

*THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** Foremost, I greet the dignity assembled this morning. We have returned thanksgiving to our Lord and Father for without His unconditional love, Members and the country would not have awoken on such a beautiful morning. I convey my gratitude for your dedication and participation at the beginning of our proceedings on this new day.

We will now consider our orders of the day as today we shall conclude with the Financial Statement. I believe majority of the Members have shared their thoughts on the matter, save for this side of the House. Therefore I trust the Leader of Opposition and of course the remaining Members will make haste so that we may proceed to conclude the Government proceedings and move on to Parliamentary matters.

I move to acknowledge the support of the Country and bid the nation a great day.

I also acknowledge the distinguished CEOs of the Ministries; good morning.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2013/2014 &  
APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015 – continue second reading  
deliberation**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Assembly adjourned its proceeding yesterday while the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo was speaking.

Therefore I call on the Tuiatua Faanofonofu to conclude your statement.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the distinguished Members of the House, the Speaker, and the Hon Prime Minister and esteemed Cabinet, to the Leader of the Opposition and that side of the side.

I convey my greetings to all Members of the House and also CEOs and especially to the Clerk and lest I forget the media and the support of Samoa.

We have returned praise to the Lord for his guidance and we are one in that thought. Moreover, I acknowledge the support of my constituency. However I seem to have heard you say for me to conclude my statement.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the  
Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 – debate on second reading**

Before we adjourn I call upon Taefu, the Pharaoh that had a dream and was interpreted by Joseph. Please give a sincere prayer for Parliament to have sweet dreams tonight before we rise again tomorrow morning.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were now set aside at 7:04pm until 9.00am tomorrow, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 & Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 – continue second reading deliberation**

My speech last night barely lasted 5 minutes before the Hon Prime Minister and Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries interjected. There are those who observe and those who read into such things. Therefore I ask for an opportunity to share my thoughts on the matter.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The Associate Minister is incorrect; his speech was not interrupted. Assistance was shared to highlight some issues that were raised. It means I had shed light and understanding on his speech. I caution the Member to control his temper. If he returns for a second Term, he will then understand what I am trying to relay.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, do not concern yourself with the 5 minute limit. As I have said before 5 minutes is no different from 50 minutes. When I say 5 minutes it is merely a reminder but the discretion lies with you Afioga Tafua.

**Afioga TAFUA MALUELUE TAFUA:** I thank the Speaker for providing Members with time to share their thoughts. I shall conclude my brief thoughts on the agriculture sector.

We are in need of an incubator, a machine that warms the chickens as they lay their eggs. Hon Minister it is the request from the Ministry. The Ministry inquired about the chips factory on the day we met, and the workers responded that they do not know where the chips factory is. However I know where it is located and so does the whole country.

We have been investigating the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 for two weeks straight. The Chamber considers carefully the \$790+million allocated for our budget this year. It has dropped from the previous budget. Our economy equals to \$1.6 billion and less the expenses leaves the \$790+million. At the moment the policies of the Ministry of Finance are running smoothly. I speak in support of my Minister, the Hon Prime Minister.

If we consider the policies and its progress, the loans should reach 50%. If we consider the findings it is slowly progressing to 67% which is slightly higher and evidence of progress of our economy. The increase is between 2½to 3% as it is a give and take number.

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What I mean is that even though it is known that the world's economy is at a recession but thankfully our country is unaffected. Furthermore, I recommend the new Minister and caretaker of SOEs follow protocols of Government policies to transfer 50% of dividends to the Government. It is my prediction for the future that in the next 5 years our economy will be over \$2 billion especially after the SIDS conference coming up. It will be another major event that will provide foreign visiting parties and hopefully will also provide future donor partners to assist in our developments. It should mean that in the next 5 to 10 years our economy will hopefully amount to over \$2 billion.

It means that our Government is stable at the moment and we have nothing to be concerned about for now. Gratitude to the Lord for his unconditional love for safely guiding us as we are slowly taking up the right tracks.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge the progress of our Nations agriculture. If we observe the bountiful taro, breadfruit, bananas, cassava and yam and many more blessings the Lord has bestowed for our country.

Before I proceed to offer my request of the SIDS, I foremost acknowledge the Members of the Parliament who initiated this meeting. On behalf of the Accommodation industry I convey my thanks to the distinguished countrymen who offered their homes for the hosting of our guest. However I humbly request that we are still in need of 200 more rooms. If there is availability then please notify the Samoa Tourism Authority so that visitation to your homes can be arranged. Furthermore, I acknowledge the respective villages for the maintaining of their surroundings and front yards in preparation for our guests. It is one more step towards ensuring we attract potential partners but we shall leave it to the Lords guiding mercy.

I have observed that the citizens do not comply with the rules in terms of road crossing, using the street lights or the pedestrian crossing, especially the Beach Road in Apia. I therefore recommend to the Hon Minister or to the LTA to consider this matter. It would seem very useful to have over pass bridges built in these areas but developed by our donor partners. I propose one from the NPF to the Development Bank, another at Amau and also the Church buildings on that side. It is useful and safer for our people doing their shopping. It is something to consider as many of the people have nearly been run over on these roads.

This road should also be reviewed or our Laws should be reviewed as it states no returns. Perhaps then my colleague who sits next to me would not have been in trouble with the Deputy Prime Minister. Nevertheless my recommendation is as is.

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The regulation that prohibits no return starts from in front of the Aggie Grey building to the Trust Estate of Tanoa Tusitala. The Regulation is inappropriate because we have had our traffic islands to divide the roads. So where would the car return if there are no points of return? If that is the case, then there should be roundabouts so that drivers can easily return. I still believe this regulation should be removed. If it is too late, then perhaps consider placing a one-way road. In any country whether it be France or Japan, there are always signs on the roads to direct drivers. Signs on the side of the road or maybe on the street lights so that foreigners are aware of the regulations on the road. For instance if a tourist visits Samoa and his license is new, he might just u-turn in front of you because there is no sign saying it is a not a u-turn zone. I wish to recommend this to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

Additionally, the impacts of rainfall on these roads cause flooding issues near the Police station, the old Court house to the CIP because the water gutter for these buildings seep off to the roads. The same problem occurs for villages in Apia as the water harvest is collected from these large buildings and floods the villages. We inquired the Ministry and also the PUMA division about revising this part of building constructions so that it can be automatically included in building plans. For new buildings to have water tanks to collect the water.

Secondly, these buildings should have pelting or drainage for the water to accessibly seep through so as to further protect further flooding as we so commonly experience. I had queried the Ministry in charge of maintaining these hazards. The reply was that the problem with Apia is that it is low lands. It means that if the town area was to be reclaimed to raise higher say a meter or a meter and a half. The difficulty lies with families who own private lands in Taufusi, Togafuafoa and Lalovaea as they have the power to raise their lands to 2meters or more. I had thought that there would be a benchmark for these matters. Furthermore, families of low income earnings that cannot afford to have their lands reclaimed will fall victims as the water will run-off to their homes. I humbly recommend the Ministry to perhaps consider raising our roads to a meter high and of course to complete it a section at a time depending on financial provisions. It is one of the reasons why the SIDS conference will be beneficial to our country as there will be opportunity to enquire potential partners to assist in these development. The areas needing improvement include the Bank some areas of Vaimauga and all of Apia near Hans Keil, the market and all of Taufusi. The Taufusi area was reclaimed but to no avail as the water causes floods therefore the better solution is to have sewage installed.

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Before I make my humble request to the Hon Minister, our constituency has been blessed with a kindergarten at the village of Satitua and Saleaamua. They open at 10:00am and I thank the Rev Pati and Faletua Matalena for this fine establishment. As one Member mentioned, this is a stepping stone for our country to start education at these young levels as it was those days with the nuns and church ministers. I am proud to say that we are slowly progressing to establish grades to teach the three and four year olds. Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture not only in education wise developments but also in reviving of our culture through dance, oratory in colleges and also in primary levels. In preparation for the Broadband developments I wish to request maybe two IT teachers to educate the rural teachers of the uses and skills in computer literacy. There is no use for the rural areas to acquire or own computers if they do not learn how to utilize it.

Lastly, I appeal to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to please consider the road to the school of Satitua as it is in really bad shape. The road up to the school is not a kilometer long. The shape of the road to the Saleaamua School is also bad. Tiavea is stable but I humbly request fixing these roads.

I will stop there but before I retreat to my seat, I acknowledge the Ministries and especially the Private Sectors as I observed the 9% increase in dividends of the UTOS. Another public body to acknowledge is the SIFA which contributed \$11million or \$12million to the Government; thank you for your contributions to the Government. As I recall the last two years the UTOS had an aim of achieving \$40million but now they have acquired \$80million which is a great achievement. I have recommended before that if we combine all SOES and their 50% dividend to the Government, the economy will be very stable.

I conclude with conveying my sympathies with the Member for Gagaifomauga No.1 and wife and family and especially pastors and the whole family at Safotu. I also acknowledge the Speaker of the House for acknowledging the Member and his service. This is the first time that something like this has happened in our Term. I suppose I am not alone when I say that this Member will be sorely missed as he is a man of commitment and even though he is reckless sometimes, it was his nature. I acknowledge the support of Samoa at Tutuila and Manua and here; to His Majesty O le Ao ole Malo and Good Lady, not forgetting the Council of Deputies, the distinguished Members of the Government; the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Chief Justice and respected Members of the Courts.

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I also acknowledge the Speaker of the House and the distinguished Parliament. I would like to thank my constituency of Tiavea to Satitooa; thank you for the prayers. May the Lords blessings rain upon this Proceeding and God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank your Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, the Afioga Tuiatua Faanofonofu for the speech this morning in regards to the Financial Statement.

We shall now move to this side of the House to the member for Salega and of course to Lealailepule. I give opportunity to the member for Salega first because you are older in your age. I call on the member to stand.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE (Salega):** Thank you Speaker of the House for this opportunity. This morning I observe the beautiful life God has granted and blessed Samoa with.

I wish to acknowledge the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, he who Chairs our proceedings. I also greet the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and of course that side of the House. I acknowledge the Leader of Opposition, lest I forget to acknowledge the CEOS. I cannot forget the support of O le Ao o le Malo and Good Lady, Council of Deputies and also the Chief Justice and the distinguished Judiciary. I further acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its distinguished glory. Lastly I acknowledge the support of my constituency and especially the members of the Clergy who are forefronts of pastoral work in praying for the future of not only our Sitting but all of Samoa.

Forgive me Mr Speaker but I must address my dear constituency and all its honorific salutations. Your prayers and support of your Member has granted me strength to be present in the Assemblys proceedings and of course the preparation for the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker, I present the acknowledgement of my constituency and some developments needed to be done. Mr Speaker we are in the fourth year of this Term and I have been praying and requesting to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure for assistance on my constituencys roads. I have been patiently waiting and there has never been a sitting where I would not voice my request time and time again. I observe other requests have been addressed and I believe others should be addressed too.

The water at Sagone is in very bad condition as it is still accessing saline water. This can be verified by one of the Members that visited and observed its current state. The Managing Lady has been notified as the constituency has been drinking saline water for quite a while.

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Therefore I beg the Minister to make haste in providing clean water for my constituency. The matter is very simple as all it really needs is for it to be drilled.

Hon Minister of Police and Fire Emergency Services perhaps you have grown tired of listening to my appeals, but the truth is my constituency have already prepared for the police post but I hear that it is being relocated to Salailua. I had investigated the reason behind this change and was told that the family refused their lands. My concern Hon Minister is that no official explanation was relayed back to either me or Tapuai as we can always commune. However the reason why I am insistent of having the post at Salega is because there are no villages neighboring Salailua and after Salailua is the bush. Therefore it would not be appropriate for the post to be built at Salai.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the two Houses of Vaisigano but I recognize a Member. I give opportunity to the Deputy Speaker.

**Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa (Palauli West):** Mr Speaker I merely wish to clarify to the Member that there is no difference in having the post at Salega or Salailua as the service will be available to all the citizens equally. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Member to continue his speech.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** The Deputy Speaker is right but the problem is that if there is an emergency and the police get there the victim would have died already due to the distance. The sub-village that the proposed pole will be built is situated near the bush and Taga. However the majority of the country is situated in Gagaemalae and Salega with eight more villages. It is why Hon Minister of Police that I am persistent and I mean not to command you Hon Minister as I trust your discretion to do what is appropriate for the nation; the post should be in Salega.

Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development I wish to acknowledge the faalelegapepe that just finished. I am grateful for this even as most of Salega benefited as women were awarded for their talents in this division of the Minsitry. My disappointment was with the prizes as afterwards the old ladies came to sell me their fine mats (ie iniini). I told them to go the Hon Minister as I have no money. I inquired about the duration of time it took them to weave the mat and they said it took a year. It is why....



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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Minister for the countrys treasured culture. I grant opportunity to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity and I also acknowledge the Member for raising the subject. I believe the question is to as it should be as this is the Minsitry which deals with cultural revival of Samoas customs and traditions, with the Chairperson being the Hon Prime Minister. I wish to clarify the misunderstanding because the Governments project was to award the weaver with \$1000 for the ie iniini, \$700 for the second and \$500 for the third stroke while the lady keeps her mat. It is so that these mats may be used for family obligations, village functions or even sold to whomever the weaver decides to sell it to. Unless a lady willingly offers their mat for a Member like say the Chairperson or Hon Prime Minister, but as it was nothing of the sort happened. Furthermore the Committee investigated that it takes three months to weave a fine mat.

If these weaving houses are listening in then it is best you are clear on the matter that nothing of the sort has happened. And I would like to remind the public that the large but unattractive fine mats should not be used anymore but priority should be to our fine ie iniini. Thank you very much.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development for that reminder and especially in the efforts of reviving our cultural treasures.

I call on the Member to continue his speech.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you Hon Minister for clearing that up. My words are true as I express my gratitude for the efforts put into ensuring our cultural aspects of fine mats and the skills are maintained and remembered. It is something that concerned me as the price of the mat increased to \$3000 and someday someone may develop a machine that will inevitably weave and manufacture this important piece of our culture. In truth technology is developing everyday and it has the capacity to carry out this skill and might eventually leave the ladies unemployed.

Therefore I appeal to the Hon Minister to perhaps consider a way to maintain our countrys cultural heritage because if a machine were to weave our fine mats it would take a shorter time period to complete such a task.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I call on the Hon Minister to stand.

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I had no intention of interrupting the fine speech of the Member. However I wish to inform the Member that our country recently joined the Preservation of World Heritage and Samoa has registered to become a Member. The first on our list to be preserved was our fine mats. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I believe this answers the Members concerns. I call on the Member.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you Hon Minister of Education Sports and Culture.

It is what should be done and I acknowledge that work you have done. However another matter of concern is the provisions in the Law in relations to the yards in the matrix system to utilize in weaving the mats. I appeal to the Hon Minister to further consider putting restrictions on the yards that the women should be allowed to carry out their work. Our old ways should be preserved by using the same reference to weave the fine mats.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member but I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister to take the floor.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker there is no difference in what the Committee intends to even out because different women have different measures or interpretations of yard [aga](his hands were used to depict the length of one yard). There should be one measure for the weaving of mats.

Furthermore the Committee is also looking at the state of encouraging women to weave the most delicate of mats. We are all aware of a persons nature to be dishonest in their work when they are lazy. It is why the Committee initiates these standards and I am grateful to the Leaders of the Churches for accepting and supporting the Governments vision. There is also belief that this program will continue on for a very long time. Cultural heritage such as fine mats will be greatly admired if they are made in such ways to highlight talent and Samoan culture. The mats that we used before should never be considered cultural heritage and valuable as they mostly fill up the space but are woven with pandanas leaves.

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It is why the mats are expensive now; because they have just recently become something truly worth of great value. The benefit of this program as it is similar to the law of Supply and Demand as you are an expert on such matters. Therefore if the starting price is \$3,000 this year until the next two years, the value of the mat will eventually decrease and suit the price range for those of us who can barely afford it.

Furthermore, in the beginning the Committee and also the Ministry of Women initiated this program with one year, as it is now it only takes three months to complete a mat and hopefully sometime later on it will be a month. That is what happens when you practice it makes perfect because sometimes what happens is that the mind prevents us from carrying out a task, but once you try it you will find that it is simple enough. Moreover the fear of machines taking over is an unnecessary concept to dread over because we will continue to uphold our traditions. The Committee is upgrading through plans to improve the decorative feathers of the mat. The program is very important as it will increase and encourage the production of our cultural heritage. Additionally the Methodist Church has also adopted the Governments laws and I believe the CCCS and Catholics have followed suit. These are some of the highlights of our Term in Parliament as significant deeds we accomplished in ensuring Samoan culture is and will continue to be maintained.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you to the Hon Prime Minister for the clarification in reference to the Members query. I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. However I truly believe and fear for the future of the women in weaving when machines take over, because whether we are ready for it or not, the outcome will likely still be the same in overtaking the womens form of income earning.

Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture we are in an era where the development of your Ministry is a priority and it is one of the core aspects of the Appropriation in regards to the policies of our Government. However I wish to convey my recommendation to the Hon Minister to carefully consider the developments of the Ministry so that our economy is a knowledge-based economy. Knowledge should be the heart and core of our economy so the Ministry of Education should be able to carry out this endeavor to make it a reality. Nevertheless I am grateful that your work slowly proceeds to accomplishing this for Samoa.

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Then I come to the matter that concerns me in regards to our partner Australia and the APTC institution. I suppose it has been five maybe four years now since its partnership with the University. My concern is whether the graduates of the APTC are able to successfully be employed, carry out their developments accomplished through this knowledge upgrade. It is important for this wealth of knowledge to stay within Samoa and assist in its developments. I am not too sure who exactly it is I am supposed to refer my queries to, whether it is the Hon Minister of Education or the Hon Minister of Business, Industry and Labour; the Deputy Prime Minister. The most important aspect is maintaining our knowledgeable graduates within Samoa lest we lose them to foreign nations. On the other hand, it is important to have interaction with foreign countries so that Samoa may gain intellectual knowledge from those nations.

And then I come to my last recommendation....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker that was not the intention behind the establishment of this institution; Australia's program was not to contain those successful in Samoa. Opportunity is freely given to the people of Samoa to travel overseas for better chances in life. This mentality was one of the reasons that Australia nearly withdrew their institution from being established here. There are only three institutions in Fiji, PNG and Samoa.

The reason why this school was set up was because there was already Australian courses being taught but they were carried out within Japanese built buildings. Therefore Australia built this school.

Nevertheless the intention was to ensure that majority of the people would have opportunity at a good education and it is impossible to put a stop to the brain drain. Furthermore the Australian Qualification will greatly assist their applications for either employment overseas or education. The Government is not concerned with whether or not successful graduates migrate overseas or not because there are still those who remain in Samoa. Opportunity is open for those who wish to migrate overseas to develop their families and in doing so can also send remittances back to Samoa. It is why there is an increase in the number of remittances to Samoa.

Therefore dismiss the notion of containing wealth of knowledge in Samoa as they can be of assistance to those countries they are traveling to and also Samoa.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I call once again to the Member for Salega.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you, I believe that is the same thing that we want also. However I merely wished to express the importance of ensuring there is a great number of people assisting and serving our country with their acquired knowledge. I did not mean to imply to enforce restrictions on people to not be able to leave the country.

Mr Speaker the other matter which is quite a concern is with the Public Service Commission. I think it is clear that the Hon Prime Minister heads this department and especially the Commission. It is concerning the authority and full power of the Commission to choose who especially in regards to....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I wish to inform the Member that the Afioga Lautafi is the Minister of the Commission. I am fearful to receive praises for another Ministers work and it is why I wish to announce that Afioga Lautafi should be the receiver of all the praise.

**MR SPEAKER:** I dare not criticize the member for forgetting but as the Hon Prime Minister has just clarified, he was once the Minister of the Commission. It is now headed by Afioga Lautafi.

I call on the Member to continue.

**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** I apologize to the Hon Prime Minister for I was still thinking in the past. I heard this morning about the Afioga Lautafi however he is new and you are a Savaii man whose discretion counts. However I humbly request in regards to the authority that the Commission holds to perhaps be reconsidered. The Heads of Government Departments are unaffected in this concern as there is the Cabinet to oversee that. However my request is for the Commissions authority or power of authority to be reviewed so that there is assurance that the policies are met.

Then I come to the Appropriation Bill as I wish to convey my thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance; the Hon Prime Minister for the well prepared Bill as it is not an easy task.

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It is true that the numbers in the previous year and that of the present are not the same due to the works carried out on natural disaster recoveries. Progress is still underway and it is important as the development of the nation is being prioritized.

I will not comment further on the overall of our Committee Review of the Appropriation Bill as the Chairperson of our Committee will clarify some important matters. However there are just a few factors that I hope to shed some light on through recommendation to the Hon Minister of Finance or the Hon Prime Minister. In my observance of the \$722,962,208 million although a slight drop from the previous number due to the recovery assistance, I believe this money is more than enough. I hope to use the Proverbs that Jesus used in relation to the talents of five, two and one to further illustrate my belief in the sufficiency of this amount that we have.

When the five talents were given it was wrapped in a grant or a loan with the expectation that it would be developed and the five talents would be multiplied five times. It is a common story and we have all heard of it as the man with the two talents also multiplied his talents while the man with only one talent failed as he held different beliefs. The way I see the Appropriation and the \$722million is that it is a blessing given to us not only for that side of the house but also all of us, especially the tamalii and failauga who are responsible for the allocation of these funds so that it is developed and multiplied. Even if it is not accomplished but at least we should have a stable number to base our works appropriate with the \$722million. It means that we need to work together. There is an important message in the Saviors message for us to develop our talents so that our wealth is allocated wisely with discretion and love. I thank the Hon Minister of Finance for the appropriation because it is not easy. However to those of us developing the vineyard we should look after our assets like our buildings and vehicles as these are resources used in developing our talents. Those of us chosen to care and be responsible for these assets should prioritize looking after them as they are not our properties, they are national properties. To those responsible for the allocation of our Appropriation, we should ensure our blessing is multiplied. Bear in mind that we are still busy with the debts and it is our prerogative to convey our thoughts and suggestions on the matter while yours is to your responsibilities.

The advertisement on the TV is a very good example and I believe in the Committees complaints to those who brew alcohol, who have now advertized and encouraged patrons to drink responsibly. It is all well when the producers of alcohol say you will die and get sick from it, but now they are saying to drink responsibly if you wish to live longer.

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It is the same recommendation I wish to convey in relation to our debts we should borrow wisely and no, Tuivalea is not there. I know and believe that you have the discretion to....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the recommendation offered by the Member is very important and it is what we are doing. This world we are living in is a world full of temptations. What the Member is referring to is what we are doing at the moment. For the information of the Member, the investigations for the Appropriation are carried out three times. The first investigation is carried out by the CEO of the Ministry of Finance and other Heads of Government Departments. The process is quite long as another few weeks would take up time in which the Budget call would be made to the Ministry of Finance. This is where Government Ministries would approach with very large proposals and the Ministry of Finance makes the discretion depending on the expected earnings. After that the Ministry of Finance applies for a loan due to the many applications which are yet again referred to the Cabinet. Once again the Ministries and Corporations proceed to the Cabinet to justify their financial statements. Sometimes there are cuts and other times there are additions made by the Cabinet but all are referred to the Parliament in the end. The process is carried out three times so that when the Appropriation comes it will go straight to where it is supposed to go. It is also why some Ministries come with the intention of perhaps proposing for more funds which will not happen. The only responsibility of the Committee is to cut these proposals as they are not financially aware of the expected economy and oversee what is appropriate and what is not. If the Committee decides it is not economically appropriate then they will make arrangements to cut it. Therefore for the information of the member and also the public, the Budget is screened three times before it is brought to the Parliament.

Mr Speaker it is the state of which we are discussing the matters; a state of mind at looking towards the future developments. My assistance has been said and the recommendations are correct. However it is why the Cabinet meets every two months to offer advice so that Associate Ministers are aware of the matters. It is to further ensure understanding and developments are carried out in the best way possible. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the member for Salega, Afioaga Afualo Wood Uti Salele to conclude your statements.

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**Afioga AFUALO WOOD UTI SALELE:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance. My thoughts and suggestions are merely in assurance that the intention for our nations benefit is one with that side of the House.

Furthermore, the vineyard that the Lord has blessed us with also comes with a reward. If the worker is honest and hardworking the reward will be paid and vice versa. Moreover is the most important gift that God gifted to us. The gift of life was given to man as a loan so that we may work, live and obey his commands. In the end we will all stand before the hour judgment and answer whether we worked the vineyard or not in accordance to His will.

Mr Speaker the Member for Salega has finished. I wish many blessings of the Lord upon our Sitting. I also wish good wishes to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet lest I forget this side of the House, to the Leader of the Opposition and our Party. Samoa and your support I acknowledge and thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you member for Salega, Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele for the wise words. I acknowledge your wisdom and support for the benefit of our nation. I recognize the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALALEPULE RIMONI AIAFI (Faleata West):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Firstly I greet the Chair of the House, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the dignity of the Cabinet. On behalf of the Leader of Opposition and this side of the House, I wish to excuse the absence of the Deputy Leader of Opposition as he is hospitalized. I pray the Lord will renew his strength and I believe it will come soon enough as the nurse is there now.

I also acknowledge the Heads of Government Departments and especially the support of our nation of Samoa....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the member but due to the mention of the Deputy Leader of Oppositions health the Hon Prime Minister would now like to speak.

I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I just wanted to correct the members statement in regards to the nurses at the Hospital.



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It appears in the members statement that our national hospital is just a building without nurses, but for the information of the public there are in fact nurses in the vicinities. That is the clarification of the misunderstanding.

**MR SPEAKER:** Saleaula you may speak.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatou (Gagaemauga No.2):** Mr Speaker perhaps the Hon Prime Minister misheard because what I heard was ‘tausi o le mai’ – wife of the patient.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you. The nurse of the hospital is paid by the Government, whereas the private nurse of the Deputy Leader of Opposition is paid by his own money.

Hon Prime Minister, there is only one patient that really needs a nurse; the member for Siumu. And then I thank the Lord....

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu):** Mr Speaker Point of Order. I am not sick. Do not worry for me, the Lord will provide me a nurse if I am sick. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Tofa Hon Tuuu how many nurses do you have?  
I call on the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I acknowledge and thank the Lord Almighty for his love and protection, for safely guiding us as we are fortunate to wake up in joy and happiness to discuss and allocate these monies. Many of the other countries of the world are dealing with war and poverty, but Samoa is peaceful due to our Gods loving existence in everything we do.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet for the good work in progress from all the dreams we have dreamt. The Pharaoh dreams but has no one to interpret the meanings, while we dream and pray and hope the Spirit of the Lord guides our Leaders to ensure our dreams are a reality.

To the Leader of this side of the House, you are Joseph who interprets the dreams but if you dream and they dream then how are we going to run our Government. I acknowledge my constituency of Faleata, from east to the west, the second town of Samoa. The Finance and Expenditure Committee visited Faleata the previous week and one of the Members said, “You are lucky Leala, the Government is backing your campaign.” However that is not the case, the developments have long been proposed for the constituency and I am grateful for the peace and developments.

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Mr Speaker there are just a few things like the road at Laloanea that we are currently requesting with the Tofa Aveau, because this is one of the roads many of my constituents are working at. Not only that but the road at Toamua, so therefore I acknowledge the Hon Minister. The upgrades for this road has long been included in the list from the beginning of the Term and I am grateful that it is still there and perhaps someday in the near future it will come to pass.

There is now talk of a wharf and I acknowledge this development for this part of the country.

Furthermore the Police Office at Faleata Mr Speaker, I must also acknowledge the Ministry for its inclusion in the Appropriation for the improvements of the office as it is badly needed.

I wish to offer my gratitude for the upcoming Conference. I hear over 190 different countries will be attending and it will be the first time for our generations to witness such a grand event. I lay my support and also pray for the Lords guidance upon Samoas preparations in hosting the event. The most important aspect is for the facilities being used for these Conferences to continue to be of use to Samoa in the future. Therefore it is very important that we prioritize the Conference. And then I arrive Mr Speaker to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.

First I wish to acknowledge the previous Minister of Finance. I trust the task has been made simple due to the good work by the Member in the years that have passed. I acknowledge your contributions to Samoas economy. In the previous Financial Statements, the issues were at its best the difficulties in allocation of funds and satisfying everyones needs from one year to another. However my recommendation to the Parliament is that we should focus more on ways to generate money and ways to save money from unnecessary spending.

Mr Speaker I had asked the Afioga i le Sa'o of Tapuai on his thoughts considering the matter, I sent him a note asking, "Afioga Tapuai, do you prefer an increase in debts or deduction?" I was very sad to receive the note back with Tapuais handwriting circling the word increase times three. Tapuai your recommendation has been heard. However I must also lay my support in consideration of Afualos recommendation which is something we should all carefully consider.

Mr Speaker I wish to acknowledge the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fishers. No matter how hard we ignore the Ministry of Agriculture we will still end up back to the plantation. Agriculture is the core where there is employment, source of food and exported goods for overseas.

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I thank and acknowledge the Hon Minister of Agriculture for the special awards the Ministry has acquired. I acknowledge the Ministers work and also the Ministrys effort in successfully meeting the MDG requirements.

We traveled to Africa with the Deputy Speaker where he delivered a speech on Millennium Development Goals. He stressed and prioritized the importance of food security and mentioned that food security is not an issue in Samoa. The only problem I see now is the challenges of exporting our goods overseas especially with taro being in great supply. It should be the work closely collaborated with SROS if it is possible to generate ways to produce baby food from some of our produce. Furthermore, I wish to inquire more about the chilli sauce being produced in Samoa. The market for this product is not quite satisfied as it is high in demand. However the family that produced this sauce informed me that the chilli is now being imported from Fiji because it cannot be grown on a large-scale in Samoa. Personally I do not accept this notion Hon Minister because I see the chilli plant in abundance all over Samoa. It is very inappropriate to import the chili from Fiji when we have some of our own that is the best for consumption worldwide. This is one of the best exports that need no marketing.

Moreover the important contribution of some of the men in regards to the onion. This is what should be your priority as it is the basis of what the SACEP was all about. It is the bringing in of investments so that we can substitute importation and grow locally. So that instead of goods like onions being imported we can grow them ourselves.

Mr Speaker it was yesterday that fish was mentioned. In the latest speech of the UN Secretary Mr Moon emphasized the importance of developing our oceans and the wealth in them. He stated that it should be the priority of Small Islands to develop the fisheries to generate employment, income and source of food. It is why the Committee worked hard to try and acquire our quarter per year of 4,800 of fish able to be fished out in our oceans. The total amount of money able to be generated from these zones is USD\$20million. So what can the Ministry do to try and acquire this as we are only able to get half which is 1,200 tons per year. It is very low. Is it not possible to sign a partnership with a shipping company so that they can fish in our waters and at least we will be generating some money in the process?

In addition Mr Speaker I wish to direct to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau I trust your ears have tired of hearing about internet. You have already spoken about ways but I plead Mr Speaker to perhaps consider the matter in haste as the response has been the same. However I hope to encourage the speedy response of the Hon Minister in relation to the matter of internet services.

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On another note, I wish to comment on the income earnings produced by Bluesky and Digicel under the Office of the Regulator. If the Hon Minister considers carefully the past years profits contributed by these companies, you should notice that the 2% profit cut is still the same. It is surprising therefore to notice that in the last quarter, the earnings of the Bluesky and Digicel were equal when realistically Digicel has twice as much customers than Bluesky. Furthermore the Hon Minister must consider the overseas calls and the profits that the Samoa Post had received in the past. I believe these companies are playing us. The Ministry should consider the earnings from overseas as they can assist greatly in our budget. The profit cuts need to be reviewed as it appears that there is no increase. The Government is losing profits while these companies are making their own arrangements in regards to the profits they put in. I urge the Hon Minister to consider this matter.

Then I come to the matter of the PSC as previously mentioned by a member. Mr Speaker I have noticed in the Financial Statement the proposed increasing of employees of the PSC. However I wish to thank the Hon Minister and also acknowledge your new post which is very well suited especially considering your commitment to Samoa. I had written to you and of course copied the Hon Prime Minister and I am thankful you have responded. It is why I wish to perhaps offer my recommendation to put a stop to the introduction of Principal levels in the Commission. It is inappropriate and it goes against the policies of the Government to give equal opportunities for every person. Other peoples work should not be compared to others. The efforts of all employees should be parallel to the intentions of the Government.

Hon Minister I recommend perhaps reconsidering the appointment of ACEOs in the Act. It is our belief that this power and authority has been wrongfully used. You have at your disposal the wealth of knowledge of the Hon Minister of Revenue who is well informed of matters of the Commission, Tofa Hon Tuiloma as he was the Chairperson once. You also have on your other side the Tuiatua who was once a Member of the Commission and understands well the procedures and these things. The Act should be reviewed to give power to those to question their removal from office. Human rights are very important and it should be initiated by you the Hon Minister. The recommendations I am proposing are very easy to put into place.

The Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture well done for your hard work....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi: Mr Speaker....**

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon the member but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** It appears that all that you have mentioned are what we have already thought of and plan to do. We the Cabinet have also considered amending the Act on the terms of the aforementioned. I am not quite sure if someone has whispered to you already about our plans. It is why I stand to let you know that these matters have been assessed and then you might say, “If it were not for you we would not have done anything.”

It is why I stand to let you know that we have already planned to foresee to the reviewing of the Act so that the issues you mentioned do not occur.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** To save you time I give first opportunity to the Hon Minister because you mentioned his name.

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko (Minister of Revenue):** Mr Speaker, point of order.

I merely wish to correct that I was not a Chairperson of the Commission. I was only a Member of the Commission.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Well I must have been mistaken because every time we worked together it appeared as if you were the Chairperson and not the others. I was trying to raise your status old man. Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture I am very disappointed by the state of rugby development in Samoa. Those days when we were in school, rugby started from grade 1 right up to Form 6. The development of the game was good in schools. However now the development is also carried out in the upper levels and the sport is in really disappointing shape. However school hours have been extended Hon Minister consider the re-development of the sport in younger schools. It appears we are exhausting the excuse of....

**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture.

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**Afioga Hon Magele Mauiliu:** I am not sure where the member has been in the last 2 to 3 years but perhaps he is unaware that we are about to start another season of the Prime Ministers Cup for Primary Schools.  
Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you. However the reports on the games on Saturday reported that only three schools played. I acknowledge the Hon Minister for this important initiative because the sport should be developed earlier on instead of college levels. In addition to rugby is the sport of boxing. In the past all schools had a boxing ring and after the Samoa College gym was recently built the Principal was then advised to establish a boxing ring. These are some of the only sports that Samoa is fighting for in international platforms. The sport should be developed in younger years....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker a point of order. It is highly inappropriate to advertise false advertisements in search of money because it is not right. The truth of the matter is that your partner in the boxing matches was unfairly small and weighed far less than you; he was 12 ounces while you weigh 12 pounds more. The same can be said for rugby, you were always walking on the field. Besides that rugby in the past was played with coconut while in todays world we have proper rugby balls and the standards of rugby has improved tremendously. However the only member we should be taking advice from is the member for Vaimauga West, Tofa Lefau Harry Schuster as he is the only member who played for the Manu Samoa. I would not know such things because I played for New Zealand.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the member but we shall continue with your tales of rugby when we get back from our morning recess.

I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for its normal morning break.

*Proceedings of the Assembly were set aside for its normal recess at 10.43am and resumed at 11.30am.*

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**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has recommenced.

I trust all members have renewed their strength after being rejuvenated by our morning tea. I acknowledge the members for finding the strength to continue our work in our Chambers.

There is hope that we should be concluding with all matters concerning the Financial Statement so that we proceed to other matters programmed for our Chamber.

We went on our break while the member for Faleata West was making speech; I call on the member to resume.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Mr Speaker and especially the Office of the Clerk for the refreshments.

Mr Speaker these days are the only days that the members get to eat properly because all our money are spent on the constituency. Therefore I acknowledge the meals prepared as each day I leave feeling content so thank you.

We took a break while the Hon Prime Minister was criticizing rugby and boxing, however the rugby at the Park on Saturday had two bald heads playing. I am the baldy that won the game while the other baldy caused much disappointment to which the Prime Minister mistook me for, yes. In the matter of boxing....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga.

**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Mr Speaker, point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, did you score?

**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu:** Mr Speaker that person was the most disappointing player on Saturday yes Lealailepule; you are what this old man calls a reckless player.

**MR SPEAKER:** Oh well perhaps he was a mannequin to decorate the field....

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** And then I come to the topic of boxing. I firstly acknowledge Alex Leapai because this is the first time I have eaten a meal paid by a boxers earnings and I pray the Lord continues to bless this son of Samoa.

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Well done Alex for the efforts and even though the fight was not successful, but the most important thing is that he made it to the world championships. It is why I am stressing the importance of boxing developments in school. After one of my fights I returned home to see my parents crying, I asked them what happened and my father said, son, I deeply regret sending you to school when I should have sent you to boxing classes, perhaps by now you would be a world champion. Yes and my next partner would be this baldy over here.

Mr Speaker I wish to comment on a very important matter concerning Asians in our country. I speak on behalf of my constituency as majority of the retail stores have closed down. The problem is that the Asians have established wholesale stores and retail stores in one building. I believe this matter has been promised by the Deputy Prime Minister and his Ministry that they will review the Act so that this does not occur. If the Asians decide to have wholesale then they should stick to wholesale. Give the retail business to other people so they can develop. I am not against people coming into Samoa because it is very much needed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Minister in charge of the Ministry mentioned, I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Business, Industry and Labour):** Mr Speaker, for the information of the member the aforementioned Act is currently being advertised on newspapers for the public to consult on the matter. At the moment consultation is this week while next week we move to Savaii for their thoughts on the subject. Perhaps some time this year it will be tabled in the Chamber.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Deputy Prime Minister, I call on the member to resume.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Deputy Prime Minister. One of the best players of the Golden Oldies was the CEO of the Deputy Prime Minister. Anyway I am not against the coming in of these business people but I do hope and wish they would come with new money or new developments of their own, so that they do not compete with our people.

Another issue slowly surfacing is in relation to the Citizenship Act because I believe it is a bit late.



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Other people have already come into the country but special conditions should have been applied to them as they have come to the country to spend their money and overstep their rights like purchasing land and things like that. The kinds of people that we need are the ones that do not necessarily come into the country but merely send their investments. It is something to consider for the future development of Samoa as there is no one in Samoa living here and not being able to see the state of the situation.

Hon Prime Minister the economy of Samoa has increased and so has its status in the categorization of the worlds nations. This is a sign that a country is being well developed and is moving forward, moving upwards in development and efforts for our benefit. Therefore I would like to ask the Hon Prime Minister, what are the Government plans to do with the retirement age as it is still 55. Perhaps consider reviewing this age as the life expectancy of Samoas population has increased to 70 for males and 72 for females due to the improved health services. Maybe now is a good time to consider changing the retirement age as other countries are also doing the same. It reflects the improvements of a nation and its forward approach in these areas. Consider reviewing the matter, because even though it may be costly....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker pray tell, what are your thoughts, what age do you prefer for retirement?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister, but if you are strong as you have mentioned many times before that your heart is as strong as a dragon then perhaps we should not retire early. It is my belief that Government employees should retire at 60.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker there is a reason and although the members suggestions are valid as there is a Bill currently being prepared that will recognize the matter. However I need to ask the Member whether he realizes that this will also affect the pension?

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**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the member.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Hon Prime Minister it is a recommendation delivered as we are observing the increase of the life expectancy of Samoans. Also it is better if people are able to retire at 60 and sign off their pensions at 65.

And then I come to NPF, I wish to acknowledge the CEO and the NPF Corporation....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg the pardon of the member, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker retirement is not a matter which is immediately acquired. There are many arrangements to be made. The reason I say this is due to the habit of the Opposition to demand the tabling of Bills and changing their minds afterwards. For example, the Electoral Amendment Bill where people have started registering and yet the Bill is still being reviewed. They seem to enjoy delaying the process by insisting this and that and in the end it has caused me discomfort and uncertainty. Therefore before you offer your recommendations, perhaps it is best to consult amongst yourselves first and then offer your thoughts. Otherwise we will continue to delay such matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of Opposition):** Mr Speaker, point of order. If the Hon Prime Minister observes carefully we are suggesting to merely arrange debts properly, not to put a stop to it completely. We all agree and it is our common agreement to recommend the proper management of debts. However on the matter of pensions the \$125 that is given out monthly is peanuts, peanuts, peanuts! If we observe carefully the age for pension entitlements is 65 and....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Leader of Opposition, only if you made a speech in the beginning are you permitted to raise a point of order, but since you did not speak before then you are to stand on a point of clarification. I have stood up and interrupted some of the members of your Party and I have explained this many times.

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, it is quite clear in our Standing Orders, if there is something needing correction.

**MR SPEAKER:** There is no Standing Order provision to correct an interruption.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** This is not an interruption, it is an accusation towards us.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is an interruption towards Tofa Lealailepules speech. You cannot stand up to comment on an interruption to a speech. It is stated in the Standing Orders. Afioga Hon Palusalue I urge you to return the respect where it is due. Please stand Tofa Lealailepule.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you and I shall now move away from this topic. I come to the interest rates imposed on NPF loans. To the CEO and staff of NPF I know I speak on this issue every year but even if you tire of me, it is your responsibility to still listen. The interest rates for personal loans are too high. They should be decreased and then your lives would be much easier. For instance in the Act it states a minimum 4% dividend so would it not be nice if their interest rate was at 4% especially in terms of personal loans as it is used to develop their families. On the other hand, there is a lot of noise concerning the lack of parking space. However I suggest that the space between the NPF building and SLAC be converted into a three storey or four storey parking building. The problem is because the employees end up taking the parking while customers struggle trying to find somewhere safe and accessible. That is my recommendation to the Hon Minister.

Next I come to the LTA to which I acknowledge the Hon Minister and staff for the hard work and efforts. Hon Minister I believe I recommended awareness programs before especially concerning the behavior of drivers on the road relating to abiding to the lines on the roads, buses and using bus stops and slow moving vehicles on the road. Perhaps it is best to request the Member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola to assist as he was the one behind the road change. He is a very persuasive person and it is important to prepare awareness programs on traffic lights and all things regarding the roads. The public need to be made aware as I also observe the....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the member, but due to the mention of the member I now give opportunity. I grant opportunity to the member for Falealili, Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.

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**Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola (Falealili):** Mr Speaker I rise to clarify the matter which the member is referring to. The member is right in reference to reckless drivers and the Office is doing their work by promoting their programs. However the problem is that the bad example stems from most of the members in this House using their mobile phones while driving. The Police traffic Officers, ATOs and LTA efforts are for naught when it comes to the members. However the member is right.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Hon Minister I seem to observe a conflict between the police traffic officers and those of the LTA and their roles on the road. It is my belief that the power and authority of the law is within the hands of the police officers whilst they should also collaborate closely with the other Office if...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister responsible for transport.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** No Mr Speaker, the correction is that there is no conflict and I believe the Hon Minister of Police will agree. Arrangements are being made to improve services being provided. I trust the Cabinet will be made aware of new arrangements if they occur. However there are no conflicts amongst these divisions. Thank you.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you Hon Minister. I now move on to the Ministry of Health. I firstly acknowledge the Hon Minister and the Ministry on the new hospital. Furthermore members have already shared their thoughts on the Health Promotion Bill. The only flaw that should be reviewed in regards to the Bill was the absence of public consultation and if it were not for the Financial Statement the matter would not have been revealed. The Ministry of Health were inquired if there was a consultation process and they answered there was not. The Doctors association was also questioned and they replied the same; no there was no consultation. For a health sector it is very important to carry out a consultation process so that the Bill becomes firm and whole when it becomes tabled.

There are reports of increased cases of leprosy and TB in the Pacific and it is something also happening in our country. Other countries in the Pacific have also reported an increase in the number of these diseases. I urge the Hon Minister to consider this matter carefully because it is very important to me. When I was young, my mother and me travelled around Samoa to administer medicine to those affected by TB and leprosy.

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I believe the Hon Minister of Health and also the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries are aware of this when we went to Savaii and the rural areas with a German couple, Carol I think was the womans name and we managed to cure quite a few until almost all of the disease was wiped from Samoa. However I am very disappointed to hear of these reports that it is again spreading. Therefore Hon Minister I plead with you to consider the matter.

Another problem faced by the Ministry of Health is the electricity bill. In the Financial Report it states that an expense of \$3million annually is for the electricity bill. Perhaps the Electric Power Corporation could look into charging the Hospital under the commercial rate as the bills are being paid by all of us.

Moreover, I now direct to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development who is the most handsome Minister of the Cabinet. The issue I wish to comment on Hon Minister is the lack of connections thus causing tension between the Samoa Victim Support and your Ministry. This group has had a huge contribution and the services they provide are very crucial. However I firmly believe that the Ministry should collaborate closely with the Samoa Victim Support as the Ministry has Women Representatives from each village all over Samoa. These are the people that should be the first to be contacted in regards to the victims within the villages so that they may contribute their thoughts on the situations happening. However if the Ministry and the Group are able to work together, issues would be easily solved as it is the Ministry that establishes the laws regarding women issues.

Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, please rise Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I stand with all due respect not to disrupt the members thoughts as they are his rights to do so. However I must caution the member to tread lightly as the country is in audience of our words. I am also working closely with the Hon Minister who is the patron of the Group. It is my understanding of the Group that their mandate falls under the SUNGO and the Government hopes to collaborate closely with them. At the moment I am unsure where the member has gotten the idea from that our Ministry and that of the SVSG do not work together, but we do collaborate together on many levels in assisting those in need of support.

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There have been no reports of tension between the Ministry and the Group. Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, well thank you. I call on the member to conclude his speech.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** Thank you. I believe I shall conclude here. On behalf of my constituency I would like to acknowledge the Chair of the House for the duty and responsibility carried out in our Sittings, Samoas Chamber is protected by you. I also acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and not forgetting the Government for all the work carried out. Everything we do depends on God. After we dream then we wait for Gods blessings like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruits in its season, whose shall not wither; and whatever he shall do shall prosper. Not like the tree mentioned by one of the Members of the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him; a tree that grows but is cut down. To the Leader of Opposition and the Party I urge you to hold fast in our duties to recommend to the Government benefiting ways for our nation to prosper.

To the Government Heads of Departments I acknowledge your work and pray the Lord rains many blessings on you all. I hope we can all work together to build and govern our nation of Samoa. Bless this meeting and soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you member for Faleata West. We are not here with one of the senior Members of this side of the House due to poor health conditions. We convey our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery to the member. Despite the absence of one of your senior members your side of the House is still carrying out your duties and I acknowledge the efforts.

I give this final opportunity to the Leader of Opposition for his thoughts and then we shall hear from the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee before the Government responds.

I call on the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I stand with all due respect with the opportunity granted by the Speaker to share my thoughts on the Budget. Before that I wish to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Heads of Government Departments and Samoa in all its honorific salutations.

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I also wish to acknowledge the support of the Clergy and Council of Churches in Samoa tasked with providing spiritual uplifting for Samoa especially during our Independence celebrations. Therefore I acknowledge the Chairperson of the Council and Board.

However there is a small matter that I feel was a problem in our Independence celebrations. I acknowledge the preparations carried out night and day for our event to be a success but on the day it still felt incomplete. I know that the Church service was done on Sunday evening, but....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it is best that we leave church services to the Council of Churches for it is their duty. There is also a post service in Mulinuu to conclude the ceremony. We should remember that all the time is Gods time. The Chairperson for the Council has already answered your query on the matter. Therefore I urge the Leader of Opposition to leave matters to those tasked with handling them.

Yes, please stand Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** No I do not wish to seek merit but as a Samoan we have grown up to prioritize our God. Nevertheless I shall move on.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I grant opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Government always puts God first. It is why there is a service done the night before Independence. However it is best that we leave the Church to the Church Ministers and Pastors.

**MR SPEAKER:** I trust the matter is settled Afioga Hon Palusalue. I trust you will move forward so we may proceed with our sitting.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The matter is crystal clear Mr Speaker. I would just like to acknowledge my constituency for their support and most especially the Pastors. Thank you for your support and I apologize if you have observed misbehaviors on my part. Therefore my family I beg you to wish me luck.

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My work in partnership with the Hon Minister is all in the name of providing assistance to the country and the same can be said for this side; our job is to continue to give recommendation for consideration. The Hon Minister is well aware and we only ask that things be portioned accordingly. If there is surplus then that is for us.

Mr Speaker I would like to address the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment in regards to the unfinished seawall. I have been requesting all of last year and now this year as there is no use for the other side of the seawall if it is incomplete because the seawater will still make its way inland. Therefore we humbly request the Hon Minister for the completion of the seawall at Sataoa.

Mr Speaker, the Chamber has been informed of the passing of one of our veteran Members. Everyone was equal as he was a straight forward Member and will surely be missed in the Chamber. Therefore I wish to convey my condolences to the grieving family and most especially the constituency. On behalf of the Tautua Party and Opposition we wish to convey our condolences. The Speaker has also mentioned the Deputy Leader of Opposition, Afioga Aeau. We pray the Lord replenishes the Members strength. There is no need to concern the House more and we advised Aeau not to worry and to leave his friend the Hon Prime Minister to us. However we are grateful to the Lord for giving back the strength to the Deputy Leader.

Mr Speaker I shall not take long in my speech. The Opposition has spoken in regards to the Financial Statement. I would like to end my speech with a thought from the Bible as I am a man who reads the Bible each morning. The thought of the day for today is, "Godly suffering". It is found in the second book of Paul in Corinthians Chapter 7 Verse 3 which reads, "I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together." These words speak truth as your dreams and hopes are no different from ours. In verse 10 it says, "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." I have no intention of instilling fear in the Chamber but merely a reminder that fear of the Lord is the reason for our success. Why? Fear the Lord at all times, not only in the night but also in the morning. Do not fear the Lord only when trials come our way. Fear mornings that the Lord grants us.

Mr Speaker that concludes my speech.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I noticed the pastors sermon only lasted five minutes, therefore I stand to move a motion, *That another hour be added.*

*Motion was not seconded.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I give opportunity to the elder deacon if there is a missing verse from the Chapter that was read out.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** Mr Speaker no I merely want to address the lay preacher, the Leader of Opposition. I observe the sermon of the preacher and noted the worldly sufferings causes death. It is exactly what is happening to the Leader of Opposition as he has long ago died from worldly suffering. I am speaking in the theological sense and not Parliamentary. I believe the Leader of Opposition forgets sometimes that the words he speaks are being observed by the nation, fear the Lord and put Him first. I have already mentioned something that the Leader of Opposition should have carefully considered....

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Yes, Mr Speaker I gather what the Hon Minister means to say.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** He did not remember when he was successful.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will grant you opportunity after your witness has been confirmed. I give opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** I am trying to explain the theology and the truth of the matter. The Leader of Opposition did not concern himself with Godly suffering when he was wealthy and successful. He was only concerned about worldly treasures and now he is hurt from those sufferings. The death of man comes from material and worldly things and he cannot obtain Gods blessings. It is just a simple view on the matter and I will be happy to further illustrate sometime in the future.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Hon Minister needs to confirm something.

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He mentioned blessings concerning the Leader of Opposition and my heart wonders what exactly. What exactly are the blessings to which you mentioned?

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I shall not argue on the subject.

**MR SPEAKER:** What are the blessings Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei is talking about?

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will not comment on the blessings.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, please conclude your speech.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The Opposition has spoken and I will not tread these waters any further. However I do wish to comment on the Budget as it appears it is getting thinner. The Hon Minister in the previous Term had a much bigger budget plan and the money increased.  
Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Leader of Opposition has just finished his pastoral sermon and now he is speaking evils. He is now referring to tangible things. What are tangible things? It is things that we can see and not the spirit. The spirit is the most important. I have been waiting for the moment when you will say, Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but you never did. Bear in mind that there are those that observe our actions and words uttered. One of the most important verses is, "Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Yes the wisdom I will now explain is in reference to the current Appropriation. The previous Appropriation was delicate and cautious of the unforeseen. However this one is not and therefore we consider reviving the economy.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker today is the 19<sup>th</sup> and marks 20 days since the Appropriation was tabled and has been considered by the Chamber. However it appears that the Leader of Opposition has not fully grasped the contents of the Appropriation as he merely refers to the physicality of it rather than the contents. If the Leader of Opposition reads the entire Budget he will learn what is happening to the economy.

This morning I received the news concerning the economy of the United States of America which has dropped by 2.8% due to deficiencies faced by the Americas. Therefore I learned that it is now equal to that of the Samoan GDP a small country such as Samoa being in the same economic lines as the United States of America. Therefore Leader of Opposition, do not judge the size of the Appropriation but read into the contents of the paper and there you and your Party will better understand. The economy is not decreasing it is increasing and it can be found in the Appropriation if it is properly read.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker the Appropriation is quite clear because the most important thing is to stimulate the economy. My statements are based on that of which the Hon Prime Minister has just explained. It is why I had just explained and commented on the rising of the economy....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I would like to ask the Leader of Opposition if he understands the meaning of the word regenerate? It means that sums of money are added on and continue to be added on. It does not mean that we generate and sit on that amount. Refer to page 10 which highlights the increase in economy from 1.8% in 2014-2015 to 2.4%. It is a huge increase in our economy and when we come to terms of GDP it amounts to billions and billions. The \$1.6billion that we have now is going to be circulated in the coming years. This amount is not a small amount and it will go into benefiting our children through employment and education. Do you now understand what I am trying to say? Are you not looking properly at what is in the report?

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The problem Mr Speaker is that I have yet to comment on that. I am starting on page one. Do not worry Hon Prime Minister but how is it suppose to generate if these are merely quarterly reports being tabled in our....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker there are only 12 pages of the report and the Leader of Opposition began his speech with incorrect statements. Only 12 pages and yet you have been given twenty days to read and understand it?

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I am talking about a different report that states the decrease in tourism and remittances....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Look this Report states the figures and the other thick Report is the Financial Estimates. If you are not able to read 12 pages and understand then how can you possibly understand the 300 nearly 400 page Estimates? It reflects poorly on your leadership of your Party if that is the state of your literacy. Furthermore, your party argued one thing and you argued something entirely different. My recommendation....

**MR SPEAKER:** Palu....

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, the problem with the Hon Prime Minister is that does not want these figures to be read out.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The recommendation that your party recommended was that there is insufficient amount to carry out the budget. However you stand up and raise a completely different issue therefore you should inquire with your party to give you wise recommendations.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, Leader of Opposition the confusion springs from your jumping to conclusions.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Are you siding with them, do not side with the Hon Prime Minister. What is the meaning of your statement jumping to conclusions? The Hon Prime Minister is the one jumping to conclusions.

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**MR SPEAKER:** Do not point fingers. How can you fully understand if ...Palu...do not point your fingers at me, do not do it again. You may stand; do you not see that I am still giving you opportunity? You may stand and list your figures.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I do apologize Mr Speaker, but please advise the Hon Prime Minister to grant me an opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** You advise him.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I have already advised him.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have a mouth to give advice.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I have already read the contents of the Financial Statement however the Hon Prime Minister is already making statements on the quarterly Report. The reason why I am insistent on the matter is due to the mention of the drop in economy, drop in tourism, drop in remittances and no exports....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Member is holding the Report to which I am referring to but he is recommending something different.

Mr Speaker even though the Report is only 12 pages it highlights important aspects to further understand and leave no room for suspicion or doubt. On page 11 it mentions the GDP which was \$569 billion in 2013/2014 and in 2014/2015 it is \$568 Billion which is the total amount of our gross profits. It is the main reason why Samoa moved away from the being a Least Developing Nation. The decision came from the United Nations to elevate Samoa due to its GDP.

Mr Speaker, Afioga Hon Palusalue used to work at the Airport Authority, the same as Tofa Lealailepule and Tofa Levaopolo. The process of the airport of Samoa is one of the most sophisticated processes and especially its service. Why? It is because Samoa is the only place that has miraculous things happening to its airport. Airplanes currently malfunction due to birds or albatross being caught up in the propeller causing damages. What about our airport? This is the only airport in the whole world that has had an airplane crash into a donkey, yes a donkey! It is why these three act and behave this way and overlook the plans of the Government and yet here we have proof of why the United Nations graduated Samoa.

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It is why these circumstances are very important and it is also why these three behave as such it is because they had worked in the environment of donkeys.

Thank you Mr Speaker and bless this sitting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I grant opportunity...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I have advised the Leader of Opposition not to point fingers at you anymore but to point it at Jesus at the back of you. Point the finger to Jesus who continues to love us. On the matter of the donkey to which the Hon Prime Minister mentioned, that is the donkey that Jesus rode on and it finally died at the airport.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the Member for Gagaemauga No.2.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker, I wish to clarify that Tofa Lealailepule and I got there and the donkey was already dead. I believe it was only Afioga Hon Palusalua that was there.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua:** Mr Speaker I was under the impression that this was not really acknowledged....but now I know that these three donkeys stood together with the Leader of Opposition.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I grant opportunity to the Leader, I urge you to humble yourself to Christian thoughts.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will now move on, because the Hon Prime Minister keeps on disrupting.

I will comment further on the Financial Estimates as the report was that the decrease is due to the improvements and restoration process after the cyclone. Therefore I ask Samoa to judge whether this is true of the unfinished roads, bridges that have yet to be restored. Samoa the funds that are being distributed by Hon Le Mamea are they completing the work? Are these improvements accomplished?

**MR SPEAKER:** The Government will now respond.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Saillele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I am the Chairperson of the Committee that reported on the destruction of the cyclone. After the cyclone all of Upolu was in a blackout while Savaii was hardly damaged. I circled Upolu and nearly all the light posts in the Siumu area were lying on the ground. The same damages were noticed in the Aleipata area which was why there was a lot of work to be done. These large restorations were the first and foremost to be handled as discussed and raised by the Business Community. The concern was for the frozen goods that may be wasted due to the power outage if it was to continue.

Mr Speaker these things often cause misunderstanding amongst people as people tend to jump to the wrong conclusion. What now of Siumu and Safata? It took eight nearly ten months to repair the roads to those villages. The fact of the matter is that we should be grateful for the kind assistance in which we received the funds for our cyclone recovery. Thank the Organizations and Nations who were able to gift monetary assistance to restore the damages caused by the cyclone. The homes and properties of our people were also included in the restoration through the Samoa Housing Corporation and the Development Bank of Samoa where people were able to loan with a very low interest rate and the first year being free of interest. This is not the first time that this has happened. There have been a lot of false reports on monetary gifts being gifted to our country for free. Any form of aid can only be transparently distributed through the corporations like Samoa Housing Corporation and the Development Bank of Samoa. It is one of the reasons why the Housing Corporation was established after Cyclone Ofa. It was very difficult for our people to apply for loans at Commercial Banks and it is why they will continue to use the Housing Corporation as it is now. Mr Speaker it is how things are run at the moment in regards to the aid donations.

The events of the past have taught us that the things that are granted for free are often misused. For instance the Government in 1977 held a program which gave out large sums of money with a low interest rate of 5%. The program was later stopped because it was later realized that the fertilizer was not being used properly by the buyers but were laid to waste in the plantations. The barb wires were resold to other people in other villages. It is not something that happened once or twice but many times. It is why it was stopped in the beginning of the year 1977. Furthermore small donations from the United Nations were also put on hold due to these common occurrences of misuse.

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Mr Speaker it is the very reason Organizations are strict on these terms when they give aid donations; it is from the misuse of funds distributed. It is not something that only happens in Samoa but happens to nearly all nations of the world. Therefore if a person is not able to meet the repayment criteria then it will reflect badly on the country.

Mr Speaker I am very proud to hear the Ministers report that over \$100,000 has been loaned to the public and they are still working towards encouraging people to come forward. It is not closing its doors to those who truly need to develop and use funds accordingly. It is why I am disappointed in Afioga Hon Palusalua for questioning these procedures when he fully understands the protocols since we were in the Cabinet once. He preached on the message of the Bible yet he criticizes what he knows to be untrue. It is also stated in the Bible that, "To preach false truth is a sin in Gods eyes." Therefore Palu before you speak any further on contents and procedures which you fully understand think carefully about it and make sure you are speaking accurate and truth. The reason why you behave like that is because you want to be known. We all want to be known, but one needs to seek truth and honesty so that weakness can be overcome.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUA FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I do not wish to respond to these accusations as we are doing our responsibility.

Hon Prime Minister I am not trying to disregard the Financial Statement. I am merely stating a follow up of the comments you made in regards to the upgrades and improvements being completed.

My mind is in disarray as the school building and the market is incomplete and other assistance is not mentioned in the report. I am concerned whether there are still enough funds to complete these developments.

Mr Speaker it is the reason for my persistence.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I would like to remind Afioga Hon Palusalua that it is a sin to know what should be done but ignores it.

You pass by the market countless times and you see that the foundation of the market has already been set. You pass by it every day. I wish to declare that the market was not damaged by the cyclone and the false reports that it was causes the problems.

Mr Speaker that is the truth of the matter; false accusations is the reason. Afioga Hon Palusalua let me remind you once again that it is a sin to ignore what you know you should do.



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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, if the market was not damaged by the cyclone then why is it delayed?

**MR SPEAKER:** Afioga Hon Palusalue direct your statements to the matter.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Yes, I will now move away from the issue albeit it difficult since the Hon Prime Minister reminds me to do what I know is right. Why then are these being covered up? Nevertheless I shall move away from the speech of the Hon Minister and the Hon Prime Minister. So therefore, there are no taxes and no increase in taxes. But from my observation the service has been increased. Wherever we may go, there is always a tax to be slapped on to it. The worst thing about it is that the low income earners suffer the most.

**MR SPEAKER:** I understand.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The statement is clear. There is a difference between taxes and cost of services or fees. The terms are vastly different. Again you are twisting the terms after I just finished explaining. Your over ambitiousness causes you to be more wrong. The things you are referring to are not taxes. The other is fees imposed on the service provided.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, I refer to the saying, “Moa, moa lulu, niu, niu pulu” stated by the Chairperson during Independence Day. A tax is a tax to increase service fees. Our Party was approached by people who were hospitalized and needed financial help as the hospital Bills amounted to nearly \$300 for just two weeks. All hospital fees have increased and the low income earners are the most affected. People have refused to even seek medical attention from the hospital as they claim it is better to be ill at home.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of Opposition I gather your concerns, but I give this opportunity to the Government to respond.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The hospital fees at the moment are less expensive than the private clinics and the old hospital that used to be in front of Avele was by far the most pricey but people would always go there.

During the strike people all went to that hospital. It is how life plays when we stress and over think about the costs but when we compare it to the number of people who visit private doctors that is not the case.

It seems that people do not wish to pay anything and that is exactly what we call cheap; nothing to pay. An honest person pays for things he buys and uses. Nothing is free in this world anymore as there is a price on everything.

Mr Speaker there are plenty Chapters in the Holy Bible which also states the importance of paying dues. It can be found in Pauls Book of Romans which states, “paying of taxes and fees.” Go and seek the Word and when we return and I ask and you have not found it, then I will tell you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Afioga Hon Palu the matter is now clear. The points of your speech are well planned.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Hon Prime Minister there is just the small matter in regards to those of the public who have absolutely no money. Perhaps consider allowing patients to be discharged when they are unable to meet the hospital fees especially considering the cost of medicine and things like that. Bear in mind, there are different costs for a tooth ache, a different fee for x-ray and even blood tests. However if a plantation farmer comes to the market and makes no sales in his produce, then what is he supposed to do? It is what I am concerned about.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the Government for a response.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** This is something that I have noticed about the Leader of Opposition. Bear in mind that this is how the devil tempts people so that it may appear as if it is out of love, but truly it is from the devils evil ways. The practices proposed would harm the nation financially; the request to have everything for free.

Your infamous speeches about “when we become Government there will be no more duty fees, no more taxes.” How are things going to be paid then? Prescriptions and medicine are not given to us freely from overseas. The same can be said for the buildings which were built on loan schemes with minimal interest rates but nevertheless are not free.

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Mr Speaker we are living in a world where everything is progressing forward and we need to move too for the betterment of our nation. It is similar to our ferry which crosses to Savaii; we improve and upgrade so that when it is damaged we ourselves can upgrade our own assets.

Mr Speaker I would like to recommend to the Leader of Opposition to direct his statements to the contents in which his Party Members stressed and look at ways to perfect their recommendations. But for the Leader to insist on this and that being bad, bad, bad is not helpful. There is no nation in this world that functions on free things.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Point of Order.

**MR SPEAKER:** You may proceed.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I never said anything about taking away taxes. We are fully aware, or else how will the Government function? This side of the House did not say such things. We are only recommending being considerate of people of lesser income as they too need to live. It is basically what we are hoping to achieve but not free of charge as you mentioned.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, now your statement is accurate. It is not to give things for free but to be considerate.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will move away from this subject.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please do, but continue for your statements are good.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I am following up the statements of the Hon Prime Minister because it is my duty. The Prime Minister's statement entitles a response from the Leader of Opposition on the things regarding the Budget.

Mr Speaker, I refer to the concerns of our Party in relation to the Asian construction companies competing with the local companies. We are concerned because they have approached us with their concerns, and I tell them, "Why do you come to me, go to the Prime Minister with your concerns." The problem is that the materials used by the Asian companies seem like taxes have not been imposed on them. I sympathize with our people because everything is being taken.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I understand. I call on the Government for a response.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, point of order. All these accusations were brought to me. I referred to the Ministry for their investigation which was later tabled by the Cabinet. It was found that the reports were not true. However there are reasons why these materials and services are cheap especially to different Churches. For instance the Falealili Ecclesia hired a Chinese company to construct their Parish. I asked the Parish Minister and Committee on their comparison and observation of the different services. The Minister replied that there is a huge difference as the Chinese work quickly and efficiently other than our people who take their time. Furthermore they are also easy to host in terms of nourishment. According to their calculations 1/3 of the expected amount of expenses was the cost of the total construction. It could have cost them three times if they had hired local companies. Therefore if this is what the Ecclesia has experienced then we are grateful for the great feedback from the rural area. I am glad because then our local companies can lower their rates and also work to perfect their services like these people. The Fletcher Company experienced something similar as they were leading the bidding process but lost in the end to a Chinese company. Therefore we should embrace the message from something as trivial as this. It is something that we have also learned from the competitions between the Digicel and Bluesky companies. It is something to challenge our local companies to improve their services so that no foreign company wins.

**MR SPEAKER:** I grant opportunity to the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I acknowledge the clear description by the Hon Prime Minister. The only concern lies on the construction of the buildings. Who knows maybe they will move to road construction and bridges? It is a concern at the moment. If you noticed the Member for Faleata West and his comments on the increasing number of people in Vaitele. I was shocked when people came up to me and greeted me. I was wondering...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Member, but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker for every country in the world there are notices informing and inviting foreign investors to invest into the nation so that development can proceed. Developments ensure there are employment and other opportunities for our children. I would like to state an example of one very harsh letter from a local businessman. He owns a toilet paper making factory and insisted that overseas companies be denied to sell their products in Samoa because it is damaging his business. I conducted an investigation and gathered the different samples. The local toilet paper had 150 sheets and was thin. The toilet rolls from overseas contained 350 sheets while others were scented. So I sent for the businessman and told him the problem. It meant that majority of the country and Government is suffering from these hard non-scented toilet rolls this man was providing. Therefore I told this man that he cannot be the only toilet paper provider in the country. People of Samoa deserve soft and scented toilet papers and ones that are not scratchy.

Mr Speaker it is the intention of the Government to not use our local businesses all the time because then we would not know that there is something greater and much better out there. We need a variety of business people to invest and work in Samoa so that we can learn from them and improve our standards also. There is a Chinese shop in Tofa Lealailepules constituency which is always full of shoppers despite peoples negative attitude towards it. I visited the shop and found out for myself that the goods were far less expensive than any other shop. It is why it is crowded all the time because people with less income earnings shop there to make ends meet. If that shop was not available those of few income earners would not be able to get by. It is a lesson for our people especially the business community. If you wish to generate income then best be sure to observe the service these people provide and try and adopt them. Mr Speaker I sympathize with our local entrepreneurs but we must also be considerate of the general public and their needs. We can learn a great lesson from the most trivial of things.

Mr Speaker perhaps this is not a terrible thing? It is something good. If it was really that bad there would be protests already to the Government. But so far the only vocal protest I hear is coming from you Afioga Hon Palusalue. We need to remember that this is a democratic nation; the Government leans towards what the majority of the people need.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker point of order.

I only raised my concern for the contractors, to be protected from foreign contractors. I am concerned for jobs of these people. I did not mention anything on retail shops and things like that.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I understand.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker point of order. The statement that our local contractors have no projects is a false statement. The recent meeting of the Tenders Board reported to Cabinet that three local contractors won a bidding process due to their competitive rates. I am not sure where you get your information from or who is misleading you. However for the transparency and accountability of all things the results are advertised on the Newspapers and media outlets. I advise the Member to refer to the internet and the Samoa Observer for its weekly updates of Government resolutions for further understanding.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Blessed is he who is wrongfully blamed for he shall see heavens gates. I have been accused of misunderstanding. I understand Hon Prime Minister but my concerns lay with our people. Mr Speaker observe...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker point of order. How can the Leader of Opposition say I am accusing him when he has just said so and I have answered correctly? The nation is in audience. How can you lie when I have answered your queries on the matters you raised? What is the meaning of this?

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** You are lying yourself. I never said anything about the things you mentioned.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I am not lying. The reason why I am not lying is because I have referred you to observe for yourself the Samoa Observer which portrays the statements and conclusions I have made. You said that there are no locals being awarded contracts. It is what you just said. It is why I must remind you not to be easily fooled. One senior Member of our Party manages to say this and that to you and do it. Do you not know that Afioga Tuuu is one of our best beer entertainers?

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Wow, that is terrible.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker I have no idea why the Hon Prime Minister has just referred me to. But I pray the Hon Prime Minister recalls his statement as it is unpleasant. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Prime Minister refers to you as a comic and entertainer.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I will now move to conclude my speech as we are nearing our time to get off work. However I must thank the Hon Prime Minister for constantly interrupting. I have a folder full of concerns I have yet to touch upon. Nevertheless Mr Speaker, our recommendations are not in any form intended to direct or command as mentioned in the Bible. Our hearts are with you. If we die, we die together, if we live, we live together. It is why I always say...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, point of order. If your side wishes to die, then by all means. Our side wants to live and it is why we create programs so the nation can live and prosper.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** That is the problem with your jumping to conclusions Hon Prime Minister. I urge the Hon Prime Minister to not read into the literal meaning of my words, but more on the theology of the context. Nevertheless I humbly apologize Mr Speaker to the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. Forgive me if we have overstepped in our insistent and duty to oppose and advise that side of the House. It is our duty and we just want to leave it by your side to perhaps consider if you wish. The most important thing is that there are developments that the Government is now moving to develop while others are being considered.

Mr Speaker I must also apologize if we have offended your lead in our Proceeding. Lest I forget the audience of the nation; we apologize. I pray the Lord blesses the Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and that side of the House. I hope we will now approve the Appropriation and not consider it any further. Bless this Proceeding.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Leader of Opposition for your speech. I believe there is no need for apologies as you are carrying out your duty on that side of the Government.

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I acknowledge your acknowledgement of the Lord in your speech and so has Samoa. Our nation is a nation founded on God and it is the Lord that guides and continues to bless us with everything that we are fortunate enough to achieve. I acknowledge the Leader of Opposition and pray that you are cautious of the respectful relationship carried out in our Chambers. The relationship between you and that of the Hon Prime Minister is important as you are partners. Nevertheless the circumstance of the report in question is logical reason for neglecting protocols and procedures in our Chamber. And lastly I remind the Leader and all Members that I am a neutral party in the proceedings and I do not side with anyone in particular. However be considerate for the task is not as simple as it may appear. As we are now nearing our recess time, I announce that we will grant opportunity to the Chairperson when we return and then to the Cabinet for the Government Response.

The Office has prepared an afternoon meal as usual. I invite all Members and also CEOs as I trust Afioga Fepuleai's preparation are more than enough for us all. Therefore I hope it will cross your minds to consider the Budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly, nevertheless let us take a break. I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for its normal recess hour.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were suspended at 1.00pm and resumed at 3.00pm.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.2) 2013/2014 &  
THE APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015 – second reading debate  
resumed**

Debate resumed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed.

I trust we have arrived exactly at our time of work and I acknowledge the presence of the Members of Parliament for the effort and commitment to our work.

We took a break when all Members had completed their thoughts on the Appropriations.



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Opportunity is now given to the Chairperson for his comments on their Report. The Chairperson will also respond and touch upon some of the concerns raised in regards to the Appropriation. I call upon the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, followed by the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity to comment on the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015. I trust the Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and distinguished Members of the House have been rejuvenated and have regained strength in continuing our work for the day.

First and foremost, I give thanks to the Lord our Father for his continuous love and guidance upon us this evening. I greet distinguished Members of the House, the Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also acknowledge the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House; lest I forget the Heads of Government Departments, the Clerk of the Assembly and staff.

I also acknowledge the support of Samoa in all its honorific salutations. I respectfully greet His Majesty O Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, Council of Deputies and their Good Ladies, the Chief Justice and the distinguished Judiciary. I also greet the Pastors and Ministers of various denominations praying for the future of our villages and most of all the future of Samoa.

I especially acknowledge my constituency in all its honorific salutations. Mr Speaker, I convey my gratitude to the Minister of Finance the Hon Prime Minister, the CEO and the Management and Staff for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015. I trust it is not an easy task to do and I therefore acknowledge your efforts and pray the Lord blesses you all for the work you do for Samoa.

I thank the distinguished Members of the House who shared their views and especially those who happily approved the Report.

Mr Speaker before I move to comment on the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015, I would like to side my support with the Member Afioga Maualaivaos concerns over the seat of the Individual Voters. Mr Speaker I must admit it is the same feeling of uncertainty and discomfort associated with this Amendment. The Member is right on the fact that some constituencies are merely going through division of constituencies and still have their constitutional names while our constituencies will cease. It is why Mr Speaker I humbly urge the Hon Prime Minister to consider reviewing the Electoral Amendment Act 2014.

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I come to the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015. For the information of the distinguished Members of Parliament who shared their views in regards to the recommendations that our Committee reported in the Report. The only matter which I will touch upon since the majority of the concerns raised were addressed by the Hon Prime Minister. It is the matter that concerns the Leader of Opposition which is the matter of loans.

Mr Speaker and the distinguished House, the Appropriation highlights the insufficient amount of revenue generated to meet our needs. Especially in the case of developments because another issue is the lack of natural resources so if it were not for exports there is nothing else for us to depend on in terms of generating income. The tax is the only form in which our economy is able to develop and thrive; without taxes and loans to help develop our nation we would not be able to develop employment thus resulting in our country moving backward. Our nation would not have the wealth and economy that it has acquired and it is being appropriated reasonably by the Government. Mr Speaker and the distinguished Members of Parliament there are plans to have 50% of the GDP which is not permanent but a mere target to aim for and hopefully exceed. The policies are clear that the Government will continue to make proper arrangements when the targeted percentage of 50% is met. In terms of the interest rates applied to loans we believe that it is something that must be done in order to allow room for developments.

The recommendation was to carefully consider and careful planning is what is being done at the moment. Our recommendation is for the Government to prioritize developments that promote or generate employment for the nation which will also generate our economy.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Chairperson, but I grant opportunity to the Leader of Opposition and his remarks.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I apologize to the Member and also the Chairperson for the interruption of your speech on the terms of the 50% of target. However what is the case at the moment? It is over 70%. Is that a sign of careful planning? The percentage is now going up to 80% GDP to loan? It is what I am trying to understand.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the honorable Chairperson.

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**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Thank you to the Leader of Opposition for the interruption. As I have mentioned before the 50% is a guideline. The Member is right, at the moment the percentage is at 68%. However the matter is Mr Speaker that we cannot ignore the benefits of the loan schemes and the interest rates that generates income to be utilized for the development of Samoa. If it is not utilized Samoa would not have the opportunity to develop or move forward with its developments. If we observe overseas nations in Africa or the Pacific, their external debts are over 100% compared to the GDP and they are struggling. It is due to the lack of proper planning and lack of guidelines to prevent the exceeding percentage that it reaches. I am certain that our Government is ensuring that this does not happen to us. However due to the urgency and need to develop right this moment. It is why loans are needed to complete the developments and I believe that there are no more loans left as our dreams are becoming a reality. As I have mentioned before Mr Speaker our Government and nation depends on our Taxes to generate our income because we do not have natural resources, very little exports and the number of tourists visiting our country has dropped. Therefore the Government is looking at ways of improving this service and also to generate our gross profits. Furthermore, as recommended by one of the Members of our Committee, we also recommend the strengthening of Private Sectors especially in terms of dividends.

Mr Speaker, as stated in our Report the Committee approves the Appropriation except for a small matter that was raised by one of the Members in relation to the increase in wages of the Public Service Commission. The Committee observes the situation and resolves that there is no fairness in increasing the salaries of principal officers of the Commission while other Ministries remain the same. Therefore we urge the Government to consider the matter. The Committee recommends that this matter be put on hold.

Furthermore, the Committee notes the overspending of Government Ministries by more than half the appropriated percentage on food, dining, telephone and internet. The items mentioned or expenses were observed by the Auditor in its Report that all Ministries are the same in its overspending items. There are perhaps one or two Ministries who are within the spending limits while other Ministries exceed their expenses by a thousand percentages. Therefore the Committee resolves to recommend the Government to ensure Ministries utilize the approved percentage of expenses by the Parliament because the Ministry of Finance is struggling to appropriate our nations funds.

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Then I come to the newly established Ministry of Public Enterprises. I would like to acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister for initiating this new Ministry. I am certain that this Ministry will be a form in which the Government is able to overlook the ongoing works within SOEs and in accordance to the Acts of each SOE. The Government intends for these SOEs to collaborate in order to generate profits for our Government and especially for the Appropriation each year. If the Chair and also the distinguished Parliament observes the Appropriation 2014/2015 the dividends earned from the SOEs would be \$700,000 which includes the Samoa Post of \$297,764.50. The Samoa Land is \$162,970 and Polynesian Airlines of \$239,265.50. There are only three Corporations that the Government expects to earn profits from the Appropriation when it is approved.

Mr Speaker in the last seven years profits were contributed by these SOEs; Agriculture Store, Development Bank, Polynesian Airlines, Samoa Housing, Samoa Land, SPA, Samoa Post with a total amount of \$4,282,460 from these seven SOEs. Therefore the question is what has happened to the rest of the SOEs? Only three SOEs have declared their estimated dividends in the Appropriation. What has happened to the other SOEs?

It is the reason why I am grateful to the Hon Prime Minister for initiating this Ministry. I believe that the roles of this Ministry will ensure closer monitoring of Government SOEs and calculate why these SOEs have failed to generate profits or dividends for their contribution to the Appropriation of the Government.

The issue with overdue or delay in Annual Reports of Ministries and SOEs to the Parliament was addressed by one of the Members. I will call out those Corporations and Ministries who are failing to present their Annual Reports so that the Ministers overseeing their departments are aware. The list includes the Samoa Shipping Corporation, Samoa Land Corporation, Land Transport Authority and the Public Trust Office. The Government Ministries include the Public Service Commission, Foreign Affairs and Trade, MNRE and MWTI. Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of Parliament it is very crucial to have our Government Ministries and Corporations table their Annual Reports in Parliament so that we are aware of their performance and ongoing works. It is also a crucial way of defining the appointment of CEOs as it will reflect whether the Government Heads of Departments are performing up to the standards. I recommend the Government through the Chair to consider prioritizing the presentation of Annual Reports as I believe it will also reflect on good governance, accountability and transparency.

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Furthermore, I would also like to suggest to the Government with the support of the Speaker to have Government Annual Reports in a standardized format for efficiency to all Ministries and Corporations. To be honest Mr Speaker some of the Annual Reports are like photo albums with colorful photos and glossy papers which are costly. The main things included in the Reports should be the Audit Report, Annual Accounts and a Report from the Management in regards to their work carried out each financial year. The other features like photos and the like are unnecessary. Some of the Reports were very simple and affordable.

On the issue regarding the Government practice of suspension of CEOs of Ministries and Corporations due to corrupt activities in the management of the institution as what is happening to the Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. I suggest that once allegations cannot be proven, the post should be automatically reinstated and if it is proven, they should be immediately fired.

I also believe Mr Speaker that the punishment should be delivered to all Heads of Government Departments especially in the case of the CEO for SLC. I am speaking with a just heart on the arrangements and practices of the Government. The nation observes our discretion and are questioning who it is that we deliver the punishment to and who we let slip by. I humbly urge the Hon Prime Minister to consider the matter aforementioned.

I come to the benefits on these suspension punishments Mr Speaker as I observe CEOs still receive their salary and are free to use the Office vehicle. I recommend the Government to consider this arrangement because when the Associate Minister was suspended, his salary was put on hold and the vehicle was taken away. Therefore I should think it wise to have the same arrangements for the CEOs. Half the salary and hold the vehicle while investigations are carried out. These benefits may be awarded again once the party has been proven not guilty of the charges laid against them. If we think about it, if the charges are proven guilty and yet their salary has been relayed and they have been using the Government vehicle that would have all been a waste of money. And who knows what the vehicle may be used for and whether the Government gets it back unscathed. I humbly request these practices to be considered Hon Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker my constituency has already relayed its concerns regarding its needs. This is the third year of this Term since we have been requesting assistance on the roads at Levadine in Aleisa. The road is not long but it has quite a few residents now. We have one more year to ensure we do what we can do for the constituency for the future is unknown.

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I hope that once our time in the Parliament has been concluded we have had a contribution in helping the constituency with its roads. If it is appropriate with the Hon Minister I also request the improvements of the road at Vaitoloa which was also requested in the previous Estimates but has yet to be addressed. I am concerned for these developments for the constituency and I know that we may not come back in the next Term, but I am certain that the constituency will wish many blessings on the Hon Minister for the work.

Mr Speaker I conclude my statement and pray the Lord blesses you Speaker on your ongoing duties in the Chambers. I also acknowledge the distinguished Members of the Parliament especially the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, lest I forget the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House, may the Lord bless you all. To the Heads of Government Departments I also wish you all many blessings on your work.

Thank you Mr Speaker and bless this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Chairperson. I believe this is the last speech before we give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet. Hon Prime Minister I trust it is now time for the Government response and then we can proceed with the approval of the Appropriation. Hon Prime Minister you may take the floor.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I stand with all due respect to sincerely acknowledge all Members who have shared their thoughts on the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015. I believe the thoughts shared have been considerably observed. The Government intends for the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 to proceed in the upcoming 12 months. The development of Samoa and also our constituencies are not easily overlooked. I have observed the majority of the concerns and suggestions of the distinguished Members of Parliament and they refer mainly to the development of their constituencies.

The important thing is that the constituencies observe the recommendations of the Members. The Cabinet and I included wish for nothing but the same thing which is to acquire all the funds that we need to complete all the needs of our nation. At the end of the day everything is for the development of Samoa. What I mean to say is that the main goal is to increase the economy and wealth of all citizens of the nation. If the profits increase then what else is there to do because the most important factor is the happiness and harmony of families and to have funds to fund schools for our children. And when they are sick there is money to cover the expenses.

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It is the case with other nations of the world even America. There are times when they too apply for loans. The same principles apply as required by many of the international organizations. The principles are not Acts that nations must abide by legally but they are there to safely guide countries with the purposes of their loans. Why are they called principles? It is because when countries make loans with small interests then there is room for the economy to develop. Once the economy develops then the percentage will gradually decrease. It decreases if there is an increase in the nations economic revenue but if it is held back then what happens? The loan will increase and the economy will suffer. It is what I have been trying to explain. If there is no profit from the economic earnings then we approach the Bank for a loan with low interest to help assist and develop our economy because if there is no money employment cannot be available.

The reason why I say this is because it appears as if it the Law of Moses that is being debated. The matter was addressed by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee in response to the Leader of Opposition that just because it was targeting 50% does not mean that the percentage should be 50% exactly. This is not Persia and Mecca legislations. These targets are guiding principles for the Government.

I will explain where the confusion and misunderstanding stems from. I will give the floor to the most youthful and handsome Minister of Police to start off and if all the Ministers cover everything there is no reason for me to explain anymore and so that we may proceed with our work.

However I wish to again acknowledge the wise views and thoughts shared by the Members and I will enlighten the confusion when it is time. This is not the Persian and Mecca laws. There is no more Persia and Mecca, why? It is because a wise man seeks advice and consults. These are the words of our nation; compromise.

Mr Speaker that is just a brief picture of what I have yet to reveal later on. Bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe the distinguished Members of the House have observed your statement. The Government will now proceed to carry out their duty in response. I call on the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons. However before that I only wish to put forward the needs of my constituency as they have not been addressed. The constituency still awaits the police post planned for Sasina. Our village constantly deals with fire but the Police are further away at Gagaemauga. I trust the Hon Minister is a man of his word and I merely wish to remind you of that.

I give the floor to the Hon Chief in command the Hon Sala.

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**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police and Prisons):** Thank you Mr Speaker. This is why our Meetings are the best because if the Leader is good then everything will fall in place.

Mr Speaker, I greet the distinguished Members of the House and of course our nations honorary salutations. I will direct statements or responses to the concerns raised by the Members.

Mr Speaker and the respected Members of Cabinet and distinguished Members of the Chamber I had wanted to comment on the matter concerning the Police Commissioner. However the Chairperson Papalii then addressed it and I am certain the plans are inclusive in the Main Estimates.

The statements that there are not enough police posts are not true. My time as Minister has been devoted to establishing outposts all around Samoa. Savaii needs perhaps maybe two more. Mr Speaker where would the outposts be located? All that are yet to be completed and yes it is noted here that the Fire Station and Police should be located there. It is not our duty to protect and ensure safety for the country as it is the job of the Police. Whether it is the carelessness of the citizen or whatever the Police are not bias in their duty. However if it is a Member of Parliament then please love them.

The outposts at Olomanu have been mentioned as there are access roads there. I have explained the matter to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure and I am grateful for the response of my fellow colleague. There are three Members that mentioned the road to Olomanu and these roads have been completed. This is the good service of the Government and it reminds me of a man in Tutuila. We traveled to Tutuila and this man gave his speech, and his words that caught my attention were, "I am a man whose words are thin but actions are thick." It is similar to our Term in Parliament as the Government; our words are minimal while our actions reflect more. Therefore Afioga Tuuu, the roads at Siumu will now be implemented because of you.

The same can be said about the pipes of one of the Members for Aana Alofi No.1. The Government is for the people and it was done so for the people and nothing should be held back. The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology and Hon Minister of Revenue have experienced that whatever action the Government plays everything is deemed unsatisfactory. I acknowledge the patience and forbearance of the Cabinet Ministers. If counsel is wise our works will be fruitful. However there should always be honesty in our work and why should there be honesty?



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The reason why problems occur is due to the leaders, not us but the CEO and staff. If they are incapable then they should be sacked. In truth a person swears, “I will be honest in all my duties.” Jobs should be taken seriously. It is why people are complaining about the Government misusing the funds and wasting money. It is good to live in humility.

There are complaints regarding the Police living at Tafaigata with their families. It is the belief that those prisoners serving time need the bond to connect with families. If the prisoners are left isolated without the communication of families or village alike then there are two possible outcomes as I have mentioned before. Our people need communication or else they will be mindlessly counting their fingers. Prisoners need rehabilitation by way of learning and communicating how to do things correctly. I acknowledge the EFKS at Malua for the donation of computers and other materials for the building at Olomanu.

At the moment, the boys work and have their lessons on computer and how have they come about acquiring this understanding? I acknowledge the discretion of the Pastors at Malua for the opportunity granted to the juveniles for rehabilitation. No one is perfect and we have all wronged at some point. I myself am not perfect and there are times I get angry at my children and voice unpleasant words to them. It cannot be helped and why should we be righteous? This world is for us and for those of us who are bad. It is the reason why our Savior died; for us who have sinned.

The truth is....

**MR SPEAKER:** Number two would like to correct number one. I recognize the Member for Gagaemauga No.2.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker, point of order. I apologize to the Hon Minister that it was not us that the Savior died for, it was them.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI:** Thank you Member for Gagaemauga No.2. I would think that you would not interrupt your brother. Nevertheless it does not matter, you may have today and I will have tomorrow because brothers are like that.

I acknowledge the good deeds by the Reverends of the EFKS and CCCS denominations for the spirit of their donation which has revived the lives of these youths. Furthermore, other Ecclesias are also carrying out good deeds everyday and the Bible is there. I am not sure if there is a Pastor up at Tafaigata and whenever the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development tries to deliver the word of Moses and what is happening outside, the elder men say, these things happening outside are lies.

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As for the state of the LTA and Police as mentioned by my fellow Hon Minister colleague, it is human nature. When someone has the power and authority they tend to think themselves invincible. It is perhaps the reason why people complain. For instance if you go to the EPC to pay your Bills and go about enquiring about what can be done and the official will tell you to go here and there when there is a person there to assist you. It is something that is happening at the moment when a person only does the work when they are instructed. However the solution is to collaborate the efforts of the LTA and Police. The Police maintain safety of the public while the LTA gathers the fines and it is perhaps the reason why our Ministry is being kept at a minimal size because most of the money is going to the LTA while only a few comes to us. I hope those in charge would consider this matter.

The matter with finger prints is very much needed and very crucial because it will improve the investigations of the Police officers by way of scanning prints when a person is charged. Prints can be uplifted from stolen properties and then the culprits can be searched. We have well educated individuals in reading finger printing and they are well qualified to carry out this task.

Mr Speaker before I conclude I would like to address my constituency. I greet my constituency at Lealatele in Savaii and if you are listening in, the Government has laid out the plans and perhaps by the end of this year or the beginning of the next will be the implementation of the bridge at Maliolio. For Patamea the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture has approved the field as requested. Leauvaa my village I wish to thank you for your unwavering support. Who am I without you all and what use am I to you if not for your support as I would not be in the Chamber without it. Thank you for support and prayers and I pray Samoa may be blessed. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons for the response on behalf of the Ministry. I trust the Members have understood the response in accordance to the concerns. Thank you.

I now call upon the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House, I believe the discretion, thoughts and ideas voiced are of the utmost value. I greet the Leader of Government, the Hon Prime Minister, Minister of Cabinet and Associate Ministers.

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I greet the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House and not forgetting respected Members of Parliament. I acknowledge the various Heads of Government Departments in support of our work and also the Office of the Legislative. Lest I forget to greet the Three pillars of Government and especially the dignity of Samoa; Aiga ma Tama, ma le Usoga a Tumau ma Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti. I acknowledge the support and prayers of the clergymen for the future of Samoa.

During a fishing or hunting expedition in Samoa, the best equipments are needed to acquire the best catch. Samoa is a small island developing state and we will be hosting the upcoming conference. The area of our land mass is 2,820 kilometers wide, with a population of less than 200,000 and we are located in the middle of the largest ocean, the Pacific Ocean. We are not only isolated but also very vulnerable in terms of hazards. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure are preparing a strategic transport sector plan for the Government to follow especially in terms of major developments in need of priority implementation. This plan includes transport on sea, air and land. The main objectives of this plan is to address the vulnerable state of our location and also in preventing damages on major developments, the transportation of the public, the transportation of goods and especially the assurance of safety in services. It is not only that but also preparing and ensuring damaged assets are able to be restored to maintain business competition with the private sectors.

The following are some of the main objectives; compulsory usage of approved guidelines for roads and sewages to ensure the safety of public transportation both on vehicles and walking, constructing roads that can withstand the changing weather conditions, improve and maintain its standards of ports, airports and other transport services, increase the safety of ports and airports and ensure good governance is practiced by working together so as to abide by international regulations. The Cabinet has appointed Managers to oversee the plans for the betterment of our people especially in reference to transport.

I start with the Land Transport Authority; the crucial ongoing programs include enforcing the specifications for road construction companies, lawn mowing and road side maintenance, planning and strategizing ways to make drivers aware and also to purchase cameras to record high speed vehicles to ensure safety. Review is underway on a proposal to install meters on the beach road in Apia. The program is running smoothly and referred to Cabinet so that vehicles parking at the side of the roads can be minimized. We are in a period where a lot of vehicles are being imported into the country.

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Meter installations on taxi vehicles are also in progress and the proper route for buses and parking.

The Samoa Ports Authority and Shipping Corporation are currently discussing the implementation of the wharf at Vaiusu. This development will increase the number of yachts in the area and also provide a specific location for cruise ships to dock. Investigations of the Samoa Port Authority are underway. I am pleased to announce the improved state of the wharf at Satitua where our slipway is located. I believe it is being observed that this location and slipway is constantly being utilized by the Shipping Corporation. Not only that, but in the previous we were visited by an Australian delegation tasked with maintaining patrol boats such as the Nafanua. There are plans for certain boats to be serviced by the Australians and the slipway at Satitua has been approved in reference to its facilities and standards. The remaining negotiations before implementation are the forms of fees and other arrangements so that plans are best utilized. Moreover, upgrades and improvements are continuously being considered for the wharf at Salelologa and Mulifanua for better service of transport of the public.

In the Civil Aviation division, there are plans for the World Bank to assist in upgrading our runway after hosting of the upcoming conference. The Japanese Government will be assisting in the upgrading of our waiting lounge. Overall, the Republic of China has offered assistance in upgrading our international airport. There is a consideration of implementing an airport at Satitua and perhaps it will improve international communication with American Samoa for future developments. The proposed airport building at Faleolo will hope to incorporate three entrance and exit gates for passengers. These are some of the designs in consideration for the plans we have prepared.

In regards to electricity, the renewable energy has just commissioned 546kilowatts of solar energy opened in Salelologa inclusive of Tuanaimato, Tanugamanono and Vaitele. The projects have opened with the help from the Government of Japan through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The assistance from the New Zealand Government has been carried out on Gym 3 which is going to be food court for the upcoming conference. It is 250kilowatts and it has been inserted into our grid. Furthermore, New Zealand also assists with 2.2megawatts installed at the Horserace Course that is proposed to be open by the upcoming Conference. New Zealand also proposes installations of 400kilowatts at Asau in assistance to the Savaii Island along with the assistance from Japan installed at Salelologa of 250kilowatts all for Savaii.

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There are other companies in line and are currently undergoing negotiations and finalizing agreements. The Green Power Company is implementing work at Tuanaimoto of 4megawatts. An agreement for Solar for Samoa of 4megawatts at Tuanaimoto has been signed and all these arrangements are inclusive of the upcoming programs. At the moment work is currently underway...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption of the Member. I call on the Member for Faleata East.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** I thank the Hon Minister for clarifying the matter. However I mentioned in my speech in regards to the EPC and their fees. The Hon Minister has just listed the guidelines and policies about to be implemented. Therefore my question is whether the prices for electricity would therefore decrease once these implementations have taken place? Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Mr Speaker work is currently underway for the development programs on a hydro station. At the moment arrangements are being made for the upgrading of the Loto Samasoni and Fale o le Fee hydroelectric plants which were damaged by Cyclone Evan. These types of developments are some of the developments that our donor partners are able to assist with. It means that it depends on their programs. Not only that but the hydro generator has insurance and since there is a lot of work to be completed so that the machines can be fully restored these developments are planned to be of great assistance to our electricity. There are potential sites for hydro stations and the Electric Power Corporation is working towards making it a reality. It is proposed that by the end of May 2014, 235,770 units of electricity would be produced by solar energy. It is equivalent to 56,136 liters of diesel worth \$168,408; an amount that would be saved. Therefore if we calculate in accordance to other solar energy used we can conclude that there will be a great amount of money saved. Furthermore, dependent upon the laid out programs nearing completion, it is hoped that by the year 2017 and 2018 there will be a one hundred percent renewable energy based on the approved and implemented programs in place. It is a great feat for our Electric Power Corporation in considering the conditions we are in...

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**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the interruption by the Member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister for the speech highlighting the visions of his sector. Well done. The issue I wish to raise is in regards to the Financial Statement the proposal of the Government that by 2017, the majority of electricity would be sourced from renewable energy.

Therefore my question is whether there are any plans of reselling our hydro generators which was purchased with \$100million. Will it be sold so that our debts can be financed? The developments are very important but I am concerned due to the large sum that was used to deliver the hydro generators to us. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister, you have the discretion to respond or whether it was included in the Members speech.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** This is the vision that the Authority and Government are envisioning. If it observed that there will be changes especially in terms of fees then that is what is to happen. Prices were increased for this one year to await the state of renewable energy in case of power outages so as to ensure that the energy produced is stable and able to assist. The hydro generators at Fiaga are more efficient than the old one and also saves a lot of diesel. There are preparations for a hydro station at Savaii and there should be one at Vaiaata. However with the uncertainty there is no confirmation of the state of things. We have our old generators that were at Tanugamanono that will be our backup generators. The truth of the matter is that we must be prepared for all uncertainties because solar energy will run out and the public must have electricity at night time. The matters regarding the prices are best left unvoiced. I do not support making promises but it is better to voice the vision of the Electric Power Corporation in its efforts to provide reliable and affordable electricity for its people. It is the hope and reasons for these plans and programs; to provide affordable electricity for the people of Samoa. The water division is still implementing its normal functions of improving water services. The program targeting non-revenue water investigates the water leakages and whether there should be replacements. There are also old or worn pipes that need to be renewed so that quality water is being supplied. Water meters are consistently being monitored because the quality of water go hand in hand with functioning meters used by the public so that affordable waters is accessible for everyone.

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The Samoa Water Authority continues to carry out those duties. The Japanese Government has signed and agreed to offer their assistance for the upgrading of water tanks at Vailima along with a treatment plant for the quality improvement of water to the hospital and other parts. Not only that but Vaivase-uta also which is included in this assistance programme. The Government and Japan hope to carry out this project in October. The same with Tapatapao which has had new filters being installed but continue to use old pipes. There are plans to relocate the layout of the irrigation as it is currently on customary lands.

Furthermore, plans have been initiated for further works at Faleasiu Uta and Fasitoota and it is intended for the following month to progress. For the betterment of services and assurance of quality water provided efficiently by making preparations ready through installations once the water drill has been placed.

The matter raised by the honorable Member for Salega, Afioa Afualo Wood Uti Salele; the Management of the Water Authority are looking into improving the quality of water for Salega.

The construction of the four lane road at Vailoa has already been laid out. Invitations to contactors were sent to implement the works from Vailoa to Vaitele. Plans have been prepared and it is my belief that the work will be implemented after the conclusion of our upcoming conference.

The bridge at Leone is being financed with the assistance from the World Bank. The design layout of the construction has been drafted. The World Bank continues to support us financially when there are disastrous outcomes from natural disasters and they assist through their continuous programs. When the Government attains funds it will then proceed to implement work on our roundabouts. Not only that but also improvements on our roads; these small funds are used to implement those developments. The World Bank cannot assist on our access roads leading to plantation as that is the responsibility of the Government. The World Bank and Australia are assisting in our work. It is why it is taking a lengthy time as they are still carrying out their programmes. The time that it took to process was usually quite long, however it is now about to be implemented within one year as perhaps the donors have seen the valuable investments and the increase in assets and infrastructure.

The Company in charge of the construction of the road to the airport has been selected and assistance is being granted by the World Bank. The design and layouts for this road are all in place. We also have a road at Maliolio which the World Bank has offered assistance for.

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I believe there are numerous developments that need to be implemented especially in terms of our access roads but we are trying our best to portion our funds so that all our developments are addressed.

I think that the words from the Bible are appropriate in describing the service that the Government is doing. “He who sows in tears will reap in joy.” The search of the Leader of Government and Government is like that in preparation for our hosting of the conference. It is a difficult job to look for assistance all over the place but when the storm is over and hard times have passed then we will lavish and enjoy the marvelous outcomes of our developments.

The matter of electricity as requested by the Member for Anoamaa East is being addressed as I have been informed that there are men working towards completion of the program which was causing the delay. Other temporary works at Satitooa have been approved by the World Bank to assist with and it is also why there was a delay as there is much work to be done.

Those are some thoughts in regards to the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 especially in regards to the requests put forth. Before I sit down I wish to acknowledge my constituency in all its honorific salutations for their generous support. I believe it is the reason why your Member is blessed in all the work and service to the Government. May we pray to the Lord of miracles as I know that is how our nation prospers; by the grace and miracles that the Lord bestows upon us.

I pray for Gods peace to be with us. Bless this day, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, your statements are very true, the task is not easy. I acknowledge the Hon Minister and especially the distinguished CEO and ACEO for the service rendered. I believe the responsibility is enormous as your Ministry is where the nation runs to for its developments and I urge the Hon Minister to stand firm and have patience. It is my firm belief that you were not chosen randomly by the Hon Prime Minister as you would be carrying out the task to your best abilities. I wish you the best and many more years in service to the Government.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO  
FAALE TUMAALII (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment):**  
Mr Speaker before I move to share my thoughts I firstly acknowledge the distinguished Members of the Assembly. I greet the Chair of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers.



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I also acknowledge that side of the House to the Leader of Opposition and of course distinguished Members of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

I also acknowledge the listening public in support of our work, from the great mountains to the very least. I also greet his Highness O Le Ao o le Malo. Afio o Tama ma o latou Aiga, Aiga ma Tama, le Usoga a Tumua ma le Pule, Ituau ma Alataua, Aiga i le Tai ma le Vaa o Fonoti.

I also greet the Island in the East, the distinguished Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofu ma Itulagi, Saole ma le Launiu na Saelua. Laau-na-amotasi, Tootoo ole Faleula faapea le mamalu ia te oe le Manuatele.

I acknowledge my constituency for their continuous support and prayers for your Members duties in Mulinuu. Aiga Sa Peseta, afio foi le Maopo, alaalatai le Nofu a Usoalii, Faleiva ma Upu ia toe le Muā'autasi o Puleone i Salafai.

I also greet my village of Satoalepai, Maiava, Susu Mataia, Alaalatai le Aitutagata ma le mamalu o upu ia te oe Satoalepai. I also acknowledge the respective Church Ministers with their continuous prayers for the future of Samoa.

I also take this opportunity to convey my deepest condolences to the constituency Gagaifomauga No.1 who is the neighbor to Gagaifomauga No.3, to the aggrieved widow and children and the two families for the loss of the late Hon Tuiloa Anetelea. I also convey condolences to the constituency, Sao e Fa faapea Aiga Saumalau, Tofa Lavea and distinguished Leaitpouniu ma le Faasau. I also send condolences to the village of Manase to the Afioa Taito and children and the distinguished Saumalau families and the Fetalaiga Tauasa ma le Lauti-na-laulelei i le Faleupolu.

Mr Speaker there were many Members who raised concerns in regards to the Ministry under my authority. Many of the concerns raised are of the same nature and I will respond on those areas of similar concerns.

There were quite a few inquiries about the seawalls and water drains, and what work was being done; questions whether there are plans for these to be improved in the Ministrys program. I acknowledge the Members who raised this issue for their patience and tolerance. The answer is that the drainage systems are still being implemented under the Evans recovery works.

For instance the drains at Laulii is currently undergoing construction. The list for the next seawall and drain has been finalized under the Adaptation fund which has enlisted 25 constituencies. It is an international program that is assisting our Government. However for the PPCR or the Pilot Program of Climate Resilience, this program is funding the other 16 constituencies which the Ministry is preparing for.

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It means that arrangements are currently being processed between the donors who are spearheading the constructions. There are certain procedures and provisions that must be met before the substantial amount of money is released. Perhaps it is a reason for the delay in implementation of these proposed projects. I will not call out the list of constituencies and villages included in the list but from my observance I can see that all those who voiced their requests are included. However if the proposal was inadequate then I am afraid the constituency will be removed from the list.

I come to the concern voiced in regards to the delay in implementing the projects. I would like to inform the concerned parties that the negotiations and arrangements with donor partners financing the projects are very lengthy. It starts right from the initiation of the project and there are procurement procedures that must be satisfied. It is why it takes time and it is not because of the slackness of the Ministry. The criteria and requirements of either the World Bank or LDC must be met. It takes months to process and once the donors have approved there is another process to complete before another amount of money is released to carry out the work. That is the brief explanation of the cause of delay, it is not the Ministry but the policies the donors draw up that need to be met.

Then I come to the matter of Advisory Boards. The Sector under my leadership includes two SOEs; SROS and the Trust Estate. There is a Board of Directors to assist the Managements of these SOEs in carrying out the service. The voiced concern was why there was a large amount of money utilized on these Boards when there is little return. Personally these mindsets are very ignorant. There are 7 persons in each Board. The STEC has 7 Board Members and also 7 Members for the SROS Board. These Board Members were not randomly selected as they were selected based on their knowledge and experience in regards to the duties of the Ministry and the mission of the State Owned Enterprises of the Government.

The Members for the Board of the SROS are Chairperson, Fonoti Perelini who is an Engineer, the deputy Chairperson is Professor Satupaitea Viali and Dr Taema Imo from NUS. Dr Manuleleua Sonny Lameta from USP and the other three men and women are from the private sector. They play a huge role in the Board. It means that there can be no price on the services they provide for the Corporation. I bear witness to the good work and the major contribution of these Members in the Boards.

The matter with the Advisory Boards in regards to being too many, I believe it should be double the number. It is because these Members are the consultants of the Environment for Savaii and Upolu. There is insufficient number of MNRE staff to travel out to investigate deforestation and illegal sand mining. Not only that but the illegal reclamation of waterways.

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These issues are reported by Members of the Board every two weeks for Savaii and Upolu. When these reports are presented to me, I assess them and consult the Ministry to address the situation and enforce the Law.

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the Hon Minister. I trust you are on smooth sails with your response but we have arrived at our recess hour. Opportunity will be granted for you to continue your response when we come back.

I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly be set aside for its usual evening break.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its usual recess at 7.00pm and resumed at 7.30pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have resumed. I trust Members of the House have had opportunity to regain strength through the refreshments provided so that we may continue with the debate of the Financial Statement. The Cabinet is in the course of responding. I believe that is the spirit that we should all embrace so that our proceedings can run smoothly in hearing the Government responses and the layout of the Appropriation.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister for the motion.

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF SITTING HOURS**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I acknowledge the progress as Members of the Assembly have been rejuvenated.

I stand with due respect to move a motion, That additional hours be added to our Sitting until the conclusion of the Appropriation tonight.

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister.*

*Motion approved.*

*Debate resumed on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.*

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**MR SPEAKER:** I have a firm belief that we are all on the same page as it will not be good if we stop our debates tonight and leave it for another time. It is best to be patient for tonight so that when we resume tomorrow our work load would be light. We also have other duties to attend to in regards to the final service for the late Tofa Tuiloa. Therefore I ask Members of the House to have patience. We will now proceed to our work and hopefully approve the Appropriation and then we may retire for the night. I will now hand over to the Cabinet who has the floor for the Government Responses. You have the power and our timing for tonight rests upon your speeches so that consideration of the Appropriation can be well understood and in reference to the Hon Prime Ministers motion.

We took a break when the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment was in speech; I call upon the Hon Minister to continue.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAI AULOTO ULAITINO  
FAALE TUMAALII:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

I wish to express my gratitude Mr Speaker and the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the fine provisions provided which has renewed strength for the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

The fourth part is in reference to the concern voiced by a Member on the improving of areas capable of becoming tourist attractions.

**Afioga Toesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister, but I recognize the interruption by the Member for Aana Alofi No.3.

**Afioga Toesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank your Mr Speaker for this opportunity.

I had not interrupted before on the response of the Hon Minister in regards to the recommendations on prioritizing the Boards and also Board of Directors as stated by the Hon Minister. I must apologize Mr Speaker it is not my intention to question the qualifications of the Members of those in the Board. It was my intention to emphasize the importance of the Boards as they have special skills and experience to assist in improving the services of the Managements. However the concern is that the SROS has shown that they are able to conduct several experimentations. It has been ten years since SROS was established. However they have yet to produce work that commercializes their experiments and generate profits. I am aware that the processes will take some time but the intention is for the service of the Management to improve.

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As mentioned one of the projects which the STEC and SROS were co-ordinating on was biodiesel. It appears that the funds allocated for this project has not been used. Furthermore, I observe the STEC management lack ability to generate income through the company when there is a great amount of funds spent on the workers and developments. There is no physical evidence of progress from these Corporations. It is the main reason for the recommendation so that the Boards can consider this not only for these SOEs but all the other SOEs of the Government. As the Hon Minister mentioned the Advisory Committee and their duty in overseeing those illegally mining the sand which I believe is an important task. I believe this is another important part that the Advisory Committee and Village Council can collaborate on...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I would like to assist on this issue. Perhaps if the Member had caught the statements by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee he would have grasped the vision which initiated the establishment of a separate Ministry that will directly oversee all SOEs of the Government so that the aforementioned concerns voiced by the Member may be addressed. The statement by the Chairperson encompasses the concerns raised by the Member. In relation to the vision of the SROS the core reasons for the establishing of this sector was to utilize the scientific knowledge to create new products so that Samoa can move away from the status of a Primary Producer Country. It is so that Samoa can look into producing final products. For instance the chilli sauce which was voiced by some of the Members. It would mean that the tomatoes would be processed locally and combined with the chilli to make the sauce. The intention was not for the SROS to manufacture the product but to encourage a company to make proposals for them to carry out the manufacturing process. If the SROS becomes a manufacturer of its own produce then the whole policy upon which it was established would be invalid. The Cabinet has approved one of the proposals by one of the tendered companies for them to initially carry out the production of the oil from the avocado. There is also hope for a private company to hopefully manufacture flour when they are successful in the tender process. It is best to fully understand that SROS is very important as it will provide many opportunities and wealth for Samoa. It was established to carry out experiments and then transfer to the public.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker I wanted to comment on a matter that the Hon Minister had voiced.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister, but to save your time I grant this opportunity first to the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Another matter that I recommended was for the Government to minimize spending. The Hon Minister has just mentioned the importance of the Advisory Board and Mr Speaker I like to remind the Hon Minister and that side of the House that there are a lot of funds being spent on these political strategies on Advisory Boards. Perhaps the amount is over \$7million if added all together, but it is the nations money...

**MR SPEAKER:** I understand your concern Leader of Opposition.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, point of order. This nation of Samoa has the Government depending largely on the consultation and advise of the elderly of village councils like the adage goes, the older you are the wiser you become. It is the reason why our country is so blessed, it because of its matai system. The various Boards play a huge role like the Ietoga Board. Therefore Leader of Opposition do not be hateful towards this work because that will cause the old men of the nation to hate you. The HRPP are seeking counsel of the older and wiser men because they will contribute wise counsel and you would be wise to listen to them. Do not be like Rehoboam who sought counsel with young men. Nevertheless, how much money did you mention again?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, point of order. I am not mad at the old men I am mad because of the countrys funds that are being abused by the HRPP. The HRPP should contribute from their own pockets to pay these people.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** If it is \$3million, you have just said that it is better to...Therefore you want these men to attend but not give them traveling fares? That is really absurd.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker the correct form of the request is to also include our old men in the boards. Perhaps our men are wiser than yours.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** There are men from your side over here too. However the matter is dependent upon the number that you have which is 12 of you compared to the 37 over here. Therefore the selection is dependent upon that..

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe this matter has been settled.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** No Mr Speaker our old men will not cost the Government any money. We too have an Advisory Board but it does not cost any money of the Government.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well Leader of Opposition I believe this has not been the first time that that side of the House has voiced this concern and I trust the Government has acknowledged your worries. However I ask now to give opportunity to the Government to respond and carry out their duty as they try to explain the meaning. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi whether he would wish to have his men who give counsel to the Government to be dismissed?

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi (Aana Alofi No.1):** Mr Speaker due to the direct question of the Leader of Government to me I would like to state that the Hon Prime Minister is correct. The advisory men of that side of the House tend to go against their own while the men of our side support and provide evidence of their support for the Government. It is the difference between their men and ours.

**MR SPEAKER:** I trust the concern of the Leader of Opposition has been noted. I call on the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to continue your speech.

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**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALAILAULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Thank you to the Members for the interruption, I will not comment any further on the reasons behind the initiating of the SROS as I was there when it started. However I will respond on the question which highlighted that qualifications reflect the importance of service. The answer is that the service provided is invaluable because the qualifications and experience are appropriate to carry out the work. SROS was established in the mid-2006 and it has been eight years. It started by looking for a location and also what type of scientific research would best suit Samoa. It was a process that took another two years. It was proposed to be internationally accredited by New Zealand and Australia because research would not be recognized if it is not accredited. The problem was that a country supports its own service. It is why it took another four years before establishment. The Hon Prime Minister has explained the status of products. The purchase agreements have been signed for a company to purchase the avocado oil; the Vailima Brewery has purchased the breadfruit flour sample for brewing beer. The Biodiesel currently being used takes a lot of work that is still continuing. Remember that SROS merely creates the technology and process and then refers it to the Private Sector. In the matter of the STEC, its operations are self funded as some of you are well aware during visitations. The Government has not issued any funds for its developments. I bare witness that as the Minister for STEC and in consideration of its projects that have been accomplished and ongoing, I know that it will have a great value on the economy of Samoa in the future.

I come to the concerns raised on Advisory boards. I am not sure about the other Advisory Boards but mine has TORs or a list of duties, furthermore I make visitations to Savaii and also Upolu. The Boards contribute a lot of work. There is a Board here that the Leader of Opposition should have asked the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 about as he is the Chairperson for this Board. He is hiding over there but he is included in this Board.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker that is exactly why I stayed quiet.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Leader of Opposition is not aware of his partys actions. Therefore please inform the old man so that he can stop lashing out at me and perhaps it is because he has no Advisory Board.

I beg pardon of the Hon Minister, but I am certain that the Advisory Board is understood as your explanation was very clear. The counsel and work that the members of the country contribute is very important in not only your Minsitry but other Ministries of the Government.



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However I fear that the Leader of Opposition will continue to interrupt if these waters are constantly rippled and cause further delay in our Sitting. Therefore I call on the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, since I was mentioned, I only want to recommend to the Member for Gagaemauga No.2 not to use Government funds to finance his Board. The Member should use his own money but not the Governments.

**MR SPEAKER:** It would be inconsistent with policies. Nevertheless, it is still one nation because though it is Levaopolos Board, it does not mean that it will not be receiving compensation. I beg the Hon Minister to continue his speech.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LEALIAULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Mr Speaker, I come to the matter of spaces that should be improved.

**MR SPEAKER:** Is there a matter Member for Aana Alofi No.3? A subject that is unclear?

**Afioga Tocolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Mr Speaker the matter of Steering Committees. The recommendation I tried to convey Hon Minister is perhaps considering the Committees be made to work together with village representatives under the Ministry of Women. It has been observed that some Committees encounter disagreements and tend to ignore the authority of the village councils. Therefore I propose the collaboration of village councils on behalf of the Ministry of Women who consistently report similar matters as those reported by the Steering Committees.

**MR SPEAKER:** The recommendation of the Member has been noted.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA LALIAULOTO ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Yes, thank you for the interruption. I believe I have already responded to the concern voiced.

I come to the matter of viable locations for tourist attractions like the park at Le Pupu Pue and upgrading the trail up to the Robert Louis Stevenson. The access road to the Le Pupu Pue has been constructed as it was funded by Japan. Resting benches have also been placed for visiting parties to this location.

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Furthermore, the Forestry Division is in charge of replanting of native plants along the access road so that the public can visit during the holidays. On the subject of the trail up to the grave of the famous Writer the matter has been referred to the Environment Conservation to oversee. I will ensure to enquire an update as this is the second time that the Members have issued this recommendation.

I come to the collection of rubbish mentioned by Members of the Assembly from the big island of Savaii. I wish to convey my gratitude to the Member who voiced the matter. I sent for the Ministry and company in charge of the collection of the trash between Asau and Faasaleleaga. The responsible party has been instructed and was given a warning. However the recent report I received this morning concludes that it seems that they were only obedient and honest for that short period and have slacked once again. Therefore the assessment division to these parts of the country will be briefed and if this company continues to be dishonest then they will be terminated and replaced.

The Ministry has initiated plans for the road at the Moataa mangrove. This matter is included in the list of districts under the coastal resource and community upgrading projects. The Ministry will be entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding and proper implementation of funds for the 25 districts for the other fund and 16 districts for the other. The implementation process will depend on the reviewing of CIM plans and consideration of urgency of implementation of each district.

I conclude with addressing the recommendation of using the African snails for consumption. I had not interrupted the subject when it was raised as I personally feel that there are various poisons from these biological sources. There is a number of food poisoning from the bacteria and others from breeding. The toxins cannot be removed no matter how much you cook it. Therefore I believe the matter should not be considered as a source of sustenance for the public as a child or whoever may suffer unforeseen misfortunes.

I conclude by acknowledging the Speaker of the House, distinguished Members of the Assembly, and also the Office of the Legislative and Heads of Government Departments and Corporations; I salute your efforts in service of our Government. Thank you and bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. The duty and responsibilities your Ministry and staff oversee are no small feats. I acknowledge your work and efforts and especially the public working alongside you.

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Thank you for the responses voiced as per the concerns voiced by the Members; you have answered well and in complete detail.

Well, we have come to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. I call upon the Afioga i le Sao, this is your opportunity.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU (Minister for Education, Sports and Culture):** Mr Speaker as we are short on time I wish to briefly address the distinguished Members of the Assembly and also Samoa and its traditional setup. I acknowledge my constituency of Faasaleleaga No.1 in all its honorific salutations.

I acknowledge the prayers of the ministers of our constituency for myself and the Member, Afioga Gatoloai.

I thank my village of Iva for the contribution and well response to the invitation to entertain for the 52 years of Independence. I apologize for my absence as I was away on an important meeting. I have heard the news of the wonderful performance and I appreciate the efforts and most especially to the pastor Tonu Mauafu and lady Malelega for spearheading the preparations. If I had known that Falefas song would not go well I would have offered our village to do the song instead. Therefore, brace yourselves and be prepared as we might get an invitation to entertain for the upcoming Conference this September.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the Member for Anoamaa East.

I give opportunity to the Member.

**Tofa Alo Fulifuli Taveuveu (Anoamaa East):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I merely wanted to respond to the mention of our song that was supposedly not executed well. The orchestrator intended for the song to be like that and many praises and thanks were conveyed on Sunday for our song. The Hon Prime Minister also acknowledged Falefa for the song. There was no mistake.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker the recommendations and statements addressed to the Ministry were very rational as the majority of the voiced recommendations were of the usual reminders in terms of teachers, pupils and school buildings. There was one particular recommendation that was very intellectual and sound. The recommendation shared by the Member on his experience of the system of education worldwide by starting at the Kindergarten level. The Member shared the connection between educating from the age of two to 5 and 5 to 17.

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The problem with most of the Pacific is that countries do not prioritize education at the beginners level and perhaps it is due to the lack of information on the benefits. There are claims that this type of institution is just a form of placing children in the care of others while research studies have accumulated on the benefits of this connection. I acknowledge the insightful recommendation by the Member for Sagaga le Falefa. At the moment the early childhood education is not included in the formal education of our system. Formal Education is only from year 1 up to Year 13. The Ministry will be working on ensuring this will be included in our system. Furthermore the Ministry will also incorporate it to include all academic institutions that will recognize this important strategy along with inclusion of teachers under the Government.

Another part of the Members speech was about the reviving of Community Schools on different areas of expertise. This program was one of the most important programs carried out in the past but since the establishment of Polytechnics, the community schools have disappeared. It was beneficial especially for the school dropouts in the outer areas of the country. On the other hand, perhaps the number of school leavers would be decreased due to the scheme that pays for school fees up to Year 13.

There are concerns that the provisions for the school fees grant scheme are too strict as it does not leave any room for the loan payments. Therefore leave the matter to me I will talk with those in charge and see if they have a backup scheme.

I acknowledge the Member for voicing the matter of children not attending their village schools as this is a very important issue. I take this opportunity to address the listening audience of village council Members of each village to be aware that the education of our children is everyones responsibility. There are villages that impose fines on families who do not send their children to school. I urge the support of village councils to assist the Government in this initiative to enforce the education of all children. The distribution of our school stationery is still being conducted as per the usual policy of the Government. All stationery is given to the Committee and School Principal; this way is the most transparent and efficient.

I come to the issue with teachers. I believe we are nearing a time where teachers will no longer be looked down upon. The Ministry is running a program and it is planned that by the following year all students will be aiming to become teachers. The Science subjects are the most sought out as there is a shortage of teachers but the Ministry has initiated for students to attend schools with science teachers. It is a temporary plan as a team of 60 teachers have been enrolled at the University of the South Pacific taking Science which is hoped to be complete in two years.

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Mr Speaker I come to computers...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption by the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I wish to query on the matter of teachers. The aim of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture was to have 100 teachers graduate with complete degrees but at the end of the year there was only eight or ten that completed their Degrees. I am pleased that the Hon Minister has considered utilizing USP however I want to ask whether there is communication between the Ministry and the NUS.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker this Member has become a nuisance; he constantly asks when he did not comment. Therefore although the issue is important I will not respond.

The issue with computers is that villages first seek out computers and then later on request for teachers. It is all well with the idea but it is best to refer first to the Ministry so that a teacher for computing can be arranged. The request should also be referred to the Ministry for consideration.

Mr Speaker I wish to thank the CEO of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Afioga Matafeo and staff. I acknowledge the SQA Susuga Fepuleai and staff, the NUS Vice Chancellor Afioga Lau Asofou Soo and staff. I also thank the Clerk of the Assembly and staff and all the partners of the MESAC.

Bless this meeting, soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the speech of the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, I believe the Members of the House have gratefully accepted the response made. The task and responsibility is great as the Ministry you head is one of the most important as it a Government priority to upgrade and enhance education. An educated nation is a wealthy nation. I wish you all the best and most especially to the staff of the Ministry of Education from the University down to the Pre Schools. We have come to the Ministry of Health.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe the honorary salutations of the House have been addressed by the previous speeches. I briefly acknowledge the listening public and all its honorific salutations. I have in mind that I will direct my speech on the matter of responses in relation to the queries put forth as time is of the essence.

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I will be responding in accordance to the questions voiced by the Members based on the general comments made on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.

Mr Speaker since my response is very short I would very much appreciate this opportunity to briefly address my constituency. I greet my constituency in all its honorific salutations. I acknowledge the support and prayers for our duty and calling here in the Chamber. I trust you have been made aware of the plans for water access in the upcoming month. We have been waiting for a long time but it is all in Gods timing. We have been requesting for a long time during this Term for a sports field and plans are in place for the following month to have a field for improving of talents in our villages.

Mr Speaker there were six Members who spoke in reference to my Ministry. I wish to acknowledge the sound recommendations voiced in helping build the service of the Ministry. I have responded to the other four Members but I have yet to respond to the other two as I was listening intently to their concerns.

One of the Members requested a Health Centre for one of the villages of his constituency as it is quite isolated from their district hospital. For the information of the Member and constituency I already explained the reasons why this is not possible during the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 debate; nevertheless I will say it again. There are policies that have been established that distinguish the need to establish health centres or district hospitals for various districts of Samoa. It is not based on the distance of the hospitals but on the need and whether it is appropriately needed each time. As we all know there are certain villages that are quite isolated like Uafato at Fagaloa and Falealupo at Salafai. Therefore it is my belief that the requests for access roads of the constituency put forth are well upgraded so there is no difficulty in accessing the hospital.

I have visited the hospital at Aana twice this year. There were many upgrades to this hospital which was in very bad shape as most of its beds were damaged. There is hope that new beds will be installed to replace the old ones and much of the hospital assets have been repaired. The hospital is in great condition and I firmly believe that the public accessing this hospital will utilize the opportunity and save them from travelling the distance. The concern raised regarding the matter of health promotion. I believe I have spoken before on the matter and explained yesterday but it appears that it is still not understood. There is also a belief in me that the concerned party will eventually come to understand. However the conflicting concern is that not only did the Member negate the aspect of health promotion but had also raised an issue of hospital Bills being increased.

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The Member seems confused as this is the very reason why the health promotion exists; so that the people can prevent themselves from going to the hospital. If the people are healthy then there would be no need to visit the hospital but if they are careless in taking care of their health then they of course have to visit the hospital which and later on they complain about medical Bills.

For your information the matter has been critiqued individually but not in its entirety. I explained before that 2/3 of patients at the hospital are being checked free of charge. In the outpatient, children from newborns to the age of 15 are treated for free likewise the pensioners, 65 years to 100+ pay are and pregnant women. The communicable diseases like HIV, TB, leprosy and other sexually transmitted diseases are treated free of charge. The rest of the patients who are not under these categories pay \$10 a day. I have explained before the matter as I have carried out my own investigations into the matter and the fees that people have to pay. When you go to the hospital to do a bandage change or blood test the overall cost is \$40 per person and you only have to pay \$10 while the Government pays for the other \$30. Those who complained about the fees for blood tests and x-ray scans for the information of the listening public, newborns to 15 years are not expected to pay any hospital fees. Those of the age of 65 also do not have to pay, and the pregnant women also need not pay. The patients with communicable diseases as I had called out...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker it was this morning that the Leader of Opposition relentlessly insisted that the hospital fees are much too expensive. However I am listening to the numerous numbers of patients being medically examined for free. So what do you suppose is the basis of the concerns of the Leader of Opposition?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, I had not wanted to interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister but the Hon Prime Minister has now interrupted. However the percentage of people that the Hon Minister is referring to hardly amounts to 30%, while the other percentage that pay the hospital fees is 701%. If someone is hospitalized for two weeks the fee is \$200. The cost for a blood test is \$10. These numbers should be clarified as it seems that the group mentioned seems like a great number but it is only a small percentage of the nation.

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Mr Speaker, it is best to make known the exact percentage of people rather than the 15 years and pensioners. The people I am concerned about are those not included in the categories that are free of charge.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the only issue here is the percentage and no one understands percentages. The only part I wanted to acknowledge was the that stating free of charge and the services that are charged only cost \$10 while it originally costs \$40 which means the Government pays the \$30. The concern raised by Afioga Hon Palusalua further confirms my suspicions that he is a liar.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the listening public of Samoa will be the judge of who is telling the truth. The people I am referring to amounts to over 100,000 while the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister refers to a number that does not amount to 50,000, so Samoa you judge.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, it is now 100,000 but the number is still little because only Apia residents go to this hospital as those in the outer areas visit the district hospitals. The Leader of Opposition just brings numbers and percentages while I doubt he understands them. Afioga Hon Palusalua there is no one that understands percentages. The important factor to understand is what an individual has to pay which is nothing.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister, but I give opportunity to the Member for Sagaga le Falefa.

**Tofa Tuisa Tasi Patea (Sagaga le Falefa):** Mr Speaker, I also queried this matter and I acknowledge the Hon Minister for clarifying this. However my question is why the outpatient is always full if it is free of charge?

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker may I respond to the question? I understand the reasons why.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do you wish to be the Minister of the Hospital?

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker I know because I visited there.



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**MR SPEAKER:** Our Meeting is being confused by a foolish bird.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker the only person that does not understand percentages is the Hon Prime Minister and his constituency. All of Samoa understands.

**MR SPEAKER:** Very well, the Hon Minister will respond as he owns the percentages as I am unsure where you get your information from.

I call on the Hon Minister to stand.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Mr Speaker the Leader of Opposition did not comment in reference to the hospital but on the Report. Mr Speaker I will continue. The cost of x-ray services for patients the age of 15 are free and the same for 65 years and over.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister. Something similar was mentioned in your statement Member for Gagaemauga No.2?

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatunu:** Mr Speaker there is something I wish to be clear on. I spoke on the Ministry of Health and have just now known the free services of the x-ray. However I believe it has been over a month now since the x-ray machine has not been in service. What would the Hon Minister have to say about that?

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the Hon Minister to first conclude on the cost of the x-ray services and the Hon Minister discretion is given for the new query.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker in order to save our time I first acknowledge the Hon Minister but he has now come to the topic of x-rays. Although you mentioned I had not directed any statements to you during my speech I believe I covered parts of it in my speech. I want to direct my statements to the Hon Prime Minister first then to the Hon Minister.

An x-ray scans is a condition that prevented our people from traveling overseas especially for the Quota. It is has been noted that 15 year olds are scanned for free but believe me Mr Speaker this service is one of the most costly services for our people wishing to travel to New Zealand and Australia. The visas applications nowadays are much different than the past as now we need x-ray scans. It is why I do not believe what you are saying and I think the Hon Minister is a liar.

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**MR SPEAKER:** The concern is noted; however there are different criterias for the need to be x-rayed. The need for x-ray in a visa application must be paid while a person needing an x-ray scan for their health is free of charge and that is the correct explanation. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Mr Speaker you are correct. It is the exact answer I wanted to give to the Leader of Opposition. It is the responsibility of those who wish to travel overseas to pay for the x-ray services needed in visa applications.

Mr Speaker those are benefits available now at the hospital along with the free prescriptions. Furthermore the beneficiaries of free check-ups are also entitled to free medicine and hospital beds. I am not sure what the costly expenses are about since the medicine is now free. Well, the age group of 16 to 24 is the strong youth and there is no reason why they would be sick unless it is a severe injury. The other reason why they are sick is due to carelessness for their health and ignoring the health promotions. It is being careless that leads to obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. The health promotion targets this age group so they are aware of their health and in turn prevent them from needing to visit the hospital and thus spending money. Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption of the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker thank you for the opportunity. I was waiting for the Hon Minister to come to the matter of the Health Promotion Bill because there are people who do not understand. Hon Minister, after the second reading debate on the Bill, letters from members of the medical association were brought to some Members of Parliament. Therefore the issue that concerns me is the fact that these people were supposedly the same ones who drew up the Bill as they work at the National Health. It appears that health promotion is something that was long introduced and is not something new. It is continuously progressing as part of public health and primary health care. It is not new and should therefore not need an additional department. Furthermore Hon Minister it appears there is conflict within your Ministry in accordance to the Bill. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, in saving our time and lightening the load for the Hon Minister I allow you the discretion as we will come to debate on the Health Promotion Bill when it is tabled, as for now we are on the Appropriation Bill.

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Therefore I urge the Hon Minister to direct statements on the Appropriation Bill and also for Members to recognize this request also.

I call on the Member for Vaisigano No.2.

**Tofa Motuopuaa Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai (Vaisigano No.2):** Mr Speaker I will not comment on the Health Promotion Bill but will direct my statements to the matter I addressed before. Since the responsibility of being Minister of Health was given to the current Minister I believe I addressed under the Health Promotion the importance of free medicine for children under 5 years old. If we consider the free medicine for the pensioners they are the age groups that are elderly. Well, I have no wish to disregard the elderly but we must also consider the young children in the early development stages. Therefore I like to perhaps remind the Hon Minister to consider free medicine for the ages of 5 and under. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I acknowledge the Member for Vaisigano No.2 and his wise suggestion.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue his speech.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes, well I am going to read the response from the NHS representative in response to the concerns voiced by the Member. Overall satisfied with the baseline information given the health status in relation to as it is. The concept behind it and the legal aspects NHS is in full support of the National Health Promotion Bill, not only is it in line with the healthy islands declaration which stem from declaration on primary health care and the Ottawa charter on the health promotion.

This Mr Speaker is the note from the Ministry representative present here tonight. I have read this paper to prove the concerns you have just voiced.

**MR SPEAKER:** Noted. I call on the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker I find no favor in speaking unconfirmed statements. However the Finance and Expenditure Committee is where the CEO of the National Health can be found and his statements can be verified. He did not say he does not support but more does not understand the reason why it was done so in the first place. It appears that it is now being hidden behind politics, because...

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**MR SPEAKER:** Tofa Lealailepule your concern has been noted. There is a difference between understanding the Bills concepts and how it is executed. I seem to understand a bit of...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker this is an important rule in Committees; it is prohibited to voice a witnesses account. If this is how our Sittings are carried out then it means that not one single Committee is following the Orders. The reason why witnesses are called in is because their accounts and statements are confidential. That is the problem with jumping to conclusions instead of properly considering the Orders. Mr Speaker your discretion should be applied here in directing instructions to this. What is the use of speaking on the Law when we ourselves do not know the Law? Mr Speaker this subject is not a simple matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Tofa Lealailepule listen...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I shared my concerns and I did not mention anyones name, do not be disrespectful.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the Member to be seated, take your seat. It is the very reason why I urged the Hon Minister to set aside statements regarding the Health Promotion Bill as there will be a time for consultation on the matter. Therefore I urge the Members especially the Member for Faleata West and the Leader of Opposition to remember that we are in the parliamentary advocacy group. The issue is vastly complicated. We are now overstepping the boundary of confidentiality breaches of Parliamentary Committees. We need to be cautious and I recommend Members to direct statements to the Bill at hand.

The Health Promotion Bill should not be addressed generally as there is a Bill yet to be following after this. Furthermore our proceedings must adhered to the Regulations of our Committees.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I stand to emphasize the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of witnesses as there are accounts that state their names. Therefore Members of Committees should be mindful of the witnesses whether they are public servants or not, their accounts should be contained within the Committee. If the confidentiality is broken then witnesses will refuse to come when they are called. If the CEO is called and they do not come then this is the reason why they will not turn up.

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker I take this opportunity to stand with all due respect to clarify issues like these. This side of the House is trying to explain the concerns especially since we are not sure of the piece of paper that the Hon Minister holds in his hand. It is the reason why we have brought the accounts of the witnesses to verify our claims but we have no intention of publicizing witness accounts. I apologize to the Chair and also to the Hon Prime Minister for this error in judgment due to our insistence in...

**MR SPEAKER:** Afioga Hon Palusalue your acknowledgement has been noted.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** It is very important that we remember the oath we took. The witnesses called are free to speak and generally under the protection that their accounts are remained confidential. What witness will turn up if when the Committee Members themselves are not being honest? Mr Speaker it is crucial to note the extent of the matter as reports are being tabled without the names of the witness. It is prohibited.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker what is so important when the names are mentioned in the Report?

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of Opposition take your seat, you are to stand when addressed. I call on Tofa Lealailepule.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I fully understand the Rules. I therefore apologize but it seems that the note implies as stated by the Hon Minister. It implies and also defaces us with statements voiced as not being honest. It is the reason why. I spoke earlier that it seems untrue, do not tell lies.

**MR SPEAKER:** Concern has been noted.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker the Hon Ministers are free to read out the notes from their advisors. However I am talking about the witnesses answers to the Committees queries. There are records that ensure confidentiality of such things and that is what I am trying to emphasize. The Member sitting over there had the audacity to publicly voice the witnesses account. It is very disrespectful.

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Mr Speaker I am merely trying to emphasize because even the Leader of Opposition seems to misunderstand. It is why we have Rules. I emphasize once again to read our Rules and understand.

**MR SPEAKER:** Take your seat Lealailepule, have some respect Lealailepule.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, I apologize Hon Minister but it is not a big deal. If you wish to fire me then ok, I will take that time to do some family chores.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Afioga Hon Palusalue take your seat, the matter is finished. I trust the explanation I laid out before has been understood and as the Government has tried to clarify; the concerns raised have also been noted. I urge the Hon Minister to move away from this subject and move on to a new matter. The Health Promotion Bill should not be debated any further as we will deal with it when the time comes. The discussion of the Health Promotion Bill in the Finance and Expenditure Committee is not really in depth. Perhaps we will get to the bottom of things when that Bill is tabled. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker I was obeying your instructions but due to the continuous interruptions by the Member, nevertheless I will not discuss this subject any further. On the other hand I did not mention the name of the witness who spoke on these matters nor will I mention the Member who voiced the concern. Another matter Mr Speaker, if there are reasons on this paper for...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker the issue is yet being mentioned again after you have just instructed to move away from this subject.

**MR SPEAKER:** The statement is being concluded....leave the matter...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** No because we are being blamed for the wrong...

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**MR SPEAKER:** You are not being blamed, as your name is not mentioned. The note that the Hon Minister is referring to is in response to the concerns you raised in the Chamber. It is just an explanation as evidence for the Hon Minister to whom the note belongs. If we are to continue down this path it will not end well. Therefore I humbly urge Members to acknowledge the conclusion that the Hon Minister has in his possession a supporting note from the Sector. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thank you, thank you but since it appears that I am being blamed for the accuracy of the note Mr Speaker, the note can be delivered to you to make copies for that side. Mr Speaker I am obeying your recommendation and will therefore move on from this subject.

The state of diseases like that of TB and leprosy was queried. For the information these diseases were not fully cleared out of our nation as it was merely contained in small numbers. The bacterium that causes such diseases is very difficult and so they continue to circle our nation up until now. It has been noted that those affected has gradually increased but the Ministry continues to monitor and visit those affected. The visitations are to ensure the containment of the disease and to administer the free medicine to the sick. Moreover there have been 33 cases of TB which have been treated while 9 are still undergoing treatment. The leprosy there are 16 cases where 3 have been treated and 13 left still undergoing treatment. The Ministry continues visitations to the families of the sick to ensure also that those living with the affected are not infected thus spreading it around.

Mr Speaker that concludes the response to the Members who queried on matters regarding this Ministry and I hope the responses were satisfactory. I acknowledge those who took the time to make recommendations for this Ministry. Thank you and bless this Meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I acknowledge the Hon Minister for Health for the speech and also the responses in accordance to the services carried out by the Ministry of Health. I appease Members for any misinterpretation of proceedings relating to the Ministry. I believe our insistence sometimes gets the better of us. The task you face and are responsible for is not easy as it deals with the health and lives of the nation. I hope you stand firm and have patience and whatever concerns may be voiced by this side of the House, I trust you understand their efforts are for the better. The recommendations are in the hopes of a better future and for our Laws to be carefully considered and I acknowledge that.

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Well I call on the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries it is now time for your response. I call on the Member to stand.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity to let me be a representative of this Ministry to relay our response. Before I make my speech I first recommend to the Leader of Opposition and the Member for Faleata West to take a deep breath so the lungs can take in air and you may be calm. In case you too lash out at me therefore take a deep breath, and...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker with due respect...

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** We do not need that but perhaps the person that really needs that is the Hon Prime Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Yes, well with our work it is important to not take things personally in case someone gets sick. On the other hand, the light has slowly disappeared and it is high time that we return the praise to our Father in Heaven for His love and protection and continuous assistance for us. I trust and believe that our country is just as blessed in its many factions.

Mr Speaker and the distinguished of the House, before I continue I must firstly acknowledge the support of our nation. Samoa your honorary salutations and all that bequeath you I will not touch upon. I believe my constituency is also listening in and I acknowledge them and all its honorary salutations. I also acknowledge the supporting prayers of the Pastors in constant prayers for the future of our Samoa. This hour however I wish to acknowledge the Members who voiced recommendations and considered this Ministry in the past few days. The contribution and concerns raised is evidence of your consideration for this Ministry and I acknowledge that. The majority of the issues as I have observed were mainly acknowledgement to the Ministry for the benefits granted by the United Nations through the FAO. I firmly believe that the job is ours together and is not a single man's job or that of the staff. It is why I want to acknowledge the farmers and fishermen for their contribution. If it were not for them and their consideration and acceptance of the advice and warnings issued by the Ministry perhaps it would not have been successful. It goes to show how true the words of the Psalms that, 'he who sows in tears shall reap in joy' and it is the same spirit we have.



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I come now to the matters raised by some of the Members in regards to some of the projects. The Ministry's mission for its Sector Plan as already laid out is to increase its contributions to the nation's GDP. As some of the elder Members are aware that boxes of bananas and coconuts exported overseas generated quite an income for our nation and in turn contributed about 40, 50% to the GDP. However if it noticed that the percentage has dropped dramatically over the past few years from 50% to 10% of the GDP and it is why the Ministry aims to increase this contribution and revive the past income earnings contributed from the farmers. The use of the projects laid out by the Ministry is to generate income so that new projects can be established and encourage people to work especially the fishermen. I acknowledge the donor partners from overseas for their financial contribution. Most of the times it is very sad to observe the state of fishing as other neighboring Pacific islands are benefiting from this free God given resource. We are very blessed to be situated in the Pacific and be blessed with these God given resources that need to be properly used with the right projects. It will also ensure efficiency for our people who enjoy these things and thus in turn develop our country.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister but I believe we have come to the hour of our break. Lets have a break, and have a big breathe, and we come back and continue with our Budget tonight. I declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its normal evening break.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its recess at 9.23pm and resumed at 10.02pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence here and applaud the forbearance this evening.

I trust our strength has been rejuvenated and renewed to continue the Proceedings. I wish to convey my gratitude to the distinguished of the House for your patience. It is good to take a break so that we can take a breath of fresh air as we are breathing two hours of air conditioned air. A break will ensure we get fresh air and calm our hearts so that it can be similar to the koko Samoa we had just drank.

We took a break while the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries was in speech. I call upon the Hon Minister to continue.

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**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Thank you Mr Speaker for we have indeed been rejuvenated with strength to continue our work thanks to the light refreshments provided. I stand to continue my Ministry's response and issue statements pertaining to our time. We took a break when I was talking about the projects on plantation farms in our country. The stimulus package is what we are on now.

The mission of this project is to revive the coconut and cocoa plants plus coffee. I trust some of the Members are aware of the inter-cropping project that was first established where crops were planted separately so as to provide space for plant seedlings to grow and multiply. It is especially important for the coconut because its value added products has increased from the husk, coconut flesh and many other parts of the coconut. It is why it is very important to try and revive the coconut industry.

The project was initiated at the end of 2010 but kicked off at the beginning of 2011. The project was to revive and re-grow the coconut and cocoa industry with the addition of coffee as the coffee prices were increasing. The project was initiated to be organic farming only. However the difficulty during the 2012/2013 period as the project targeted 1000 acres and having one block equals 2 acres. Therefore if 500 farmers registered and each farmer worked 2 acres it would total up 1,000 acres. Only 728 acres were registered at first but later on the number of official registered acres was 358 for the project. Only 185 farmers completed the first phase of the project where they were able and eligible for the first bonus of the project. The plan for the four year period was that the first year would be paid \$1000 if visitation of project was approved. The second and third years would be \$500 and the fourth year would be \$2000. The estimated plan was to have the coconut, cocoa and coffee plantations after the four years.

Out of the 185 farmers only 156 farmers were able to successfully attain their payment on the first part of the bonus program. This is not the first time that such a bonus program was introduced to our farmers and so the Ministry hoped that the previous failed attempts would be a lesson learned. The Ministry tried and hoped that the bonuses would go straight to its beneficiaries without any problems. However out of the 185 farmers only eight were paid with the sum of \$1000. The plants that were distributed...

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg the pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption by the Member. You may stand Tofa Aveau.

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**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Thank you for this opportunity and I acknowledge the Hon Minister for clarifying the topic.

I queried this. The Hon Minister mentioned in the Financial Statement of perhaps last year or the year before that that the Ministry was given \$100,000 to carry out the stimulus package aforementioned by the Hon Minister. However the Hon Minister has just confirmed that the registered 50% are not included in the program anymore. The Hon Minister has also stated that there were only eight. This is exactly what we have been trying to convey to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is not a criticism but in order to ensure smooth running of these projects the criterias of the project should be reviewed. Majority of families do not have 2 acres of land but the criterias state that that is the limit of land for eligibility. Therefore Hon Minister and especially the Ministry the criteria should be reviewed because if 50% of the 180 that registered were not eligible then that means the \$100,000 would have to be returned.

Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Perhaps if the Member was not too quick to interrupt, nevertheless I will eventually come to that.

There were 29 who reached 90%, 22 reached 80%, and 44 reached 50%-70%, 35 reached 10%-49% and 47 reached 10% of plants able to be sold. So therefore the numbers that I stated were the only ones eligible for the bonus and the other funds were saved. The bonus of \$1000 was not going to be wasted given to a farmer that planted 30 out of 40 plants. And then we come to the issue which was questioned in relation to the reasons why the number of qualified has dropped. The matter was investigated. The answer was due to the fact that many of the farmers did not have enough man power to ensure organic farming was to be carried out successfully. The work needed to ensure organic farming was not compatible with the number of man power or children able to carry out the work as in the end it amounted to only a small portion of land being successfully farmed organically. It is one of the reasons.

The other reason was domestic reasons within families. Some families claim the land was theirs and so forth. Therefore arrangements were made with the approval of the Cabinet to continue but also allowing the usage of chemicals to clear the land. It meant that the farmer had the discretion to decide whether to use chemicals or go organic. There were 500 blocks that registered and made up the 1000 acres estimated for the program.

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Opportunity was also granted to major plantation farmers to register and apply up to 5 blocks. It means that they are free to choose whether it is one, two, three, four or five blocks. It was hoped that this project would be efficiently executed for the country. The program was set for 4 years along with the same bonus application as approved by the Cabinet at the end of 2010. Therefore the arrangements for bonus distribution issued in annual periods remained.

Additional to that was the inclusion of representatives from not only the Ministry of Agriculture but also members from the Finance office and the Chief Auditors Office who visited the plantations ensuring no favoritism or nepotism is involved in the funding process. At the moment the number of people involved in the project has increased. The total number being 128 from Savaii and 364 from Upolu making it a total of 492 registered which means perhaps there are only 8 more blocks to go to complete the 500 blocks. However I trust that by now it is fully prescribed or the number has been complete. The project was considered very crucial to the development of our country and so the \$150,000 that was planned to be returned was then used to fund the bonuses of the project.

Furthermore the avocado has been inter-cropped with the Tahitian line. The ava has also been allowed once again and will also be included in the stimulus package.

The \$100 a block registration would ensure that the Ministry would be providing the crops for harvesting. The applicant is free to choose which crop and how many for free as it is covered by the registration fee. The Ministry also passed the proper ways of planting the crops and the distance between the crops. The provisions and benefits of the project encouraged many of the people to register under this project.

I acknowledge the constant reminders by the Members for the consideration of the taro markets. The reminders are important as there is no one in this world that is 100% perfect. The packaging of taro and washing of taro is carried out by the supplier but is monitored by the Ministry. The bio-security or quarantine of taro is very important as we were once caught by the taro leaf blight. The New Zealand, Americas and especially Australians are very strict on the bio-security of taro. The number of taro exports for 2011 was 909. The taro exports for America in 2012 was 1,344, 2013 was 1,583 and 2014 it was 4,516 and combined it was equivalent to 9,962 at 40kilos per bag of taro. For New Zealand taro exports in 2011 was 553, 2012 was 4,778, 2013 was 10,210 and this year it was 4,516. America at one time did not import any of our taro however in 2012 the number of taro bags was 2,438, 2013 was 6,225 and this year it was 5,348. In total the number of taro exports is 286,003.

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Although the taro markets have increased the Ministry is not sitting still as it is also evident that the number of taro in the country is increasing.

The Ministry made arrangements in accordance to the recommendations by the Member for Aana Alofi No.1, Afioiga Leaupepe Toleafoa Faafisi and also other members who suggested a Pack House or a PMD, Produce Marketing Division. The Ministry worked in getting a consultancy and leased the land next to the SPA at the wharf for a building to be constructed there to ensure efficient taro exports. The architectural design of the building was devised but the Ministry held back due to the requests by the private business owners to leave the taro exporting to them. The Ministry deems it appropriate to leave the business and also opportunity to the private sectors to overtake the exports to New Zealand, America and American Samoa. Arrangements and negotiations with Australia are still underway as Australia is very strict with bio-security as we were once affected by the leaf blight.

The Ministry has noted and is proud to observe the benefits of the country from the vast increase of taro available not only for exports but also for consumption. It is noticed that the taro prices have dropped as they are now ranging from \$20, \$15, \$10 and even \$5. The members of the Management and representatives from the Shipping Company, and members from the Private Sector and I visited New Zealand and met with importers importing our taro. Negotiations were made during the meeting but the priority was also given to the business owners. The taro exporters voiced their concerns as they do not want to spray the taro but arrangements with New Zealand have been made to try and clear containers locally in terms of quarantine. The reply was that it would be very expensive and somewhat unfair to other countries and there is still the possibility of containers being ambushed on the ships. The Ministry is not resting as one may assume but are continuously seeking solutions to this problem. I also have with me here the list of the taro exporters.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

**Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau:** Thank you Hon Minister for clarifying this matter. I believe I too was one of the Members who voiced this matter. The elder Member Tuiloma also spoke on these in the previous Sitting. The BMD as mentioned is a very important initiative but I observe that the business community is still insisting for the matter to be left to them. I trust the discretion of the Hon Minister and also that of the Ministry.

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Our only prayer is to perhaps consider the general plantation farmers also in the process as the business people may neglect them. Taro is both bountiful in quality and quantity in Samoa. I thank the Hon Minister and also the Ministry for I observe and acknowledge the efforts committed in these projects.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** It is the Ministry's intention and we are not neglecting the needs of the people especially those of the local farmers and also because there was no official budget assigned for this. Therefore the Ministry has been given the authority to utilize the savings from the crop division to fund the taro exports. Other alternatives of exporting taro was to have it frozen which was good as it did not need to go through bio-security or quarantine. The Government of Australia and New Zealand have agreed to this process. In the future frozen taro exports may be exported to China as the quality of the taro will now last the distance. Furthermore, processing taro chips are also being arranged with a company in Australia in partnership with some of our people. Their machinery is being setup in their office here. We shall wait the turn out of this project. I briefly acknowledge the concerns voiced in reference to the SACEP and its delay. The Hon Prime Minister and I have met on the long wait for the pay out of this. The team from the World Bank is here, however as I have mentioned on the Tuesday Sitting on the heated debates of Monday in regards to the pay out of the cattle supply. The World Bank's intention was to deliver cows to the Ministry to breed before distribution. We replied that the years are unknown when these cattle will be ready for distribution whilst the cattle farmers are in need of cattle at the moment. The Ministry then searched for a specialist overseas to carry out this task.

The Ministry has found one this week and if the CEO of the Ministry of Finance is here then I ask for your assistance for this program because it is not only for the Agriculture but also the Ministry of Finance, SBEC and the Development Bank. If it was only the Ministry then perhaps other arrangements could be made especially considering the strict policies of the World Bank. I have a feeling that a sum will be issued but due to our Sitting and not being able to meet the team I suppose next week things will be finalized. I have also mentioned the funds that were meant to be for the renovation of the Livestock headquarters at Avele. Due to the relocation a new building has been constructed at the back of Vaea.

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Perhaps in the next month we will have an opportunity to visit and observe the development that was funded by China. The Ministry is not resting as the policies of the World Bank are quite difficult to meet as the Ministry of Finance is quite aware.

The SACEP program has been launched and the pay out of the bonuses are also underway. The program is being setup as efficiently as possible so that the payment can proceed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker I do not wish to interrupt the Hon Minister but I merely ask to reconsider myself and the Leader of Oppositions application which were withdrawn. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I give opportunity first to the Leader of Opposition before the Member for Faleata East.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker I did not lodge an application but I went there to see what the delay was and so I helped the Member for Siumu and his application. I acknowledge the Hon Minister and his explanation and I do not wish to apply, give the first opportunity to the plantation farmers. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I give first opportunity to the Member for Faleata.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker I thank you and I also acknowledge the Hon Minister for clarifying this topic. Although there were constant queries by the Members I acknowledge the Ministry and also that of the Hon Minister efforts in the work carried out. Well done. The reason we recommend suggestions is because of our support for some of our people vying for these projects. We only recommend that your Ministry continues to strive for the future of our country especially in that area. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Member for Siumu.

**Tofa Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker now that the Leader of Opposition has spoken I have come to understand and believe the Hon Prime Minister that the Leader of Opposition is indeed a liar.

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**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** Let us not make the man mad again in case he lashes out again. Nevertheless the opportunity is open to all applicants. The total amount of applicants at the moment is 1,875. The others have been processed already as Mr Speaker has acknowledged the launch in the beginning of the year and that program has commenced. The other 53 have been approved which are 37 from Upolu and 16 from Savaii. The other 46 have signed their agreement and the total of applicants who have done their second intake and those currently being processed are 529. The other thousand left will be processed by the Ministry. Furthermore opportunity is open to any applicant who wishes to apply because not all these numbers will be accepted. The acceptance and success of the applicant depends on the Committee visit whether requirements are met or not. Recommendations for improvement are offered and there is also the possibility of new applicants. I have already told the Ministry and also the Committee my concerns and worries if the grant is not going to be approved. It is why we are pushing forth with the World Bank so that they may ease... the word I wish to emphasize is the word flexibility because our faa-Samoa is vastly different from the European way. Anyway we will try our best to push through with this project. Wish us luck so that...

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker just one more thing please.

**MR SPEAKER:** I grant opportunity to the Member for Faleata East. I beg pardon of the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker I thank the Hon Minister. I have one recommendation on the matter for the Hon Minister and also the Ministry to consider. The funds for the Cyclone Evan recovery cannot be distributed in monetary terms but in form of goods. Perhaps I may be wrong but since it has been two years now since the cyclone. Most of the plantation farmers have renewed their fences, and... Is it possible to reconsider giving the funds to the plantation farmers? Thank you.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** You are too hasty because I am on SACEP and have yet to come to that. Nevertheless I will now talk about the cyclone recovery programme for Evans. The reason why there was a delay was because of the Ministry needed to search for new staff for the cyclone Evans because there is a different staff for the SACEP and also for the cyclone Evan recovery programme. The search for staff was long because it needed a lot of staff members to carry out visitations and recording duties.



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It is one of the reasons for the delay, nevertheless everything is on board now and everything should be progressing at the moment.

The cyclone recovery programme as mentioned saw the registration of 7,500 applicants up to June this month. The processing of their papers have been completed. The World Bank provides that an e-voucher system be used which we do not have in Samoa. There is no specialist on the suggested procedure. The vouchers aforementioned are not actual money but a form to procuring materials needed to construct houses and improve the standards of plantations. Advertisement for bids will then be forwarded for companies with low rates. At the moment the Bluebird Lumber, SMI, ACE, Samoa Builders, our Agriculture Store, Health Pacific, Strickland Limited and Seb & Rene have been considered. These companies have been earmarked so that farmers may present vouchers to any of these outlets. The voucher process is very difficult because we do not have this system in Samoa and will have to restart the whole process. So we just started to progress but to answer the query by the Member for Faleata East as it is true it has been long since the cyclone has passed. Some people have used their money and made loans appropriately.

Other suggestions have been to transfer these vouchers into money so that people can loan from them if possible. The process has been very difficult but we need to be patient. I am considerate of plantation farmers. It is why I voiced my gratefulness to my Ministry that there was no cyclone in the beginning of the year because we have yet to distribute the funds for the previous cyclone. These are the words that I tell my Ministry and perhaps they are mad at me but anyway that is what we are working towards at the moment. It will not be long now.

Then we come to the topic of the Bumblebee Company which the Hon Prime Minister talked about coming to our country. Hopefully this company will come since we have had a lot of companies from America and Tutuila who have said they were coming but have yet to arrive. I hope the Bumblebee are true to their word and actually make it here so that some of our people can attain employment. On the other hand I would like to just go back to what I mentioned in the beginning about our fish. I have already told our fishermen that it is not...there are plenty of fish outside, we are unable to bring these ashore at the moment. If the Bumblebee is in operation the fish will not be enough. It is common knowledge that for any company the supply must be sustained. So therefore at the moment I am just going to briefly paint a picture as there is another company offering their assistance and it was just today that negotiations have been finalized. Perhaps after a Report to the Cabinet has been forwarded then all provisions would be official.

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Once that has been in full operation then I firmly believe that that will push our exports. In truth the fish market overseas is very vast but as I have said before, arrangements and plans depend on when we go back in history of the fish market in the Pacific. Samoa was at the top but as of now Solomon and Vanuatu have taken over with their fish companies while we are still here. Some will disagree with the vision and plans to ensure the benefit of the country as a whole and also individuals in providing employment and improving our exports. I am merely painting a brief picture in case I might issue promises when it is not time to carry out these plans. This is my speech and I wish to convey my gratitude...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but there is one more Member. I call on the member for Faasaleleaga No.2.

**Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaio manu Taeu Masipau:** Thank you that we are now back to the fish company but I humbly ask that this fish company be established in Savaii. Thank you.

**Afioga Hon LE MAMEA ROPATI:** The Company I am talking about was taken to Asau to inspect the wharf and although the wharf was satisfactory the concern was how the company would be serviced. The matters of electricity and water supply need to be considered and also whether it would be accessible and so forth. However leave the matter to us because the most important matter is... It all depends on the company and where they wish to set up as the space at the back of SPA has been leased already. Let us hope and pray that this development kicks off in success. Well, that concludes my sailing for this evening and if I have forgotten anything I trust there will be another time for us to meet. However I would like to acknowledge the distinguished Members for your recommendations and suggestions voiced. Offering suggestions and lending a helping hand is appreciated because in this world one may think he is the wisest but there may be another view that is more beneficial.

Mr Speaker I wish to convey my gratitude to the Chair for guiding our Sitting. I hope we remain calm and patient and if we start to get mad I urge you to bow your head and pray to the Lord for strength. I recommend to the bad tempered to have patience as I was once in your shoes and it is how things go. I acknowledge the presence of the CEOs and Heads of various Government Corporations; you have sacrificed your time with families to be here when we approve our Appropriation this evening. I thank the Ministry for the refreshments and nourishments provided.

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I pray for the Lords blessing upon the support of our country and I pray for His blessings for my Ministry. I beg tolerance of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and also for forgiveness; we are all not perfect. Bless this meeting. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Well, I acknowledge the elder Le Mamea for his response in regards to the concerns raised by the Members. The Ministry is one of the pillars of our economy and I trust the farmers and also the listening public has observed the statements of the Hon Ministry. I trust we will now be patient as the Ministry and Government are working effortlessly to ensure the projects are a success. On the other hand whatever the Opposition persists I trust that the Hon Minister understands and considers also the duties and recommendations voiced. I also acknowledge the efforts of the Minister in this area by way of reviving the taro industry as Fiji has taken over our taro due to the blight and as some of you may know that Fiji has a shop in New Zealand which sells their taro. Nevertheless we should exercise patience and make sure that nothing else goes wrong in our second attempts and ensure the best quality of taro is to be exported.

We have come to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development who is wearing a spider flowered lei this evening. I call upon the Hon Elder Deacon.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** I thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity and also for the smooth conduct of our work this evening in regards to the Government responses by way of Ministerial Statements. I acknowledge the distinguished Leader of Government and Cabinet, the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House. I also acknowledge Members in support of the Government and also the Cabinet and lest I forget the Heads of Government Corporations. I acknowledge those recording the Parliamentary Proceedings, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the House and also the presence of the media and the support of our nation.

I also acknowledge the support of our nation in all its honorific salutations and the supporting prayers of the Pastors and Leaders of the Church in Samoa.

I stand with all due respect to voice my statements on behalf of the Ministry which I am responsible for; the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. This Ministry overlooks the Community and Social Development of the youth, and also the public with special mental and physical needs.

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The Ministry also includes the Office of the Ombudsman and the newly established division of the National Human Rights Institution, and also the Commission of Inquiry specifically for the Police when they abuse their post in the work that they do.

The Committees included in our Ministry include the Faleula Committee and Committee for village representatives for both the men and women. There is also the Committee for the Ie Samoa that is supported by the Hon Prime Minister and lastly the Advisory Committee for the Women, Community and Social Development.

As observed by the Members lack of concerns raised reflects the good work that the Hon Minister and Office of the Ombudsman undergoes. The work and duties carried needed of the Ministry are being completed and perhaps it is why the Members did not speak so much in regards to the Ministry save for some Members who shared their thoughts on one of the Divisions under the Ministry. The Member for Salega who I do not see voiced the concern over the matter concerning the Government measurement for the Ie Samoa or the Ie o le Malo as provided by the Regulations in pursuit of this part of the Governments work.

However, the issue with regards to the money as queried by the Member has already been cleared as gifts from the Government to the ladies who weaved the fine mats. For further understanding I have already voiced the allocation of the prizes as \$1,000, \$700 and \$500 were given to the ie toga from the finest to the coarse. Different prizes were also gifted to individual women who had woven their own mats, to weaving houses who made Siapo Samoa and so forth; they were all compensated by the Government in the hopes of encouraging the works of women in villages and weaving. The amount of \$2000 was given to each house who wove one fine mat as registered.

Secondly special prizes were also given to houses that made real Samoan Siapo and not the Tongan patterned ones but the Samoan designs and patterns. Therefore distinguished Members of the House, the amount spent by the Government on the gifts for this talent and tradition was no less than \$200,000 in the hopes of encouraging and motivating the continuation to revive and maintain this part of culture. Bear in mind that the money was granted to the mat that is the finest and so it should encourage and push women or ladies to weave the fine mats. On the other hand, as the Hon Prime Minister has mentioned, the feather decoration for the fine mat can also be another way for an individual lady to make her own means of income.

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As some of you may be aware of the young Safotulafai lady who was awarded for extraordinary weaving skills. The young lady was chosen on the merits of weaving the Ie Samoa and the Ministry and Government hope to acknowledge more youth being interested and taking part in this important aspect of our culture. Monetary gifts and mobile phones sponsored by Digicel were gifted to young individuals with these special skills.

In case some may ask, a research was conducted on the matrix system used. For the information 17.8 centimeters is one aga which is equivalent to 8 inches. There are different sizes that each weaver measures her fine mat with and as the Hon Prime Minister has demonstrated with his palms there are different sizes. It is why it has been standardized so that 8 inches is one aga. As questioned by the Member for Salega, the width of the ie should be 9 aga and the length is 12 aga. It is observed that there are many ie that are larger in size than the accepted measurement as provided and prepared by the Government but this is the approved measurement by the Committee in relation to its work. The single thread or tosi tasi is not an easy art to accomplish. If you run your hand through the hair of a young lady's head piece, it is that fine. When the mat is complete and it is coated in oil, if you caress it, it sways like a lady dancing gracefully. That is the fineness the Hon Prime Minister and Committee wish to emphasize and hope to revive its uniqueness. Although the Member, Afioga Afualo Wood Utu Salele is not here and this is the response to his query I trust the Leader of Opposition will clarify the matter.

The matter that the Member for Faleata spoke on in terms of the Samoa Victim Support I believe I have already addressed this issue. I cannot voice any further statements that the Member has already addressed and I will sit down and we will see what...

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the respect. I call on the member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Please Mr Speaker. I apologize but the Hon Minister has just stated that the ie will be official this year but the Hon Prime Minister has clearly said that things depend on the Law of Supply and Demand. Therefore in case the demand increases while the weavers are still trying to meet the demand. The programme is great but for the time being I fear that the supply may be delayed while the prices are so high.

Thank you.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Mr Speaker...

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**MR SPEAKER:** You may speak.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker to save the Hon Ministers time.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, did you voice concerns on this subject?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** No...

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** The Leader of Opposition always disobeys the Sittings.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** No, I would just like to say that the Member is not well...

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** It is ok, I ask opportunity is given to the old man as he is...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** It is why the Member for Salega is not here at the moment. However I wish to address the explanation in regards to the tosi tasi that the Hon Minister compared to the taupou headpiece. Therefore I am curious to know how the ie can be compared to the gracefulness of the taupou when they are opposites and so I am curious to know how the Hon Prime Minister and Hon Minister has measured this in regards to the skin complexion of the taupou.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Mr Speaker the only reason why I respond to the Leader of Opposition is due to respect and because I think highly of the Aiga Sa Tunumafono. It is like the Hon Prime Minister said earlier that the smoothness of the ie Samoa can be used to comb the hair of a young lady. It is not wrong because your reflection can be reflected back and that is something the Hon Prime Minister and I are trying to emphasize. The Member for Salega has mentioned that the ladies wasted efforts on the ie struggling to sell but for the information of the Leader of Opposition this development is a great source of income for women.

Well...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I give this opportunity to the Hon Minister to take a break. I see the Leader of Opposition looking grumpy not knowing what exactly it means by momosi as you mentioned. I will do the honors of explaining. A Taupou Samoa is called momosi because the way she walks is elegant and graceful. I am not talking about the stiff type of taupou which you are talking about. The silky smoothness complexion of the taupou is what we are using to compare the ie Samoa to. Thank you.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker with all due respect, the Hon Prime Minister is incorrect. I never said... Because the Hon Minister voiced and he measured it like so... it is not large. The way it is measured is done so and then her hands go up depending on the momosi. The Hon Minister is completely talking about something different.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, well in case we dread too long on the matter, I believe Palu that the momosi is not nearly as important as how beautiful the ie is. The momosi the Hon Prime Minister is talking about is about the beauty of the ie.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker it appears like the Leader of Opposition lacks understanding of the nature of figurative speech. The Leader of Opposition is on the literal side of things as I had used my hands to describe the ie when laid out. If you remember Alapati and Malias song about the comparison of a young ladys dance to a telephone wire.

The issues voiced by the Deputy Speaker in relation to the water supply for the village of Salailua I acknowledge the concern voiced. Even though the water is not saline it does not really matter as policies are in place. I believe the Member has the knowledge and discretion to take precautionary action. If the water supply is abundant then the Government would have achieved what it hopes which is to supply good quality water to the nation. It is also why we recommend village councils and villages with water development projects to seek the assistance of the SROS to carry out investigations to ensure the water is safe for consumption.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I give opportunity to the Deputy Speaker. I call on the Member for Palauli West.

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**Tofa Agafili Patisela Eteuati Tolovaa:** Mr Speaker I have no intention of further disrupting the wonderful speech of the Hon Minister but since my village is listening, Mr Speaker our taps have already been opened officially. The Ministry of Women and the Water Authority rushed the old men of my village and left with the preparations intended for the Hon Minister and Ministry. I feel I must say this because my village is listening and every action necessary has been taken. Thank you.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Yes, well I apologize it is sometimes the lapse in speech but know that whenever the Hon Minister or Government are not present for such an event then it is not really official. However since you have spoken, I acknowledge the members of the Ministry and also the Government who have taken their time to be there for the village of Salailua in terms of ensuring quality water is supplied to villages.

I believe I have covered all the voiced concerns directed at the Ministry save for the concern voiced by the Member for Faleata West. The matter is being evaluated and the Ministry and Private Sectors are currently working together to resolve the issue. The SUNGO are also being included in the assurance that we are working closely together.

I wish to acknowledge the Committee for the Report we are currently discussing in relation to the establishment of the Human Rights Commission in accordance to international human rights. I am also very grateful for the Committee in their support of the four new offices of the Office of the Ombudsman in their Report and of course the Appropriation. I acknowledge the Committee for their approval. The Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet have approved also, however the matter has been relayed to the Ministry of Finance once the Office of the Ombudsman decides to construct the two Offices which we advised to be delayed for the time being. I believe the CEO of the Ministry of Finance will consider the authority of the Cabinet as there is no higher authority and once the Cabinet approves then that is it. I acknowledge the Committee recommendations for their addition of this section which I believe will give comfort to the Commissioner. Afioga Maiava is an elder member who has served the nation and also the Government for many years. I acknowledge the Finance and Expenditure Committee for their discretion and I believe everything happens for good. The Government aims to ensure that its services are at its best and that the United Nations observes that the Government of Samoa has adapted and signed the agreement for us to abide by in terms of employee rights.



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I believe I have addressed the matters that have been voiced by the Members of the House. Perhaps the reason why there were not many concerns are due to the many works and service of the Ministry being already completed. I am sure there are many things that we yearn to achieve but Rome was not built in a day. We lay everything to the mercy of the Lord for his blessings and also the reliability for our Government to carry out its duties in earnest for the benefit of our nation.

Nevertheless, I attended a special ceremony of the Ministry for Tofa Tuiloa as some voiced their condolences. Tomorrow will be his final services and it was noted that many of his services to the Parliament were being acknowledged. It is why I convey my gratitude to the Chairperson of the National Council of Churches and also the Secretary for the service yesterday. I wish to use this opportunity to further convey thanks for the services of the Tama Matua as observed the many blessings from the Lord reflected by Tuiloa. He was highly regarded by the Archbishop.

I wish to convey my gratitude and thanks to the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to the CEO and Ministry. I also acknowledge the Commissioner also the Ombudsman and Office and also the Committee of Faleula, to the Chairperson and Committee members. Thank you for the hard work in service to the Government. I also acknowledge the Ie o Samoa Committee, the Puleuu Committee and Women Representatives of Villages not only in Upolu but also in Salafai. There is not enough money to compensate for your hard work but I believe the Lord will bless you for the duties assigned to you.

Lastly I thank the Hon Prime Minister as he is the Chairperson of the Ie Samoa Committee and we are working together in dissolving the issues within the villages as they are aware of their concerns voiced. It is why I wish to convey my thanks to the Hon Prime Minister for not neglecting his duty in these areas also in ironing out the issues of villagers visiting the Ministers office and the Hon Prime Minister. I therefore make it known to the listening public to not let the Government be used for a ways of personal gains of a village as it is the Governments wish to ensure harmony in each village. We should all exercise humility and consider carefully the words of our Savior, "He who instills peace shall have a place in heaven." Therefore we should be humble and seek refuge in God to provide peace and harmony within the villages and the difficulties faced at the moment. I pray the Lord blesses all the village councils.

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We are preparing for the SIDS and as the Associate Minister of this Ministry has requested the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to consider the collection of rubbish. I must also beseech Samoa to consider this event by working together to beautify our villages and also to behave accordingly so that our guests can have the best experience. It is also so that our Christian values are reflected to the visitors. Mr Speaker I thank you for the opportunity and I pray the Lord blesses you for the duty in our Chamber. I also pray the Lord blesses the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and especially the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House, also not forgetting the Associate Ministers and the listening public. I ask for forgiveness for any offense I may have voiced and I pray that we may have the strength physically and spiritually.

I pray the Lord rains blessings upon the Chamber and our nation, I pray also for the voice of Leulumoega. I acknowledge my constituency in all its honorific salutations. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the Hon Minister and his statement in addressing the constituency and also Leulumoega. I pray the Lord blesses the work and the duty bestowed upon the Hon Minister in regards to the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development deals with the relationship between the Government and the village councils. Therefore I acknowledge the hard work and patience. The duties and responsibilities are clarified and I convey gratitude to the Hon Minister and especially the hardworking divisions of the Ministry, I acknowledge the efforts and patience in service to the country.

We have come to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. I call upon the Hon Minister who is also an elder Member of the Cabinet. I grant opportunity to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communication and Information Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker and also our Chamber of Parliament of Samoa. Thank you for the opportunity granted to me this evening. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister and this side of the House, the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House. I acknowledge the patience and commitment to our work this evening.

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Praises and thanksgiving to the Lord has been relayed all morning and I pray the same wishes. Words cannot express our gratitude to our Lord for His kindness and mercy upon us for blessing us with strength and guiding our Nation in peace.

I will now attempt to issue a statement in regards to the Ministry under my authority, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the Office of the Regulator and Samoa Post Office.

There were not many who addressed the Ministry as there were only two Members who queried and also acknowledged the services introduced at the moment. I will start from there.

Right this moment television broadcasts have now reached those areas that were mentioned in the previous Sitting, broadcast has now reached the villages of Aleipata and Fagaloa. The same is reported of the island of Savaii at the areas that often receiving bad reception. Although there are minor problems but they are slowly being minimized.

The problems with the 2AP Radio Station as it is known have been fixed and upgraded. The problems have been addressed by the Ministry and the malfunctions have been sorted out. The problems that were faced by the families were mainly due to the antennas being used. Furthermore, the transmission equipment has been upgraded and so there should not be any more problems.

Since the broadcasting has taken place in our new building, 2AP broadcast has been able to reach neighboring countries.

The Ministry was questioned in regards to the prices of cell phone and internet services as there were concerns that they were too costly. First of all cell phones right now are more affordable compared to the previous years. For instance, mobile calls in 2009 were 19 cents, in 2010 it was 17.7 cents and the previous year it dropped to 13 cents and it is now down to 10 cents. The land line phones have dropped from 8.2 cents to 4.8 cents. The Office of the Regulator is maintaining the cost.

The same is said of the internet we are using. For your information the one submarine cable we are using comes from America to Hawaii to American Samoa. There is also a line connected to New Zealand and Australia that we are also connected to and using whenever we use the internet. Arrangements are being considered in relation to other opportunities of communications overseas. The Director is overlooking the cost. At the moment there is a change as costs have slightly dropped. For instance on April 2013 the cost for 2GB was \$99 however the previous year saw an increase in users so the price was altered to 3GB for \$99.

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The introducing of Digicel prices with minimal range at \$171 for 5GB which rivaled CSLs rate at \$249 for 5GB. Bluesky increased the rate to 6GB for \$249. Competition is good and so at the moment prices for 7GB is at \$188. Cover costs are inclusive of Corporations and Companies so that consumers do not suffer the costs too much.

At the moment we are making arrangements with the World Bank, the Asian Bank and the Government of Australia and we are nearing final arrangements for a cable of our own. As I have described before it was assumed that communication with Fiji on the Southern Cross would have been affordable but there is another company with competing prices. There are also little disturbances in reference to other nations being connected as the line comes directly from Australia and New Zealand to one other island in the Pacific going up to the West Coast in America and Hawaii. The difficulty lies in the fact that this project is very expensive. As it is known the cable is to be constructed under water and appropriate ships are needed for the proper installment of the cables. It is not an easy accomplishment and it will be very expensive.

There is an alternative as arrangements are still being processed with American Samoa different from arrangements for the cable. It is hoped that these arrangements can push through which will be of great help. If the communication is successful then Samoa will be able to use the nearest O3B satellite to communicate universally and continue on from there. Then I come to the project that is perhaps unknown to the House and also the listening public. The National Broadband Highway started in the previous year and is hoped to launch this coming Thursday. Once this highway is open then communication services amongst Ministries of the Government will be improved. Thursday next week will hope to open this line of communication which the Ministry has been working very hard on.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I recognize the interruption. I call on the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I acknowledge the Hon Ministers efforts to clarify this subject. I note from the Estimates that many of the Ministries expenses are on internet usage. It is not something that can be avoided as it is very much needed for the work. Furthermore, our schools have computer labs and these computers cannot be used to their full potential due to the expensive costs of internet.

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Moreover, if you go overseas as a tourist in nearby countries, internet is free. It is why I am grateful that there are arrangements being made to negotiate with Fiji and American Samoa for their assistance in terms of internet costs. Hopefully it will be ready soon. There is also a mention of a broadband which I hear has been awarded to Bluesky. I hope the price range for this project will not be too costly as Bluesky owns this gateway. It is the hope to provide the public with affordable internet services. Thank you.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the member for Faleata East.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** I thank the Hon Minister for the statements issued in regards to this subject. This matter is very important especially considering our children and their Internal Assessment requirements for school. Therefore I acknowledge the Ministry for the ongoing program of the Talanoa centre. This program is very important and I therefore ask whether there would be opportunities for other constituencies to be a part of this program. Although the affordable price offered by Bluesky and Digicel have been issued I believe these rates are still a little expensive for the other constituencies. However with the alternative the possibility of using internet can be realistic. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to conclude his statements.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** As I have said before our country is vastly different from other countries. While other countries have cables connected to satellites we only have one cable that runs from American Samoa. At the moment communication with the AUS Aid of Hawaii of American Samoa enable this connection that we have right now. The same is said of the capacity of machines being used by the public. At the moment nothing has been confirmed and I cannot deliver any promises are arrangements are still undergoing. The Ministry is working towards finalizing this service. The concern of the Member for Faleata East in regards to opportunity, yes there is opportunity for other constituencies to apply. The Talanoa centre or communication centre gives opportunity to starting organizations like women committees and then of course the children. Under the broadband project these two community groups are prioritized. First opportunity is given to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Police and Minsitry of Education. These three Ministries are the first to be connected and included in the broadband.

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Other Ministries have been connected and I will elaborate more on that subject once our program has been launched. However the opportunity is open as queried for committees and other villages for Talanoa centers to be set up.

The other matter that should be known by the Parliament is the preparation for the transition of broadcasting from analog to digital. For your information, in 1996 it was analog until 2006 it changed to digital by the arrival of cell phones and that is how we have been. The usage of cell phones nowadays has been clearer. Therefore for our broadcasting it will now be transitioned to digital instead of analog. As it may have been observed, the television broadcasts are as clear as if they were in the cinemas. At the moment our broadcasts can easily be blurry but since most of the world has upgraded it is why we are gradually doing so as well. It is best to slowly transition as costs are expensive and it is hoped to be completed before 2017. If it is able to be completed in 2016 before 2017 as the transition is difficult and most especially for those carrying out this service then that will be a benefit. However I like to add statements in regards to the statements by the Chairperson on the state of monetary input by the Samoa Post in our Budget. As is known the Samoa Post has not missed a single year in the last three years of the budgetary input.

For the information of the Chamber this year the Samoa Post contribution was \$2,270,000 as acknowledged by the Committee. Although is it a small contribution but it is great achievement. I therefore wish to convey my gratitude for the much improved services even though our nation is not completely covered but the important thing is that the TV company services have improved. The Regulator is still continuing the duty of censoring every third month. Things are running smoothly save for some who are sometimes difficult. I believe that concludes that concerns raised.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Hon Minister I give this opportunity to the Member.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The matter that I raised in relation to the earnings of the Digicel and Bluesky is recorded as payment of licenses, communication and the Committee has observed and questions why it is included in this appropriation, what is the reason. There was a period when there was absolutely no money coming in but the earnings are over \$2million per annum. This type of money Hon Minister and Ministry should be monitored carefully because its profits should not decrease at all. Thank you.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** The records presented by the Ministry states the smooth direction of license payments of these large companies. Smaller companies contributed a substantial amount perhaps due to the debts being paid to the Ministry. The Regulator is still doing the work of overseeing things. The issue with company profits depends on the requests brought to the Regulator each period. The Regulator cannot issue a request without the completion of all necessary records from the companies. The Director has to be certain and clear before presenting requests to the Regulator. There is no room for non-transparency unless a company forges their records. Problems do not occur unless they are created intentionally.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I thank the Hon Minister. My concern is the fact that these companies are foreign and the money is going out of the country. The Hon Minister and also the Office of the Regulator should observe this carefully. The money coming from profits exceeds the amount earned from export because it is mostly earned through game plans. Therefore profits are easily acquired and fluctuate however it appears they are quite happy at the moment to freely give what they want when their market shares increase. The other important concern is the fact that these companies have the same contribution when we know exactly the difference in profits that they each earned. However the crucial fact that is to be observed is working together to bring this money in and if these records are presented then it would be equivalent to perhaps over \$2million of outstanding fees. It would mean that there would be a very huge problem in the future but we need this money. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Well give us your recommendation, if there is \$2million then it would be instructed to be brought forth. As I have stated before whenever there is a request all recorded finances must reported. As it is known, the rates were quite expensive but have gradually decreased due to the increase in demand. You are right about the large Companies, and I ask that you rest assured that we will investigate and observe your suspicions as they have not been reported to us.

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Mr Speaker before I conclude on the concerns voiced to the Ministry I wish to convey my thanks for the concerns raised.

I now wish to acknowledge my constituency of Vaimauga East for the supporting prayers and dependency upon me and my services to the nation. I acknowledge the villages of Laulii, Letogo, Vailele, Vailele Uta, Mauga Fiafia and Fagalii for their hard work and of course their undying support. The requested construction works have been implemented and it has started with the village of Laulii.

I also acknowledge the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for the major construction implemented.

Mr Speaker I thank you for this evening and most especially for directing of our Meetings. I pray the Lord blesses you with wise discretion in your duty in our Chamber.

I also pray the Lord blesses the whole country and this Chamber and may his presence be with us all. Thank you and Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology and especially the Regulator and Ministry. On behalf of the House I wish you good luck on the work you carry out and applaud your efforts put in. Furthermore I believe we are all hoping for success for this Ministry is one of the most vital departments as it assists our nation with the changes in technology.

I believe the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly should now be set aside for our usual evening recess. Once we return we will hand the floor over to the Hon Minister of Commerce Industry and Labor.

I now declare that the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa be set aside for its normal evening break.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly was set aside for its usual recess at 9.24 and resumed at 10.04pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the distinguished Members of the House this evening for the tolerance and patience. There was concern that some Members may neglect the need for our work to be completed and stick to normal proceeding hours, but I am grateful for the prioritizing of our work to be completed this evening.

I also acknowledge the receiving of nourishment and the support of the Heads of Government Departments and Corporations. I believe we should now resume with our work.



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We took our break after the concluding remarks by the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology. And we are now up to the Hon Minister of Public Enterprise.

It is well known the newly established Ministry and the appointment of the Member for Satupaitea to undertake this post. The establishment of this Ministry was to ensure major works of the Government are carefully and successfully maintained not only for the Cabinet but also for the works of the Parliament and especially Samoa.

Therefore I would like to call upon the Hon Minister of Public Enterprise; the floor is available for your maiden speech and Ministerial Statement.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL (Minister of Public Enterprise):** Thank you Mr Speaker and I also acknowledge the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the nourishment provided which has renewed the strength of the Members this evening. I stand because it is now my turn. Mr Speaker I came this morning with a very long speech with the intention that I was going to speak earlier in the morning. I have decided to change my mind as I have already delivered my Maiden Speech when I was sitting over there as I believe no one can be a maiden twice. I am also considerate of the fact that it has been a long day for our Chamber and therefore I acknowledge the House. Samoa I will not dwell any further on the honorary distinctions that is befitting as the Members of the House have done so already. This evening I acknowledge the House of the Malae i Tiafau, the place of counsel and wise decisions and consultations for Samoa.

I acknowledge the Speaker of the House, the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House, the Heads of Government Departments and Corporations.

Mr Speaker I ask for a few minutes to briefly acknowledge my constituency. Today I told my constituency that there would be a curfew upon all televisions to be turned off until my speech has been delivered. I told them that my speech would start at 7pm but since it is now past 10pm I believe my constituency has all gone to sleep. Nevertheless, Satupaitea my dear constituency I greet you in all your honorific salutations.

I also acknowledge the support of the spiritual fathers and mothers of all the Ecclesias in Satupaitea for all the support and prayers. As I always say when I come to our meetings, I am confident and courageous due to the support and never ending prayers of the constituency.

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Satupaitea the Lord has answered your prayers for a Ministerial post for your representative. It has been quite some time since a Member for Satupaitea has been appointed a Minister and although you have wished for one in the next Term, this Term we have been blessed. It is why on behalf of the Constituency I wish to thank the Hon Prime Minister for this appointment. Therefore Satupaitea, we should embrace this post and know that this post is for Satupaitea and not for Lautafi.

I must confess this evening Hon Prime Minister and distinguished Members of the House; this post appointed to me has not been easy. However I believe that the remaining 20+ months would be sufficient enough time to prove that Satupaitea can contribute to the Government of Samoa for this Term and for the rest to be in Gods hand.

Mr Speaker I will now talk about the reason why I stand. There were five Members who addressed the Ministry. I would like to first of all make it clear that not all SOEs are under my profile. There are only four and they are SLC, Samoa Housing Corporation, ACC and the SSFA. In addition to these SOEs are PSC and the Bureau of Statistics. There are six entities under my authority and only 4 SOEs for the time being.

Well, I will be responding to the queries voiced generally as I will not address each Member who asked with the responses. The first issue that was voiced was the question of why the Statistics Survey on the Income and Expenditure of each family is not carried out anymore. The answer is that this Survey is done every five years. At the moment the five year period has been completed and data is being compiled to compile the Report that will be tabled in Parliament when it is done. In regards to the timeliness of Annual Reports of the SLC and the PSC I would like to announce and make it known to the house that I have the Reports of the SLC. The Chief Audit has pointed out the 7 or 6 year gap since its last Report however; I have with me all those Reports from 2012. I hope to present them to the Cabinet next week and then later on the Parliament along with the others yet to be tabled. I have already recommended to the CEOs of each of the Ministries under my portfolio to maintain the timeliness of the Reports and ensure that Reports of 2013 are up to date and in tune with law. It is hoped that these areas would be maintained and that is the update with the SLC Reports.

The other recommendation about the SOEs was ensuring their performances especially in terms of profits so that it can generate money for our Government. I believe this is the very reason why the Hon Prime Minister established this Ministry so that these areas can be maintained and executed properly starting with the SOEs under my watch. Perhaps someday the other SOEs will be included in this Ministry.

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It is not only about prioritizing the dividends for the Government but in its entirety in ensuring that the SOEs are contributing to the Appropriation. I hope I have your support to ensure these are carried out. However there are some SOEs that have yet to contribute to prioritizing services to the community. These SOEs include the Samoa Sports Federation Association and also the Kidney Foundation because they do not accumulate profit except for the SSFA as there are ways for them to generate dividends. For instance the usage of the sports facilities for the community which is their core function and speaking of core functions one of the Members spoke on the SOEs being diversified and not focusing on their own mission and objectives. I have spoken to the SOEs under my portfolio and have instructed them to focus on their core function upon point of establishment instead of digressing. I believe these SOEs are now aware of their main duties and are stressing their core functions.

The other concern was in regards to the power of the PSC in making its decisions lately. The Member for Faleata West wrote in concern for the variation in wages of the Principal and ACEO level in PSC compared to the other Ministries. I have responded that I will investigate the matter however; the PSC have responded that there was a reason for the changes. I have responded to the concerned Member because there is always a reason for everything. I hope I have your trust in investigating the matter so that things can be clear. I cannot be certain at the moment in order to issue a formal statement in regards to the reasons for doing this. However from my understanding these guidelines were instigated by the Remuneration Tribunal division who are responsible for the wages and which the PSC are trying to implement. It was recommended to provide a clear guideline for equality of wages for all employees and it was trialed on the Attorney Generals Office and the Ministry of Finance.

I believe this is where there were concerns as to why these Ministries were put first and perhaps it is really the process that is being questioned. However the matter was not done so for the benefit of the PSC, the AG or Ministry of Finance but an attempt at equal wages for all employees but it seems that no matter the decision there will always be criticisms. The criticisms in this case are towards why the PSC were first for this process, but we have to start somewhere. If the concern is for all Ministries to kick off all at once then there is the matter whether it can be financially supported all at once. The notion of increments will be considered whether we can fund this process without having to look for a substantial amount of money. Therefore, leave the matter to me to look into it further so that I have a better understanding and after discussing it with the Committee we shall talk about it again.

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Furthermore, a Member voiced dissatisfaction concerning the status of the Constituencys proposal to the SLC which is unknown. The issue is quite difficult as without any documentation to prove the existence of such claims then there is not much that can be done. Unless there is a copy of this proposal addressed to the SLC in 2001 or 2002 then there is nothing that be done because the SLC states that there was no proposal. Therefore if anyone else wishes to present a proposal to the SLC, I recommend you to insist to SLC to issue a receipt or a copy that has been stamped that states it has been received by the SLC.

I have also instructed the CEO of SLC to acknowledge the proposals sent over by the public so people are aware of the status of their proposals and have knowledge of the state of Government lands.

At the moment there are currently no lands being sold but the Government are reviewing the policies on sales of land. As I have said before the Government hopes to ensure that all applicants receive land but unfortunately there are those who have conducted illegal dealings and it has defeated the whole purpose of the Government policies to distribute land to those families from Savaii in need of land closer to the urban areas. The Ministry and I are reviewing the matters so that distribution of land is not focused on a particular or a small number of people but for everyone.

I believe that concludes the matters voiced.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I believe there is something the Hon Chairman of the Finance and Expenditure Committee wishes to understand, I call on the Member.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I did not want to disrupt the Maiden Speech of the Hon Minister but since the Hon Minister seems to be concluding his speech I would just like to remind the Hon Minister of my query. I had asked on the consideration of the benefits applied to employees who have been suspended temporarily but are still being paid and in possession of Government vehicles and if investigations are proven guilty. Perhaps the Government would consider the matter to...

**MR SPEAKER:** I recognize the Hon Prime Minister, your concern has been noted Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang.

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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker these are the policies of the Government and it is law that is being upheld. However the recommendation is important but these are also the rights of employees as provided for by Law. However the matter will be reviewed.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity for the Member for Individual Voters to conclude before I give opportunity to the Member for Faleata West.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker another matter I had queried about was concerning the equal punishment as it is not news the state that the Samoa Land Corporation and the CEO...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker all these concerns are included in my response.

**MR SPEAKER:** You have heard the response of the Government, I urge you to put your trust in the Government who are going to consider the matter carefully and will carry out appropriate action on the issue. I call on the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I thank the Hon Minister, I had not wished to interrupt and I acknowledge your efforts as reflected in the responses given. The matter however I wished to shed light on concerns the salaries of the PSC which we strongly recommended Hon Minister. However you have just stated that this action was of recommendation from the Salary Tribunal. Mr Speaker we have firm beliefs that only the Cabinet has such authority. This Ministry has salaries vastly different from other Government Ministries. Recently the Hon Minister has stated that other Ministries will be included in this plan but the response that was relayed was that it was only the PSC and then later on the AGO and the Ministry of Finance, which means it would be just three. It means that this would not be in accordance with the Governments policies of equality for all employees. It is hard but we suggest Mr Speaker that the matter be considered carefully...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I urge the matter to be set aside for consideration.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Members but we need to consider the Hon Minister Afioga Lautafi is new to this newly established Ministry.

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Therefore I beseech you to lay your confidence in the Government. The Hon Prime Minister has clearly responded and the Hon Minister has responded also to the concerns of the Members. I trust other matters of the Appropriation... Afioga Hon Palusalua is there something else?

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** I acknowledge the Hon Minister. Mr Speaker my question is brief because I asked in relation to the nearly completed market and whether there is a change in the cost of the construction. I have observed on the Observer website the sale of iron. Is the ACC Management supplying the materials for the building? I thought it was tendered so that the construction company would be doing all of this. The Hon Minister can respond but I just wish to put it out there.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Members concern has been noted. I believe it is best to leave the matter for now since the building is near completion. The matter is that it is being renovated, and we started off from \$40million that has... Afioga Hon Palu the matter has been noted.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** You have responded but not the Hon Minister.

**MR SPEAKER:** I have just stated that the Hon Minister has just been in his post for two weeks. You should know that my figures are updated on these matters that the Hon Minister also understands. I believe the concerns are clear enough unless the Hon Minister wishes to respond.

**Afioga Hon LAUTAFI FIO SELAFI PURCELL:** Mr Speaker I did not hear the Leader of Opposition ask about the market. He was asking something completely different but is now questioning me. Nevertheless the iron being sold is unused iron being sold to earn profits for the Ministry. However I have no clear understanding at the moment regarding the prices. I apologize to the Chairperson of the Committee in regards to the concern voiced. I had thought PSC was not included in the statement towards the employee suspension.

The Hon Prime Minister has responded and that is the answer. Well, this evening I wish to apologize if I have uttered words of disappointment. As you all know, the seat has just been sat and I am still coming to terms with all the various Ministries. Mr Speaker, God bless this evening and I pray for the Lords blessings upon this Meeting. Bless Samoa and Soifua.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the Hon Minister of Public Enterprise for the speech delivered. I wish you Tofa Lautafi all the very best, Alataua and Samoeleoi ready your support for your constituency representative. Gratitude and thanksgiving to our Lord for blessing the servant with the opportunity to uphold our constituencys name and we should rely on the Almighty for good thoughts and discretion. Very well, we have come now to the Minsitry that is funding our Appropriation. I now call upon the Ulutaia ole Maota the Hon Minister of Revenue.

**Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue):** Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, distinguished Members of Parliament chosen to uphold and serve the Parliament of Samoa. I stand to share thoughts in relation to the Appropriation being tabled. In my general view of the Appropriation, it is one of the most crucial Appropriations due to the formula being used. It is done in comparison to other countries and especially since it defines the economy of our nation. The Appropriation sheds light on crucial areas where it reflects the overall profit or economy of a nation in comparison to other countries and also the world in terms of money.

There were not many Members who shared any opinions in regards to the Ministry. The Appropriation is \$544million. From this amount about 80% was accumulated by the Ministry of Revenue. Overall I am very pleased that the amount left from the Appropriation is \$4million. As I have said Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House around \$80,000 to \$90,000 was used to work the Appropriation accumulated for our Government. Furthermore the Ministry is working effortlessly to gather appropriate funds for our Government. In the long term there is still much work to be done in terms of training staff to be equipped in serving the needs of the Government by way of collecting money from time to time.

As I have already stated there were not many who voiced their concerns in regards to the Ministry. One member voiced his thanks and another questioned the honesty in the Ministries policies in relation to the duty fees imposed by the Ministry. Just a brief statement to the Member who voiced this concern; the only matter that I am certain of are the changes from time to time. This was especially in effect in the time turkey tails were banned from our country. Therefore, when the ban was lifted a provision initiated that included the duty fee. The matter has now been settled and the Ministry will see to the Customs Office. Nevertheless people should not be questioning but do as the Law states.

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I would like to briefly comment on the state of loans. We all have different thoughts. In my opinion there are many factors that loans depend on and there is no difference between family loans and Government loans. The number one factor that is the most crucial is the ability to pay. Therefore it should be clear that our Government is able to repay because from the revenue accumulated of \$544million, .20cents of each dollar is used to pay the Government loans.

Mr Speaker as I have said before not many addressed any concerns towards the Ministry. I would just like to say that most of the Ministry's time has been spent on staff training in trying to attain skill and knowledge for not only senior officers but all those working for the Ministry of Revenue.

Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House I believe we can all agree that we are all thankful for this money available for us.

I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the CEO and staff of the Ministry of Revenue for the duty of gathering money for the Government.

Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to convey my greetings to my constituency of Falealili. I greet my constituency and all its honorific salutations. I acknowledge the support of Pastors and especially each village council in Falealili. Bless this Meeting Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the House chosen through the whispers of the Holy Spirit to be in Parliament. Good night and soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue. It is our prayer that the Hon Minister remains well and I acknowledge also the CEO of the Ministry as we are aware of the task of gathering and compiling the funds of the country.

I call upon the Hon Minister of Justice and Court Administration.

**Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA (Minister of Justice and Courts Administration):** Mr Speaker and distinguished Members of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. I greet the Leader of Opposition and that side of the House. I also greet this side to the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet and Associate Ministers and Members of the Human Rights Protection Party. We are also gathered here with the Heads of Government Departments and Corporations. I thank the Lord for guiding us still so late in the night to continue our work.

Mr Speaker, I am utterly grateful to the House for easing the burden by not asking many questions of me and my Ministry. There are two Ministries under my responsibility; the Ministry of Justice and Court Administration and the Office of the Electoral Commissioner.



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The concerns in relation to the Office of the Electoral Commissioner as persistently voiced by one of the Members of the Individual Voters is in relation to the removal of Individual Voters effective at the end of this Term. Mr Speaker I believe the Members of the Individual Voters should not be shocked with the new provisions in the Bill undergoing amendments. Mr Speaker I firmly believe that the matter will be discussed and reviewed again once the Committee and also the Speaker concludes with it.

The state of Electoral procedures voiced by the Member for Sagaga le Falefa saying that Aele will now be added to their constituency and thus adding the number of voters and should therefore have two Seats.

Mr Speaker I respond with due respect that we should observe our 2016 Elections whether the Members assumptions are accurate. However I believe there is no room in the Amendment Bill for the Members concern voiced.

That concludes all matters concerning the Electoral Commission and I wish to convey my thanks to the Finance and Expenditure Committee...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Minister but I give this opportunity to the Member for the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I did not wish to interrupt the speech of the Hon Minister but I merely wanted to convey my gratitude for acknowledging our concerns. The issue has surfaced again and I trust it will be reviewed again and I therefore express my thanks for your thoughts shared this evening.

**Afioga Hon FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA:** I continue by expressing our thanks to the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the Report. I believe the recommendations voiced towards the Office of the Electoral Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice and Court Administration will be gladly considered.

The concerns voiced in reference to the Ministry were the question of legal aide. From my interpretation of the Members concern was in regards to the aide being referred to the Supreme Court and helping only the Supreme Court. Mr Speaker this has been the policy since establishment of the legal aide many years ago. However the worries of the Member are important as it will enable the Minsitry to consider carefully the policies being used.

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The other important factor observed in the Finance and Expenditure Committee Report was the talk of a Community Law Centre and perhaps sometime soon it will be tabled in the Parliament for the approval to establish a Community Law Centre. These types of Law Centres are very important for the public especially for those dealing with criminal cases. I hope these additional statements will enlighten the concern on the Legal Aide as these areas are what the Ministry focuses on in giving advice to the Courts in ways to assist the public with their legal problems.

There was also criticism to the Ministry in failing to respond to letters being sent. Advice and emphasis is still being conveyed to staff if it is indeed the staff that the concerns are directed at. However if it the Judiciary then I must say that letters being delivered to Judges are to be dealt with caution. Most of the matters are still proceeding to the Court and it is only the Judges that can discuss such subjects.

I wish to express my gratitude to some of the Members who shared their recommendations. Recording machines are now being used in our Court chambers to record and also assist in record keeping procedures.

Mr Speaker those are the only concerns voiced. Bless this Meeting. Soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister for I trust the concerns voiced have been understood by the Members especially in regards to the General Elections. Therefore Member for the Individual Voters, have patience, the Hon Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and I are aware. The matter is being considered carefully by the Committee and we should pray to the Lord for direction on this Bill. I believe your sweat and hard work will not go unnoticed. I believe the Lord sees the work you have done and also the constituency.

I call upon the Hon Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO (Deputy Prime Minister):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I greet the support of Samoa in all its honorific salutations. I also greet the servants of the Lord in constant prayer for the future of Samoa. Thank you for the prayers. Mr Speaker let me just clarify the status of our audit reports. All Ministries of Government have been audited as of June 2013. Furthermore, 93% of the Corporations have been audited as of 30 June 2013. As I have mentioned yesterday these two Reports will be tabled in Parliament in November. The Report of the Financial Year ending 30 June 2014 which is the end of this month and there are plans to be tabled in Parliament in the next six months or the month of January 2015.

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Mr Speaker, it is now going on to four years now since the capacity building or reform project of the Chief Audit and it has provided good results. There are also plans as widely supported by the Private Audit through offering assistance in other areas of the work in the Office. The assistance has also benefited other Offices as I have mentioned.

It was perhaps 20 years ago since there was a Ministry called TCI which initiated discussion of a one stop shop. It was a single location where business proposals were referred or everything concerning business. Although there is yet to be a Ministry to be established the changes overtime have improved when in comparison to the past. Setting up businesses in Samoa has been upgraded especially for the business people wanting to invest in our country.

I speak specifically for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor. Setting up a company has been made very easy and it can be processed online provided by the Act previously established. Information can be easily accessed on the Ministrys website and people can view the provisions and contents of the Act that must be met in order to attain a license permit. The mention of the foreign investment certificate by some of the Members has also been addressed by the Ministry and these procedures have been made efficient.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg pardon of the Hon Deputy Prime Minister but I grant opportunity to the interruption by the Member.

I give opportunity to the Member for Faleata East.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity and I acknowledge the Deputy Prime Minister for the subject. This matter was included in my speech in regards to the communication gap between the Ministry and the Immigration with the issuing of a work license and thus a resident permit to that person.

Mr Speaker I urge you to observe the negotiations as mentioned by the Deputy Prime Minister, a person can come on the free visa for 60 days and be able to apply for a business license and be able to live here. The Immigration can grant this; however I feel that this person should return and come back to reside here under the license permit. It was the issue I queried in relation to the Immigration permits being issued and this Ministry.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Mr Speaker these things are very different. The work permit is different from the permanent resident.

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What I am talking about is creating a way that will simplify the work of all Ministries. A person may be granted a work permit by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor if you are able to meet the criterias of the Act being processed by the Ministry. The matter of residency permit is a matter that is dealt with the Immigration because they too have Acts that they are working on. I note the concern voiced by the Member as it is similar to the case of the one stop shop but I must remind the Member that the Acts are very complex. Nevertheless the Ministry still works toward making matters efficient and timely.

Furthermore, there is no room for a person to acquire a resident permit through the acquirement of a working permit as you have mentioned....

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** I grant opportunity to the Member.

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** I must apologize to the Deputy Prime Minister. No the matter I was concerned with was the process in which a business license was issued first regardless of a resident permit. Therefore if a work license was processed the residential permit may easily be granted. It is why I voiced the matter to perhaps be reviewed and maybe consider the application for a permanent resident first and then be granted a work license. Basically that was my emphasis on working together.

**MR SPEAKER:** The concern of the Member has been noted.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** It is what I was trying to explain on the Ministries working together and I understand the concerns of the Member. At the moment we are working together through supporting the provisions of these two permits.

Mr Speaker, the other works still undergoing arrangements are the efforts of the local manufacturers to export their goods to New Zealand. A great idea was pitched to establish a shop in New Zealand that will sell our products being produced in Samoa. The matter has been considered by the Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters. The next month will be the launch of the goods produced in Samoa showcasing in Auckland. It is a building in Mangere that will be used for the time being to await other arrangements by the Government when there is opportunity.

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It is the long term goals of the Manufacturers Association to establish a solid location to further promote manufactured goods in Samoa because the cost of advertisements through media outlets is very expensive. Therefore in order to efficiently export the goods there are plans for the month of July to officially open this project.

Additionally the Government is continuing with its assistance to small businesses and also manufacturing especially in the area of value added goods as mentioned by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was illustrated on the many uses of coconut and the different goods that can be produced from coconut. The Association of manufacturers and business community are pushing towards the process of manufacturing our goods locally so that our economy can be boosted and thus earning profits.

Mr Speaker, I now take this opportunity to greet my constituency and on behalf of the constituency I offer condolences to the passing of...

**MR SPEAKER:** I must apologize Deputy Prime Minister. Was there something else Tofa Aveau?

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo:** I have observed the Hon Minister is concluding his speech but there was a matter I raised concerning the reserve list under the Act. As known the reserve list is reserved for businesses like buses, taxis, rental cars and goods like plumbing wood. There are those who are not permanent residents who operate businesses under this list like car dealers in Samoa. The Act was made to protect the people of Samoa from these types of businesses.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Members concern has been noted. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** The concern has been noted however, the matter is under surveillance by the Ministry in terms of the provisions of the Act in the reserve list and the issuing of the foreign investment certificate. The issue is important as the Ministry has discovered these businesses. If there are businesses like these then I urge you to report them to the Ministry so that the Ministry can investigate. Nevertheless the Ministry continues to maintain its visitations and its duties. The existing companies have all met the criterias of the Law.

Mr Speaker I wish to continue delivering my condolences to the passing of the Associate Minister of Government. We pray that the Associate Minister finds peace and a place in Heaven.

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I acknowledge my constituency for their support and prayers in my representation here in Parliament.

Mr Speaker and the Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Ministers and the Leader of Opposition and also that side of the House; I acknowledge your efforts and views shared. We are nearing the end of our Appropriation this financial year and praise the Lord for his kindness.

I pray the Lord blesses the public servants working effortlessly and I acknowledge the never-ending support of Samoa. Good night and soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Deputy Prime Minister or the Hon Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor. I also acknowledge the Ministry and staff.

I now call upon the Hon Prime Minister to conclude the responses of the Cabinet as your response sums it all Leader of Government.

Hon Prime Minister please rise.

**Susuga Hon TUILAIPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO  
NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** It has been a long and tiring night and we are very sleepy.

The majority of the issues and concerns raised have already been responded to. Therefore I beseech you to be considerate as this is also my Maiden Speech and the seat is new so I am still learning.

Mr Speaker the Members have spoken and shared their thoughts and opinions on the Appropriation. However I feel the need to reiterate more on the Appropriation so that it can be better understood.

As you all may know this Appropriation was not constructed without extreme caution and careful consideration. We are quite familiar with requesting financial statements and financial advice for the Ministry to properly draw up appropriate arrangements dependent upon the duties and responsibilities. Afterwards, it is referred to Cabinet for consideration and then to the Parliamentary Committees for further assessment. Therefore it means that there is quite a lot of work to be done before we consider the Appropriation. Furthermore the discussion of the Financial Statement for next year of \$722.9million has dropped from the amount of \$784million from the previous year. The drop in the report is a reflection of the works already completed by the Government constituted by foreign assistance. If it is observed carefully the Statements, it can be noted that the grants for the previous year \$244million has dropped to \$178million.

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The Ministry of Finance has clearly structured on page 13 in roman numerals the list with the heading stating “Cyclone Evan Funding of \$103million.” The details of grants can be found on the page 13 in roman numerals as majority of the statements and concerns were in reference to those areas. There is nothing amiss as it is clearly reported that the grant has decreased this year. Therefore it is now clear that it is now \$722million and from there the amount appropriated for the financial year is deducted. So why is the statutory expenditure first? The reason is because this amount will be solely for the Government of Samoa and its people. It is why it is mandatory to primarily set aside \$88million for the Statutory Expenditure that is statutory to the Government as mentioned in page 1 in roman numerals. It is then followed by funds for the provision of the Ministry for the works of the Government in terms of wages, telephone and so forth. And then it is concluded with the amount of \$14.7million set aside for emergencies. Where does this \$14.7million come from?

From the very beginning it was called unauthorized and then amended by the Cabinet. It is set aside for emergencies or anything else that the Government has failed to cover. Therefore the \$14million is a deduction of 3% under the Constitution. Furthermore, the 3% is then multiplied by the reserved amount which is \$14.7million equals \$595million. This is what economists call consumption expenditure. It is not meant for development. So when Appropriation is being appropriated this is where the Ministry will be looking. Consumption Expenditure is confined in order to make room for development. It is confined to ensure a huge amount if available for development. There are countries that generate large amounts of money but end up sinking locally but when you see their infrastructure they are in a poor state. Why? It is because they do not follow the guidelines for the proper Appropriation that ensures development is good for generating the economy thus improving the state of living for the citizens. Therefore if \$595million is deducted from \$722million it equals \$127million. This will be the only amount set aside for development and nothing else. The Ministry then consults with other Ministries of the Government and it was resulted that the appropriated development estimate was \$196million making it \$69.1million short. Therefore if you read the roman numeral pages of 13, 14 and 15 you will notice the reviewing of how the amount of \$73million was accumulated from the interest rates of loans.

On page 14 is a brief summary of \$73million that states the appropriation for the Ministry of Education is \$2.2million, Ministry of Agriculture is \$4.5million, for the Electric Power Corporation is \$28million, Ministry of Communication is \$4.8million and then for the Ministry of Health an amount that will equal the amount of \$73.6million.

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The aforementioned developments are not new as they are fixed appropriations in which is covered by the \$73million. Why? It is because there is hardly ever a development that is completed within one financial year. Therefore it is important to note that these developments are not new loans but are continuous ones in the Appropriation. Mr Speaker with the \$73.6million minus \$69million a sum of \$4.4million is left which is called cash surplus. This amount is added to the \$14.7million reserved for unforeseen circumstances like natural disasters. Furthermore, other nations will observe and admire the careful budgeting skills of the Samoans for we have extra funds.

Mr Speaker, in simpler terms if we are to re-budget or restate the appropriation then it is like this; \$796million is the total sum of the appropriated funds minus \$792million and we have a surplus of \$4.4million. I now move on to the subject of investment interest. Samoa is one of the founding investors of the Asian Development Bank since establishment in 1996 as Samoa was already Independent at the time. Fiji joined the Development Bank when they became independent in 1970.

Papua New Guinea joined in 1975 followed by other countries to become members of the Asian Development Bank. There is a shot window in the Bank that allows for investment borrowing in the first 30 years if your countrys economy is least developed. In the year 1972 we joined the International Monetary Fund. In the year 1971, 1973 or 1972 was when we joined the World Bank which includes the IMF, World Bank, IFC, International Finance Corporation and the Economic Development Institute. The Institute consults the important investment matters that will assist other countries. I will talk about the important plans of the EDI in the year 1973.

I have clear understanding of the foundations of the World Bank in regards to the shot window that allows for us to borrow with minimum interest rates. Our loans in the beginning started at  $\frac{3}{4}$ % lower than one percent. In 1974 I met and confirmed arrangements for the loan that funded the road to Siumu and that was our first loan from the World Bank through the shot window. The shot window has minimum rates, short time for repayment as in 10 years. There are also no principal fees applied. The IMF denied assistance to our country at one point when there was no more money to purchase our goods. However, the IMF was where our country sought refuge when our country was bankrupt in 1983. It is from then on that our nation and the IMF negotiated due to the terrible state that had befallen our country. I am explaining these policies because we are loaning with low interest rates. It is why there are many countries being affected by debt services but not us.



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The years 1972, 1980, 1981, and 1982 were the years we were deeply affected as our shops were only selling chicken breast and all the shop shelves were almost empty. It was then followed by the PSC strike. It was that strike that the Government was able to respond to the public servants request for an increase as it was nearing the Elections. The Governing policies are quite difficult due to the past policies at the time. The past events caused the introduction of the HRPP in the Elections of 1982.

In the case of soft loans...

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker...

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Please wait these matters are difficult to understand if they are constantly interrupted. Mr Speaker it is why we loan from shot windows because of the minimum rates. In the Appropriation it is mentioned on pages 20 - 25 details of our loans from the International Monetary Fund.

Then we come to the total amount of our loans needed to be repaid this year which is \$56million. The importance of these loans as I have mentioned earlier in the afternoon is in regards to the guidelines of the World Bank. The borrowers depend on 50% of their GDP. GDP is the Gross Domestic Product that includes the Government and Corporations of a nation. If you look in the small paper presented the total GDP for the year 2014 was \$1,569,000,000 which is 2.4% of the growth of the economy indicating growth. The next year was estimated to be \$1,658,000,000 and 2.7% which is also equivalent to \$89million added. Moreover with the addition of the year 2016 of \$1,765,000,000, these are the plans as laid out. Furthermore the Government will try and make sure that the 50% of GDP is maintained as required of the policies but bear in mind that these are not finite like the laws of Persia and Mecca.

Why is it a guideline? The reason why I call it a guideline as it was also mentioned by the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the Hon Minister of Finance who are well versed on the subjects I am talking about. The circulating of 60% from loans on top of the income earnings multiplied by 100% makes the percentage. In order to increase the GDP of a nation you must be include in this percent which means the denominator is the formula I have just mentioned. Therefore in order to accumulate the wealth of an economy we need to start by making low interest rate loans to develop it. Focus should then be on developments that will grow and flourish like the airport, wharf and tourism that ensure the provision of employment for our people.

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Therefore it means that the percentage will continue to increase if the loans are used on stable projects that will increase the availability of employment for our people.

Mr Speaker in our meetings with the major Economists like Freedman for the Economic Development Institute we consulted and discussed on an appropriate measure to measure the ability or the capacity to pay. It means the full capacity to pay the loan as a ratio of the foreign exchange earnings. Therefore the measure depends on the earning of a country and ability to pay for the goods exported. What is so important about this measure? The importance of this measure:-

First of all, to have enough money to circulate funds within the State. Second, make sure you have enough foreign exchange earnings for the purchasing of overseas goods. It is the reason why our economy plummeted in the year 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and then in 1983 then I set a programme. This program was why the Samoan economy has been flourishing and has not receded back to the recession of 1979, 1980 and 1981. In 1981 the total foreign exchange for Samoa was \$15.2million and it was our only loan at the time but we could not pay for it, why? It is because we did not have a foreign reserve.

Perhaps if Maiava was here he would have remembered the hardship as they sent four messages to me saying, please Tuilaepa we have no money, we are living on ODs in our New York Office. I had told them to wait while I check the Bank and investigate if there were any foreign reserves and send over \$20,000.

Mr Speaker I mention this because there is nothing new that would cause worry in our Government. The measurement used is the most effective because of the debt service capacity measured on our foreign reserves, which is the most important measure. On the other hand, this measure which is also known as a guide for our GDP also has its drawbacks. The GDP is the overall income of all citizens but if there are loans of the Government, the Agriculture funds cannot be used to pay out these loans. The second disadvantage of this guideline is the 50% of the GDP is not...the \$900million+ loans cannot be paid in full but has to be paid in intervals. Other loans take twenty or thirty years to pay which is another drawback to this guideline. However we are using this measure as it is a requirement set out by the Bank and not every time they are right. I advertised what happened in 2004 when a Mission issued statements against these four major developments not to be implemented as they would deeply affect our economy and foreign reserve.

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The first was the DBS building, second was the Aggie Grey Resort, third was the Headquarter at Maluafoa which was needed as the building at Lalovaea was constantly wet due to close proximity to the river causing damage to the cable lines. And fourth is the Joint Venture with Virgin Blue as we have \$26million investment which they hold. In the end all these developments were implemented and although there were expectations of our Foreign Reserve dropping, the Report that came back stated an increase instead. The forecast of the IMF was that we would see a decrease but we have not and even when we planned for the road switch Lafai forecasted the same thing and that the Government will suffer.

Mr Speaker I conclude with assuring that there is nothing to be worried about. We have with us Members of Cabinet who dealt with the major issues like the year 1981 before the HRPP. I say this now that in order for our economy to grow we must make appropriate loans with minimum rates to support our developments. Mr Speaker that concludes my speech and I recommend we move on to the consideration of the Appropriation. Soifua and God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I give opportunity to the Member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I acknowledge the great speech by the Hon Prime Minister this evening. I believe only those of us who understand are awake and listening to the history lesson. I only wish to ask on the matter of soft loans that we are eligible for, because when they get here it somehow becomes rough and hard in terms of interest rates. Perhaps it would be great to consider the percentage in which it is being loaned from overseas to be applied locally.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Members concerned has been noted.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker that is what I just said we are doing.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I recognize the Leader of Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalua Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, point of clarification. I acknowledge the Hon Prime Ministers clarification on the reasons why the economy grows, employment for people and most especially the goods used to generate the economy.

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Our nation is now dependent on the new developments yet to be implemented, but the problem is that China is constructing it. Chinese companies with Chinese materials to build the developments therefore conflicting with the speech that Hon Prime Minister has just delivered in reference to the economy growing.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Leader of Opposition your concern has been noted. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker I would just like to say that the world has changed and it is not how it used to be. The issue that the Leader of Opposition is referring to is the fact that overseas people are coming into our country. However this is something that all nations of the world are doing. We attract people with money to come and invest in our country; it is what all the other countries are doing.

In 1965 the Government approved the Enterprises Incentive Act after just three years of being Independent. The increase of taxes caused the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Government at the time to attract investors and companies to invest in Samoa. It is still being continued today and many have come and made empty promises. The area in which was widely in need of investment was the tourism industry. It is also why the Ministry is trying to attract people to travel to Samoa and also draft the Act which is not a new Legislation as all the other countries have it. New Zealand can also assist in this area therefore making the process efficient so that it would only take two years to process a citizenship and not the length of five years.

It is what I notice that people refuse to understand that the world has changed and it is not German or America that holds the money but the Chinese now. I presume that if the Europeans come there would not be any noise but if people see that it is the Chinese they start criticizing. Why are you like that? We should not look at the color of the money but look at the value of the work that the people do for us and our country.

Mr Speaker that is my brief response to the refusal displayed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I trust the matter has been noted and our debates have concluded.

I acknowledge the Hon Prime Minister I believe your speech delivered has been understood by the Chamber this evening. I acknowledge the patience of the House this evening and to the Cabinet for the statements voiced and the responses delivered. It is good we are nearing the end so that we can be prepared for our other works tomorrow.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014  
- consideration in detail**

The Members have voiced their opinions in regards to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015. The motion has been moved and has been seconded for the Bill to be read a second time on the 29 of May 2014. Therefore the question will now be put forth.

*The Question was put forth and the motion was seconded on the 29 May 2014, the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 and the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to carefully consider the Supplementary Bill (No.2) 2013/2014.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration of the Bill will begin from its Schedule.

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

**VOTES AND APPROPRIATIONS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>MINISTRY:</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE:</b>
<b>FOREIGN AFFAIRS &amp; TRADE:</b>		<b>\$1,600,000</b>

*Approved.*

<b>NATURAL RESOURCES &amp; ENVIRONMENT:</b>	<b>\$365,053</b>
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*Approved.*

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Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail

TOTAL ADDITIONS IN EXPENDITURE 2013/2014:           \$1,965,053

*Approved.*

SECOND SCHEDULE  
REDUCTIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY:	SCHEDULE	REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE
FINANCE:		\$(1,600,000)

*Approved.*

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT:           \$(365,053)

*Approved.*

TOTAL REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE 2013/2014:           \$1,965,053

*Approved.*

*Schedules were approved and made part of the Bill.*

CLAUSE 2:   Grant and Appropriations of \$1,965,053 out of Treasury  
Fund.

*Approved.*

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014  
- third reading**

**CLAUSE 3: Reduction of amounts earlier appropriated and re-allocation to other outputs and sub-outputs.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:**

**CLAUSE 1: Short Title and Commencement.**

**TITLE: Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014.**

*Approved.*

*The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 progressed without amendments.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No.2) 2013/2014  
– third reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Finance, the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2013/2014 be read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Hon Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and the Minister of Woman, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion was approved and the Bill was read a third time and passed the Legislative Assembly.*

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**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015**  
**– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Assembly will now consider the Appropriation 2014/2015 and the consideration of the Draft Estimates and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2015 and also the Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Main Estimates for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2015.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration of the Bill will start from its Schedule.

**FIRST SCHEDULE**  
**VOTES AND APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>MINISTRY:</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>
<b>FISHERIES &amp; AGRICULTURE:</b>	<b>- \$13,840,474.</b>

*Approved.*

<b>COMMERCE, INDUSTRY &amp; LABOUR:</b>	<b>- \$16,942,143.</b>
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*Approved.*

<b>COMMUNICATIONS &amp; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:</b>	<b>- \$5,455,281.</b>
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*Approved.*

<b>EDUCATION, SPORTS &amp; CULTURE:</b>	<b>- \$84,003,538.</b>
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*Approved.*

<b>FINANCE:</b>	<b>- \$85,504,588.</b>
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*Approved.*



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**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015**  
– consideration in detail

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE:** - \$21,258,876.

*Approved.*

**HEALTH:** - \$81,877,881.

*Approved.*

**JUSTICE & COURTS ADMINISTRATION:** - \$9,733,948.

*Approved.*

**NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT:** - \$28,569,366.

*Approved.*

**POLICE & PRISONS:** - \$25,671,002.

*Approved.*

**PRIME MINISTER:** - \$7,986,312.

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I grant opportunity to the Member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

**Susuga PAPALII LIO FAAVAIVAIOMANU TAEU MASIPAU:** Mr Speaker I would like to query the Appropriation for the Office of the Prime Minister. The statement in this thick document states, “Advisory Committee for Agriculture.” However in this letter it states, “Committee of Organic Farming.” Therefore my question is why Agriculture is now included in the estimates of the Office of the Prime Minister. Thank you.

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**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015**  
**– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** I give opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** This is the Committee for organic farming. The reason why it is included in my Office Appropriation is because I am the Chairperson for the Pacific in organic farming. Agriculture was looking a bit warm when it first started so that is why it is included here. This development is very important as it is incorporated with the Women in Business who are very supportive of rural development. These are also the ones who are forefront in rural industries like the virgin oil production. Mr Speaker that is it.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I trust the Member has understood.

*Appropriation of \$7,986,312 for the Prime Minister was approved.*

**REVENUE: - \$ 11,421,059.**

*Approved.*

**WOMEN, COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: - \$10,436,807.**

*Approved.*

**WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: - \$59,132,802.**

*Approved.*

**ATTORNEY GENERAL: - \$4,020,339.**

*Approved.*

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**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015  
– consideration in detail**

**AUDIT: - \$3,341,769.**

*Approved.*

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER: - \$3,323,331.**

*Approved.*

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: - \$6,678,548.**

*Approved.*

**OMBUDSMAN: - \$789,591.**

*Approved.*

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: - \$4,402,019.**

*Approved.*

**STATISTICS: - \$4,106,911.**

*Approved.*

**SAMOA LAW REFORM COMMISSION: - \$1,094,258.**

*Approved.*

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APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015  
– consideration in detail

**PRISONS AUTHORITY: - \$2,951,253.**

*Approved.*

**TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR MINISTRIES 2014/2015: -\$429,542,095.**

*Approved.*

*Schedule approved.*

**CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$492,542,095 out of the Treasury fund.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 3: Grant and Appropriation of \$529,107 out of the Public Account.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 4: Grant and Appropriation of \$14,776,263 out of the Treasury Fund.**

*Approved.*

19 JUNE 2014

**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015  
– third reading**

**CLAUSE 1 AND THE TITLE:**

**CLAUSE 1: Short title and Commencement.**

**TITLE: Appropriation Bill 2014/2015.**

*Approved.*

*The Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 progressed without amendments.*

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014/2015 – third reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Prime Minister also Minister of Finance.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I stand with due respect to move a motion, *That the Appropriation Bill 2014/2015 be now read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Revenue, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Minister of Communication and Information Technology and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

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

**MR SPEAKER:** There is no work without completion. I believe we have come to the end of our Proceeding this evening. Therefore I wish to acknowledge and express my gratitude to the distinguished of the House for the tolerance and participation this evening. Praises and thanksgiving to our mighty Lord above for His presence and guidance upon us this day. I also acknowledge the support of our nation listening in and in support of our work and duty in Parliament. I wish to acknowledge the Members of the House for the concerns and ideas shared this evening and I acknowledge all the wise intellectual contributions put forth. It is your calling that has brought you here by our nations discretion.

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**Appropriation Bill 2014/2015  
– third reading**

Furthermore, I also acknowledge the presence of the Heads of Government Departments and Corporations for their support this week. I trust you will be considerate of the limited funding of our Government and will utilize our funds wisely. We trust your discretion to carefully and considerately utilize our funds and be thankful to the Lord of the wealth we are blessed with regardless how small or not. All the very best.

Well, I believe this is enough words for tonight as we are all tired. At least we do not have to endure longer. Tomorrow will also be a short day for us as we will head on to pay our last respects. The Speaker conveys condolences to the constituency and all its honorary salutations. We shall meet on Saturday when the Parliament pays their last respects to the Tofa Tuiloa Anetelea Tuiloa for his services to the Parliament of Samoa. It is our prayer that the servant finds an eternal resting place in Heaven.

Before we end our work for the evening I would like to call upon the Susuga i le Feagaiga Taulagi, Tapuai Toese to end our proceeding with a prayer. I beseech you to pray for Tuiloa and also for the Lord to bless the approval of our Appropriation and to guide us to a new day tomorrow. Please stand.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly adjourned at 12.30am until 9.00am Friday, 20 June 2014.*