

*THURSDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayer.

**MR SPEAKER:** I truly believe that we have all come to the beginning of this day in the best of health. I believe the members of the House are well rested from our break last night. We slept unknowing of the future but we have again regained our strength and it is only fitting that we praise our Heavenly Father for his protection and love that has brought us safely to this new day.

I gratefully acknowledge the presence of the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament. Thank you for your patience and participation during our proceedings in the past few days. The intention is that a motion be moved for the extension of our normal sitting hours so that the Appropriation will be passed and then the government orders of the day can proceed.

At this hour, the Chair will carry out its business in its usual manner. It is with all due respect that the Chair begins the proceedings by acknowledging our traditional setup. There is none who can change or alter this setup as the family lineages and heritages are known throughout the country. The Chair humbly requests that all the honorable members keep the relationship between each other respectful and tolerant. We are not here to seek fault or boast but this is the meeting for the whole country and there is no other council above this in the country. God willing we will have a successful meeting this day. Our country is depending upon us and we should not take this responsibility lightly. The Chair again advises that our procedures are in place and the Constitution is our supreme law and there are Standing Orders that guide the proceedings within the House. There are many instances in which the Chair must appease and request that we conduct our proceedings with respect; it is not my place to instruct the dignity of the House but the objective is that our proceedings progress with the utmost professionalism and esteem.

This is not an instruction to seek praise or wanting to show the authority of the Chair; no. The rules to conduct our proceedings are in place with the Standing Orders. As was witnessed yesterday, words were exchanged up to the end of business last night and I plead that we be mindful of our work. If west is at fault, may the east be steadfast in the right.

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Words in the House are not sugar coated however we must focus on the bird, but be weary of the tide because the country is listening in and they have the power and wisdom that is the reason behind us being here in this House today.

Yesterday, there was much contention with members upstanding as they please to object and even murmuring in their seats when they were not given the floor. As a result, we all witnessed that our proceedings derailed and sidetracked. The proceedings success relies on your recommendations and wisdom to last throughout the years in our records for the benefit of our country's future. This is the request of the Chair for all the members to heed. Please be mindful of our Standing Orders in regards to our procedures.

I would also like to use this opportunity to address the media personnel. The opportunity extended to you to be present within the gallery to report the happenings within Parliament has been used unwisely. The Chair warns that statements that are not within the official record of the Parliament must not be publicized and if they are, you will be forbidden from entering the House. I must comment on this so that there is no repetition as statements that are being printed are poles apart from what is happening in the House.

I believe that our work is nearing its end therefore the opportunity will be given to one or two more members and then the Government will proceed to respond to the matters raised. I humbly apologize if there has been a word that was not pleasing to the ear to any of the members. That is the humble request of the Chair. From the heavens we receive our blessings like rain cloud showers upon our beloved country. Let us be an example of good political systems and whatever was said that caused any offence let us forgive what is done.

To the dignity of our country listening in; you are aware of the progress of our sitting and be conscious of the fact that the task we are faced with is not an easy one. The Parliament is not frivolous of your support. It is only in fire that gold purifies and the usual arguments are part of our work as the members are all passionate for a successful outcome. The Chair believes that the work be left to the members and may the Lord forgive us our transgressions this morning.

The Chair appreciates the patience this morning and we will now proceed with our orders of the day.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II (Leader of the Opposition):** I rise Mr Speaker with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity will be given; I appease the Leader of the Opposition, the floor will be given first to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui (Prime Minister):** Mr Speaker, your prayer of thanksgiving is before the Lord and we all concur with the praise made.

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The Chairs intention and request has also been put forth in regards to the speeches made. This is our joint responsibility to reach an agreement on our Standing Orders. I also have the authority to point out breeches in the Standing Orders and I do not use this right but I only make it known that I am able to exercise this right.

This must be clear because the conflicts and contentions are a result of misunderstandings. Mr Speaker, this is an important morning as you have put your trust in the members to take heed of the Chairs request. I believe that the old and new members will pay attention to the intention of this day.

As I stated on the first day of our sittings, this Government was founded on clarity from day one. It is not a wrong thing to correct and offer explanation to further clarify a contentious issue for instance the event last night. My only intention last night was to explain and clarify the manifesto of the HRPP in regards to its developments and proposed projects which are founded on the intention to provide employment opportunities for our youth.

Yesterday students from secondary schools joined us and their education will be meaningless if there are no employment opportunities. The Government intends to create employment opportunities so that families' economic status can improve. If one of the members of a family is employed, that one member can also improve the economic status of the village and church.

This was the entirety of the explanation yesterday. This Government is prioritizing the creation of employment. The reason for my constant interruption last night was because the member for Falealupo was making comments on an overseas funded development proposed by Government. The member stated that it is demeaning for a Samoan to serve under a Caucasian but this is the same member (*points to the member for Falealupo*) who complained against the Chinese, now it's the Caucasians and maybe in a future sitting it will be Indians. As I have reiterated many times, this Government does not discriminate against race but what is important is the business that the person can establish to create employment opportunities; for instance Yazaki Samoa employs many of our people. This company is from Japan which is neighbors with China and Korea across the ocean from Canada and America.

This member Mr Speaker is very good at making enticing metaphorical speeches which have double meanings. I stressed on the first day of our sittings that we do not have the funds to implement our plans and developments. This is one purpose why Ministers travel overseas to negotiate with overseas governments and organizations to fund our developments to create employment for our youth. All countries of the world with determined leaders try to attract countries and organizations to their countries to boost their economic growth. Even in America where the milk and honey flow, they have Chinese, Japanese and British companies established there. If those countries can do that, why can't we?

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Mr Speaker, that is why I was aggressive last night because this is not for me or this party it is for the future. The development of Samoa is very important to be rid of reliance.

I cannot desist on issues that are relevant for the development and improvement of our country. We should not proceed on issues that are useless to our development. God bless this meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Prime Minister for the explanation. I will still allow the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition. What is the issue?

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** First Mr Speaker I convey my gratitude for the praise that was given this morning to our Heavenly Father and I concur wholeheartedly.

The Hon Prime Minister has spoken on the situation last night and the reason for the retort is the same reason we are also striving at.

With that Mr Speaker, I rise with all due respect to convey my apologies for any offensive words or actions that were exchanged yesterday. The country is witness to this and we are only attempting to put forward our views. We ask that our faults be cast upon an uninhabited island and we progress with our orders of the day.

Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, we humbly seek your forgiveness for the events of last night. If there was any offense caused, the intention was to put forth our views although they may differ from yours but the intention is the same which is the benefit of our youth. I honestly pray that we can forgive and move forward from this as one of the members of this side prayed that we have the spirit of forgiveness and focus on the future improvement of our country supporting our work.

My beloved country Samoa, I also beseech your forgiveness for any words that may have caused offense during our proceedings. A fisherman's catch is not always bountiful. The leaders of the country come to discuss issues for your support and so let our House be the House of the Lord while we continue with our work.

That is all Mr Speaker, God bless our meeting this morning.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Leader of the Opposition.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua (Minister of Women, Community and Social Development):** Mr Speaker, with all due respect, I was mentioned in the speech.

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

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**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend you for your prayer offered this morning. Although the Lord dwells on high, he is always with us especially when the temptations of the devil are upon us.

To the dignity of the House, the country and those present with us this morning, there was no intention to speak after the Hon Prime Minister's comments as his voice is that of this side. However as the Leader of the Opposition referred to me in his comments, I must respond. As the Hon Prime Minister stated, these are blunders of speeches. My only request is that we use the respectful language befitting to these situations because to say that he would punch a Minister's mouth is an embarrassing statement. Our language is rich with alternative phrases and terms that could have used instead. A fisherman's proverb 'a boat that is always carried is useless but a boat seldom carried stays true'. Those are the proverbs of our country that are used with courtesy and respect. The member that offered the closing prayer last night said 'the Lord is unhappy' and it is true. If the preacher is faithful to his beliefs then so be it but if a person does not awaken from his sleep tomorrow, that person is no longer in Gods arms. I must address the matter for Samoa's setup is in place and I am the voice of Leulumoega.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the words of caution for no one is perfect. The Leader of the Opposition has spoken and the Hon Prime Minister has made his remarks and that is also our view. Mr Speaker all the best in carrying out your duties today. God bless this Parliament and may the Lord be forever praised in our work. That is all Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe that our proceedings are now in order. Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and that side of the House, the formal apologies have been made and I also offer my apologies to the House. As I said last night, when two are at odds, there is no need for interruptions. If we were to strictly conduct our meetings as per our Standing Orders, there would be no contention. Be sympathetic of the Chairs role as I am also being lenient. The lay preachers were at odds last night and that was by your own accords. The deacon should not be agitated by the preacher's prayer last night. I asked the preacher to close our meeting last night with a word of prayer because I noticed that there was conflict brewing.

The formalities of the morning are now out of the way and our sitting can now proceed. The purpose of the day is for the students and I remind the Members that to address another member you must first address the Chair and I will give the opportunity but do not murmur in the background because you are being recorded. The media picks up on this and they publicize false statements.

I plead with the members to be mindful of the Chairs intention. I will allocate the speeches accordingly.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading – third day**

Other announcements by the Chair; this is the second day of the Parliament Week in raising parliamentary awareness. We are present with the second group of Year 12 and 13 students this morning. For the past two days we were here with the first group of students and this is the second group. As I stated, the purpose of this parliament Week is to educate the youth on the proceedings of the Parliament. The intention is that you do not only see it in theory but also in action by being present and hearing the proceedings. This meeting is the beginning and the ending of all issues in regards to our future. You will witness the stages in which legislation is passed and amended. On behalf of the Parliament I greet you all this morning; I believe that the knowledge will benefit the future of Samoa.

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2012/2013 AND APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014 – debate on second reading – third day**

**MR SPEAKER:** Our proceedings adjourned last night at 11.00pm while one of the veteran members was addressing the House. I call on the honorable member for Falealupo to take the floor to conclude your speech.

I first call on the honorable member for Saleaula.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu (Gagaemauga No. 2):** Mr Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition should be given the opportunity to complete his remarks. It is with all due respect that I move a motion, *That 5 minutes be added to the members time.*

*The motion was not seconded.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you member for Saleaula but you need not remind me. You need not be concerned and leave the discretion to the Chair.

I call on the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVAISEETA (Falealupo):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. With all due respect, I humbly greet the dignity of the House present here today. Thank you for the opportunity to conclude our comments on the matter before the House. It is difficult to pick up from where I left off last night therefore I believe that it is fitting that I conclude my remarks from last night.

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There is however one comment Mr Speaker regarding the Hon Prime Ministers speech this morning which I believed to be a Ministerial Statement. It is not procedure to begin a session in this way because I believe that the speech was a continuation of the debate from last night.

With all due respect Mr Speaker, no one is perfect and I cannot leave this issue unanswered. Last night I used a proverb that we used to use in Standard 4 or Form 1; barking up the wrong tree and the Hon Prime Minister has misinterpreted my comments from last night. Now he has stated...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaoi:** Point of order Mr Speaker. I advised the member to avert from use enticing comments because it also shows your true character. No matter how you rephrase your comments, I know what you are implying. As for the use of language, why are we not using our native language? Take heed of the advice last night and do not be eager to speak English. This is the House of the Samoan people and we value our language. You want to use English constantly and it is not pleasant to hear. When you speak, I become attentive to every word because I know you too well. Before you even speak I know the ending of your speech because your political career was nurtured from this side.

Mr Speaker, the debate from last night has ended. We are old Saint Joseph students and we know each other's ways and I will leave it at that.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member for Falealupo while the Chair makes its announcement. There is no doubt of your wisdom and knowledge but I have stated in the beginning that this is a new day. The Hon Prime Minister has also stated that last night is no longer and he who looks back will be as a salt statue as is in the bible.

I humbly ask of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to please be mindful of the task I am faced with. You are aware of the difficulty I am faced with as you were also a Speaker of the House. In this House I have all the powers and this gavel has not been used since I have been in this seat for the last two years. I just might use it during this sitting. You are aware that double meaning statements are not allowed within the House and I will be strict with our procedures if need be.

I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to conclude your speech.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA:** Thank you. I will not oppose the announcement of the Chair. The Hon Prime Minister is a dear friend and we know of each other's ways.

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However because my constituency is listening in and they might be of the opinion that I use want to use English constantly. No, that is not the case. Our Standing Orders allow for the use of both the English and Samoan languages. Some understand better if the English language is used. I will not comment further Mr Speaker; I will now conclude my speech.

There is only one matter on the respect for the esteem of the House that I wish to conclude with. The country and this Parliament is aware of a situation that occurred which involved the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance not long ago.

This member for Falealupo is very respectful of the procedures of the House and that is the concluding statement Mr Speaker. Hon Prime Minister, do not leave this issue unanswered but I will leave that at your discretion. The country is listening in and they want to know what we are doing about these issues with the Members of Parliament.

My speech is now finished.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the honorable member for Falealupo; the opportunity will be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I have explained that issue more than once and the country understands now but it is only the member for Falealupo and the Leader of the Opposition that do not want understand.

We are politicians and we are always digging up old skeletons. There is a saying that you can whip a dead horse but it will always be dead. Mr Speaker, there is nothing that you can get from digging up what is already dead.

**Afioga Hon AEAU PENIAMINA LEAVASEETA:** My speech has concluded. If we were to follow the correct procedures and this Parliament be dissolved and we return...my comments would be complete and that was the initial intention of this member.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for Falealupo. The government will respond to the matters raised at a future time but I thank the honorable member for beginning our deliberations this morning.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition; a lay preacher of the EFKS church and a fitting bout partner for the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. There is a boxing fundraiser to raise funds for our new Parliament House and I have contacted Seb n Rene Sports if they have 8 ounce boxing gloves just to be ready for when there is contention again in the House and we can stop our meetings and step outside to witness your boxing match.



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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to please rise.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to comment on this important Budget. The Speaker has stated that I am a fitting partner for the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development but there is only one that I am suitable to partner with and that is the Hon Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker...

**MR SPEAKER:** Point of Order in case the House is led astray with the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. In leadership roles within the House that is a different matter but in a boxing ring, the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development is your partner. The Hon Minister's challenge has long been put but you have not accepted it.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** The House is now listening as well as the country and I confirm that I accept the challenge. I will put on my boxing gloves and the match can begin but for this morning....

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua:** Mr Speaker the Leader of the Opposition is pointing to me and making his comments but it was not I that put the challenge forward it was him. Leulumoega is ready for the challenge and the country will witness the match.

We will not use any gloves for the bout, we will use material to wrap our fists and the Aiga Sa Tunumafono will take their member after the match and lay him in his resting place after our match.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Parliament has heard and the acceptance of the challenge has been recorded. The Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration and the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment will note the date of the match and see to its preparations.

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

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I am prepared to pass a Cabinet Directive to prepare 2 coffins for both members.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Justice Courts and Administration.

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**Afioga Hon Fiamē Naomi Mataafa (Minister of Justice Courts and Administration):** Mr Speaker, you have mentioned me in your comments but I was about to move a motion. That these comments be omitted from the records because not only is it a disgrace to the profession but it has no relevance to the matter that is currently being debated in the House with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Do not be concerned Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration. I was going to ask you to be the referee but pay no mind; I will ask the fireman to standby and see which one of these two will be the first to be hosed down.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I wish to comment on the matter raised by the Hon Fiamē Mr Speaker. There was a similar act practiced within the American Congress and it was only stopped in, I think it was the year 1912 or around that time. Members would challenge each other to a dual. They would each be given a loaded firearm. They would take 15 steps in the opposite direction and the Speaker would make the call. When the Speaker made the call and the members faced each other they both missed. The Speaker then told them to return to the House because it was a waste of time and from that time this practice ceased. At least you have all heard that the fire engines will be on standby to hose down anyone that might need a hose down.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 3.

**Tofa Tuileutu Alavaa Voi (Faasaleleaga No. 3):** Please Mr Speaker, may I be permitted to return to Savaii and bring the boxing gloves.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for trying to assist in the matter.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition to continue. Do not be concerned about the bout. High blood pressure and diabetes needs to be avoided so I will think about whether the match will still proceed. You may take the floor to continue your remarks.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I am not concerned a bit because I can use only one hand. Moving on Mr Speaker, I first greet the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet, the Shadow Cabinet and all the Members of Parliament.

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I greet also the country listening in from the mountains to the shores of our country, the elderly and the leaders of the various denominations continuously praying for blessings upon us all. As for the traditional setup, whether I address it or not it will remain unchanged throughout the generations.

Our Shadow Cabinet have all made comments on the bill before the House. The Oppositions responsibility is to recommend, offer advice and remind; to be the voice of the voiceless, the weak, the low income earners, the farmers working day and night in the sun and rain.

Our duty is to present the peoples concerns to the Government. These are the principles of democracy for good governance, accountability and transparency. We use this opportunity in the House to put forward these matters and issues but it has become a nuisance Mr Speaker that there are continuous interjections and interruptions which take up our allotted time to make comments. It has been noted that this is a strategy used by the Hon Prime Minister and the Hon Minister of Health.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition while the opportunity is given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Point of order Mr Speaker. You announced last night that the opportunity is still being given to extend members times even when we interject. We try continuously to explain these matters but still the issue is continuously raised.

This is why I am constantly advising against campaign speeches. The country fully understands the Speakers comments and your times are always extended beyond the limit. Our right is set out in the Standing Orders for interruptions. We cannot leave an incorrect issue unanswered such as the issue raised because it will mislead the country.

As I have stated many times before, this side cannot leave incorrect statements to continue. Last night, there were members that we did not interrupt because they made accurate and useful remarks, but when it becomes inaccurate and starts to become campaigning in nature then we must correct it.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Leader of the Opposition. The Chair has an announcement to make. I made a request earlier and it seems that you are questioning me and my responsibility. I am also noting the time limit and the opportunity is given because of the respect that we have for each other and the fact that your side is the minority and that is why you are given the opportunity.

However, you are constantly intervening and I have stated before, there are times for statements to be made officially and it is the unofficial remarks that the media has picked up on and misinterpreted it.

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Do not question the Chairs duty. I am giving the opportunity to your side and you have all had a chance to address the floor.

This is why I initially requested that we focus on the Appropriation and not stray from the subject matter. The improvement to your respective constituencies is paramount and some members made appropriate remarks and the Government did not interrupt. Therefore I ask again Leader of the Opposition that you comment on the Bill before the House and the Government must interject to clarify or correct. I also ask that you not question my duty as timekeeper. Yesterday the whip took the floor and during the Ministers interjections the members time was paused but that is not in the Standing Orders. If we were to adhere to the Standing Orders, the members time would still continue through the interjections. The member for Gagaemauga No. 2 stated when he did not finish his comments that he would finish his speech on Television. I ask the Opposition to not take advantage of my hospitality.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** You are again interrupting. Be seated! You should be a good example. Yesterday the member for Alataua West and Faasaleleaga No. 4 were at odds and they are following in your example. It is a breach of our rules to speak when the opportunity has not been given by the Chair. With this disregard, how then are we to conduct our proceedings? This is a very important morning especially as we are present with students who are the mirror of the future and their decision making will be reflected within their communities.

That is my advice and word of caution to the Leader of the Opposition. Comment on the matter at hand so that our meeting can progress.

Please take the floor to continue with your speech.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I rise with all due respect Mr Speaker to speak as the leader of this side and I will now comment on other matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** These accusations made by the Ministers against us are serious especially since we are being accused of bribery and enticement. Samoa will be the judge whether these are campaign speeches or whether we are delivering the needs of the people to the country. As for the use of television to voice our concerns, where else can we turn to?

Mr Speaker, where else can we turn to and seek refuge to make known the needs of the suffering...to the TV stations....

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**MR SPEAKER:** Let me ask you Leader of the Opposition, when were you denied the opportunity to speak? When? When have you ever complained that the Chair did not give the opportunity to your side of the House? I have also asked that decisions for the country are made in the House not out there. I have been patient and I cannot instruct you but you have opposed the Hon Prime Minister and now you are questioning my duties. Do not point fingers and lay blame elsewhere but take responsibility of your own actions.

That is the announcement of the Chair as you have accused the Chair of not giving the opportunity.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I apologize Mr Speaker; it is not that we are not given the opportunity but that we are not given the opportunity to finish. I apologize for the misunderstanding.

**MR SPEAKER:** Our proceedings are being dragged on Leader of the Opposition and I am trying to explain.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** However, I will move on to the Budget.

**MR SPEAKER:** Comment now on the Budget.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** When our party meets, this is the same issue that arises but we are disciplined and abide by the Standing Orders. There are times that our members have incomplete speeches but if we leave it to the member to carry on then we would be here until the end of the year. You might think that your side is not being given enough time but it is the same with our side. In 3 minutes you have managed to make 4 campaign lines.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the member to continue on the Budget.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will not respond to the comments but the country will be the judge. The commandments are first and foremost, Love the lord thy God, second, Love thy neighbor. However, this Budget does not reflect this love.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this member always uses theological anecdotes. Be mindful that Jesus does preach about love but when he walked into the temple and it was being used as a market place, what did Jesus do? He reached for a whip and there is a lesson in that which is to love accordingly, if it is being abused; use the whip.

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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Again, I will not respond Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is appropriate; do not respond as it will drag our proceedings.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will not praise the Hon Minister of Finance either for it might be misinterpreted but you can easily tell a person that is truly loving. That person gives honest advice and points out problem areas and possible solutions. It is clear within the Appropriations that the expenditure exceeds the revenue. We are not regulating the use of our finances. The Hon Minister of Revenue and the Ministry need our support to collect the revenue needed and the question put directly to the Hon Minister of Revenue is; are we collecting all the revenue needed for the development of Samoa? Gratitude is due to the staff for the task of collecting finances...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition, I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Revenue.

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko (Minister of Revenue):** Mr Speaker and members of the House, the answer to the query is that the estimated revenue to be collected has been collected and it is reflected in this Budget with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you Hon Minister for the response but I ask this because according to the Audit Office Report before me, estimated revenue to be collected is \$20million and \$13million of this is from VAGST. Are the Ministries not cooperating or...

**MR SPEAKER:** The floor will be given again to the Hon Minister of Revenue.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko:** Mr Speaker, the member is commenting on the Audit Offices Report and that is their duty which is to monitor. This Budget is estimations or expectations of the revenue that ought to be collected from each Ministry. The Audit Office has not yet audited these appropriations but for now, the revenue that was expected to be collected has been collected.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Revenue. In the best interest of time, I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I rise Mr Speaker to support the Hon Minister regarding the appropriations. These are appropriations or estimations for the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to June 2014. We have not yet started July but the report you are mentioning is from last year. You have asked whether this is the revenue estimated. The honorable Minister has answered. The problem is you are commenting on actual accounts but we are commenting on the appropriations. It is better that you not continue on that subject as the foundation of your speech is inaccurate. You should consider other factors that affected the revenue collection such as Cyclone Evan and the global financial crisis. Have you forgotten that cyclones also affect government expenditure and revenue?

**MR SPEAKER:** The Chair will offer its assistance. The Audit Report has just been tabled and it has not been referred to the Committee and presented back to the House for approval therefore it should not be debated in the House. The Hon Prime Minister has also clarified that this is a report on a previous financial year and members should be mindful of what can be debated as per our normal procedures.

I call on the member to continue.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** With all due respect Mr Speaker, I am merely using it as reference in case there might be objection stating that my comments have no proof.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your references are noted but proceed to comment on another matter.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will move away from that matter but I fully support the Hon Minister and the certainty must be acquired as there is a scarcity of funds. This is not campaigning it is a concern.

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

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**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko:** As I stated previously Mr Speaker, these are estimates but not actual. I stated that estimated revenue is the revenue that will be collected. Revenue collection is the Ministry's priority and they are ensuring that revenue estimated will be collected within the financial year.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition; is there a matter to discuss member for Gagaemauga No. 2?

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** The Leader of the Opposition is correct Mr Speaker. The revenue collected is approximately half a billion; around \$500,000<sup>+</sup> but the estimated revenue was more than a billion. That is the fact of the matter but the issue is that the staff are dishonest in the collection of the revenue.

**MR SPEAKER:** The comments are noted. The Hon Minister of Revenue will respond as these are serious accusations.

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko:** These accusations Mr Speaker are disrespectful. These are our people working in the Ministry and if they were to sue for such defamation where would you produce your witnesses from? This is so we will know who these people are that are doing such fraudulent acts. Therefore Mr Speaker, I ask that these accusations against the employees be omitted from the records. Our Ministry is responsible for \$470million of the \$500million revenue in this Budget and these accusations are ridiculous.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member; I give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** The Ministry is faced with a difficult task Mr Speaker. People can bring in their containers and give false documents on the contents and the Ministry has to investigate these documents thoroughly. This is the same with declaring that a vehicle is 12 years old when the seat belt box clearly confirms that it is 15 years old. Seat belt boxes can now be replaced and engine serial numbers can be scratched and the Ministry has to check all the documentation and be vigilant. As a result of these actions and false documentation revenue will not be collected. Instead of accusing the employees we should instead applaud them for their vigilance.

That is the explanation to end this matter Mr Speaker.



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**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker, I have been accused of being disrespectful. With all due respect, there are still those falsifying documents currently being employed in the Customs Office. When the cargo is delivered, the wholesalers do not clear...

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, this is a very serious matter and the Hon Minister and the Ministry cannot take this matter lightly. Accusations can only be proven in a court of law.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Chair will give its recommendation. I call on the Hon Minister of Revenue.

**Tofa Hon Tuiloma Lameko:** Mr Speaker, I mentioned disrespectful to describe a person that accuses another for no reason. This is why we should be cautious when accusing because these are our citizens working in the Ministry. If you have made such accusations you have no proof. I will tell you one reason why the estimated target was not reached; it is because people that own the cargo imported bring false documentation to be assessed on the duty incurred with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the issue is understood member for Gagaemauga No.2. The Chair believes that the employees of the Office cannot answer to the accusations. The Hon Minister has responded and the accusations are serious. You cannot accuse another in the House because these accusations will be recorded and be permanent. Member for Gagaemauga No. 2, you have clarified your concern and that is now before the courts. If we were to discuss that issue then it would have a devastating effect.

I beg tolerance to the member for Falealupo, you have also mentioned other matters that should not be discussed and the Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Revenue has commented on matters that can be discussed. We cannot deliberate on issues before the courts and it is a concern to the Chair.

I call on the member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** I rise Mr Speaker to move a motion, *That evidence be produced to support the accusations as denied by the Hon Minister of Revenue.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Alright honorable member for Falealupo. We will put forward the motion to provide evidence to prove the accusations against the dishonesty within the Customs Office in the collection of taxes.

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That is the motion and if the evidence is provided, then I will be sympathetic but we will do as you please.

*Motion approved for evidence to be presented to support the accusations by the member for Gagaemauga No. 2.*

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity will be given to the member to present evidence in support of the accusations.

I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, I only hope that the evidence is provided because if it is not then I will decide on your (*points to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2*) fate within this Parliament.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon Prime Minister when he wishes the evidence to be presented. With all due respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** You will be given 24 hours.

**MR SPEAKER:** The House has heard the motion and the time limit of 24 hours for the presentation of evidence to prove fraud within the Customs Office in collecting taxes.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

*Second reading debate resumed on Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.*

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, I will move away from the matter but the initial remarks were just a recommendation.

My speech has nearly escaped me. Hon Minister of Finance, I will continue to comment on the Budget. I am grateful that will move away from being a LDC like Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. It is beneficial to the overseas countries but will that make our meat or chicken cheaper? This is the reality of the issue domestically. It is appropriate...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition while I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

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There is no need for concern for the youth listening in, if you bear a good child, he will do his duty. No one will suffer because of this. The Samoan economy is in good condition. The government is also in good hands with all due respect Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I give the opportunity to the representative of the Nazarene church to assist theologically; I call on the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** The Leader of the Oppositions remarks are important as he stated the rules for our borrowing. If a long term is given to repay a loan, the payments are small. This is why members request extension periods for their loan repayments to 20-30 years because it will be easier. That is the policy that we are currently following. The Leader of the Opposition is chuckling because he is also one of the members. A Cabinet decision was also made to decrease the interest for the Development Bank so that developments can be implemented and the period of repayment is longer to ensure small repayments with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Only one last comment Mr Speaker on the matter before I move away from it. The only reason you are content in borrowing is because you are not repaying it, the country is. I will now move on to other matters.

**MR SPEAKER:** Before you move away from the matter Leader of the Opposition.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, there is inaccuracy in those remarks. Every time I go to buy bread, there is VAGST on that good and I am paying that tax. When you purchase a good, there is a tax on it and we are all paying these taxes. This is a clarification on that matter and it is better that we explain it with the intention that you do not interview again in TV on these matters. I am sympathetic of you when you are on television. Remember I have a program broadcast on Wednesday and Thursdays where I comment and explain generally and that is when the country is aware of your inaccuracies.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe Leader of the Opposition you mentioned that you will not comment again on that matter.

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You can continue when we return from our recess but the Chair would like to again reiterate to the media personnel that unofficial records of the proceedings should not be broadcast because there can be misinterpretation within the House. That is the announcement from the Chair. I have noted that yesterday and this morning, the happenings in the House are poles apart from what you are broadcasting. If the Chair finds that this announcement is not being complied with then the media will no longer be allowed within the House.

The intention is that proceedings are broadcast accurately as they were intended by the honorable members.

I now declare that our proceedings will be set aside for its normal recess.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its normal recess at 10.44am.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 11.20am.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly have now resumed. We have now come to the second session of our sitting and I believe we have all been rejuvenated from the meal that was provided. I would like to thank all the members for your participation and I apologize if the meal was not to your satisfaction but the Lord provides for us daily and we should be thankful. I believe that we will have an oven baked meal ready for lunch.

The Chair wishes to announce that we are present with members of the Leadership Samoa Program. There is an intention that the program will prepare you all to become future leaders not only in Samoa but overseas. Your visit is perfect as it coincides with our Parliamentary Awareness week. On behalf of the House I would like to extend our greetings to you all. You have visited the most important council meeting within Samoa. What you will observe today with the deliberation amongst the leaders of our country, may you learn and take with you any lesson that will assist you as you look to become leaders. Best wishes in your endeavors. The knowledge is not the only trait that is needed by a great leader, as the saying goes 'the way to authority is through hard service'. Good leadership also needs honesty and integrity in carrying out the service.

Before we adjourned for our normal recess, the Leader of the Opposition had the floor. Please proceed with your speech. You do not have a time limit. If you carry on until the night it will be so.

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Be mindful of the announcement made this morning, make accurate and useful comments that will contribute to the work of the Hon Minister of Finance and the Government.

I thank the CEO's of the government Ministries and Corporations present with us today for your patience. I hope that you have received strength from the meal provided to continue our work.

Without further ado I give the opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition to continue.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you for the opportunity to continue. We have just come back from our meal and I thank the Speaker and the Office for what was provided that we may continue with our work. Although the cocoa rice was a bit watery, I believe that we will have a bigger meal at 12.

**MR SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are belittling the efforts of the staff. You are also a member of SPAGHL and the meal is an effort to assist with diabetes prevention.

Please continue your speech.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Moving on Mr Speaker, as I stated initially, I will attempt to offer recommendations to the Hon Minister of Finance to assist with the distribution of funds to the country. I will first start by commenting on the Government Corporations.

I first begin with the Samoa Ports Authority. There were good intentions behind the building of the Satitua Slipway but we advised and recommended against it and that is where a lot of the finances has been wasted. Why? Because they are developments that are not needed at this time. During a Committee visit to the slipway, the slipway was in poor condition but millions had been poured into the development.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. The opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure responsible for the Corporation,

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala (Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure):** Mr Speaker, I am concerned at the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition assuming that these funds were a waste. The development in the agricultural sector has become increasingly favorable and fisheries are also an area which is slowly growing. Alia fishing vessels cannot cater to the growing fishing industry and bigger fishing vessels are needed.

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Our tugboat is also assisting in this for the maintenance of the vessels. Foreign investors in this industry as well as tourists will also use this service. Last month a scoping study was completed and recommendations were made in improving the Satitua wharf and slipway. We are pleased that we are able to offer these services not only in Apia but also for Asau, Savaii.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the explanation Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. In the interest of time Leader of the Opposition, I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** Mr Speaker, in September 1989 I was in the Philippines and while I was about to depart the airport, there was a breaking news that there was an earthquake in LA. Highways and big buildings collapsed because of the strength of the quake. Even in Christchurch, the same happened and when they began to rebuild, another quake shook the city. There were also complaints against the governments borrowing of NZD\$300million for the rebuilding of Christchurch.

I mention this because no matter what we plan, it is not in comparison with the work of the Almighty God. No one could foresee that a Tsunami would hit that part of the island and destroy the Slipway. We can plan forward and not foresee any disasters but this is a development that is necessary. Why? Because the industry is growing and this wharf is closer to American Samoa and it encourages the good relations between our two countries. It is faster to travel from Aleipata to Leone which is approximately 2 hours. Nothing is perfect first time round and there are unforeseen disasters but this does not mean that the developments are unnecessary.

Mr Speaker, the only thing left to do is rebuild and improve what was destroyed because it is important for not only our development but also the relationship between us and American Samoa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to continue your remarks. I believe that matter has been clarified.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you for interjecting and explaining the Governments plans. The Samoa Ports Authority's financials are disastrous and there are avenues to generate revenue but they are being careless. Take for example the Marina, this is the most expensive piece of land in Samoa and it is being leased. The Authority should have built the buildings and leased it out because the lease is really cheap.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition, I give the opportunity to the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo (Deputy Prime Minister):** There have been 3 different CEO's in the Authority since the CEO that began the initiative to lease. Business owners were consulted to present proposals to the Board of Directors and that was the beginning stage of the leasing which happened perhaps 8 years ago. The successful businesses were presented to the Cabinet and a decision was made. The lease was also calculated on the valuation carried out. All the reports were reviewed to calculate a lease cost and the same was done with the land on the other side.

There was no intention in the past to use this land which was a swimming area and then it was reclaimed and then there was a proposal to use it to generate revenue for the Authority. It is not an expensive piece of land.

There are also terms of the lease for when the Authority needs the land for development it can be returned to the Authority. The Leader of the Opposition does not need to be concerned about anything. There is nothing wrong and everything is transparent.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** In the best interest of your time Leader of the Opposition, I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faleata West who commented on this issue.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I raised this issue Mr Speaker. With all due respect, this was discussed in the Finance and Expenditure Committee and all the members agreed that the lease was inappropriate. A recommendation was made that the lease agreement be reviewed and corrected. There are many discrepancies as the revenue is not suitable to the actual value of the land.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your remarks are noted honorable member for Faleata West. I call on the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** Mr Speaker, the lease agreement was checked and approved by the Attorney Generals Office. There were no discrepancies and the Committee should have called the Attorney General to the meeting to answer and respond to your queries. That is what the Committee should have done.

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**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Mr Speaker, the CEO of the Authority is a lawyer and the Committees recommendation was presented to him. The CEO has accepted the recommendations to correct the lease agreement.

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

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo:** The Government only takes advice from one lawyer Mr Speaker and that is the Attorney General. He is the legal advisor to the Government and if the agreement has been checked and approved and that is the finality of the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee followed by the Minister responsible for the Authority.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang (Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I would also like to contribute to the discussion with all due respect. The member of the Committee is correct. The Committee queried the lease in relation to the Authority's expenditures. The wording of the agreement is correct but the Committee questioned the lease. The Committee was of the opinion that \$3,500 per month was too low. That was the only recommendation of the Committee but the wording of the agreement is correct with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter is now clear. I beg tolerance of the Deputy Prime Minister. The matter is now understood.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Lauofo:** Just a brief comment Mr Speaker. The Board of Directors reviewed valuation reports and that was how the lease was calculated. That is the normal policy with leases with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Leader of the Opposition, I give the opportunity to the Minister responsible for the Authority.

I call on the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Mr Speaker, the land at Matagofie next to the wharf is being leased by Tanoa. There has been no work on the land but we are still receiving revenue from it. This is not the only lease there is, there are other parts of the wharf that is being leased by businesses with all due respect.



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**MR SPEAKER:** I believe Leader of the Opposition that the explanations are sufficient. The Finance and Expenditure Committee Chairperson has responded and the Attorney General has noted your recommendation. The Deputy Prime Minister has stated that the lease progressed 8 years ago and valuation reports were made.

The issue of the lease is clear and as for the water front development, you and the honorable member for Faleata West will have leases available. Everyone will have a piece to offer a service for the event we will be hosting in 2015. I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, I am unsure why there is contention on the issue of leases. I only mentioned a recommendation that revenue is needed to help the Authority with its problems and the Deputy Prime Minister is commenting on Government policies. He resigned...the Hon Minister of Finance is no longer a business man but there is conflict of interest because the Deputy Prime Minister is...that is what I am trying to....

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** You have pointed to the Deputy Prime Minister but the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology formerly the Minister responsible for the Samoa Ports Authority.

**Afioga Hon Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Minister of Communications and Information Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker. The matter of the lease has been clarified in regards to its policies and processes. There were advertisements for expressions of interest, negotiations on the lease were made and the amount was agreed to when this piece of land was just grass and soil. Valuations were carried out by the SPA at that time and an agreement was reached on the set amount. This was presented to the Attorney General and it was approved and all this was before the current Deputy Prime Minister took office. Now the issue is being brought up but as was stated, this occurred 7 to 8 years ago and the Deputy Prime Minister's reputation is being questioned but this was before his term with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister followed by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, in the year 1991 a government decision was made to release 1,000 quarter acres at Vaitele Uta, Savaii and in the rural areas to families and the value at that time was \$40,000 but it was sold instead for \$32,000 to make it affordable. The valuation at the present date is \$80,000 to \$100,000 per quarter acre and it has increased since 1991.

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I recall in the year 1967, we made a request to the ADB for a hydro electric plant at Afulilo for \$40,000. This was when ADB was in its infant stages and they stated that hydro electricity was too expensive. The purpose was that the only stipend was 15cents per gallon of diesel and now it has increased. When we request for it now, it will be granted but the cost would have increased to USD\$100million and there is a difference in the costs.

With the issue at hand, the Committee has used the valuations for the present time but these leases were made based on valuations from the past 10 years or so. Comparing that with the current valuations, they have the recommendation that it is too cheap. I was under the impression that you were intelligent enough to know the differences in valuations.

As I have always said, it is better to be silent than to speak and show your ignorance. Now I know that there is a lack of intelligence. You can continue your speech now.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member, I give the opportunity first to....

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I apologize Mr Speaker but the Committee is being accused of being unintelligent but we have copies of these lease agreements.

The terms and conditions state that the lease will be reviewed every 3 years and it cannot increase by 10%. This is not how it should be. We are aware that the costs change with the increase in developments but the leases have become permanent and these were not drafted by the Attorney General with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Ministry has noted the issues and the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister responsible for the Authority because the policies and the drafting of leases are being questioned. I believe that the lease went through the legal checks. Has the lease been registered Hon Minister?

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Then it is settled. There is no need to comment further on the issue if the Ministry and the Minister during that time has confirmed and approved the lease.

I call on the Minister of the Prime Ministers Office. I am sorry I correct that; I call on the Associate Minister.

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**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga (Faasaleleaga No. 4):** If you are uncertain Mr Speaker, I am the second Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, I rise because the Leader of the Opposition has again mentioned this issue that the honorable member for Alataua West mentioned last night. These inaccuracies are misleading to the constituencies and the country. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gagaemauga No. 2 were the ones that were on TV and called for myself and a fellow Associate Minister to step down because of suspicion. The bible says, ‘blessed is he that is persecuted’. I have chosen to resign from the Ministry and while the country is listening in, I remind the member for Alataua West that it is this Ministry where the appropriation for the water supply at Neiafu originated...

**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatualesa (Alataua West):** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** Please be patient until the honorable member has concluded then the opportunity will be given honorable member for Alataua West.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** You should then be mindful of our charity and that of the Hon Minister of Finance and the implementation of the water project at Neiafu but the accusations are ridiculous.

The Leader of the Opposition also commented on that issue and you should be aware that this Ministry I have resigned from is the Ministry that is responsible for the connection of the water and electricity supply. So if the water supply at Neiafu is disconnected next week, do not come crawling to me with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow you the opportunity member for Alataua West and I ask that you do not take the member for Faasaleleaga’s comments to heart. He is responding to the matter of conflict of interest.

**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatualesa:** There is no intention to take up the Leader of the Oppositions time. However there is a point of order that needs to be made. Take note of the incorrect statements made. The water for Neiafu was requested long before the member came into the House. However I request to the Chair that we be granted leave to take this outside and we will see which one of us will return victorious into the House.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member, it is not...let us first see the end to the first debate and then you and the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 can continue yours.

I will give the opportunity to the Chairperson.

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Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang: Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister has stated that our Committee lacks intelligence and I feel that I must respond. With all due respect, the lease is appropriate and it is true that the lease agreement was made 8 years ago and it was based on the valuations at that time. The Committee was concerned with the Samoa Ports Authority reaching its \$4million proposed revenue and alternative avenues to generate this led to the query of the lease by the Authority to assist with its cost recoveries. This led to further consultation to which the Committee was then satisfied after it had received a copy of the lease agreement. It is true that the valuations 8 years ago compared to the present time are different but businesses are developing. This is nature to expect the lease to increase as well however the Authority is bound and cannot make changes because the agreements have been signed.

Our Committee has again raised the issue but we agreed that we would leave the decision as it was because the agreement has already been signed. As for the terms and conditions mentioned by one of the Committee members, the review will be made in another 20 years with all due respect.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I do not wish to comment on the Chairpersons remarks Mr Speaker however I am directing my comments to the members that stated that the lease agreement was incorrect. I remind the member of the clear duties of the three arms of Government. The Government Ministries and Corporations are responsible for seeking ways to generate revenue; this is not the duty of the Parliamentary Committees. The Committees are only tasked at considering reports and presenting recommendations to the Parliament. It seems that in this regard, some members are overstepping their responsibilities. Committees consider reports, hold interviews of witnesses and offer recommendations based on their findings. This is then presented to the House and we deliberate on it and the Ministers note down relevant and appropriate recommendations. As for the lease, you have already heard that there are policy specialists that have already reviewed this especially with the continuously changing times with the progress of the government. That Mr Speaker is an additional response to the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I ask the member for the Individual Voters that is standing whether you were mentioned in the debate?

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him (Individual Voters Roll):** I wish to comment on the Hon Prime Minister's speech Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** You may take the floor.

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**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Point of order Mr Speaker. With all due respect I wish to comment generally because the phrase ‘business owners’ includes many people. There was a statement regarding the business owners resigned.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member. I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiotti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Let me assist on this matter and my decision to reallocate the positions of the members. If you refer to the Parliamentary Under Secretaries Act, the decision is mine and I reallocated the Associate Ministers because there was too much skepticism.

This suspicion would be valid if any of the contracts were awarded to them but they had not been. The decision was made by the Cabinet and they were not involved. It was my decision that the Associate Ministers be reposted because of the skepticism but I can tell you now that there is nothing that involves these members. It seems that the decision has caused more skepticism but there is absolutely nothing that involves the Associate Ministers in regards to contracts.

That is the explanation Mr Speaker. Set aside this issue as I have already signed the loan agreements because no Associate Minister can sign such a document. These remarks are all just mockery and humor.

This is why I constantly advise the Opposition to not be quick to respond to rumors on television but pick up the phone and ask first whether they are true. This will avoid such unfounded comments from being publicized and it indicates to the country that the Leaders are in conflict.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I apologize to one of the members of the Individual Voters, Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him. I believe the Hon Prime Minister’s explanation was clear. Do not be too concerned regarding the mentioning of the business owners, it was a general remark.

I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Vaa o Fonoti.

**Afioga Tialavea Fea Tionisio Seigafolava (Vaa o Fonoti):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also thank the Hon Prime Minister for the explanation on the issue. Last night there was a lengthy interview of one of the members that stated that he recommended the Hon Prime Minister remove us from our positions. These statements are not pleasing to the ear, but after the Hon Prime Minister’s explanation, I am now satisfied.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe...is there another issue member for Alataua?

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**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Perhaps the honorable member misheard the remarks. I was the member that was interviewed and I did not make such a statement. The TV3 media crews are present. We have heard the Hon Prime Minister clearly state that these are all suspicion. My only comments were that perhaps the Associate Members in question were the reason for the bad state of the Budget. It was pure humor and there was no intention to state that you were thieves. Therefore I ask that the members comments be withdrawn because the TV3 media crew are present and during the interview I thanked the implementation of the water supply and I did say that perhaps this change of positions was appropriate but I did not say that I advised the Hon Prime Minister. Ask the media yourself.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the matter is clear honorable member for Alataua West.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** Mr Speaker, I am also satisfied with the Hon Prime Minister's explanation and common sense to protect the reputations of our people and to keep them satisfied.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Leader of the Opposition to resume your speech.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Our side is full of patience and we do not argue in the House. This is why I ask Mr Speaker that that side put aside their arguments until they have their party meetings.

Mr Speaker....

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** You were also here Leader of the Opposition and you should know that the more there is argument the more stable the party. Have you forgotten your argument with one of the members?

**MR SPEAKER:** Attacking another member Hon Prime Minister?

I call on one of the members for Aana Alofi No. 1, Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

**Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** It seems our proceedings are getting off track Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition points to us as well when referring to his side of the House and their patience but we are not involved in this. We are only supporting and we will leave the interpretation to the media. I remind the honorable members of the HRPP that the Hon Prime Minister has spoken on the matter. If there is a member that is more interested in their business, then resign from being a member and develop their business.

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We did not come into the House to build our businesses but to carry out our duties as representatives of our constituencies. The time is being wasted because of your constant interjections with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for the assistance in the matter. Let us have patience. The reason the Leader of the Opposition pointed in your direction is because he is trying to lure you into their party.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I apologize Mr Speaker, I thought these two members were on our side. On a serious note, the Hon Minister should seriously consider the expenditures of the Corporations. Take for example the Salelologa market. Although the Hon Prime Minister advised us not to visit the market we went instead. Many of the stores are vacant and on the top floor there is only one eatery. These developments need to be monitored so that there is assistance to the Government Ministries in regards to the scarcity of funds.

Also Mr Speaker, to this day, the Parliament is unclear on where the funds for the Vaipouli hospital was received...

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. You have mentioned the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Natural Resource and Environment):** I stand Mr Speaker because I am the member for the constituency mentioned and they are listening in. I did not think the honorable member would mention this issue but if he had consulted with me then he would not query this. I know that he has all the documents pertaining to this development but he refuses to understand. The member could have easily asked the member for Gagaemauga No. 2 on the hospital. I will respond anyways to the query. The funds were received from JICA after a request from the constituency's Grass Root Community Project Proposal with the approved amount of \$282,000 for the hospital. Terms of this agreement was that the Health Board would appoint a contract for the work. The contractor stated that he showed you the letter from JICA and that is why I was under the impression that you would not mention this issue. This is just an indication that your soul is corrupted by the development with all due respect.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister is being disrespectful. What do you mean by corrupted? It was a simple question without.....

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**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** I have already explained. Is there an appropriation for the hospital in the Budget? There is no appropriation and so you should not have raised the matter.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I believe this would not have been an issue if the Government decision to close down the Vaipouli College was not approved. The establishment of the College was during a time when there were not enough colleges in Samoa. Now there is no need for the College as there are more than 25 Colleges. Students can now attend the colleges closer to their residences. The government would also save expenses in the operation of the hostel.

However after the shutdown of the College, the land was still there and the buildings were in good condition. This gave rise to the initiative that the hospital be relocated to this government land.

There is also an intention to have a privatized funeral parlor, an office for the Ministry of Agriculture as well as a Fire Service office to utilize these buildings. The constituency is fundraising for the use of these buildings.\*

That is the assistance on that matter. The Cabinet thoroughly reviewed the proposal.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister. I believe Leader of the Opposition that the matter is clear from the responses from the government and the member for the constituency. Bear in mind that this is similar to what the village of Safotu and Itu o Tane did. They did not wait for the government and they fundraised themselves. This is a trait of constituencies that are sympathetic of the government and they initiate their developments and wait if the government will offer further assistance. Please move away from the matter.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** A calm response and clear explanation is what is needed not a response that flits and flops like a fish in shallow water. Whether it is funds from JICA or not, it is money...

**Tofa Hon Faamoetauloa Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** Mr Speaker, now the Leader of the Opposition is being disrespectful. You are the fish in the shallows, that is a fact. We are bigger fish in the deeper ocean.

**MR SPEAKER:** I ask the lay preacher to make your comments Christ-like.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will not take note of those remarks. I understand now. I only mentioned it because during our visit, this hospital is in close proximity with the Safotu hospital but the decision has been made.



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These are only recommendations to the Hon Minister. The country has commented on your Offices and the Hon Prime Minister has explained but a lot has been expended on it. These are only recommendations for the future. Your office at Matagalalua is available and we are of the opinion that your offices are too expensive. This is why I commented on charity and love. Charity is kind and it is our charity that the country judges us by.

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

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faolatane Liuga:** I first want to thank the Leader of the Opposition. The rental spaces per square foot are as follows; at Matagalalua \$32, Central Bank \$23 - \$29, Development Bank \$33 from the second floor to the fifth floor, the ground floor and the sixth floor \$35, ACC building occupied by MCIL is \$22 and others are \$24. The Building housing the American Embassy is \$30, where my office is located in the PLAZA is \$28 and above that is \$32, \$31, \$28. As for the offices at the TATTE building, the CEO's have bigger offices than the office of the Minister of Finance. We are slowly developing and who knows if one of the members for Salega; Afioga Afualo Wood Uti Salele will be in my position in the future then he will witness these developments.

Also, when the people of our country visit our offices, they stand in the corridors and sit on the floors but we do not want that. They also deserve to have comfort when they visit. Ask any officer that served in East Timor, my office there is nothing compared to the office I have now. Who knows if you will occupy this position and then you will know that the office is the country's not yours, with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** This is why consultation is important. A further recommendation is that there be set benchmarks regarding these offices so that funds are saved. I only make known that it was not this side that raised the issue. It was your side that ceased to have faith in you. That is why we raised the issue.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** First of all Mr Speaker, every government office is paid for. That is what people are unaware of. No matter where it is located whether in the NPF building or in the Government building it is all leased and it is under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment that is responsible for all leases. I mention this because of the articles being printed saying that the land is being used for free but the government is not exempt from leases. They also pay.

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Second, the initial purpose of the establishment of the Government building was to house all the Ministers offices. However it is the norm for Ministers to have offices where their Ministry or Corporations offices are located. This was to have the Minister accessible to the CEO or staff. When the building was completed in, I think it was 1992, the Prime Minister of the day proposed that all the Ministers would have offices in the building to make it easier for Cabinet caucus meetings as well as when the people visited, all the Ministers could be found in one building. This was for all the Ministers except for me as I had an office in the Central Bank building and I was told that it was appropriate that I remain in that office. It was for communication reasons that the Ministers were then placed in their respective Ministries offices and this occurred with all the changes. Another mishap for being located in one building, if there was an earthquake or fire in that building then the whole Cabinet would die and then there would be no government. It was after much consultation that I came upon this decision especially in regards to disasters. For delegates and members during travelling, they never travel together in one plane; they travel separately. The President of the United Nations died this way and there was a case in Korea where 7 Ministers died together with their Prime Minister when travelling together. These are factors that were considered and with the improvements in the different government owned buildings, Ministers are then relocated. The spaces at the Government building are too small.

That Mr Speaker is the explanation. No matter where the office is located, a lease is paid. Whether the Minister is present or not, it can be used by the staff of the Ministry. Renovations are made and the office is still being used, if not by the Minister but the staff.

I have given the clarification on that issue Mr Speaker and perhaps the problem was that the Minister did not have the figures to reply to the matter when he was questioned at the time. This is why he could not offer a detailed explanation at the time because I notice that there is more than one office. I think there are 7 offices and they all have their rental fees.

The problem is that the media bring up matters that result in incomplete responses.

That is the complete response Mr Speaker with the intention that there will no longer be any more suspicion. It is appropriate that when a Ministry is located in one building then it is only relevant that the Minister also relocate to that building to make communication easier.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Just a brief question on the Hon Prime Ministers comments Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** You will be granted the floor. Please make it brief and then the opportunity will be given to the member for Alataua West.

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**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** I will make it brief. I am grateful for the justification of the \$600,000 because it is almost more expensive than to build a chapel. That means it is \$100,000 per office. As for the new building, keep in mind that we are poor...

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I would like to ask the member what new building he is referring to. Is it in the Budget?

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** I am still trying to understand the justification that was made. Be mindful that we are poor and each Minister has an office, even the executive assistance has an office. Is it \$100,000 per office? And the Minister does not have to go there. Even our building here, the Associate Ministers have no work to do with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** That is the tenth campaign comment that you have mentioned since you stood.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the matter is clear for the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** We will leave it at that then.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the honorable member for Alataua West.

**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiataualesa:** Mr Speaker, I have noticed from the Leader of the Oppositions comments that he is referring to the Hon Prime Minister but he is pointing at me. Do not piggy back on this parties matters, it is none of your business. If there is contention, it is for the betterment of this party. I notice with displeasure that he mentions the member for Siumu and yet he looks at me. Do not use the parties issues to make your comments but refer to the Hon Minister of Finance. This is the norm with the party and we are advised by the Hon Prime Minister but you have no business in our matters. I have heard you comment twice on this matter.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, I cam assisting the matter and you should be grateful.

**MR SPEAKER:** That is what is called initiation of the problem.

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**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa:** Point your finger at your side of the House but not at me because you have absolutely no business in our party affairs. The contention makes this party stronger.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** That would be best...I call on the member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota (Siumu):** Mr Speaker, the honorable member for Alataua West has stated that the Leader of the Opposition is pointing at me. I do not understand what is happening...however, may I be given the opportunity to explain the origin of the finger pointing to make the Leader of the Opposition clear.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable member for Siumu, we are straying from the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

I believe there is clarity on that matter. Let me give you an example. The Opposition was the first to state that the old Parliament House should be torn down. When the destruction work was to begin, they then stated that it should be preserved. This is the same with this matter. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to please make useful recommendations to the Government. The Hon Prime Minister has already explained the matter.

The honorable member for Alataua West was only displeased at your finger pointing. You are not challenging the member for Siumu, your opponent is the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. That is the clarification in case you want to be an opponent to the member for Siumu and forget about the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** A point that needs to be clarified Mr Speaker whether the member meant pointing or writing in reference to the Samoan term? Is it *tusi* as in pointing or *tusi* as in writing with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will not give the opportunity for a response. I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker, I will heed your recommendation and I will not respond to the coaxing of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker, we do not understand the issue. Does this mean that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader are certificate holders in the Samoan sense of the word?

**MR SPEAKER:** This issue will not be debated.

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**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker I will move away from the issue...

**MR SPEAKER:** Please do so.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will now comment on the suffering of the country.

Hon Minister, the charges at the hospital will increase, the petrol prices will increase, the electricity unit charges will increase and the cost of living will increase. This is why I initially stated that this Budget is uncharitable and unloving.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Thank you Leader of the Opposition for the comments. The Governments plans are clear. There is no intention to raise any taxes which will affect the whole country. The charges for these fees will increase and will no longer be subsidized. You should know Leader of the Opposition that other East European and Communists countries have 50%-60% taxes per person because the State subsidizes these services that you have just mentioned. You have mentioned that we should look at avenues to generate revenue and this is one way. Members from both sides of the House have stated that the standard of efficiency should improve and it cannot improve if there are no fees for the services. These services are also not used by everyone. The people are given a choice. You have also made speeches to consider the private sector and we are trying to realign the doctors salaries with private practitioners so that there is a choice and that is our support to the private sector. If the Government continues to subsidize this service then the private practitioners will have no clients.

This means that a patient will have a choice to take a taxi to and from the hospital and it will be the same cost to see a private doctor. For instance the member for Vaisigano No. 2 charges \$20 or \$25 for his services and if you add taxi fare and the new charge at the hospital, it amounts to about the same with all due respect.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoui:** There is only one point missing from the Hon Minister's comments. The mobile private practitioners are paid \$200 per hour to carry out checks to the district hospitals and if they take 10 hours then that would be \$2000 a day. The member for Vaisigano No. 2 can make that much if he does his work with integrity. Another issue is even though they only worked for 4 hours, they bill 10 hours which is pure dishonesty

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**MR SPEAKER:** For our records, I would like to make known the name of the member for Vaisigano No. 2. It is the Afioga Motuopuaa Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I was unaware of the chiefly title Mr Speaker as it sounds like a name from Tonga.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, I apologize! It is probably because we are close friends that I forgot to address the member for Vaisigano No. 2 by his title; Motuopuaa. I apologize also to my dear friend...

**Tofa Motuopuaa Uifagasa Aisoli Vaai (Vaisigano No. 2):** The member for Siumu, one of the members for Aana Alofi No. 1 and I were sitting patiently and coaxing the other to respond. Now these two have persuaded me to respond to the comments made by the Hon Prime Minister regarding the assumed \$2000 that I make daily. If you visit my clinic, it is full of patients from my constituency and they are checked for free and in addition they ask for fare back to Savaii.

That is my response with all due respect. It would be a delight if it were true that I made \$2000 daily then I would not return to Parliament and the headaches.

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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, before the increase, the people chose to sit at the hospital no matter how long because it was cheaper. Now it is unaffordable. This is what I am trying to point out because it will affect the staff.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** I am acquainted with many doctors and I often ask to see their client register. Many of the well-off families use the services at the General Hospital and those that use the private doctors are usually those from the rural areas. The members who are doctors can attest to this. The patients that travel on a bus from the rural areas go straight to a private doctor when the business owners use the general hospital.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** Mr Speaker, I only remind the Leader of the Opposition that the unemployed have more money than those that are employed.

Take for example the support groups from villages during court cases outside the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration. They are rewarded \$100 or \$200 daily, fine mats and boxes of herring or corned beef.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the response of the government is satisfactory. The Hon Minister of Finance has stood 3 times and the Hon Minister of Health has stood 4 times and if the Hon Minister of Health were to stand again, then we are looking at another 6 hours.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition to comment on other matters.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** That is exactly why I will not comment on the health sector.

**MR SPEAKER:** You are commenting on the increases.....

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** It is the increase for the health services that are in here.....

**MR SPEAKER:** This is why I stated that you comment on other matters.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, it may be humorous but the country is listening on the issue involving the unemployed. The patients that are usually ill are those that do not have a balanced diet because they cannot afford food and a better option would be to await the call of our Heavenly Father.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, no one ever becomes ill from having no money. At least 90% of the patients are ill because of mental reasons. Physical illnesses are a result of mental stress and I see that the Leader of the Opposition is also close to becoming ill as well as the Deputy Leader.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, I did not mention the Hon Minister of Health in any of my comments.

**MR SPEAKER:** As we come to the conclusion of your speech I was hoping that we would not need to refer to the Hon Minister of Health.

I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister of Health; with all due respect, your responses are very comprehensive and detailed. I ask that you be mindful of our work. The floor will be given with the hope that you will keep your explanation to the Leader of the Oppositions comments short.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Before the Hon Minister of Health takes the floor I ask that you please keep it short within half an hour or so.

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

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**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** Mr Speaker, I would like to comment on the issue of obesity to clarify the comments that the cost of living is high and the people are starving. To clarify, there are more than 50% people in Samoa that are obese. There is a contradiction in this because I know that you cannot starve and be obese. The reason that people become obese is because they over eat.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I understand the response completely Mr Speaker and if he continues I will become confused with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister has noted your clarity. Please continue.

**Afioga Hon Tuitama Talalelei Tuitama:** I will give the opportunity to the member to continue and I will respond at a later time.

**MR SPEAKER:** See how respectful the Hon Minister is. Comment on another Ministry.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** For small businesses the Appropriation is \$450,000. If there are 100 small businesses they would only be allocated \$450 and if there are 1000 they would only get \$45 each. This contradicts your statement that the private sector is the economic backbone because if we refer to the \$7million that is being allocated for the advisory boards. As an illustration I mention a visit that we had to the Salelologa market. When we visited, the village mayors were sleeping at the market for the safety of the produce. They were asked why it is they were looking after the produce because that is the Boards task. The village mayors already have many other tasks and responsibilities. This is why I believe that these are wasted funds to finance advisory boards when it could be used to develop small businesses which not only pays taxes but provides employment opportunities.

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

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** To assist on the Leader of the Oppositions comments Mr Speaker. The honorable member is referring to the Appropriation for SBEC and private businesses programs. As I mentioned previously, the financial assistance has increased from \$400,000 to \$450,000. SBEC has reported that the majority of the small businesses are in the agricultural sector. There are approximately 300 farmers registered in this program which enables the farmer to loan the amount of \$10,000 to be guaranteed 100% by SBEC. This will help the farmer develop their small businesses and sell their produce for income and profit.



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

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, all I can say at this point is that the country will be the judge of that. The cost of living is very expensive and the question is what is there for the citizens?

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. The floor will be given to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neiote Sailele Malielegaioi:** Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten the numerous programs implemented like the \$6million that is being appropriated to the schools and other assistance to the district hospitals. It seems the Opposition and their Leader wants everything to be gifted even if there is nothing to give. This is not how a Government is operated. Even in the case of the small businesses that you mentioned. They need to pay registrations in organizations to enable them to receive assistance and those registrations go to paying the employees of the organizations such as the Development Bank. With the pensions, there are families that rely solely on pensions which were specifically for the senior citizens.

Mr Speaker, referring to the honorable members question on what is there for the citizens, has he forgotten the many programs? I cannot believe that he has because he used to be in the Cabinet for more than 5 years.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member to continue.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.

**Tofa Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I only wanted to clarify the Leader of the Oppositions comments on SBEC. This is why you should consult first with the Ministers that understand the Government policies.

*The Appropriation is the Governments assistance to the small businesses.* One very important work of SBEC is to guarantee loans for small business entrepreneurs at financial institutions such as the Development Bank or the Samoa Commercial Bank, not to give them money. If the business fails, SBEC will be responsible to repay this loan. One of the Corporations policies is to buy fine mats from Women Committees they are affiliated with. The women will in turn repay the loan and the Corporation keeps the fine mats.

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This is what the Leader of the Opposition is unaware of. It is not only the budget but government policies should also be considered such as that to strengthen partnerships with small businesses.

The status quo is very important with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development. I give the floor to the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo:** A minor point to add. The Hon Minister has commented. The appropriation for SBEC is \$450,000. In addition to this appropriation is the grant by way of our partnerships from New Zealand of \$600,000. This would equate to more than a million appropriated to SBEC. The fact of the matter is that loans can be guaranteed 100% by SBEC for any amount up to \$10,000.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the issue is understood.....

**Afioga Hon PALUSLAUE FAAPO II:** Now I understand but I was absolutely confused with the Hon Minister of Women, Community Developments explanation. My point was steering towards the \$7million appropriated for Advisory Boards which could be used for the Hon Minister.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele:** The Appropriation for the Advisory Boards is nowhere near enough for the learned members in these committees to advise the government. You have seen the program ‘Toe Sasaa le Fafao’ and these programs are run by members of some of these Boards which are tasked at revising our Tusi Faalupega (Book of Honorific Salutations). Parliamentary Committees and Legal Committees are all Advisory Boards. The Advisory Board that advises the EPC is one such committee which you have pointed out that money is being wasted on. How can money be wasted when this is the countrys money being used on specialists in these areas? Our country is operated on committees. The Cabinet is a committee, there is the Finance and Expenditure Committee, and there are committees of elders in the villages. Do you know that these are the leaders of Samoa in these committees which offer good advice that you are opposing? A good country is run by chiefs. Know that we need the advice of our high chiefs so that we may be educated likewise. God bless the rest of your speech.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition there is an interjection from the honorable member for Siumu. I give the floor to the honorable member.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I only remind the Hon Prime Minister that when the Leader of the Opposition and the honorable member for Falealupo were part of the Government, they had membership in the most numbers of Advisory Boards.

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

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele:** I only rise Mr Speaker to endorse the member for Siumu's comments.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** Mr Speaker, my comments originate from my concern for State funds. As a result I ceased the meeting of our committees and advised that we instead go back to growing our plantations. Now they have more money because the taro and bananas are in demand from Safata. My main concern is that the Boards are not doing any work and yet they get paid fortnightly.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition; the floor is open to the Hon Minister of Finance.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** When the Leader of the Opposition seceded from this Party, he requested that I not expel his committee. I responded that I would leave them for the moment, but if the Party decides that they be expelled then so be it.

**MR SPEAKER:** See the charity. The Hon Minister of Finance has agreed to continue the employment of the members of the Strong Family from Safata.

I call on one of the members for Aana Alofi No. 1; Afioga Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi.

**Afioga Hon Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is married to a woman from our family and he commonly states that this is one reason he appreciates the HRPP which is because all his committees have been removed.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele:** With all due respect Mr Speaker. In case there is misinterpretation of the removal of the committees. After the Leader of the Opposition seceded the members became incompetent.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

Not attending meetings and being non-compliant to the instructions by the Chairperson and these are all grounds for dismissal. That is the fact of the matter Mr Speaker. Sometimes excuses are made that they are ill and we know that after illness is death. No matter how much we try to change, they end up dying because of the workload.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Leader of the Opposition. Let the government respond first. I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Afioga Hon Manualesagalala Enokati Posala:** The elders of our constituency are being mentioned and I have consulted with them and they are also unhappy at their removal when they had contributed immensely as an advisory committee. Everything was run smoothly but the member seceded on minor issues.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I did not leave, I sacked the HRPP because I no longer believed in it. No one has the authority to dismiss me, only I have that power. That is a point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** Sack and dismiss are synonymous. I call on the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I have been in Parliament 8 years Mr Speaker and I have never been a part of any committees. Does this mean that these are HRPP committees and we are not allowed to become members with all due respect?

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Finance for a response.

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon Faumuina Tiatia Faaolatane Liuga:** Mr Speaker, when the Cabinet endorsed the vehicle and driver for the Leader of the Opposition, I consulted with the member that a driver should be employed from my constituency. However, the Leader of the Opposition wanted a person recruited from his constituency and that is case. We cannot have unfamiliar members of committees under our supervision because they will be non-compliant.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** I will proceed to conclude my speech Mr Speaker. I will not comment because who will believe any statement you make because you are untrustworthy. My final comment to you Hon Minister, God speed.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

To my constituency listening in, I am grateful for your support. Our requests for access roads have been granted and my only request to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment, do not despise me for my constant requests but please take heed of our incomplete seawall. The ocean flows into the village rendering the seawall obsolete.

I also convey my gratitude to my fellow representative of our constituency for the work done for our electorate. Our constituency's developments should be completed but there should not be any bias. For any word that has offended.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment for the interjection.

**Tofa Hon Faamoetaulua Ulaitino Faale Tumaalii:** As I was mentioned. I do not despise the honorable member but the work is progressing and the seawall is being added upon.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please complete the Leader of the Oppositions seawall and do not leave it incomplete.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon PALUSALUE FAAPO II:** With that Mr Speaker I will conclude my remarks. If I have caused any offence I ask for your forgiveness. The comments are the normal parliamentary debates in which we put forward our views.

To the country listening in, I beseech your leniency in regards to any word that may have offended in any way.

God bless you Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet and may this side and all the members prosper.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the Leader of the Oppositions comments concludes our speeches before the opportunity is given to the honorable Chairperson to respond.

I therefore congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for the remarks made. There is no need to praise your wisdom and knowledge for you are a member of the Strong Family from Safata and there is no other in Samoa. The advice and recommendations made to the Government is appreciated and we hope that it will provide a vision for the future.

I believe that we have now come to the end of our first session. We will proceed to have our normal recess and we will return to continue with our work at 3oclock and then we will proceed again at 7oclock till 11oclock tonight.

The staff has provided a meal to give us strength that we may achieve the aim of this day when we return.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

*The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 1.00pm till 3.00pm*

*The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 3.00pm.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2012/2013 AND APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014 – second reading debate**

*Debate resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I convey my gratitude to all the members that have gathered here at this hour to continue with our orders of the day. Thank you for your patience and participation during the first session in the morning.

Before we adjourned the last speech was made and I now give the floor to the honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and then the floor will be open for debate.

**Susuga Hon PAPALIITELE NIKO LEE HANG:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe we have all had a deserving rest during the break and I acknowledge all the members for your patience today.

I foremost humbly greet the dignity of the House present; Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, Associate Ministers and all the Members of Parliament. I acknowledge also the patience and support of the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations.

Note must also be made of the presence of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Office.

I greet now the dignity of Samoa for your support of this Parliament and its work. Appreciation is also offered to the leaders of the various denominations within our country continuously praying for the success of our Samoa and its future.

To my dear constituency of Individual Voters, I greet you all.

Mr Speaker, I would like to record my thanks to the Hon Minister of Finance, the CEO and the Ministry for the preparation of the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 before the House. It was not an easy task and congratulations are in order. Lest I forget, I also make known the support of the CEO's of the various government Ministries and Corporations during our investigations into the Bill.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

I noted Mr Speaker that there were 38 members that spoke on the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 and none of them mentioned the Committee Report and this is an indication that the Committee prepared the report fully.

If I may Mr Speaker, I congratulate and thank all the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on behalf of all the Members of Parliament for their toiling day and night to achieve the objective of completing this report. As I said, this report is 100% complete and the Parliament has indicated their approval.

Before I carry on further I would like to address the comments made by the Hon Prime Minister. It was mentioned that our Committee does not seek funds or make changes and that is a fact. Our members are also aware of this and that we are only tasked at investigating and offering recommendations. The Hon Prime Minister is correct in saying that we do not make any decisions and that this is the responsibility of the CEO's and the Management who are also tasked at finding ways to seek avenues for generating revenue and decreasing Governments expenditure.

The aim of our Committee during its investigations was to offer recommendations to the Government on ways in which they could save and at the same time generate income. Referring to our ordinary revenue it amounts to \$538.2million and in comparison our current expenditure is \$549.7million. The difference suggests that \$11million is needed. I point this out Mr Speaker to justify the recommendations I will put forward.

I believe there are 2 solutions to bridge this gap; first, efficient and careful spending and second, investigating how to recover expected revenue. The Committee found during its investigations that many Ministry's overspend their budget especially on electricity and telephone bills, petrol and fixing vehicles crashed from carelessness. These are some areas in which Ministries and Corporations can monitor to ensure that funds are saved and there is less expenditure as we can see that our revenue is not enough.

Mr Speaker, there have also been many complaints from the public regarding the use of government vehicles after hours which results in the overspending in fuel costs. The Auditor General's report is evidence of this. The Committee recommends that this be looked into. Also, it is witnessed that there are vehicles being used by Ministers that do not bear a government license plate.

The Committee's concern is based on transparency in the use of government assets. There are Ministers that use vehicles bearing government license plates but some do not. Our humble request Hon Prime Minister is that this matter be considered to reduce unnecessary expenditure and abuse of government assets.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

On the matter of revenue, dividends are received from Public Trading Bodies who are required to pay 50% of their profits to government. There are 16 in total and this tax is their contribution to the Budget. In the current budget, 2012/2013, it is noted that only 3 Public Bodies have paid taxes therefore the question is what about the remaining 13? I believe that if all the Public Trading Bodies perform accordingly, millions can be accrued for the budget. The total revenue from the 3 bodies amount to \$1.1million and if all the Public Trading Bodies submit their taxes, this would be a great assistance to the Budget.

Mr Speaker, it is also recorded that there are many Ministries and Corporations that have debts into the millions. For instance the Printing Press, the Electric Power Corporation, Samoa Water Authority and the Customs Office. The Government needs to seriously look into these debts. There is a recommendation that the Government reconsider the operation of the Printing Press as much has been spent on it.

That is the assistance Mr Speaker on the matter of revenue. If the collection of these debts is reinforced, it would assist with revenue.

Mr Speaker, I wish to remind Management of the various Government Ministries and Corporations of their obligation under the Standing Orders in regards to appearing before Parliamentary Committees. Parliamentary Committees often request the assistance of CEO's and employees to comment on issues being investigated with the intention that the Committee Reports tabled are complete and accurate. Despite this obligation, there are CEO's and other witnesses that do not appear before the Committees and as a result the Reports are incomplete. There are provisions that we can enforce that involve the Police but our Committee prioritizes our culture of the relationship between one another. Our humble request Hon Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers if you would remind your CEO's of their obligations under the Standing Orders.

Also Mr Speaker, the Committee sought Annual Reports of the various government entities in the investigated period. It was noted that the tabling of these annual reports are not current and the government needs to look into this matter. These updated annual reports are crucial in monitoring the services of these government bodies especially the Corporations. Each year the Committee puts forward a request that all the Ministries adhere to the issue involving annual reports and to this day, there is still carelessness in this regard. The intention of this request is that the Committee may look at ways to recommend the Government on how to increase our revenue and decrease spending as the annual budget is not enough.

I now would like to put forward the request of my constituency. Although the future of a member is uncertain, it is a members duty to submit the request of the electors.



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

To the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, this is the third year of this Parliamentary Term and so it is the third year since I have requested the tarring of the Leopardine Rd at Aleisa and the road leading to the Aeale primary school. During bad weather, students are unable to travel this road because of the water runoff and mud. I also remind the Hon Minister of the road at Vaitoloa which is also easily affected by bad weather. I am grateful to hear that the reservoir at Aleisa will be built. I hope that it will be done in time to allow for the residence in the area to receive water supply. Neiafu and Falelupo in Savaii have water supply now, but Aleisa is closer to the water sources and they also need clean drinking water. That Mr Speaker are the requests put forward to the honorable Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure.

In conclusion, may the Lord continue to bless you Mr Speaker. May the wisdom and knowledge continue to be upon you in carrying out your duty as Chair of the House. Although the Opposition continues to test your patience you hold steadfast in your responsibilities.

I would like to thank the Hon Prime Minister, although there are many complaints against the government, I believe that actions speak louder than words. Various infrastructure and developments are witness to this and that is more important.

To the Leader of the Opposition, your patience during our sittings while there was conflict is noted. I extend also my gratitude to the honorable Members of the Parliament and with that I conclude my remarks Mr Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable Chairman for your clear clarification I also convey my gratitude to the members of the committee. I believe your work was done efficiently during the three weeks given and now your recommendations have been put before the House. The honorable Members have heard intensely of your findings and I believe that they have all clearly understood.

I now give the opportunity to the Hon Prime Minister for his remarks and to state from which Cabinet Minister we will hear from first to begin the response of the government.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker I arise to acknowledge with all due respect the Members that commented on the Appropriations. I believe all the views have been put forward in their entirety.

I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for their contribution. The Cabinet continues interjections to raise points of order and clarification is an indication of the importance of the views shared in the House.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

If your side had not raised issues we would not need to respond but when we interrupt it shows that we prioritize your contribution.

I thank the honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure committee. Your appointment as Chairperson was not by accident. You were put there as chair because of your knowledge and expertise in the field. While you were the Minister of Finance, these are the same issues you raised and it is important to be reminded of them. The honorable Minister and CEO's of the ministries have heard your recommendation and the concern on debts cannot be taken lightly and sometimes they are overlooked by the accountants. Now we have heard the Electric Power Corporation cannot carry out its services when there are ministries owing fees and charges. It is not advisable and I have constantly raised and continue to raise this issue. I am grateful that the Committee Report notes the carelessness of ministries. This is not a new issue. At the end of each financial where funds become scarce, then ministries delay the payment of electric bills. It would not be such a concern within the government ministries however, when it affects the private sector and those operating outside of the government that rely on the services then it is not good. This is why it is important to be constantly reminded.

CEO's and senior management staff should not disregard this matter because as a result, the Auditor General's Office will report these mishaps to Parliament. It is also the Minister's responsibilities to thoroughly monitor this matter as well as the completion of the updated reports tabled in the House. It is a fact that there is a delay in the presentation of reports to Cabinet, but I have noted that there is improvement in the tabling within Parliament. There is no other law above that of Parliament and the Government must present its progress to the House.

Mr Speaker as is the norm the government will begin its response from the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons who is eager to reply to the issues that were raised. We will progress from there and I will conclude the response of the government. Before I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister there are two things I would like address.

First; the cost of living. This is an universal issue and there is no leader in the world that can control the cost of living; no government is able to do this. Why? Because the cost of living always increases. When revenue increases, so does everything else. In the year 1952, I used to sell taro at the market. The cost of taro at the time was 40sene and a string of fish was 20sene. Now the prices for these goods have increased. Any person that continues to raise this issue of the cost of living, I have just explained the reason why you cannot control it. Only countries that refuse to develop have a reduced cost of living. No one or no producer in this day in age can sell taro at 40sene. If you bargain for such a price the end result will be a taro thrown at your head.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

The solution to this matter is to rapidly develop the economy. This is what the government is steering towards which is to implement infrastructure such as roads to enable people to work inland on their land...

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of order Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Prime Minister I give the opportunity to the leader of Opposition for his point of order.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I do not know what there is to correct.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please keep it short as the government's response has progressed.

Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II: Point of order on the comment that no government can increase cost of living. If you refer to this budget Mr Speaker the cost of living has increased with reference to the cost of petrol, electricity and water. And who is responsible for these increases? It is the government. And that is the point of order.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the Hon Prime Minister

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Mr Speaker it has been 6 years since the last increase although the global market has increased. I assume the leader of the Opposition would have understood that while he was in our party. Please be seated! This is one reason why there have been complaints against the government and its employees. There are goods and services that have not increased in six to ten years.

Many of the cost of these goods and services have had a delay in its increase to its true cost even with the cost of telephones.

Another effort of the government was the use....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Prime Minister is moving away from the issue.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I will give you the opportunity leader of the Opposition after the Hon Prime Minister has completed his full response to avoid confusion.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** Competition is one solution in decreasing costs.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

There were four oil companies in Samoa in the past. In the year 1984 a decision was made to have the supplier of fuel chosen through competition. There were queries as to how this would be done. Competitive prices between the companies were a key factor and the company with the lowest price would supply fuel for Samoa for the period of five years.

The MOBIL Company was supposed to win the tender. This was because they shipped fuel from overseas and pumped them through their pipes located fifty feet under the buoys. I would dive monthly to check these pipes used to transport the fuel to shore. At the time of the tender, all the other 3 companies knew the British Petroleums fuel costs and as a result Mobil lost the tender to the other companies. Now we only have this one company supplying fuel to Samoa. I met with the General Manager of the company that won the tender and I asked why their prices were ridiculously low. The reply was that it did not matter to them how much profit they made. What was important to them was the country, even though they knew that they were not making any profit from their prices. I inquired further as to how they would recover these costs. The reply was not to worry as they supplied Papua New Guinea and the costs can be recovered there. The shareholders think they are getting profit from Samoa but they are not.

In 1984, no tender was advertised and the companies returned. In 1997, the tender was re-advertised and we have continued this way till now. I recall the time when I brought this issue into Parliament and there was also argument on this matter. Overseas organizations came to Samoa to study the reason behind these low fuel costs because Samoa had the lowest fuel cost in the whole Pacific. Although it is increased slightly, it is still cheap.

As I said Mr Speaker, competition is one strategy. This is why the Government encourages various developments such as raising cattle, poultry...why should they buy these products when they can raise them? The same goes for taro and it is your choice if you prefer the imported rice to taro. There are Samoan crops and produce that we can use without any costs. This is one way that the Government is trying to encourage to assist with the increase in the cost of living but it cannot be controlled or stopped. If the costs of rice from the Australian and Chinese markets increase then it will increase for us as well. There was a time that the cost for one sack of rice was \$100 and when the supply increased, the price decreased. This is why I suggest that this issue not be mentioned because we cannot stop the cost of living but there are strategies that we can put in place to assist with the costs.

On the matter of the market Mr Speaker that was mentioned and the people selling in the sun.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Is this not my opportunity Mr Speaker now that the Hon Prime Minister has paused?

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition. For four days the opportunity was given for your remarks. The Government responses have just progressed and if we allow these interjections then our orders of the day will slack. When the Hon Prime Minister completes his comments and then the floor will be given to you to voice your concerns.

I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** The contractor for the market will be decided upon this month. As all are aware the cost of the development has been reconsidered by the Cabinet to ensure that the market is built according to guidelines that will ensure its 300% pleasing result. As for the matter concerning the farmers selling in the sun; five weeks ago I instructed the Manager to erect tarpaulin houses and for 4 days the tarp houses were standing there unused. Why? Because our people are not fools. They know that the best way to get a buyer is to sell near the roadside where their goods are visible and accessible. A buyer just has to stop on the side and pay for the taro but if the farmers were to sit and sell in the shade away from the customers, they would not get any customers. This is all propaganda from the media because they have nothing else to write about. We all know human nature. Rain or shine, they will still sell in these spots because it is more important to sell their goods. What can you get from lazing under the shade and not selling anything for a whole week?

I am appalled that these stories can be printed Mr Speaker when we see the reality there cannot be any misinterpretation because we are faced with it. I will now give the opportunity to the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons to begin the response of the Government and then I will conclude our comments. Before I sit I wish to congratulate and thank all the members that commented on the bills. I have noted and recorded all your comments and issues. God Bless our meeting.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Prime Minister for that clear and understandable speech. The floor is now available for the Leader of the Opposition. First be mindful that the opportunity can only be given at a certain time so as to allow for the clear response by the Government. Please keep your remarks brief.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I will rest my case Mr Speaker because of the deep respect that I have for you. However, the remarks by the Hon Prime Minister will not be forgotten regarding the comments made last night by the Deputy Leader.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** If that is your choice then so be it but the intention is to ensure that our orders of the day progress smoothly so that there is no confusion. The floor has been given and you have opted to make no comment and that is how it will be.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I have recorded the comments made by the Hon Prime Minister stating that the Government will not increase the cost of living and the same comments were made last night. How can this be when the cost of living has in fact increased?

**MR SPEAKER:** I will not clarify the matter you have raised. I will give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** I believe that everyone heard the comments which were that no one can decrease the cost of living. The Government can only strategize and put in place policies to control the rapid increase of the costs. Those are my comments and the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition are his own.

**MR SPEAKER:** I do not wish to play this game that you two are involved in. The Chair has heard the explanation clearly and I again advise the Leader of the Opposition that our orders of the day must progress without incident.

The Hon Prime Minister's comments are understood and I now call upon the Hon Minister of Police and Prisons to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI (Minister of Police and Prisons):** Thank you Mr Speaker. We are becoming weary and in the interest of time I begin by greeting the Cabinet Ministers and the Hon Prime Minister as well as the Associate Ministers. I also acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition and that side of the House as well as the CEO's of the various Government Ministries and Corporations. I will not address the dignity of Samoa as it is unchangeable and complex in nature.

As I stated previously, in the interest of time I will not proceed to address the issues that were raised as we have spent much time deliberating. There was a time I asked a friend what time it was and he replied 'time; sometimes slow, sometimes hurry up' and that is how it is now. Our deliberations have slowed time and the sooner we start our responses then time will pass quickly. I thank all the honorable members that commented. You are all chosen members and esteemed dignitaries of our chosen nation.

There are 5 members that directed their comments to the Ministry of Police and Prisons and Fire Emergency Services. I strongly believe that the Officers be reminded of their duty to the country and that this duty is carried out as per our oath. I do not believe that the country must serve us as it is better to serve unselfishly.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

When we are chosen to carry out this duty it must be done to the fullest. Therefore I must humbly beseech the House and the country if there has been any fault within the service there are legislations that must be upheld whether it be an Officer or not, the law must be obeyed. Laws are made to protect the rights of our citizens.

The honorable member for Aiga i le Tai requested vehicles to service the Faleolo area. We cannot answer to these requests if there are insufficient funds but we have been blessed with assistance from Australia. We have received 9 vehicles and 3 lorries; one heavy duty lorry for Tafaigata costing \$165,000 and the other 2 for Vaiaata and Olomanu costing \$80,000. If I were a money man, I would ensure that every officer has a vehicle but the problem is some Officers often abuse these vehicles. If anyone driving a Government vehicle especially those belonging to the Ministry of Police is listening in, please be cautious, those are the country's assets.

One member from this side of the House stated that the Government should be sympathetic of the citizens. The simple response is that it is not the Government that is at fault but the reason for the increase in expenditure is the dishonesty of the public servants. There is a saying that if you are well mannered from your homes, the same manner will transfer to your workplace. A farmer for instance can sell 5 sacks of taro for \$150 each and collect \$750 in one day from these 5 sacks. A casual laborer is lucky to even get \$100 in a week. An academic once said that there is no such thing as an expensive cost of living. I asked why and he stated that how it can be expensive when there is cocoa, taro and bananas, poultry, piggeries that can be used for consumption.

I have experienced the difficulty of having a plantation during the times my father ran against Tupuola Efi in the elections and I was toiling in the plantations. When there was excess taro then it would be packed into a container and shipped to New Zealand. Although we had a family of many, there was always plenty. I recall the words of a Sili preacher to me; 'Risati, when you grow up and have a lot of money, use it to educate your children. Your crops can be stolen and your sweat would be for nought, but no one can steal knowledge'. I am not instructing any of our esteemed members, I am merely relaying my personal experience.

I am grateful to our Heavenly Father for his love upon Samoa. As we look at our surroundings and the mountains He has blessed us with, it is tranquil and peaceful unlike China. There is no freedom, peace and tranquility that we enjoy. The atmosphere is clogged with smoke and you cannot see the sun but we thank God for what we have. This is the norm; we consult and share our views to create strategies to develop our economy. Since I became responsible for this Ministry, I have encouraged the growing of staple crops and other vegetation so that we do not starve. If there is excess then export and the profits can be used for the family. However, the effects of Cyclone Evan destroyed the vegetation but thankfully our Heavenly Father is still providing.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

The honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 3 commented on the state of the buildings in the Government Compound at Tuasivi that houses the courts and police offices. I thank the Police Commissioner for his support. When the honorable member raised the issue I stated that perhaps today the works will be carried out but I was notified that it started yesterday. There are those responsible for the maintenance of these grounds but as we know, we are always looking to see who would be first to start. However, it is not a problem. Our Heavenly Father blesses us so that we are able to progress forward as a nation.

The road leading to the Oloamanu Juvenile Centre was mentioned by the esteemed member for Falelatai and Samatau. I will leave this matter at the discretion of the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure if there are funds left we would accept it gratefully for this road.

As for the matter of the post at Lalomanu, I hear that the Police Commissioner is from this village. I therefore believe that this is the reason why the Police outpost has not been established. The Commissioner is unselfishly thinking of the other constituencies. It is better for him to have nothing then to have the developments and yet the other constituencies-have to wait.

The Itupa i Luga.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given to the honorable member that raised the matter.

**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** There was no intention to disrupt the Hon Minister of Police, Prisons and Fire Emergency's response. However, it seems that the reason why the Police post has not been built is because the Police Commissioner has ties to the village. The reason why I mentioned the issue was to ensure that those servicing this area have safe and secure quarters because what is good for Apia is also good for us in the rural areas with all due respect, thank you.

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

**Afioga Hon SALA FATA LISATI PINATI:** The gist of the remarks is understood and this is exactly what I wanted. For the member to mention that what is good for Apia is also good for the rural areas therefore if the Commissioner is listening, the opportunity is given to build a two-storey Police post and if you need 3 police vehicles, you may have that too.

This concludes my response on the matters raised. To my dear constituency, thank you for your support. The advice from my constituency was 'Sala, think not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country', thank you.



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable Afioa Sala for the complete and fulfilling response to the matters raised by the Members to the Ministry.

We have now come to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure headed by the honorable deacon of the Tunumafono family; the strength of which Samoa relies on as well as the Ministry.

I call on the Hon Minister to please take the floor.

**Afioa Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I believe the daylight is slowly fading and the fisherman has put away his oars as he has reached shore as the saying goes. I humbly greet the Chair and the Hon Prime Minister also the leader of the Cabinet. I also greet the Leader of the Opposition and the esteemed Members of Parliament. I acknowledge also the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the CEO's of the various Government Ministries.

As the legend of Afia goes, he cannot be forgotten and therefore I acknowledge also our country listening in, the three arms of government and the nation as a whole from the elderly to the young.

The effects of Cyclone Evan are a forgotten memory because of our Heavenly Fathers unceasing blessing that has enabled the Government to carry out recovery work. Five months on we have witnessed spectacular recovery efforts by the Government in all aspects of our society.

I begin my response by addressing issues raised against the Land Transport Authority. Road works were disrupted during the Cyclone and after that some roads were destroyed by the effects of flooding. Road works has resumed on some of the affected roads including the Cross Island Road leading to the Siumu intersection through to Tafitoala Safata, the Fagaloa side from Taelafaga to Salimu. It is a costly repair costing more than \$15million but the work is slowly progressing. Upgrading of the road at Tiavi is also underway and they are working according to the funds available because as I mentioned, it is costly especially with the underground pipes and drains that were destroyed. Some of the repair works are also leading to changes to upgrade the roads to ensure longevity.

As for bridges, those located at Vaimoso and Togafuaafua are close to completion. At the moment, we are negotiating with the World Bank regarding the upgrading of our fords that were destroyed during the cyclone. Consultations are also being held for the four lane road at Vaitele St to be extended from Vaitele to Ioamua. Plans are also in the pipelines for the reconstruction of the Leone Bridge. There are many negotiations going on at the moment with the World Bank for these infrastructures. Works that are currently being planned include the bridge for Maliolio river, part of Falealili St from Tanugamanono to Vaoala and the bridges at Sapapalii, Lano and Sasina. Regarding the remarks by the member for Faasaleleaga No. 3, the Maliolio bridge will be given first priority because of the lives that have been lost because of this river. Those are some of the infrastructural developments that the Government is looking to.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Thank you Hon Minister for the response. In case we did not hear right, when will the bridge at Maluafou be reconstructed? Many are affected by the closing of this bridge so will work commence this year or next year?

**MR SPEAKER:** It is with respect that I point out that the member for Falealupo did not raise the issue of this bridge however, the Hon Minister will respond as it affects the whole town vicinity.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** My concern is that the Standing Orders are being breached. Nevertheless, the World Bank representatives visited this bridge and perhaps around September, the Board will meet to discuss a submission. The World Bank is offering the funds as a grant to us and there are further negotiations to be made so I ask that the issue be left to the Government and the Authority.

Now I will address the individual issues raised by the Members. On the matter of access roads, most of the Members requested this development. There are access roads in Savaii that have just opened and there are a few in Upolu that are almost complete. The works for 5 access roads for Savaii and 5 for Upolu will be tendered perhaps next week. Valuations will be considered and then the successful contractors will be known. As I mentioned, there were many developments that were in the pipelines but they have been delayed because of the Cyclone and funds had to be reallocated to prioritize recovery works therefore works on access roads were interrupted. Our advice after the access roads are completed is that the village councils should maintain these roads to ensure its longevity. We have witnessed that after 3-4 years the drains become overgrown with weeds and so the water flows onto the access roads eroding it. This is why the cooperation between the Government and the village council is essential to ensure that the access roads are maintained for access to plantations further inland.

For seawalls.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Hon Minister. I again give the floor to the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Do you have a program for Savaii for instance perhaps visits are made every 3 or 7 months so that the villages can prepare because Falealupo has 6 access roads.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your issue is understood.

In the interest of time Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faleata East.

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**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**Tofa Aveau Tuala Lepale Niko Palamo (Faleat East):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Before the Hon Minister moves away from the issue, I requested the upgrade of the road at Vilimaa. There are many residents in this area and as I stated before, a bus is not able to travel this route. All the students and working people have to walk to Alafua to wait for a bus.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is noted that the honorable member raised this in his speech.

Before the Hon Minister continues I give the floor to the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

**Afioga Taefu Lemi (Falelatai and Samatau):** Still on the matter of access roads, I thank the Hon Minister as I have noticed that one of the 5 access roads proposed for Upolu includes one in our constituency. Therefore I am humbly grateful on behalf of our constituency.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Minister. There is one more member and then you may respond to all of the issues.

I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Aana Alofi No. 3):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I only remind the Hon Minister of the road at Satuimalufilufi. It is not an access road but it is located in the centre of the village and 2/3 of the residents live in this area.

**MR SPEAKER:** I now call on the Hon Minister to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** It was clearly explained Mr Speaker that the requests by the Members for access roads has been recorded and other roads are noted for the programs set out by the Government and the Authority.

As for the member for Falealupo, they want the Ministry to visit and check their access roads but this is the responsibility of the village. The main roads are the responsibilities of the government and there are lawn mowing contractors that are tasked at clearing the main roads. This constituency is one of the few that have many access roads but they are not maintaining them. There are instances where families clean and clear their front yards and we ask that you assist in this way because we do not have the funds. Most of the roads at Falealupo have been upgraded and tarred.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister to give the opportunity to the honorable member for Falealupo.

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**Afioga Hon Acau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** We are cleaning and maintaining the roads but they have become eroded with potholes and that is the assistance we need. If we had the machinery we would do it but only the Government has the machinery.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the Hon Minister has clearly stated that the Government is responsible for constructing the road and after the road works is complete then it is the villages responsibility to ensure the longevity of the roads. That is my assistance to the Hon Minister, the honorable member for Falealupo should be clarified in this regard.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** One of the honorable members for the Individual Voters mentioned the narrow roads. There is currently a project underway to survey the length of the roads before the road works continue in the town area. If you look at the road at Tiavi which leads to the Bahai temple, the road had to be realigned because part of the road was on private property. Therefore the roads need to be surveyed and the boundaries made clear and then the widening of the roads can commence. For the rural areas, there is legislation which provides for the road to be the width of 10metres.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Minister. The opportunity is given to one of the members of the Individual Voters.

**Afioga Maualaivao Pat Ah Him:** I am grateful Mr Speaker for the Hon Minister's response. I have witnessed the works on the Tiavi road and it is pleasing and can be likened to the roads overseas. It will last longer if it is done properly. I only remind the Hon Minister of the road at Tiavi which leads to the Lupesila Resort which I mentioned with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for the reminder.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** The honorable members request has been noted.

For the matter raised on registrations; contractors pay \$5000 to be registered for Government infrastructural developments. An amount of \$20million is appropriated for civil works. The Tender Board and the Authority have decided that \$5000 is appropriate for a registration fee. Before registration, the Authority checks the machinery and utility vehicles that will be used for the works to determine the capacity of the contractors. These costs are all included in the registration fee for all works that cost more than half a million.

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As for the issue on the due dates of the registration fees; it is broadcast for more than a month on the radio and television. Failure to adhere to the due date is the contractors fault. There is also a penalty for those who fail to pay their registrations on time which also results in the contractors not being eligible for any government work for the whole year. However, the request has been put forward and the Board and Authority will look into the matter for a solution that will satisfy everyone.

That is the responses regarding our roads, I believe....

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Hon Minister. There is an interjection from the member that raised the issue. I call on the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** There was no intention Mr Speaker to interrupt the Hon Minister's speech. However this constituency humbly requests that the Lands Transport Authority prioritize the governments Manifesto for equality for all. The \$5000 registration fee, if I am correct, depends on the cost of the work but there are contractors that have not paid a registration fee to build infrastructures. The CaBella Company has not paid one cent in registration fees for building the NPF Plaza which cost \$56million.

Also for the matter of due dates for these registrations; how about a new construction company that has been established after the due date. Their tender would be invalid and they cannot apply for any government work. Compare this to vehicle registration, this is broadcast for the whole year and the penalty is only \$500.

The Land Transport Authority is the only Corporation that offers work to the country such as mowing the roadsides and road reconstruction. These fees should not have a due date. There are many that have loans with the Development Bank and the NPF, how will the government receive revenue from the payments if they are given due dates? This would mean the government is insincere with their Manifesto.

This is the same with advertising for tenders for buildings. It should not only be advertised in Upolu but Savaii as well. This matter should be brought into the House for a solution Hon Minister because it is a constant issue...

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted for the Hon Minister to again clarify his response. I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister; I give the floor to the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Although the Hon Minister has completed his response on the matters regarding the roads however I humbly remind the Hon Minister of the road at Falelauniu that leads inland to Aleisa. There are many that use this road and if it cannot be tarred then I humbly ask that it be leveled with all due respect, thank you.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to continue with your response.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** For the matter on the road, it has been noted Mr Speaker. With all our requested road works, it is noted and then an assessment is then carried out. Those who will be carrying out this assessment will be notified and after the assessment it is put forward and the normal processes progress. I will not comment further but it is noted.

I do not know of any registration that does not have a due date nor is there a due date that is extended by a year. There is a limitation on everything. I have already stated that the matter be left to the Board and the Authority to consult and discuss over. Contractors must also be notified and another solution could be that they register together but leave the matter with us.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 if there is a new matter.....

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** I thank the Hon Minister for the clear response. There is however a point of order to be made as to the comment on the registration extensions. For business licenses, the due date is broadcast for the whole year and even after the due date, the opportunity is still open to business owners to pay late fees with an additional penalty fee of \$50 or \$100. The intention is to give the opportunity to business owners because the Government relies on this sector for revenue.

**MR SPEAKER:** The honorable members point is noted and you have already heard the response by the Hon Minister. The Board will discuss and investigate the matter on contractors and registration fees as well as assistance for new contractors that are established after the due date of the registrations.

I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

Moving on I will now address issues raised against the Samoa Water Authority. This is one Authority that was greatly affected by the Cyclone and flooding. Reservoirs and water catchments were destroyed at Alaoa, Malololelei, Fuluasou, Vailima, Tafitoala and in the outer villages. Recovery works at Alaoa are continuing however, Tafitoala works will be delayed because of the devastation in this area. Projects are continuing.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister's response as we have come to the hour of our evening recess. We will have a break and continue when we return.

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*The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside for its normal recess at 4.46pm to resume at 5.15pm*

**MR SPEAKER:** The night draws nearer but I believe we are composed in our strength.

Before our recess the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure was addressing the House therefore I call upon the Hon Minister to continue his response.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** I foremost express my gratitude for the meal that was provided which has rejuvenated the strength of the Hon Prime Minister and all the Members of the House.

Continuing on the Samoa Water Authority, recovery works for the construction of the treatment plants at Tapatapao are in progress to supply water to the Aleisa area. I believe it has been 3-4 months since the work has begun. Water treatment for the Vailele area is also in progress. This is one project that the Authority is implementing and it should be operational by next month.

Other infrastructures are being developed for the improvement of water supply to the rest of the country.

As for the water drilling; after the work at Lepa, works will be carried out inland of Faleasiu and other villages located inland like Lepale and Leulumoega and Faleasiu. For Savaii, as previously stated, works are still progressing for Falealupo, Falelima and Tufutafoe to ensure the connection of the water supply for the entire area.

The honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 pointed out the water supply from Palauli to Puapua. There are boreholes in Iva, Sapaplii and Faga that are connected to strengthen the water supply to these areas.

For Vaivase Uta as mentioned by the honorable member for Vaimauga West, JICA has offered its assistance to the Authority to layout a design for the water connection in this part of the country.

For the water reservoir at Malololelei, there has been a successful applicant for the tender that was advertised to reconstruct this infrastructure. The reservoirs at Tiapapata and Vailima that were also devastated by the flooding and the cyclone have already been restored.

To the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Luga; the design for water tanks has been completed by Bluebird Co. Ltd. that is responsible for the works, to ensure that water is not wasted for your part of the island.

The water project for Falelauniu as put forward by the honorable member for Faleata West is currently underway. Water tanks are being constructed and pipes are being laid. The Authority is currently supplying water by way of its water trucks while the residents await the completion of this project. Those are some of the Authority's various projects in response to the issues that were raised.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Hon Minister; I give the floor to one of the members that also mentioned this matter in his speech. I call on the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

**Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaomanu Taeu Masipau (Faasaleleaga No. 2):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am grateful to the Hon Minister that the water for this constituency has been considered. The water pressure for Faasaleleaga is strong; however the request was for the village of Fatausi. The access road has been extended further inland and the main water line is needed and then families can connect their water supply with all due respect, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo):** I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I assumed that my fellow brother from Aleipata Itupa i Luga would mention it but no matter. With all due respect Hon Minister the water for inland Saleaumua is still being supplied by water trucks. There is no water supply but if it was drilled there would be water. I leave that request by your side Hon Minister for future projects thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I give the floor to the honorable member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Thank you. I only remind the Hon Minister of the water for Maninoa. There is no water for this village as the water supply is interrupted because of the devastation at Tafitoala. Scientists visited this area at Maninoa and they found that water can be drilled in the area but it has been many years and there still has been no development in this regard. This part of the constituency is in need of water with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize Hon Minister. The opportunity will be given to all the interjections and then you may respond.

I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you for the opportunity. It is not a request for a water development however I did mention in my speech how the Authority could assist with national revenue. As I stated, many families have not had their water meters read for 2 years and by the time it is read, the bills are more than \$1,000 and families are unable to pay these bills. This is why I recommend that water meters should be read monthly. This service should be improved.



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**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I give the opportunity now to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** I thank the members for their remarks. The requests that were made have been noted and I believe the Authority is listening in and are discussing the water for Fatausi and Saleaumua. Site visits have to be carried out to determine whether water can be supplied but the intention as I said is to have water supply for all families. It is advisable that you approach the Ministry for your requests. Members requests can be put forward in the House. As I said visits are still in progress however in the case of the member for Siumu; assessments and surveys need to be made and if there was a survey that was done in the past, the Authority will look into it.

To the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3, thank you for your constant reminding. The needs of our constituencies need to be put forward especially in regards to aspects that need improvement. There are families that come to the Authority and there are negotiations that can be made regarding their payments and assessments can be made to their water meters to check for water leakages. These are all projects by the Samoa Water Authority to ensure that there is clean water for the consumption of the whole country.

I believe that was all that was raised regarding water supply. I apologize if there has been any fault in the service delivery but supplying water is very important.

I now come to the Electric Power Corporation. After Cyclone Evan, there was destruction to electric power lines and poles in Lefaga, Safata and Siumu because of the storm winds and floods.

Our power plants were also destroyed like the one at Loto Samasoni and we are currently carrying out consultations on whether these plants can resume operation. Hydro electricity is affordable and easier to implement. The power plants at Fale o le Fee, Alaoa and Lalomauga were also affected during the Cyclone however they are now in operation.

The Power Sector Expansion Project 2008-2016 is now underway and this includes the work being done at the Fiaga plant. There were complaints regarding power interruptions to parts of the country. There were notifications regarding the outages and the reasons that all four generators could not operate simultaneously were stated. Tomorrow on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, all four generators will officially be in operation and I do apologize for the inconvenience caused. Supplying electricity to the country is not an easy task and hopefully after tomorrow there will be fewer interruptions to our power supply unless an electric pole falls over. There are times during strong thunder and lightning storms that the switches automatically switch off and tomorrow works will be completed as we try to improve the power supply.

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Before any foreseen outage, we will issue a pre-warning notification informing the country of the interruptions. The project will be moving to Savaii soon after Fiaga and other projects include hydro plants. Representatives of the World Bank and ADB visited to inspect the feasibility of more projects because as I mentioned, hydro power is cheaper. We are also looking into renewable energy and there is a Committee investigating this chaired by the Minister of Finance and members include the Minister of Natural Resource and Environment and CEO's of the relevant Ministries.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I only have one question Mr Speaker. The Hon Minister has stated that the contractors will be done tomorrow and the hand over will be effective and I acknowledge these efforts. However I believe there should be a period in which the contractors need to work with and train the staff of the Ministry. This is essential in the infant stages of the hand over with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Before I give the floor to the Hon Minister there is an announcement that needs to be made. The door on my left will be locked for the safety of the Members. As you see we are trying to block out the sun and so I ask that we use the front entrance for now until the sun sets and then we will open the door again. That is the humble request with all due respect.

I now call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** Thank you for the reminder. There is a plan to train the staff to take over the operation of the power station. This special team will be tasked at specifically looking after the Fiaga operations to avoid any mishaps and if there are problems, the team will be the only ones to answer to it. These are all the pre-operation preparations.

I now come to the Samoa Ports Authority....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 for your interjection.

**Afioga Tocolosulusulu Cedric Pose Schuster:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Hon Minister for the response regarding the Electric Power Corporation however there is an issue regarding the unforeseen losses that I mentioned that has not been addressed.

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A recommendation was made because it has been more than 3 years and the unforeseen losses are still more than 18-20million units. With the Private Sector Expansion Plan, perhaps these losses can be reduced. I humbly advise Mr Speaker that a 5 year plan should be implemented to foresee the losses so that there can be estimations and the matter can be addressed and improved thus saving us some finances.

**MR SPEAKER:** The recommendation has been noted. I call on the Hon Minister to continue your statement.

**Afioga Hon MANUALESAGALALA ENOKATI POSALA:** There are two types of losses when it comes to electricity. The first is system losses which are unavoidable; the second is technical losses which are currently being addressed. Meters are being checked and temporary meters are used in faulty situations. There were complaints regarding the service however, it was because of misunderstandings and the Corporation is addressing all these issues at present including the matter of the wasted electricity units.

Now to the Samoa Ports Authority; there was a comment regarding the ramp at the Mulifanua wharf and it has been reconstructed and repaired. The Authority is now progressing to improve the domestic wharfs such as the ones at Mulifanua and Salelologa.

As for the matter concerning the leases Mr Speaker, I have with me a copy of the deed that was signed on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Those are the responses to the matters raised against the Authority and development work is slowly progressing and future plans to improve its work outputs will be submitted to the Cabinet.

I express my gratitude for the appropriation for the CSO which is evidence of the consideration that was put into this budget. These funds will be used to drill water to supply water to each family home and the same goes for electricity. New connections for families that have relocated inland are being subsidized and this is another Government initiative.

In regards to the request for the street lights, these funds will also finance the implementation of these. There were many requests for street lights from the honorable members and the Corporation is carrying out their visits and assessments will be reported to the CSO Committee and a decision will be made.

With that I end my response on the issues that were raised. I would like to express my gratitude to all those that made recommendations. Their contributions assist the development of the Ministry and Corporations under our sector.

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Mr Speaker, if I may, I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the support of my constituency listening in. To the dignity of chiefs and orators as well as the womens committees, other community groups and also the children. I also salute the support of the Reverend Kereta and his good lady and the Congregation at Safata. Thank you for your support and may the Lord be merciful as we continue our journey this year.

God bless you Mr Speaker and this Parliament, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. The House has heard your response and your persistence for the developments needed. Your Ministry is not one to be taken lightly because it deals with the infrastructure on which our country is built such as electricity, water and other works that our Government relies on as well as other sectors. Thank you for your patience and good work.

We have now come to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. I call one of the honorable members of the Peseta family also the Hon Minister to respond to the matters raised by the House.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** I foremost Mr Speaker, greet the dignity of the country listening in support. Your traditional setup and honorific salutations are unchanging and will remain the same forever.

I greet also my constituency of Gagaemauga No. 3 in all your honorific salutations. I acknowledge also my village of Satoalepai and your traditional set up.

To the servants of our Lord in our constituency, you are the guardians of the spiritual faith and lives of our electorate. I feel it is also appropriate at this time to offer my condolences to the family and congregation of Itu o Tane for the passing of Reverend Siueva Gogo. To the Taito family as well as the Umalau and Tauasa families. The traditional setup of our constituency cannot be altered as it is the same from the time of our forefathers.

Now I will address the issues that were raised by the honorable members. I have divided them accordingly and will respond in this order.

First; seawalls, drainages and roads leading to leases of the Land Board. The policy of the Ministry in the processing of requests is as follows; first an environmental impact assessment including the impacts on the residents is carried out. Priority is then given to the development which is most needed because we are all aware that there are not enough funds to implement all the projects at one time.

In the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014, \$1million is appropriated for drains and seawalls and \$500,000 for the roads aforementioned. The Ministry is also not being idle in finding ways to generate income through its projects being delegated out to its partners such as the Climate Change Project and also to the other sectors such as agriculture and tourism.

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This initiative is so that seawalls that protect tourist accommodations can be implemented under the tourism sector. Other seawalls and drains are being implemented under other projects such as the Adaptation Fund or the Least Developed Countries Fund.

We must all be mindful that these projects are not implemented at one time. If the life of the project is for 5 years and so the funds will be spent over the course of this period and this also controls the Ministry's spending in regards to the requests put forward.

I will now comment on the requests for an explanation on the Vaisigano river. The Government is proposing to have drains on the river banks so that the water does not overflow when it floods. There were also recommendations that the river banks be widened and as I said before, there are processes the Ministry must follow when replying to these requests. First assessments must be carried out and if the development is to be implemented a blueprint of the work must be drawn up and bids for tenders must be advertised.

Some members have questioned the status of the IAMP 1 & SIAM 2 projects. The SIAM 2 project is now under the PPCR or the Pacific Program for Climate Resilience.

The issue of land was raised by many members. There were different views made on the matter of land. Some Members recommended that the land be given to villages for their agricultural development but some Members stated that there is not enough land and the Government should therefore be cautious in the use of land. For everyone's information, the land that this Ministry is specifically responsible for is Government owned land, Estate Land, and other customary land that have government infrastructure such as telephone poles. A total of 20% public land is under the Ministry but only 80% customary land. Therefore the Government is only responsible for a small amount of land and so priority is being given to developments. It is realized that land is a valuable asset. Land value is slowly increasing as it was \$8,000 and now it is \$80,000 - \$100,000 per ¼ acre. Government land is being used to establish hospitals, schools, hydro electric power plants like those at Fiaga and Vaiaata and for drilling and storing of water.

There were questions whether the water from the aquifer was being metered. Licenses are being issued and the water is being metered so that the water in the aquifer can be measured. We do not have big rivers like other countries. We have small rivers and from it we are trying to supply electricity and at the same time supply the reservoirs at Fuluasou and Tapatapao. All the requests pertaining to land separate from those regarding compensation, the Ministry is looking at land that can be leased but they cannot be sold as I have mentioned before there are not many government lands left.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 as he was the one that mentioned this issue. I call on the member to take the floor.

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**Afioga Papalii Lio Faavaivaoman Taeu Masipau:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thank also the Hon Minister for the explanations and clarifications. This constituency's request is now public knowledge regarding the land at Safotulafai and Sapapalii. I thought the Government had not visited the land but it has now been surveyed. As I stated before during the German Administration, the leaders of the village were exiled and their land was taken forcibly. The Ministry has stated that the land that is in question is government or public land which means that it is not customary land or freehold land. As we know the Act which provides for this was amended in 2008 and it is clearly stated that villages that have been affected in this way can request to the Government for that land to be transferred to customary land. I had consulted also with the Ministry's legal services and they were of the same opinion. That is the humble request to you Hon Minister with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. In the interest of time Hon Minister I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Aiga i le Tai.

**Afioga Ifopo Matia Filisi (Aiga i le Tai):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I remind the Hon Minister that my constituency leases the lands from the Trust Estates for its primary schools and colleges. There is no intention to purchase but perhaps it can be leased at a value less than the lease for freehold land.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** I am grateful Mr Speaker for the opportunity. It is true that 80% of the land is customary but as the honorable member for Aiga i le Tai mentioned, even in our electorate there is only 10% of customary land but more than 80% is registered as government lands. This is why this constituency requests for land if it pleases the Ministry.

**MR SPEAKER:** I now give the opportunity back to the Hon Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to continue.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAU LOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** I thank the honorable members for the question. Regarding the issue raised by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2. The Ministry is currently investigating this matter and as you mentioned, if there is uncertainty of the status of the land there are ways of finding out. That matter is clear however as I stated before, the Government is prioritizing projects on these lands such as the water catchment areas at Tapueleele.

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As for the matter raised by the honorable member for Aiga i le Tai; it is a fact that they are leasing land from the Trust Estate to establish their school buildings. The Ministry is looking into the matter as it is understood that the lease be cleared for these lands.

The matter raised by the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3; there is a Committee that has been appointed by Government to consult with the Village Committees because the Government wishes to have a solution which is beneficial for both sides.

I believe you are aware of this as you are in the village committee and I reiterate that compensation lands are not included in this.

I now come to the matter of environmental protection. Many have expressed their gratitude for the work done in this regard for Upolu and Savaii however some believe that the work is not done properly. The Cabinet Decision has been made on the contractors that will be involved in the rubbish collection. Many issues were brought forward on the open lorries used for this work because the rubbish flies everywhere. Enclosed trucks need to be used for rubbish collection and only the companies that have these trucks will be awarded the contracts.

While on the subject, I would like to use this opportunity to advise the successful contractors that it is not only the rubbish that is on the rubbish stands that must be collected. The rubbish on the roads within that zone is also included in your contracts. The Ministry has also provided its terms and conditions for the implementing of this service.

Another matter is when the contractors do not dump at the designated landfills at Tafaigata and Vaiaata but they dump the rubbish in other areas. All contractors should be aware of this because if it is proven that you do not adhere to this, your contracts can be terminated.

Some members requested that members should be used as a promotional tool for environmental projects in rural areas. When these rural project developments are launched, I instruct that invitations be made to the respective member to open the project. The Ministry is also listening in and members are also encouraged to cooperate with the Ministry when they carry out their visits to villages.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the opportunity to the Hon Associate Minister.

**Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow (Faasaleleaga No. 1):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I notice the Hon Minister has now moved from addressing the matter of the rubbish collection. I queried whether there could be more than one day allocated for the rubbish collection because our constituency has this service for only one day.

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**MR SPEAKER:** I call on one of the honorable members for Aana Alofi No. 1; Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi and then the floor will be given to one of the honorable members for Falealili; Afioga Tusa Misi Tupuola.

**Afioga Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** I first thank the Hon Minister for the clear explanation on the matters as Samoa is listening in. I believe the honorable members should be involved in this matter because they also command respect from their constituencies. However I wish to advise the villages that sometimes, stray canines will rummage through the rubbish and it then becomes scattered. It is the villager's responsibility to gather this rubbish and put them into the rubbish bags, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to one of the members for Falealili; Afioga Tusa Misi Tupuola.

**Afioga Tusa Misi Tupuola (Falealili):** I convey my gratitude to you Hon Minister for the responses to the matters raised. This is what I recommended to the Ministry and yourself so that members are used to assisting not only projects in their constituency but any project especially with the effects of climate change. The important aspect is that members have the opportunity to be involved for the development of our country.

I thank the Hon Minister for commenting on this specific issue.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to continue your response.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Mr Speaker, as for the issue raised by one of the members for Faasaleleaga No. 1; Afioga Hon Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow who stated that the rubbish collection in Faasaleleaga is only done on one day.

The Ministry will consult with the contractor responsible for this zone. The contractor should carry out the rubbish collection at least three times a week but I cannot respond directly but I am sure the CEO of the Ministry is listening to the proceedings regarding this issue.

The villages should cooperate with their members and environmental advisory boards during their visits so that they can report the issues that are observed and the Ministry can work at addressing the issues.

I now address the issue raised by one of the members regarding the case of the Aleipata Marine Protection Project. That matter is currently with the Police and the investigation is still ongoing. I queried this matter and they said the investigations are still in progress. There is a dispute between the administration of this trust fund and the village has approached the Ministry requesting that the project again be administered by the Ministry instead of leaving it with the village. It is because of this that the issue had arisen which has led to the investigations and that is the response to the matter.



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**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu (Aleipata Itupa i Luga):** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** Is the honorable member not satisfied with the response by the Hon Minister? I will give the opportunity if there is any other additional comment.

**Tofa Fagaivalu Kenrick Samu:** I first of all convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister and the CEO for the response to the matter that I raised. My constituency has only started to understand the issue which resulted in my presenting it before the House. Thank you Hon Minister.

To my constituency, the Hon Minister has responded and we will now await the end of the investigations with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call upon the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** I express my gratitude to you Mr Speaker for the opportunity but I would only like to assist the Hon Minister with his remarks because I am also involved in his comments. I inquired for assistance from the LTA and it has been 3 years now and I am still awaiting a report on the matter. Therefore Hon Minister, in regards to the investigations, those who sought my assistance are also waiting for Aleipata and Safata.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister will be given the floor to respond accordingly.

I call on the Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** This matter is not one to be taken lightly by the Ministry because it involves grants from overseas and I will not rest regarding these cases because it puts our country in disrepute and assistance from other partners may also be affected because of these acts.

I now come to the matter raised regarding businesses that are operating without any permits. Any sort of business in our country needs to have a permit and if you are operating a business without a permit, you run the risk of putting yourself out of business if the Ministry were to find out. An application must be made for a business permit because there are legal criterions that need to be met. Just because there is a location, a business cannot be setup without a license. For example, neighbors can complain because of a night club in the town area and as a result the business will be closed down because procedures were not followed. I humbly ask that the legal requirements be met as per the responsible Legislation because finances have been put in to the business and that will be wasted if it is closed down.

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Some members queried the town plan and I have already responded to that matter. The PUMA and MWTI are working on this plan as also reiterated by the Hon Prime Minister.

As for the matter regarding energy divisions that are under the MOF and MNRE whether they should be merged? My response to that is that it is sufficient for now because the Ministry of Finance deals with the policies and finding financial donors for projects. The suppliers cannot be specific to one Ministry for instance renewable energy cannot be under the MNRE because there are other energy suppliers such as the LTA, EPC and the SROS. However the MOF's function in this is to coordinate and the other bodies implement the service. The functions have been sub-divided accordingly.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you for the opportunity and thank you Hon Minister for the clarification.

My comments Mr Speaker were based on the PIGGAREP that is implemented by the Ministry of Finance; they are not only handling the finances in this regard. The recommendation was made specific for those involved in Greenhouse Recovery payments if they can be merged with other renewable energy sources. As you stated the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for renewable energy and merging all these bodies can assist with reducing the actual bills for each family for energy efficiency. It has been noted that there is no one Ministry of organization that is responsible for this.

That is the humble request whether it can be structured that way as from experience it will benefit the country, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Because of the importance of the recommendations put forward by the member who is also an environmental specialist, I advise the member to approach the Hon Minister directly and discuss the recommendation.

I call upon the Hon Minister to continue with your response.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** I thank the honorable member for his recommendations but there is a program aimed at energy efficiency in the Pacific which is looking into the energy losses and its reduction but I am still thankful for the recommendation.

I now come to the matter regarding the cooperation between this Ministry and other Ministries and Corporations such as the Ministry of Agriculture and SROS.

Regarding the taro, the Ministry is working with SROS and the South Pacific Commission. PARDI or the Pacific Agriculture Research and Development Initiative is funding the project. USP, SROS and MAF are each assigned their specific tasks in the implementation of this project.

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MAF has developed the type of taro, SROS is testing it if it is fit for consumption taking into consideration its taste and nutritional value and its shelf life which is needed if the taro is to be exported. Government Ministries and Corporations need to work together to develop the taro for the future.

I believe that those were all the issues that were raised.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, there are two members...I give the floor first to the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I would also like to convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister for the complete responses to the issues raised. I would like to reiterate on the importance of SROS. The Organization has already completed tests and research. The first question that a business owner would ask is whether a business using this research is valuable. I would like to see these researches implemented because at the moment, it is a person all dressed up with nowhere to go. What I want to know is whether the Ministry has prepared a business model which would include costs, resources needed that a business owner will be able to use such as a complete package instead of beginning the research and moving on to other research when we should be establishing industries for the research with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** Thank you Hon Minister who is also a member of the Peseta family. It is because of my deep respect that I have been hesitant to interject. There are only a few reminders from my speech yesterday. Our village of Puapua was affected by flooding which resulted in the removal of the Church building because of the affects of the waves on the main road and the families near the shore.

Also for the village of Asaga; its ford was affected and the mouth of the river was washed away and it has affected the villages Tilapia, Anae and tuna reserve. Those are just some of the requests with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The honorable members comments have been noted down. I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Mr Speaker, I did not stress SROS in my remarks however I would like to offer a recommendation. I did offer other recommendations to the Organization for future development. There are currently 700-800 species of plants in Samoa.

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There is bio-prospecting which many countries are now doing. Research is done on the plants and medication is made from the patents which is what we are doing with the mamala plant. It will be costly to bring equipment for this but we can sell the patents for income to assist the Organization but also the use of these plants will remain in Samoa. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the Hon Minister, I will give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** In the interest of time Mr Speaker. The Hon Minister has addressed the issues that I raised. However, regarding the blueprint for the new SROS building, the costs have been paid and yet the building has not been established yet. Will the building be established or not, with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe Government has commented on all the matters that had been raised. As for the new issues, I will leave that at the discretion of the Hon Minister. The matter regarding the plant species can be discussed when the honorable member approaches you regarding his recommendations but it is up to you Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon FAAMOETAULOA ULAITINO FAALE TUMAALII:** Although there are new matters being raised I will attempt to respond to them. Regarding the products produced by SROS; one of the world renowned Chefs from America made known in his television show recipes that can be made from the flour produced from breadfruit. Remember that SROS only develops new products and carries out scientific research but it is the business owners that develop it. As for the matter raised regarding a commercial policy, SROS begins their process from raw materials to the final product through to packing. This was also done with the avocado cooking oil. Bio-diesel has also been tested and it is currently being used to fuel SROS and MNRE vehicles as well as some Diplomatic Corps cars used by SPREP and the vehicle used by the US Ambassador. This is a great assistance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and there is also another project by SROS that is addressing this matter.

As for the matter raised by the honorable member Faasaleleaga No. 4 for the ford and the river at Puapua, I believe it is in the list prepared by the Ministry but I will double check.

The plant species mentioned in the recommendation by the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 3 have public health claims. SROS is currently looking into medicinal herbs as well as the matter that you raised. The Organization has employees currently studying towards MSc and PhD from New Zealand Universities because there are those that come from overseas claiming to be experts when they do not understand anything about our plants.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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Now I come to the last question by the Leader of the Opposition. It is true that the plan has been drawn up for the new building but SROS is trying to find a donor to fund the project. When submitted to a likely donor, they want to see the full package in the proposal. That is the response and I believe that concludes my response to all the issues that were raised against this sector. I would like to thank you Mr Speaker for guiding our proceedings and all the members. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Natural Resource and Environment. Our country does not have minerals and we can only rely on our natural resources and therefore your job is not an easy one. I believe that all the queries have been clarified and explained. The Chair thanks you for your patience.

The floor is now open to the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, a member of the Magele family. I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture):** Mr Speaker, I believe that Samoa has been chosen and there is no need to address its honorific salutations as it will remain unchanged forever.

I believe that this is the same for my dear constituency of Faasaleleaga No. 4 and I acknowledge your continuous support. I greet the high chiefs and orators, womens committees and the Lords servants in all parts of the Constituency. The honorable Gatoloai has already put forward the requests for our electorate and with that I ask for your support while I proceed to clarify the issues that were raised.

Mr Speaker, ‘Education of our children is a right, not a privilege’ and that is the belief that our Government has founded the development of our education system since this Party became the Executive. Education is a right.

This belief is no different from the Psalms “Behold, children are a heritage of the Lord” meaning they are your responsibility from the Lord. And what is responsibility? King Solomon has answered that in Proverbs “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”.

Mr Speaker, from the Governments belief in education that it is a right, there are four aspects that stem from this belief for the development of education.

1. Access: that there are enough schools and they are accessible
2. Equity: that there is no prejudice and discrimination against race or religion
3. Quality: that there is a high standard of education and;
4. Relevancy: that there is relevancy in content in terms of the needs of the country and the students.

There are currently more than 100 early childhood schools, 142 Government Primary schools and 24 Government colleges and 3 Universities; The National University of Samoa, OUM and the University of the South Pacific.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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Mr Speaker, there are many students who are now attending their own district schools but the Ministry is not resting in finding ways to improve their services.

The Year 8 entrance exam has been ceased and now it is easier for Year 8 students to move to Year 9 which will be based on the students ability to process the curriculum but it will not be measured by marks of an examination.

This year, the School Certificate and PSSC Examination will be completely localized. The pass marks to undertake the Bachelor of Education at the National University has been raised to ensure that students will strive harder to become teachers. The Ministry and the PSC is working towards realigning the teachers salaries.

The Cabinet is currently waiting for a recommendation to attract more teachers in the Mathematics and Science subjects from the Remuneration Tribunal.

Another major change Mr Speaker is the shift from 3 terms to 4 terms annually. The Ministry is also looking at changing the school hours from 9.00am – 3.00pm for Primary schools and 9.00am – 4.00pm for Colleges.

The purpose for this change is to allow enough time for the teaching of subjects such as math, chemistry, physics, biology and the general sciences. The additional time will also be used for extracurricular activities like reading in both Samoan and English, sports development, art, music or other activities the teacher sees relevant.

These changes Mr Speaker were not made on a whim. The changes are founded on findings that additional school hours are beneficial to the student. This change in times will coincide with the enforcement of the zoning which will keep the students in their district schools thus hindering them from travelling to Apia resulting in overcrowding.

We should not be afraid of change Mr Speaker because if we are then we will never develop. These changes are also not set in stone. If there are issues, changes will then be made accordingly. When we were in school, we only had 4 subjects and 5 for some but nowadays, students have 7-9 subjects each but the school hours are still the same as when we were in school. This means school hours have become shorter and the students are not offered quality teaching. One school Principal stated that they are having evening classes because there is not enough time.

The Ministry has compiled a project aimed at increasing the knowledge in teaching the trades so that educational institutions offering these subjects can cater to unemployed youth.

I thank the honorable member for Vaimauga West for reading out the statistics in his speech and now we are aware that Vaimauga is one of the constituencies that have a large number of potential youths and they can contribute to future violence. If the Ministry is successful in securing the project with one of our partners, this is one of the parts of the country that will be prioritized.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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Regarding corporal punishment, the Act currently penalizes and terminates any teacher that touches a student like this (*taps arm*). That is the seriousness of the Act and some teachers have been terminated because of a simple smack which also prevents students from joining the teaching profession. The Ministry is now reviewing the Act if there is a need for an amendment. As of now, all students from Year 1 to Year 8 are on scholarships and plans are in progress to have the same for the Year 9 to Year 11 students.

One of the members recommended adding Year 12 and Year 13 and if there were funds we would do just that. The scholarships I mentioned are not for overseas education. The scholarships I mentioned are free education for students which is paid for by the Government and there will be no excuse for a student not to be in school.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister of Education, Sports, Culture and Education. I apologize as we have come to our normal recess hour and you may continue when we return.

I now announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its usual evening recess.

*Debates were interrupted and the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 7.00pm till 8.00pm.*

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 8.00pm.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2012/2013 AND APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014 – continued debate on second reading**

*Debate resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I now announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has resumed. I believe that we have regained our strength from the meal that was prepared for us.

Before we adjourned, the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture was responding to the issues that were raised. I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to continue my response to the issues raised against this Ministry. The project in 2007 had mishaps because there was insufficient infrastructure. However, the infrastructure has improved and the project will resume next year.

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The Ministry and the National Council for Early Childhood Education are currently negotiating the Early Childhood teachers salaries. It is not an easy matter and it is still in progress.

Establishments of schools are still in progress with our partners from the Government of China, the Japanese Government and the CSSP. I advise the public that JICA and CSSP be your first options because China takes time. There are no forms to be filled out for projects by JICA or CSSP, you approach them directly. As for the other requests, they have all been listed down but they are only taking a while because there are not enough funds.

For playing fields, they are still being implemented and it will not be long now before the Tender Board decides on the matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the floor to the honorable member for Alataua West.

**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa:** There was no intention to interrupt the Hon Minister however I rise with all due respect now as my constituency is listening. Perhaps there was a plan in the past that there would be a college for this constituency. The Hon Minister is aware that for any request I would always approach him directly and we met when he visited our village of Falelima. However for the matter regarding the college, the village was about to visit the Hon Prime Minister regarding the matter and I replied that we should approach the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture. The procedures should be followed and now I am asking directly if you are aware of any progress in this matter and who owns the negotiator for this proposed project with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the honorable member for the query. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Thank you for the question. I was commenting generally but the Ministry is aware of the request however you have to remember that requests from other villages were first and we follow the order in which they are listed. It is not that the Ministry is unaware. The Ministry has done its work with the constituency and the primary schools and all the terms and conditions have been satisfied. As I have said, there are many needs but there are insufficient funds. When the time comes then it will be done but if you want a swift answer within 6 months the JICA and CSSP are available.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the floor to the interjection of the honorable member for Alataua West.



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**Afioga Lafaitale Patrick Leiatuaalesa:** There was no intention to interrupt again however I rise to state that we did not want a college. The only reason that the chiefs queried this is because the offer was made. The proposed day of the offer has passed and still nothing has been implemented.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize to the honorable member but I believe that the Hon Minister has clarified the matter and that the order of implementation of these programs is in progress. The constituency is listening in and the Hon Minister has responded and I believe that the matter has been clarified. I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** I will continue on the playing fields. The Tender Board will progress on the playing fields after the first requests are implemented. Do not worry! Your playing fields will be implemented before the elections. The Church College of Samoa at Pesega has now included the foundation program in their college; however there is still an increasing number of students entering the program at the National University of Samoa. The Ministry is also looking into the matter and consultations are being held with the National University to address this issue. We are looking at perhaps including the Foundation programs in all the colleges at an appropriate time.

The Cabinet has received the request for schools established on leased land for an ease of payments. The Cabinet decision will be made soon and my fellow Ministers are listening.

Mr Speaker, I conclude with a phrase by a well known teacher, “The education of our children is far too important to be left to the teachers alone”. Educating our children is essential and that is why we cannot leave the responsibility to our teachers only. Parents and the village council need to cooperate in the development of education for the success of our children.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister there are two minor matters. I ask the honorable member of Aana Alofi No. 3 to make it brief.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also thank the Hon Minister for commenting on vocational training in high schools. However I did mention it for high schools but also the University level such as the Polytechnic program that was available in the past for students who do not reach the marks to enter the other programs.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you I now give the opportunity to the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I thank the Hon Minister for the response. There is a minor query because there are many plans in place and in progress and new projects.

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Is there a body that can monitor these programs and whether they are successful? There is the SQA however I note that they only monitor the secondary level. Is there a plan by the Hon Minister to begin this monitoring from the primary level or the pre-school level? This will encourage cooperation and we will know that the college operations have improved with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon MAGELE MAULIU:** Mr Speaker, for the matter raised by the honorable member of Aana Alofi No. 3, I mentioned the vocational programs in colleges during my introduction. This will be proposed for all colleges if there are enough funds. With that I conclude my remarks. God bless you Mr Speaker, Leader of this side of the House, Leader of the Opposition and all the CEO's of the Ministries, have a good evening.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Education, Sports and Culture for the speech and I believe that all the matters raised by the members have been clarified and explained. I also thank the CEO of the Ministry and the Ministry of Education. The importance of the service carried out cannot be questioned because I firmly believe that an educated country is a successful country. Thank you for your responses.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Health however before I give the opportunity, on behalf of the Parliament and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, I offer my congratulations to the Hon Minister of Health for the invitation to travel to Finland as part of further health promotions. This program is witness to the close partnership between the Parliament and the Ministry of Health through the SPAGHL Committee. This is why I thank the Hon Minister. The Clerk and I are always eager to travel when invited as this is the beginning of a long term partnership. I believe that our declaration for non-communicable diseases and the vision of the meeting was health in all policy which means that all the policies of the government should be health related. For the members of the committee that could not travel with us, there are many days in the future. We will travel to Manono some time and then we will all be able to go.

Without further ado, I call on the Hon Minister to respond to the matters raised against the Ministry.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA (Minister of Health):** Thank you Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. Is there a question on my comments or is it for the Hon Minister?

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**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** It has been noted that the Hon Minister spends 30 minutes explaining the matters that were raised and I believe that there is nothing else to explain and the Hon Minister has responded already. This is assistance in our work.

**MR SPEAKER:** As you are the eldest member of our SPAGHL committee you should respect the response prepared by the Hon Minister. The answers made by the Hon Minister at the time were brief but I will allow the official response by the Hon Minister on the projects raised by the House.

I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I will not comment on the matters that I have already addressed however I will first acknowledge the support of my constituency.

I humbly greet Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Government and the Cabinet. To the other side of the House, His Excellency the Le Ao o le Malo and his Good Lady, the member of the Council of Deputies and his Good Lady. I greet the country and my constituency of Aana Alofi No. 1, in all its honorific salutations. I believe that the issues of the country have been put forward by all the members. We have proceeded on to this late hour because it is our calling and we cannot hide from our duties.

I share the same view as Mr Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition regarding issues that have already been responded to and I am pleased that I do not have much work left.

There are 31 members that commented on the Appropriation and 16 members commented of the Ministry. As I stated I have responded to the other matters but I have checked my notes and there are matters that I have missed out.

First, one of the honorable members of Falealili; Afioga Tusa Misi Tupuola raised the issue regarding the electric generator. I have already explained that the matter has been referred to the EPC who is responsible for all generators servicing the government. I have received a response and last week the spare parts that were ordered from overseas was received for the Poutasi generator and it will be replaced next week .

Vaimauga West commented on invitations for the opening of the new hospital. This hospital is located in the Vaimauga West which means that we are the hosting party and we should be inviting others not ourselves to witness our work. However I thank Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua for the reminder as there are preparations that need to be made. Perhaps 50 meals and 3,000 plated food can be prepared by your electorate because there will be a few invitations.

We will meet at a future date and discuss the preparations.

For Vaisigano No. 1....

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**Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua (Vaimauga West):** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I call on the honorable member.

**Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua:** Thank you. There was no intention to interrupt the Hon Minister however I will support any decision made and will cooperate with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Cooperation is a wonderful thing.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister I will allow the floor to one of the members for Falealili; Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** None of the members of Falealili mentioned this matter.

**Tofa Tusa Misi Tupuola:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I was hesitant to interject in the introduction of the Hon Minister but I would like to express my gratitude for the explanation. However if I had known that it was the responsibility of the EPC I would have approached the Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure. Thank you for assisting with the matter however there are other matters in our hospital that you have not addressed with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to continue your response.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** For the honorable member for Falealili, I have already replied to the matter and perhaps you have forgotten. This is why I asked when the generator malfunctioned and whether the Hospital Administration was informed because it is their duty to inform the EPC.

Vaisigano No. 1, this is the second time you have raised the matter regarding the hospital at Sataua.

**Afioga Tufuga Gafuolcata Faitua (Vaisigano No. 1):** An opportunity Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** The explanation by the member will be allowed and then a response will be made. Is there anything else?

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**Afioga Tufuga Gafualeata Faitua:** No, the matter was only raised for your information to look into and a response is not needed at this time with all due respect.

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

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I will look into it. Vaisigano No. 2 I have answered most of the matter but there are some aspects that needed confirmation and after consulting with the Ministry an explanation has been received as per the members query.

Regarding a pathologist, Dr. Phillip Amosa is currently being educated in Fiji in this field. Presently, the Ministry of Health is cooperating with the Ministry of Police and Prisons who have a pathologist who does post mortems involved in criminal activity. They are forensic pathologists but they also have medical expertise to assist the Ministry of Health. The pathologist is also compensated for his services.

The pathologist currently being educated in Fiji is a clinical pathologist for the hospital. If the Ministry of Police and Prisons employs a pathologist, he will be specific to post mortems for those involved in criminal activities and they are also in need of a radiologist. We also have a student, Glen Fatupaito in New Zealand training in the field of radiology.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister I give the opportunity for the interjection by the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2.

**Susuga Papalii Lio Faavaivaiomanu Taeu Masipau:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

Thank you also Hon Minister. I take from your comments that the Police have a forensic pathologist. This is an assistance from the AFP of Australia but they do not have their own pathologist. I am grateful that it has been clarified that the Ministry of Police and the Ministry of Health will have two different pathologists.

The only issue is that there is a delay in providing this service. In the beginning of this month there was an accident and the pathologist is said to only be available on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Is this a matter for the Police or the hospital? The request is that there is efficiency in providing this service especially with family preparations and families visiting from overseas with all due respect.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** That is what I tried to explain because there is a difference in responsibilities.

The Police used to employ the assistance of the pathologist from the hospital but with the developments, they have been separated. Post mortems by forensic pathologists are different from the work carried out by a clinical pathologist.

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As I stated before, the hospital used to provide this service for the police however because it has been noted that there are differences between the two. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Police have both split the costs for one pathologist being employed now because he is knowledgeable in both areas needed by both Ministries.

Splitting the costs between the two Ministries is a cost saving exercise. As the hospital does not have a pathologist but this is an area specific to the Police and Attorney General.

The negotiations regarding the pharmacist raised by one of the members was completed last week and the new Pharmacist will begin in the end of July at the Motootua hospital.

For other specialists, it is being advertised and the board is reviewing the issue of medical doctors so that they have a career path as was recommended by the salary tribunal. A specialist should be employed in the area to oversee and manage the divisions in the new hospital for instance the general outpatient and the emergency department. Currently any doctor that is available is assigned the task however this should be a task specific to one specialist. This will all be addressed during phase two of the new hospital. When it is complete and the positions will also be sorted.

A specialist is also looking into using the new hospital as a teaching hospital for the development of our Medical School.

The matter raised by Vaimauga West has already been addressed.

I have already spoken with the member for Vaa o Fonoti. We are still seeking an appropriate location for a clinic to cater to Fagaloa because of its remoteness. When a suitable location has been found further negotiations will be made to cater to the needs of Fagaloa and Taelefaga.

The final matter was raised by one of the honorable members of Salega, Afioga Wood Uti Salele regarding the OUM. I have responded to part of the query and if you refer to the appropriations, \$96,000 is appropriated for the University. The Government is currently funding OUM and a Committee appointed by Cabinet is currently managing the University until it is privately owned.

This is a complicated matter because of legal matters however, plans will soon be in place and the OUM will be in order.

Mr Speaker, I have now come to the conclusion of my response this evening regarding the issues raised by the members. I have also replied to the matter raised by the member that is rising.

**MR SPEAKER:** Have you heard the Hon Minister's response Saleaula?

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will allow the opportunity but make it brief.

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**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Since I raised the matter on behalf of my constituency and the Hon Minister has not given a clear response. The Hon Ministers responses were mainly to take up my time.

The objective of my comments yesterday concerned the ability of 80% of the country to have medical checks. I mentioned the \$18million grant whether it could be allocated to the private doctors for mobile rural visits. We currently have medical checks every six months however this is not possible for Savaii and the rural areas. New Zealand and Australia appropriates grants to private doctors for this purpose and if it is managed properly it can reduce the amount of funds used.

The amount of \$10million is being appropriated to the Dialysis Unit Mr Speaker.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I will respond Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter is understood Saleaula. I call on the Hon Minister to respond.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I remind the member that he did not comment on this matter. He only mentioned the testing of obese patients for diabetes. He stated that the National Health Services are only carrying out blood tests on obese patients during their rural visits. I did respond to this but although the matter he is now raising was not mentioned yesterday, I will respond to it.

**MR SPEAKER:** Have you concluded your comments (*referring to the member for Gagaemauga No. 2*)? Thank you Hon Minister. Please continue.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** The hospital and the private doctors are in partnership. Did you not hear me mention that the private doctors are servicing the district hospitals and clinics? They are paid \$200 per hour to service both Upolu and Savaii. Private doctors are presently seeing patients in the Outpatient. The member is not considering the difficulty in recording the private practitioners patients and there is no monitoring system. There is a great complication in the work.

What the member wants cannot be implemented at this time.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** The Hon Minister is incorrect in his response Mr Speaker. I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while I try to explain my comments.....

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**MR SPEAKER:** Be patient Saleaula while the Hon Minister explains as he has not reached the exact....

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker. The response is incorrect and going off track.

**MR SPEAKER:** The Hon Minister is commenting on the importance of the utilization of the private sector in the Ministry. The Hon Minister is about to explain the issue.

I beg leniency of the member for Saleaula, I call on the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** That is the Governments response Mr Speaker with all due respect, thank you.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** It is true Mr Speaker that the private doctors are being paid \$200 an hour but the public are also going to the general hospital but paying. If the \$18million grant could be used to have free medical checks regularly perhaps every 3 months. This would reduce the expenditure on overseas medical trips.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted and it is important. The Hon Ministers response was clear...

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** Point of clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Hon Minister of Health.

**Afioga Hon TUITAMA TALALELEI TUITAMA:** I have noted all the comments being made. The fees at the hospital are \$5 per person. A study 16 years ago was held at the hospital. The Government is subsidizing these costs. It was \$42 to see one doctor which includes the medical check, bandaging, injections and other medical checks. Additional costs equate to \$42 but a patient is only required to pay \$5.

The patient is not being checked for free; it is being subsidized and has been in practice for a while.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I believe the matter is clarified.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker the \$5 fee is different from the \$18million grant that I mentioned.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is clear Saleaula. I believe.....



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**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, when the Government has responded, that is the final answer. There are no other replies and there are no other debates to be made. Our work is still progressing and the Hon Minister has responded and that is the final response.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance to the member for Saleaula. I am trying to consider all your views regarding health.

Our new hospital will be opened and nothing is free. If you want good service you have to pay for it.

**Susuga Hon Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Aiono Neioti Sailele Malielegaoi:** Mr Speaker, if the member is constantly interrupting then this means he is intoxicated. This is what happens when we have evening sessions. You must have self control and be considerate of our sessions in the evening because when you are intoxicated, you argue profusely.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** It is normal Mr Speaker for me to constantly be upstanding. Being intoxicated is not permitted in the House.

**MR SPEAKER:** There is no need to push on the matter if you are not involved in such acts; our Heavenly Father will be the judge of that.

However I thank the Hon Minister of Health for the responses to the queries put forward.

I call now upon the Hon Minister of Women, Community and Social Development to respond to the matters that were raised against your Ministry.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity to respond to the issues. I first greet the country listening in. I also acknowledge the three arms of the State as well as the leaders of the various denominations.

I also greet this House; Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Associate Ministers and Members of Parliament. I also acknowledge the presence of the CEO's of the various Ministries and Corporations. Thank you for your service to this Parliament.

I greet and acknowledge the support of our neighboring cousins; Hon Governor, President of the two Houses, the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Thank you for your support.

I will now comment on the queries raised by the Members. There were not many who addressed this Ministry.

I will begin by addressing the issues regarding the privately owned water sources. The member for Falelatai and Samatau queried their water source and this was implemented before I was assigned this portfolio.

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However after my visit we found that waste pipes are being used and in the interest of the public's health, the pipes have to be replaced. So the water will be implemented because it is the service of the Government to the country. The work was completed in February of this year and it will be officially opened soon. I will leave it at that and we will be in contact. This task cannot be taken lightly and this is why the Ministry is cooperating with the Ministry of Health and SROS to ensure clean and safe drinking water managed by the Authority. The water supply is available from the water source to Siufaga and we have faith in the representative of the village in the committee to monitor and report any issues that may arise. Have faith in this Ministry and its work.

Also on the issue of privately owned water sources, we have noted the water for Saaga in Siumu and it is in the list of works to be implemented. Trainings are being carried out on how to use, manage and maintain the private water sources. The Ministry has already laid its plans awaiting implementation, so do not be troubled, the Government cannot desert its duties.

I thank the member for Palauli West for the expression of gratitude for their water supply. The first blueprint for the project was rejected and so other arrangements had to be made as per the requests of the member to improve and ensure that good drinking water is being provided for consumption. Those were the only matters regarding private water sources.

The \$1million in the Appropriation has been allocated.....

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Mr Speaker....

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Are you not satisfied with the response?

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister I give the floor to the honorable member for Siumu.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** I thank the Hon Minister. However his comments are generalized and so I ask when our constituency should be prepared with all due respect.

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

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Mr Speaker, I advise that the villages cease preparing for the Ministry because if the work is not implemented, then they would complain. Be informed that your request is on the list and will be implemented.

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The Government has decided that the \$1million appropriation queried by the honorable member for Siumu will be for family homes that were affected by the devastation of Cyclone Evan. I have been informed that 173 families that were severely devastated will receive this grant. I repeat that this grant is for the homes; not the families. Other assistance from overseas has been distributed in the form of linen and the like but this grant will be allocated for 173 family homes categorized as P1 and P2. Category P1 is appropriated \$3,000 and Category P2 is appropriated \$1,656. Government has approved this grant because it cares for the people. That is what you should be mindful of....

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

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Faleata was not mentioned Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. What is the interruption?

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I would like to comment on this appropriation Mr Speaker. I mentioned it in my speech.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** Mr Speaker the member did not mention this grant in his speech but because he is my friend I will give the floor.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** The purpose of the appropriation is noble but the concern Mr Speaker is that there may be a mix up in the distribution of funds. The DMO is responsible for distributing the assistance for the Cyclone affected areas and there may be confusion in the distribution. It is appropriate that there be one agency to distribute this assistance to avoid any contradiction in this regard.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMEOE LEIATAUA:** The honorable members view is noted.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is understood. It seems that you do not trust the Hon Minister and his distribution.

I call on the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua:** There was no intention to interrupt however I would like to comment as I mentioned this in my speech. I am not sure if the honorable member for Siumu mentioned this as I was not here when he spoke but I recall querying this \$1million.

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I conversed with the Hon Minister on the allocation of this grant. Perhaps my neighboring villages are those that these funds are allocated for. The member for the Individual Voters knows that I am referring to the families that are leasing at Matautu. I checked the list of families and there is only one family from Moataa but there are more than 10 that need help. It was the Agency that compiled the list not the Government but I feel that the list is incomplete and there are families that are missing with all due respect.

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

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMoe LEIATAUA:** First I respond to the comments from the honorable member for Faleata West. There is no mistake in the administration of these funds. The Ministry of Women cooperates with DMO, the Ministry of Police, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and other relevant Ministries in this regard.

Second, the list mentioned was also compiled with a collaborative effort. I will read out the constituencies in the list; Vaimauga West, Vaimauga East, Faleata West, Safata, Siumu, Lefaga and Faleseela, Amoama East and Fagaloa.

I apologize to the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, what has been written will be.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg leniency of the Hon Minister. I will give the opportunity to the interrupting member for Siumu so that you may respond at one time.

**Tofa Hon Tuuu Anasii Leota:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am dismayed that the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo did not recall that I mentioned the grant. The Hon Minister mentioned that it was I that commented on the grant. Perhaps the honorable member was sitting at the kava bowl outside when I mentioned this. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon Minister and the Government for the assistance to the families of our constituency of Vaimauga and Safata that were devastated by Cyclone.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua:** I am full of respect for the Hon Minister however I wish to comment on the statement that ‘what is written will be’. I am only concerned for my neighboring families. Even my house was completely destroyed and the Hon Prime Minister witnessed this last week Thursday. I am pleading on behalf of the families leasing near me such as Salanoa and Myna Pau. Myna is on the list but my family is not. I am from Aleipata but we also have land at Vaimauga and they were also affected as well as Vaisigano.

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I must comment if there is unfairness and I believe the list was not done fairly with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. In the interest of time I give the opportunity to the honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I did not want to interrupt the Hon Minister however there seems to be a contradiction on this issue. This matter was discussed in our Committee hearing and the Ministry stated that this grant would be for the small businesses that were affected during the Cyclone however the Hon Minister has stated that the grant is for family homes. The statement was that the grant was for families whose vegetable gardens were destroyed and the Committee recommended that the Ministry reconsider the distribution of the grant.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** The honorable Chairpersons comments are understood. These are two different appropriations. Small businesses in this area do not amount to 173 or 186; these are families that I am talking about.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the honorable Chairperson please let the Hon Minister clarify.....

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Mr Speaker, we are ready to progress with the work but there are too many interjections. I will take my seat.

**MR SPEAKER:** I apologize but it is the Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the opportunity will be given.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister but these are the facts. Our Committee queried this grant because \$1million is not a small amount. The Ministry testified on the allocation of these funds and we recommended that the distribution of these funds be reconsidered and that all requirements are satisfied.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** I should have been left to continue.

**MR SPEAKER:** Continue Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** The Chairperson means to say that he is in the right and I am in the wrong.

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The grant is not in the form of money but vouchers which is to be presented to hardware stores for building supplies. This is a strategy to ensure the funds are used wisely. Those who planned this know what they are doing.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I would like to assist the Hon Minister. Mr Speaker, I am also in the Finance and Expenditure Committee and the honorable Chairperson is correct. The Minister was invited to provide clarifications and that was the explanation as stated by the honorable Chairperson. It was the Hon Ministers Ministry that made that explanation.

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

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** There is a saying in Savaii that ‘Samata’s river stands separate’ as is this matter. Also, the Committee only makes recommendations but not decisions. Those you proposed the use of cash transfer procurement vouchers instead of cash knew what they were doing. Vouchers are presented to hardware stores and the Government will pay the supplier directly.

We are in charge of administering the funds now and that is our explanation. Wait until it is your turn then you can do as you wish because it seems as if you are trying to manage these for us.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the error is not ours. It is the Ministrys error for giving us that explanation but if they had given the explanation that the Hon Minister is putting forward there would be no confusion but I support the Chairpersons comments.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Leader of the Opposition your point is noted.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** You are listening to the honorable member for Falealupo whispering that it is incorrect and so you stand and put forward incorrect comments also. Mr Speaker, we would like to continue our response.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe.....

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** I have been mentioned Mr Speaker. In regards to the work of the Assembly, Committee Chairs are in that position for a reason. If they did not know what they were doing, the whole Committee would be led astray. Committee Chairs are highly regarded when they speak, otherwise....

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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**MR SPEAKER:** I ask that you sympathize as I try to calm our proceedings. To the honorable Chairperson, the Hon Minister has responded. There seems to be two different explanations and the error is not with the Committee. I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. The Finance and Expenditure Committee spent two weeks considering the appropriations and it was an arduous task. Perhaps the list can be added to as per the request of the Tui Atua to complete the list.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** I apologize to the honorable Chairperson it was not an error on your part. Support the work of the government and its decisions.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister and give the floor to the honorable Chairperson.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Our Committee is not questioning the honesty of the Hon Minister or the Ministry. If the explanation put to the Committee on the use of these funds was correct, we would be satisfied with that. However, the explanation from the Hon Minister and that put forward from the Ministry are in contradiction. Despite this we will adhere to the Hon Ministers clarification. As I mentioned earlier to the Hon Prime Minister, we do not have the power to change the decisions, we merely make recommendations based on the explanations and clarifications put forward during the Committees consideration of the Appropriations. I humbly apologize to the Hon Minister, this is a valuable assistance and we ask that you reconsider the list.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matter is now with the Hon Minister for consideration. You may now take the floor Hon Minister.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** I commend you Mr Speaker for guiding our proceedings. Honorable Chairperson, perhaps the final decision on the use of these funds was reconsidered and now this is how the funds will be appropriated. There is no obscurity and I believe the honorable Chairperson is now satisfied. As for the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, leave the matter with me.

The honorable member for Siumu mentioned families that were affected by a mini-tornado two weeks ago. This appropriation does not include these families as the use of these funds has been set. You are aware of the processes in this regard and that is what you must do.

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The Disaster Management Office is available to look into your concern. I do not know why Siumu always has mini-tornadoes but my advice is that you continue to pray for forgiveness for us all.

I now come to the request made by one of the members for Vaimauga West; Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua. Government policies are clear on the appointments of mayors and representatives of Womens Committees. This is not a matter to be dealt with here. The Ministry has noted that you are not the only village making this request. The Government also needs to consider the services of those in these positions. Your request will be considered together with the other villages. The Government notes that the support of the mayors only strengthens when reappointment is near. The literal meaning of pulenuu is boss of the village and this is why the term has been changed to sui o nuu which means representative of the village. Some village mayors use this position to instill their authority but you should know that you answer to the Ministers and we answer to our Lord.

Leave the matter with me. The intention is that we cooperate with village mayors and representatives of all villages. There are approximately 20 villages with this issue and as the Lord said to Cain ‘sin is at your doorstep’ therefore you must be good and I will look after you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the floor to the honorable member for Vaimauga West that was mentioned.

**Tofa Lenatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua:** Thank you Hon Minister for responding to the request put forward.

Cash power is being paid for in the whole of Magiagi and the village mayor and representative of the Womens Committee are carrying out their responsibilities in this regard as instructed.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you for the reminder. I call on the Hon Minister to continue.

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** Your concern is noted. Leave your request with me and I will look into it. The Ministry has its policies also to consider.

Mr Speaker, the Government relies on village mayors and representatives of Womens Committees to ensure good governance in village affairs. They are the right hand of the Government in the village so that the law is upheld and peace is maintained. An example of this is the Ministrys initiative in ensuring good governance in villages which started from Afega. They have made their village codes and this is the same for Salepouae and Fagafau.



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Other villages such as Tapueleele, Satufia in Satupaitea and Fusi Safata will join this initiative. We plead that you all be mindful of the Governments efforts to beautify our village and grow our plantations and carry out regular visits for the benefit of our country. Your assistance is needed to improve on these areas that we may prove to the critics that we are not a country in poverty and famine. It is through the collaborative efforts of our village representatives that we can start vegetable gardens, clean our villages and work with the Ministry in its continuous training programs. These trainings include workshops for sewing, cooking, flower arrangements, printing and many others.

Another initiative is the revival of the Samoan fine mat. The Hon Prime Minister is the chairperson of the Committee but it is the Ministry that is financing this initiative. We have noted efforts in the weaving of the Samoan fine mate according to the widths and lengths approved by the Government and the Committee.

I conclude my response on the matter raised by one of the members regarding the youth. A child's attitude and manner is shaped from within the family and their relationships with the parents. In regards to the youth entrepreneurs, their success relies on this relationship. Last week, a prize giving was carried out for the commendable developments by the youth in fishing, farming, plantations, auto repair shops, sewing and the like. The cash prizes were of a substantial amount and yet they are only youths. Your persistence has been rewarded as per the Governments objective and may you succeed for the future. This is not the end, the program will be held annually to reward your developments.

I believe that was all....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister, I give the floor to the honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister is completing his response and yet he has not responded to the matter I raised as per the findings of our Committee on the Printing Press. This Corporation has a debt and there are contradictions between their records and records from the Ministries that owe the Press. Also Hon Minister, are the costs at the Press accurate to ensure profit? This is one Corporation that should have dividends to assist with the Appropriations.

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

**Tofa Hon TOLOFUAIVALELEI FALEMOE LEIATAUA:** With all due respect Mr Speaker, the Ministry has made arrangements with the Printing Press.

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If I am correct, the Audit Report states that the Printing Press has not received millions in payments from Ministries that utilize their services. A request has been presented to the Government to privatize the press. At the moment the Ministry is awaiting a Cabinet approval on any assistance regarding the purchase of new machinery and equipment. The machinery currently being used is ancient and is still being used.

That is the response honorable Chairperson. This development will succeed if privatized but the decision from the Government is pending.

With that I humbly conclude the response of the Ministry. I thank my constituency of Aana Alofi No. 2 in all your honorific salutations for your support. I express my condolences to the Oloapu family for the passing of the honorable Niupa. May the Lord comfort you in this time of sorrow. Until the next parliamentary sitting; God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the House has understood the response from the Hon Minister and I express my gratitude for the answers put forward on the issues raised. Thank you for your patience and hard work.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology. Please take the floor Hon Minister for your speech.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU (Minister of Communication and Information Technology):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I greet the dignity of the House; Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the Opposition and all the Members of Parliament present. The dark has descended upon us and still His grace has been with us as we have witnessed throughout the proceedings.

I acknowledge the support of His Highness the Le Ao o le Malo and His Good Lady, the member of the Council of Deputies and your Good Lady and Samoa listening in. Thank you for supporting the work of this Parliament.

There were 5 issues raised regarding this Ministry and I have responded to some.

A member queried whether the broadband highway will be made available to the rest of the country and not only the Government. The fact of the matter is that it is beginning with the Government Ministries and Corporations and then it will be made available to the public. This is the usual process, it begins with the Ministries and Corporations and then it is made available to the country.

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister as we have now arrived at our evening recess hour.

I announce that the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly will be set aside for its normal recess.

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

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly resumed at 9.50pm.*

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe we have come to the final part of our proceedings and we are able to continue and complete our work in health and strength after the meal that was provided.

I express my gratitude to all the Members for your patience as we proceed to continue with our work. We wish to pass the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 tonight to make tomorrow available to deliberate on other bills. Therefore I ask the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet to have patience as we try to complete our orders for today.

I give the floor to the Hon Prime Minister for a motion.

**MOTION FOR THE EXTENSION OF SITTING HOURS**

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I rise with all due respect to move a motion, *That our work continue tonight until the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 is passed.*

*Seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology.*

*Motion approved.*

*Deliberations on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 resumed.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Before our recess, the Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology was making his response therefore I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor and continue his remarks.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I believe that we have regained our strength to continue after the meal that was provided.

I have completed my response regarding the broadband highway and that this project will continue from the Government Ministries and Corporations and then it will be available to the public.

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The second issue raised concerned the high internet costs. Fiji has the lowest, but Samoa is third highest on the list then Vanuatu and other Pacific Islands are also moving in this direction. I explained before that in April, the cell phone calling rates decreased from 17.7cents to 13cents. Also in April, one of the internet providers dropped its internet costs to a very low price. However, four other internet providers complained and the Regulator investigated and today the decision was given to the four companies. In another three to four weeks another decision by the Regulator will be made to assist in the affordability of the internet costs.

As I stated before, the Regulator is governed by Legislations and the Office must thoroughly research the issue for each party to be clarified and the Order must also be clarified accordingly.

Also on the issue of internet costs, a Board has been appointed in collaboration with the Government and the Ministry to research the possibility of a second submarine cable. This would widen the scope of use and also result in the decrease in the internet costs. Next week there will be a meeting with the World Bank for further negotiations.

A member mentioned the possibility of a launch balloon similar to that which was just launched in New Zealand. It was used in other countries such as Finland and Switzerland for many years but the operation has been ceased.

This technology is similar to the satellite however it does not orbit as high as the satellite. Aeroplanes fly higher than the balloon which can only go up to 35,000 ft. It operates similar to the satellites where signals are transmitted to earth.

The Ministry will continue its research on the simple and cheaper technologies available but it may not be for the present time but it is information that will be beneficial for the future.

Other comments were made regarding television broadcasts.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister while the opportunity is given to the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** I thank the Hon Minister for the future plans regarding the matter of the internet costs. We support your efforts for the future. I only reiterate the importance of the submarine cable because it would assist greatly with the internet costs. The Government should also manage and control this initiative because if it is privatized then the competition between providers will then begin and we will again be at square one with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call on the Hon Minister to the floor once again.

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**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** Thank you for the recommendations. Those are all aspects that are currently being investigated by the Ministry. This matter will not be rushed but this initiative should be available to all the service providers without prejudice. Let us hope that it will be implemented soon.

Regarding the television broadcasts, the Regulator began the monitoring of the country in March. The areas with bad transmission are Asau, Neiafu and Falealupo and the source of the problems are because the electricity is solar powered. This is why the electric supply is static at night when all electric appliances are being used at once. The Ministry is not being idle in this regard and just two weeks ago, we sent a letter to the Television Companies.

There are legal conditions but we are being mindful of the rest of the country as we are aware only 11%-12% of the population resides in these areas and the majority in the rest of the country. We try not to offend and perhaps in the near future a definite decision will be made because we cannot leave the matter as it is. Licenses were approved and the terms and conditions were agreed upon as to the providing of this service and a time frame was given to them and still it has not been improved.

There were comments regarding the radio transmissions. The matter was looked into and it has been confirmed today that the radio transmission is available throughout the country. Perhaps there are parts of the country that have interrupted transmissions and work is underway to solve the issue. At this moment there is not much that can be done for the 2AP service as the Ministry is focusing on the construction of the new office building.

With that I conclude the response on the matters raised...

**MR SPEAKER:** I interrupt the Hon Minister as there are members that wish to comment. The floor will be given first to the honorable member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo then the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Tafua Maluelue Tafua:** Thank you Hon Minister for your response however I heard that you only mentioned Asau and Falealupo that has problems with their television coverage. I did not raise the matter during my comments however I did raise it last year as the Aleipata area has problems with its television coverage.

Perhaps this is also the case for Lepa, Aufaga and Lotofaga. I rise with all due respect to remind you Hon Minister of this matter and leave it at your side.

**MR SPEAKER:** In the interest of time I give the floor to the honorable member for Falealupo.

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**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Hon Minister this is the same issue for our part of the country. Perhaps it would be appropriate to have a transmission pole. I spoke to some people and they also recommended that a transmission pole is the answer.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point has been noted. I give the opportunity to the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau.

**Afioga Taefu Lemi:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you also Hon Minister. I mentioned the license for radio stations. Although they are not Government owned radio stations but the majority of the country is not accessible to the FM coverage. Is it possible to have terms and conditions during the releasing of the licenses to enable the service to be available to the whole of the country?

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister to take the floor for his closing remarks.

**Afioga Hon TUISUGALETAUA SOFARA AVEAU:** For the Aleipata region, it is true. After the last monitoring it was confirmed that the television coverage is not available to Lalomanu and the rest of Aleipata Itupa i lalo and Aleipata Itupa i luga as well as Lufilufi, some parts of Siumu and Falealupo. The clarification for the Falealupo area is that there is a transmission pole however the electric supply is not sufficient. Therefore the problem is the electric supply. During the day it is sufficient however the solar panels do not store enough sunlight for electricity supply during the night and this is when the television is used. This problem occurred a while ago and a recent site visit found that nothing has been done but leave the matter with me and we will persist with this matter.

As for the issue raised by the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau; it is true that there are radio stations that do not cover some parts of the country. Some stations have a shorter range. There are conditions in the license and the range is up to the station as it is not provided for in the terms and conditions of the license. As a business it is their discretion as there is no money to be made in extending the coverage area of the station. They are proposing ways to extend their coverage area but they should also be cautious as they need to consider their financial situations. Better to try than for the service to cease altogether and then the citizens will not receive this service and the business will go bankrupt.

With that I conclude my response Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I thank the Members for your patience and for your consideration of this Ministry and its service delivery. Have a good evening.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Minister of Communications and Information Technology. I feel that all the members are clarified from the response provided. The country requests full television coverage to watch our Manu Samoa team as well as the Commonwealth games.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Finance. The floor is now yours for your response.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** I greet you Mr Speaker, the dignity of the House and Samoa in all your honorific salutations which cannot be changed. With the limited time I will proceed with the orders of the day.

I first thank you Mr Speaker for your patience in chairing our proceedings. I also express my gratitude to all the members that commented on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

I would also like to convey my gratitude to the Chairperson and the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

The honorable Chairperson requested for developments for Aleisa even though he is uncertain of the future. Do not be of faint heart. You are showing a lack of faith and yet you are a person of God. The recommendations in the Committee report are very important in further improving the development of Samoa. The Appropriation Bill reflects a good economic state. For instance in the last Appropriation the cost of living was 5.9% in March 2012, and now it has decreased by 0.02% as of March 2013. This was as a result of the development of our land. The markets are cheaper and we should be grateful to the farmers for playing their part. The Government's part is to provide opportunities to attract farmers which is why the Ministry of Agriculture has set out various programs to assist the farmers in the rural areas. National Government policies aim at improving our economy and providing developments that will create employment opportunities and provide financial assistance to the private sector for economic stimulation. All developments rely on Government revenue, financial aid from our partners and loans.

Mr Speaker, there is a 4.8% budget deficit compared to the 2012/2013 financial year which was 6.1% considering that we were devastated by Cyclone Evan. The Budget Address last financial year stated that there would be strategies in place to progressively decrease the deficit to 3.5% however we were affected by Cyclone Evan and we will be hosting international events as appropriated for in this 2013/2014 Budget.

Mr Speaker, our revenue is very important and I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Revenue and the Ministry for their contribution to this Appropriation.

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I also express my gratitude to all the Ministries and Corporations which contributed to this Budget. The Government is proposing a review of the fees and charges for the service delivery to ensure efficiency to enable equality in both the private and public sector.

During the discussion stages of this Budget....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister; I give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I apologize to the Hon Minister. You have commented on a very important issue which is improving of service delivery and I cannot see what improvement in service occurs when petrol prices increase? What service is to be improved when petrol prices increase?

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Your point is understood. Mr Speaker, beginning in August or September of this year, the Government will tender the cost of petrol. The prices were low in May and June and if this is the trend then we might see another decrease in July.

I am still awaiting the report on the petrol prices for next month. Petrol will not increase as it will be tendered and I cannot comment on it because the tender closes in August. I know the petrol prices never increased by 200% because if it is decreasing, it will continue to drop.

Diesel prices at the moment is not less than 200% as stated by the Leader of the Opposition however it is not a cause for concern. Many countries are now moving to renewable energy and the markets for diesel is diminishing and this is what the Leader of the Opposition should consider. If the use of renewable energy is the global trend then the diesel and petrol prices will decrease. We are also shifting to renewable energy for environmental protection. We blame the cause of natural disasters on others and yet we are adding to the problem.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** If the petrol price is not to be increased then why is it stated here that there is a 200% levy increase?

**MR SPEAKER:** Perhaps the 200% levy is not the matter that was clarified. The opportunity is given to the Hon Minister.



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** If it is the ACC levy it is only 1% and if it is 2% this means that only 2cents or 3 cents levy is being added to the petrol price. This indicates that....

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, it is stated here that it is 200%.

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

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** If it is a 200% levy on the petrol price, this is the ACC of 1cent which is deducted for compensation of employees involved in accidents in the workplace. This 1cent levy deduction entitles a sailor lost at sea to \$20,000.

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

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Mr Speaker, the problem is that the Hon Minister stated that there will be a decrease but it is stated here that there is an increase of 200% which is 3cents to a litre. If its 10 liters then its 30cents and it may seem like 1 cent now but after the 200% increase it would be a large amount.

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** You are answering your own question. If it is a 200% increase from 1cent to 3cents, this is the levy for accident compensation as stipulated in the ACC Principal Act. That 3cent levy stated in the Appropriation will also be used to fund road works, electricity connections for the rural areas and water connections and other developments.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** I apologize Mr Speaker but I am not commenting on the accident compensation, I am talking about increase in petrol prices. Is providing petrol not a service? I am pursuing the Hon Ministers remarks stating that the price will not increase.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted, I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** It seems that you are questioning the increasing of petrol prices. At the moment it is being tendered and the price is unknown but you are talking about the ACC levy, which is 1 cent.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

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**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Mr Speaker....

**MR SPEAKER:** Keep it short please.

**Tofa Levaopolo Talatonu:** Point of clarification Mr Speaker. As per the records and the statement made by the Hon Minister, there will be an increase from 3cents to 5cents per liter. Now I hear that it is still 3cents and I do not know what the facts are.

**MR SPEAKER:** To make it faster I will reply. The 1cent levy is deducted for the ACC. The 200% is the increase in the levy deducted. So the 1 cent deducted plus the 200% increase therefore 1cent plus 2cents is 3cents. That is the clarification.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** No matter how it is clarified the 3 cent levy will be funded from the 200% increase to the petrol prices.

**MR SPEAKER:** I will leave it to the Hon Minister to clarify because we are contradicting on the levy and the petrol prices. Petrol prices fluctuate monthly as the Hon Minister stated it has decreased from May, June and July and we do not know about August. The levy has been clarified and that it is the accident compensation deduction.

I call on the Hon Minister. I give it the opportunity first to the member.

**Afioga Hon Leaupepe Toleafoa Apulu Faafisi:** I would like to assist on the matter.

It is getting cold and if we were to sit and wait until the member is satisfied then we would have to move another motion to continue to tomorrow. We do not have to wait until the member is satisfied. When the Government has responded then that is the final response.

That is the assistance on this matter.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is understood. I thank the member for his assistance.

**Afioga Hon Palusalue Faapo II:** Let us just continue with these inaccuracies.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the Hon Minister of Finance. Although there is a difference in the understanding between the two parties, the Hon Minister's clarification is clear.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** No, the liter is not going to be increased by 200%. The 1cent levy is going to be increased to 3cents.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

Mr Speaker, 31 members spoke on the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 and 4 members only showed their appreciation for the Budget. Other members did not comment.

One of the Members spoke on the pensioner benefits to travel between Apia and Tutuila. This was ceased because it would set precedence for travelers travelling to Samoa because this is international travel. This is why this travel between Apia and Pago paid for by NPF was ceased.

Other matters raised by the members as well as the Chairperson of the Committee regarding ways that the Ministry of Finance can make it compulsory for the Ministries to repay their debts to other Ministries and Corporations and vice versa. This is a worthwhile recommendation so that these debts do not accumulate.

Mr Speaker, other recommendations concerned the timely submission of annual reports as provided for in legislation so that when they are presented the accounts would have already been investigated by the Auditor General.

Three months ago Mr Speaker, the Cabinet approved the stimulus package which would affect businesses or hotels because of the global financial state.

The loan schemes has been restructured to decrease loan payments and interest rates at NPF and the Development Bank of Samoa so that businesses will be able to thrive in the next two years or sometime in the future.

A member mentioned policies regarding the use of electricity. I am also the Chairperson of the National Energy Coordinating Committee (NECC) and as I mentioned before, natural disasters are manmade because of our failure to take care of our environment.

The last Parliament passed legislation to prohibit burning of rubbish because it affects the atmosphere and makes it hotter.

Rubbish disposal and how it is managed was also raised and this is one issue faced by small island nations. There are 3R's which stand for reduce, reuse and recycle and this is one strategy used to manage the disposal of waste. The Government and the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment need to enforce these strategies as we are also members of the Environment International Conventions which include climate change.

We will always be faced with natural disasters, heavy rainfall, rising sea levels and rise in temperature and we need to be prepared.

Mr Speaker, I first express my gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet for supporting this Ministry in the compilation of this Appropriation.

I also thank.....

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Mr Speaker.....

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister. I give the floor to the honorable member for Falealupo.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Minister for his response as it is not an easy task however there is one important question that I wish to ask.

The honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee mentioned that there are 16 SOE's and 13 of these SOE's have debts up to the millions and my question is, what is the reason for this? And what is your reply to this?

**MR SPEAKER:** I give the floor to the honorable Chairperson and then the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** In the interest of time, however I would like to correct a statement made by the Hon Minister that I was uncertain of the future of my developments by the correction is, I am uncertain of the future of his seat. There is no reason why I would mention my developments in Parliament.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, I will not reply to the query from the honorable member for Falealupo.

As for the honorable Chairperson, perhaps he did not hear me correctly. He requested for developments for his constituency and I stated that the future was uncertain and that this should not set the destination for him because a person of the Lord does not worry and the Lord provides a way for his servants to return to him with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** I believe the matter is clear but because of the respect I have I will give the opportunity to the honorable member for Falealupo.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** Mr Speaker, there is clarity when everything is in order however if the Hon Minister will not reply, there is nothing to worry about.

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

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Because the honorable member was a former Speaker I assumed he understood the Standing Orders. If you did not comment on the matter then you cannot question it. However because of our relationship from Savaii I will reply. The last financial year, the three SOE's presented their reports however the others did not because they had not been audited. If there was no audit then the dividends cannot be confirmed for the 50% to go to the Government.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

The honorable Chairperson mentioned that there are 16 SOE's and only 3 have presented their reports but this was for the 2012/2013 financial year. This financial year is not complete and it is provided for in legislation that by October the accounts should be audited and the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Cabinet and then Parliament, with all due respect.

**Afioga Hon Aeau Peniamina Leavaiseeta:** It is understood and I believe everyone is satisfied. However honorable Chairperson, there is something missing and you can correct it later. It seems the information is also incomplete.....

**MR SPEAKER:** The opportunity is given to the honorable Chairperson for a response.

**Susuga Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The member and I are friends. Wait till we are outside and I will explain the matter, thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member for Aana Alofi No. 2 and then the opportunity will be given to the Hon Minister for his final response.

**Afioga Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster:** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I convey my gratitude to the Hon Minister of Finance for clarifying the matters on the Appropriations. I recommend that the Government consider legal provisions for businesses and individuals to install solar panels or other renewable energy sources and buy back credit for cheaper electricity at the same time assisting the Government with their electric sources.

Also, if there can be conditions for solar panels to be more affordable for families and not rely on big companies but there are families that are able to afford panels.

**MR SPEAKER:** Your point is noted I give the opportunity to the Hon Minister after the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4.

**Afioga Peseta Vaifou Tevaga:** I commented on our Asaga Primary School yesterday as this is a project funded by the Peoples Republic of China through the Ministry of Finance with all due respect.

**MR SPEAKER:** The matters are sources of electricity and education but I will give the floor to the Hon Minister.

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Although this is not under my portfolio I will reply. Your remarks are worthwhile member for Aana Alofi No. 2.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

If you did not comment on the matter then you cannot question it. However because of our relationship from Savaii I will reply. The last financial year, the three SOE's presented their reports however the others did not because they had not been audited. If there was no audit then the dividends cannot be confirmed for the 50% to go to the Government.

Write to the NECC and a decision will be made on that matter. These are the sorts of remarks that the Government needs for the future.

As for the member for Faasaleleaga No. 4 your matter has been recorded and it is on the list of requests to the Peoples Republic of China.

Mr Speaker, I thank the Associate Ministers that I collaborate with under the finance sector. Thank you for your support and service to the country especially in carrying out your responsibilities and roles in our Ministry.

I thank the CEO, management and staff of the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of this Budget now before Parliament. God bless you in your services and God bless our Ministry.

To all the CEO's of the Ministries under the finance sector, congratulations for your hard work, may the Lord continue to bless you with strength to serve Samoa.

I convey my gratitude to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Office for your service to this Parliament not only in the House but also in the preparation of our meals.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the CEO's of the Government Corporations for your service and may God rejuvenate your strength to continue in your service. I also acknowledge the service of the Police to this House.

To my constituency, thank you for your support and prayers especially that of the clergy and leaders of the various denominations. Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity, soifua.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister of Finance. I believe the country and this Parliament have heard the clear explanations of the matters raised by the Members.

We have now come to the Ministry of Revenue; you may take the floor.

**Tofa Hon TUILOMA LAMEKO (Minister of Revenue):** Mr Speaker, I greet the Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition.

I greet the dignity of the House gathered here today and before I comment on the Appropriation 2013/2014 I wish also to acknowledge the country listening in this evening.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

I acknowledge the support of His Highness the Le Ao o le Malo, the member of the Council of Deputies, Chief Justice, CEO's of the various Government Ministries and Corporations as well the Leaders of the various denominations in Samoa.

I also recognize the support of my Constituency.

In regards to this Appropriation, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson and the members of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, Ministry of Finance and all the different bodies that contributed to this Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

As a member, I personally think that this Appropriation is measured appropriately against the global financial state and our economic state. It is no secret that all countries, even big countries such as the United States of America are facing economic instability.

Some members commented on the amount of debt but there is a way that these loans can be managed well. It is similar to your personal loans. The important thing is the ability to pay the loan. Ordinary Revenue is projected in this Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 to be \$538million and \$45 million of this will be to finance the loans.

Therefore Mr Speaker I thank the Ministry of Revenue and the CEO for their knowledge because it was not only a task done by the Ministry of Finance. Almost 90% of the \$538million was collected from the Ministry of Revenue and this was not an easy task. There are always problems but that is why we are chosen. I have also spoken with the Customs Office that this is our duty to do the best we can to collect our countrys revenue and I thank the CEO and Management as well as the different Ministries.

The general outlook for our Appropriation has been clarified and our economy is measured also by the global state.

To the responsible Minister, one of the members of Falealili has spoken on the needs regarding the roads, pipes and other developments. To the Ministry of Health, the Poutasi hospital is in need of repair.

With that I again thank all the Ministries that contributed to the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014, God bless.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Hon Minister, the CEO and the Ministry for your work and patience as well as your contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

We have now come to the Hon Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration.

**Afioga Hon FIAME MATAAFA (Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration):** Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament, CEO's of the various Government Ministries and Corporations, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and your Office, I rise to comment on the bill before the House from this Ministerial portfolio.

20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

I first convey my gratitude to the honorable Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the report before the House. In addition to that I am grateful for acceptance of some of the requests by the Ministry to renovate the Chief Justice's house as well as the housing for the judges in Savaii. We are also grateful for the recommendation after the site visit that \$100,000 is not sufficient for the work and perhaps there will be funds appropriated.

The recommendation regarding the submission of Annual Reports has been heeded. In the next sitting the 2012 Annual Report for the Ministry will be tabled but the 2009, 2012 and 2011 Annual Reports are in the order of Parliamentary Papers tabled.

The only matter honorable Chairperson by way of the Chair concerns the name of our Ministry in the English report. It is our name with recommendations to the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment.

I will not respond to some of the matters that were raised. I listened intently to the comments by the Hon Minister of Finance especially in regards to the SOE's contribution to the revenue and their accounts have all been audited. The SOE's are Samoa Housing Corporation, SIFA and the Post Office and I would like to point out that the CEO's are women. The Hon Minister\* also pointed out that the Ministry of Revenue had an increase in revenue collected for this year by half a million and again, the CEO is a woman.

As a woman, I wish to recognize the achievement of these women and their service to the Government.

Continuing with the response Mr Speaker, there was a Member that noted the improvement of the service delivery as indicated in the Minsitry's report tabled which reflects the Ministry's progress especially in the cases brought to court. The Ministry relies on its employees for its service delivery and the administration of its work. In the last financial year the Ministry recruited approximately 30 new staff, 3 district court judges and one assistant Judge; Susuga Ida Malosi from New Zealand. The improvement of the service is ongoing not only in its delivery but also the structure and systems can be enhanced and special training opportunities can also be made available.

The issue of the backlog in cases was also raised. At the moment there are 15 cases that are pending and the Ministry and judges are working to clear these cases.

One of the members also raised the matter of specialist Judges for instance on environmental issues. Mr Speaker, I recall this matter being brought forward and my reply to this is the same as it was last year. Regarding the structuring of different courts for small island nations, we can only prepare for when there is an increase in environmental cases, corporate cases or other cases then the Ministry and the judiciary will prepare accordingly in terms of training.



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

Not only in this case but also in cases that we understand such as the family court. Thus the employment of the assistance of Judge Ida Malosi who specializes in this area to assist us with training and gaining knowledge in this area. If we do not have the expertise, we will seek a Judge with the expertise to work the cases from time to time.

I conclude my response Mr Speaker by responding to the request for the judicial services to the west of Savaii. The Ministry is working towards it and perhaps the service will be available soon.

That is all with all due respect. Good evening.

**MR SPEAKER:** I call on the honorable member for Falelatai and Samatau who is also the Associate Minister for the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration.

**Afioga Taefu Lemi:** Mr Speaker, although I am the Associate Minister, I stand as a member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee as I see the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson is not present and other members are still on their break. I apologize to the Hon Minister for the mix up in the name of the Ministry. It is not an error during the Committees consideration but it was during the compilation that the error was made and I apologize.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the member of the Committee for the clarification in that regard. I thank the Hon Minister for the work and also for pointing out the quality services provided by the women as you are also highly regarded in your Ministerial role in the Cabinet and your work need not be mentioned. I also acknowledge the work of the Judiciary, President of the Courts and the Ministry. I believe that your task as one of the arms of the State is to interpret the legislations passed in this House.

The floor will now be given to the responses from the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUA FESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** Mr Speaker, the structure of Samoa has been set in regards to its culture, government and religion and I greet all these sectors of our country.

With all due respect I wish to respond this evening to matters raised against this private sector in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014.

Mr Speaker, the Government has not decreased its support in its partnership with the private sector and it continues as the Government values this partnership for economic improvement. There are grant programs to assist this sector and this appropriation provides for them.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

I clarified on some of these programs yesterday however I wish to touch on the grants to the private sector, Samoa Hotel Association, Women in Business and the Chamber of Commerce. Grants appropriated to them range from \$100,000 to \$150,000. This assistance will continue and the Government is also laboring arduously to attract foreign investors for economic growth and public benefit.

The PSSF partnership program is still ongoing between our Government and its development partners such as UNDP and the New Zealand Government. The Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 provides for the \$1.5million for the work in the next financial year for different projects including the promotion of the different services available.

One member commented on the importance of the continuation of SBEC and it will not be ceased and less than a million is being appropriation in the Budget to assist small businesses.

It has been reported that there are more than 300 farmers registered under this program and this is crucial as more than 80% of our people work in the agricultural sector pointed out by one of the members. We are all aware that 80% of our land is customary land and we all have ties to it and this is another reason why this program is important. I mention these Mr Spèaker because there were some members that queried if there was any assistance for the private sector in this Appropriation Bill 2013/2014. These are just some programs but there are many others in the Budget also appropriated for under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. There are appropriations to the farmers and these are also small businesses. There are also commercial farmers and they also have contribution in our countrys economic development. However, the clear cut explanation is that these are not free hand outs for the businesses and the programs I mentioned are accessible to everyone.

Another member mentioned the need to increase technical and vocational skills. As is known, we have a technical program at the University and the Apprenticeship program is still ongoing. There are at least 200 enrolled in this program which provides training in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, welding and other technical training. I also explained the CODEX concept during other Parliamentary proceedings as the safety of exported canned and bottled goods was questioned and there is a Committee that monitors this issue. Perhaps we recall that there were media advertisements and warnings about the varieties of mayonnaise and some of the brands have been taken off the shelves. These are just some tasks of the Committee and I convey my gratitude to the Ministry of Health working in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor in this monitoring role. One member raised the matter of tinned herrings, if there are any tinned herrings or any goods that are inappropriate for consumption report it to the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Commerce.....

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

**MR SPEAKER:** I beg tolerance of the Hon Minister there is an interruption from the honorable member for Faleata West.

**Tofa Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi:** Just one question Deputy Prime Minister. I raised the matter regarding CODEX during the Food Bill. I know the Ministry responsible for the bill worked hard on it and it is important because it differentiates between food and drugs and I wish to know the status of this bill with all due respect.

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

**Tofa Hon FONOTOE NUAFESILI PIERRE LAUOFO:** The member is correct. The Food Bill is still being prepared by the Ministry of Health and perhaps it is near completion and then it will be tabled.

For other assistance programs, the Hon Minister has already clarified the stimulus package.

With that Mr Speaker, I conclude by first acknowledging the support of my constituency of Anoamaa West; honorable chiefs, women, youth and leaders of the various denominations. May God continue to bless you in your duties.

I also recognize the support of His Highness the Le Ao o le Malo and the whole country. God bless you Mr Speaker, Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader and all the Members of Parliament.

May this night also be peaceful for the CEO's of the various Government Ministries and Corporations, good evening.

**MR SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Speaker for his response and we have come closer to the end of our work. I call on the Hon Prime Minister.

**Susuga Hon TUILAEPFA FATIALOFA LUPESOLIAI AIONO NEIOTI SAILELE MALIELEGAOI:** I quickly interrupt Mr Speaker in the interest of time as I have seven titles and you may not be able to address them all. I thank all the members of the House. This is the third day that I have stood and clarified some of the matters that were raised including those regarding agriculture. I accept all the recommendations put forward and they will be implemented. I thank you all for your input and I recommend that the Appropriation progress.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Prime Minister.

I believe that all the members have commented on the financial economic state of Samoa together with the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – debate on second reading**

The motion has been moved and seconded for the Bill which was tabled on 30 May 2013. The question will now be put.

*Question put and the motion moved on 30 May 2013 was approved therefore the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 and the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 was second read.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2012/2013  
– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider in detail the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013.

In the consideration in detail stage, members may refer to the P.P. 2013/2014 No. 8 Second Supplementary Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and P.P. 2013/2014 No. 16 Report of the Finance and Expenditure Committee on P.P. 2013/2014 No. 8 Second Supplementary Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial\*year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration in detail begins with the Schedules.

**FIRST SCHEDULE  
ADDITION IN APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION TOTALS</b>
<b>FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE:</b>		<b>\$239,290.</b>

*Approved.*

<b>NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENT:</b>		<b>\$396,010.</b>
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*Approved.*

<b>WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE:</b>		<b>\$66,222.</b>
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*Approved.*

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013  
– consideration in detail

TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2012/2013:  
\$701,522.

*Approved.*

SECOND SCHEDULE  
REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	APPROPRIATION TOTALS
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE:		\$(263,000).
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*Approved.*

NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENT:		\$(445,393).
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*Approved.*

WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE:		\$(47,008).
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*Approved.*

TOTAL ADDITIONAL OVERALL EXPENDITURES 2012/2013  
\$(755,401).

*Approved.*

*The Schedules were approved and progressed as part of the Bill*

**CLAUSE 2: Grant and Appropriation of \$701,522 out of the Treasury Fund**

*Approved.*

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013  
– consideration in detail**

**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 Act (No. 2) 2012/2013.**

*Approved.*

*The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 progressed without Amendments.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2012/2013  
– third reading**

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2012/2013 be read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Ministry 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 therefore passed by the Legislative Assembly.*

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail**

**MR SPEAKER:** The Legislative Assembly will now proceed to consider in detail the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 together with the Draft Budget Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Samoa for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2014.

Pursuant to Standing Order 134, consideration in detail begins with the Schedules.

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 – consideration in detail

FIRST SCHEDULE

OUTPUTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

MINISTRY	APPROPRIATIONS
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AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIS:	\$19,344,572.
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*Approved.*

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & LABOUR:	\$29,470,656.
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*Approved.*

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:	\$4,697,618.
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*Approved.*

EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE:	\$95,754,478.
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*Approved.*

FINANCE:	\$88,992,607.
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*Approved.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE:	\$20,850,329.
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*Approved.*

HEALTH:	\$87,638,161.
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*Approved.*

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

Appropriation Bill 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail

**JUSTICE, COURTS & ADMINISTRATION:** \$9,147,566.

*Approved.*

**NATURAL RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENT:** \$30,049,575.

*Approved.*

**POLICE & PRISONS:** \$26,509,219.

*Approved.*

**PRIME MINISTER:** \$7,673,363.

*Approved.*

**REVENUE:** \$11,911,131.

*Approved.*

**WOMEN COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** \$10,230,335.

*Approved.*

**WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE:** \$86,662,896.

*Approved.*

**ATTORNEY GENERAL:** \$3,659,914.

*Approved.*



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

Appropriation Bill 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail

CONTROLLER AND CHIEF AUDITOR: \$3,136,087.

*Approved.*

ELECTORAL COMMISSION: \$1,655,416.

*Approved.*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: \$5,382,621.

**Tofa LEALAILEPULE RIMONI AIAFI:** I am only considerate Mr Speaker of your task as you are beginning to confuse the words. You should take a breather, it is almost complete.

**MR SPEAKER:** No. I am considerate of your side. If you are tired then you may leave and this side of the House can pass the Appropriation. You are throwing in the towel but we have almost reached the end.

*Appropriation of \$5,382,621 approved.*

OMBUDSMAN: \$560,173.

*Approved.*

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: \$3,799,425.

*Approved.*

BUREAU OF STATISTICS: \$4,330,229.

*Approved.*

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

**Appropriation Bill 2013/2014  
– consideration in detail**

**LAW REFORM COMMISSION:** \$1,246,097.

*Approved.*

**TOTAL OVERALL EXPENDITURE 2013/2014:** \$549,702,468.

*Approved.*

**SCHEDULES.**

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 2:** Grant and Appropriation of \$549,702,468 out of treasury fund.

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 3:** Grant and Appropriation of \$662,926 out of the Public Trustee's Account.

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 4:** Grant and Appropriation of \$16,491,074 out of the Treasury Fund.

*Approved.*

**CLAUSE 1 AND TITLE:**

**CLAUSE 1:** Short title and commencement.

**TITLE :** Appropriation Act 2013/2014.

*Approved.*

*The Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 progressed without any Amendments.*

20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013

APPROPRIATION BILL 2013/2014  
– third reading

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

**Afioga Hon FAUMUINA TIATIA FAAOLATANE LIUGA:** Mr Speaker, I move a motion, *That the Appropriation Bill 2013/2014 be read a third time.*

*Seconded by the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Women, Community and Social Development.*

*Motion approved and the Bill was read a third time and therefore passed by the Legislative Assembly.*

*Applaud by members.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Why do you applaud when the work is complete?

I thank all the members of the House. We have reached the time in which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly assumed we would end. A whole hour has been added because of the need to pass the Budget.

The sun has set and we have successfully completed our work for this evening and I convey my gratitude to all the members. Thank you for your recommendations and views on the orders before the House since the beginning of our sittings. The Chair also expresses its gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister and the Cabinet. We have continued to this morning so that the budget can be passed and submitted to the Government for implementation.

No matter the arguments and disagreements, this is the norm of the proceedings of the House and I humbly apologize for any offence that may have been caused. There are bills that will be considered tomorrow as per the certificate of urgencies to enable the Ministry to continue with their work.

Before we adjourn I would like to acknowledge the support of Samoa. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement for this Parliament and its work and I believe success is achieved with your prayers. The prayers of the clergy are also recognized that we may complete our work tomorrow successfully.

I thank all the CEO's present here this evening for being with us. Although *you were weary but we completed the work successfully.*

Before we adjourn I call upon the honorable member for Faasaleleaga No. 2 to close our proceedings with a word of prayer.

Prayer.

*Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly were set aside at 12.00midnight until 9am Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013.*

*FRIDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2013*

*Mr Speaker took the Chair at 9.00am.*

Prayers.

**MR SPEAKER:** I would like to express my gratitude to the Lord Almighty for his guidance that has given us strength this morning and throughout our sitting last night. I offer our praises in his name because without him nothing is possible. I thank each one of the dignitaries of the House for your patience and presence in attending our Parliamentary proceedings at the end of this week. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon Prime Minister and his Cabinet, thank you to the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy and all the members of the House.

I trust that we have come to a decision to officially pass the Budget which is the first step in the implementation of the Governments work. I would like to thank all the Government CEOs and their Ministries for the effort in carrying out their duties.

Today I also acknowledge the support of our country and the prayers and blessings from the clergy throughout Samoa.

There are additional orders of the day and we should proceed to complete it as we have important Bills to consider. I believe we should commence in order for the legislations to be passed to the Ministries and Ministers to do their work.

#### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MR SPEAKER**

**MR SPEAKER:** Today, I present for the information of the media the Speakers decision made on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - to prohibit the broadcasting of information contradictory to the Official Record of Parliamentary debate. It has been noted by the Chair that some members speeches are broadcast but are not in the official parliamentary record.

If the decision by the Chair is not adhered to pursuant to the Code of Ethics of the Legislative Assembly 1960 members of the media will be banned from attending Parliament sittings.

I advise the members of the House to withhold comments while other members are speaking because these words are overheard by the media and broadcast throughout the country but it is not part of the Official Record. The seriousness of this matter is in the fact that the member is unaware of these statements being publicly broadcast and cannot answer to them therefore a decision must be made by the Speaker.