covers all the areas starting from Vaialele until it reaches the area in which you have stated to be in poor conditions. So please be patient as the work will be implemented as soon as the Budget is approved. With Respect.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you to the Hon Minister. Apologies as I have stated that it is a public statement which is made to cover all these issues. Another thing that I want to question, about the contractors who build the road at Vaivase Tai, it is nice as they used smooth seal, going towards Tanugamanono to Vailima. But when I went the other day it was raining heavily and there were heavy machinery which dug up a vast area almost similar to the circle in front of us. Then the contractors came and properly smooth seal it, and when it rained the next week it was the same thing. It does not take a rocket scientist to go and look at it. The stagnant water causes problems. So what is to be done? Dig a little zone code on the side like the idea explained by the contractor, a zone code outside, it should be 10 feet long and 6 feet under, insert some large pipes, and the water will flow and not be stagnant on the road anymore.

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Well, I am amazed, it has now been explained to you, the reason you received engineering scholarships is so that you can monitor these developments, instead of just going pass it.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Minister.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, I apologize to the member for interrupting his wonderful speech. The member for Vaimauga also made a statement about this road last night. A design has been made and the Ministry had conducted a survey since the statements are correct as the water flows from inland and becomes stagnant on the road and when an inspection was conducted they did not see any drainage. It is now up to LTA to create a design and to survey the work, and then the fix works will be implemented. With due respect.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you to the Hon Minister, apologies but no, the desire is for the safety of the public.

And so I come to my constituency, and we do not have many demands. Thank you to the Hon Minister the meeting yesterday and last week has been accepted with pleasure, I had requested for our roads to be improved, but I will still mention it because my constituency is listening. And next year will be the election, lest the elders say that I am not conveying their requests. The road inland ends....

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member as I call upon another member, it is something that needs to be corrected or clarified? I call on the member for Salega East to stand.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai (Salega East): Mr Speaker, it is something I want to clarify. I beseech the honourable member as you have come to this matter, I also feel displeas in regards to this issue, as it seems there is not a single design provided by the LTA to standardize all the road works. So as I listen carefully Mr Speaker, it seems that the contractor is in control of his own design. There are a lot of funds going into the design, that means just working on designs will decrease more of our funds? Thus why I am desolate, as the design by our Ministry should be well planned and coherent to ensure that the road does not get damaged by light rain.

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MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member as I call upon the Minister of Works.

Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Thank you for the opportunity. This member is talking about the design. The contractor does not have authority over the design, the LTA creates the design, and so if it is not implemented correctly, then it is the fault of the contractors. But the road stated by the honourable member, it is an old road, perhaps it was during the 1900s when this road was implemented from the understanding of this member and the Ministry, whatever the design it was only received when the stagnant water started to rise, as there were no drainage.

But apologies to the member, the designs for the work are all done by the LTA before it is given to the contractors to be implemented. If it is not conducted by the contractors then it means the LTA also failed to check and monitor if the work is being implemented according to the design. With all due respect, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Well done.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: There is one more thing I want to state. The reason why I am talking about his issue, the road that leads to Vaitele when travelling inland on the road in front of Big Bear, if that is the design by the LTA, then I am filled with sorrow. The craters on the roads are also tarred together with the road. If the member were to examine the condition of the road now, it is not only filled with bumps, but it also has craters. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Perhaps this matter was not included in the statement. You do not argue with the Minister as your correction should be about the explanation made by the member for Aleipata Itupa I Lalo but you are arguing with the Minister. You cannot argue like that. And I ask the member for Aleipata Itupa I Luga to conclude his speech as you have 2 minutes left.

Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA: Thank you for lending 20 minutes for my speech. I would also like to point out that the contractors for mowing lawns from Vaiupu to Aleipata is a bit unsatisfactory. Please find someone to monitor this work. The lawn mowing contract starts from Vaiupu to Aleipata. With respect.

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And so I want to express my gratitude. I am sorry Mr Afamasaga, as I am late to offer you and your Associate gratitude, the bald man sitting behind you. Thank you as our televisions is nice and clear, it is able to receive all the news and Government orders. So continue to broadcast the proclamations even if it is given every day as our TV is on and we can listen and view it. Thank you with respect.

The only small request I want to give, if there is a chance that the cost of our internet and phone bill will decrease, it is a bit expensive. I know that this is a job for the Regulator, but you also need a little input to determine these things. With all due respect.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, I ask the Hon Minister to look at the spring between Malaela ma Lotopue to see if it would be suitable to grow some mangroves in that area for assistance not only in the mitigation of the water levels, but it will be home to many different types of fish. That small area is quite nice which is occupied by Elder Malo.

The Ministry of Tourism, thank you to the Hon Sala Fata Pinati for the improvements done on our houses, they have now been repaired, thank you for the assistance.

I also offer congratulations and best wishes to the Chief Justice, good luck with your duties. There is a saying that the court of justice has an influential position within the gathering of villages of Samoa. Perhaps that is your duty, I wish you luck. As the words of Psalm 127, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain”*. That is why I am thankful to you sir, good work, our houses are gratifying. Thank you also to the Hon Minister of Works, it is true, I knew you before you were even born, and I also blessed you before you were born.

The airport in Tiavea, praises for the efforts, thank you also to the contractor, the road is smooth, and you did not conduct your inspection as I was not present as well. But thank you for everything. The only thing is that we went on an inspection with the LTA and the Office of Works, but there are road bumps on all the roads that go inland to Samusu, Utufaalalafa, Saleaaumua, Mutiatele, Malaela, Pue and Satitua, perhaps this side is a bit too low, the height of the bump is almost as high as that desk. The Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly had a vehicle, when it came you can see that it was in a bad state as it was affected by the road bumps. Please, as I doubt it will cost more than \$100, just a portion of cement to smoothen the road that is all. If there is anything else, they are listening.

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The road inland of Malaela is broken, maybe just 3 pipes and a load of stones or 2 to bury it, I hope that it succeeds. Our pipelines that were being implemented, perhaps it is nearly 12 months since it's been planned, but it has yet to be built, I request, as the respectable member had already mentioned that it will be dug this year.

The Chief Executive Officer for the water authorities also stated this will come to fruition in October. There are only 10 cows in my plantation, and probably all of them will be used in preparations for the inauguration of our pipelines if they are to be completed. Those are the only issues that I can remember, as I am also tired of always writing these things down, but when I make my speech I cannot recall them. That is the meaning of things, but thank you to the Government. Thank you to the Hon Ministers, if there has been... oh the Minister for Education, I ask that you be considerate of our school that is being built inland, if you have the chance to visit, I gave them a piece of my land to use for the school building, but if we can receive some funds it would also be great, to assist with the implementation of the road and the rugby field that will be built on it.

Thank you Lautafi, thank you Fiame, thank you Tuilaepa, thank you all, have a blessed day. God bless our Government. Mr Speaker, thank you for my opportunity, you are in good health, and you are still able to run in the next election instead of your son, you should run. Bless this Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Well done to the speech of Afioga Tuiatua or the orator in chief. I call upon the senior member on this side of the House.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Anoamaa West): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity for this constituency. I trust you have already delievered our prayer of thanksgiving given our good health this morning. It is also considered that Samoa is a country that has been chosen. With your cultural honorifics, state addresses and Church sanctity in all parts of Samoa. Stemming from uncovered sands at the eastern point to the white land or sands to the west. Now the members have gathered again, for the decisions of Samoa at its House at Tiafau, a field for the debates of Samoa. The stage is now set for this new morning, to discuss the state of the economy of our country through the Main Estimates 2020/2021.

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Mr Speaker, this constituency would like to offer thanks, for the Main Estimates, because I believe, it was not easy putting this work together. The statements made by the members have been comprehensive. It is also thought that today is a day for discussions. And so I was thinking, Mr Speaker, I will summarise my speech as your time is limited. I would like to thank the Government for protecting the country from the deadly disease that is affecting the world the Covid 19. Special thanks by this constituency and this delegation, to our Ministry of Health, for the preparations that have been made as well as compiled plans by our NEOC Committee, thank you as I have noticed that our health workers or front line health workers are being recognized and valued. They are the ones who are prepared to fight the war with this disease if it infiltrates our country.

It has been arranged in the Main Estimate as noted, a salary allowance of one year, to be provided if the disease were to occur while performing their duties and responsibilities. Mr Speaker of the House, their work is not easy, because they may never know when they will be infected as well. And it can be life threatening, but the work is essential for saving the lives of the other people in the country, if the disease were to occur here. That is their calling, risking their lives to save the lives of the people of the country when afflicted with the disease. Then I myself have an idea, I ask the Hon Minister of Finance to examine, as in my opinion the assistance they receive is not enough. But I offer a suggestion, see if it is possible to establish a scheme within our ACC to help the families and especially children, of our health workers if they become infected by the disease and lose their lives. Because like I said the job is not easy. Thank you to them for their courage. When time like this arises, the country is in need of their assistance and their expertise.

Mr Speaker, it has been noted that a portion of funds has been given for the establishment of our Sanitation Committees. It is also consistent with the statements made by some members that mentioned this matter, there are funds set aside for the re-establishment of our sanitation committees within the villages. There is also a portion of funds reserved for the establishment of a Nursing Community Training Centre. Perhaps this is the centre that will educate our community nurses. Thank you for this wonderful scheme, thank you for prioritising the health of the country. If the sanitation community has an opportunity to also be educated at the centre, to support our community nurses it would be a great idea.

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The plan for funds for the improvement of our district clinics is important. Perhaps they will become district hospitals and be a shelter for our health workers and doctors. There is an announcement that the doctors will be assigned to our district hospitals. Well, this member has noticed, all these schemes are beneficial for us in preparation to respond to this disease if it affects our country.

Therefore, we are grateful to the Government for prioritising the good health of our country. Mr Speaker, there have been many major and beneficial changes that have taken place in the country. As a result of the restrictions of our SOE, and a significant relief has been observed for a few individuals and families.

A large portion of the economy has been preserved, for other schemes that are important and useful for families. Such as house improvements and the education for the children. A suggestion to the Hon Minister as well as the Government, to look at the positive developments that have been observed and to continue our restrictions even after the disease is ceased. Positive conditions that have been observed should be resumed, from our restrictions we have now. The public is aware of the state of our plans during these times. It is no secret the impact on the economy of the country especially to the small businesses, private sector and hotels, as it was also clearly stated in the speech by the Hon Minister, in the Budget, the serious consequences.

As some of the members also stated last night, it has been evident the suffering faced by our hotels as of now, due to the lack of foreign tourists. Because of the closure of our international airport, as protection from the disease, that is the most important thing. But thankfully we are receiving some assistance, such as electricity and water bills and other similar benefits. But the thing that is needed by the hotels, Hon Minister of Finance, they need a little capital injection, but this member has noted, there is a portion of funds that is given to the Development Bank as for capital injection, for selected sectors. Perhaps it also included hotels in those important and worthwhile plans. It is commendable, for these benefits that we have received.

Thankfully some of the hotels as mentioned by one of the members last night are receiving assistance, those who are traveling on special flights and have arrived here. As they are being quarantined at these hotels, this is also another benefit received. Thank you very much.

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It has become motivational for the hotel business, and any other business, with the revelations by the Prime Minister who is negotiating with the Government of New Zealand to consider a way to make it possible to reopen the borders between the two nations. In particular, it is recorded that no one is affected by the diseases, especially for us in Samoa. But all those plans are done with the advice from the experts on this disease and our NEOC Committee, and then we will be able to achieve such feats, as well as traveling between us and our neighbours American Samoa, it will be a big help, not only for the hotels but also for the shops and restaurants, as well as taxis and other businesses in the country. And then our economy will be restored to its usual state.

It is believed that all such plans will depend and rely on the advice from the health sector, as well as those advising our Government on the current status of the disease. Mr Speaker, it is very important to this member our aircraft, there have been other Sittings in the past, this member made a speech concerning the importance of having our own aircraft. Hence, I thank the Minister as well as the members of the Authority who travelled overseas and negotiated with the company in Norway where our aircraft is from, the 737 800. It is also found in the aircraft report that it is only 5 years old, which means the aircraft is still new. The vitality of our aircraft we will be receiving is still premature. If the rent for this aircraft is \$245,000US per month, I believe it is a low and cheaper price, compared to the payments for the other aircrafts we used before and have been returned. During these times as witnessed on the television and on social media, many of the world's airlines have gone bankrupt. And thousands of planes have been grounded and are unable to travel. This means that if our airline is well managed and well controlled, we will probably be able to re-lease another aircraft cheaper and more affordable than the vessel that is scheduled to arrive in August if necessary.

Mr Speaker, looking at the annual report for the Polynesian Airlines Samoa company which has been tabled, as it has already been considered in detail by the Committee, as it sets out the deficit of \$24 million. As well as a net loss of \$40 million, in total, a cumulative loss of \$64 million. We also have plans as found in a report by our company to loan another \$30 million from UTOS, for operations of our aircraft that we plan to bring.

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These are significant and adequate plans, which are also included in the Budget as \$5 million will be provided for our airline company, as part of compensation, for the Fagalii airport that is being used by our Government for other important purposes. The Hon Minister of Finance and the Minister for our Airlines Company, you have the wisdom to manage the plans of our company. But in our own opinion, you should take a look at the status on the reasons and statistics on which our revenue forecast for the future is based on, to ensure that our company is able to repay our loans, so that these important services can continue for us and our country, as our economy is also dependent on.

The Hon Prime Minister spoke about the plans for the airport at Tiavea in Aleipata. It is intended to become a Regional Airport. A plan for the future for the development of our Tourism Industry, thank you very much. But the situation as noted, it is progressing well, and our advice is to attempt to complete this work, before the end of this Parliamentary term. And to be opened for use, it will also generate funds for our country.

The Hon Minister of Airports and Infrastructure, our advice is to take a look at our East Coast road, after the completion of our regional airport at Tiavea, it would be good to rebuild our road that leads to Tiavea, to the airport, to be improved, and be upgraded like the West coast road, which leads to our international airport at Faleolo, so the east coast road that goes to our new airport in Tiavea should also be upgraded.

It is an opinion that is set beside the Hon Minister to examine and give consideration. I would like to remind the Hon Minister the working roads of this constituency. It is not that many, just 2 or 3 roads that were requested. In particular, the road that the Hon Minister had visited, that leads inland to Solosolo. This road has been occupied by families, and there is a whole plantation inland. And I also believe, this road should not be called a working road anymore. Because the whole village have migrated inland, as they have 4 major congregations and also bus services. The road we made a request on is in poor condition, re-examine this matter. But thank you for the work implemented for the road to Sauniatu, thank you very much, it is not easy nor is it cheap. But I offer congratulations to the Hon Minister for this work.

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I also want to remind the Hon Minister of Environment, for a few seawalls, there are only 2 villages in my constituency that requested for a seawall. It has been noted in the Budget, an allocation of \$15 million is provided for seawalls and climate change mitigation programs. These are the things I want to remind the Hon Minister to re-examine this matter. The Hon Minister of Finance, I come back to you, I may be wrong, but it seems that your distribution of the Budget does not include the companies and the manufacturing sector, as it is believe that they are included in the other aids that are distributed to businesses. Some assistance should be provided for this sector, as it seems to me that they were not included in your distribution.

Re-examine if my observation is correct, but this is important in my opinion, because of the import substitution situation. It also helps reduce the use of our foreign reserves. As they are needed during these times, as we are now in a period of uncertainty, because of the state of the disease that is occurring. I ask the Hon Minister to look evaluate these requests, because they are all important. The Minister of Liquor, for 3 or 4 years this Parliamentary Committee has been reviewing the reports of your Ministry and offering recommendations about these types of liquor, the olioli and other liquor products.

We have already met, thank you to the Hon Minister and the management for attending our Committee, who would have thought you would be in attendance. Thank you as we were able to meet happily and for the fact that we could present our testimonies and suggestions, as you are aware of all the details. There is a reason why I mentioned this issue and have made these statements. It concerns the Liquor Bill that you initiated, as the Committee is still waiting for your opinion. You requested that is should be set aside, and it is still set aside. I can see that this Act is important and valuable, to solve or minimize some of the problems that arise from alcohol use. I ask the Minister to reconsider for your opinion in due course, and then notify our Committee. And if there are a lot of other plans and preparations going on, then the advice is, move a motion to withdraw your Act, so it can be prepared properly.

That is a recommendation, but our Committee will still be waiting for your response. Mr Speaker, I am also in the circle of the small business community. These are small businesses that attempt to meet the requirements of Government Laws and all.

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Every year we use auditors and accountants, because this is needed for the tax payments and to measure the amount of tax that needs to be paid. It is a requirement for banks because there are already loans, and financial statements will be provided. This is the usual work every year, as the honourable member is also a businessman of the country. It is done every year, and the fees for these auditors are expensive, yes, but it is done every year. As it is a necessity, and it will not be halted as it is required by the Act. It is similar with the fees for the engineers, it is very expensive. A report was done on the fees for the engineers that built the church at Lepea, and it was outrageous, if the report I received is correct, it is expensive. Also the Consultants fee, as experienced by the Ministry of Finance who was a consultant for many years, the consultant fee is quite expensive.

We also have some small developments planned, but PUMA stated that it needs a report called an EIA Environment Impact Assessment, as we need to find an environmental consultant to make the report, and then a permit will be given for the development, it is just a small development. We searched and searched and we found a minor consultant that graduated recently, I asked how much the fee is, but he said it was \$20,000. I said to him... this is the cheapest bill, and it is inevitable because it is needed by PUMA. We obey the instructions of the Government, the fee is very expensive. As for lawyers, there is no point in getting a lawyer unless you are charged under the Law, unless you are convicted under the Law for your wickedness, and then you can go see a lawyer. But it does not mean that you just sit idly, or you go and see a lawyer every year. Unless your actions are problematic in the next election and you are sued by the other candidate, and then you have to see a lawyer. And you can only see the lawyer once in 5 years. That is the situation, and I also think that the fees for lawyers are not expensive. I was sympathetic yesterday when hearing the speech of some members, on the issue of foster care, which they said was expensive, \$1,500 to \$2,000. It is not easy. I will just finish off this segment to get the full picture of this matter. I have noted...

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaaouuo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu (Anoamaa East): Point of clarification, to the statement made by the member, perhaps it will be of assistance to us.
Now that...

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MR SPEAKER: Noteworthy to the member... I call upon the member for Anoamaa who is also an auditor.

Afioga Alaiasa Muagututia Moefaauouo Malagaitutogiai Sepulona Moananu: The member's speech was very interesting, as all the professionals were included in his speech. But it started with the auditors. I want to know the expensive auditor who is writing these documents, but I would like to offer...it would be much cheaper if I was the one to write these documents. I recall a remark made by an engineer who was given the car to be repaired, the mechanic just hit the car with a spanner and it started, and then he said the bill was \$1,000. The engineer said that the spanner costs \$1 and \$999 for using his brain...like that. The service was poor, and it also makes people restless, similar to the auditors. There are other times when the member would say, set aside this portion to lower my tax, but the auditor replies that such thing cannot be done. With all due respect, bless our Assembly.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker these are the type of auditors we do not need, because this would be illegal.

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

MR SPEAKER: I call the Hon Prime Minister who is another auditor

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: An auditor is expensive, and it should be expensive because you are dealing with business. This means, your high-priced fees is acceptable, as it is also being done by other businesses that make a lot of money. But I agree with the complaint about the expensive fees for lawyers, since lawyers deal with many criminals that have no money.

Mr Speaker, it is very simple. I state that the fees for the lawyers should be lowered, because they are dealing with people who have no money. It is similar for doctors, but for the auditors, if you notice that the business is prospering then you should increase your fees, but if the business is failing, then your fees should be lowered.

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MR SPEAKER: But the outcome of such things should be done with sympathy. Well, like the outcome in the Bible, to be done... oh I call that auditor to stand. Apologies to the member for Anoamaa East...

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Mr Speaker, no, as assistance will be provided for the hon members of the audit.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the member for Gagaifomauga No.3.

Afioga Faaulusau Rosa Duffy Stowers (Gagaifomauga No.3): No, I stand but not as an auditor, but I stand because of the statement made by the notable member concerning engineers, since the work on the church at Lepea was mentioned and since the Chairperson of the Committee is absent, I would like to make it clear that the engineer in charge of the work of the church in this area is not paid.

The meaning of my statement, because there are other professions that can perform their own work, but rely in God for payment. With great respect and reverence.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, I call on the elder member Hon Fonotoe.

Tofa Hon LAUOFO FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO: Thank you Mr Speaker, the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister is correct. That is the reason why I have come to the House. I am tired of dealing with criminals, that when they are given the bill, they do not have money. It is unprofitable, but it is better here, as we get pay every two weeks. That is the situation, but there are times when the auditors would approach us. Then I stated, be well prepared to go inland. But for this, take a good look at our books. In case an auditor is caught, he or she may end up facing the lawyers again. Thus why, Mr Speaker, I conclude our speech. As I have already stated, I felt pity for the member who spoke last night on the payments for foster care, \$1,500, \$2,000. Then I sat and thought, it does not need to be presented before the House. These are simple things. He can discuss it with me outside, and then I said, let me do it. Bring all the children, I will do it free of charge. That is my assistance. But do not... it is not necessary to state this matter before the House. They are simple matters.

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Mr Speaker, may God bless your life. Yes, may your life be prolonged, may your body gain strength especially your spirit. Yes, God bless the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet as well as the other side of the House.

Also to this side of the House, the honorable Chairperson of the Committee and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, as well as the members present on this side of the House. The Office of the Legislative Assembly, God bless the Chief Executive Officers of Ministries, and Public Enterprises.

To our constituency, there is still enough time. We will continue to meet, God bless the support of my constituency and especially the support of Samoa, farewell and bless the Sitting.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I applaud the Hon elder Lauofo Fonotoe, representative for Anoamaa West for the speech. I call upon the member for Aiga I le Tai, this is your opportunity.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI (Aiga i le Tai): Thank you Mr Speaker, as this constituency has been given an opportunity. The mountain of Matautia is all ears and the statement made in the House is like light winds that blows”.

I believe that you have already offered devotion to the heavens this morning, for the well-being of the House, with the presence of the Hon Leader of the House and the Cabinet. I also acknowledge the Hon Speaker and the Members of this Parliament, and also the attendance of the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries as well as the Non-Governmental Organizations of our Government. The Chiefs and nobles, who are working to serve our Government, I offer salutations this morning. I assume that the waters that have already been fished will not be shrouded, as the orders of the day have already been presented, the sanctity of the Congregations, the sanctity of the Government, the sanctity of the country, and glory be to God, the God who has nurtured and guided our well-beings, so that we are able to meet in good health this morning.

Mr Speaker, this member stands with the utmost respect, with a few opinions to be expressed for our discussions this morning. It has now been 3 days since the discussion of our Supplementary Budget No.3 2019/2020, as well as our Main Budget for 2020/2021.

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I would like to the Hon Minister and the Ministry, as well as the Chief Executive Officers of all the Ministries for their contributions to our Budget. Although our distribution is limited, it is not necessary to discuss these aspects, however we have witnessed during these times.

Despite the devastating effects of the Covid epidemic on the world, as well as the effects it has had on our country, but we have witnessed the goodness of God for his providence, in every area for our country. We did not expect such prudence to occur, however, we are face to face with insufficiency. Whatever God has given to the hands of our Government through our foreign partners, as well as our projects within our country, it has been used as our ball of distribution. Thank you very much, and Aiga I le Tai gives its full support to our Budget as presented before us.

There is a small segment that I would like to comment on in regards to the benefits of our Committees. This is one faction that stands strong for the development of our country. It supports the authority of the village council, for the prosperity of the communities and villages, congregations, especially our country. However, there are small factors that prevent the Committee from receiving this contribution, which is due to fact that it is related to villages that are known as non-traditional villages, and it also affects the villages of this constituency. As it has been explained many times, Manono itself is clearly the site of an ancient settlement, as is the case of the coastal areas of our island.

With the climate change and the migration of the population to Upolu, the total population of the coastal areas of the island has doubled or tripled. But so far, Manono is unable to benefit from such groups like the Women's Committee, as those residing in Upolu overlooking our island are not considered traditional villages. So in this case, the distribution of benefits for Women's Committee will not be possible, and I presume that the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development is responsible for this matter. So I request to the Hon Minister, to distribute and share, have mercy on this group in a way that they can also share the benefits.

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: I beseech the member for Aiga I le Tai, as I call upon the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

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Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: This issue is not new to the Ministry. This is also one of the problems encountered by this Ministry and it is searching for ways to deal with these parts of our country that are known as non-traditional villages. Due to the Act, which the Ministry adheres to, it refers specifically to the Women’s Committee in traditional villages. In the case of the appointments provided for in the Act, the Women’s Committee shall appoint a Sui Tamaitai o Tina o le nuu, and then it is honoured by the village council, and then a consent is given by the village, to acknowledge that this is their Sui Tamaitai o le Nuu, and then it is taken to the Cabinet for approval.

At the moment, the matter mentioned by the honourable member, it has already been discussed by the Ministry for a while now, finding another method, which including all of them, women located in the villages in the urban areas such as the urban districts, and settlements such as Vaitele and Vailima. In such parts of the country, there are plenty of women who are unable to be organized, to receive all the benefits that will be offered for other women of the country.

So, I suggest that.... the statement made by the member is correct, but be patient, the Ministry has started discussions on this matter. However, if in due course a decision is made, or a suitable way of conducting this issue, then it shall be submitted to Cabinet for its decision to implement this plan. But the Ministry has long been aware of this situation, and now it has begun to be worked on, in order to carry out this scheme so that we do not leave any women behind, as the usual words we use today, no woman or mother is left behind, as we try to include them all within the circle, these are the Government’s plans for a better future of all Samoan women, and not just for some women. That is my assistance to the statement by the member.

MR SPEAKER: Well done.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: Thank you to the Hon Minister. This is one Minister that makes me feel at ease once he speaks. He is also one of the senior Ministers of the House who is true to his words. Thank you for your consideration. I am satisfied this morning with the explanation by the Hon Minister, and this issue will not be discussed any further, the Committee will also be informed to continue inspections to make our work easier.

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I would like to thank the Hon Minister and the Ministry for the many ongoing Programs, to enlighten our communities and villages, with the implementation of many programs, especially in terms of our plans regarding our constituency guidelines.

It is noted that there are some projects that can be addressed, however, we have lost some of our aids which have prevented the operation of some of the projects provided in our guidelines, and it is in line with our SIM plan as prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This plan has been very helpful as prepared by the Hon Minister and the Ministry. I pray that we work together to do our best, so that we can also generate ideas for the establishment of our Government.

And then I come to the Ministry of Works, I express gratitude to the Hon Minister of Works, it is carefully observed, the situation regarding the limited shares. Because when the work of the House is in full swing, everyone will approach you for assistance. However, we have noticed a few other developments, such as the ones implemented in my constituency, and so I express thanks to the Hon Chief Executive Officer and the Water Authority as our island of Manono Tai has been satisfied. This is the first time drinking water has been made available, as it has been over 10 years since the island has had any drinking water available. Not only have the pipes been replaced with better ones, it has also allowed the circulation of drinking water throughout the island. Thank you for the assistance, because drinking water is never questioned as it is a necessity for person's well-being, and my island is delighted. In addition to our small coastal island, and our inland village, which has already has water pumped around it, thank you for the aid. Great work, but a usual request, show some sympathy for some families from time to time during these circumstances as the process of finding clean water is quite long, as pipelines have already been placed, but it is lengthy, a lot of people would complain about the process as it took too long to circulate like the first registration in the beginning, as they come again to pay the \$200 for the connection fee and then await for when it is turned on. Thank you as some times when called the Corporation is responsive.

I offer gratitude to the Hon Minister, through the Land Transport Authority and our road that is nearly complete for our Aana No.2 College in the village of Apolima, well done, as the priority is given to education. This is one road that has... I know.

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Since this school was established, this is the first time the road has been dug up and properly tarred, in preparations maybe by next month this work will be completed. So I express gratitude to the Hon Minister for prioritising the response to the work that was requested.

I offer a few suggestions to the Hon Minister regarding the working road for my constituency. This is one of the districts that have quite a lot of ceremonial gatherings for bestowment of matai titles, as is the case that this is the only constituency that has not been divided since it was established, it is a separate district. But now with the addition of Satuimalufilufi, the district has been expanded further, and there are many access roads in my villages of Lalovi as well as Satuimalufilufi. The road heading towards the Primary School in Satuimalufilufi also needs improvement as it is a bit remote from the road. However, this whole area has been occupied as witnessed on the day of the opening of the new school, and this area has become a settlement, and so this road needs to be repaired. Along with my villages of Apolima, Faleu, Salua and Lepuiai, each of these villages has a access roads.

MR SPEAKER: The member has two minutes left.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: Thank you, as it is the duty of the servant is to obey, as the Hon Chair is the authority.

And then I come to the Trust Estate, to the Hon Minister, I express my gratitude for the many implemented work of the Trust Estate, which has been beneficial for the people of this constituency, through our projects.

2016 was the rise of the... I wrote to the Hon Minister and Authority, to remove those who are working illegally, and using these lands. It was discussed by my village and it was ended as of now, but it has been noted, it is still being practised in other villages and other communities. I had thought the Hon Minister would immediately respond to the request of this village regarding land, as this is the village which the saying “*lumafale I moana ae tuafale I le papa*” first originated. There is nothing to work on and most of the residential area of the constituency is infertile. But this a request as it has now been 5 years or 6 years of this request, I ask for some fertile lands that can be worked on by Aiga i le Tai.

MR SPEAKER: Apologies to the member as there is an interruption by the Minister of Estate.

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Afioga Sala Fata Pinati (Minister of Tourism/Trust Estate): Good work to the fellow member for bringing up good things. In the case of these Estate lands, it is also known that these lands are owned by the Government, and it affects the whole country. And there is also the intention of the Government to not restrict these lands. There is also a plan by our Government to distribute these lands for the development of the economy of the country.

For your information you are not the only ones that are requesting. The numbers of appeals are on this long list, probably numbering in the thousands of people who need the land in Mulifanua Estate to be leased to them. With caution, it was not expected that this matter will be mentioned, as to who will embrace and who will lead? That is the intention, but we will wait until the Members of Cabinet and the honourable members meet for discussions. All good things are implemented, and nothing is left undone. But if you were to receive aid, let us acknowledge the amount of effort, and that is a weakness itself in this case, let us endure the efforts of your Government. With due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Well done, just be diligent and continue to knock and the door will open. I call upon the member for Aiga I le Tai.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: Thank you to the Hon Minister for the wonderful explanation as the speech is correct, but I would also like to thank you for some of the developments that you have responded to, excuse the holiness of the House, there are also toilets....garden toilets, at my Manono Uta wharf as well as the island for leisure for tourists, thank you to the Hon Minister. Well these things cannot be ignored, I have heard from a few old men that you would jump in your shiny vehicle, and you enter through the glass house, but when it comes to this section it is faulty, and this will ruin everything for the business. I applaud the Hon Minister for noticing these areas, as it is now being used by the country and the constituency by those who travel inland and out in the coast.

The Minister of Education, I offer compliments and gratitude for the school, thank you for the work that was supported by the Hon Minister, praises also to the Government of Japan, as the work has already been blessed which you were in attendance.

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As you have seen 8 rooms were funded by the Government of Japan with 3 additional rooms which amounts up to 11 rooms in total, as well as the sports field provided by the Education work program.

MR SPEAKER: The member's time is up.

Susuga MULIPOLA LEIATAUA LAKI: Thank you, some of the groups will make requests the Samoan way, crawling to your doorsteps, to the Hon Minister, because time governs us all. Mr Speaker, I ask for a few minutes so to make a speech for my constituency, please.

My constituency of Aiga I le Tai, our constituency is never questioned, you are the *pae male auli*, bearer and iron of the covenant of Tumua and Pule, the Sceptre we wield is our family with the titles of the Living God. He is the peace, the mighty God, these are such feelings. The privileges of the members are not often praised, except at times like this, when we are also nearing the end of the Parliamentary Term, may you have the prudence with the presence and the honorary salutations of the two families of le Usoalii, as well as my village of Manono in all its honorary salutations.

Bless the honorable Speaker, praises for your leadership. Your work is not easy, in managing the duties of Samoa. Bless the Hon Leader and the Cabinet and the Parliament, as well as pour fellow Leaders of Ministries and Organizations, live long and prosper.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you. I applaud the member for Aiga I le Tai for the speech. And this is an opportunity for me to call on the Deputy Speaker for your speech, as we still have enough time to address our constituency before we reach our recess time.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI (Gagaemauga No.3): *O le aso ma le filiga, o le aso foi ma le mataigatila.* These are the words of the country to express the importance of responsibility because not only for the person who performs the duties, but also the people in support. What does this mean? Not only the duties of the House, but the duties of Samoa to support the work as observed each day and the actions as witnessed since the Sitting of Parliament began.

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Mr Speaker, I rise with the utmost respect to the opportunity you have granted so that I can express the views of this constituency of Gagaemauga No.2 in accordance with the Main Estimates 2020/2021, as well as the Supplementary Budget 2019/2020 which has been discussed and is pending for approval.

Mr Speaker, this morning's voyage was not only stormy, but the waves were also surging, due to the voyages of the various districts that have been busy this morning, however, Matautu is a navigator accustomed to difficult days, accustomed to studying the waves, and knows the quickest way to steer the boat in the lagoon. So I believe as I stand at Taumeasina and look towards Matagofie as the words used in Fale Vaimauga. Why? Because this is the House of Samoa at Tiafau, *ua atoa tupe i le fala, ua taufai puea ai foi la le matila ma le ofeloa* like the sayings given to the sea, *o le Maota o le tagatia, o le Maota o le tagamanu* used for the decisions of the country and is supported day and night by the people for its succession.

Mr Speaker, this morning, *“se ua se togi lau seu na lagatila*, you have given praise and thanksgiving to our Almighty Father in heaven for his loving arms and goodness upon us the God of Sabaoth, for the new strength you have gained this morning.

I applaud your hard work, because you are the administrator in times like this. The words of the Bible, *“Not to us, but to your Name Give Glory”* *“Aua ne i ia te i tatou, aua ne i ia te i tatou se mea e tasi, a o le viiga ma le faamanu i le Atua, ia faasilisiliina lea i mea uma e manao i ai le tagata”*. But lest I wish to delve deeper into the golden opportunity given to this constituency, which has been permitted by the Chair, and forget the fishes of the lagoon, because the fishes and its flesh satisfies the desires of every day, especially during these times of this Parliamentary Term, as we are nearing the end of the 16th Parliament. In the words of the Motusa, *“a oo ina faalele fulu o manuula lava ona lauvae manu a le Tuimanua.”* No matter how many animals there are, the legend says that Tuimanua's animals are clearly recognizable by its jaws.

Before I express the views of this constituency of Gagaemauga No.2 regarding the Main Budget as well as the Supplementary Budget of last year, Mr Speaker, I would like to pay respects to you for your support, as I also acknowledge the presence of the Le Ao ole Malo and your Good Lady, as well as the support of the Member of the Council of Deputies and your wife and Samoa in all its honorific salutations. Truthfully speaking, the House has been made sacred this morning.

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MR SPEAKER: I cut in and interrupt the speech by the Hon member, as you have already made acknowledgements to the presence of the Le Ao o le Malo, and the Member of the Council of Deputies, as well as your villages, the constituency and the support of the Parliament, and so I thought, apologies to the honorable Deputy Speaker since we have now reached our normal recess, you will continue your speech when we return from our recess.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Your will will be obeyed, but it is good to start again next time. Thank you for the opportunity.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker, what if we all leave while the member continues his speech.

MR SPEAKER: I implore you Olo to not make fun of him. I announce that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be adjourned for its usual recess.

Proceedings of the Assembly were suspended for its usual recess at 10:47am and resumed at 11:47am.

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

MR SPEAKER: I announce the resumption of the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Before recess the Deputy Speaker was making his speech and so I call upon the honorable Deputy Speaker to rise and continue his statement.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: I believe that we have finished having our brunch for the sake of the House and I also believe that we have received extra strength to continue the work for today. I used to take the *fautasi* race to the Independence every year. When the gun goes off and the boats start rowing, but when the boat stops and it stagnates, the oars drop, because the momentum is lost and the drummer is off beat.

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It is also believed that the speech of Gagaemauga No.2 is similar to this. However, this member is a veteran.

I wish not to make a careless statement like the legend about the journey of the tongan boys and I wish not resume my speech given our beliefs and custom, I must first make word of acknowledgement. Such is the intent.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister, *lau Susuga i le Tama a Punefu, lau Afioga i le Laau na Fausia ia po o lau Afioga i le Aloalii, i le Susuga i le Alo o Malietoa, lau Afioga Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi*. Because it is not possible to make a speech informally. As the words of the Bible, we must pay respect to those who deserve it.

I acknowledge the presence of the Hon Sao Faapito, the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of the Cabinet and members on that side of the House, the Associate Ministers.

I also pay tribute to the honorable Speaker of the House, the House of the Legislative Assembly of the Independent State of Samoa as Samoa is for Samoa.

I would also like to offer greetings to the dignitaries of Parliament that have gathered in this House. I must also acknowledge the support of the Chief Justice, the men and women of the Court as well as the Ministry of Justice and Court Administration.

I further offer salutations to the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Corporations present today, thank you for your services, you are the hands and feet of this Government, thank you for your dedication.

We also extend tribute to the servants of God who are praying at every altar, thank you for the prayers, as the work of the Government is successful because of your devotions to God which has made things easier and safer.

I also want to address my constituency, *e le galo afia i lona vao* in Gagaemauga No.2 in all its honorific salutations. You are the foremost. These are the honours that I stand to address today. Our constituency, I ask for your support as I attempt to convey your opinions on the Budget as discussed in the House.

The Hon Minister of Finance, gratitude for you limited distribution, but I have noticed in your speech and on the documents presented in this House, thank you for the hard work. If a question were to be asked, what are the best things in Samoa in terms of its economy? The answer is, there are 3 things, the people, the land and the sea. In difficult times, it does not need to be explained, as these also have occurred in the past.

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When reading the Bible, these things are mentioned in the Bible. And so I offer gratitude and praises. I applaud the Hon Chief Executive Officers of our Ministries, as these are the things that the country notices, to see which way our country's stern is facing and where we will be heading towards in the future. Because there are those who are working, as well as the observers. From the observation of this constituency with the distribution of the Budget, we are in full support. We will not comment on the Supplementary Budget 2019/2020. It is strongly supported as the work is almost completed, and the financial year is nearing its end, but the requirements are noted in this Supplementary. Thank you very much. The truth is Hon Minister, there are many critics, and there are people who do not believe this. For this constituency of Gagaemauga No.2 we agree with these terms, which have been stated in the Budget, because these are the things that are necessary to implement the needs of each constituency, especially the people. I will not comment of the specifics of the Budget, as these details are clear to the constituency.

For the elderly, the only thing is, Hon Minister, I want to thank you for the National ID which provides \$50 per person from when they were a newborn up to the elderly. This constituency is thankful for this plan. Why? Because of the beneficinations that will be received by every person in the country. My only suggestion and opinion regarding this issue, the ID is very satisfying, the only thing left is.... when it is carried if it is in accordance with the act that can be made, maybe also add in a finger print or thumb print. There is a reason I have stated this, it has been heard by this House before, I have already conducted investigations in the Ministry of Police and Prisons, the prosecution of those who have violated the Act, it is not easy, as we try to match the crimes witnessed with the information gathered. But if this system was also added, it is one important part that I think will allow me to greatly assist our Police Department in criminal investigations if we add prints. Because until now, it is still impossible, as it is sent overseas and this is also difficult because sending the exhibits overseas should correspond with the time needed to be produced in Court, as there should not be a lapse in this transaction, in terms of DNA. But if we are going to use the National ID, that is the spirit, if this could be added, as I believe that \$50 is enough.

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The statements by some of the members makes it seem like they take this matter lightly, but this constituency and this member, it is very important to me as it has many positive aspects. This is another reason why I would like to offer gratitude to the foresight and vision of the Government in regards to implemented tis National ID system. Thank you.

I want to address the matter that I had already mentioned in the context of the three things in the economy of the country that we are clear about, as the world is in turmoil. Which means, *o lea o le a ifo lava le fuiniu I le lapalapa*. I still have an opinion on the Budget, I am thankful as it seems the Ministry of Agriculture is being prioritized, as that is the intention within our hearts, none of our people are affected by the disease. It is a wakeup call for our country so that we can live depending on ourselves.

I stand and reflect on our Parliamentary Term on the main goal of the 2016/2017 Budget, live by our own means. As we have been doing since the beginning and the flow of work in accordance with the Budget has been good. Today, our voyage has come to a stoppage, so what is the next option? I believe that whatever happens, it has its value. To me and my family and my constituency, it is very important, we have learnt a lot from the problems facing the world and Samoa in particular. A request, to re-examine the farmers if the funds are enough, take a look at the cultivation of lands that I spoke about. There are three things, the land, the people and the sea, that is Samoa. Look into this matter during these times of the Budget. If the efforts are successful, there will be talks about the Budget in the previous year.

But I respectfully request, to look at prioritizing, switch priority towards our land and the people who are implementing developments. At this time, even the employees that work in offices, after work they would go home put on their farming gear and head inland. What is the cause? There is nowhere else to go. This is the significance of the lockdown in this constituency. It is very important. That is the request, to cooperate with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for these things to be rekindled, because these are the only things we can rely on. Thank you to our foreign donors which we are receiving assistance from. Praise the Lord, for their love and their sharing.

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But a proposal, let us heed, just like the goal stated in the 2016/2017 Budget, Live by our own means. We must live and rely on what we have. Because this is a question raised by one of the members, if the Covid were to end, we do not know what the future holds only the Lord knows, but if another problem were to arise; our people and our lands and our seas will be well prepared.

The situation with the lockdown, the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, it is with the utmost intention to develop the country. But we pray that we maintain control of our borders, because if we had received information from overseas that a cure for the disease has been produced, we would have advised the borders to be opened immediately. But I beseech you, yes, as the business community as well as the country are listening, lest we suffer starting from March until this time, but that is the intent.

MR SPEAKER: I call upon the Hon Prime Minister.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, point of clarification for this House. The forecasts or predictions by the Scientists of world have not changed, as a complete answer about this issue will be available by June of 2021. It is just a matter of clarification, as we may continue to face this issue till June 2021, which is when we will have the election, so our House is made aware.

MR SPEAKER: I call on the Deputy Speaker to stand.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Thank you very much. I commend you for your foresight, thank you, because yesterday was a lesson, but today we will discuss and prepare for tomorrow, as we do not want the situation similar to the measles. But we are grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for leading the Government. That is the desire in case the hard work be wasted when someone gets infected and it starts to spread, but now we have an answer, and this is enough for this constituency.

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And then I come to the situation regarding Sunday as I am grateful to the honourable member for Anoamaa for his contribution, I had left that day satisfied with the speech, Samoa, honour God. I am still holding your contribution in my right hand. And that is the spirit of this constituency, a holy Sabbath, for you and your son and your daughter, thou shall not do any work, including the sojourner who is within your gates.

I pray that this continues. It has been successful, when we initiated the lockdown and prohibited working on Sunday. Clap your hands and thank God, as we return, look to the heavens, only through Him can we find rest. Thank you Samoa, yes, as you have heard, there are things to be done on Sunday, but Sunday is sacred, it must be kept holy. Thank you, we should continue like this. The aircraft is important as supported by this constituency. So in terms of money....

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi (Faleata West): Mr Speaker...

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

Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi: Perhaps the member should take a break, I would like to ask a question to the Deputy Speaker, as he has mentioned Sunday, Sunday multiple times now. I ask the member to explain, what is the exact statement by Jesus? He is Sunday, He owns Sunday, now he has returned to conduct his work to heal, and work to be done on Sunday. So I asked the member with respect. Did we change the statement by Jesus?

MR SPEAKER: I apologise to the member for his question, perhaps it would be better if the question were to be evoked. But I beseech as the speech by the member will be extended, as the member has 2 minutes left. I call upon the member to conclude your speech as you have 2 minutes left.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: There are 2 important parts because there are only 2 minutes left, due to the interruption by Leala. I would never interrupt when you make your statements. I offer a petition to the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, concerning the land in Vaipouli, which is leased by my village and my constituency. I do not know where our petition is.

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A reminder to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, the Government had a policy to create a district council, and our development plan has already been signed and approved, and the member is the Chairperson.

The spirit of the proposal is that the lease of our constituency should be released, as most of our constituency wants to undertake in the developments. We are isolated in the rural areas but it is needed, if there are a lot of people.... As I am trying... if there are a lot of people in our hospital every day on a regular basis, then we have to do business there. The request is...

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

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: There were also some members that mentioned this issue in the guidelines of the constituencies. And it is hoped that a statement will be made when it comes time for the Cabinet to respond. But for the conditions themselves, I have risen because lands are being mentioned.

In regards to this, it is beyond the reach of our Ministry. It would be better if such a request is directed to Hon Sala who is in charge of these lands, or the SLC to the Hon Lautafi, but your constituency can work together with our Ministry of Women to implement such purposes to assist with a petition, designed for the purpose of implementing these guidelines as spearheaded by our Ministry. That is my assistance.

Tofa NAFOITOA TALAIMANU KETI: Perhaps it is now clear as I have already investigated and now the request is presented to the Hon Ulu in regards to this matter, to the Hon Minister of Land Board. But the request by this constituency, it is not possible to have a mental health at our hospitals.

It is just a request, as it is also rumoured, but please there are applications that the constituency are in need of land to be leased, to implement the many developments that need to be done.

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Mr Speaker, there is still an issue that is being discussed in this House, some members have said, in regards to the Chair of Saleaula. This should not be left unsaid as it needs to be clarified. As my constituency is listening, I am not the one who made the statement, but what saddens me Mr Speaker, is that statements were made saying that the Chair for Saleaula has been removed. But the hon elder is present here. I do not understand where this statement came from.

So I pray with the utmost sanctity, the Chair of Saleaula as heard by the authorities of Saleaula, the seat remains. The Chair of Saleaula has not been removed, as the Hon representative of our village is present. Because I am Lofipo. Faasootauloa is still in attendance, but the Government's plans for its Acts, as some villages have been designated like Samalaeulu and Patamea and Mauga to complete the number of voters. But the Chair for our village has not been removed, it still remains. It has been bestowed upon the Afioga Faasootauloa. I just wanted to make this clear, so that the word would not spread, because I was the chairperson at the time of the Committee, but that is the intention. And then we end our statement, to thank Mr Speaker for the opportunity we have received...to give suggestions to the Government.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea (Gagaifomauga No.3): There is a small matter before the member concludes because the speech by the member is moving towards the issue I had already mentioned in my speech.

MR SPEAKER: The member's speech has concluded.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Yes, it is a small matter, please honorable Speaker. Nafotoa, as you have stated, you already know, as our village is witnessing in support. That is why you left because you have stood up for this. If after the next general election and no Saleaula gets elected, there will no longer be a Chair for Saleaula in the House. That is the meaning of what I am saying. Now Gagaetasi and Gagaelua have been merged as we are accustomed to, you were Gagaetolu, but there is no more Gagaetolu, as it is now Gagaelua, which is what I am trying to say. If after the election and not a single Saleaula is elected, the Chair for Vaituutuu will be lost. That is an explanation because our village is listening.

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MR SPEAKER: I apologise to the member, as I did not know that the member was involved in this matter, if you did not stand the explanation of the situation would not have been possible. But I call upon...I think in the case of this matter, it is your opinion. As for the member for Gagaifomauga No.3, Hon Laauli, this is your own opinion on your decision on the merger. We now have voting villages or voting constituencies but it does not take away the dignity of our...the appointees of the people of Samoa have already been appointed. I call upon the member...Apologies as I call on the Leader of the Government.

Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker, I rise on the issue, which I have enunciated many times. Since our independence, there has been the continuous issue on the increasing members in constituencies. The importance of the population in a district should not be overstated. Once there are many people in a constituency, the Parliament then must consider the value of the majority and their voice in this House, followed by other Parliamentary terms. Once a decision is made, the Constitution is amended, and some of the bigger constituencies will have 2 members. Not only will they have 2 members but voters will also have 2 votes each. This is the solution, it was only a method to satisfy those who come into this House and continue to raise this issue. It later resulted to changes for other constituencies, now there are other constituencies that have this privilege. There are 2 constituencies with dual members with 2 votes each per voter. So what happened was, some have started to query, considering this is not a solution to resolve it, these are the European voting system which cannot be removed, it would be unfair for constituencies with only one member.

The larger constituencies are satisfied but it will keep growing, like Apia, some from rural areas have moved to reside in Vaimauga, and some have started talking, we should have 3 or 4 members, so it will have 4 members per constituency if we were to follow this measure. This means, each member will have four votes. Now this measure will become exhausted and will be very inappropriate. Why? It seems electoral matters are now mixed with cultural practices. This is the reason why Government have looked into this matter, to find a probable solution to solve it. What is a way to solve it. It has happened a lot within this House. How many Commission of Inquiries have already overlooked these matters.

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Unfortunately, they were unable to provide a solution. The thing is, when there are additional members in some constituencies, there will be more members for those constituencies, leading to more votes for one voter. As for the Rule of law on electoral matters. There is only one person, one vote, one constituency and one member. This is the reason why a Commission of Inquiry was established, to resolve this concern. The solution for this is the must to look into the practices of foreign countries.

Such matters, are electoral concerns not cultural issues. This led to the establishment of a Commission, with a submitted recommendation to Cabinet, for a decision which was later tabled and approved by Parliament before it was implemented. It was done gradually. First Safata was divided, which resulted with continuous debate within the House and country. Some said that it will affect our culture. But what happened, our culture was not affected at all. If a problem occurs in that village, the roads of those villages which were there are still in traditional constituencies. The main matter considered is electoral and not cultural. It is also the reason why the statement was changed to electoral constituencies but not territorial constituencies. This recommendation was passed by Cabinet on the 15th of August 2017. Who was there, all of Cabinet, together with Hon Laauli. All was approved, nothing was disapproved. Mr Speaker this is a clarification. The member who stood up used to be in Cabinet and had agreed to this decision, he is a betrayer. Mr Speaker this is the truth. I am saddened with someone who used to sit and agreed with the decisions of this Cabinet submitted before Parliament, a matter that was referred to Parliamentary Committee and referred for approval in this House. This is why we agreed on this Mr Speaker, matters concerning electoral constituencies do not override traditional constituencies. This is truth Mr Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is correct in his statement.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: Mr Speaker, since there was a... it is said that I am a betrayer...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member, I call upon Faasootauloa Taulapapa.

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: It is unfortunate, that since last night I have been ridiculed and even this morning, I will accept it... I will, out of respect to the Chair.

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MR SPEAKER: I appease the member... That is disorder if a statement is made and...

Susuga Hon Laauli Polataivao Leuatea: I am surprised...

MR SPEAKER: We must consider our mutual respect. This is how I feel, we must follow the law to uphold the dignity of this Parliament, and we must also uphold mutual respect. I call upon Hon Faasootauloa Taulapapa.

Tofa Hon Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa (Gagaemauga No.2): This member is saddened. I have been sitting here listening intently to our proceedings. I prayed to God to give an opportunity to this constituency to convey an opinion. Unfortunately, our constituencies are being contemplated, when the member for Salega is present. Mr Speaker, I will speak on it soon, however let us continue with the Proceedings of the Assembly with due respect.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your elderly advice.

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker pardon me.

MR SPEAKER: Apologies to the member, but there is a saying that our culture is like that, *o le nofomagalafo e iloga malala ola* that dwelling is marked by burning coals. Thank you Faasootauloa Taulapapa, I do not have to reiterate since it is a matter related to you, therefore I apologize for the language used. There is no other clarification than the one given by the Leader of Government, and I believe this matter concludes here. I appease the member...

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker this is a different matter...

MR SPEAKER: I beg tolerance, since I am speaking and you are upstanding. The member continuously taking the floor is a sign of disrespect. Pardon the member, do not be impetuous, but think of your actions before you speak.

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The matter has already been clarified by the Leader of Government, there is no further clarification. Matters are raised because of you pointing hands to that side. Do not point to that side, least you forget, 3 returns back to you. One goes to that side, 3 to you and 4 to God, this means your pointing is hugely wrong.

Therefore, I apologise but there are no other matters to discuss, the clarification by the Deputy Speaker has concluded. I am cautious of our time. Therefore, I call upon one of the eldest of that side of the Chamber.

Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevagaena (Faasaleleaga No.4): Mr Speaker. I ask for an opportunity, if you see it fit.

MR SPEAKER: I thought I would give the opportunity to Government after the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee had spoken. There are also individual clauses allowed 15 minutes, however I want to remind the Associate Minister, this is the Budget of Government, thus I do not have to advise on it. I call upon the member to speak on their Budget... the member of Faasaleleaga No 4.... whether there is something missing that you want to include...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Mr Speaker I will not waste such opportunity. It is in high spirit that this constituency acknowledges Mr Speaker. Greetings to your good health. Greetings also to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I welcome as well that side of Chamber, especially respectable members. I also greet the Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries and Organisations especially to our country listening in this morning.

The respects of Samoa and all of our country, I will leave it at that since previous members have already voiced it through their speeches, also considering the limited time given by the Chair. My constituency, come a time I will address you, but I will try my best to convey an opinion for our constituency.

I thought of using the message of Solomon as a basis to this constituency's speech. The scripture says, what has happened before will happen again, what has been done before will be done again. This means that there is nothing new under the sun. Hon Minister of Finance, thank you for the financial report tabled before the House. I was listening and have taken note, on the speeches made by other members.

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In regards to the Budget for 2020/2021. And it seems the majority of members are emphasizing the term deficit. But the opinion of Faasalele is, no, we are surplus, abundant and have plenty of money. I am not an accountant, but I have faith in God. Mr Speaker, I am not an Auditor, but the only thing that I want is....

Tofa Olo Fiti Afoa Vaai: Mr Speaker a point of order. I just want to ask the Associate Prime Minister, if he is saying that there is plenty money or plenty loans, for the meaning of the term deficit he is conveying.

MR SPEAKER: Put on your microphone...now let us hear you speak...

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Tofa Olo Vaai stop interrupting, you are trying to ruin my speech again. This member has noticed the same word. Then I remember, when God summoned Abraham, to make a sacrifice. What happened? The old man was deficit. He did not know what to do. Mr Speaker this is where God tested the faith of Abraham. Whether he believed in his God, Abraham saw that he did not know what he was going to sacrifice. And God believed in Abraham's faith.

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo (Falealili East): Mr Speaker, is there an opportunity? I need clarification please.

MR SPEAKER: Make it brief...

Afioga Fuimaono Teo Samuelu Teo: The member spoke at the beginning that it started with Solomon. Now he is talking about Abraham but not Solomon. I just want to ask, which bank Abraham went to obtain this deficit.

MR SPEAKER: Both Abraham and Solomon are in the Bible. I call upon the member to continue.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Try and change to the church that I go to. Mr Speaker I am trying to clarify the situation, because it seems this House is in turmoil, with this term deficit. Was there anything that could support Abraham? There was nothing. There was nothing and this is exactly why there is this term. It is a term this House is afraid to say when it is stated in the Budget.

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But the opinion of Faasaleleaga is surplus. Why? Have faith in God. We are constantly given gifts from God everyday, as Solomon said, each year has its events. The day comes with its harvest, *o le fuata ma lona lou*. and also the season and its fruit. We have all witnessed good things, given by God to us. It is unfortunate that we are looking at money, Solomon once said, all that I own, the houses, the cattle and riches but once death comes, we will say that we have forgotten. We do not remember, but everyone is listening. I do not remember, we do not remember what we did, because everything we do under the sun, is a contribution to our lives. Mr Speaker, this is the reason for speaking on this matter. Even I am in deficit. And I say, all of us will experience the same, we are all deficit. We were born naked and had nothing. So why are we debating over the Budget. I have heard this constantly mentioned by the Leader of Government, do not be afraid to make changes, you have seen other countries, competing over the moon. How about Samoa, when something excels, they pull it back down.

The Hon Prime Minister always mentions this, then I remember the prayer of 1930. This prayer is a small prayer, it is very short. All Christians know it, I am not sure if Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni understands it. The prayer was spoken by a Theologian of the Bible. The name of this person is Reinhold Niebuhr. He preached and prayed. Perhaps this is also useful because I can see a lot of Government Ministries, allocate their free time to study the Bible. I pray to the Hon Minister of Finance, if there are enough funds, I kindly ask if it could be set aside to establish our Theological College. So that the public can attend. This is the same for us as well, we do not know if we will come back.

Yes, but we have the opportunity to go to this instead. The prayer by the Professor goes like this, *“Father God, grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference”*.

It is so inspiring, and very short. This means, this person prayed to God on things we cannot change, but only God can change it. The member of Anoamaa previously stated, only things made by God cannot be changed by anyone. But for things made by man, how hard can it be not to make change? This is the reason why I spoke about this scripture. What has happened will happen again, what has been done before will be done again.

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It is the same for our Constitution. The foundations are already laid. Now the Government is trying to amend it, in more detail. In order to make it more accurate. Be consolidated, why? For the benefit of our country. How can the Government progress when we just sit here? This is not how the Government works. This is the reason why this constituency wants to make a contribution, in view of the suffering seen in the world today.

The Hon Minister of Finance, I want to thank you, however my only request, if we look at the majority of Government Ministries, it is quite satisfying for me to see, when it is 12 noon, I would go and see the Chief Executive, say NPF, or the Attorney General. During break time when I visit these places at 12 I see staff studying the Bible. This is a fact, as the Chief Executive of these places are listening, this is usually the time I do site visits, perhaps other Ministries do the same. As I heard it is the same for the Ministry of Health. They carry out prayer meetings to give thanks to God.

Therefore Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, please look into this again. If Samoa is founded on God, then have a college the people can attend. If we look at it, there are a lot of teenagers fighting at the market. This is the significance of the request from this constituency, it is also beneficial for this House. If we do not have any Sittings, we can go there, at least sacrifice one hour for God. This is more than enough.

The Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, a humble request of this member. We have noted the progress of Government employment. Majority of buildings have been constructed high up due to the limited land available in the town area. A humble request of this member and constituency, is for the Hon Minister to review the APTC at Vaivase uta.

I am grateful to the Hon Minister on the services for apprenticeship. The level by which our youth are taught in these programs is outstanding. But this is necessary, because it is difficult for young people to finish school, because when they get jobs from these big places the truth is they have to be taught again.

Another aspect, most of these skills, eventhough they are good at plumbing, electrician, welding and carpentry, they still have to have special skills from overseas to learn the basics of the job. Because I know this profession of welding, this is why I say this and I know everyone is aware that this is my area of expertise from God.

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This is the only profession that is on the same level as the medical field. My statement is not wrong. Because when you get sick, you get checked by a doctor. When checked, you are checked by the doctor using an x-ray machine. When you look at the screen, you can see your heartbeat. This tells us what is the problem. It is the same with this profession. But the problem is, this skill is not available in our country.

As I stated earlier, bigger buildings are now being built up and such work is dependent on steel pillars and beams. The steel pillars and beams carry the whole weight of the building. How do you know the strength? You cannot know the strength unless you use a x-ray. It is like a laptop, and yes I have done it. You carry it, there are people who are skilled enough to climb up these buildings, after welding a beam they use the x-ray. The x-ray is tested with the screen monitored. The result is seen based on the picture of the building, stating the miles, because it takes 200 miles an hour to weld a joint. If the screen detects that it is not high enough, it means the energy put into it is not enough. The screen also detects pin holes, pinholes are pumps in the welding which is not good or strong. This means the machine setup is weak, like the undercut of the welding. This also means that the setup is not good as well as the welding of the joints. The strength needed is not achieved.

If the outline of the building is given, this is how you can determine it.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell (Minisita mo Pisinisi, Alamanuia ma Leipa): Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: The member has 2 more minutes. I call upon the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

Afioga Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell: We should let the member take a break. But I take the floor in regards to the comment made by the member in reference to people in trade. The endeavor by the Apprenticeship, this is where trade of an individual is developed. Once they find work, they will be able to apply these skills in the workplace, especially in their area of expertise.

This does not mean that after the Apprenticeship they are able to weld a whole building. Or after you will go and do the plumbing of big Government buildings. There are different levels for each skill, it is done accordingly, the skill and knowledge needed to do big projects is not done in 1, 2 or 3 years.

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There are also those from the Private sector and Government that go out and inspect these trades. There is also the role of the Ministry of Works where they go out and pass these buildings, and ensure that the buildings are strong. Perhaps this is the level the member is talking about, maybe that is the type of building he has visited. I am grateful to the member for the thought, but very soon we will have such buildings, the Government is currently working towards it, in the build up and upskilling the labour force in different trades. By the time we will be building these big buildings we will have people who are skilled, to inspect buildings, and also special engineers in our country.

At the moment, for construction of these buildings, people are brought in from overseas if we do not have qualified people to do this work. Now I have heard the member, it seems this is one mentor that should go to APTC, to share his expertise that I hear knows different types of welding. A humble request to the member, if you do not return after the elections, this is exactly the job that this Ministry will allocate you to do, with respect.

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

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you Hon Minister, I am grateful that you are taking note of this members request.

The Hon Minister of Tourism, also the Minister of Public Trust, this is a suggestion, because the matter is a bit embarrassing to mention, I am mortified to come by most of the time. But this is a suggestion thus you have the solution. What is a way in which this can be carried out swiftly? If it cannot be done, then establish a Commission to quickly respond to the queries of the public in regards to these lands. As mentioned by one of the members, the lands these families are fighting over are being leased by businesses owned by other people. But those who own the land are living there. This is a just a suggestion on the matter, however I will leave it to you to decide with respect, Afioga Sala Fata Pinati.

The Hon Minister of Tourism, also the Minister of Public Trust, this is a suggestion, because the matter is a bit embarrassing to mention, I am mortified to come by most of the time. But this is a suggestion thus you have the prudence. What is a way in which this can be carried out swiftly? If it cannot be done, then establish a Commission to quickly respond to the queries of the public in regards to these lands.

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As mentioned by one of the members, the lands these families are fighting over are being leased by businesses owned by other people. But those who own the land are living there. This is just a suggestion on the matter, however I will leave it to you to decide with respect, Afioga Sala Fata Pinati.

MR SPEAKER: Conclude your statement, oh, I call upon the Hon Minister of Tourism.

Afioga Hon Sala Fata Pinati: I want to take this opportunity to respond to the member. I am aware that this matter mentioned is of great importance. We must be patient, we will wait until our Sitting is adjourned this week or next week then we will deliberate on this matter. Because it is true, the situation now is, there are cases that are now 20 to 30 years that have not been resolved. But I appreciate your trust in me, we will work on finding a solution quickly. With respect.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, the member may conclude.

Afioga PESETA VAIFOU TEVAGAENA: Thank you Afioga Sala Fata Pinati, to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I commend you for the hard work. A humble request of this constituency, our road at Puapua it is already tarsealed. Therefore it is not a road that need be tar-sealed. The only request is for the road to be fixed, it needs to be upgraded for use by the village to access their plantations. This road has already been tar-sealed maybe for 12 years now, it just needs further improvement.

I am grateful that you have responded to a request for my village of Lano, on the construction of the cement pavement which is causing a lot of accidents, and now the Maliolio bridge is completed. I am grateful for this, since it is next to Lano, these roads are quite difficult to drive through also many lives have been lost here. This is a humble request Hon Minister.

The Hon Minister of Health, I commend you for your patience. What is happening around the world is also affecting our country. However let us put our faith in God. Let us trust Him with our duties, I commend the staff, I know it is not an easy task especially for the passengers the Ministry are trying to ensure their safety. Well what can we do? If there are people with the disease the Ministry will be infected as well.

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The Hon Minister of Revenue, I also commend you for the hard work, because of time limitations I will not speak further on other matters. The Hon Minister of Finance, I give you my support. As one of the female members stated last night, Afioga Gatoloaifaana Amataga Gidlow, I am very proud. Why? Because you have been chosen to sit in the position of the Minister of Finance. Perhaps this is a good thing for all of Salelologa listening in and all honorary salutations. You are now overseeing the highest Ministry of Government in distributing the economy of the country. Thank you.

Mr Speaker I just want to speak to my constituency, it will just be a minute. Our constituency, thank you for your hospitality towards the visit of the Parliamentary Committee. I was listening intently on a response from our constituency, now I have heard the good news that you have accepted the Bills Government is trying to clarify. This also portrays the outcome of our elections. Yes, because that is the way it is, thus I also want to acknowledge those who we will be competing. *Afioga le Paia o Satuala, afio o aiga Sa Vui ma le Falefa o lo outou aiga aemaise foi le paia ia te oe Falenaoti, le alalatai o le matua fetalai ia te oe Malae*, and elders of Lano. My village of Asaga i le afio o lau *Afioga Matafeo ae faapea foi le alalatai ia te oe le matua fetalai i lau Fetalaiga Lualuataua aemaise foi le Fetalaiga ia Leatuavao aemaise le mamalu ia te oe Salepatu faapea foi le lautele o si o tatou nuu*. Have patience it will not be long now before we meet again.

Lastly Mr Speaker, is the village dear to my heart, where I was born, Puapua by which authority is honourable. The authority is there but not from Peseta. The authority is with the dignity of all families. This is with our families, the elderly fathers and mothers of our village. I thank you for the support. Eventhough it has been a while since we have met, do not worry, we will meet next week. Yes, as the wisdom of Solomon said, days will come and days will go. This is why Mr Speaker I want to say, thank you for your support.

The Hon Prime Minister, this constituency wants to thank you and voice blessings, for the major developments of Government even to the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Leader of the House, may the Lord bless you, whatever sickness in body you are faced with I pray He give you the strength and good health. Let us meet again in the next Parliamentary term and also to all other members. Bless this House.

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MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you to the member of Faasaleleaga No.4 for the speech. I will now give the opportunity to the member of Falelatai and Samatau. Do all members of that side want to speak... alright it is only Afioga Faasootauloa Taulapapa, well it will be quick. I call upon Aiga Tauaana.

Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai and Samatau): Very well, thank you. Greetings Mr Speaker.

Afioga Afoa Amituanai Faleulu Maui (Palauli West): Mr Speaker Palauli also wishes for an opportunity please...

MR SPEAKER: This is the only member who has instructed the Chair. You will be disciplined, because you do what you want. I call upon the member.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: I was trying to console my brother Afioga Afoa Maui that I will make a comment towards TV Bingo, I ask that you show support for our speech to go well. I humbly greet the dignity of the House this time of the day, I commend you all for being here. I have heard a lot of views expressed in regards to our Budget.

Therefore, I humbly greet Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, Associate Ministers especially the members of Parliament in all honorary salutations. The Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministeries and Organisations, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Office. Greetings to Samoa, your Excellency Le Ao O le Malo, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II and your Good Lady Faamausili. The Member of Council of Deputies Afioga Le Mamea Ropati and your Goodlady.

I acknowledge as well the Chief Justice and Judiciary. Leader of church denominations, the ordained servants of God preaching the word of life throughout Samoa. Also to the support of all Samoa. I commend you all for the sacrifice to your country, in respects to *Paia I Aiga ma a latou Tama, Tama ma o latou Aiga, le Usoga a Tumua ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga I le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti*. The respects of my constituency, paia ile Aiga Tau Aana ma latou Tama.

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I also greet Afioga Falefitu Leatitagaloa and respects of our constituency for your son now sits at the head of Samoa and is respected by all. *Afio Faasavalu ma lona aiga Salu ma Vaepeau, tama a tausala ma le usoalii. Alaalatai Galuefa ma Falelatai ma tagata o le vavau.* My village of Samatau e *afiafio ai le falefa o le usoalii ma le gafa, Fiame ma le tamaitai ma le nofo i ituaiga ia te oe Leulumoega.* I am grateful for your support and prayers. Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Hon Minister in charge of our Estimates for the thorough preparations by the Ministry and Government in putting together our Budget. I also commend the Finance and Expenditure Committee, the Chairperson and members for the report prepared. I have read carefully, those who are followed from one term to the next, it is always an effort to stay up to date on Annual reports of Ministries and Corporations. Thus, it is being well monitored as I read and go through it. I have read some reports that work carried out is still ongoing. Sometimes we have the same opinion on many of these papers being distributed to be read, and most times we leave and it is up to the Clerk and office what to do with it. However, we all have machines to upload our Annual reports to save money on printing. I also read about our Printing service provided by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, since it was established it has been trying to survive and is in deficit as stated by some of the members. Let us consider since there is a lot of competition, or else privatize it...

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: Mr Speaker...

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

Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama: I move with respect towards the member speaking, I will clarify the matter in regards to our Printing since other members raised it as well. But a point of order, our Printing is not in deficit, it is making.

MR SPEAKER: Very well, thank you.

Afioga TAEFU LEMI: Thank you for the clarification Hon Minister. This is reflected in the report. These are the projects of the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries, it has been 3 years yet nothing has been done or has been implemented, the majority of these projects are funded from overseas.

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Therefore, it should be properly used because the use of funds are reported back. But I am grateful for the report of the Finance Committee in assistance to further understand our Budget.

I want to thank the Government because it is not easy nowadays. Especially with the State of Emergency. It was noted from the start of this order, how difficult it was for people to understand measures implemented.

I saw there were times when we had to appease the Churches and other gatherings about the restrictions implemented. I believe there are differences in the fields which we play. As the saying goes, the *uto* and *maene* must work together. But the other cannot do the work of the other. This is my observation and encouragement to our Government, because this is what others do not know, no matter the powers of Government, once a State of Emergency SOE is declared, there are additional powers initiated. This is what some do not know, and there is always the need to ask questions and to further understand how these SOE orders are done.

There are good benefits for SOE measures that I have seen. The families, father, mother and children, they have become closer and talk about what can improve their environment. There are other good benefits like the education programs seen on TV, for that I am grateful to the Hon Minister. I am grateful for such initiatives that cannot be avoided, the progress of today's living will go on as usual together with development.

Other educational programs seen on television are tutorials, where parents had to pay for their children but now every TV station is broadcasting it. And it seems all of us are studying through it as well. We are reminded of Mathematics from the past. I want to thank the Ministry of Education and Churches for programs broadcasted on television.

I also want to encourage our teachers, I see the moral and confidence of teachers have been uplifted. Maybe it is the neat attire of teachers, the earrings and flowers worn on their ears that has made it visually satisfying to see them on television. It is my expectation that these programs continue. The world cannot go back, we have to move forward with the technology available and keep up considering the diseases now seen, which we believe will never return. After this disease there will be another and we have to rely on the use of technology to carry out educational programs.

There are other countries Hon Minister of Education where children only attend school for 3 days. It is not a means because of restrictions, but it is there usual program. There are three days where they go to school but the other two days they use internet.

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I believe this is useful, it will be a solution to students fighting in school. To do their work through television programs and internet from home. This is my personal opinion but it will be a great assistance...

MR SPEAKER: Pardon the member speaking, since we have arrived at our usual recess time, your speech has been outstanding especially with the matter conveyed. Thank you, you will continue once we return for our next Sitting this evening at 6.00pm.

Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 12:57pm and resumed at 6:13pm.